

# Touch and Go

BALL  NS  VER  WA

September - October, 2004

## ONE WAY...Do Not Enter

by Herb Heriford

That's what the sign said. Actually, if you have ever been to Indianola Iowa you have seen a large quantity of those signs. For a lovely, old style fairly small town, it seems to have more one way streets than Jefferson City and Columbia combined. The strange thing is, it works quite well. Helps you remember which road to turn on. "Take the south one way street to the first west one way!" is not an unusual set of directions there. That is only one more thing that makes Indy a great little town!

Right now it is 8:35 pm and I think it's Tuesday. The days all seem to run together at this event. Sunset was about 5 min. ago but it has been quite dark for an hour or so. I'm sitting in the Hy-Vee parking lot as sheets of rain stream from the sky in a somewhat horizontal attitude. The rain started seriously about 10 min ago and has been coming down so hard that I haven't even been tempted to go into the store yet. The only reason I came here was to get a notebook to scribe down events as they happen for future access. However, til the rain stops, the back pages of my date book is going to have to suffice.

There is a small car sitting beside me in a small river that seems to have been formed by the runoff from the upper level parking lot. The water is running up about halfway on its wheels. Despite the lack of lights in the parking lot...they and the street lights went out a minute or so after my arrival...it is still quite bright because of almost constant lightning. Really quite pretty. Several counties are under severe TS warnings but I guess since there is no hail this one doesn't qualify as severe. I think that requires thunder, wind of at least 58 mph and hail 3/4" or larger. From the rocking of the suburban I would bet we qualified for the wind part at least!

This is the only actual storm we've had so far but it has not been the best week for flying in Indy. Friday night several flew and glowed but I had already called my crew and told them not to bother because I didn't think they would fly since it was kinda wet already. Saturday morning we flew a practice flight with two tasks. I'm sure somebody won it but the best I could do was score 4' 10" from one target and miss the field completely. Sat. nite we had a mass accession with a judge declared goal to the north. Some how I managed to

(continued on page 5)

## NBC Top 10

- |    |               |     |                |
|----|---------------|-----|----------------|
| 1. | Harold Graves | 6.  | Aaron Gebhart  |
| 2. | Benji Clemons | 7.  | Paul Randleman |
| 3. | Jim Thompson  | 8.  | Dick Drake     |
| 4. | Jim Neill     | 8.  | Jay Holcomb    |
| 5. | Scott Allsup  | 10. | Dale Dommer    |

## National Balloon Classic Awards

John Russell Award - the Reinert family - Mike, Brenda, Chris & Angie

Farmer of the Year - Jerry Pritchard

Volunteer of the Year - Martha & Steve West

President's Award - Al Appenzeller

Crew of the Year - Ralph Rieck's crew

Newcomer of the Year - Scott Armstrong. Scott finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place.

From Al Appenzeller:

It is with deep sorrow that I inform you that Connie Austin Christensen passed away Monday, August 30th. There will be no formal funeral or visitation but please feel free to send your thoughts and prayers to Jim Christensen at his home address.

Jim Christensen  
PO Box 431  
Vichy, MO 65580

Home phone number 573-299-4716

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President**

Meika Bartholomew

**Balloons Over Iowa  
Vice-President**  
Sandy Drake

**Founding Fathers**  
Rob Bartholomew  
Terry Boettcher  
Bill Griffin  
Don Prine  
Jerry Riley

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**Letter from President Meika**

Hello to all my friends !

I have heard that when you are busy time seems to go faster. This must be a very busy time because I don't know where the summer has gone. The Classic is over, and I've heard lots of compliments about pilots, officials, volunteers and staff. Although the weather wasn't as cooperative as we would have liked, 2004 will still be remembered as a great year.

The weather has been unusually cool and wet, but winds must be favorable because I can't recall a time when we have had so many pleasure flights. Dad says we have lots of excellent new and enthusiastic pilots. I hope some of them are also carefree and fun loving because I'm already making plans for our BOI Halloween party on October 23rd.

Some visitors to the Balloonport may think I'm sleeping, but I'm just attempting to be a better listener and maintain a lower profile. In addition to interminable discussion of the last flight, balloonists also seem to want to discuss politics. It's all a little bewildering to me. I think we should all pledge not to bite, snarl, bark or use attack dogs.

The opportunity to serve as BOI President is a constant delight. Upon re-election I pledge to have great fall flying weather, lots of balloonists courageous enough to do winter flights, continued record breaking attendance at membership meetings, festive parties, and sun drenched envelopes for naps. Always remember to Fly Safely.

*Meika*

**Letter from Vice-President Sandy**

Wow, a year ago at this time I was chosen as Vice President of Balloons Over Iowa. What an honor this has been. My goal was to attend as many meetings as possible and definitely all of the social events. I'm hoping I'm still able to serve for another year. It has been a great experience.

Mom still says one of my platforms should be to keep working with the Balloon Crew Federation of America, but Dad and Rob still say that I'll be sleeping outdoors if I publicly endorse the BCFA. So, if you see me meeting with Don Fenster and Brownie, please don't tell Dad.

The 2004 National Balloon Class is now history, but everyone seems to agree that it was another great year despite the weather. Thank-you to Jim Gebhart, Matt Fenster, Jason Jones and their staff, Hilleary Lockhart, the NBC Board of Directors, Pilots/Crews and to all hundreds of volunteers who made the National Balloon Classic an event to be proud of.

The National Balloon Museum celebrated (standing room only) Ed Yost Day, Sunday August 1st. The Balloon Federation of American and the National Balloon Museum inducted Ed Yost as the 1st Honoree into the Ballooning Hall of Fame. After the induction, Mr. Yost made a few remarks. This was an enjoyable afternoon. Where would ballooning be today if it weren't for Mr. Yost?

I hope all of you will attend the BOI membership meetings held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. One never knows what to expect at these meetings.

Several Iowans are preparing to head down to the 2004 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta the first part of October. I hope everyone has a safe trip down, gets some good flying weather, and has a safe trip back. We do expect a full report! I know the rules, what happens in Albuquerque stays in Albuquerque, but I'm sure there will be a few stories to be told.

Come visit me in Radcliff whenever you can, otherwise I'll look forward to seeing everyone at the Creston Balloon Race, at the next BOI meeting or at the Halloween party.

Fly safe,  
*Sandy*

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## Retirement Center Update

Rob Bartholomew, Dick Drake, Jim Fromm, Bill Griffin, Mike Oberman, Don Prine and Wayne Wasson, members of the Balloons Over Iowa Retirement Home Planning and Site Acquisition Committee (BOIRHPSAC), submitted the following report:

Your BOIRHPSAC has been meeting nearly every day to address a myriad of concerns. Some dedicated BOI members start debilitation as early as 7:00 AM when our meeting room opens, and frequently remain there until the 2:00 AM closing. Activities include:

- ◆ Coordinating the continuing search for World Renowned Architect, Phil Pash
- ◆ Site acquisition negotiations
- ◆ Prioritizing of retirement home complex options
- ◆ Finance committee analysis of BOI resources
- ◆ Plan and construction of a Common Lodge
- ◆ Refreshment flow

Most of our time has been spent worrying about WRA Pash. He was last seen by Mike Oberman near Odessa, Missouri on August 7th, at which time Mike gave Pash directions to the Classic. Pash's appearance has changed as he no longer shaves or cuts his hair, but the mobile control tower he designed and drives is recognizable. BOIRHPSAC members eagerly await Pash's return, and in the interim have dedicated Tuesday and Friday committee meetings to Pash in honor of his dedication and work ethic.

