



THANKS  
SCOOOP  
P

**Next CLAS "Meeting": Our Annual Holiday Party**  
**Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.**  
**at The Barns at Wesleyan Hills in Middletown**

**It's an opportunity for all of us to GATHER before the holidays to GIVE THANKS for just how fortunate we are to have ballooning in our lives and to EAT, DRINK, and BE MERRY. Bring your CREW to enjoy come food and to meet everyone else in the ballooning community.**

*Please bring a dish to share, the liquor you want to drink and/or share, and we'll have mixers, ice, and coffee unless I hear a resounding "we don't need coffee!"*

**Here are the directions from anywhere:**

Typical Google maps times to Wesleyan Hills Barns from: Southbury via 84 and 691 44 min, Waterbury via 84 and 691 25 min., Erwin's in Cheshire 23 min, Charlie's in Southington 20 min, Hartford 22 min., New Haven 30 min., Guida's Dairy referenced in the directions 10 min, Mystic 52 min, Jewett City 1 hr via 395, 95 and 9, Woodstock 1 hr 15 min via 84, Coventry 58 min  
Put this address in your GPS:

**The Barns at Wesleyan Hills**, 616 Long Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457

Any Questions, please call Penny Christy at 860-857-8757 or the facility managers, Pavilion Catering, at 860-347-7171 or email [mail@pavilioncatering.com](mailto:mail@pavilioncatering.com)

**From Rt. 9 South:** Take Exit 11 (Randolph Road). End of ramp turn left. Follow for 2.2 miles to intersection of Rt. 17 (bottom of short steep hill). Turn left onto Rt. 17 South. Continue one mile on Rt. 17 South until first stop light (Cypress Grill on right) - turn right onto Wesleyan Hills Road. Follow past elementary school, ponds, barns and around sharp curve and take immediate right into parking lot.

**From Rt. 9 North:** Take Exit 13 (To Route 17). End of ramp turn left. Follow for 2.2 miles to intersection of Rt. 155 (top of short gradual hill). Stay on Rt. 17 South for one mile until first stop light (Cypress Grill on right) - turn right onto Wesleyan Hills Road. Follow past elementary school, ponds, barns and around sharp curve and take immediate right into parking lot.

**From 91 South:** Take Exit 22S (Rt. 9 South, Middletown). Follow directions from Rt. 9 above.

**From 91 North or Merritt Pkwy (Rt. 15):** Take Exit for Rt. 66E Middletown (From 91N, Exit 18 - From Rt. 15N, Exit 68 then Exit 18). Stay on Rt. 66 East. At first light (Guida's Drive In), continue straight 3.5 miles (pass Home Depot on the right). At Walgreens, turn right onto West Street. At stop sign, (Do not bear right on 157.) go straight up the short hill over old bridge. Continue straight till end, at stop sign, turn left onto Wadsworth Street. Take next right onto Long Lane from Wadsworth St. Follow to end, and at stop sign, turn right onto Long Hill Road. Stay on Long Hill Road around sharp curve, continue to stop sign, go straight. Continue until just before road curves sharply again, take quick left into parking lot.

**From 84 West:** Take 84 West to 91 South. Follow directions above from 91S.



**When:** **Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Cocktails 6:00 ✧ Dinner 7:00 ✧ Additional  
Cocktails and Awards Soon Thereafter

**Where:** **Hawthorne Inn**  
2421 Berlin Turnpike, Berlin, CT 06037  
*(Yes, you've probably landed there)*  
(860) 828-3571 <http://www.hawthorne-inn.com/>



**Buffet Dinner**

- Tossed Garden Salad
- Minestrone Soup
- Chicken Marsala
- Maple Glazed Salmon
- Sliced Top Sirloin
- Oven-Roasted Potatoes
- Green Beans Almondine
- Coffee with Dessert

\$ 34 Per Person

**Cash Bar**



**CLAS Business**

- 2009 Officer's Appreciation
- 2010 Officer Induction
- CLAS Awards
  - Art Laliberte Perpetual Crew Award
  - Judith Ushchak Perpetual Crew Award
  - Long Jump Award
  - Sh\*t Happens! Award
- Land-owner Dinner
- Raffles
- Door Prizes
- Raffles
- Fun and Frolic



**Join us for an evening of memories, friendship, collegial bonding, and celebration! Limited to 60 persons – don't be left out!**

Contact Jude Russell via email: [jude@powerlines.com](mailto:jude@powerlines.com)  
or phone (860) 357-3124

