



THE SCOOP

Next CLAS Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Plainville Municipal Building, Plainville, CT

CLAS Photo Contest being held at this month's meeting!

The 2010 CLAS photo contest will be held at the next CLAS meeting on October 21, 2010.

All members in good standing are eligible to enter three (3) photos into the contest

- Photo entries should be 8 x 10 or 8.5 x 11
- Photographer's name, email, & photo location are to be entered onto the back of each photo
- Numbered, plastic sleeves will be provided at the meeting
- Winners will be determined by attending membership voting on the top 12 pictures from all the photo entries
- The photo entry with the most votes will be the 1st place photo and so on to 12th place
- Electronic files of all winning photos will need to be sent to Garry Guertin at gguertin@cox.net
- 2010 CLAS Calendars will be targeted to be on sale at the November CLAS meeting
- Winning photos will be published in the 2011 CLAS Calendar
- Prizes for the top 3 photo winners will be as follows:
 - 1st prize - (2) Tickets to the 2011 CLAS Winter Dinner
 - 2nd prize - (1) Ticket to the 2011 Safety Seminar
 - 3rd prize - (1) 2011 CLAS membership

CHICKEN WINGS®

www.chickenwingscomics.com

BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



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

Pictured: world's first 'terrifying' glass bottom hot air balloon launched at UK festival

The world's first glass-bottomed hot air balloon has taken its "terrifying" maiden flight, after it was launched in Britain at Europe's biggest ballooning festival. These stomach-churning images show the heart-stopping view from the traditional wicker four-man basket complete with a transparent floor. The Palletways Dragon balloon, made using 12 miles of thread that can cover three double decker buses, took to the skies for the first time over Bath, Somerset on Thursday. The traditional wicker basket, which carries up to two passengers and two pilots who stand on just two-inch thick glass, was launched at the start of the 2010 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta.



The fiesta, Europe's biggest balloon festival, has weird and wonderful shapes filling the skies to mark the golden jubilee of modern hot air ballooning. More than half a million people are expected to attend the four-day festival, held on a country estate, which involves some 150 balloons from around the world. A giant motorbike with a helmeted rider on top, a light bulb, a dog, a monster, a Jaguar car, squares, a huge wine box and a green dragon will also slowly emerge to fill the skyline.

The glass bottom basket was the brainchild of pilot Christian Brown, who despite having 18 years experience flying balloons, admitted the flight was a "terrifying experience". It is hoped similar balloons will be more widely available next year. "We've done tethered trials before, which usually end with passengers shrieking and screaming in fear, but this is the first time we've actually taken to the skies unaided," said Mr Brown, 44. "It was a terrifying experience. Ordinarily, you would look over the edge of the basket to peer at the ground below but there is something very disconcerting about seeing it right beneath your feet. "It certainly isn't for the feint-hearted, but this is a totally unique experience and we have added a new dimension to ballooning."

He travelled the world in a balloon with tycoon Richard Branson and currently holds the tethered altitude world record after flying at 10,000ft on a mountain in Chile. "We designed it for Alpine flying as it would give incredible views of the scenery below," he said. "We also hope to use it to break the altitude world record and fly at over 10,000ft, which will be incredible. "We're in the very early stages at the minute and are getting feedback from passengers but hope to roll them out to the public next year."

Jo Chambers, 31, from Bath, who was the first to go up in the balloon yesterday, said: "It was absolutely incredible and offered beautiful view below. "It was unnerving and the basket creaked slightly which was slightly disconcerting. It is an incredible site to see the ground slowly disappearing directly beneath your feet as you ascend."

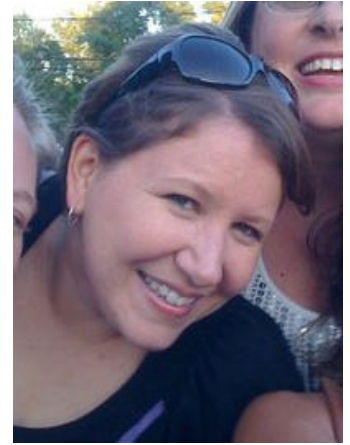
This year's festival, one of Britain's largest outdoor events, marks the 50th anniversary of modern ballooning, and 100 years of Bristol's aviation industry, a major local employer. In 1960, American Ed Yost first used a nylon balloon and propane gas on board for heating. Before, balloons dating back to the Montgolfier brothers' pioneering manned flight in 1783 were heated by a ground fire. Don Cameron built Europe's first modern balloon in 1967. The Bristol Belle, now worn with age and with too many holes in the thin nylon, was inflated again at this year's fiesta. Cameron, now the world's biggest balloon manufacturer, is the event's flight director, and at 71 is still in love with their charm.

From The Scoop Editor, Libby Richardson

Thanks to for your contributions to The Scoop this month: Penny Christy, Bruce Richardson and Garry Guertin. Want to see your name here? Send me photos, articles, cartoons, whatever you have! Thank you!

