



# The Scoop

Volume XIII, Issue 5, May, 2000

*This newsletter is published by The Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society for its members and interested parties. Portions of this publication may be reproduced 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 (but if they were they'd be damn good ones). For more information, contact Mick Murphy Editor PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488*

## Balloon Fiesta Academy 2000

For the third year, the *Kodak Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta* will once again select a group of young people to participate in a *mentorship* to learn the skills needed to conduct the world's largest balloon event. The next generation will need dedicated individuals to sacrifice time and talents in order to continue this great event. Hopefully the event organizers of the 21st century will come from the graduates of our *Academy*.

New cadets will be chosen to travel to Albuquerque Thursday October 5th and depart for home on Monday October 9th. They will work side by side with the members of the *Balloon Fiesta* Board as they perform safety briefings, registration, launching of 1000 hot air balloons in Mass Ascensions, and fueling and launching of the America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race. They will attend all media and social events during those days, and will culminate their experience at a luncheon on Monday prior to going home.

This year's cadets will be chosen by a nominating process. Any balloon club, or individual balloonist or interested adult may nominate a youth between the ages of 12 and 14 (age as of September 30, 2000). Cadets must be nominated using an official nomination form. Deadline for nominations will be midnight July 1, 2000. All nominations must be returned to Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Inc., 8309 Washington Pl. N.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113. Cadets will be selected and notified July 17, 2000.

The *Balloon Fiesta* will pay for the transportation, food and lodging for each Cadet. In addition each Cadet will receive an *Academy* jacket, and uniform shirts to wear during the event. Each Cadet will be responsible for bringing four (4) pairs of light tan or khaki pants or jeans to complete the uniform. They will also be responsible for all other clothing, medications, and personal items. Uniforms will be worn during the entire *Academy* experience. In addition each cadet must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will serve as a chaperon during the event. The parent must pay for their own transportation, but *Balloon Fiesta* will provide uniform shirts and lodging as well as local transportation and invitations to social events.

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Board is dedicated to supporting youth activities in the sport of ballooning and hope that the *Balloon Fiesta Academy*, along with our educational Explorium will insure a bright future for our sport.

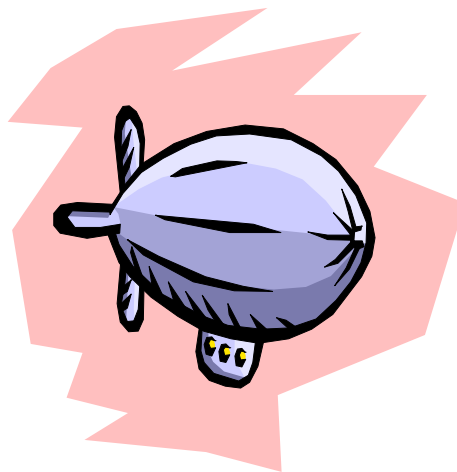
Please help us find the 2000 *Balloon Fiesta Academy* Ca-

dets.

Gentle Breezes and Soft Landings,  
Steven A. Komadina, M.D.

Director

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Academy



Kathrine Dressel received her first balloon ride for her eighth Birthday. The big event took place last year during the Bristol Balloon rally. She recently shared her note book of poems with me and this one really caught my attention.

Air balloons are really high,  
they fly and fly up to the sky.  
Air balloons are really fun,  
we flew up high to see the sun  
Air balloons have no seats,  
unless you sit on someone's feet.  
Air balloons can fly three people,  
they're really tall just as a steeple.  
Air balloons need fire to rise,  
otherwise the air just dies.  
I love balloons with all my heart.  
I never hoped that we would part.

Katie Dressel

### 2000 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Santo Galatioto  
(203) 397-0521  
Vice President: Tony Roswell  
(203) 264-5066  
Treasurer: Erwin Dressel  
(203) 272-6116  
Secretary: Ellen Dressel  
(203) 272-6116  
Photo Historian for Life  
Mike Bollea  
Minister of Propaganda / Editor  
Mick Murphy  
(203) 879-361

### MAY BUSINESS MEETING

Will be held May 18, 2000 at the Plainville Municipal Center at 7:30 pm.



