

# THE SCOOP



**The August 2007 CLAS meeting has been cancelled.**

**Next CLAS Meeting—Thursday, September 20th at 7:30PM  
Plainville Municipal building (Rte 372)**

Ron Cassidy will be here from New Hampshire to speak to us about the possibilities of CLAS **building our own balloon**. He has many ideas to offer and sounds enthusiastic about the possibilities. Ron's hobby is building experimental balloons and has a beautiful shop for his passion. Join us!

**Recent CLAS Meeting Minutes**

All minutes submitted by Ellen Dressel, Secretary



CLAS Meeting, April 19, 2007

- Attendance: Ellen & Erwin Dressel, Mark Sand, Charlie Perreault, Mike Bollea, Penny Christy, Garry Guertin, Pam Bogart-MacFarlane, Rob MacFarlane, Tony Roswell, Terri Rollinson, Alan Jarman, Ed Shamplur.
- Meeting began at 7:45 p.m. by Charlie Perreault , president.
- Treasurer's report: \$8366.99 in the checking account. \$5861.82 in the three CDs.
- Discussion: Can we purchase a DLP projector, (Power Point) for presentations at seminars as well as for meetings on education. Charlie was to investigate the cost. Needed the highest resolution. Cost of bulb replacement. Ease in hooking up for use. User friendly. Report back at the next meeting.
- Rob MacFarlane was present to give a talk on taking pictures. There was an article printed in the Feb. 05 'Scoop' titled 'Photography for Ballooning'.
- Presentation: Get good 'point & shoot' digital camera. Small, compact, waterproof, & shockproof. Optical zoom. Card reader, transfer to CD, card not a permanent storage item. SLR's are large and bulky, good for ground use with a tripod. Memory card, reusable, easy to carry extras. See it-shoot it, you can always delete but cannot relive the moment. Think of your composition: Background. Subject. People in the picture, do you need a release from them? Camera still, prevent blur. Camera settings, shutter speed, action. Use flash to avoid dark foregrounds. Light source. Elements in the composition: Rule of thirds. Avoid subject dead center. Line of sight, diagonal, horizontal, vertical. Horizon, above or below center.
- Meeting adjourned at 9p.m.

CLAS Meeting, May 17, 2007

- Attendance: Ellen Dressel, Mark Sand, Charlie Perreault, Mike Bollea, Garry Guertin, Santo Galatioto, Daryl & Cindy Smith, Jim Goodwin and Robert Zirpolo
- Meeting began at 7:35 p.m. by Charlie Perreault, president.
- Did not have a quorum so no business was conducted.
- Discussion on DLP projector. Robert Zirpolo stated that technology was changing so fast that it would be much better to rent a projector when one was needed. Doing five to six presentations a year does not warrant the expense.

- FAA & BFA: Wings program will become a 'practical standards test'; Task specific and done on-line; Changing from a paper system to on-line only; Will need to register to be an instructor; Annual user fee for weather briefings
- Balloon Works manufacture will begin to have their envelopes sewn in China.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

#### CLAS Meeting, June 21, 2007

- Attendance: Ellen & Erwin Dressel, Mark Sand, Charlie Perreault, Mike Bollea, Penny Christy, Garry Guertin, Lisa Huck, Santo Galatioto, Mick Murphy, Tom Murphy, Jim Goodwin and Libby Richardson.
- Meeting began at 7:40 p.m. by Charlie Perreault, president.
- Jim Goodwin gave a slide show on early ballooning at Albuquerque, NM in their early years that was to become the Fiesta we know today. Jim showed his experimentation with a paper balloons, slides also showed balloons built by Don Piccard and other earlier builders. Also shown was the original method of 'flapping' to cold inflate. The slides are dated 1973 & they gave us an insider's look at early ballooning. Jim, we thank you for your time to prepare his beautiful presentation.
- Official budget was approved. Motion by Mike Bollea and seconded by Garry Guertin.
- Santo Galatioto brought up the subject of the club investing some of the treasury to purchase a balloon for the general use of the membership. Be it hot air or gas, something any one could use. Discussion as to 'ownership', insurance, led to tabling this project.
- Mick Murphy stated that we needed to do something to draw interest to the sport: Group project, Crew levels, School programs. Santo Galatioto made mention of the hourly fee for lessons and rental of a balloon. Maybe we needed to change location of our flying area.
- Motion made by Santo Galatioto to donate \$100 to Ed Youst's memorial, Stratabolt. Motion seconded by Garry Guertin, passed by majority.
- There was an incident in the South Western area of CT about a balloonist startling some cattle. There was no harm done but the farmer would have preferred to hear from the balloonist right after the incident, not 3-4 days later.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:10p.m.

