



THE SCOOP

Next CLAS Meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Plainville Municipal Building, Plainville, CT

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of May 20, 2010

CLAS President Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:36PM.

Members in attendance were: Garry Guertin, Rick Silva, Tony Roswell, Terri Rollinson, Mick Murphy, Mike Wallace, Kevin Brielmann, Mark Sand, Darrel Long, Charlie Perreault, & Penny Christy.

Last meeting minutes were distributed in the Scoop and accepted as written.

Sunshine Committee: No Report

Winter Dinner Committee: N/A

BFA/FAA Committee: No Report

Competition Committee: No Report

Education Committee: This meeting was dedicated to education. Mark Sand showed 5 videos, see below.

Nomination Committee: N/A, Still need members to sign up for this committee

Audit Committee: No Report

Safety Seminar Committee: Members were asked to start thinking of ideas for speakers for the 2011 safety seminar. All ideas/suggestions should be communicated to Penny Christy.

Treasurer Report: \$5,588.06 reported in the checking and \$6,262.08 in CD's.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business:

- **Per several requests, Garry brought the current supply of land owner cards to the meeting and passed them around for pilots to take.** There are still about 100 in reserve. Garry will bring the balance to the next few meetings for any pilots that still need them.
- **Mark Sand set up a video session consisting of 5 different videos for this Education Meeting.** The videos varied in subject and length. The following videos were shown:
 1. Power Line Safety: Wire Strike Training
 2. Balloon Fiesta, Albuquerque, NM
 3. Vencel – TJV Balloons
 4. Freedom Weekend Aloft
 5. Travel Log : Buddy Bumbard

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

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

From The Scoop Editor, Libby Richardson

Here's to a summer of safe flights and soft landings!

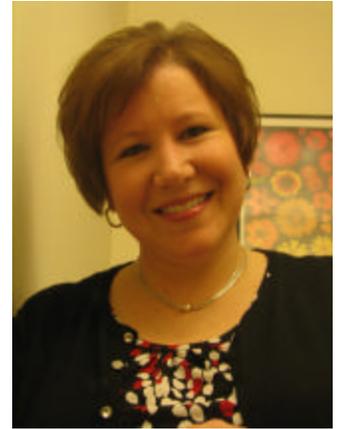
Thanks to my CLAS friends for my get well card. With any luck, my cataracts--yes cataracts--will be gone by the time you read this and I'll be seeing better in no time!

Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Mick Murphy, Garry Guertin, Penny Christy.

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. 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; Phone: 203-988-6577



Erwin Dressel's balloon, Michael's Rainbow II, made an appearance in the *Town Times* newspaper (Watertown, CT) after a recent afternoon flight. Thanks to Mick Murphy for bringing this to my attention.

Balloon Fiesta weather team

From Earth, Wind & Flyers, March 2010

Soaring through the skies during the Balloon Fiesta is not as simple as heating the air and launching. A lot of time and thought goes into weather predictions by the three-man weather team, which includes Randy Lefevre, John Elrick and Rick Chadwick.

A Day in the Lives of the Balloon Fiesta Weather Team

3:30 a.m. - Arrive at Balloon Fiesta Park

Each morning of Balloon Fiesta, the team goes through its "weather funnel process": observing weather conditions for the nation, then Albuquerque, and finally at Balloon Fiesta Park - what Randy Lefevre, chief meteorologist of the team, refers to as "micrometeorology." The team monitors four weather stations around the park and launches small weather balloons called PIBALS (pilot balloons) that, when paired with a theodolite (a calibrated optical instrument used to determine relative position in surveying, navigation, and meteorology), track horizontal and vertical wind patterns.

5:00 a.m. - BalloonMeister Briefing

The weather team reports its findings to the Event Director, BalloonMeister, Assistant BalloonMeister, and Chief Safety Officer who make the assessment to open the launch field for launches and then consult with the AIBF President and Executive Director.

6:15 a.m. - Pilot Briefing

The first priority for the weather team is pilot safety, by ensuring pilots have enough information to help them make wise decisions about flying. Pilots make their own decision to fly, and need to know weather conditions in order to decide on their flight plan. Each morning during the pilot briefing, the team goes over current weather conditions. This includes safety tips and strategies for competitions. Balloon Fiesta Park and the surrounding skies experience a micrometeorology phenomenon resulting from weather and terrain known as the "Albuquerque Box." In October, the prevailing winds blow from south to north, however, in the early morning, wind flows from north to south on the surface. Drainage wind allows pilots to take off heading south, then ascend and head right back over to Balloon Fiesta Park by catching the winds flowing south to north at a higher altitude. When the "Albuquerque Box" exists, pilots can more effectively strategize for precision flying competitions such as Balloon Fiesta Hold 'em and the Prize Grab.

7:00 a.m. - Flying Begins

The weather team continues to monitor conditions from 7 a.m. to about 10 a.m., while balloons are in flight. They give pilots updates so they can take proper precautions. After the morning flight, the weather team gets a break, but must return later in the day for evening events.