### Ode to Delinquent Dues Payers

It's May 2000

And the flying season has begun  
There's mud in the fields  
And the farmers are spreading dung

You may not be current  
But three landings don't take long  
So spread out that envelope  
And tell the nesting mice to move along

But one thing you've forgotten  
That you'll want to correct  
Your CLAS dues aren't paid  
So send off a check

### Launch of Test Flight Postponed for May 12th-14th Weekend

Rain and fog are forecasted for Saturday. The next available window is currently May 19th and 20th. Because the Super2 Balloon is subject to weather restrictions, it is not possible to specifically set the day a particular flight will take place weeks in advance. Instead, consideration is given to equipment readiness and crew availability to arrive at a *target* date. As the target date nears, long range forecasts are evaluated and the target date is adjusted accordingly. This process continues until the week prior to the target day. At that point, it becomes a day to day decision with the ultimate decision being made the day before the flight. I will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

### Scoop Advertising Rates

#### ADVERTISING RATES

FULL PAGE	\$20.00	8" X 10"
1/2 PAGE	\$15.00	5" X 8"
1/4 PAGE	\$10.00	4" X 5"
1/8 PAGE	\$ 5.00	(business card)

#### CLASSIFIED RATES

Classified ads are \$3.00 per line. Each line is approximately 50 spaces. "N" numbers and Total Time are required for all listings. Classified ads are free to CLAS members in good standing!!!

If you have an article or advertisement for the "Scoop", please submit it to the PO Box Address or send it E-Mail to:

[Blarney007@aol.com](mailto:Blarney007@aol.com), by April 10th for the April Newsletter.

### Breitling Balloon Team to Receive Cabot Award

Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones have been named the 2000 recipients of Aero Club of New England's prestigious Godfrey L. Cabot Award. Flying the Breitling Orbiter 3 combination helium and hot air roziere balloon, the two successfully completed the first round-the-world balloon flight. The flight began in Switzerland on March 1, 1999, and ended in Egypt on March 21. Brian Jones will be in Boston on June 2, 2000 to accept the award.

The Boston-area based Aero Club of New England is the oldest aero club in the United States, having been founded by gas balloonists in 1902. The Cabot Award, named for the founder of the Aero Club of New England and first American president of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), is awarded annually to individuals or teams who have made unique, significant, and unparalleled contributions to foster, encourage, and advance aviation and spaceflight.

Previous recipients have included Igor Sikorsky, General Curtis LeMay, Dr. Charles Stark Draper, General James Doolittle, the Rutan/Yeager Voyager team, jet engine inventors Sir Frank Whittle and Hans Ohain and Colonel Joe W. Kittinger, Jr.

Last year's Cabot Award recipient was Ed Yost, inventor of the modern hot air balloon, making this year's presentation the first time in the history of the award that it has been presented to balloonists for two years in a row.

The formal presentation of the award will be at a luncheon to be held at the Hyatt Harborside adjacent to Boston's Logan Airport on Friday, June 2, 2000. Anyone interested in attending should be send a fax requesting more information to James E. Ellis at 978-772-3712 or contact him by e-mail at [jeellis@pvainc.net](mailto:jeellis@pvainc.net).

THE BALLOON WORKS

AD

## Photography Contest



Get out and takes some pictures this season for the CLAS Photo Contest. Twelve photographs will be selected for use in the CLAS 2001 Calendar.

- Subject: any ballooning related subject, pictures of balloons, pictures from balloons, etc.
- Contest is open to all CLAS members, family and friends.
  - Limit three (3) entries per person.
- Please submit 8x10 glossy photographs with your name, address and phone number on the back.
- Send entries to: J. Perry, 206 Railtree Hill Rd, Woodbury, CT 06798
  - Deadline for entry: 7:30 PM, Thursday, October 19, 2000,
- Photographs will be selected by those members present at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - All entrees will be returned after competition.