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

In The News

Glens Falls video provided by Garry Guertin

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pakweMdUaDM>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9D02mkapUJQ>

A 14 minute video about the history of ballooning provided by Penny Christy

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/148415/milestones-in-science-and-engineering-the-montgolfier-brothers-and-the-hot-air-balloon>

Ballooning Online

Check Out These Cool Sites on the Web!

Weather-related sites:

<http://www.weather.gov>

<http://rucsoundings.noaa.gov/gifs/>

<http://aviationweather.gov>

<http://adds.aviationweather.gov>

<http://www.sailflow.com/windandwhere.iws?regionID=106®ionProductID=29> - sailing site that may be useful to

balloons, especially for indicating possible sea breeze

U.S. Balloon Stats:

<http://www.aircraftone.com/aircraft/models/hotairballoons1.asp>



Photo by Bruce Richardson

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of September 16, 2010

CLAS President, Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:45PM.

Members in attendance were: Garry Guertin, Libby Richardson, Penny Christy, Rick Silva, Mark Sand & Charles Perreault.

- There were no August meeting minutes due to the CLAS picnic replacing the CLAS meeting

Sunshine Committee: N/A

Winter Dinner Committee: No Report

BFA/FAA Committee: No Report

Competition Committee: No Report

Education Committee: No Report

Nomination Committee: N/A

Audit Committee: No Report

Safety Seminar Committee: No Report

Treasurer Report: \$6,029.41 was reported in the checking and CD information will be updated at next meeting.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business



Photo by Bruce Richardson

2010 CLAS Photo Contest will be held at the next meeting. All members in good standing are eligible to enter three (3) photos in the contest. Winning photos will be published in the 2011 CLAS Calendar.

- Photo entries should be 8 x 10 or 8.5 x 11
- Photographer's name, email, & photo location are to be entered onto the back of each photo
- Numbered, plastic sleeves will be provided at the meeting
- Winners will be determined by attending membership voting on the top 12 pictures from all the photo entries
- The photo entry with the most votes will be the 1st place photo and so on to 12th place
- Electronic files of all winning photos will need to be sent to Garry Guertin at gguertin@cox.net
- 2010 CLAS Calendars will be targeted to be on sale at the November CLAS meeting

Prizes for the top 3 photo winners will be as follows:

1st prize – (2) Tickets to the 2009 CLAS Winter Dinner

2nd prize – (1) Ticket to the 2009 Safety Seminar

3rd prize – (1) 2009 CLAS membership

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM. *(Yes, it was a short meeting)*

Refreshments for the next meeting to be provided by Rob & Pam Macfarlane

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

THE WORLDS ARE COMING TO BATTLE CREEK IN 2012!

The World Championships of Hot Air Ballooning will be held in Battle Creek Michigan on August 18-25, 2012. Holiday Balloon Fest of Battle Creek, under the leadership of Derrick Jones, sponsored the USA Nationals in 2009. Derrick has long had the dream of sponsoring the world competition with Observers* and his dream has come true.

The World Championships in 2012 and the Pre-Worlds event in 2011, Aug 22-27 (also in Battle Creek) will be using Observers. We are putting out the call to all experienced Observers to put these dates on their calendars and sign up. We will of course be having international Observers participating but a large number of US Observers will be needed in 2011 and 2012. We expect a field of around 100 pilots. We'd love to have enough experienced observers sign up to fill all the slots, but we welcome the interest of pilots or crew who have competitive ballooning backgrounds.

All the details have not been finalized but we are expecting to provide a hotel room (shared with one other Observer). There is money budgeted for a stipend but the amount per person is not yet finalized

We'd like an indication of interest, and it's important to get your name on the list soon. Many of us are polishing our walkers, getting our pace makers checked and reviewing use of our GPS', metric measuring and map reading. Seriously, we still need Observers to be able to walk in fields and read the fine print of maps. The use of GPS' is mandatory but we will be having staff orientations and reviews. Observers have found that using a GPS makes the job much easier. Observers go with the Pilot to verify Launch and Landing permission, take a GPS shot of those sites and measure any markers within 100 meters (330 feet) of a Pilot Declared Goal. Markers at Judge Declared Goals are measured by separate measuring teams. Everything else is scored with a Logger; no more pacing, no reference intersections, no putting PZs on a map, quick Debriefings and plenty of time for fun. Classes to review dusty Observing skills, current technology and applicable rules will be held. For self-study the new Observer Handbook is on the CIA site at <http://www.fai.org/ballooning/ciadocs.asp>

* An Observer is a Competition official, responsible to the Chief Observer. His/her duties are primarily the recording impartially of the particulars of positions, times, distance, etc. achieved by a Pilot during a Competitive Task. He/she also has the duty of reporting the facts of any apparent infringement of Competition Rules or of the air law, and any case of inconsiderate behavior towards landowners or the public by any Competitor or crew member.

<http://www.holidayballoonfest.com/>

<http://www.bfa.net/>

<http://www.fai.org/ballooning/>

Please send a note indicating your interest or any questions to:

Bob and Dottie Humbert - mageehum@comcast.net

Jim Dieball - jdieball@wi.rr.com



Photo by Bruce 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 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 _____
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

FIRST CLASS MAIL