Chief Negotiator, Dick Drake has actively chaired the site acquisition subcommittee and is pleased to report what the subcommittee considers to be significant movement. The landowner has reduced his original demand of \$10,000/ acre to \$9950/ acre, and BOI has increased our original offer of 1.301 kegs / acre to 1.442 kegs / acre. Drake reports his committee is utilizing a relatively informal negotiation structure and is more pleased with the actual bargaining environment than the economic positions. Bargaining informality has provided relatively easy access to the bargaining process and some BOIRHPSAC strategies are now being influenced by suggestions from members of MORK (Motorcyclist Over Road Kill) who do not shave or cut their hair and have been easily assimilated into bargaining sessions. BOI expenses, have, however, increased. Drake, who has stopped shaving and cutting his hair, reports that this is not unusual for interest based collective bargaining.

Your BOIRHPSAC is barely keeping our heads above liquid and have much more to report, however, Michelle Craig has been keeping minutes and disappeared two weeks ago after taking a joy ride with a MORK member. Postcards from western states have been received from Michelle and she reports fact finding trips to common lodges.

Respectfully submitted.

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The Chair asked Brad and Bill Craig if they had heard anything more from Michelle. Neither seemed to be aware of her absence. Linda Bartholomew asked if someone should be notified of Michelle's absence. Rob B said that MORK seemed to have a great nationwide communication system and he would ask them to ask Michelle to call home. LuAnn Randleman asked if other MORK members gave joy rides? A ponderance was called. Jennifer Nordhagen asked if the inclusion of the MORK on the BOIRHPSAC negotiating team would cause any confusion. "You bet it does!", said Richard Swanson. When asked to elaborate, Richard explained that MORK's unit of budgetary record was the kilogram, and determining how to apportion the evening expenses has been a nightmare. Patti Todden said she thought Richard had been at the Masonic lodge. A ponderance was called.

Upon re-adjourning the meeting, Bill Griffin extolled the virtues of multiculturalism. A ponderance was called.

Phyllis Drake asked if it was customary for negotiators to neither shave nor cut their hair until an agreement is reached. Wayne Wasson pushed his bangs out of his eyes and said, "The emotional and physical toll of BOIRHPSAC membership leaves little energy to accomplish those mundane daily tasks that others take for granted. Long live our inspiration- World Renowned Architect, Phil Pash." Accompanying cheers of "Hip Hip Hurray" came from BOIRHPSAC members at the refrigerator. The meeting was adjourned.



## ONE WAY...Do Not Enter

(continued from page 1)

score 6th on that one with a 2' 10" drop. There are lots of places to land north of the field... 'til you get to the river. Naturally, since the nite was still young and I had Mike, one of my long time crew members, and his new Fiancé Elizabeth along for company we decided to use up some of the NBC fuel and headed across the river. The winds were a little brisk but my insurance is paid so we managed to float past the river and all the way across the valley to the hill on the other side for a landing that involved only a minimal bumping and dragging in a field along with several other balloons. Our joy at finding our crew on the radio was short lived as we discovered that they were in a traffic jam of cars out watching the balloons. Even that was less disturbing than finding out that the landowner was not home and the gate was locked! Visions of hefting a basket over the fence after dragging it 400 yards began popping in and out of my head. Fortunately, Rural Relations had access to the field and shortly after sunset the crews pulled into the field. The guys with the big ride balloons were particularly relieved.

Sunday morning and evening as well as Monday morning were all cancelled due to weather of one sort or another. The winds and rains receded Monday night so even numbered pilots flew from the field to a target to the north and odds went to the south with hopes of flying to the X at the field. It turned out to be an exceptional flight despite the fact that very few baggies got tossed that night. After sending off several pibals and watching them go north we stopped and asked a farmer with a small but accessible back yard if he would like a balloon to launch there. He said sure but as Brian and Eric inspected the lot for standing water, we saw another balloon pop up from a nearby field a little more to the east which would be a little more advantageous. We thanked him and headed about 1/4 mile up the road to launch right beside Rob Bartholomew, an experienced local pilot. After pulling everything out and beginning to set up we noticed that the balloons were no longer heading north but were going very high to attempt to catch a NW breeze to help them maneuver into the field.

So Brian, another long time crew member, and I climbed in and headed into the haze in the lower atmosphere. The other balloons were not actually disappearing but were becoming rather fuzzy as the went up. We kept going up at about 300 fpm til we started a slight turn to the east at about 2000ft. Any time now we were certain of a turn to the north to take us into the field over the X. Then at about 2800 ft. I said "Brian, you are going to get an exceptional sight tonight!" and at 3000 ft we floated through the top of the haze. Now, if you have ever done this in a balloon or probably in a small plane

too, you know what a sight it is. You go from floating in a drudge that you can almost feel to floating in crystal clear air and the top of the haze is actually the top of a translucent cloud with soft rolling billows of the cleanest snow covered looking hills below your basket. Add to that the presence of about 10 other balloons that have changed from haze covered colorless orbs to brightly colored baubles drifting over rolling snow banks of clouds and you have a picture that would be on any balloon calendar! Unfortunately, the disposable camera I had purchased and placed into the balloon glove box for just such occasions remained there as I gawked in wonder. You'll just have to take my word for it. It was great!

However, our search for that northerly breeze proved futile and after flying about 2 miles to the east we began descending into a breeze that took us back to the west. We did a nearly perfect box and landed in the yard of the farmer that we had asked for launch permission an hour or so ago! We were now .3 miles further from the X than when we started!

Tuesday morning and as you have already heard, Tuesday night were both cancelled as was Wed. a.m. Wed. pm we probably could have flown but after 4 ½ inches of rain in the last 24 hours we could have caused damage to fields and tempers so we opted to await Thursday morning which the weather doctor had promised looked better.

He was right!

The morning flight consisted of 5 tasks using 6 baggies. A JDG NE of the field, a Max distance double drop at the field, a toss at the X at the field, a fly on task to the park next to the field and a final JDG far to the SW. We scored well on the first target at 2' and a few inches...6th place, but as you must know by now, my balloon has an aversion to min or Max DDD's although we were close enough to toss the red baggie at the X. Not close enough to score apparently but it is still fun to throw those things. We did manage to work our way over to the park for a 36 ft drop at the target but the left on the surface had vanished with the cool morning air so our attempts to navigate to the last X proved futile. We landed west of the hwy in a field that, once again we thought we were going to have to carry out of but thanks to the maximum help of the farmer the crews finally got to drive right out to the balloon for pack-up. He got my nomination for Farmer of the Year!

Scored Thursday night on a fly in task to the field but as I sit hear pondering all the events of the evening I can't recall how well. We did get to glow, however!

Friday morning we had 2 JDG's before the field, a gravity drop at the field that left some pilots scrambling to check the coordinates since some had to drop at the east X and some at the west X and then a fly on task to the NW. Flew into the

first X and tossed my baggie right in the middle of that bugger! It did slide a few inches but I knew it was close. The next target was on the far side of a lake in a cul-de-sac on a hill. Several of the pilots had descended to the lake surface to catch a left only to find that the wind over the lake was non-existent! It did make for some incredible reflection shots which I did remember to take this time. We caught up with several and had to negotiate for position over that target but still managed a 36 ft toss. Since there was no min or Max at the field this time my balloon decided it would visit a little closer to the X for the gravity drop but it only made it to 163 ft close. Not a good score but a score. The last target evaded us completely but it required flying 1000 feet over a red zone which lead to a landing in a yard next door to a place we launched last year where they said they had lived there for 20 years and never had a balloon launch or land there. We are working on changing that!

