



The Scoop

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 (but if they are, they'll be exceptionally good ones). For more information contact Penny Christy 12 Blue Grass Rd., Middletown, Ct 06457 Phone (860) 857-8757 e-mail pmchristy@earthlink.net

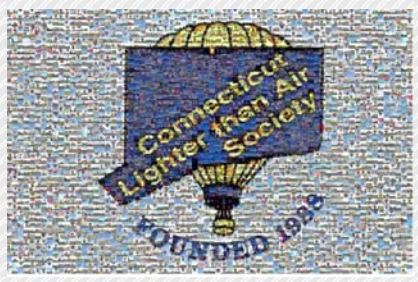
Volume XVIII, Issue 11

December 2005

HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE!! CLAS MEETING December 15, 2005

Let's celebrate a successful year together!!!
Bring your favorite Holiday Hors d'oeuvres, Dishes, Munchies
And your best stories to your **December CLAS Holiday Party**
At the Plainville Municipal building (Rte 372) on
Thursday, **Dec. 15, 2005** at 7:30PM

Your 2005 CLAS Calendars are in! Congratulations to all the Photo Contest WINNERS!!!



Cover by Charlie Perreault

Have your colleagues and friends gift giving lists ready and your shopping will be complete!!!

We ordered 200 calendars that will be available at the Dec CLAS meeting on Dec. 15. First come first served, so get your orders in to Garry Guertin (gguertin@cox.net)
The calendar prices are as follows: 1-4 \$9ea. 5-9 \$8ea., 10 or more \$7ea.

EVERYONE, be at the Plainville Municipal Building at 7:30PM!!

Save these dates!!!

Jan. 28, 2006 CLAS Winter Dinner at Gene's in Plantsville, CT

Contact: Ellen Dressel 860-272-6116

February 25, 2006 3rdnd Annual CLAS BFA Safety Seminar

Pratt & Whitney Customer Training Center in East Hartford, CT

Contact Penny Christy at 860-857-8757

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of November 17, 2005

CLAS Vice President Charlie Perreault called the meeting to order at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building at 7:35 PM. Members in attendance were: Charlie Perreault, Mark Sand, Lisa Huck, Santo Galatioto, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Al Theodore, Steve Ushchak, Mick Murphy, Gary Guertin, Mike Bollea, Carlos Kebe, and Matt Dutkiewicz.

This meeting was designated as a combination business/educational meeting.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: No report

Treasurer's Report: Checking account balance is \$5186.97.

Flight Manual: No Report

Competition: There was no competition event for November. The next date for a CLAS competition is December 10, with a back-up date of December 11.

BFA/FAA: No Report

Winter Dinner: The Winter Dinner will be held at Gene's Restaurant on December 28. The cost is \$30/person. Give your payment to Ellen Dressel. The SCOOP has further details.

Safety Seminar: Mark sent an email to the folks in Boulder Colorado responsible for the Atmospheric Soundings inviting a speaker to attend our safety seminar. To date there has been no response to the email. Mark will try sending it again and follow up with "snail mail" and/or telephone.

Products: Gary reported that the CLAS 2006 calendars have been printed but not yet collated. He passed around a sample copy. The completed calendars will be ready for sale at our December meeting. A total of 200 calendars were printed. The cost will be \$10 each. For orders over 10 the price will drop to \$7 each.

The minutes for the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Old Business: No additional old business was discussed.

New Business:

Kate Houlihan, Development Consultant to St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, presented a progress report on the return of "Balloons Over Bristol." The festival is a "go" and will be held on May 19-21, 2006, on the grounds of St. Paul Catholic High School. There will be a glow on Friday night, and flights on Saturday AM and PM and Sunday AM. Kate thinks they have lined up two propane sponsors.

The festival will not get involved in booking rides. Each individual pilot will take care of his own passengers.

