



THE
SCOP
POP

Next CLAS Meeting
Thursday, July 16th at 7:30PM
Plainville Municipal Building

This will be a "Fun With Fans" activity. You are all invited to bring your inflation fans to the meeting, which will be held in the parking lot of the Plainville Municipal Building. We will discuss fan maintenance and safety with hands-on demonstrations. You will be able to determine your fan's strength in MPH by use of an accurate wind meter. We will also attempt to determine the optimum distance your fan should be placed from the throat of your balloon. In order to do this you should know the diameter of the throat of your balloon. Hope to see you there for this fun event.

SAVE THE DATE

2009 CLAS Summer Picnic
Saturday, August 1

Erwin and Ellen Dressel's, 1476 Highland Avenue, Cheshire

Bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert and any alcoholic beverages you would like. Bring your lawn chairs, too! Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by the club. RSVP to 203-272-6116 or edressel@cox.net by July 28th.

Accessible Hot Air Balloon Coming

AP Online

RALEIGH, N.C. - Serena's Song, the world's first wheelchair-accessible hot air balloon, will return to Raleigh on July 12-14 to offer free rides to individuals with disabilities at Spring Forest Road Park, located at 4203 Spring Forest Road, just east of Capital Boulevard. Weather permitting, rides will be given all three days from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Rides will be provided on a first-come first-serve basis, with a priority given to children who use wheelchairs or have mobility impairments. To read more, click [here](#).

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society, PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488-0053

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of May 21, 2009

CLAS VP Tom Murphy called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:42 PM.

Members in attendance were: Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Garry Guertin, Tom, Murphy, Charlie Perreault, Penny Christy, & Kevin Brielmann.

As this was an Education Meeting, no committee reports were provided

Old Business:

- CLAS registrar was changed. 35 names were removed due to lack of dues. 10 new names were added.
- Donations made to CLAS in honor of Mike Bollea were \$232.50.
- Liberty Balloon School CLAS training cost \$981.00. A total of 18 pilots & crew attended.

New Business:

- The contract for the CLAS PO Box 53 was renewed for 1 year.
- New insurance release requirements were discussed. Erwin reported that the pro-bono lawyer didn't work out. Instead Erwin sought help from a local lawyer. Erwin was successful in getting a one page bold print release drawn. There is no direction for under age passengers at this time. It was recommended to have them sign the release form the same as everyone else. The lawyer also advised against agreeing to an arbitrator to settle any issues. There was perceived benefit. It would be better if pilots relied on the courts as they tend to follow the regulations.
- Risk Compensation: Erwin provided a very good presentation with various examples of situations where people will continue to take risks and compensate taking risks up to their comfort level. He also covered IMC releases and pre-flight briefs. The main message to take away was "The safer people are (or feel they are) the more risk they will take.

A motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM. Penny Christy will bring refreshments to the next meeting on June 18, 2009

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of June 18, 2009

CLAS President Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:41 PM.

Members in attendance were: Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Garry Guertin, Libby Richardson, Tom Murphy, Charlie Perreault, Rick Silva, Penny Christy, Santo Galotioto & Lisa Huck.

Last month's meeting minutes were read by Garry Guertin. A motion was made and second to accept the minutes as read.

Sunshine Committee: Nothing to report

Education Committee: The Oct.2009 CLAS meeting is scheduled to be the next Education meeting. Penny suggested that the last 2 years of safety seminar videos be reviewed for possible safety ideas for the monthly meetings. Anyone with ideas for Hot Air Balloon education should send their ideas to Charlie or Erwin.

Nomination Committee: N/A

Winter Dinner Committee: Nothing to report

BFA/FAA Committee: Santo reported that IACRA, a computerized registration paperless system will be full active within about 1+ years. This will require all pilot and student applications to be submitted via computer.

Safety Seminar: Penny reported that Keith Sproul, Bill Huges & Gordon have all agreed to present at the 2010 safety seminar. The committee is still reviewing suggestions for a new location due to the rising costs of the Air Museum. One suggestion that was discussed was the Plainville Fire House.