We had another fly in task Friday night where Francine, another dedicated crew member got to witness a gravity drop from 300 ft score 6ft from center. That was pretty cool!

Saturday morning, after a 45 min weather hold Matt, another race director came out and said "I would like to congratulate the winner of the 2004 National Balloon Classic, Harold Graves." Every person there jumped to their feet with applause! Harold has been there at least as long as I have and I don't think he has ever won. That was also pretty cool!

We were disappointed in not getting another chance to fly but the beautiful sunrise partially made up for it. The suburban was already packed so after taking Brian home and fixing my trailer lights I headed out of town intent on breaking one of my long standing rules. I was going to go home the same way I had come.

Well, I stuck to my plans for about 12 miles but then saw a sign that said "CORN" pointing south. I had promised Cheri I would bring her some Iowa corn so I ventured south on S46 I think in search of owner of said sign. He may well be selling corn south of Hwy 92 somewhere but I never saw him! But since I was already on that road and it was headed in the general direction of home I decided to follow it til I could find a place to stop and dig out my Iowa map. Pulled into a town called Melcher-Dallas that has a historical society bldg that may well have been the original bldg there! It had an incredible painting covering the entire north wall of a train driving out of the side of the bldg! That's almost all this town did have as a matter of fact. It had a wide enough spot for me to pull over to dig out my map so I consulted it briefly to see how best to get back onto my original route plan and soon found myself back on Hwy 5 in Lovette or something like that. Much to my joy and relief there was a veggie stand just starting to set up so I got to buy Cheri 39 ears of corn (which

weren't as good as the last Iowa corn I had) Some new potatoes, carrots, peppers and a couple of tomatoes. Wow, I'm starting to get hungry!

Several hours, which included a couple of roadside naps and half a tank of gas later I pulled into the driveway and unhooked the trailer. Now I can begin getting at all that stuff I could have been doing last week if I hadn't been up north playing balloon!

Had a wonderful week in spite of the rain. Thank You Iowa! See you again in Fort Madison in a couple of weeks!

Sincerely,  
Herb

ps. Forgot to tell you! I finished 23rd this year! That may sound bad but considering that it is about 25 places higher than I have finished before it is great! At present rate I should actually win one of these things by 2031!

### Calendar of Events

- September 19 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- October 1-10 **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**, Albuquerque, NM.
- October 9 **Cedar Covered Bridge Dedication**. Contact Louise or Bill Clemons at (515) 287-6934 or at hotairrepair@aol.com.
- October 16 **Jill Rubin Memorial Flight**. Chariton, Iowa. Contact John Jensen 515 961-3154 (ifddmfd59@aol.com) or Louise Clemons 515 287-6934 (hotairrepair@aol.com)
- October 17 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- October 23 6:30 p.m. **BOI Halloween party** Balloonport, Carlisle, IA. See page 19 for details
- November 21 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- February 2005 **Sweetheart Rally**. Mankato, MN Contact Daniel Reuter 507 245-3844. www.keysystemsplus.com/stardrifter.
- June 10-12, 2005 **Marshalltown Balloon Rally** Marshalltown, IA Contact John Jensen 515-961-3154 or email mtownballoonride@aol.com
- July 29 - August 6, 2005 **National Balloon Classic** Contact Hilleary Lockard at: 1-800-FLYIOWA or www.nationalballoonclassic.com

**Race organizers - please send your dates, etc for 2005 to Carol - hotairflyn@aol.com**

## Ballooning Books for Sale

The following new books about ballooning are now available for sale from the National Balloon Museum Store.

### FOR ADULTS

“**Popped**” by Carol Higgins Clark. (personally signed by the author) \$23 plus \$5 postage and handling.

“**The Magnificent Failure**” by Craig Ryan (personally endorsed by Ed Yost and Balloonists everywhere). \$30 plus \$5 postage and handling.

### FOR CHILDREN

“**A Rainbow Balloon**” by Ann Lenssen (personally signed by the author) \$13.50 plus \$2 postage and handling.

“**Adventures In Flight**” by Children’s Historical Publishing. (It’s a Learning Activity Book) \$4.00 plus \$2 postage and handling.

“**The History of Hot Air Balloons**” by Children’s Historical Publishing (It’s a Learning Activity Book) \$4.00 plus \$2 postage and handling

Make Checks payable to: National Balloon Museum

For details contact:

National Balloon Museum

P.O. Box 149

Indianola, IA 50125-0149

515 961 3714

Becky Wigeland, Curator: flamingbecky@aol.com

## Touch and Go Now Available in Full Color

The BOI newsletter can now be sent out by email in full living color. It will be an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file. There are now 4 options for receiving the newsletter

1. Continue to receive the newsletter by mail
2. Receive the newsletter by mail and by email
3. Receive only the email copy - attached .pdf file (this will save the club some money - postage & printing).
4. **Receive Email with link to Newsletter posted on a web site - you can then read, save or print the newsletter. The benefit of this over the attached file is that the large file doesn’t clog up your email server. *Note - new choice***

Email me if you’d like to receive the email version - hotairflyn@aol.com Carol

*Thanks to Joel Worthington for choice #4 - he’ll be posting the newsletter to his web site & you’ll be sent a link for each newsletter.*

## Book Review - The Cloud Atlas

With the advent of fall rapidly approaching, many balloon enthusiasts will bid the 2004 ballooning season farewell and anxiously await the 2005 season. If you spend much of the off season searching for things to fill your ballooning void, you may consider sitting down and reading The Cloud Atlas by Liam Callanan.

This book discusses the role balloons played during World War II. More specifically, it discusses balloons crafted by the Japanese as the first intercontinental warheads, which carried a special payload: bombs. These balloons, which appeared to be large hot air balloons of rubberized silk, were used throughout WWII to instill panic and fear in the enemy. The balloons were designed to explode on impact, thus destroying all evidence of their existence. It was thought that as these balloons exploded, they would create massive forest fires in the Western United States thus consuming valuable timber and manpower used to fight the war. Early in 1945, these balloons began their trek across the Pacific Ocean towards North America. Shortly after these balloons began arriving, a censorship was placed on the media so that word would not get back to the Japanese that these balloons were successful in their purpose. In all, nearly 300 balloons landings were documented throughout North America. Fortunately, numerous balloons failed to detonate on impact.

The book follows Louis Belk, a soldier at heart, who later in life became a priest. The book does a good job bouncing from the present to the past when father Belk was a member of the bomb disposal unit. The story is set in the Alaskan outback, where Louis, the narrator, was stationed outside of Anchorage. Early in the story, Louis quickly learns more about his mission to locate and disarm these balloons from his slightly peculiar captain. Captain Gurley, who lost his leg in a previous bomb disposal accident, is obsessed with tracking and locating these balloons as they arrive before more civilians are injured and killed. Together, Belk and Gurley utilize a collection of indecisive writings and maps called “The Cloud Atlas,” which may lead to the location of future balloons. Louis ends up falling for a palm reader, Lily, who later admits that she is involved in a love affair with Captain Gurley. This affair creates hostile feelings between Belk and Gurley, and Gurley begins the process of having Belk transferred. Will Belk and Gurley be able to locate and destroy these silent killers before love gets in the way?

The topics of war, love and balloons are intertwined throughout the book. Despite that the rhythm of the book is a little slow, reading this book will allow you to gain a new appreciation for the gift of flight.

