

# THE SCOOP

January 2012



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## CLAS Meeting Minutes of 11/17/2011

**Call to order** at 7:30pm by Mick Murphy, President. Members in attendance signed in on sheet. 13 total.

**Minutes of last month's meeting** were read in the 'Scoop'. Mick started the meeting with a display of the topographical maps available to members. The can be ordered with features customized for each pilot.

### Officer's reports:

**Treasurer**, Penny gave a report. We now are doing business with **TD North**. Checking = \$4441.42. CD's = \$6211.16

### Committee Reports:

**Sunshine**: Please keep Mario DeStefano in your prayers and thoughts. Dan King has passed after 7 years with pancreatic cancer. Chris Lynch from the Glens Falls, NY. Tom Hamilton has bladder cancer.

**BFA/FAA**: Santo is keeping up with retraining. Testing going wi-fi. Will need to have a computer in the field.

**Education**: No report. **TBA**: Fire extinguisher practice TBA. Date in March or April at Southbury Fire. It will be on the regular meeting night.

**Competition**: December 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Santa fly out. Longest flight of the am.

**Nomination committee**: Robert Zirpolo for treasurer. "Sh\*t Happens, Crew awards x 2, Long Jump

**Winter Dinner**: \$30 per person with Club picking up any additional costs. Tom Crouch as speaker, land owner cards and awards.

**Safety seminar**: Single topic competition flying, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, @ Yale. "How competition can improve your flying skills"

**Old Business**: Tax exempt status, still working on it.

**New Business**: Just discussion on seminar. Calendars are \$6.00 each.

**Attendance**: Lisa Huck, Mark Sand, Rick Silva, Erwin & Ellen Dressel, Garry Guertin, Tom & Mick Murphy, Penny Christy, Santo Galatioto, Al Theodour, Tony Roswell, and Robert Zirpolo.



*Christmas Eve morning, as posted on Robert Zirpolo's Facebook page.*

# Connecticut Lighter than Air Society

## Winter Dinner

Saturday, January 28, 2012, 6 PM at

Manor Inn, 1636 Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike, Plantsville, CT

- ❖ 6 PM - Appetizers and Cash Bar
- ❖ 7 PM - Dinner
- ❖ 8 PM - Club Awards for Long Jump, Crew, Sh\*t Happens, and Mike Bollea Spirit Award, and Presentation on 'Abe Lincoln's Air Force' by Tom Crouch

Please send check for \$30 per person no later than January 21 to Ellen Dressel, 1476 Highland Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410. Please include names of those who are attending.

For more information, contact Ellen Dressel at 203-272-6116 or Libby Richardson at 203-988-6577.

### **We need your award nominations now!!!**

Let us know about your 2011 Long Jump along with who should receive the two Crew Awards, the Sh\*t Happens award, and the Mike Bollea Spirit Award. All nominations are welcome!

Nominations for Club Awards can be mailed to the address above or emailed to Ellen at [edressel@cox.net](mailto:edressel@cox.net).

## Group takes annual Santa Flight in memory of member

On Dec. 17, 18 hot air balloon teams gathered at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington for the Third Annual Santa Flight in memory of Mike Bollea.

The event was organized by balloonist Jim Regan in

memory of Bollea, an avid balloonist and Farmington resident, who died tragically in March 2009. Participants consider it a very special flight that takes place every December where all the balloon teams dress in holiday

attire, with Santa and Mrs. Claus along with half-dozen elves all decked out and ready to hand out candy canes.

This year, balloonists were from the Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society, which meets monthly in Plainville, and the Great Eastern Balloon Association, with balloonists participating from Connecticut and far away as Pennsylvania.

Every December, Bollea would slip on a Santa suit and fly his balloon, handing out candy canes to the kids he encountered along his flight. He would always do his best to land at a school yard full of children all excited to see Santa arrive in a hot air balloon bearing candy canes as gifts.