The membership gave Kate some details on the usual amenities afforded to participating pilots and crews, including pilot packs, food, and maps in addition to fuel. Kate stated that some local TV personalities might attend. Santo suggested a media flight could be scheduled for Thursday. Mick will help in drafting an application form for the festival to be printed in the "Scoop." Mick also suggested that we provide a demonstration of balloon equipment and procedures to the student body and faculty some time before the festival. We will welcome local crew, especially students. Kate will see if a "deal" can be reached with local motels for those requiring lodging. Mark suggested that Kate contact the organizers of the Plainville festival for guidance. Matt will serve as our direct liaison with Kate for any details we can help her with. We will also send a delegation to the school to inspect the grounds.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to Erwin Dressel's presentation on the ABCs of Chase Vehicles. Erwin spoke on the different configurations of chase vehicles commonly used and outlined the pros and cons of each set-up. Tapping his vast collection of balloon-related photographs, Mike passed around pictures of the different types of chase vehicles as Erwin talked about them. The presentation was well organized and very informative. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The next meeting, our holiday "munchies feast," will be held on December 22 at 7:00 PM, at the Plainville, CT Municipal Building. Everyone bring his or her favorite holiday dish.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Sand CLAS Secretary

CLAS COMPETITION: Thanks to Jim Regan, Matt Dutkiewicz and Mike Bollea for help coordinating our CLAS Competition. **Mike's phone is 860-985-6508** **Saturday December 10** is our next competition.

Ballooning In Sicily, Italy 2006. (Not your usual tour)

Need to take a break from our winters, just when you need it most? How about experiencing the Beauty, The History, The Art, The Tastes (absolutely the best food in the world) and The Wondrousness of Sunny, Sicily, Italy as itinerant balloonist? I am arranging twelve people groups for the end of March and mid April trips. While there, we will be based out of my hometown, Grotte.

First, I want to make the dates and cost of the trips clear. The first group will go from **March 23rd, 2006 to April 3rd, 2006**, (cost \$2100). The second group is set for **April 6th, 2006 to April 18th, 2006**, (cost \$2400). Hotel Accommodations, Local Food, Airline Tickets, Chase/Travel Vehicles and Hot Air Balloon with pilot and interpreter are all included. I will leave with the first group to go and return April 24th, 2006 after I have sent back the second group. If there is anyone who wants to stay some or all of the in-between dates, (some people are asking for help on visiting other parts of Italy around our trips), I am sure I can accommodate you.

Imagine looking down at the Greek temples in the valley of Agrigento. Floating over the Norman Castle of Musimelo at 4,000ft MSL. Seeing Mount Aetna, the Nebrodie and Madonie Mountains as we float over the countryside. Places such as Piazza Armerina, Morgantina, Segesta, Sciacca, Selinunte, Casella and many other names that ring enchantingly in the explorer's curious ear.

To those of you who may wonder about the make up of the trips, let me explain a little bit more about what I am trying to do. The idea is to use my six-passenger hot air balloon to fly various places on the Island. We will rotate six people flying, six people chasing with our driver and other guest, (Possibly cousins and local friends). YOU WILL NOT BE GOING THERE AS ONE MORE TOURIST. THAT IS NEITHER THE DESIGN NOR MY INTENTION FOR THESE TRIPS. I am bringing you there to share with you my Beautiful Sicily just as if you were part of my family who has never been there before. (Continued on Page 8)

FAIR DUES TO HER

By Matthew Dutkiewicz

She is the first Irish born woman citizen to receive an UK Hot Air Balloon license which is P1, That young lady is PAULINE BAKER of Trim Co. Meath Ireland. Pauline has retrieved balloons as she quoted 15 sum years. It all started as Pauline saw a balloon out the window as many of us do and began to follow it through roads that wind sometimes heading you in the wrong direction. Believe me we Americans have it easy here with our straight and many motorways. She was the first to arrive to landing of the balloon and pilots crew still out there some where, That is when Pauline had met Tom McCormick, he very surprised in how she able to pursue him to the landing. I guess when it's in your blood you have it!!!!

She is also one of the organizers or even the main person who does the entire running around, finding sponsorship for the IRISH HOT AIR BALLOON CHAMPINSHIPS, which is in their 36th year running of balloonist from around Europe and the US.

In April of 2004, Week of St. Patrick's Day, Pauline flies off to Mondovi Italy to spend her National well celebrated Holiday learning to become a P1 hot air balloon pilot, by one of the best renowned instructors Giovanni (John) Aimo, His balloon port is known for air ship training, The town is surrounded by, many mountains and makes for calm winds. Pauline was able to have

instructional flights up to two hours, both morning and afternoon.

Getting in some ten hours of flight instruction during her stay. Giovanni now signs off her logbook and now Pauline is ready for the written tests.

Pauline boards a plane over to the UK for three days of reading, studding and taking four exams in which Pauline aces.