*Submitted by Brad Temeyer*

## Happy Anniversary

John & Barbara Lewis	10-1
Beverly & George Wilson	10-6
Mark & Deanna Ziino	10-10
Dennis & Carol Firestone	10-13
Denny & Lynn Craig	10-20
William & Judy Evans	10-21



Terry & Jeanette Montaque	11-3
John & Tracy Jensen	11-8
Max & Carol Harris	11-11
Jacob & Jennifer Hermanson	11-11
Stephen & Sharon Foltz	11-25
Dennis & Louise Gibbs	11-25
Dan & Katherine Walker	11-27

## Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

October 1-10, 2004

For those going to "The Big One" - here are launch spots of those from Iowa & nearby:

Scott Allsup	S9
Denny Anderson	K6
Danny Campbell	G1
James Gebhart	W3
Terry Montague	N10
Ralph Rieck	L11
Brian Seymour	K6
Dennis Shelley	M10
Carol Sherman	N4
Andy Williams	Q7

For those not attending - go to [www.aibf.org](http://www.aibf.org) for updates

## Recipes Needed

Patti Todden has offered to put together a BOI Cookbook. Send her all your great BOI pot-luck recipes or bring them to the next BOI Party. We know we have some GREAT cooks - please share your delicious recipes!



Send to Patti at  
63735 - 180th St.,  
Nevada, IA 50201  
or email: [countryfarmers@iowatelecom.net](mailto:countryfarmers@iowatelecom.net)



Balloons missed in last month's "Changes in the Sky" Left - Gary Haynes; Right - Tim McConnell

## Happy Birthday

Stacie Cesnik	10-1	Kim Anderson	11-1
Nazzle Jensen	10-1	Clifford Clark	11-3
Kierstin Keller	10-1	Mackenzie Hermanson	11-4
Michael Scott	10-1	Jill Maxfield	11-5
Bo Nunn	10-1	William Hosford	11-6
Scott Allsup	10-2	Kim Snyder	11-7
Timmerly Eklund	10-2	Mindy Foell	11-10
Pamela Winkenwerder	10-3	Madelyn Jones	11-10
Alisa Lawrence	10-4	Carol Firestone	11-11
Mark Weeks	10-6	Callie Holmes	11-11
Dena King	10-7	Andy Sponsler	11-11
Jerry Riley	10-8	Mark Ziino	11-11
BJ Anderson	10-10	Paul Craven	11-12
Sean Carey	10-10	Tim Dunford	11-12
Allan Keller	10-10	Jay Stockhausen	11-12
Scott Moon	10-10	Jim Anderson	11-13
Rob Spence	10-10	Tyler Pedersen	11-16
Alex Funaro	10-11	Elliot Eastin	11-19
Sam Blackburn	10-12	Shar Shaw	11-19
Nathan Eastin	10-13	Stephen Foltz	11-21
Jim E. Phelan	10-13	Ben Smith	11-22
Russell Winkenwerder	10-13	Becca Bridgewater	11-22
Mary Eagan	10-13	Jim Fromm	11-25
Tracy Jensen	10-14	Warren Stone	11-26
Emily Williams	10-14	Caro Firestone	11-27
Gina Garrett	10-17	Deb Bridgewater	11-27
Dawn Hogan-Alexander	10-17	Jared Netley	11-28
Lori Schmidt	10-19	Kaitlin Wiley	11-29
Jacob Mitchell	10-20		
Jim Thompson	10-20		
Joe Thompson	10-20		
Esther Snyder	10-21		
Rick Eastin	10-23		
Jeanette Montague	10-23		
Robin Conklen	10-28		
Harry Watts	10-28		
Kay Fee	10-29		
Allen Knapp	10-29		





## The Way It Was

### 20 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ Creston '84 – 3 flights. #1 Pat Fogue, #2 Gary Cass, #3 Ted Mart, #4 Rob Bartholomew.
- ★ Altoona Balloona Fest – 46 Pilots. 3 flights. #1 – Rob Bartholomew, #2 – Dave Morris, #3 – Dick Drake.
- ★ 10-28-1984 Ken Allbaugh received his Commercial license.
- ★ 10-28-1984 Steve Hoover received his Commercial license.

### 15 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ Storm Lake '89 – Great Iowa Balloon Race” 1 flight.
- ★ Brookfield '89 – 13th Annual Great Pershing Derby. 3 flights. Overall winner – Dave Edmister & Governor’s Cup to John Esserman.
- ★ Altoona '89 – 7th Annual Altoona Balloona won by Jerry Riley with drop less than 5 feet on two tasks. Only 1 flight flown with 2 tasks.
- ★ Halloween party: Costumes to be made from an official Hy-Vee paper bag. Hay rack ride. P.H.A.R.T. (Professional Hot Air AeRobatic Team) unveiled. Captain Don Prine, Captain Jim Fromm, Captain Dan Terry. Their plans are to continue nighttime aerobatic maneuvers over the Milo area & plan their summer schedule. They hope to make the “Thunderbirds” the opening act for shows.

### 10 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 9-2-1994 Bill Smith received his Commercial license.
- ★ Iowa Championship at Oskaloosa - 3 flights; #1 Jim Thompson #2 Chuck Schrader #3 Mike Hadley; IBA balloonist of the Year - Bill Griffin.
- ★ Amana - 35 pilots, no flights
- ★ Storm Lake - some flights, some glows; a good time was had by most; Richard Schick's accident – he was ejected from the balloon and a passenger jumped out before the balloon hit power lines; 1st Ralph Rieck, 2nd Rob Bartholomew, 3rd Frank Urbanski. Fireworks in the fog.
- ★ Altoona - Flew every flight. Sherry Allsup commented: “When can you remember an Altoona race when 911 didn’t have to be called?”; #1 Jim Thompson #2 Peggy Mueller #3 Bill Clemons
- ★ 17th Annual Creston Balloon Days - 4 tasks flown!, 26 balloons; Jim Oakes retirement - received a standing ovation at the Banquet; Winners - #1 Bill Griffin (edged out Paul Randleman by the narrowest margin), #2 Paul Randleman #3 Dick Drake.

- ★ Pershing Derby - 2 flights; 1st Jan Sines, 2nd John Esserman, 3rd Gary Tarter
- ★ October '94 Report from Albuquerque - First time pilots - Denny Anderson & Dennis Shelley; Regular Fiesta flyers included Chuck Schrader, Carl Young & Pat Fogue. Mark Weeks got his first balloon ride in Albuquerque on his 28th BD. Dr. Jon Russell was there with his bread truck. Special shapes - lazy boy chair, polar bear, cow, Harley Davidson motorcycle and others.
- ★ BOI Halloween party: Costume theme – any comic book character published since 1980; Georgia Oakes dethroned her husband in the Chili contest. Louise Clemons 2nd, Sherry Allsup 3rd & Jim Oakes - last place.

