



THE SCOOP

**Next CLAS Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 2010 (*have you paid your taxes?*) at 7:30 p.m.
Plainville Municipal Building, Plainville, CT.**

This will be an education meeting for the club.

CLAS Flyout April 17th

This is a reminder that the "Free Fly, Eat Free" CLAS flyout will be held Saturday, April 17, with a weather date on subsequent weekend days until we fly. Remember, all CLAS members in good standing will be treated to a breakfast buffet at the T/A truck stop on Rt. 322 in Southington, near I-84. We will launch at the AquaTurf. Sunrise on April 17 is 6:08, so be there at an appropriate time. Remember, no vehicles on the grass. We will have membership forms on hand, so any new members signing up that day will also get a free breakfast. If you would like to be informed if we decide to cancel due to weather as early as Friday evening, send Mark Sand an email at mdsand@snet.net and he will make sure you are notified. See you on Saturday!

By Hoof and Hot Air Balloon

By John Torsiello, Litchfield County Times

Dave Lasher sent the following article featuring the Mooney's from the Litchfield County Times. Congrats on a great article Chris, and thanks for the article Dave.

Balloons and horses. Sounds like they kind of go together, doesn't it? Does it?

Well, Chris and Cindy Mooney of Woodbury have made the combination work for more than two decades, as the husband-and-wife team combines passions at Four Green Fields Farm. Their business is called Mooney Time Inc.

Mrs. Mooney, a former professional level equestrian, operates a thriving lessons program at the 26-acre farm located on a quiet rural road not far from the town's center. Mr. Mooney conducts a hot air balloon business out of the couple's home, working for the real estate firm RE/MAX on that company's promotional campaigns throughout the Northeast, while also taking individuals on rides near his home whenever he can find the time.



There's more!! To read the full article, please visit:

http://countytimes.com/articles/2010/03/26/1_c_t_monthly/doc4bacfc817880e914623513.txt

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of March 18, 2010

CLAS President Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building, at 7:34PM.

Members in attendance were: Garry Guertin, Ellen Dressel, Tony Roswell, Tom Murphy, Mick Murphy, Bill Costen, Al Theodore, Libby Richardson, Rick Silva, Mark Sand, Pam Bogart Macfarlane, Penny Christy, and Kevin Brielmann.

Last meeting minutes were distributed in the Scoop and accepted as written.

Sunshine Committee: A note will be sent to Bill & Mary Pollock

Winter Dinner Committee: N/A

BFA/FAA Committee: On-line Wings program has changed to become more user friendly.

Competition Committee: No Report

Education Committee: Suggestion was made to contact the FAA for possible education films that could be in their film library.

Nomination Committee: N/A, Note: Need members to sign up for this committee

Audit Committee: No Report

Safety Seminar Committee: N/A

Treasurer Report: \$5,959.39 reported in the checking and \$6259.80 reported in CD's.

Old Business:

- Proposed change to the By-Laws, sections 12.3 and 13.2 was discussed for ballot. Garry Guertin will send out e-mail notification with ballot for all active CLAS members. Penny will provide Garry with latest active names and e-mail addresses. Ellen will revise ballot wording per CLAS discussion and send to Garry.
Section 12.3 ballot regards allowing officers to hold the same office for a maximum of three years instead of two.
Section 13.2 ballot regards changing the duties of the vice-president, to include being the leader of the Education Committee.

New Business:

- **Education Project: BFA Balloon Camp**
Mick Murphy suggested that the CLAS members consider getting involved with a BFA Balloon Camp. The BFA Balloon Camps are the ultimate experience for those 13 to 18 who want to learn more about hot air balloons. Balloon tethers are scheduled throughout the camp under the leadership of certified pilots. This project is not pilot specific it involves all members of the club including their many talents and backgrounds to make a positive difference in our community. As part of the event, visitations to

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



Photo by Ellen Dressel

balloon and aviation related sites are scheduled as well as plenty of hands-on activities. Past years, topic presentations and discussions have included:

Crew safety	Balloon Systems	Pilot Training
Basic First Aid	FAR's	Power line safety
Mapping & GPS	Weather	Career Exploration

The suggestion was made that this would be a great club project that everyone could get involved with as little or as much as they are able. If the CLAS was interested in supporting this project, a portion of club meetings could be scheduled around preparing and updating presentations and handouts that are used during the camp. This could be a great project to get more people involved in the club and a project that would add value in attending the monthly meetings. It also supports the primary objectives of CLAS: "The purpose and objectives shall be to advance and promote a professional attitude in the sport of ballooning. The Society shall be dedicated to safety, education, communication and consideration among its members and the general public. It's a great way to introduce the youth of today to ballooning! A motion was made and second and passed for the CLAS to pursue a possible venue. Mick has been working on two possible locations to host the event and hopefully will have information by the next meeting regarding a possible camp location.