"This flight is special for two reasons, one we remember and honor a special friend who made a difference in our lives, and the second, because Mike Bollea truly embodied the Christmas spirit all-year long in his life. Mike's annual Christmas flight was only small glimpse of the person and of his generosity," said Mick Murphy, president of Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society and resident of Litchfield. He is

See Flight, page 12



Photos courtesy of Dan Nivison

A hot air balloon lands in a Southington neighborhood while more than one dozen others fly overhead.

**Ace Oil**  
Company LLC  
24 Hour  
Emergency Service



Balloonists Erik Albrycht, back row, left, and Gary Guertin receive a big welcome from Southington children, front row, from left, Tim, Chloe and Emily Nivison and Nina and Edward Fabrycki. The balloonists gave the children candy canes. Still in the basket was Libby Richardson.

See 'Flight' on next page...



Photo by Lisa Huck



Photo by Jack Perry

# Flight

Continued from page 5

also the owner of Aer Blarney Balloons.

"Mike was the kind of person that knew the right thing to do and did it without worrying about taking the credit for his actions. As an example, Mike walked the West Farms Mall everyday and during one of these walks, met an elderly woman whom he befriended. From the moment their friendship began every time you saw Mike, there she was a part of his family and adventures," according to Murphy

Shortly after their friendship began, she was diagnosed with cancer and Bollea financially assisted her throughout her battle and took her to every appointment. He did this quietly every step of the way until she her death.

"Many people that knew Mike did not know that he was providing all this support. Mike did what he did because he just knew it was the right thing to do and for the right reasons," Murphy said.

Jude Russell wrote about Bollea shortly after his passing: "He was a kindly soul, who would never hurt a fly and was always willing to step up for someone else. He was one of those balloonists who were often on the field without his balloon — helping out a friend by driving the chase van, flying for fun, or happy to take some pictures of a new balloon — he just loved the sport and the people."

This year's flight — as hot air balloons often do — attracted the attention of many residents along its travels. The Nivison family and other people in the Kingswood Drive neighborhood in Southington saw at first two, then four, and finally 14 hot air balloons.

"To our surprise, one kept getting lower and lower, then landed right on our neighbors' front lawn. The balloonists invited the kids over to check out the balloon, and handed out candy canes," said Dan Nivison.

"I thank the balloonists for the joy they brought to my kids," he said.

To get more involved in ballooning or stay current with hot air balloon events in Connecticut, visit [www.lighterthanair.org](http://www.lighterthanair.org) or call (203) 910-4955 for more information about getting involved ballooning.

"We hope to see you at next year's Santa Flight," Murphy said.

— Robin Lee Michel contributed to this story.

## Legislative forum Jan. 10

State Rep. Rob Sampson and state Sen. Joe Markley will hold a Tuesday, Jan. 10 forum to discuss the upcoming 2012 Legislative Session that begins Feb. 8. The event will be held at Southington Town Hall, 75 Main Street, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

For information, contact Sampson's office, at (800) 842-1423.

## FROZEN BUNS FLIGHT HELD ON 60 DEGREE DAY



Photo by Libby Richardson



Photo by Rob MacFarlane

Photo on right by Tom Flynn, Castle Craig Camera Club



Photo on left by Garrv Guertin





This newsletter is published by The Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society for its members and interested parties. Portions of this publication may be reproduced of credit is given to the written and CLAS. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the organization or members of the organization. Submissions for the newsletter are welcome.

### Thanks to this month's newsletter contributors!

Robert Zirpolo	Jack Perry
Lisa Huck	Rob MacFarlane
Garry Guertin	Mick Murphy
Ellen Dressel	<i>Keep it coming!</i>

### MEMBERSHIP FORMS AND DUES ARE DUE FOR 2012

Now is the time to renew your CLAS Membership. At this time, we are asking everyone to complete a new membership application to ensure we have your updated mailing address, phone number, and email address on file. Please mail the form along with your membership payment to Ellen Dressel at the address on the form. It can be found below or at [www.lighterthanair.org/clas/application\\_form.htm#form](http://www.lighterthanair.org/clas/application_form.htm#form)

