

# THE SCOOP



---

**Next CLAS Meeting—Thursday, July 17 at 7:30PM  
Plainville Police Department, 19 Neal Court, Plainville  
Across from the Plainville Municipal Building on Rt. 372**

---

## **CLAS Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2008**

CLAS President Charlie Perreault called the meeting to order at the Plainville, CT Police Station Building at 7:40 PM.

**Members in attendance were :** Charlie Perreault, Mark Sand, Tom, Mike Bollea, Garry Guertin, Rick Silva, Tony Roswell, Erwin Dressel, Ellen Dressel, Penny Christy, Libby Richardson, Lisa Huck, Santo Galatioto, Robert Zirpolo, & Kristin Brighenti.

### **Old Business:**

- 7 people attended the First-Aid & CPR classes. Thank you Libby for organizing the training. Reminder for those that went, 50% refunds will be mailed out.
- The web site domain needs to be renewed. A motion was made and second to renew the website for nine years at \$15.00 a year.
- Libby asked for an updated list of active (paid) CLAS members for the monthly Scoop distribution. Recommendation was made to update the CLAS website password. This will be voted on at the next business meeting.

### **New Business:**

- A suggestion was made to have a **CLAS barbeque**. Erwin & Ellen graciously offered to host the barbeque at their place. The date was set for **Saturday, Aug. 2 at 4:00 PM**. THANK YOU Erwin & Ellen. Mark Sand will send out an e-mail announcement. The picnic will be pot luck, so bring a dish. CLAS will cover the cost of the hot dogs and hamburgers.

### **Education:**

- 2009 CLAS Safety Seminar date is set for February 28, 2009. Don Pichard has been confirmed as a speaker. Penny lead discussions on suggested topics and speakers, FAA topics, Crewing, Balloon Works, and Weather-micro climate. Any suggestions that the members may have for speakers or topics should be sent to Penny. Garry & Lisa signed up to present the session on crewing. Suggested topic for the next education meeting was Weather.

### **Competition:**

- Recommendation was made to wait until the Plainville Festival and organize a completion event at that time.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. Tony Roswell will be bringing refreshments to the July 17 CLAS meeting. Respectfully submitted, Garry Guertin

CLAS Photo Gallery



Ellen Dressel and Garry Guertin keep an eye on the sky.  
*June 21, 2008*  
*Photos by Libby Richardson*



Erwin Dressel flies high above on a “misty morning.”



Has anyone else noticed these signs that line the streets of Plainville? This one is on the lightpole leading to our CLAS meetings at the Plainville Police Department.  
*Photo by Libby Richardson*  
*June 19, 2008*



How many children can you fit into a basket? Apparently 12, as Erwin Dressel was able to do the morning of June 19<sup>th</sup>. More than 20 neighbors came out to welcome the balloon back to the ground, and the kids were treated to pictures in the basket.  
*Photo by Erwin Dressel*  
*June 21, 2008*

---

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society

# THE SCOOP

---



**From the Editor, Libby Richardson**

- The Children's Place Ad: Thanks Kevin Brielmann for taking a guess at the ad.
- Ballooning travels: Thanks to Jim Regan for hearing my call. Enjoy his articles enjoyed herein—he's taken some great trips recently.
- Derald and Joy Young: Great to finally meet you this 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend! Feel free to stop by Waterbury or Cheshire or Carthage anytime you're in town!

**Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Kevin Brielmann, Kevin Brielmann, Jim Regan, Garry Guertin, Ellen and Erwin Dressel**

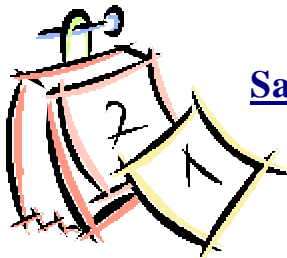
**Publishing Information**

*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.

*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*

**Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society – 2008 Officers**

President: Charlie Perreault	860-384-0592	<a href="mailto:bythefireplace@earthlink.net">bythefireplace@earthlink.net</a>
Vice President: Mark Sand	860-536-7393	<a href="mailto:mdsand@snet.net">mdsand@snet.net</a>
Secretary: Garry Guertin	860-919-4175	<a href="mailto:gguertin@cox.net">gguertin@cox.net</a>
Treasurer: Tom Murphy	860-206-5972	<a href="mailto:tmurphyiv@gmail.com">tmurphyiv@gmail.com</a>
Scoop Editor: Libby Richardson	203-988-6577	<a href="mailto:libby_rich@yahoo.com">libby_rich@yahoo.com</a>
Photo Historian: Mike Bollea	860-985-6508	<a href="mailto:mjbwindriders@webtv.net">mjbwindriders@webtv.net</a>



**Save the Date!!**

**CLAS Safety Seminar at the New England Air Museum**

**February 28, 2009**

## A Mexican Adventure

By Jim Regan

It started with a phone call early Monday morning. A friendly voice on the other end is saying “I need a favor next weekend. Do you like cold beer? Do you like good Mexican food?” Following a quick question/answer period and a call to my wife for permission, I was now making plans for my first trip to Mexico – with 9 days notice.