### 5 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ Jim Gebhart recovering from Hip surgery.
- ★ Paul Schneider received his commercial license.
- ★ Corrin Michelle Clemons born to Benji & Kristin Clemons 9-4-99. Grandpa & Grandma (Bill & Louise Clemons) had to leave Brookfield early to make it home & welcome Cori into the family.
- ★ Brookfield: 40 balloons, Jim Thompson Balloonmeister. 3 flights #1 Maury Petrehn #2 Karin Riepe #3 Dave Edmister. Liz McGee awarded the Petrehn Cup.
- ★ Storm Lake: #1 Tom Rieke #2 Dick Drake #3 John Kolba
- ★ Creston: Balloonmeister Rob Bartholomew. One competition flight. #1 - Jim Thompson, #2 Todd Netley, #3 - Chuck Schrader; Barb Knoll was Rookie of the Year.
- ★ Dave Edmister won 1st annual BOI Championship.
- ★ September 19, 1999 BOI Meeting: HISTORY MADE – at 7:21 p.m. BOI changes forever – ALL BOI members can now make motions. Don Prine added a friendly amendment that members cannot overthrow the Founding Fathers. Motion made by Rob, seconded by Wayne to forbid adult beverages at BOI meetings – membership voted “NOT A CHANCE”.
- ★ Clara Thompson born 9-20-99 to Monica & Joe Thompson. Grandparents are Jim & Rita Fromm.
- ★ Halloween party: Such a good time was had that no one judged the chili, the costumes or the pumpkins. BOI champion did not show up to claim his plaque. Karaoke – some good singers in the BOI Membership. Gretchen sang a solo!
- ★ Brian & Chris Seymour purchased a Cameron 77,000 - Rio pattern

# National Balloon Classic 2004



Photo by Max Harris



Photo by Max Harris



Photo by Max Harris

## Ed Yost inducted into Ballooning Hall of Fame



Ed Yost & Becky Wigeland



Photo by Mark Weeks

Sandy attends Pilot Briefing





**Cooperation among crews!**



**Max - the fire breathing dragon**



**Crew of the Year -  
Ralph Rieck's crew**



**Top 3 - Jim Thompson, Benji Clemons, Harold Graves**



**John Russell Award -  
Reinert family**



# Brookfield



**Tailgating**



**Dan - slaving over a hot stove!**



**Pilot briefing**



**Vrrrooom, Vrrrooom**



**High security. Last year's champion protected by her Crew Chief**



**Worn into ugly**



**Bought ugly**



**Free style ugly**



**The winners in each category**



**The esteemed judges study the entries.**

## Ugly Shoe Derby



**Last year's champion awards the fabulous trophy to winner Brian Bennett**



**Brian will probably have those shoes bronzed!**



**We even flew - a little!**



## Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting

Sunday, August 15, 2004

BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

Meeting called to order by Paul Randleman at 6:45:06p.m. by the pool. No swimmers this time.

**Present:** Paul R., Rob and Linda Bartholomew, Meika and Ellie, Don Prine, Bill Griffin, Richard Swanson, Patti Todden, Joel Worthington and Charlie.

Security Ellie was doing a good job keeping peace between Meika and visiting Charlie. Charlie checking out club to see if she is interested in campaigning with sister Maggie to being an officer or maybe just the club Am-basset-ettes.

**Secretary's report:** No minutes to approve since no secretary.

**Treasurer's report:** No treasurer report since no treasurer.

### Old business:

- ★ Is here and immediately calls for a ponderance, since Patti brought an new book of Imponderables. We are pondering "how did saloons keep the beer cold in the old west?" Paul seemed to know of a way or two. AND he was correct!!!! A fitting ponderance for this club.
- ★ Jim Gebhart's report on the Classic was: who knows?? There were 104 registered pilots. Other than that—who knows.
- ★ BOI was voted to donate a 3rd keg of beer at the Sports Page night since it was a thirsty night and the beer ran out before the beer drinkers did. Not sure who members were to vote on that. After a lengthy discussion, who knows what the outcome was.
- ★ Mary & Gerald Conklin drove in and President and security are checking things out. Just coming by for a visit.

### New business:

- ★ Discussed a campaign for new officers and about Charlie and Maggie Worthington wanting to join the circle of noteworthy former bassets in charge. Tabled till next meeting.

*More arrivals—Charlie noticed, while other 2 were reclining by the pool. Maybe Charlie should be considered.*

Treasurer now here with her family. Treasurer's report given. We have money! Rob motioned to accept that amount and Don 2nd.

- ★ More discussion on Classic-----Don says "screw 'em" ---not sure who or why, but then, who knows???
- ★ Off in the southern sky 4 balloons can be seen heading our way. A ponderance was called and decided to go

watch the balloons.

- ★ Paul decides the meeting is way out of control, so Rob motioned we move to the X out in the field to see which balloons make it. Don second. Motion approved.

*We're off to the road with Paul and Don handling getting the refreshment cooler out there quite well.*

*Rob commented as to why all attending pilots were out in the road watching the younger ones fly towards us and they were not flying.*

*Ryan Kintzel was the only one that got close and he landed in the hay field directly south of the Balloonport, with lots of instructions yelled from the road.*

- ★ Back to the Port to reflect on the good old days. A call came in and Rob and Jim are off with news of possible trouble with one of other balloons over Carlisle

Bill made the motion to adjourn again, and Richard second. Meeting adjourned at 8:55:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Patti Todden, temporary Secretary

## Event Reviews

### Battle Creek Michigan 2004

I vowed to take copious notes regarding the week at Battle Creek, but, I failed. So, I'll once again provide a look at the lighter side of racing:

Let me just start out by saying that many people would have opted not to fly, if they were in our shoes, by the time the tasks were handed out Wednesday morning in Michigan:

1) Our balloon got a hole in it while we were at the Ottumwa race. Tom is training his brother Dan Rieke and our daughter's fiancé Adam Schulte. I walked away from the balloon because we were done tethering. Tom told the guys that he would rip out after the balloon next to us sat-up. Well, the balloon next to us had a false inflation and they turned their inflator back on. We didn't discover until later that our fabric sucked right into the back of their fan. We thought we should have the balloon repaired before we headed for Battle Creek just to be safe. But.....

2) Linda Bartholomew broke her arm after she was knocked over by her horse. Luckily her daughter stepped up and repaired the hole.

3) Tom deleted all of the way points for Battle Creek from his GPS. Johnny Jensen and the entire Craig family stepped up to the plate and helped us reload all of the maps

and way points.

4) Our flying partner, Johnny Jensen, lost his aunt and his grandmother and couldn't make the trip. We're sorry Jensen's about your loss and we missed your team.

5) We were in an earthquake in Illinois. We checked into a hotel Sunday evening just South of Ottawa. Tom woke up a little after 1:00 in the morning because our bed was shaking. My first thought was that it was our wake-up call. Then I thought we were at the Palace Inn at Storm Lake. (Get it? Quarter in the machine attached to the bed.) I was sure that our propane tanks had exploded out in the parking lot. Tom thought it was an earthquake. I thought he was nuts. He was right. We were in an earthquake. It struck at 1:11 AM CT and was centered not far from where we were staying. It was felt in six states and had a magnitude of 4.1. The original report was 4.5.

6) We experienced a bad Seinfeld episode when we arrived at our hotel in Battle Creek – What do you mean we don't have a reservation? I have a confirmation number! – The hotel in Battle Creek only had one room reserved in our name. Smoking. We had a party of seven and were staying for a week. Help! They ended up taking care of us and the lesson to be learned is as follows: If you make reservations via a third party internet provider call the hotel directly to confirm your reservation. It's worth it because the rooms are discounted.

7) The power steering went out on the Suburban. Tom and my dad were heading out to get propane and attend the mandatory pilot's meeting on Tuesday. They didn't have time to refuel and the rest of us swung by the Chevy dealership to send them off to the meeting in our second chase vehicle. We found fuel at a local RV dealership – you're welcome honey.