A few weeks follow then comes her flight test, given that the weather isn't always the calmest in Ireland but she ready. So she attends a balloon festival and takes off to the skies to earn a P1 (private) license. I get a call that it's done and dusted, Pauline pasted and all the hard work paid off within one Year she is a holder of a UK P1.

October 2004 Pauline applies for a U.S. FAA Private balloon license and much paper work and time go by (8) months I think before it was mailed out in June. She now holds a UK and a US certificates.

June of 2005 Pauline purchases her first balloon system, a Cameron concept 60 called Mystique. As this article was written she has attended many festivals, such as Tall Ships in Waterford, Metz France and many other ventures, like shooting commercials for broadband services (Smart Com). I'm sure we will be reading on Pauline's quests in the ballooning world.

FAIR DUES TO YOU PAULINE !!!!!!!!!



Hope everyone had a wonderful Turkey Day and Thanksgiving.

We certainly are fortunate to be able to participate in the wonderful world of ballooning.

Keep in mind the difference your thoughtfulness can make for someone else as you go about your holiday activities. It doesn't have to be any particular thing that you do. It can be giving your time or money or a gift or mentoring/teaching a skill, cooking a meal or cookies, playing a game or putting a puzzle together, reading to someone.

TO ALL OUR GOOD FRIENDS IN CLAS

8TH Annual "Mooney Family Christmas Party"

Dec. 10 from 3PM.... 'Til Bill and Patty go home...

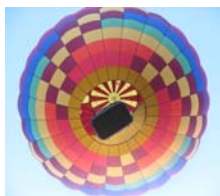
Lots of room for kids!!!!

Please join us in celebrating this very special time of year AND our shared good fortune to be involved in such a wonderful activity as ballooning. Seeing everyone once or twice a year is not enough especially during the long winter stretch. Join lots of other balloonists from New England, PA, NY and NY with lots of balloon flight stories to share. Come early to see the farm and help put the Xmas bow on the donkey. If you would like, bring a noshy dish or drink to share. Lots of food and cheer. Hotel, motel, and B&B possibilities.

Call for info. (1-203-263-0167) Or e-mail cmooney5@aol.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Chris Mooney and Family



Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society - 2005 CLAS Officers

President:	Penny Christy	860-857-8757	pmchristy@earthlink.net
Vice President:	Charlie Perreault	860-637-4017	bythefireplace@earthlink.net
Secretary:	Mark Sand	860-426-0814	mdsand@snet.net
Treasurer (Acting)	Charlie Perreault	860-637-4017	bythefireplace@earthlink.net

It's that time of year again. Mike Bollea grows his white beard and assumes the alias of Santa Bollea.

Dressed in a full Santa suit, Mike flies his balloon as near to Christmas Day as weather allows. He gives out candy from his big bag at all of his intermediate stops and his final breakfast stop. This will be the 10th? year for Mike to play Santa in his balloon



(Photo of Mike Bollea by Mike Bollea)

Christmas Party – Another Annual Event at Patty Anderson and Bill Colyer's at 120 Flax Rd., Fairfield, Ct.

Call 203-255-1929 for more info...

Daryl Smith from Coventry, who normally flies in the northeast Quiet Corner of CT, flew in Southington this cold day on November 19th. (Photo by Mike Bollea)



Andy Dressel is current again, shown here with his dad, Erwin on Nov. 21. (Photo by Mike Bollea)



Erwin and Andy are dressed for the cold snowy day that they flew Erwin has his gloves off as he checks off the items that Andy had to do for his flight review.

Winter flying is fun, only if you have the appropriate clothing and can stay warm. Be safe and protect yourselves from frostbite and hypothermia.

Speaking of Erwin Dressel... Note the subtle differences in the shape of his balloon on a Cold Day (20's F), when it takes less heat to launch vs. a day that is 30 degrees warmer. The panels are not entirely filled as seen in the bottom view and the first and 3rd pictures in the row below.



Low 20's



50's



Low 20's



50's

The Second and 4th pictures show the shape of the balloon filled on a warmer day (50's F).

Hot Air Balloons

By Connor J. Rollins

C hchchchchchch! That's the sound of the aeronauts checking the burner.
Vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv! That's also the sound of the fans blowing up the balloon. The smell of the propane, yup it's definitely the balloon rally. The music here is blasting but I still hear my family calling me to help out. They start the fan and I hold the mouth of the balloon open so the air can get in. When it's full, it's as big as a house and it's ready to lift off its side and stand up. The burner is hot and makes my hands feel like they're on fire and they're going to fall off. When I'm done I have to wipe my hands because they're all sweaty. I get in then they do the burner and we lift in less than a second. And from there it's smooth sailing. I look down and the cars look like toys. The balloon can carry you like a person can carry a feather. The balloon hovers overhead of everything on the ground. Once we find a spot to land we take the balloon down. Once we get packed up we head to the firehouse because there they give us free food. I can taste the bacon, eggs and the pancakes in a perfect combination but that's not why I love ballooning!