### PRIZES

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Photograph will be use for the January cover of the calendar and winner will receive a free calendar.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Choice of month photograph is in calendar and a free calendar.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Choice of month photograph is in calendar and a free calendar.

**Honorable Mentions:** Nine will be selected to appear in the calendar.

For information contact: Jack Perry, jackp02@sprynet.com, (203)263-5962

## Feds moving to improve civil GPS signals

By Bob Brewin

**05/01/2000** The White House today plans to improve the accuracy of signals available to civilian users from Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites to as close as 10 meters from the current 100 meters as part of a move that one industry consultant said would have "huge implications" for myriad GPS applications, including increasingly popular automobile navigation systems.

The enhancement of the civil GPS signal comes just one week before the start of the International Telecommunications Union's World Radio Conference (WRC) in Turkey, where the U.S. will battle a new, satellite positioning system backed by the member states of the European Union and mobile satellite system operators for scarce global spectrum.

A White House source said President Clinton is expected to announce at 2 p.m. today an end to the practice by which the Department of Defense — which designed and developed the \$10 billion GPS system — intentionally degraded the civil signal to an accuracy of 100 meters from accuracies of 10 to 20 meters available to military users.

The Pentagon has maintained for years that it needed to degrade the civil signal in order to deny the highly accurate military signals to potential adversaries. Development of GPS jammers has eased these concerns, according to military sources.

Richard Langley, a GPS consultant and professor of geodesy at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, said the "significance of this decision is huge. . . . it will affect a large number of GPS application areas."

Langley said automobile navigation systems — which feed GPS signals into a moving map display — would see an immediate gain from the improved GPS signal. "Right now, with 100-meter (accuracy), you might not even be positioned on the right map in the display . . . ; with the (degradation) turned off, those kind of map-matching errors will be significantly reduced," he said.

Langley added that the decision to provide highly accurate GPS signals to civil users could also improve the U.S. position at the multinational WRC, which starts next week and runs through June. "This move definitely put the U.S. in a more favorable light" in competition with the proposed European Union-backed "Galileo" satellite positioning system and mobile satellite service providers in the global battle for spectrum, Langley said.

An official at the White House Office of Science Technology Policy, who declined to be identified, said the availability of improved civil GPS signals would be almost immediate, with the military degradation of the civil signal slated to end at midnight tonight.



In the tropical setting of the Bimini Islands, 100 of the world's top Hot Air balloonists will race against time, each other, and the hostile elements for an eighty thousand dollar top prize and a chance to be called the best there is. Not all will make it. Some balloons will likely not make it across. To fully capture the excitement and the drama of the race, the event will be covered from the sea, from the air, and using compact cigar cams mounted aboard the balloons of leading contenders. A specially selected team of extreme cinematographers will document the progress of the race from speed boats and helicopters.

On May 20, 2000, in the Bahamas, 100 teams will take to the skies in the largest hot air balloon race ever attempted. After lifting off from the lush tropical shores of Bimini island, the competitors will fly fifty miles over the shark infested waters of the Bermuda

Triangle. A short four hours later the race will conclude on the beach of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The grace of the hot air balloons is deceiving. The race will actually be something of a stampede, the air space crowded, the chance of balloons becoming tangled up extremely high. While the equipment can stay afloat, the pilot remains at risk as tons of water will come rushing in, threatening to swallow him up before the rescue boats can arrive. The inherent danger of the event will be illustrated by the use of pre-existing footage depicting hot air balloon crashes, collisions and accidents. The pilots themselves are as colorful as the stripes on their balloons. As they prepare for the race, we will profile the contestants. The foremost men and women in the field are larger than life characters whose casual manner belies a fierce dedication to their sport. As in every sport, there are champions and contenders with dramatic rivalries that span conti-

nents and years. Now, for the first time, the greatest personalities and the strongest competitors will be brought face to face to settle the old rivalries once and for all.