8) The crew revolted having to ride in the back of a rented Chevy pick-up - diesel. Well, our son revolted. I tried to explain that in the old days we all rode in the back of pick-up trucks. Except for the Drakes. They had a motor home pulling a trailer with golf carts but I digress. I explained how fun it would be to blow his nose that night but he wasn't buying it. Welcome to the future era of pilots with enclosed trailers.

9) Log on to <http://www.eballoon.com/> for detailed information, pictures and results:

- 1 Owen Keown - California
- 2 Joe Heartsill - Texas
- 3 Bill Baker – Texas
- 6 Matt Fester – Iowa
- 7 Bill Clemons – Iowa
- 9 Rich Jaworski – Nebraska

- 19 Dan Corbin – Iowa
- 29 Tom Ricke – Iowa
- 36 Christine Bertsch - Iowa

10) A few twists worth mentioning: They flew a Watership Down with two hare balloons with baggies for both hare of course. So, imagine flying into a target with a double hare followed by a MJD. The tasks were scored under 14.6 which is hybrid scoring meaning they will default to the official GPS strapped on your basket if you're outside their scoring area. My dad had to retrain his thinking because you didn't always have to drop right down on top of an X to throw a baggie. That also means safer flying in my opinion because the pilot doesn't have to get down on the ground to score. The intersections with wires and power become suitable goals. We also had a morning when we were setting up with Matt Fenster and Rich Jaworski only to discover that we had two different task sheets. The fun never ended.

11) Mandatory evening glows and/or flights. I like the way they assign 500 points for the glows and evening flights. However, one evening the winds didn't lay down like predicted. We were the last to leave the field and we had an upset child in our tow. I was afraid that he was going to wash his hands of ballooning. The next morning he said that he will never fly.....oh no, here it comes...and he ended by saying that he will never fly a balloon like Maury's. Let's just say that Maury saw a lot of sky when he took off that night. We also saw a tie down break loose, many balloons oscillating wildly and then there was the puff of smoke from Clemons inflator.

12) Congratulations to everyone associated with the IBA and BOI. We thought the competition was TOUGH and thank the Lord some of the pilots were gone attending the World Championship. I'll use Bill Clemons as an example. I think that his worst drop was 12 feet. The leg of an X is 25 feet. Bill finished 7th! P.S. The GPS's strapped to the basket can be off by 10 feet. Need I say more?

Just a quick note regarding the rumor that BFA will use NABA scoring in the future. I've checked with a reliable source and this is what I've found:

With regards to BFA, they published that they would use NABA task results for their BFA sanction events. NABA has not commented on the change. BFA's actual individual task formula is the same as NABA; however NABA has refined the formula when entering the numbers into the ranking system.

Safe Flying – Julie Ricke with Pastime

## **The Balloon Federation of America 2004 National Hot Air Balloon Championship**

by Jim Thompson

The Balloon Federation of America Hot Air Balloon Championship was held in Anderson, SC the last week of July. Twenty-five pilots, including six previous National Champions and two World Champions, competed during the week long event. Event Director, David Levin, called multiple tasks on each of the five flights with a total of eleven tasks flown. Weather was a problem with thunderstorms forcing the cancellation of both Thursday flights and the Friday morning flights. Paul Petrehn followed in his older brother, Johnny's, footsteps by winning the championship with an average of 935 points. The remaining pilots in the Top 5 were all previous National Champions, including Joe Heartsill ('92, '97 & '99), Nick Donner ('01 & '03), Johnny Petrehn ('98) and Pat Cannon ('95).

Jim Thompson finished 11th, while Jason Jones was 12th and Brad Craig was 15th. A total of 5 pilots made the long trip back to Indianola to fly in the National Balloon Classic. In addition to Thompson, Jones and Craig, they included Al Muir and Sam Edwards.

Anderson County invited the Balloon Federation of America back for next years event with the dates to be the week before the Classic.

### **Ohio Challenge Middletown, Ohio**

July 23rd through the 25th was the 2nd annual Ohio Challenge in Middletown, Ohio. Before last year, Middletown had not hosted an event since the Nationals left in 1994. But the Chamber of Commerce and the local balloonists have committed themselves to putting on a quality balloon event, and this year's event included about 32 balloons (including Oggy, the soccer ball, and the inaugural flight of a football balloon), live music, the longest vendors row I've ever seen, and probably a half-dozen carnival rides. The balloons launched out of the airport grounds, and the crowd gathered on the other side of the fence in Smith Park. From parking receipts on Saturday night they estimated the crowd to be over 20,000 people.

Unfortunately for the large evening crowds, only 3 balloons were able to fly each night. Event Director Maury Sullivan canceled the task for both evening flights because of wind, but a few pilots were still able to get off the ground. Jim Wannamaker flew into the field both nights, dumping out skydivers somewhere below 5,000 feet MSL, per the waiver. On our application we signed up for glowing one night or the other, and the winds died down enough both nights for a short glow.

*Touch & Go*

Saturday morning Maury Sullivan called a Pilot Declared Goal, a Multiple Judge Declared Goal, and another MJDG. We left the meeting at the hotel with 2 baggies and a GPS (lovingly referred to as Annie) provided by NABA. We turned in our goal declaration at a sight closer to the launch area. We would be measured on a proximal scoring system with the GPS on our PDG, with inside 10 meter garnering 1st place and 950 points(as long as you were below 4,000 feet MSL), which 7 pilots were able to do.

Sunday morning the winds were much the same, and the event staff called a 2-part task; a Fly In Task and a MJDG with 3 targets to choose from. After everything was counted, the top 5 shook up like so:

1. Ron Terranova
2. Mike Emich
3. Mark Harris
4. Jim Birk
5. Bill Wysong

Pilots and crew were treated with fully catered meals at the field both nights as well as a large buffet of succulent food Sunday morning, pilots were rewarded \$100 for glowing plus our entry fee was returned, the meetings were in the hotel, there weren't any lines for propane, the maps were large and very detailed, and everyone I met was friendly and generous. Middletown is only a six-hour drive from Chicago in light traffic, so if you're not busy July 22, 23 and 24 next year, it might just be worth the drive.

Submitted by Mark Harris

*Editor (& proud Mom) had to add this note - a quote from eBalloon.com: "The final standings had Ron Terranova, Mike Emich, Mark Harris (**watch out some of you older guys - this young boy from Iowa has some great potential**), Jim Birk, and Bill Wysong taking positions one thru five."*

### **Charles City**

Charles City is a small, but fun event. Mary & Bill Mooberry do a great job of organizing - nice pilot pack, great rooms, gift for the Pilot's wife or significant other, not to mention the "Charles City" Bucks.

We flew Friday evening - taking off from the north side of town & flying over the park in downtown Charles City, where residents were gathered to enjoy the balloons & a band for end of summer festivities. Our crew didn't arrive until Max was in the air, Thanks to Donna Rieck & crew for helping us get off the ground. Our Junior crew spotted "Papa" & the chase was on. The winds were a little fast, so Max was down by the time we found him. He & Bill Mooberry had landed in a waterway, looked like a great spot,

*Page 15*

but the landowner didn't quite see it that way. He was most unhappy to have us there. After lots of apologizing & listening to him chew on us for awhile, he did give permission for us to go into retrieve.

