



Connecticut
Lighter
Than Air Society

The Scoop

Volume XVII, Issue 3

March April 2004

NPRM on National Air Tour Safety Standards Does Not Include Balloons.

NEXT MEETING
APRIL 15TH
PLAINVIELLE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
"BUSINESS MEETING"

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Special points of interest:

- * New JR Balloonist Chair
- * Captain AL Haynes Update
- * A Painting In Your Balloon Colors.
- * JB Art Contest

NPRM posted by Phil Bryant on 03-25-2004 09:45 am



BFA Board members have received a number of questions in recent weeks regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's pending NPRM governing Air Tour Operators. That proposed rulemaking would move regulations governing sight-seeing flights from their current place in FAR Part 91 to FAR Part 135. Such a shift would place an increased burden on pilots offering sightseeing flights for hire.

ing NPRM governing Air Tour Operators. That proposed rulemaking would move regulations governing sight-seeing flights from their current place in FAR Part 91 to FAR Part 135. Such a shift would place an increased burden on pilots offering sightseeing flights for hire.

Upon researching the proposed rulemaking, however, the BFA has learned that balloon operations are specifically exempt. Page 5 of the proposed rule contains the following text:

"Air tour operators typically are single-pilot operations that are conducted in airplanes or helicopters. While some commercial air tours are conducted in hot air balloons and gliders, this proposed rule is intended to regulate commercial air tours conducted in powered aircraft only."

If you would like to check the NPRM on the official FAA web site, you can find it quickly at the following url:

At" target=<http://dms.dot.gov/search/document.cfm?documentid=256878&docketid=4521>

At the bottom of this page, you'll find a link to download the document (which is 106 pages long) in .pdf form.

The FAA recently extended the comment period on the NPRM to April 19, 2004. Those who wish to submit comments should go to:

<http://www.regulations.gov/freddocs/04-01129.htm>

New BFA Junior Balloonist Chair!

Meet Shelley Caraway, new Jr. Balloonist Chair. Total Panda-Monium is the name of my balloon. It is a 66 feet tall replica of a panda bear head. I am a commercial pilot and am married to Jerry, my crew chief, who has been my partner in several of life's adventures throughout the last 19 years. Stayton and Stossley, our teenagers, spend much of the

balloon season crewing and traveling with us to rallies. When not ballooning, I am an instructor at Panola College, a community college in East Texas. The classroom presents many opportunities to introduce students to the joys of ballooning. Often, college students will volunteer to act as crew when we visit public schools and inflate for school groups. My commitment to education is deep and the leadership of the Junior Bal-

loonist program will allow me to continue this mission. In the next few months I will be implementing several additions to the JB program. There will be contests for the members, mentor opportunities for the BFA members and former JB members, and special projects. Please watch the JB newsletter and website for details. If your JB is not currently active in the

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Minutes CLAS Meeting of March 18, 2004

Vice President Penny Christy called the meeting to order at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building at 7:43 PM. Members in attendance were: Penny Christy, Mark Sand, Mick Murphy, Mike Bollea, Garry Guertin, Charlie Perreault, Amy Goodyear, Robert Zirpolo, Kimberly Goode, Kristen Brighenti, Terri Rollinson, Tony Roswell, Ellen Dressel and Erwin Dressel. The minutes from the meeting of February 15, 2004 were discussed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasury consists of \$3897.00 in checking and \$5524.17 in CD's.

Committee reports:

Sunshine: Polly Lasher's dad recently passed away.

Products: CLAS donated the proceeds from product sales at the recent safety seminar to the safety seminar balance sheet.

Flight Manual: No report

Competition: Erwin is looking for creative ways to structure our competition events. Please send your ideas to Erwin at edressel@cox.net.

BFA Liaison: The BFA will hold a photo competition this year. Photos are due to them by November 20,

2004. See the BFA web site at www.bfa.net for further details.

Old Business

Our safety seminar on February 28, 2004 showed a positive cash flow of \$800. This figure was boosted by donations from Kathy Wadsworth (her book sales) and Bill Armstrong (his book sales and "Earth Winds" fabric auction). Much thanks to Kathy and Bill for their generosity. All the bills for the seminar are paid except the chairs. We haven't received a bill for them yet. The bill should be \$56.00. Pratt and Whitney has invited us to return to hold future safety seminars. Thanks to all who helped in the set-up and especially in the clean-up following the program.

Ellen Dressel misplaced her digital camera at the seminar. Any help in locating the camera would be greatly appreciated.