The **1st Festival Internacional de Globos En Saltillo** took place May 1-4 and saw 8 balloons from 4 different countries participate. The event kicked off Thursday afternoon with a parade of the balloonists through downtown Saltillo. Rush hour traffic was halted as we drove slowly to the launch field, lighting the burners along the way and passing out trading cards to the hundreds of people that lined the streets. Once on the field we went about setting up our equipment and did a static display of the balloons, leading into a 30-minute glow after sunset.



Saltillo is located in northeastern Mexico at an elevation of 5200’ and is surrounded by very steep 2000’ mountains. It has a desert climate so the similarities to Albuquerque are striking. As such, we awoke Friday morning to very light drainage winds and almost 180\* of steerage. With the nearby mountains and a 400 year-old city behind us, the flight can only be described as spectacular. And to make it perfect, I managed to land at the local country club – on the ONLY grass for miles. That evening we did another static display for the crowd (no evening flights were scheduled) and planned to glow again but the winds picked up just as the sun went down and we all opted to call it quits.

Saturday morning was a repeat of Friday, but instead of steerage, we had a box wind. All of us utilized the box winds to repeatedly pass the launch field before it slowly trailed off. Since I was upwind of the field, I made one last pass before settling into a field directly across the street from the festival to the delight of the crowd. Had I known this would be my last flight I probably would’ve kept going but all those extra hands to help pack up were too inviting. Later in the day the winds would pick up and continued to howl for the remainder of the weekend, effectively ending the event.

To say the people of Saltillo are nice would be an understatement. They were quite welcoming and it seemed like all of us were smiling non-stop throughout the weekend. The crowds were always large and enthusiastic and by the end of the weekend I had handed out over 1000 trading cards. Between ballooning, touring the city, spending time with our teams (university students who were awesome!!) and eating incredible food, there was hardly a wasted minute. I even negotiated a few extra days onto my trip to celebrate Cinco de Mayo and enjoyed the “locals” celebration of this with my team. This was an amazing trip and I’m already looking forward to my return next year.





## **Letchworth 2008**

By Jim Regan

This past Memorial Day weekend, my team and I made our annual trek to the Red, White & Blue Balloon Rally in Castile NY. This is an event I look forward to all year as its some of the most unique and scenic flying I've done and this year would be no different. I mean, where else can you take-off, cross a tree line and then drop 700' between rock walls for a splash & dash?

Arriving Friday afternoon, it was obvious the winds weren't going to cooperate with us so it was off for pizza & beer. There was no disappointment since

the forecast for the weekend was great and this gave everyone time to relax and catch up with each other.

Saturday morning dawned and better weather could not be found. Calm winds for the first few hundred feet, then a faster layer at about 1000' which is perfect for dropping into the gorge and then getting out into the surrounding farmlands for landing. With 30 balloons in attendance, I made sure I was one of the first off the field and into the gorge because it was only a matter of time before things would get crowded down there. Sitting on the river and watching balloon after balloon come over the tree line and drop into the gorge was simply awesome.

Saturday afternoon the winds would ground us again, but Sunday was looking to be another great day. The morning saw typical drainage winds into the gorge which can be rather quick. Despite the winds most everyone took to the skies, yet many missed the gorge because of the speed. I was fortunate to be able to slide out of the field fairly slow and started into the gorge only to find a 180\* wind change – directly back towards the west wall and doing 12+ mph. A quick climb moved me further east where we then descended back into the gorge and to the calm winds on the bottom. We hung out on the river for a while with the other balloons that made it in and then decided to climb and move out of the park. As I cleared the top of the gorge it was quite a surprise to see all the other balloons still within a mile of us. The drainage winds had subsided and the remainder of the flight was over the rolling hills at a leisurely pace of 3-4 mph.

Sunday afternoon's weather was perfect for dropping into the gorge, then climbing up and flying over the park towards the waterfalls. As we approached the shallow "hook" of the river we could hear the water from the lower, middle and upper falls, which would soon be in our sites. We dropped in for another splash & dash just below the 70' tall Lower Falls and then continued into the neighboring village of Nunda for landing. After refueling the group decided to cancel the Monday morning flight due to the forecasted winds (which of course stayed calm), but 3 out of 6 flights isn't bad at all and the extra sleep was nice.