Audit Committee: N/A

Competition Committee: Suggestions to improve competition event communications were discussed. One suggestion would be to create a competition e-mail listing of pilots interested in participating in a completion. Those interested in getting on the competition e-mail list should contact Mark Sand or Tom Murphy.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report: Penny reported that there is currently \$6,556.73 in the checking and \$6,228.14 in CD savings. Donations made to CLAS in honor of Mike Bollea are now up to \$257.50.

New Business:

- Santo encouraged everyone to participate in the Wings on-line program. He reported that there are many good course selections and that you can search for topic areas of interest.
- Going Green can help reduce CLAS monthly mailing costs. Penny is looking to reduce the monthly mailing cost of hard copies of the monthly SCOOP. Members are encouraged to provide an e-mail address that they could receive SCOOP instead of receiving a hard copy.
- A recommendation was made to place a full page ad with the Plainville Fire Company. Garry will create a full page ad and send it to Penny to be submitted before July 15th deadline.
- A recommendation was made to have another CLAS Picnic in 2009. Erwin & Ellen have once again agreed to host the picnic. The date will be August 1, 2009 starting at 4:00 P.M. CLAS will cover the cost of hotdogs, hamburgers, & drinks. Those attending should bring a desert, appetizer, or side dish.
- A recommendation was made to have a "Fan Clinic" during the next CLAS meeting in July. Charlie & Mark will bring their fans to demonstrate. Anyone wishing to bring their fan is also welcome to do so. The intent is to cover cleaning procedures. In addition, an experiment will be conducted to determine the shape of the wind cone of a shroud-less fan. This information will be shared to help pilots determine the most affective position of the fan during cold inflation.
- Reporter Ruth Hummel could not make this month's meeting. The Plainville Citizen will assign another reporter that will be available at the CLAS meeting time.
- CLAS will provide a \$100 donation towards the Keith Sproul recuperation fund.

A motion was made and second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM. Garry Guertin will bring refreshments to the next meeting on July 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary



**American
Red Cross**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Blood Drive in Memory of Mike Bollea Saturday, June 13, 2009

Thanks to Erik Albrycht for organizing this blood drive and thanks to Rick Bonyun and Libby Richardson for donating in memory of Mike.



Photos by Erik Albrycht and Libby Richardson, June 13, 2009

Air travel incidents up, but 'serious stuff' down: Data indicate industry is 'getting safer'

By Mary Agnes Welch, Winnipeg Free Press

Manitoba's frequent flyers may have noticed more diversions and more disruptive passengers last year, part of a 25 per cent hike in the number of air travel incidents in the province in 2008. According to Transport Canada's air travel database, Winnipeg's Richardson International Airport saw an even heftier increase. There were 345 incidents reported in 2007 and 456 incidents reported last year -- a 32 per cent increase. There's no one reason for the hike, and the number of reported incidents is up all over Canada. Air travel experts say Transport Canada has been pushing pilots, airports and air traffic controllers to report any and all unusual incidents to the database as part of a national safety management program. To read more, click [here](#).

Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society, PO Box 53, Southbury, CT 06488-0053

From The Scoop Editor, Libby Richardson

CLAS is GOING GREEN!!

To save money and save a tree, CLAS is going green. Now, I know some of you on my snail-mail list have email (you know who you are). Did you know it costs more than \$1 per issue to print and mail the Scoop each month?

CLAS's board of directors and I, the Scoop Editor, are going to make every effort to make the Scoop available online, make announcements via email, and more! **If you do not have email, you must notify me, Libby Richardson, the Scoop Editor, by December 31st that you want the Scoop by mail.** My contact information is below. Otherwise, you will be removed from the snail mail list and will be expected to view the Scoop online on our website at www.lighterthanair.org.



Questions about this—drop me a line at libby_rich@yahoo.com. Thanks for helping us to go green and save some green in the process!

What's a girl to do when it's raining and balloons aren't flying?

Well, she helps build a house!

Extreme Makeover: Home Edition was in Suffield, CT from June 21-28 to build a new home for the Hill Family including mom, dad, and 11 children, nieces and nephews. I got involved because my organization, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, was asked to organize a week-long food drive and host a 'Get On The Bus' volunteer project in Hartford. Although it rained on and off throughout the week, it was a truly remarkable experience to see people come together to build a new home for a great family. Click [here](#) to view pictures from the week, or visit The Hartford Courant photo gallery at courantphotogallery.



Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Gary Guertin, Erik Albrycht, Penny Christy, Jim Ellis, Mark Sand.

Publishing Information

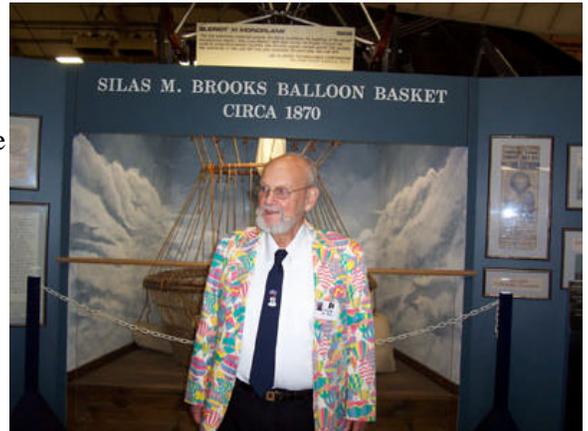
The Scoop is published on a monthly basis prior to the club's monthly meeting on the third Thursday of each month. Submissions for *The Scoop* are preferred by email to Editor Libby Richardson at libby_rich@yahoo.com. Photos, articles, and ideas are always welcome. Information may be mailed to 380 Hitchcock 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

NE Balloonists Join Harvey Hubbell IV for 80th Birthday Party

By Jim Ellis

The family of Harvey Hubbell IV invited Connecticut and other New England balloonists to the New England Air Museum on May 9, 2009 for a "Tribute to Harvey Hubbell: 80th Roast Him and Toast Him Birthday Party". Balloonists in New England have always been like a big family, and this was a ballooning family birthday party. Among the notable New England balloonists in attendance were Dr. Clayton Thomas, still flying hot air balloons in his mid-80s; Brian Boland, eccentric owner of the grass strip Post Mills, VT airport and museum and world expert on homebuilt balloons; Paul Stumpf, full-time balloon repair station owner; and Gerard and Mark LeFevre, builders of the Statue of Liberty balloon. A large contingent of Connecticut Lighter Than Air Society (CLAS) members were also on hand.



Harvey has spent his life making movies and flying his balloons all over the world, and sharing generously with other balloonists. Balloon and travel stories abounded. Two people who had travelled with Harvey Hubbell as balloon crew for Harvey's Ben Franklin airship from June-September 1983 (Bicentennial of Manned Flight) talked about the experience. At the time both were new college graduates. The trip took them to England, Holland, and France. Harvey flew in the Loire Valley in France. They said that their experiences ranged from sleeping in the chase truck and on a bench in the Paris railway station to staying in Malcolm Forbes chateau and attending parties at the American Embassy.

Mark and Gerard LeFevre said they have known Harvey almost three decades. They related how, after they had built the Statue of Liberty and Liberty Head balloons, that Harvey took them to France in 1986 to fly the Liberty Head balloon. They said that Harvey also paid for them to fly in the Orient. They noted that the French couldn't believe with a name like theirs that they couldn't speak French. Bill Hughes said that 30 years ago when he could barely afford a balloon and drove a rickety old chase vehicle that Harvey Hubbell showed up with a Cadillac as a chase vehicle. CLAS member and professional RE/MAX balloonist Chris Mooney said that landowner relations are very important to ballooning, and that Harvey Hubbell was a model citizen when it came to explaining why he had to land where he did. He referred to Harvey as an "Honorary Irish Diplomat", saying that was "Someone who can tell you to go to hell and you look forward to the trip."