New Business

Penny invited CLAS members to join the New England Air Museum. The dues are \$50/year. We need balloonists to join in order for the museum's directors to dedicate space for balloon-related exhibits and information. Penny passed out brochures. The museum's web site is www.neam.org.

CLAS will have a booth at the Safety Fest at Pratt and Whitney in May. We discussed presenting an introduction

to ballooning, possibly at the plenary session in the big hangar.

Mark asked how we could obtain landowner appreciation cards. Penny will ask Cindy to send some to anyone who needs them.

The remainder of the meeting was an educational presentation by Mick Murphy on his efforts in constructing a home-built balloon. He brought samples of the fabric he is using and showed examples of his sewing skills. His presentation was very interesting and resulted in an animated discussion among the membership. Mick invited anyone who desires to learn more about home-building to contact him and come over and view his work (and help, too). Mick hopes to complete the project by this coming August.

The meeting was adjourned to the refreshment room (courtesy of the Dressels) at 9:15 PM.

The next meeting will be on April 15, 2004. Pay your taxes, then come to the meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Sand
CLAS Secretary

COMPETITION SCHEDULE 2004

April 24 Skylark (Coffee walk, hare & hound)

May 22 Marlborough (judge declared target, or whatever Daryl Smith wants to do)

June 12 Aqua Turf (45 min. Long Jump) Based on wind direction and speed we may need to shorten the flying time.

July 31 Mick Murphy's area (whatever Mick wants to do)

Aug.21 Ushack's Aerodrome (competition to be decided)

Sept 25 Tony Roswell's area (whatever Tony wants to do) Tony's baby

The month of November will be held for a back-up month
We will skip the month of October altogether since that is prime ride business time

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sales@fireflyballoons.net

ARE YOU READY? By Tim Hampton Central Ohio Balloon Club

It is that time of year to start thinking toward the flying season. We have been attending safety seminars. Pilots are starting to get balloon rally invitations and the weather is improving in spurts. We all feeling a bit "antsy" to get out and fly. This year looks to be a more normal flying year. I have already flown more in January and February this year than in the first half of last year. I would like to make a few suggestions to start the thinking process toward the season for both pilots and crew.

Early Season means mud...mud...and more mud! Plan for it.

After the winter season (of eating and sitting) be careful not to over do it when handling the balloon equipment. It is too easy to remember how you functioned last year, try to do it the same way, and "pull something". You don't want to make yourself sore for a couple of days or worse. Give your-

self a little more time and recondition yourself to the physical requirements of the job.

Pilots : Start making contact with your crew to find out if they have had any job or schedule changes from previous years. Find out if they even want to be on your e-mail notification list. Are they going to be available at all? Verify all contact numbers. Some numbers may have changed, some may not even be current anymore.

This is the time of year to start looking over the "rig" for maintenance issues that were left undone from last season. If you are like me, and your vehicle was downloaded for the winter, start collecting the items needed for the season. I made a vehicle checklist a few years ago that works great to keep me from forgetting, especially when getting ready for a rally.

Check your radios. Make sure that the

batteries are good. To keep your rechargeable batteries in the best health it is important to use them. If not being used during the winter it is best to recharge them once a month. They will naturally discharge on their own. If left too long discharged it can shorten the life of the battery pack. New rechargeable batteries (especially nicads) should be put through three complete charge / discharge cycles before they are put into use with partial recharge cycles. It can help to occasionally completely discharge and recharge the batteries to reduce any "memory effect" and reduce the battery life. A good source for rechargeable batteries is <http://www.kendoo.com>.

Don't forget that some of those cool mornings may still require nitrogen or heat to keep tank pressure up.

(Continued from page 1)

program, drop me a line and we will get him or her involved. If you would like more information about how YOU can become involved in the growth of the JB program in your region please contact me at balloonist@peoplepc.com or call me at 903/984-4393. I am here to assist you in creating an organization of which we can all be proud.

Ed Note: I will be working with Sherri and representing our club in the junior balloonist program and will be updating the group as to new details in the coming months on how CLAS can get involved with this program.

Junior Balloonist ART CONTEST ENTRY

JB's, it's time to get those creative juices flowing! A Junior Balloonist art contest will begin immediately and **entries must be postmarked by July 31, 2004.** Winners will be announced in the August JB newsletter. The categories will be: photographs, paintings (any type), drawings (crayon, ink, chalk, or pencil), and computer generated artworks. A calendar of winning artwork will be compiled and offered for sale with proceeds benefiting JB projects. Both

BFA and JB members will be eligible to cast one vote each.