Mail checks, made out to CLAS, to:  
PowerLines, P.O. Box 330025, West Hartford, CT 06133-0025

Remember to forward your nominations for:

- Crew Awards to Ellen Dressel ( [edressel@cox.net](mailto:edressel@cox.net) )
- Shit Happens Award to Robert Zirpolo ( [robertzirpolo@comcast.net](mailto:robertzirpolo@comcast.net) )

# Connecticut Lighter than Air Society



## 2010 BFA Safety Seminar

### Registration Form

**NON-CLAS MEMBERS WILL BE ON A WAITING LIST UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2010.**

**SEATS ARE LIMITED**

This year the club has organized its 7th annual 1-day Safety Seminar on Saturday, February 27, 2010. This will be held at the Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT. (Take I-91 South to Exit 6 (for Willow St toward US-5, Blatchley Ave). Take right onto Willow St. for 0.2 mi. Take left onto Whitney Ave for approximately 0.3 mi. Take right onto Edwards Ave for 0.2 mi. Take right onto Prospect St for 0.2 mi. The entrance to the parking lot will be on the right just past the Divinity School Library.) The sessions start at 8AM and end at before 6:30PM. Breakfast and Check-In at 7:30AM, lunch, mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks, meeting the presenters after, and informal dinner out with those who are interested.

**To qualify for this BFA Safety Seminar you must attend the following classes:**

- Pilot and Crew Safety –** Gordon Schwontkowski – Accident Prevention Crewing
- Aeronautical/Pilot Decision-Making –** Mark Schilling - Back again this year!
- Weather –** Gordon Schwontkowski – “Weather Savvy for Crew (For Pilots too!)”
- Federal Aviation Regulations –** Santo Galatioto – (Another one who can make us chuckle in this topic).
- Open – #1** Jim O'Brien – His famous Propane presentation by popular demand
- Open – #2** Gordon Schwontkowski Tie-Offs/Tethers/Take-offs -Ground Handing
- Maintenance and Equipment Repair –** Keith Sproul – Building, Maintaining and Repairing
- Balloon Accidents –** Daryl Smith (Fixed Wing, Glider and LTA Pilot)
- WINGS Update** Jim Adams - FAA

DATE	
NAME	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Phone	
E-mail	
BFA Member Number	
Balloon N#	
Insurance Company	
CLAS Member?	Current? Yes_____ No_____ New_____
Pilot Certificate Number	
Rating or Crew Designation (Circle only one)	<b>CP</b> - Commercial Pilot <b>PP</b> – Private Pilot <b>SP</b> – Student Pilot <b>CR</b> – Crew Person <b>O</b> - Observer

**Continued on next page →**

**NOTES:**

**BECAUSE OF THE POPULARITY OF GORDON SCHWONTSKI  
AND  
THE SIZE OF THE YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL ROOM at 409 Prospect St, New Haven, CT,  
NON-CLAS MEMBERS WILL BE ON A WAITING LIST UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2009.  
First Come First Served**

If you miss any of these classes you will not meet the BFA's education requirements to qualify as a safety seminar. Make-up classes may, or may not be available. If you have any questions please contact Penny Christy, CLAS Safety Seminar Chairperson, at 860-857-8757 or by e-mail at [pmchristy@comcast.net](mailto:pmchristy@comcast.net)

Your BFA #, Balloon N#, and Pilot Certificate # are required information that must be submitted with your application. Without this information your application can not be processed by the BFA. Please, look them up NOW and insert them above.

The cost of the club's BFA Safety seminar is \$60 Pilots (\$70 for non-members of CLAS) \$20 Crew (\$40 for non-members) Your seat will not be reserved until payment has been received.

2010 CLAS membership is \$20, Become a NEW first time member for an additional \$10 to the non-member price of the CLAS Safety Seminar registration.

**Registration Fee Options**

\$60 = Pilot CLAS Member

\$80 = Pilot CLAS Member \$60 + 2010 Individual Membership \$20

or Pilot Non-Member \$70 + NEW 2010 Individual Membership \$10

\$70 = Pilot Non-Member

\$20 = Crew CLAS Member

\$40 = Crew CLAS Member \$20 + 2010 Individual Membership \$20 unless you're a new member

\$30 = Crew Non-member

Invited Traveling Presenters are Guests

Make Checks payable to CLAS and return them with this application to:

**CLAS  
C/O Penny Christy  
12 Blue Grass Dr.  
Middletown CT 06457**

This application will also be accepted at the Jan. 21 and the Feb 18 CLAS meetings. This registration form must be received by the education committee before the start of the FAA Safety Seminar on February 27, 2010.