Harvey himself introduced Clayton "Doc" Thomas as "the Federal inspector who allowed me to get my license in the first place". Clayton said that he only had two very famous students, one being Harvey Hubbell and one being Thomas J. Watson Jr., President of IBM. Harvey talked about one of his early flights with "Brother Jonathan" over Norwalk harbor (possibly during a Long Island Sound rally). He said that it was really not in any condition to fly, and that he was a student at the time. He said he flew with a German balloon pilot. The other pilot got into the basket and Harvey dropped the tether line. They rose to 1300 feet over Norwalk and rose into a cloud. The cloud cooled the balloon and caused it to drop over Norwalk harbor. The weak burner barely slowed down the descent. They got down to within about 15 feet of the edge of the harbor. Harvey saw a man walking his dog along a seawall. He yelled for the man to take the dropline, and threw it, but it was still about 10 feet from the shore. Harvey said the German pilot was going "in da vasser, in da vasser". He said the man with the dog jumped in the water, got the dropline, and pulled them to shore, getting totally wet in the process. Harvey said the man left before they could thank him.

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Harvey Hubbell's oldest son, also named Harvey Hubbell (V), said that he was "Harvey, son of Harvey, who was also named after Harvey and Harvey". He said "Ever since I can remember I have been "son of Harvey"". He said "I used to live in Dad's attic. I wouldn't call it unemployment. At 5 am one morning Harvey came in and said "Hey Rascal, how would you like to go for a flight?" He said they took off with no chase crew, flying over Newtown and Candlewood Lake. He said they came down over a lake, and at one point almost hit a house. He said they landed on a peninsula, and that soon "Dad was having breakfast with everybody." Harvey V started hitchhiking home. A motorist who picked him up said to him "There is only one way in here." Harvey V replied "Not really". He said "If you know my Dad you know there is more than one way to do a lot of things."

Harvey's youngest son told the tale of another flight which marked the retirement of Chanticleer (a balloon with a rooster on the side which Harvey flew for many years). He said it was his father's intent to fly from Newtown until the balloon ran out of propane. He said they were moving fast, and he considered the balloon out of control. On a water landing he said they ended up in water over their heads. But the burner was still going and somehow Harvey got the balloon up and out of the water again. It was October and the water was cold. They were nearing Roxbury, well north of Newtown. Harvey said "Shit, there is nowhere to land." The son said that Harvey told him to throw out an empty propane tank. The balloon went down into an oak tree, hit hard, and went back up and off a 50 foot ledge. The son said that Harvey was yelling "Yee Hah!" Harvey came to the microphone and said "That's a ride. The end of Chanticleer". The son said they went back the next day and there were parts of the balloon in more than one tree.

Chris Mooney told a possibly apocryphal tale about a flight with Harvey. The flight was (purportedly) in Newtown, CT late in the evening over a small lake. Chris and Harvey were desperate to find a landing spot as they were nearly becalmed and not moving toward the shore. There was an old man in a small dinghy in the middle of the lake. Chris said that Harvey called down to the man in the boat to see if he would take the dropline and tow the balloon to the dock.

The man agreed and tied the dropline securely to a cleat. Then a random wind gust hit the balloon. Harvey had to add heat. Chris said the balloon had lifted the boat up, and the old man was spread-eagled across the boat holding on as it got lifted into the air. Harvey cut the rope, and the dinghy dropped back to the water. Somehow they made it to the shore and deflated. After packing up, they found the old man. Chris said the old man was convinced that they had been trying to steal his boat!

Harvey Hubbell's wife Ann, who he has been married to for 22 years, spoke of her times with her husband. She said that when she first met Harvey, they went flying in airplanes and gliders. She said she had the choice of a glider or a WACO biplane. She said the first thought she had was "I've got to get life insurance. I'm going to get killed with this guy." She said "I've had a lot of different experiences with Harvey." They included "Landing in cowshit, foreign bushes and trees, and a cornfield." She said she has picked corn and oranges from the air. She said after a low flight over a nudist colony, her brother complained to Harvey "You never took me over a nudist colony." She said that once she was chasing Harvey in one of his balloons in France. She couldn't speak French, and the French she met couldn't speak English. She was driving a VW with a standard transmission pulling a trailer. At the time she thought she couldn't drive stick.

It was a wonderful evening, a wonderful tribute to a good and generous man who has been a part of the ballooning community and family in New England for many years. And an evening made possible by the continuing generosity of Harvey Hubbell IV and his family.



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 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)

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(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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