Saturday morning was weathered out, but there was lots of activities around town to keep Pilots & Crews busy. Saturday evening was a flight off the old College Grounds. Pilots were paired off - to be tied together with crepe paper & see how long they could stay together. No one was making it off the ground attached until it came time for Max & Wayne Mohring to launch. Now, Wayne hadn't had a great weekend - he blew a tire on his trailer on the way to Charles City, then Saturday morning, his van wouldn't start. So when his end of the crepe paper caught in the fan, we all thought our chances were gone. But organizers came up with a longer piece of crepe paper & off they flew. They were the winners! - staying together longer than anyone. There were some cries of "foul", when Blair told of the extension, but they still won they prize!



Sunday morning was Foggy, so no flight. Back to bed or head home? We went back to bed & joined others later at the Omelet breakfast at a local church. Thanks to Mary & Bill Mooberry & their committee for a great weekend.

### **Balloons Over The Mississippi Fort Madison, Iowa**

Coming north on 61 about 20-25 miles north of Keokuk, IA mostly you see the back of the 18 wheeler you have been following the last 10 miles. But then you round a curve to the SW of Fort Madison and you are required to say (Repeat 3 times in wondering admiration)...WOW! Up to this point the Mississippi river has been an occasional splash thru the trees but now you are positioned on the long end of the straight stretch of the river as it heads from west to east for about 5 miles before turning back to the south on a slowly twisting

route. The "Bay" at this end of the stretch is decorated with a "field" of water lilies that would easily fill 3 football fields. And stretching to the east is the 5 miles of water one could easily mistake for a large lake. I thought the Missouri river was big but this makes it look like a large creek!

Well, so much for tourism. This is a flight log, after all. This was Fort Madison's second attempt at a balloon event. Last years left a bad taste in some mouths but they were willing to try it again. This is officially "Balloons Over The Mississippi", held in Fort Madison IA, a fascinating little town. It wasn't a big event...5 balloons...but I would be willing to bet that there were more people at the glow on Friday night than I have seen when 30 balloons glowed. These spectators, who were encouraged by the announcer to approach the balloons after they were inflated, were just bubbling with excitement and overflowing with questions.

The original schedule had planned for a launch that evening but after watching a pibal drift ever so slowly out toward the middle of the river...almost a mile wide here...all of the pilots agreed that it looked like a perfect nite for a glow! It would indeed be a beautiful flight sailing across the river but with light/variable winds and only a select few landing spots on the other side of the river, even Fred S decided to stay on the ground!

Saturday morning the winds were headed straight down the river. Instead of taking the chance of having to fly 5-12 miles before finding a dry landing spot and since there were few people there to watch anyway, we headed inland to Denmark to launch at a park full of trees. We launched and slowly ascended over the treetops and headed to the SW. The surface winds were only 3-5 but at 1500 ft we were going 25 plus so we did get to see a good number of landing spots pass us by. Finally I thought it best to look at my map and figure out where I was/was going only to discover that I was going to pass just to the south of...WEST POINT! It seemed a little odd that west point should be almost as far east in IA as one could get but that is what the map said. Spotted a three point intersection of gravel roads to the SW and began a rapid descent into the left turn on the surface. My first impression was that we would pass it up in the low level jet we were traveling but after getting to tree top level we turned right into the back yard of the house at said intersection!

Saturday evening the winds were very light but after the pibal climbed to about 500 ft it turned inland so Fred, Joel W. and I filled up and headed out. The 65k balloon turned more to the west than the pibal had. As we ventured out over the river shortly after launch my passenger began questioning the wisdom of this flight, but after getting over the top of the bluff that serves as the northern boundary of the city we slowly turned to the north across town.



The winds were slow up high too but they finally moved us past town and over the prison farm that seemed deserted. When we came down to 500 ft we started to turn sw toward a golf course but by now surface winds had picked up to 7mph so we settled for a pasture on the other side of the course. There were no cattle in sight so I wasn't worried about making a farmer mad.

As we approached the field the mom of my passenger for the evening came leaping out of the car, climbed over the fence and sprinted towards us. She was going to protect her daughter! Her fears were unfounded as we made a standup landing behind the trees. Unfortunately, the evidence of cattle abounded in this part of the field. But with careful maneuvering we managed to lay the balloon down with minimal cow pie contact.

Then as we began milking the envelope the observers arrived. Not just on the road but in the field. Probably about 40 of them in black, brown and several combinations and they were all chewing their cud. Now, this was obviously their field so we were in no position to ask them to leave but when the large black daddy of the group started coming within about 10 feet of the balloon the vast majority of my crew headed for the safety of the suburban. Martin, the father of the crew, didn't run, he filmed on his camcorder as we rolled up the balloon and stuffed it into the bag. Suddenly, some other event at the other end of the field seemed more interesting to the cattle and they turned around and headed that way so the rest of the crew helped with the remainder of the pack up.

Sunday morning greeted us with winds going away from the river but too fast for a fun flight so we said our long goodbys and I headed across the river into Illinois. The trip home was fascinating...but I will spare you the details. (If you really want to hear about them let me know!)

All in all a great weekend at a beautiful town with great people. If they will invite me back I'll be there next year with my good camera!

Herb

### **Pershing Balloon Derby**

Brookfield, Missouri

September 3-6, 2004

It is truly impressive what pilots and crews can find to do when they are grounded. And we saw a lot of that this weekend at Brookfield. The Friday night Main street glow seemed to go off without a hitch, although I will have to take their word for it as we didn't complete registration till after it went out. Saturday morning's flight was put on hold for 30 min while we waited for fog that never developed Then we began our 4 part task that has become the favorite of many competitive events in recent years. The surface winds were

maybe 5 at the launch point but increased rapidly as you ascended above 200ft. The first task evaded me only slightly but I did score 94 ft from center. The second dreaded minimum distance double drop once again saw me missing the second part of the drop. This time by only about 10 ft but still no score. The field X tied my first target score. I was in 23rd place on both unless something changed. The 4th fly on task/multiple judge declared goal almost made me have to return to search for my baggie if it hadn't been for the sharp eyes and very appreciated help of Glenis and Barb. No score. That settled me into 29th place which position I held all weekend until I checked at the brunch and discovered that due to a clerical error of some sort I had been moved to 30th place. After much deliberation I decided filing a protest would be unsportsman like so I just stormed out of the building without finishing my queshe...Only kidding! I did clean my plate Mom!

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond weather officer Tim's control and the better judgement of Mistress Karin, that was the last competition flight of the event. That was 100% more than we did last year however. Gary Tarter whose address appears in the program as Sarasota FL even though we all know better, barely squeezed a win out over Gary Whitby who is homeless but has a nice car.

Despite the fact that no more competition flights happened, a few brave pilots flew on Saturday evening for the sake of the crowds. Some flew from the field and a few tried to go out and fly back to the field. George T almost made it but decided to park his balloon in the parking lot. The only one that made it to the actual field was Jerry T and boy did he make it! His name will now be forever implanted in ballooning as a description of a solid landing. They surrounded his landing spot with yellow tape to ensure that no one would drive into the hole he left in the field upon touchdown. Every worm in a 6 ft square area had to be treated for trauma and Jerry now has to buy pants 2 inches shorter.

Sunday a.m. brought no rain but once again the winds at the surface were doable but even at 200 ft the balloons were traveling 18 mph and at 350 - 24. So Karin didn't call a task but did tell us that if anyone wanted to fly she would get them to refuel us so a few of us went to the YMCA yard and I think a couple may have gone to the field to launch.

