



THE SCOOP

**Next CLAS Meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Holiday Party at The Little Barn at Wesleyan Hill, 616 Long Hill Road, Middletown
Details and directions below.**

CLAS Holiday Party

Bring your favorite dish and a story to share!

BYOB! Mixers, soda, ice, glasses, cups, plates and "silverware" there.

Directions:

From the North via Rte 91S:

Rte. 91 South to Rte 9 South (Left Exit 22S) for 5.8 miles.

Take Right Exit 13 to Rte. 17 South toward New Haven and South Main Street for 0.5 miles.

Left at traffic light onto South Main Street (still Rte. 17 S) for 2.2 miles.

Right at traffic light onto Wesleyan Hills Rd. (Just after the Cypress Restaurant on right and just before Havli India Restaurant on left.)

*** Follow from *** below.

From the South via Rte 91N:

Rte 91 North to Right Exit 15 to go Rte 68 East (Barnes Rd toward Durham) for 0.9 mi..

Left at T (and traffic light) onto Durham Rd for 4.2 miles.

Left at T which is Rte. 17 North (Main St , Durham) for 3.4 miles.

Left at traffic light onto Wesleyan Hills Rd. (Just at the Havli India Restaurant on right and just before Cypress Restaurant on left.)

*** Follow from *** below

From the South via Rte 9N:

Right Exit 11 Randolph Rd (Rte 155) toward Rte 17 and Durham ..

Left at end of ramp at traffic light for 2.2 miles.

Left onto Rte 17 S for a mile until the first traffic light at Wesleyan Hills Rd.

Right at traffic light onto Wesleyan Hills Rd. (Just after the Cypress Restaurant on right and just before Havli India Restaurant on left.)

*** Follow from *** below

From the West via Rte 84E and/or Rte 691E:

Rte 691 ends and Rte 66 continues as it heads into Middletown .

Go 2 miles and turn Right onto Rte 147S (Baileyville Rd).

Go 2.3 miles and turn Right onto Rtes 147/157 toward Durham .

Turn left onto Middlefield Rd for 0.2 miles.

Left at T which is Rte. 17 North (Main St , Durham) for 2.8 miles.

Left at traffic light onto Wesleyan Hills Rd. (Just at the Havli India Restaurant on right and just before Cypress Restaurant on left.)

***Drive 0.3 miles, passing a school, pond, the big and little barns, a Montessori School , and after the road curves to the right, the driveway is immediately on your right. Park at the far right end of the parking lot (closest to the stairs up to the little barn entrance.)

Christmas Flight in Memory of Mike "Santa" Bollea

Saturday, December 18th and/or Sunday, December 19th, 7:00 AM
Aqua Turf Club on Mulberry St., Southington, CT

Pilots & crew wear Xmas garb and bring along candy canes in both the balloon & chase vehicles to pass out along the way. I'll also throw together a competitive flight task that will be holiday themed too just to make it interesting. Let me know if you'll be joining us and I'll keep you posted with updates as the dates get closer.

Breakfast will be at the Truck Stop in Southington. Free Breakfast for CLAS members. New members that day will also have free breakfast. Family membership has free breakfast for family.

Hope to see you there!
Jim Regan



CLAS Calendars Now on Sale for \$5

A big thank you to all the 2010 CLAS members for their photo entries. Please see Garry Guertin for your calendars at the big bargain price of just \$5 per calendar. Makes a great gift!

Another round of congratulations to the winners of the 2010 CLAS Photo contest.

Place	Name	Description
1st place	Charlie Perreault	Winter balloons
2nd place	Libby Richardson	Robert over reservoir
3rd place	Carol Silva	"Cool" Balloon
4th place	Mark Sand	Jan. Aqua Turf
5th place	Ellen Dressel	Stoweflake 6 balloons inflating
6th place	Charlie Perreault	Bill C. in front of Rick's balloon at Plainville
7th place	Paul Stumpf	Stoweflake; aerial view of 20 Balloons on the launch field
8th place	Charlie Perreault	Burner View
9th place	Paul Stumpf	Balloon over field, Portageville, NY
10th place	Mark Sand	Balloon with Light House
11th place	Carol Silva	URI Glow 2010
12th place	Paul Stumpf	Glens Falls, NY 2 Balloons in flight

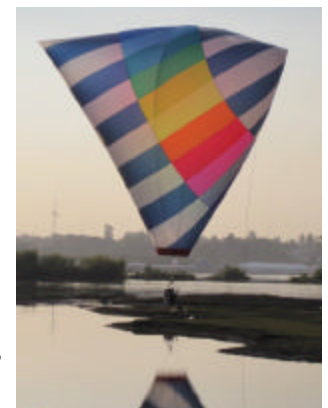


Photo from Mark Schilling, Leon, Mexico

BFA Announces Release of Balloon Event Guidelines Draft

The BFA formed an *ad hoc* committee in May, 2010 charged with the responsibility to develop a comprehensive handbook detailing educational materials aimed at improving the safety of hot air balloon events and the pilots participating in those events. Maury Sullivan was appointed chairman of the committee based on his experience in organizing and officiating both fiesta and competitive-type balloon events. He, and five other experienced committee members, plus two legal consultants have completed the draft outline of the publication.