Nov. 12, 2005 9 Balloons launch at Kathy's



Photos by Mike Bollea

Liberty Balloon Company Ground School

(Balloon private/commercial pilot ground school)

Manchester, NH on January 14-15, 2006.

Register on line at www.libertyballoonschool.com Bill Hughes

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Ballooning In Sicily, Italy 2006. (Not your usual tour) (Cont'd)

The mountaintop cities and towns, the massive Duomos and ancient churches, spectacular views of the country and the Mediterranean are breathtaking. Greek, Roman, Norman, Spanish and many other great civilizations have left a multitude of places for us to balloon over and visit as we wander Sicily. I have learned that the locals are welcoming of our launching from their fields and the municipalities think it wonderful if we launch from their Piazzas.

WE ARE VIRTUALLY GOING THERE TO HANG OUT AND EXPLORE SICILY TOGETHER. Sure, there are some places that are a must see, such as Agrigento, Siragusa, Taormina and Piazza Armerina. Every group is going to be different. I too want to see places I have not been to yet. In fact every group will be somewhat different than the others because every group will have its own personality and I will try to accommodate that make up. I recommend you all go to the links I have posted on my website and get your own interesting places to recommend for the group to visit.

Everyone I take becomes acquainted with and made to feel at home in my hometown of Grotte. You will meet and get to know my family and friends who want us to enjoy what they love and know to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. The locals we encountered throughout Sicily on the last trip, bar none to a person, were all very warm and helpful to us because we went there in the manner we did. Open your mind and imagination to what it is and can be like.

By January 15th I will need to know what trip you are interested in? Is your passport ready, and what mode of payment are you going to use? The ticket consolidator I have will make all the arrangements and coordinate airline connections for everyone. There may be a slight variation in price for those of you that are further away but it will be slight and cheaper than getting them on your own. You will probably all meet either in Boston, New York or Newark going out and back. I will be there to meet the first group going out and any one who wishes to hang out till the end can return with me.

You will be picked up and dropped off at the airport in Catania by my people in Sicily, who are the same people who will provide the chase/tour vehicle and driver. I, of course, will also be there. I will need a copy of your Passport, a credit card number and or deposit check for one half the estimated price before January 15th 2006. I have some flexibility on this but you need to discuss with me what your situation is before that.

References from the 2005 trip are: Dennis Chiarelli, dcrew88@aol.com, 1 609 688 1398 and Rob & Alice Eddy, rob1eddy@aol.com, 1 864 9637945



CLAS Winter Dinner



Gene's Corner House Restaurant
1219 South Main St. Plantsville, CT



Saturday, January 28th 2006 @ 6:00 p.m.

BUFFET DINNER to include:

Appetizers

Garden salad & Fruit salad

Sirloin Beef tips with mushroom and wine sauce

Chicken Francaise

Baked Lemon Buttered Scrod

Also included will be potato and assorted vegetables

\$30 per person Cash Bar

Come One! Come All! Enjoy a Great Evening!



PLEASE!! RSVP TO:

Lisa Huck or Ellen Dressel

by Jan. 21st 2006,



Make check payable to CLAS.





www.lighterthanair.org



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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

Please mark your ballots, (no hanging chads please), fold this page in thirds, stamp it, seal it (ends too) and mail it ASAP or bring it to the meeting with your votes marked in the boxes. Thanks, Your 2005 officers.

Nominations for 2006 CLAS Officers

President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Penny Christy	Write In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlie Perreault	Write In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/>	TBD	Write-In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Sand	Write In _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 monthly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Plainville Municipal Building (Route 372 at Whiting St.) 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

Decals \$2 (\$1 members)

CLAS Member Pins \$5 (\$3 members)

Landowner Pins \$4 (\$3 members – limited quantity)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

E-Mail _____ Will accept newsletter electronically? Yes ___ No ___

(Default will be electronically 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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**See you at the December Holiday
Party in Plainville on Dec.15**

**While you're at it, bring \$20 for dues
and have 2006 handled!**