

Touch and Go

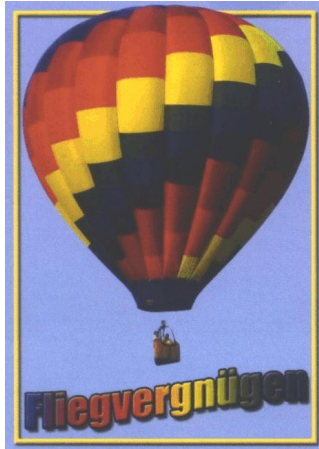
BALLONS VER IOWA

September - October, 2005

My Maiden Voyage

by Bob Pieper

The balloon madness all started on August 26th, 2002, when my wife Penny thought she would surprise me with a balloon ride near Stillwater, Minnesota. It was an early anniversary gift. When I realized exactly what she was up to, I had some very mixed emotions. I wasn't sure a balloon ride sounded like my idea of fun, but after some coaxing from her, I decided to give it a whirl. Once off the ground, I not only decided it was okay, but started fantasizing about becoming a pilot myself. This was only a dream for several years that I only occasionally talked about.



Then it came time for the National Balloon Classic of 2004. Penny and I went to Indianola for a long weekend and the balloon bug bit again. I really wanted to do this. Penny started searching the internet and stumbled across the BOI website. She emailed and Jenn invited us to a BOI meeting. We became regular fixtures at the monthly meetings, often quizzing everyone on how to get into ballooning. We made the leap in February 2005 by attending ground school. We had decided that if we could get through ground school and pass the test, we would get our own balloon.. Well, we passed, so we conferred with Rob many times and finally ordered the balloon. She's a beautiful multicolored Firefly 7. (We are thankful for all of Rob & Linda's advice and patience during that process!)

It seemed like forever waiting for her to arrive in Iowa. We finally got the call...she was ready to fly. Now I needed to find an instructor that was brave enough to fly with me. Remember, I had NO experience. We had this beautiful new balloon and no clue what to do with it. Luckily, Joel is a very patient man. He even volunteered his crew to help teach us how to set it up. We are very grateful to Rick, Mary and Dave for all their help that night!

That first night finally came. It was July 14th, the Indianola Balloons and Tunes. Talk about nerve wracking! My first flight and all those other balloons! What a learning

experience! Now I had the responsibility of piloting instead of being a passenger. Thankfully, Joel was very patient and helpful. The flight, although a short twenty minutes, went off without a hitch. I soared like an eagle and landed like a butterfly. That flight was a dream come true!

At the May BOI meeting a motion was made & passed to initiate a "Maiden Voyage Column" - to memorialize maiden voyage flights. Everyone who has a Maiden voyage - new balloon, new used balloon, new pilot, new rider, new crew, etc is welcome to write an article for the newsletter. An amendment to the motion was added that a penalty of 1 keg to be provided to the club if no article is provided within 2 editions. So keep sending those tales of your maiden flights.

Jill Rubin Memorial Flight

The 6th Annual Jill Rubin Memorial Flight will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005. This year the flight will be hosted by Brian & Marcy Bennett along with Dale & Holly Dommer.

The flight will be from Belva Deer State Park . The park is located approximately 2 miles east of Sigourney, Iowa on Highway 92, and then 2 miles north. We will meet at the beach area shelter house. There is a large grassy area next to the shelter that we are welcome to use for our launch site.

As in the past, this is a potluck style picnic. Bring a dish to share, table service, etc.. Everybody meet about 12 noon for the social gathering, food and general camaraderie. Sunset is about 6:34, so flight time will be about 4:30 or 5:00.

BOI Halloween party

October 29 6:30 p.m.

Theme: Red, White & Blue - Support your Troops!

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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 recently heard Dad and Bill Griffin visiting about how fast the summer has gone. I guess it's true – time goes fast when you get older. For me, each week has flown by like it was just a day. My family is getting ready to return to the fields for harvest.

What a great time of year. Football, the World Series, happy farmers and plentiful landing sites. The cooler the air, the greater the lift. With fuel prices climbing, winter flights might be the best recreational option. Don't forget the Iowa Pro Balloon Race in Creston on Sept. 16-18. I heard Dad tell Mom it would be a "cold day" when I get to go to Creston, so maybe I can be in my first parade. If that doesn't work out, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our BOI Halloween Party on October 29th. There will be a patriotic theme of "Red, White, Blue & Yellow". I'm planning on wagging a tail full of yellow ribbons.