The publication draft outline, including many suggested forms and documents, has been posted to the BFA web site, www.bfa.net. The document is available in the 'public' area of the web site so it's available for download to all, BFA members and non-members as well.

If you attend balloon events or serve as an organizer or event official, you owe it to yourself to download the document and give it a thorough read. We are accepting 'public' comments for any areas you feel warrant some improvement or expansion. In addition, if you feel an aspect of balloon event flying was overlooked, please feel free to advise the committee.

Maury Sullivan – Balloon Events Guidelines Committee chairman
Gene Burnstein – Balloon Event Guidelines Committee member

From The Scoop Editor, Libby Richardson

Lots of events coming up this month and in the new year. We hope to see you at these events, and hope you have a great holiday season!

- **Annual Mooney Holiday Party** will be Saturday, December 11th at 5 pm.
- **CLAS holiday party**, in place of our regular meeting, Thursday, December 16 at 7:30 pm. See page 1 for details.
- **Christmas Flight** in Memory of Mike "Santa" Bollea, Saturday, December 18 at 7:00 am. See page 2 for details.
- Save the date for the **CLAS Winter Dinner**, Saturday, January 29, 2011. With this comes the need for nominations for the crew awards, the Mike Bollea Spirit of the Sport award, the Sh*t Happens Award, Long Jump Award, etc. Please send nominations to Ellen Dressel or Penny Christy.
- Mark your calendar for the **CLAS Safety Seminar**, Saturday, February 26, 2011. Snowdate: Sunday, February 27, 2011. Gordon Schrontkowski is coming back!

Thanks to for your contributions to The Scoop this month: Garry Guertin, Ellen and Erwin Dressel, Jim Regan, Penny Christy, Chris Mooney, Mick Murphy, Gene Burnstein, .

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.

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

Bob's Take: High-flying life makes its way to film

By Bob Fischback, World-Herald

He was a Union Pacific porter, a pro football player and an insurance underwriter before he took up hot-air ballooning. In his spare time, he's a photojournalist. Soon he'll be the star of a movie about his high-flying life, thanks to his filmmaking daughter.

Bill Costen, 63, who grew up in Omaha, says he's the first black commercial hot-air balloon pilot. He's been making a living flying balloons full time for 28 years. "A friend of a cousin approached me back in 1975 and said let's start a balloon club," Costen recalled last week during a movie shoot in Omaha. "I said, 'What's a balloon?' But six of us got together and bought a balloon." Eventually, he dropped out of the club and started his business in Bloomfield, Conn., near Hartford. He has ferried thousands of balloon passengers over the years.

William H. Costen is the son of William T. Costen, a retired packinghouse worker who still lives in Omaha. His mother, Dolores, died when he was 10. In the early 1960s at Central High, Bill mostly sat on the bench during football games.

Portering on the railroad paid for college. He didn't try out for football when he went to the University of Nebraska in the fall of 1965, convinced that he was not college material.

But at Morris Brown College in Atlanta, he earned a football scholarship. An NFL scout spotted him, and after he got his math degree he was drafted by the Buffalo Bills. Marlin Briscoe, a South High grad who was then playing for the Bills, introduced him to O.J. Simpson, an indelible memory of 1970. "My only claim to fame in pro football was that I picked up a blocked punt and scored a touchdown for Buffalo in a preseason game against the New York Jets," he said. Soon sent to a Buffalo farm team in Hartford, he met wife Lynda and took up the insurance job by day. He began ballooning full time in 1984.

"I've always loved watching people's expressions when they take their first balloon ride," Costen said. "The view is beautiful. You never know where you'll land. Every trip is a mystery, totally different." Any close calls in that balloon? "Oh, maybe a hundred," he deadpanned. "Nobody ever got hurt, but I've had a lot of mishaps. I've landed on the Jersey Turnpike, in a swamp, atop buildings, in the trees. Once I got the balloon down just before a big thunderstorm." On the other hand, he said, you can't beat the silent beauty of flying in a gentle snowstorm over a lake in the Poconos, or across the Chesapeake Bay from Baltimore.

Oh, and the photojournalism job? Bill has taken pictures for a black newspaper for years, collecting autographs along the way. Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, lots of other boxers and pro tennis players, golfers and pro basketball stars. He collects baseball cards, football cards, basketball and boxing cards. Somewhere along the way he turned the cards, autographs and photos into a traveling exhibit he takes around to schools. "I think it helps young kids to see their potential," he said.