The age divisions will be as follows: 7-10, 11-14, and 15-18. Art must be no larger than 11" x 14" and must be submitted in the original format such as actual photographs or emailed photos if digitally taken, actual drawings, actual paintings, or .jpg or .bmp files.

Art must be the original work of the JB submitting it. Contestants are allowed to submit two (2) entries in each cate-

gory for a total of 8 entries per person. Winning pictures will be published in the August newsletter. All art becomes the property of the Junior Balloonist program and artists will receive credit upon reproduction.

Entries can be mailed to:
Junior Balloonist Art Contest
Shelley Caraway
322 Knowles
Kilgore TX 75662
OR Emailed to
balloonist@peoplepc.com

CLAS Has a 2004 Safety Seminar

Chris Mooney was M.C. as CLAS presented the first Safety Seminar in several years on February 28th with the help of Pratt & Whitney's providing the Customer Training Facility in East Hartford.

Andy Baird of Cameron Balloons in Ann Arbor, MI enlightened us about how balloons really fly. Everyone saw the physics of ballooning in a new way. Dr. Richard Clark from Millersville, PA demonstrated his awesome understanding of weather and enlightened us about low level jets.

Bert Padelt, also from PA, presented his gas ballooning experience in colorful detail. Everyone showed their interest by asking many questions as Bill Armstrong, Kevin Brielmann, and Bert presented the gas ballooning segment around their gas balloon equipment display.

Santo Galatioto was also colorful as he updated us with the FARs and re-

quirements and preparations for us to be pilots. Ruth Lind updated us on the BFA activity. Erwin and Ellen Dressel joined Charlie Perrealt as they presented pilot and crew safety with colorful slides and the manual Charlie has been developing for the last 3 years. Aeronautical Decision Making was presented by Andy Baird, Daryl Smith, and Robert Zirpolo. Robert and Kevin also presented Maintenance and Equipment Repair. The 5 FAA appointed CT Accident Safety Counselors (Kathy Wadsworth, Bill Wadsworth, Santo, Kevin and Robert) reviewed how they were appointed, accident prevention, and ways of operating safely as we fly. Ruth Lind contributed to their presentation as well.

The setting was wide open with all the Pratt & Whitney Jet Engines on display. Rich Clark made sure he had a picture taken as he presented in front of a 112" diameter fan jet with its na-

celle doors open. Acoustics were a challenge and Bob Fazzio promised us microphones next year. Yes, we were invited back to have this as an annual event at the Customer Training Facility.

There was a continental breakfast, morning and afternoon snacks, and a great salad and sandwich buffet. There was no lack of food!

We had manuals printed and sponsored by Pratt & Whitney. We owe many thanks not only to Pratt & Whitney, but also to our presenters and all the CLAS members who contributed to the success of this seminar. We had donations of Pilot Bags from Cameron Balloons, Lost World and Autana Books from Kathy Wadsworth, a piece of Earthwinds fabric and Just Wind by Bill Armstrong, BFA bag, cups and champagne flutes by Ruth Lind, and several pieces from CLAS.

Thank you all! See you next year!
Penny Christy

OLMPUS SYLE 300 DITIAL CAMERA IS MISSIG

Olympus Stylus 300 Digital, 3.2 mega pixel in a black leather case with extra battery. Last seen on the top of my canvas tote bag at clean up time, Safety Seminar in East Hartford.

Every one say me taking pictures during the seminar. Some one must know where it is.

Pictures were promised to the speakers. Please contact Ellen Dressel with any information

A PAINTING IN YOUR BALLOON COLORS

A PAINTING in your BALLOON COLORS

Sharon Wilson resides in Manchester, CT. Several of her paintings are on display at historic Cheney Hall (Manchester Little Theatre), The Gallery at Manchester Hospital and recently at American Eagle Credit Union.

Her work was also chosen to be on display at The Salt Box Gallery in West Hartford. Her paintings are abstract and also brilliant in color and design. The paintings make a wonderful gift and are great for home or office. The photo is a brilliant and uplifting 24" x 30" custom made painting on stretch canvas, ready to display or U-Frame-It. * Artwork is abstract, which non-representational. For more information please contact Sharon Wilson, 860-643-0766.

To purchase a custom print of your balloon colors please send:

- Bank check for \$475.00 (personal checks not accepted) to:
Sharon Wilson
104 Homestead Street
Manchester, CT 06040
860-643-0766
- Non-returnable photo of your balloon and paint swatches from your local paint store
- Address and phone number

To receive color sample of artwork please e-mail info@aerblarney.com or for members please log onto <http://www.lighterthanair.org/> to view newsletter and artwork.