#### CLAS Meeting, July 19, 2007

- Attendance: Ellen & Erwin Dressel, Mark Sand, Charlie Perreault, Mike Bollea, Garry Guertin, Mick Murphy, Tom Murphy, and Libby Richardson, new member.
- Meeting began at 7:45 p.m. by Charlie Perreault, president.
- No quorum so we are unable to consider any business needing a vote.
- Need to check on approved donation for Ed Youst memorial. Mark Sand has not issued one to date as he does not have an address for mailing. Cards were to be sent to two members, need to verify.
- Libby Richardson has volunteered to be Editor for the 'Scoop'.
- Trying to establish a 'crew day' to try to get new people interested in the sport. Hopefully have something at Plainville.
- Mick Murphy spoke about building a balloon, taking a bus trip to visit Post Mills, VT and Bryan Bolland's workshop.
- Making a basket of wicker as apposed to canvas. Balloon to be registered to the club. Used for lessons and charging a nominal fee. Ron Cassidy also has a good building set-up.
- Charlie Perreault to bring and display 'Club' banner at Plainville. Mentioned that a Club basket banner be made to have different pilots fly it during the season.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



## **CLAS Members Attend South County Hot Air Balloon Festival**

*By Mark Sand*

CLAS was well-represented at the 29th Annual South County Hot Air Balloon Festival July 20-22, 2007. The festival was held on the University of Rhode Island athletic fields in North Kingston, RI. CLAS pilots in attendance were: Stephen and Amy Goodyear, Mark Sand, Mike Bollea, Gerard and Mark Lefevre, Jay Swoboda, and Bruce Byberg. Five additional balloons rounded out the field to a "Lucky 13."

Friday evening's activities consisted of a balloon glow. Saturday morning saw winds from the North, necessitating a fly-in from remote launch sites farther North for the two balloons that ventured up. Noah Forden flew his home-built cloud hopper directly into the field from about 10 miles out. Way to go Noah! Most of the balloons that did not free-fly tethered on the field.

We were treated to Larry Fortin's traditional pig roast on Saturday afternoon. As usual, it was delicious.

Saturday evening presented a box-wind situation in which three balloons free-flew from the field. None managed to land back on the field, but Steve Goodyear came close. A second balloon tether/glow followed with a sizeable spectator contingent. The balloonists were surrounded by admiring and inquisitive fans and gladly answered questions and blasted their glow-burners for pictures.

A windy Sunday morning saw only three balloons tethering on the field. We gathered for a brunch at a local restaurant at 10:30 and relaxed a bit before the final role call Sunday afternoon. High winds prevented any activity Sunday evening.

The accommodations this year were a vast improvement over past years. We were the first residents in the newly build Northwood Hall. Each pilot was assigned a suite with 4 or 5 bedrooms for crew. AND, the rooms had air conditioning!

The Wakefield Rotary Club has raised in excess of \$1 million over the years through this festival and we are always glad to be there to help out.



*CLAS members Mark Sand, Mike Bollea, Amy Goodyear and Jay Swoboda glow for the crowd at the 29th South County Hot Air Balloon Festival*

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

# THE SCOOP

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## About the Editor, Libby Richardson

I am happy to be the new editor of The Scoop. I have chased hot air balloons for as long as I can remember as they went over my house in Cheshire and as we could see them off in the distance to the North. For Christmas 2004, I asked for the money to take a balloon ride, and got it. I couldn't have been happier! I booked my flight in August, just prior to the Plainville Balloon Festival, and in October of 2005, I finally got to take my first ride with Castleview Balloons and CLAS pilot Erwin Dressel and crew chief Ellen Dressel. Let me take a step back—little did I know that hanging around the balloon festival would get me in touch with CLAS pilot Mark Sand, who I would crew for during the festival weekend.

Back to October. It had been foggy all week, so the day couldn't come soon enough. After putting off the flight for almost a week, I finally got my flight on a gorgeous fall morning. We took off from alongside Mike Bollea. My parents waved from the field as I took off. Pumpkins were in the fields, streams were running full, my co-passengers were delightful. We landed at a golf course that morning, and it was a flight I'll never forget.

Since then, I have crewed for the Dressels, Mark Sand, and CLAS pilot Penny Christy. I have enjoyed calling in to my office on many mornings and letting my boss know that I'd be in late because I'm going ballooning, whether that meant crewing on the ground or getting off the ground for another flight, thanks to three very generous pilots who I now call friends.

I have edited newsletters before, including the Tribury Rotary club newsletter. You can help make this newsletter what you want it to be. Your submissions are most important, unless you want to see pictures of me and my crewing experiences month after month! Please send me pictures, ideas, thoughts, articles, anything you think others may be interested in. I'd love to hear it and share it with others. I thank you in advance for your help.