Costen's daughter, Chantal, graduated from Howard University last year. She premiered a short film at Cannes in 2009, winning a directing award. Her company, Made for T.V. Productions, has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. "I had the idea in my head to make this movie since I was 9 years old," she said. "I always knew he was a good story. My friends and I all looked up to him, hoping our lives could be as exciting as his." The movie is about 80 percent shot. "The focus is ballooning," she said, "and the history, to see where he came from and what led him to his decision to fly balloons for a career." She hopes to finish the movie in time for Black History Month in February, then take it on the festival circuit. Her father will narrate the movie.



Minutes – CLAS Meeting of October 21, 2010

CLAS President, Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building at 7:38 PM.

Members in attendance were: Garry Guertin, Mark Sand, Carlos Kebe, Al Theodore, Rick Silva, Charles Perreault, Rob Macfarlane, Cindy Smith, Daryl Smith, Lawrence Nelson, Erwin Dressel, Ellen Dressel, Pamela Bogart Macfarlane, Libby Richardson, Tony Roswell, Terri Rollinson, Penny Christy, & Kevin Brielmann.

- September meeting minutes were not reviewed.

Sunshine Committee: N/A

Winter Dinner Committee: No Report

BFA/FAA Committee: No Report

Competition Committee: No Report

Education Committee: No Report

Nomination Committee: N/A

Audit Committee: No Report

Safety Seminar Committee: No Report

Treasurer Report: No Report

Old Business: No old Business



Photo from Mark Schilling, Leon, Mexico

New Business

- **Kevin Brielmann provided a verbal presentation of his recent gas flight along with interesting travel experiences.**
- **The 2010 CLAS Photo Contest was held which took up the remainder of the meeting.** A big **Thank You** goes out to all the 2010 CLAS members for their photo entries. Every year the photos entered into the contest truly get better and better. This year was no exception. All of the 60 photos entered were worthy of winning but the membership did a great job of completing the hard task of picking only 12 photos out of the 60 entered. Thank you again to all who get out there, take these pictures and take the time to submit them.
 - Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 CLAS Photo contest. The 2010 CLAS photo winners are listed on page 2 of The Scoop.
 - 2011 CLAS Calendars will be on sale at the November 18th CLAS meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

Refreshments for the next meeting to be provided by Penny Christy.

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

Minutes – CLAS Meeting of November 18, 2010

CLAS President, Mark Sand called the meeting to order at the Plainville Municipal Building at 7:33 PM.

Members in attendance were: Garry Guertin, Mark Sand, Rick Silva, Santo Galatioto, Ellen Dressel, Erwin Dressel, Bill Costen, Al Theodore, Mick Murphy, Tom Murphy, Lisa Huck, Libby Richardson, Charles Perreault, & Penny Christy.

October meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made and second to accept the minutes as reviewed. Minutes will be published in the next issue of the Scoop.

Sunshine Committee: N/A

Winter Dinner Committee: Winter dinner will be on Jan. 29, 2011, Location still TBD at this time. Penny will check with Jude and Kristen on potential location.

BFA/FAA Committee: No Report

Competition Committee: A new competition target "X" was purchased along with 50 new bean-bags.

Education Committee: Garry reported on the safety awareness meeting that was held with the Southington Fire department. See November Scoop for details.

Nomination Committee: As there is no one assigned to the nomination committee, there was discussion to identify potential candidates of officers for next term. Current candidate-elects are as follows: President: *Open*, Vice President: Garry Guertin, Treasurer: Penny Christy, and Secretary: Ellen Dressel. Any additional candidates should be sent to Garry Guertin for electronic ballot.

Audit Committee: No Report

Safety Seminar Committee: The 2011 CLAS Safety seminar is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, 2011 and Lisa will confirm the location for the Yale Divinity School lecture hall, same as last year.

Treasurer Report: Penny reported that there is \$5,567.36 in the checking and no report on CD status.

Old Business:

- **2011 CLAS Calendars are now on sale.** They were first available for purchase at the November 18th CLAS meeting. "The calendar looks great." The price has been set at a low \$5 ea. Anyone that would like to obtain calendars should contact Garry Guertin at gguertin@cox.net. Calendars will also be made available at any of upcoming events.

New Business

- **Jim Regan sent out a notice to remind everyone of a Xmas flight in memory of Mike Bollea.** Flight will be on Saturday Dec 18th and/or Sunday Dec 19th at the Aqua Turf Club on Mulberry St. Southington, CT. Meeting time 7:00am. A motion was made and second for the club to pay for breakfast at the Truck stop for any participating members and crew.
- **The CLAS December Holiday Meeting will be held at Penny's "Barn" the same as last year.** A meeting notice will need to be sent out prior to the meeting to remind everyone and provide directions.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

Next meeting will be the Holiday pot luck celebration.