### BREAKING NEWS: Hot air balloon crash bills 11 in New Zealand

(Reuters) - A hot air balloon burst into flames and crashed in New Zealand on Saturday, killing all 11 people on board in the country's worst air accident in more than three decades. Police said the balloon appeared to have clipped powerlines and caught fire before crashing into farmland near Carterton, about 80 km (50 miles) northeast of Wellington on New Zealand's North Island. "Sadly the pilot and 10 passengers on board have not survived," Wellington District Commander Superintendent Mike Rusbatch said. The accident occurred just before 7.30 am (1830 GMT) in calm, clear weather in a region well known for hot air ballooning. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. There were flames licking up the side of the basket, right up the guy-ropes," David McKinlay told state-run Television New Zealand. [Read more...](#)

### CLAS Calendar

January 19 – CLAS meeting, 7:30 PM, Plainville Police Department

January 25 – Winter Dinner, 6 PM, Manor Inn, Plantsville

February 16 – CLAS meeting, 7:30 PM, Plainville Police Department

February 25 – Safety Seminar, 8 AM, Yale Divinity School, New Haven

### CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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.  
Extra voting family member add \$5

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**CLAS Membership Info:**

Single (\$20) \_\_\_ Family (\$20) \_\_\_ Extra Vote (\$5) Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 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**



Like us at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Connecticut-Lighter-Than-Air-Society/193563443995591>

# Connecticut Lighter than Air Society



## 2012 Ruth Salzberg Memorial Safety Seminar Registration Form

This year the club has organized its 9th annual 1-day Safety Seminar on Saturday, February 25, 2012. We have chosen to honor Ruth Salzberg, a vital member of this organization who passed away in 2006. The seminar will be held at the Yale Divinity School at 409 Prospect Street, 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 Divinity School will be on the right.) Proceed up the driveway to the parking lot on your left. Sessions start at 8AM and end by 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 having attended this BFA Safety Seminar you must attend the entire seminar:**

**“Competitive Flying: Can It Develop a Pilot’s Skill Set and Improve Safe Flying?”**

This will be a single subject seminar focusing on improving piloting and crew skills by taking a different look at flying from the competitive perspective.

Speakers will be **Maury Sullivan, Sam Parks, Nick & Chase Donner.**

### Pilot Decision Making

The flight plan and its importance to safety

Knowing one’s limits and capabilities, strengths and weaknesses

A competitor’s mind set: have a plan and fly to the plan

Weather decision matrix – pilot and event

Personal Risk Assessment Model

A competitor’s tool bag

Pibals: tools to evaluate winds aloft as well as near surface. What is to be learned?

Surface speed

Wind sheers

Steering and at what altitude

GPS as a safety device

A good map

A well trained and experienced crew

Checklists?

Reliable radios

A computer in the cockpit

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

This application will also be accepted at the Feb 16, 2012 CLAS meeting. This registration form must be received by the education committee before the start of the FAA Safety Seminar on February 25, 2012. Space is limited, so don’t wait.

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.....

**“Competitive Flying: Can It Develop a Pilot’s Skill Set and Improve Safe Flying?”**

DATE (MO/DA/YR)	
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

**NOTES:**

If you miss any of this seminar, you will not meet the BFA’s education requirements to qualify as having attended this safety seminar. Make-up classes may, or may not be available.

For BFA Members and Pilots, 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 (\$30 for non-members)

2012 CLAS membership is \$20 for one vote and \$25 Family with 2 votes.  
(Your \$20 CLAS membership includes those family members living at home with you.)

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 paid up for 2012  
 \$80 = Pilot CLAS Member \$60 + 2012 Membership \$20  
 or Pilot Non-Member \$70 + NEW 2012 Membership \$10  
 \$70 = Pilot Non-Member

\$20 = Crew CLAS Member paid up for 2012  
 \$40 = Crew CLAS Member \$20 + 2012 Individual Membership \$20  
 \$30 = Crew Non-member  
 Invited Traveling Presenters are Guests

Make Checks payable to CLAS and return them with a copy of page 2 (the registration portion) of this application to:

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