Even with gasoline at \$4.25/gallon, balloonists from as far away as FL, NC and IL came for this fun weekend. And I was pleasantly surprised to see fellow CT balloonists Jeff & Christine Ratcliffe there as well. This is a great rally and if Sean offers you an invite - GRAB IT!! You will not be disappointed.



*More Letchworth photos from Jim Regan*



**Up, up and away — in style: The world's coolest, most exotic hot air balloon adventures**

By Barbara Cleveland  
Forbes Traveler

The lush rainforest in Costa Rica contains a canopy layer of wildlife that can't be accessed on foot. So Tucker Comstock, a ballooning friend of Malcolm Forbes, brought the first hot air balloon to Costa Rica in 1991 and now runs a full-service adventure tour company, Serendipity Adventures.

Hot air ballooning has long been associated with billionaire explorers, eccentric adventurers and literary heroes. Click [here](#) to read more...



**REVOLUTIONARY!**

**IMC TURNS THE BALLOONING WORLD UPSIDE DOWN!**

**•Now Offering•**

- Short term (6-mos) Liability Only Coverage: Sport & Ltd Commercial
- Event 'Additional Insured' packages (with \$aving\$) available at issuance
  - New discounts for qualifying Balloons, Pilots & Procedures
  - Customized policies to meet YOUR flying needs
- Always A+ A.M. Best Rated Companies

**1-800-783-5963**

IMC Balloon Agency  
Visit our web site at [www.imcins.com](http://www.imcins.com)

**IMC is a proud C.L.A.S. Corporate Member**

Celebrating  **25** Years  
1981 - 2006

**Boyer to Retire, Craig Fuller New AOPA President**  
AVweb

AOPA President Phil Boyer, who's been hinting at retirement for several years, announced today that he'll "get my life back" at the end of this year after 18 years as president of AOPA. Replacing him will be Craig Fuller, a former Washington heavyweight who is currently executive vice president at the Washington PR firm of APCO Worldwide. He came to Washington as President Ronald Reagan's assistant for cabinet affairs and served as Vice President George H.W. Bush's chief of staff. Fuller has been a pilot for 40 years and "is as comfortable with fellow pilots and 'hangar talk' as he is facing a Congressional committee," said AOPA Chairman William C. Trimble III.

Trimble said they hired Heidrick and Struggles a year ago to find Boyer's successor and there was one primary prerequisite: The successful candidate would be among the 597,000 certificated pilots in the U.S. The search boiled down to 100 contenders and Trimble said Fuller quickly rose to the top. It was clear that Craig Fuller, a recognized leader in business, public affairs and association management, would be ideally suited to carry-on Phil's tremendous legacy.

## Party! Party! Party!

Fellow CLAS members,

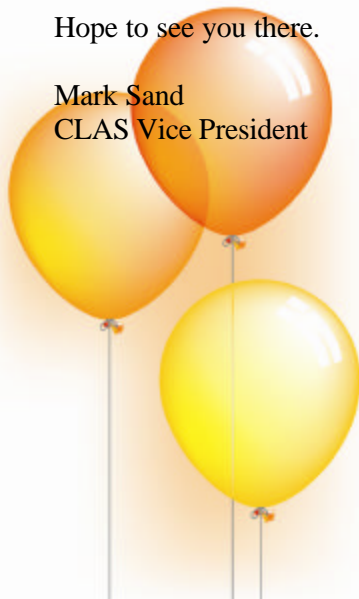
CLAS will be sponsoring our first annual summer cookout on Saturday, August 2, 2008, with a rain date the next day. We will have the cookout at Ellen and Erwin Dressel's home at 1476 Highland Ave (Rt. 10) in Cheshire. The time will be 4PM. If the time is changed you will be informed. All CLAS members in good standing are cordially invited along with their families and/or significant others.

CLAS will provide the burgers and hot dogs, buns, condiments, plates, utensils, and soft drinks. We ask that attendees bring a covered dish or dessert, any beverage they might want other than soft drinks, and their own chairs. We may have a balloon tethering during the festivities.

Please RSVP, and include total in your party attending, to Mark Sand at [mdsand@snet.net](mailto:mdsand@snet.net) or phone 860-536-7393 by July 25.

Hope to see you there.

Mark Sand  
CLAS Vice President



**Have you paid your dues yet this year? Now is the time!!**

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 Police Department, 19 Neal Court, Plainville, 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  
PO Box 53  
Southbury, CT 06488-0053  
[www.lighterthanair.org](http://www.lighterthanair.org)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**