Now! That I have captivated your attention, I am afraid that the race has been canceled. Here is a copy of an internet posting from Stan Werschuk, Edmonton, Alberta Canada. Some time ago I sent a message out on the reflector stating that I had dropped out of the "Bimini to Florida Balloon Race". I had sent a letter to Jeff Cable (NALTAA) stating that Bruce Cirankewitsch and I were withdrawing from this event. I was particularly not happy with the way things were going. Too many loose ends and uncertainties with transportation of balloons, accommodations, etc. etc.

After a great deal of faxes, email, etc. to Jeff Cable (NALTAA) I finally got a refund cheque. Unfortu-

### Competition Schedule

The first date of the competition will still be held on Saturday morning with a rain/weather date the following Sunday morning. The minimum weather requirements for competitions to be held is for VFR flight with surface wind 8 knots or less, and the wind aloft at 3000 ft is less than 25 knots.

### CLAS SCORING AND RANKING SYSTEM

The points system to determine overall winner at the end of the year is as follows:

Pilot shows up at field with balloon 2 points.  
 Pilot inflates balloon 1 point.  
 Pilot takes off 2 points.  
 (Must fly beyond the boundary of the launch field)

**The number of pilots in the race will determine task points. If there were 8 pilots then first place would get 8 points, second 7 and so on down through last place that would receive 1 point. The tasks will be hare and hound or judge declared goals. If things work out, more complex tasks can be introduced during the season.**

If there are 5 or more pilots that are interested in flying Tasks, we could work them into our regular competitions. Pilots must be CLAS members to score CLAS points but others may fly the BFA Sanction. Meeting time to be one half hour before sunrise. If you have questions about the weather or meeting site the evening before a

### C.L.A.S. COMPETITION COLUMN

A meeting of the competition committee was held immediately following the April regular club meeting in Plainville. In the absence of nominees for the post of Chairman, Frank Bart volunteered to serve for another year.

The committee discussed rules and procedures for future competition events with an eye toward making these tasks fun yet challenging, smoother run and better attended. The members in attendance were asked to submit their ideas so they could be distilled down to a new and improved formula for the club events.

The growing list of committee members and attendees at the competition meeting is a good sign, but one theme that keeps

coming up in any conversation about improving the competition is the need for more volunteers for pre-task briefings, sign-ins, observers and scoring. If you or someone you know would like to get involved please let us know. If you are a pilot with extra crew for an event please consider sending someone over to help with the task, it may give them a new and exciting perspective on the sport.

### C.L.A.S. APRIL COMPETITION REPORT

As in 1999, the April Competition venue for the "2000" CLAS Challenge Championship series was Skylark Airport. Flying from this launch site and over the surrounding area continues to be great fun with

2000 Competition Schedule		
Month	Date	Location
January	8, 9	Aqua Turf
March	18, 19	Salmon River
April	29, 30	Skylark Airport
May	26, 27	Balloons Over
June	24, 25	Goshen Balloon
July	29, 30	Southbury
Aug.	26, 27	Plainville Balloon
Sept.	23, 24	Ushchak Aero-
Oct.	7, 8	Apple Harvest

consistent drainage winds working to take the field of competitors down river and away from BDL. Saturday morning 6 teams arrived to give it a go.

The Hare & Hound task was flown by the following pilots: Santo Galatioto, Erwin Dressel, Mike Bollea, Peter Hyslop, Frank Bart, and Gloria Koczera flying with Walter Haddak.

Erwin Dressel volunteered to be the Hare balloon and did an exemplary job of it. Cynthia Smith a.k.a. Madam X rode with Erwin to mind the placement and scoring of the target. The X was down in 1/2 hour and the system was moved out of the way of the approaching competitors. A suggestion (which warrants serious consideration) was made to develop a checklist to reward the Hare pilot for a job well done at future competitions.