Respectfully submitted by Garry Guertin, CLAS Secretary

In The News

Check out this link for an interview with **Beth Miller** from IMC.

<http://www.balloonpong.com/features.html>

A series of articles from The Aero-News Network titled '**What's The Point of 'Next-Gen' If 'Now-Gen' Crashes and Burns?'**

Part 1: <http://www.aero-news.net/news/featurestories.cfm?ContentBlockID=0C13708B-EA55-40AB-ACFF-E6023759777F&Dynamic=1>

Part 2: <http://www.aero-news.net/news/featurestories.cfm?ContentBlockID=AFC829C7-8E01-4C5A-B9B7-B53A3600190C&Dynamic=1>

Part 3: <http://www.aero-news.net/index.cfm?ContentBlockID=9d5af084-f7c6-412b-bae8-6af0dfdf52cc>

Unmanned balloon going down creates stir on shoreline

Niantic, November 27, 2010 - Reports of a plane going down in flames off the coast of Niantic Friday evening turned out to be a lot of hot air, a hot air balloon that is. Waterford dispatch received a call at 5:21 p.m. from a Shore Road residence reporting what they thought was a burning aircraft drifting toward the area of Plum Island, then plummeting into Long Island Sound.

Waterford fire departments had boats at the ready and took to the water in search of the downed craft. A Coast Guard vessel also went to the area. However, when officials checked in at the Shore Road address, residents there were unaware of the incident and had not made the emergency call. Meanwhile, officials in Niantic, including Fire Marshal Dick Morris, checked with residents on the Shore Road in that town.

Morris said East Lyme Police Sgt. Joe San Juan talked to the residents there, determined that the sighting was legitimate and that there was cause for concern. Chief John McDonald of the Niantic Fire department was contacted. A command post was being organized and search-and-rescue teams from New London to Old Saybrook began preparing to deploy.

As those operations began, Morris said, a Niantic firefighter received a call from two men who said they had launched an unmanned hot air balloon that caught fire as it floated south. Morris called the men and determined their story was legitimate. He said at that point the most important thing became calling off all the emergency responders who were in the midst of preparing for a search-and-rescue operation. The incident was resolved at about 6:30 p.m.

***Mark Schilling flying
the Little Bees in
Mexico and Japan.
Way to go Mark!
We all wish we had
your job!***



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

Nine weeks after going missing... U.S. balloonists' bodies are found in gondola floating in the Adriatic

Daily Mail Reporter, 12/6/10

An Italian fishing boat pulled the remains of two American balloonists from the Adriatic Sea this morning, ending a two-month hunt for the pair's bodies in one of ballooning's darkest chapters. The boat hauled in the balloon gondola with the bodies of the Americans still inside while fishing 11 miles north of Vieste before dawn, said Commander Guido Limongelli of the Vieste port. Vieste is on Italy's eastern Adriatic coast in the southern Puglia region, which makes up the 'heel' of boot-shaped Italy. He said documents found in the gondola confirmed the identities of Richard Abruzzo, 47, of Albuquerque, and Carol Rymer Davis, 65, of Denver.



The two had been participating in the 54th Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race when contact was lost September 29 as they flew over the Adriatic. They had taken off with some 20 other balloons from Bristol four days earlier. Search crews looked for the veteran balloonists in vain for a week before determining that their craft had plunged toward the water at 50 mph and they likely didn't survive. As soon as the fishing boat discovered what was in its nets it alerted port officials in Vieste, who sent out a patrol boat to escort the vessel back to port, Limongelli said. A coroner was performing a post mortem and officials were investigating to determine what might have caused the balloon to crash.

The disappearance of the champion balloonists had cast a pall over the sport, which had been gathering for the America's Challenge gas race in the United States - one of the nation's top balloon races - when the search was called off. 'I'm glad at least they found them. Now it will give the family some final closure,' said David Melton of Espanola, New Mexico, an active balloonist who flew with Abruzzo in the 1995 America's Challenge. 'It's been quite hard on all of them.'



The Abruzzo name in particular is synonymous with ballooning. Abruzzo was the son of famed balloonist Ben Abruzzo, who was in 1981 part of the first team to cross the Pacific Ocean by balloon, and who was killed in a small airplane crash in 1985. The younger Abruzzo and Davis won the 2004 edition of the Gordon Bennett race and the 2003 America's Challenge gas race - one of Abruzzo's five victories in that race.

Don Cameron, flight director for the 2010 Gordon Bennett race, said he wasn't sure if the deaths would affect race rules in the future but said he expected it would be raised. He said he hoped Monday's discovery could provide some solace for the families. 'It's better than just not knowing anything,' Cameron said. Examining the wreckage could also help answer questions and 'throw some light on the reasons why this happened,' he added.



***Happy Holidays to one and all!
Hope they are merry and bright!***

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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