

THE SCOOP



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!

Mark Sand and Mike Bollea: A Case of the Bobbsey Twins?!?!?



*The Bobbsey Twins Go Hot Air Ballooning
Plainville 2007
Photo Courtesy of Mark Sand*



*The Bobbsey Twins Take Pictures
August 2007
Photo by Mike Bollea*



*The Bobbsey Twins Inflate
Plainville 2007
Photo by Libby Richardson*

**Still getting your newsletter
by mail? Save a stamp.
Send your email address to
Bobbsey Twin Mark Sand at
mdsand@snet.net. Thanks!**

To Crew or Not to Crew...

By Crewmember Lina Balcom

When people discover that I crew on a Hot Air Balloon they are fascinated. Most have never been in a balloon and are filled with questions... “How does it fly?” “How do you steer it?” “Aren’t you afraid that you will fall out of the basket?” “What exactly does the crew do?” “Why can you only fly in the morning/evening?” “How did you get involved with that?!????” and the list goes on.

As I answer the questions, what stops them dead is that I get up before the sun in order to be a part of this sport. To most that is absurd. People are baffled as to why I would be willing to sacrifice sleep to haul baskets, tarps and fans then aimlessly drive around in search of a floating piece of fabric.

So I started thinking about why I am willing to do just that.

Before ballooning I was rarely witness to the calm and magic of the world before dawn (unless I had stayed up all night and then I was in no condition to notice). The world is amazing as it begins to wake up from the long dark night and I am always grateful when I get to experience this time of day. The people come next on my list, in just over a year of ballooning I have met some wonderful people and have fun every time we are together. The sense of camaraderie among the ballooning ‘family’ is refreshing. I also love how our crew falls into a comfortable routine when we start unpacking and setting up for inflation, we’re a team. I have a difficult time selecting words to describe how I feel about witnessing a balloon inflate, I have a sense of awe each time. When the sun pokes its head from behind the horizon I stop for a moment to appreciate the day and soak in the world as it wakes.

Then there is the chase. Watching the balloon float gently above the trees and houses, stopping for a photo or two, searching the map (or GPS system) for a road that will take us north, west, or where ever, laughing with the rest of the team, seeing folks stop their morning routine for a moment to watch the balloon – all without traffic – what could be better than that?

And of course, the times I get to hop into the basket and experience the heart of our sport are like sitting at the edge of the sea. The peaceful feeling that washes over me as I fly and the way my perspective on what is important in my life is realigned as I look at the world from above, these are the rewards.

So when someone asks me why I would be willing to sacrifice sleep to haul baskets, tarps and fans and then aimlessly drive around in search of a floating piece of fabric, I say – “It gets in your blood.”



*Crewmember Lina Balcom
Photo by Mike Bollea*



*Lina, at right, helps with pre-flight set-up
Photo courtesy of Mark Sand*

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

THE SCOOP

From the Editor, Libby Richardson

This month's issue contains a lot from me, the editor. You'll see lots of pictures from me, which I hope you'll enjoy, along with lots of commentary by me, too. If you'd like to share something in next month's Scoop, please contact me by email or phone. Thank you!

Thanks for the Contributions for this month's Scoop: Mark Sand, Mike Bollea, Robert Zirpolo, Penny Christy, Mark Abraitis, Jim O'Brien, Randy Riley

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. 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.

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; Phone: 203-988-6577

Congratulations Randy Riley

Randy Riley received his commercial pilot's license after 17 years. People attending the Plainville festival loved his balloon that they dubbed the "Spiderman" balloon. As he told me at Plainville, maybe now he'll rejoin CLAS. Randy, the membership form on the back page is for you. Congratulations and looking forward to seeing you at future meetings as well as flying high in the sky!



*Randy and a crew member in Plainville
Photos by Libby Richardson*

Great Falls Balloon Festival

On Friday night, when my parents, sister and I attended the Great Falls Balloon Festival in Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, just one balloon got off the ground amidst clouds and threatening skies. Many Connecticut pilots were in attendance.



*The only balloon that got off the ground Friday night
Photos by Libby Richardson*



Balloon glow Friday night

Past CLAS Newsletters Wanted

To all CLAS members:

I am looking for a "library" of CLAS newsletters from when I was the editor. Don't ask me what years because I have a bad case of CRS. Probably the early to late 1990's....sounds like early American history, doesn't it? If you have copies I would just like to take a peek for some articles I wrote way back before I had a computer with more memory than I have. Please be in touch.

Thanks.....Robert Zirpolo

In The News

- Photos from the Plainville Festival taken by Mark Abraitis can be seen at www.plainvillecitizen.com
- Congrats to Penny Christy who had a picture of her balloon in the August 27th issue of the Meriden Record-Journal
- Congrats to Mike Bollea who had pictures of his balloon *Checked Mate* in the weekly Farmington Post newspaper dated August 31st—even if they did call it the Mystical Flyer—see it's that Bobsey Twins thing again! Next time you'll need to wear your own shirt, Mike!
- Charlie Perrault was featured in the Meriden Record-Journal twice this summer—August 9th and September 2nd! Visit myrecordjournal.com, search by "hot air balloon" for a video from the paper's August 9th visit with Charlie.

Any other news? Tell me about it—libby_rich@yahoo.com

Plainville 2007

Photos by Libby Richardson unless otherwise noted



Foggy Saturday morning



Saturday inflations for the crowd



Saturday inflation



Saturday inflation



Sunday morning liftoff, photo courtesy of Mark Sand



Sunday morning liftoff



Sunday morning liftoff

Plainville Pilots, Crew, Family and Friends

All photos by Mike Bollea unless otherwise noted



Photo by Libby Richardson



CLAS Calendar Contest—Get Your Photos Ready!

October will feature our contest for the 2008 Calendar. All members are invited to submit three (3) color or black and white 8”x10” photos for the contest. Photos may be “doctored up” as much as you like. All voting will take place at the October meeting, so please join us and vote. Thanks to Garry Guertin for managing our calendar production again this year. Any questions, please contact Garry at gguertin@cox.net or 860-621-9945.

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society – 2007 Officers

President: Charlie Perreault

860-536-7393

bythefireplace@earthlink.net

Vice President: Santo Galatioto

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Santo.Galatioto@yale.edu

Secretary: Ellen Dressel

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Treasurer: Mark Sand

860-426-0814

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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.

Anyone with updated information on this competition is asked to contact Libby Richardson, the Editor at libby_rich@yahoo.com. Otherwise, we'll drop this from future publications. Thanks!

2007 CLAS Competition Schedule

Date (s)	Location	Details
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.



“I've had it with wimpy inflation fans. Here's my new one if anyone cares.”

-Robert Zirpolo

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 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



The Scoop/ CLAS
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