- **Interface on-site with Oxford Tower and Airspace was suggested as an addition education topic for the Education Committee.** There was positive discussion on the subject. A suggestion was made that the Thur. CLAS meeting schedule time could be revised slightly one month to accommodate the Oxford Tower hours.
- **CLAS received a thank you letter from Dave & Polly Lasher. See at end of minutes.**
- **CLAS Fly Out April 17th.** CLAS will hold a Spring Fly-Out on Saturday, April 17, at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. Sunrise is 6:08 AM, so be there early enough to launch at sunrise or shortly thereafter. We may do a hare 'n hound or some other type of competition. All CLAS members in good standing who take part in the activities - pilots, crew, or observers, will be treated to a breakfast buffet, courtesy of CLAS, at the TA Truck Stop, Rt. 322 and I-84 in Southington. Any non-members may join CLAS that day and they too will get a free breakfast. The rain/wind-out date will be the next day, Sunday, April 18, and if cancelled again we will schedule the fly-out on each successive Saturday or Sunday until it happens.

Next month's meeting will be 7:30 PM on Thur. April 15, 2010 at the Plainville Municipal Building. Refreshments will be brought by Libby Richardson.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin,
CLAS Secretary



Photo by Erwin Dressel

Connecticut Lighter than Air Society
P.O. Box 53
Southbury, CT 06488

March 7, 2010

Dear CLAS members and friends

We thank you all for the recognition and honor bestowed upon us at the Winter Dinner. Lifetime membership is special – recognizing service above and beyond the norm. Neither of us ever felt we were going above and beyond to serve CLAS or the ballooning community over the years. Ballooning is a sport we both love and wanted to all we could to promote the pleasure both to fellow balloonists, communities, and spectators.

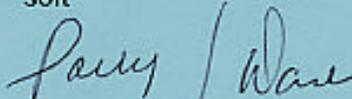
We received so much back from both the sport and friends. We wanted to give back where we could whether serving as an officer in CLAS, organizing or presenting at safety seminars, putting on demonstrations for local schools and organizations, donating passenger rides for worthy charities, contributing to CLAS sponsored programs such as obtaining the Favia basket for the New England Air Museum or serving the Balloon Federation of America, our national organization.

Even though we are "balloonless" at the moment, we will continue to follow ballooning, CLAS and the BFA where and when we can.

In closing, we challenge each of you to give back as much as you receive from our sport of hot air ballooning.

Thank you all again.

May your skies be blue, the winds gentle, your flights safe and your landings soft



Polly & Dave Lasher

Event Director Job Opening

Bob Bernard passed this along, perhaps you know someone looking for a job who would like to work in Albuquerque!

As some of you may have heard, Pat Brake is retiring. This marks the end of an era since Pat has been with the Balloon Fiesta as Event Director, Official and/or Board member since 1988. (Yes, she started with us while she was in elementary school!)

We'll miss her and we need to fill the void she leaves. If you're interested in applying for the position or you know someone who may be qualified please contact me at prsmith@balloonfiesta.com. Please understand that the Balloon Fiesta's Event Director has a big job. The Event Director's duties include:

- Coordinating flight operations including gas, special shapes, hot air balloons, and any "special" flying events, such as parachutists, sailplanes, etc.
- Coordinating flights with the City, FAA, Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) and airport,
- Proposing and managing budgets for Pilots, Events, Special Shapes, Officials, Gas, Hospitality, Entertainment, Volunteers and Youth Relations.
- Preparing flight documentation, (e.g. Pilot Rules and Regulations, Gas balloon rules, pilot applications, waivers, memorandum of agreement between City, FAA, the Sunport, KAFB and FAA Flight Control Tower.
- Participate in "fly" or "no fly" decisions
- Managing Balloon Fiesta hospitality, and
- Managing Balloon Fiesta personnel and Officials.

Minimum qualifications for the position include being a hot air balloon pilot (a preference will be given to applicants also holding a gas balloon certificate) with significant experience. The Event Director should be proficient in Excel, Word, Access and Publisher software and should be able to operate standard office machines, including a postage meter, folding machine and cutter. A preference will be given to applicants who have participated in balloon events and have experience, training and education in balloon safety.

Thanks for your help in filling this critically important position. We plan to accept applications until April 30. If applying please include a resume with both your work and balloon experience.

From The Scoop Editor, Libby Richardson

Dues for 2010 are now due. Use the form on the back page of the Scoop to send in your due now.

Thanks for your contributions for this month's Scoop: Garry Guertin, Dave Lasher, Polly Lasher, Mark Sand, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Bob Bernard.

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

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)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____
E-Mail _____
(Default will be electronic newsletter 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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