There was a certain amount of steerage that morning and after navigating over and around a few fields with livestock in them Erwin put it down and Madam X got the target out. It wasn't long after that Gloria's balloon came by. She achieved a very nice toss of 8 paces. Pete came over a little high and his throw was estimated at about 300 yards, not close enough for a result. Mike couldn't get the left he needed this particular morning but as usual got it close enough for a score. Santo flying as PIC in Jim O'brien's new balloon missed to the left. Jim, who has been soaking up all this competition experience, is getting itchy to compete and is rumored to have said "Santo will have to watch his back next year".

The last pilot to approach the scoring field was Frank. While dropping in over the tree line on his approach to the target, Frank flushed out two huge wild turkeys who almost flew into the basket at nearly treetop level! Regaining his concentration the throw ended up 6 paces from the center of the X. A great way to end the maiden flight of "Party Time".

All pilots landed safely and a good time was had by all.

The next event will be at Balloons over Bristol on Saturday morning May 26<sup>th</sup>. **See you there!**

### APRIL RESULTS

1. 9 Points Frank Bart
2. 7 Points Gloria Koczera
3. 6 Points Mike Bollea
4. 5 Points Erwin Dressel
5. 2 Points Santo Galatioto, Pete Hyslop

### STANDINGS THROUGH APRIL

1. 16 Points Frank Bart
2. 15 Points Mike Bollea
3. 13 Points Santo Galatioto
4. 9 Points Randy Riley

nately many other competitors that have paid their entry fees still do not have a refund from NALTAA. I know of some pilots that have tried to phone, fax, email to get in touch with Jeff Cable - To No Avail. It is unfortunate that this particular event did not take off, however, I only found out this event was canceled via Ron Martin. Why is it that all the participants that had entered this event not get an email, fax, telephone call or personal written response that this event was canceled. It is obvious the organizers were not successful in raising the necessary funding required to pay for hotels, shipping of balloons, and the \$80,000 in prize money.

I have also heard that the event organizers have let behind several unpaid bills. If any of the pilots listed here receive this message please contact me personally to my email address and let me know if you have been contacted and advised that the "Bimini to Florida Race has been Canceled" and whether or not they have received their entry fee refund cheque.

The following pilots that entered are: Chuck Rohr, Bill Woodhead, Mark Meyer, Robert Rhodenbaugh, Earl Miller, Roy Walz, Bill Baker, Kevin Flanningan, Peter Gallagher, Richard Abruzo, Herb Schmidt, Phil Glebe, W.T. Vitalia, Debbie Harding, Ron Martin, David Harwell, Alan Luksik, Arthur Weathers, John Goddard, Chad Hess, Stanley Hess, Robert Corey, John Ninomiya, Sam Nettles, Dominic Chemello,

Barry Dilibero, Wayne Hodnett, Jeff Pinar, Brian Rohr, George Shannon, Art Shaffer, Mark Fritze, Tye Ashford, Hans peterman, Gary Tarter, Stan Robertson, David Allen, Barry Rowars, Rene Meier, Nick Stanko, Reiner Schroeder (Germany), Mathes (Germany), Will La Pointe, Stevent Stokeo, Richard Arnold, Balloon Inc. 4 to 5, Thomas Brundage, Ron Rogers, Gary Sines. (only 56 pilots, not 100 as mentioned on the web site) I would like to also point out that there is a website for "www.skyrace2000.com" - still on the website. The organizers still mention that this event is on and that there will be 100 participants. Unfortunately, I only have a list of 56 participants. I received a message from Jeff Cable on Wed, Feb 23, 2000 that this web site was up and running. His comments were: Please visit this <www.skyrace2000.com> There will be updates and improvements made as we progress toward the event. So visit often and let us know what you think. There have been no updates to this web site at all since I received this message. You would think that there would be at least some mention that this event has been canceled. I might suggest that all balloonists

### **CLASSIFIEDS**

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!! As CLAS members you receive one free listing a month!! What are you waiting for call today!!