I hope all our BOI friends have great fall flights, and even greater parties. See you soon. Always remember to

Fly Safely,
Meika

Letter from Vice-President Sandy

I just realized that I owe Carol Harris an article for the newsletter, like now, so since I have a few minutes before heading to work I thought would draft up a quick letter.

Before I get to far into my VP letter, I would like to take this time to let all the Hurricane Katrina folks know they are in our thoughts and prayers. I just can not imagine the devastation that is going on down there.

It was nice to visit with everyone at the 2005 Community State National Balloon Classic. What an event! I realize we only flew 2-3 times in the morning, but we sure made up for it in the evening. Congratulations to John Jensen on his Classic win and for also winning the Jon Russell award. Also congratulations to the Team Pfeifer balloon team for the crew of the year! So, how does this team crew for 3 balloons at once? I would like to thank all the volunteers, Board of Directors, Executive Director/staff, sponsors and balloonists (pilots and crews) for helping make the Classic another successful event. I'm looking forward to the 2006 event.

Council Bluffs was, once again, a good time.

Brookfield, MO just finished up their event and from the sounds of it everyone had a good time and flew every flight. Congratulations to Benji Clemons on winning the Brookfield race. Congratulations to Jon Thompson on winning the Petrehn Cup and to Cory Bloom on winning the Basil Downey Memorial Glow. I heard Herb Heriford showed everyone how to come into a target and score 1' 4'' on the Sunday evening target (hare and hound). Herb can you tell us about that?

The next events are Creston, Albuquerque, NM, and then the BOI Halloween party. I hope to see everyone at one of these events. To all of you heading down to New Mexico this year, please have a safe trip down and back. As for asking everyone to have a good time in New Mexico, well, I pretty much know everyone has a good time and then some!

Until next time, take care and fly safe!

Sandy Drake

National Balloon Classic

Indianola, Iowa

July 29- August 6, 2005

When the Classic comes around, it's a sign that summer is winding down. After the Classic comes the State Fair, then kids are back to school. The weather had been exceptionally hot and humid, but luckily it cooled off a little right before the Classic. We were hopeful that this would mean a week with lots of flying, but it didn't work out that way.

Friday evening was a beautiful evening. Half the pilots flew off the field, half flew in. Several returned to the field for a night glow. Saturday seemed like a nice morning, but the weather report was that there were 41 knot winds at 625 feet, so we were obviously grounded. The rest of the week continued about the same, bad weather or winds in the morning, windy at night, but it amazingly would settle down about an hour before sunset, allowing a short flight. We flew every evening, but only flew Monday morning, Friday morning and the second Saturday morning. Balloonmeister Jason Jones and his assistants John Jensen and Todd Isley did their best, but the weather just didn't cooperate. John and Todd were stand-ins for Matt Fenster who was home on baby wait. Matt and Emily's baby girl finally arrived Thursday.

Sunday afternoon was a ceremony at the National Balloon Museum to induct Sid Cutter and the late Don Kersten into the Ballooning Hall of Fame. Don was a native of Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was a founding father and Past president of the Balloon Federation of America. In July of 1965 Don Piccard trained Mr. Kersten - in 3 flights! In 1966 he accidentally knocked over an outhouse with his balloon in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event earned him wide notoriety and started a special "Don's Outhouse" event at the Nationals which has been continued in the National Balloon Classic as the "Don Kersten Memorial Outhouse Race". Mr. Kersten's family was there to accept his award. Mr. Cutter was unable to attend.

Monday morning was a very moving Memorial Service for Connie Austin, who died shortly after the 2004 Classic. Friends and family shared memories of Connie.

Saturday afternoon the awards for the week were announced. Crew of the Year was the Pfeifer crew - they crew for 3 balloons during the week. Landowner of the year was Mr & Mrs Art Linsley. Volunteer of the year was Kerry Kasson. Newcomer of the Year was Carlos Zuniga. John Jensen was given the prestigious "John Russell" award. He was also named as the Winner of the National Balloon Classic. Second place was Dick Drake, third was Rob Bartholomew. 29 pilots were flying for BFA Sanction points, 19 of those for the North Central Regional Championship and 14 competing for the BFA Iowa Championship. Top three for

NC Regionals were John Jensen, Dick Drake & Rob Bartholomew. John Jensen was named the BFA Iowa Champion.