3:00 p.m. - The Team Returns for Evening Events

The team monitors Albuquerque and on-site conditions to be sure it is safe for balloons to inflate for Balloon Glows or Special Shape Glowdeos. In the evenings, wind direction and speed are the most important factors to consider. These factors help determine which way pilots lay out their balloons to inflate and whether they can inflate at all. The team also looks at precipitation and thunderstorm conditions. The day ends with the AfterGlow Fireworks Show around 8 p.m.

Hot Air Balloon Festival patrons to view replica of famed Breitling

By Dave Rogers, The Ottawa Citizen, May 28, 2010

Gatineau's 23rd Hot Air Balloon Festival from Sept. 3 to 6 will feature a replica of Breitling Orbiter 3, the first balloon to complete a trip around the world. The Breitling's pilot, Brian Jones, who in 1999 travelled non-stop around the world in 477 hours 47 minutes, will fly the replica balloon during the festival. Featuring 14 special-shape balloons this year, the festival began in 1988 as part of a campaign to promote Gatineau tourism and attract volunteers.

The four-day event was a quick success and in recent years has attracted more than 200,000 paying spectators. Organizers expect similar crowds this year. The event generates more than \$8 million in ticket sales, making it Gatineau's biggest summer tourist draw. The festival is held at Parc de la Baie on Jacques Cartier Street beside the Ottawa River opposite Rockcliffe Park.

The City of Gatineau is contributing \$467,000 in funding and services to this year's festival. Mayor Marc Bureau said about 1,600 volunteers would participate. Organizers said fans of Pixar Studios' animated film Finding Nemo would enjoy watching a Wally the Clown Fish balloon. Other balloons will include Paddy the Shamrock and two Brazilian balloons, Buzzy and Angel. The festival will include Maximus the Beagle, Lady Bug, Joey and Lilly, Little Bees, Jumpin Jack, Clown-N-Around, Burnie the Little Devil and the Quebec balloon le Fou du Roi.

The festival, sponsored by Loto-Québec, will offer more than 300 acts in 60 hours of performances. The event will open with 20-year-old singer Bobby Bazini and Canadian pop group Hedley. The show on Sept. 4 will feature Quebec singers Laurence Jalbert, Luce Dufault, Johanne Blouin and France d'Amour. The Sept. 5 performance includes Sylvain Cossette, Bruno Pelletier and Dan Bigras. The festival wraps up Sept. 6 with a show by the Cowboys Fringants.

Check out these two stories. Same balloon, same gorge. Looks like this pilot has been out having some fun...

Probe into Clifton Suspension Bridge balloon manoeuvre

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/bristol/somerset/8701559

Balloonist grateful for hot air in near-miss with a big bridge

[Balloonist grateful for hot air in near-miss with a big bridge - Times Online](#)



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

Farmer jailed for threatening balloon passengers with shotgun after they crashed on her land

By Andrew Levy, 19 May 2010

It had been a serene trip for the hot air balloon passengers as they passed silently over spectacular countryside. But the mood was brought crashing down to earth when the basket landed in Marie Dring's field.

The furious 50-year-old chicken farmer marched over and threatened to set her dogs on one of the party. She then pointed a loaded double-barrelled shotgun at another, Martin Henley, and shouted: 'Get off my f***** land.'

Her behaviour led to an 18-month jail term today after she admitted possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear. Judge Michael Fowler, sitting at Northampton Crown Court, told Dring: 'I must send you to jail because this was a real gun which you loaded and pointed at Mr Henley. You used the gun and pushed it into his chest. This was wholly disproportionate to the level of threat you faced.'

The court heard how the balloon took off from Northampton Racecourse with nine passengers and a pilot on board on September 12 last year. It landed around an hour later 11 miles away in a field near the village of Potterspury. Prosecutor James House - who said where balloon trips end is generally a 'hit or miss affair' - added Dring's brother-in-law, who jointly farms the land, approached the group first. 'It's right to say he was unhappy. The pilot of the balloon, David Griffin, spoke to him and apologised and bottles of whisky and champagne were handed over,' he said.

Dring and her husband were out at a restaurant when her brother-in-law contacted them to explain what had happened. When she returned home, she was 'extremely angry' because she could not get down her driveway as it was blocked by a convoy of cars driven by family and friends who had been following the balloon. She told one of the passengers, Diane Datson: 'I will set the bloody dogs on you.'

While her husband spoke to the pilot, Dring is believed to have gone into her home and collected the side-by-side shotgun from a cabinet. She then leapt into her Land Rover and came across Mr Henley who was walking across her field to a nearby car to fetch a jumper.

'Mr Henley saw a double-barrelled shotgun pointing out of the driver's window. She said "Get off my land. Get off my f***** land",' Mr House told the court. 'She pointed the barrels at his upper chest. The gun was broken. She then picked up two cartridges and closed the gun and pointed it and said "Get off my f***** land". 'Mr Henley, whose children had bought him and his wife the romantic flight together, put his hands up and walked towards the car while Dring drove behind, 'revving her engine'.

After the group drove away, Mr Henley called the police and officers confiscated the shotgun from Dring, a tenant farmer who has degrees in philosophy and criminology. When she was interviewed three days later she claimed she had threatened her unwelcome visitors with a stick. Defence barrister David Matthew said his client, who sobbed in the dock during the hearing, had been concerned about the threat the balloon posed to her livestock.

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 3rd 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 _____

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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



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