Captain Al Haynes Update

After 15 years, the survivors of United Airlines Flight 232 have found a way to repay pilot Al Haynes: by pitching in for his daughter's bone marrow transplant. Al Haynes and his daughter Laurie Arguello await her bone-marrow transplant.
By Ken Lambert, The Seattle Times

Haynes helped guide the DC-10 into the Sioux City, Iowa, airport 45 minutes after its center engine exploded on July 19, 1989, saving 184 of the 296 people on board. When many of the survivors heard that his daughter, SeaTac resident Laurie Arguello, was struggling to raise the money for a bone-marrow transplant and follow-up care, they rushed to help out.

So did many other people. About 2,500 have contributed online, and Arguello has a big shoebox filled with notes sent by donors. In all, she's collected more than \$256,000.

"I read a letter from someone whose friend didn't survive Flight 232," she told The Seattle Times. "They made a donation in that person's name, which made me cry."

Arguello, 39, was diagnosed in December 2001 with aplastic anemia, a condition in which her bone marrow cannot produce enough blood cells. Word of her illness traveled fast, starting with a humble solicitation letter Haynes sent friends late last fall and spreading through

national and local media coverage.

Survivors said they wanted to help not just because of what Haynes and his crew did in the cockpit that day, but because of the support he provided afterward. "He has always had time for anyone connected with the crash," said Jerry Schemmel, a survivor who has gone on to become the radio announcer for the NBA's Denver Nuggets. "I've become more impressed with the man that he has become since the crash than the man he was in the cockpit that day."

Many of the donations have come from those in the airline industry who regard Haynes' calm leadership in the cockpit as an act of heroism, although he has always demurred from such a characterization.

"My definition of a hero is someone who voluntarily puts his or her life in jeopardy to benefit other people," said Haynes, 72. "There's no way that we voluntarily put ourselves in jeopardy. We just did our job and tried to get people on the ground."

Arguello, who is married and has a 9-year-old son, has two potential bone-marrow donors lined up, both strangers. A transplant could take place this spring.

"Whoever is her donor, now there's a hero," Haynes said. "That person is voluntarily doing something to save a life. Donors aren't necessarily putting themselves in jeopardy, but they

could be."

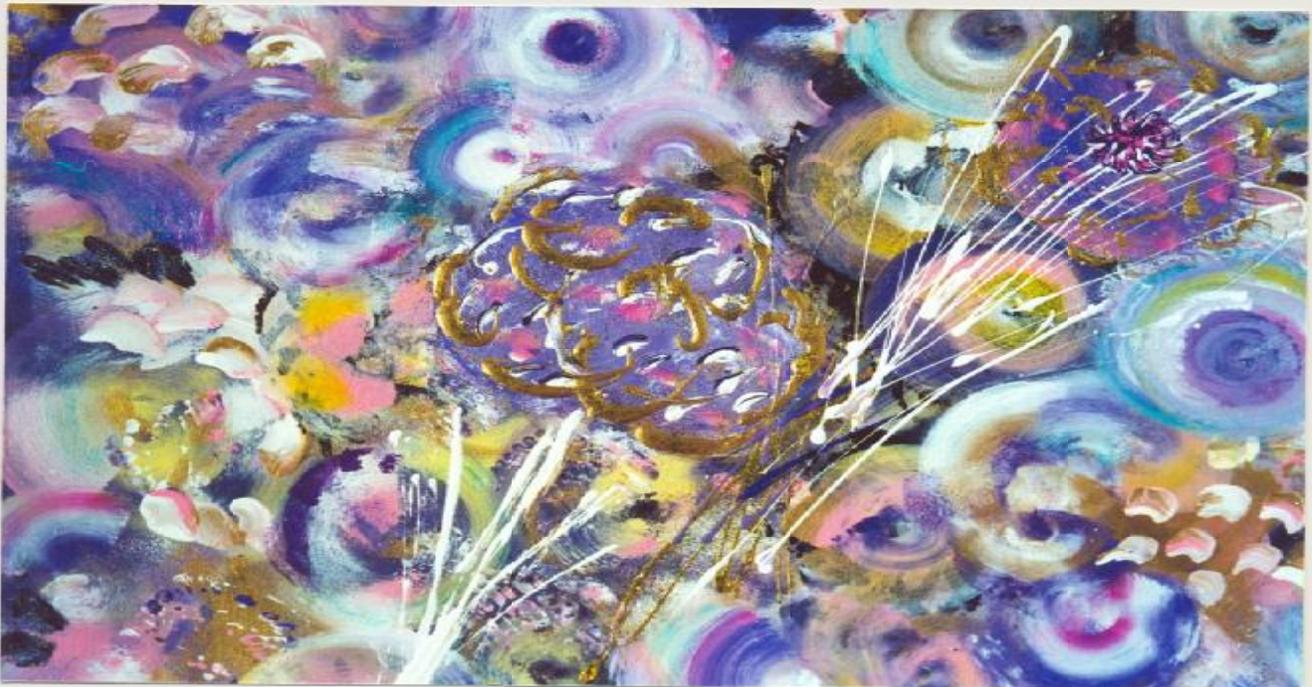
The \$256,000 that Arguello set as her fund-raising goal covers the transplant and aftercare, but assumes an unlikely scenario that no complications will arise. As a result, she continues to raise money.