If you have any questions please contact Penny Christy, CLAS Safety Seminar Chairperson, at 860-857-8757 (cell) or 860-638-3803 (home) or by e-mail at [pmchristy@comcast.net](mailto:pmchristy@comcast.net)

**More notes about the seminar:**

- Contact me if you plan to stay overnight. We will look for economy accommodations for you near the university.
- **Bring your pilot logbooks for endorsement for the ground school portion of the Wings Program.**
- More to follow.....

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society, PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488-0053

## **Minutes – CLAS Meeting of November 19, 2009**

CLAS President Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM.

**Members in attendance were:** Garry Guertin, Mark Sand, Rick Silva, Pat Anderson, Bill Coyer, Tony Philpin, Kevin Briemann, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Daryl Smith, Tom Murphy, Libby Richardson, Santo Galatioto, Lisa Huck, Penny Christy, Chris Mooney & Robert Zippolo.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved as published in the Scoop.

**Sunshine Committee:** No items

**Nomination Committee:** Members are to send nomination ideas for CLAS Secretary to Erwin Dressel

**Audit Committee:** No report

**Competition Committee:** No report

**BFA/FAA Committee:** 6 year renewal chart FAR part 61 revised (a lot of changes). Authorized instructors need to sign off on log books.

**Treasurer Report:** None

**Education Committee:** Education / Safety report by Santo on check lists

Santo led discussion regarding the benefits of check lists and did a nice job of getting members to interact with questions and sharing their process. Check lists are a vital way to avoid fatal accidents. A hand-out was provided with information on how check lists came about. Several types of checklists were discussed and recommended. Pilots should have an in flight check list that is kept with on board documents. It was recommended that check lists be used and referred to at key stages throughout the set up process; before turning the fan on, before going hot, before take-off, in-route, prior to descent, and yes, even during packing up.

It was recommended that crew also use check lists during pre-flight and post flight. Check lists can also be remembered by creating and using oral check lists. Student check lists should be a must as it will help train future pilots to create the habit of using a check list.

### **Old Business:**

- CLAS 2010 Calendars were offered for sale during the meeting. There are still plenty of calendars. Additional calendars will be available at the Dec. 17 CLAS meeting/party. Cost of the calendars is a flat rate of \$6 ea. Please contact Garry Guertin at [gguertin@cox.net](mailto:gguertin@cox.net) if you would like to order calendars plus postage.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> place CLAS photo winners will be awarded the following prizes, the same as last year.
    - 1<sup>st</sup> prize – (2) Tickets to the 2009 CLAS Winter Dinner - Libby Richardson
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – (1) Ticket to the 2009 Safety Seminar – Rick Silva
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – (1) 2009 CLAS membership – Rick Silva

### **New Business:**

- Winter Dinner will be at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin on Jan 30, 2010. Dinner tickets will be \$34 each and the CLAS will pay the difference. See notice sent out to membership for details.
- Mike Bollea Sprit Award will be awarded this year in addition to the others. Ellen to create a plaque. Garry to send Mike's winning calendar picture to Ellen to use.
- Safety Seminar is scheduled for Feb 27, 2010. Libby reported that the caterer has been booked and is all set to go. Lisa was asked to forward Yale driving directions to Libby. The will be a crew oriented safety seminar and pilots are asked to encourage their crew to attend. The safety seminar costs will be as follows:  
\$20 CLAS Crew, \$30 non-CLAS crew member + membership  
\$40 CLAS Pilot, \$60 non-CLAS pilot member + membership
- CLAS newsletter, SCOOP, is going green. Dec. 2009 will be the last month that the Scoop will be issued in paper format. Starting 2010 all issues will be electronic. Mark Sand to contact other clubs for their links to add to the Scoop.
- Chris Mooney announced that his Holiday party will be on Dec. 12 starting at 5:00 PM.

A motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM Next month's meeting will be the Holiday pot luck party. Everyone is asked to bring something to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

### **From The CLAS Mailbag**

#### **Info on my Upcoming Sicily Trip, from Mario DeStefano**

I have been receiving inquiries recently about my Sicily plans for the coming year 2010. The good news is that the prices are excellent due to the economics worldwide. The less than good news is that I must have at least two six people groups to make it possible for me to make it happen. Depending on Airline ticket prices and the below stated expenses a 10-day trip cost should range around from \$2500 to \$ 3000, inclusive. Vehicle rental, Balloon shipment, Apartment rental and the cost of fuels and other travel cost of which I normally absorbed more than my share of, in the past, I can not afford to do this coming year due to my own economics. I must have the full two groups participate or I must wait till 2011. Many of the sites we will be visiting have been developed further and I would like to add some new experiences such as hiking through the gorge at the Gallo d'Oro River and a climb to the top of Mount Camarata. As usual new opportunities present themselves as we travel, so no trip is the same. Please respond quickly as to your availability so I can reduce my stress level in organizing these trips. I can be reached at [bellevia63@charter.net](mailto:bellevia63@charter.net).

#### **A Thank You, from Arlene O'Neil**

*In November, the club agreed to make a donation to Arlene O'Neil who is putting together care packages to send to the troops overseas. Below is the thank letter Chris Mooney received upon notifying Arlene of the donation.*

OMG Chris!! Now you all have gone and made me cry!!! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to you and CLAS for helping to make Operation Tanner Claus a huge success!!!! This money will be spent to purchase more gifts and high protein snacks for the 200 members of the 502nd Engineer Brigade. Have I mentioned lately that I have the absolute best friends in the world?

With love and gratitude,  
Arlene O'Neil  
Proud Parent of a US Soldier!

## From The Scoop Editor, Libby Richardson

**Happy Holidays!!**

**Don't forget: if you want to receive the Scoop via mail, you must notify me at the number below or via email. Otherwise, this will be the last mailed issue!**

**Dues for 2010 are now due. Use the form on the back page of the Scoop to send in your due now. Thank you!**

**Did you know that **Grace's Restaurant**, a favorite in the balloon community, has a mailing list and as soon as you join, you receive a certificate for a free meal! Check it out at [www.gracesrestaurantonline.com](http://www.gracesrestaurantonline.com).**

**Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Garry Guertin, Penny Christy, Chris Mooney, Robert Zirpolo, and Jim O'Brien.**



### Publishing Information

*The Scoop* is published on a monthly basis prior to the club's monthly meeting on the third Thursday of each month. Submissions for *The Scoop* are preferred by email to Editor Libby Richardson at [libby\\_rich@yahoo.com](mailto:libby_rich@yahoo.com). Photos, articles, and ideas are always welcome. Information may be mailed to 380 Hitchcock Road #258, Waterbury, CT 06705 or can be brought to any CLAS meeting. All materials should be to the Editor at least two weeks prior to the club meeting for inclusion.

*The Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society publishes this newsletter for its members and interested parties. Portions of this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the writer and to CLAS. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the organization or members of this organization. For more information contact Libby Richardson, CLAS, PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488-0053. Email: [libby\\_rich@yahoo.com](mailto:libby_rich@yahoo.com); Phone: 203-988-6577*

### **CLASSIFIED**

**Sewing - Custom Basket and Tank Covers – Pouches  
Repairs on anything but envelopes**

**Contact: Jen Nelson – [sewitall@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sewitall@sbcglobal.net)  
or 203-597-9999**



*Photo by Libby Richardson*

The Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society is a club for anyone interested in learning about, participating in, and improving the sport of ballooning. Pilots, crew, and enthusiasts alike are welcome and ALL can contribute to the safety, enjoyment and education of the sport. Meetings are scheduled monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Plainville Police Department, 19 Neal Court, Plainville, at 7:30 PM. For more information, contact any of the officers listed in this newsletter.

**CLAS DUES** \$20 include membership privileges and newsletter.

Extra voting family member add \$5

Newsletter Subscription Only \$15 CLAS Member Pins \$5 (\$3 members)

Decals \$2 (\$1 members) Landowner Pins \$4 (\$3 members – limited quantity)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Default will be electronic newsletter unless notified otherwise.)

**CLAS Membership Info:**

Single (\$20)\_\_\_ Family (\$20)\_\_\_ Extra Vote (\$5) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Only (\$15)\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewing \_\_\_\_\_

Crew \_\_\_\_\_ Student Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ Private Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ N# \_\_\_\_\_

BFA # \_\_\_\_\_ BFA CAAP Level \_\_\_\_\_ BFA PAAP Level \_\_\_\_\_

FAA Wings Level Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_ Type(s) of Certificate(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to CLAS and mail to: CLAS, PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488-0053**



The Scoop/CLAS  
PO Box 53  
Southbury, CT 06488-0053  
[www.lighterthanair.org](http://www.lighterthanair.org)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

*CLAS is going green! This will be last mailed edition of the Scoop. More details inside!*

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