## Save a Stamp

Remember that postage went up this past May? Help the club save some money to be put towards our big club projects by receiving your newsletter by email. Please submit your current email address to [mdsand@snet.net](mailto:mdsand@snet.net) so you can receive your newsletter right in your inbox each month. No junk mail here!

## 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](mailto: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.

Thanks for the Contributions for this month's Scoop: Mark Sand, Erwin and Ellen Dressel, Mike Bollea, Mick Murphy, Charlie Perrault

*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](mailto:libby_rich@yahoo.com); Phone: 203-988-6577*

## **Maiden Flight for *Checked Mate* in Connecticut**

*By Mike Bollea*

Mike Bollea got his new balloon, *Checked Mate*, and allowed Mark Sand to fly it so he could take some pictures. Mark landed it twice, once in a sand pit and again in a small parking lot on Route 322 across from L&S Automotive. Tony Philpin then got in with Mike and they landed at the Aqua Turf. Mark said he enjoyed the flight so much that when he's 70, he wants one. Mark, you just turned 60, you've got a little while! It was the first flight for the balloon and lasted about an hour.

## **CHECKED MATE Is Born!**

*By Mark Sand*

Mike Bollea's new balloon, *Checked Mate*, made its inaugural flight over her home state of Connecticut on August 2, 2007. The Flight Crew consisted of proud owner Mike and Mark Sand. After Mike gently eased the Stumpf/Bollea 54 into the air at the launch field in Cheshire, he handed the controls to Mark so he could concentrate on, what else, taking pictures. Mark flew the ultra-responsive aerostat to landings at the sand pit just north of I-691, and a parking lot at a strip mall on The Meriden/Waterbury Turnpike. After Mike threatened to take Mark's life if he refused to relinquish the blast valve, Mark graciously exited the basket, and crew member Tony Philpin climbed in. Mike then piloted *Checked Mate* to a perfect landing at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. After the crew struggled to pack up the monstrous 98 lb envelope, the crew, which also included Steve "Swivel Hips" Ushchak, consumed a celebratory breakfast at Gene's. Look up into the sky. You're bound to see *Checked Mate* quite often.



*Mike Bollea's new balloon*



*Steve Ushchak, Mike Bollea, and Mark Sand (l to r)*

### **Upcoming Area Balloon Events**

New York State Festival of Balloons  
Danville, NY                      Labor Day Weekend

Adirondack Balloon Festival  
Glen Falls, NY                      4<sup>th</sup> w/e September

**Club Photo Gallery**



*Spring Street liftoff  
May 27, 2007 Photos by Libby Richardson*



*Mick Murphy lands at a golf course in Southington  
April 1, 2007*



*Mark Sand checks out the view below  
August 2, 2007 Photos by Mike Bollea*



*A view of the Aqua Turf on a clear morning*



*Kevin Brielmann and his son enjoy a flight over Southington  
July 7, 2007 Photo by Charlie Perrault*



Kevin Brielmann and Charlie Perrault over Southington  
July 7, 2007  
Photos courtesy of Charlie Perrault



Penny Christy over Southington

**CLAS 2007 Competition**

We will send at least 2 email reminders out each month, as well as publishing it in the newsletter. We're going to vary the tasks this year, so it's not the same thing every time. We may even score multiple tasks on the same day if the weather will allow it. And I'll try to get you the standings each month for the newsletter.

**2007 CLAS Competition Schedule**

<b>Date (s)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Details</b>
April 14 (15)	TBA	Windy
May 12 (13)	TBA	?
June 9 (10)	TBA	?
July 14 (15)8	TBA	?
August 25 (26)	Plainville, CT	
September 8 (9)	TBA	
October 13(14)	TBA	
November 10 (11)	TBA	
December 8 (9)	TBA	
January 12 (13),2008	TBA	

Competition flights are scheduled for the second Saturday mornings.  
The next morning (Sunday) is the back-up date.

**Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society – 2007 Officers**

President: Charlie Perreault	860-536-7393	bythefireplace@earthlink.net
Vice President: Santo Galatioto	203-432-9873	Santo.Galatioto@yale.edu
Secretary: Ellen Dressel	203-272-6119	edressel@cox.net
Treasurer: Mark Sand	860-426-0814	mdsand@snet.net

**Dues are due!**

Treasurer Mark Sand has informed the club that many members have not paid their dues for the year. Please check your checkbooks to see if you've sent a check and send a check for your dues if you haven't sent a check already. We'll be checking our club mailbox for your checks. An extra membership form for those needing it is below. Thanks for checking and paying your dues!

**Ode to Delinquent Dues Payers**

*From the May 2000 Issue of The Scoop, unedited  
Originally penned by Ruth Salzburg*

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

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 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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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