Before she became ill, Arguello was working as a customer-service representative for a janitorial-services company.

She has undergone more than 60 blood or platelet transfusions, but doctors say her best hope is a bone-marrow transplant. Her medical insurance is paying \$100,000 toward a transplant, but she has to cover the minimum balance of \$156,000, plus another \$100,000 for aftercare.

Arguello registered with the National Foundation for Transplants, which represents more than 500 patients across the country who are raising money for transplants.

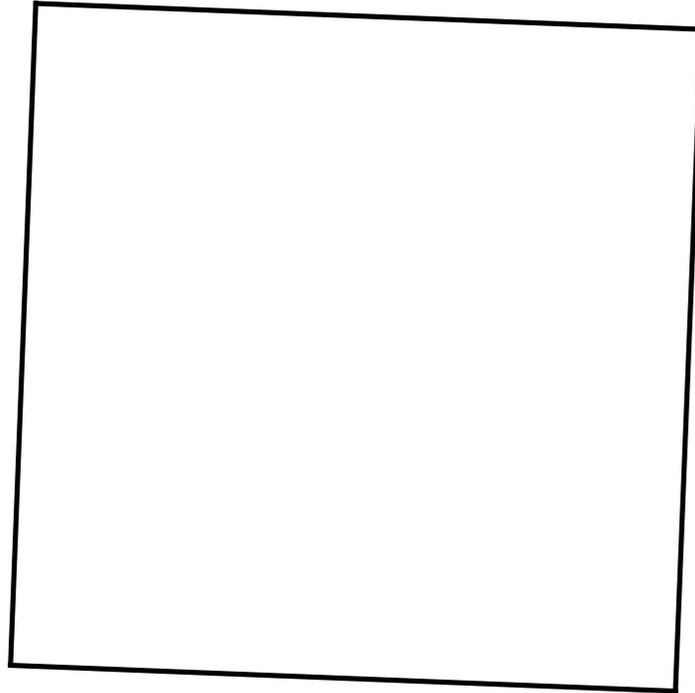
Ed Note: In recent local news club member Ellen Dressel saw a news story on channel 8, stating this son was killed in a traffic accident, wife died of cancer and now his daughter is a fight for her life. He know is charging for speaking engagements to cover the cost of medical expenses for his daughter. CLAS has been extremely fortunate to hear him speak at several Safety Fest presented by our local FAA through the efforts of Bob Martens at not cost and it would be nice if CLAS





Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

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THE SCOOP & I NEED YOUR HELP!

Deadline for the May newsletter is April 30, 2004

Please send any newsletter articles, news, pictures or any items that you would like to see in the SCOOP! This is OUR publication, and I welcome your input. **Armchair quarterbacks need not reply!**

If the club would like this newsletter to continue... I am going to need more help with articles and content. To be honest I no longer have the time required to spend on the Scoop with current commitments and if I do not receive more content from the group I am going to be passing the torch along! Very soon! I would like to remind everyone that it's not a hard job but it is very time consuming i.e. (create newsletter, send / pick up from the printers, fold, label, stamp plus write small notes to say hello to some of the gang and finally placing the newsletters in the snail mail. The club still sends out 90+ hard copies a month! To write or send articles one does not need to be a professional writer look at some of the mistakes and contributions that I have submitted over the years! I am often scrambling for content and just trying to get in the mail...so I often do not have time to proof read the articles. Hence the mistakes, but its not about being perfect it's about keeping the club alive and viable providing a vehicle to communicate current events in the local community and ballooning around the globe! Most club members provide constructive feedback with tact but often you receive rather disturbing messages that one can not be publish do to the mature content of the language!

REMINDER: CLAS is a volunteer organization and it can only continue if people take the time to get involved!!!

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