1999 FIREFLY 8(105). N7053Z,35TT.S50 basket tanks,dbl Mirage,Nomex,turning vent,DT21, spotless, \$23,000  
Call Robert 203-250-8441

1997 FIREFLY 9(140).N3085Z, 120TT.5.0 basket,2 master tanks,double T3's,DT21,Nomex,turning vents, \$25,000  
Call Robert 203-250-8441

1984 CAMERON A-140.formerly GBLZR,presently applying for US.registration,10TT. Aristo basket, dbl MKIV burners,4/10-gal.alum.cyls.,good am't of repair fabric,may need partial top replacement,6 banner areas, \$10,000  
Call Kathy 860-678-7921

1987 Cameron DP-70 Airship,formerly GNNXG,22TT,complete w/box trailer,2/10-gal. alum.cyls.,2-clyle/4-cyl.Konig radial engine 570cc, banner area both sides,good condition. \$30,000  
Call Kathy 860-678-7921

1995 Lindstrand 90A.  
N358lb,162TT.42x57bskt,3/10-gal.ss.cyls.,Ball M-55,dbl burner,annual 9/1999, excellent condition, full sys.\$16,500 or envelope only \$8,500.  
Call Kathy 860-678-7921

1994 Thunder&Colt,S-2 90.N809TC,71TT.C-2 dbl. burn.,Ball 655,2/15-gal-ss tanks w/covers & heat tapes,banner velcro,Nomex,44x48 basket, asking \$14,500 or best offer.  
Call Clyde 860-651-1110

avoid in participating in any future NALTAA (North American Lighter Than Air Association) - future events-, until all balloonists that have entered the Bimini to Florida event receive notice of cancellation and refund and that all outstanding bills be paid. I am certain that the NALTAA organizers in the past have held some great and successful events, but it has to be known to the General Ballooning Community "to enter" into any of NALTAA's future events with caution. This kind of situation reflects on ballooning in general. It is unfortunate that there have to be some "Bad Apples" I was really looking forward to participating in this event. "ONCE BIT< TWICE SHY"  
Stan Wereschuk

## CONNECTICUT LIGHTER THAN AIR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 during the months of Jan, Feb, Mar, April, May, July, Sept, Nov and Dec on the third Thursday of the month at the Plainville Municipal building at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact any of the officers listed inside this newsletter.

Three types of membership are available - Single, Associate (2nd voting member in same household) and Family. The dues for 2000 are:

New member		Renewing members	
Single	\$29	Single	\$24.
Associate	\$17	Associate	\$17.
Family	\$32	Family	\$27. (Additional Vote \$33.75)

Included in new membership dues is **Flight Information Manual, decal, voting privileges and newsletter subscription.**

Also available separately:

Newsletter Subscription	\$ 10
Pins	\$ 5. (\$3 for members)
Decals	\$ 2 (\$1 for members)
Landowner pins(members only)	\$ 21.90 (15 pins)
CLAS T-Shirts	\$ 12. And up-Various Styles (Add \$3.00 for shipping)

-----  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

New member		Renewing members	
Single	\$29_____	Single	\$24_____.
Associate	\$17_____	Associate	\$17_____.
Family	\$32_____	Family	\$27_____(\$33.75 for additional vote)

Crew\_\_\_\_ Student Pilot\_\_\_\_ Private Pilot\_\_\_\_ Commercial Pilot \_\_\_\_\_

BFA CAAP: Level \_\_\_\_\_ BFA PAAP Level \_\_\_\_\_ FAA WINGS Level \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter only \_\_\_\_\_ Pin \_\_\_\_\_ Decal \_\_\_\_\_ Landowner pins \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirts. (S) \_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_ (L) \_\_\_\_ (XL) \_\_\_\_

BFA# \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot Certificate # \_\_\_\_\_

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

**The Scoop / CLAS**  
**PO Box 53**  
**Southbury, CT 06488-0053**

**FIRST CLASMAIL**