Cheri's friend/co-worker Lana and her husband Dan had traveled up from Salsbury, which is the town famous for the Salsbury Steak Night in early June, in hopes of going for their first balloon ride so after fair warning they still decided to ride with me from the Y. After an only slightly windy launch we began ascending straight toward the radio towers that the pibal had missed so we had to start by going up rather quickly although there was no actual threat of hitting

the towers. We stayed at 500 ft for long enough to pass over the cattle in adjoining fields and then dropped down low enough to slow down sufficiently to be able to make out the trees as we passed them by. When you are moving quickly and trying to read a map in order to avoid red zones one doesn't have time to offer picturesque descriptions of the joys of ballooning so you just shut up and let the ride speak for itself. It spoke much better than I could have anyway.

One thing that I have learned over my many years of flying is that if you ever get the chance to pass up a decent landing spot...DON'T. So I didn't. It was CRP land but not too awfully nasty and there was a tree line offering a bit of a wind break so I pulled a downsized version of a Jerry T into the field quick enough that the deer there didn't have time to clear the area before we stopped but the passengers followed instructions good enough that they bounced around only a bit in the basket and thought it was a wonderful landing. That's the good thing about taking new people on windy rides. They don't know any better!

Rick Goosey, although of questionable piloting skills does have a knack for keeping his children entertained and educated at the same time! Upon realizing what his dad had in mind his son was heard to say "Dad's gonna be a kid again isn't he!" And this author, as he heard the telltale sound of the diesel engine pulling up to the door of the out house had a similar thought but not exactly the same. Is Rick trying to establish a new version of the "Tip the Outhouse Task". Is there an escape hatch out the back of this thing? Several other thoughts and possibly a few words may have passed through my brain and mouth but upon the sound of the receding motor the best immediate response I could come up with was to bring him a long strip of Charmin that was dripping with blue juice from the john. Unfortunately, he was so ecstatic over his ploy that he didn't even notice it when I handed it to him. There's always next year! Unfortunately, I fear that his devious mind will undoubtedly come up with tricks that could best the best! Touche, Rick!

Janie, being wheelless for the weekend sponged a ride home with the Herifords in hopes of a notable adventure that might be worthy of transcription into the Journals of Herb but alas, despite taking a track down small numbered hwys and avoiding 4 lanes as best I could, no great venture offered itself. It may have been because we used a map instead of just the compass or it may have been a result of having enough good conversation to keep our minds off of the passing scenes. We did pass through the boyhood home of Walt Disney and we thought we had discovered the barn where the Disney characters were first imagined but it turned out to be a rental storage unit so we continued on our way undaunted by our first failure at adventure and ready for another attempt. Since we had already had one previous connection to the approaching town we decided to inspect Salisbury a

little closer but discovered that one must drive very slowly through said town or it suddenly disappears to the north.

Another blink and you have passed Roanoake, yet another and Armstrong is history. Then, suddenly you come to...THE END OF HWY 3. It just ends! It may resurface some where in Arkansas or Louisiana but according to the sign it is now finished. Rather depressing isn't it.

Fortunately, Hwy 5 and 240 seem to add up to the equivalent of 3 and you head to the SE toward Fayette. That is a really pretty town! Janie and Cheri were twisting their heads back and forth exclaiming "Wow, that's a neat old house!" repeatedly as we approached Central Methodist College. The consensus was that they must have been homes of past college presidents. I didn't know Methodist's were that rich. At least they have good taste in houses.

A bit more down 240 and a sudden approach to a stop sign connects you with 40 proper and leads the way to Midway. Midway to what? We then traveled to Cheri's brothers house where her car had rested all weekend and Cheri then took Janie over to her mansion on the green as Josh and I headed home to prepare him for his first night in the employ of Scholastic...which turns out to actually be tomorrow night but that's a different story.

It has indeed been a rough weather year for balloon events but there's not a one that I would have wanted to miss. Sometimes the fun you have on the ground makes up for not being a bird.

Hope your Labor Day Weekend was not too laborious (unlike Homer's seemed to have been...but thanks anyway!) and that you will try a new route next time. Enjoy the journey!

Herb

### Brookfield Top 10

- |    |               |     |               |
|----|---------------|-----|---------------|
| 1. | Gary Tarter   | 6.  | Matt Fenster  |
| 2. | Gary Whitby   | 7.  | Dennis Sutter |
| 3. | Maury Petrehn | 8.  | Mark Harris   |
| 4. | Jim Wolters   | 9.  | George Thomas |
| 5. | Jeremy Rubin  | 10. | Benji Clemons |

### Brookfield Ugly Shoe Contest winners

Worn to Ugly - Brian Bennett

Boughten Ugly - Michele Corbin

Freestyle - Christine Bertsch (beating out last year's champion Michelle Rubin!)

**Overall Winner - Brian Bennett**

*(See photos on page 12)*

## Upcoming events:

### Cedar Covered Bridge Dedication

Winterset Chamber of Commerce has contacted us about having balloons come to Madison County on Saturday October 9 for the dedication of the rebuilt Cedar Covered Bridge that was destroyed by arson. The whole town was very excited when we flew over last year for the Jill Rubin Memorial flight. This would just be a fun flight to help them dedicate the bridge. There is a field next to the bridge for the balloons to launch. Dedication is at 5:00. They would like for us to take off immediately following the dedication ceremony. We will meet at the field at about 4:00 to 4:30. Sunset is at 6:43. This is during the festival so we are meeting a little early because of the traffic and crowds. So if you are planning on flying anyway, please come over to Winterset and join us. For more info contact Louise or Bill at (515) 287-6934 or email [hotairrepair@aol.com](mailto:hotairrepair@aol.com).



Louise Clemons,  
IBA Newsletter editor

### Annual Jill Rubin Memorial Flight

The annual flight in honor of Jill Rubin will be Saturday, October 16th, 2004; this year's location will be Red Haw State Park in Chariton, Iowa. The potluck picnic will start about NOON, with socializing and just good story telling. The meat (ribs, hamburgers and hot-dogs) will be provided, side dishes and desserts are needed.

EVERYONE is welcome!!!

The flight planning will start about 4:00 p.m., sunset is about 6:30 p.m.

If you're thinking about attending, please email John Jensen 515-961-3154 ([ifddmfd59@aol.com](mailto:ifddmfd59@aol.com)) or Louise Clemons ([hotairrepair@aol.com](mailto:hotairrepair@aol.com)), so we make sure to have enough meat.

Hope to see everyone.

Thank you,  
John Jensen



### BOI Halloween party

October 23 6:30 p.m.

BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

Pumpkin Carving Contest

Chili Cook-off

Costume judging

Theme: Western wear

(Rumor is that the inspiration for this comes from Matt Fenster's arrival at the target at Brookfield - whooping it up with his Cowboy hat)



Bring your recipes for the BOI Cookbook

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***Thank You*** to the following for their contributions to this newsletter: Al Appenzeller, Meika Bartholomew, Louise Clemons, Sandy Drake, FireFly Balloons, Mark Harris, Max Harris, Herb Heriford, John Jensen, Don & Gerry Prine, Julie Ricke, Brad Temeyer, Jim Thompson, Patti Todden, Mark Weeks, Becky Wigeland and Joel Worthington.

Touch and Go  
Balloons Over Iowa

Carol Harris - Editor  
2305 Hillside Ave.  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

**Newsletter Deadline**  
November 10

Send articles, pictures, birthdays, anniversaries, announcements, events, funny balloon stories, etc. to:  
Carol Harris  
2305 Hillside Ave  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
email - hotairflyn@aol.com      Phone 515 221-3193

**Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meetings**

Meetings are held every third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at the Balloonport. Schedule of meetings:

September 19  
October 17  
November 21