Next year's National Balloon Classic is July 28 - August 5, 2006.

Benefit for my brother Bill "Cutty" Mingles

Over the past 16 months my brother has become very ill. Cutty is a member of the Martensdale Fire Department and they are hosting a benefit to help him cover the additional expenses he is now occurring due to numerous hospitalizations this summer and lost time for work, etc.

A brief bit of history: Cutty was born with Juene Syndrome. He has had many health problems, including his 1st kidney transplant when he was seven years old, followed by a second transplant at the age of nineteen. Then his kidney failed again last year at the age of 35 and is in need of a third transplant at this time. He has experienced complications this summer resulting in several hospital stays. This summer he has undergone surgery to remove fluid from his heart, surgery for the removal of the diseased kidney, and most currently has had a chest tube inserted to remove the fluid from his lungs.

Cutty as I stated is a member of the Martensdale Fire Department and is employed by West-Com as an emergency 911 Dispatcher for the cities of West Des Moines, Urbandale, and Clive.

A Dinner/Dance and Silent Auction is planned for October 14th, 2005 at the Celebration Barn in Cumming, Iowa. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

In addition to the Dinner/Dance raffle tickets are also being sold for two raffles:

- 1) \$500.00 in Gasoline from Quick Trip, tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00
- 2) DeWalt tool package (valued at \$500.00), with tickets costing \$1.00 each. The link to view the DeWalt equipment package: http://www.dewalt.com/us/products/tool_detail.asp?productID=8216

Tickets for the diner or the raffles can be purchased from Brian or Chris Seymour.

Thank you for your time and support,

Chris Seymour

A Tribute to Benji

by Jim Thompson

This is a story that others may not tell, but I want everyone to know what kind of pilots we fly with in this area. It is a story of honesty and true sportsmanship that we should all follow in the sport of ballooning and in life. It is also an example of how we will be appropriately rewarded depending on the way we act.

Benji Clemons is an excellent competitive pilot and has been flying well all summer. He flew well enough in the Balloon Federation of America's National Hot Air Balloon Championship to finish in the top ten, however a mental mistake on one task cost him points and he finished in 16th place. Another mental mistake cost him at the National Balloon Classic in Indianola.

On the second flight at the Great Pershing Balloon Derby in Brookfield, Missouri over the Labor Day weekend, I had a really good run at the four targets assigned to us that morning and landed just after the final target in a field with a number of other balloons. Benji had taken off in the same area just before I launched and I knew that he also had good scores on all four tasks as I followed him to each of the targets. He was there to help me on my landing and the first thing he mentioned was that a mental mistake had killed him again. He told me that he had forgot to put his competition number on one of his baggies.

The event officials were at the target when he dropped his unnumbered baggie and measured the result because they knew it was his baggie. They were prepared to give him his result and assign a penalty under Rule 12.4.6 of the BFA Competition Rules which states that "Pilots who release unauthorized or modified markers will be penalized up to 250 points". When he found out that this was a possibility, he quickly pointed out to the Event Director that Rule 12.4.7 stated, "The pilot is responsible to insure that his competition number is on the tail of each marker. Failure to do so will result in the pilot not achieving a result". He received 114 points with a "no result" for Task 4 rather than approximately 900 points for his actual baggie drop.

Even with this mistake, Benji was in fourth place and within striking distance of the leaders going into the last task on Monday morning. The flight on Monday was a CRAT into the field and the winds were quick above the surface. Benji again scored well and each of the pilots ahead of him in the standings failed to obtain a result. At the Awards Brunch, Benji was announced as the event winner and was told that his point total was only one point ahead of the second place finisher, Dan Corbin. Benji was appropriately rewarded for his honesty.

Another point that must be mentioned is the fact that even though Dan Corbin also flew very well and was

disappointed in not winning the event, he was also proud of Benji and was pleased that if someone was going to beat him, that it turned out the way it did. We all knew that Benji flew all the tasks better than anyone else at the event. I consider it a privilege and a pleasure to fly with pilots like Benji and Dan.

The Way It Was

25 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 10-12-1980 Jim Thompson received his Commercial license.

20 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 10-13-1985 Richard Schick received his Commercial license.
- ★ October 20, 1985 BOI Board of Directors Meeting - Treasurer's report - \$655.31.

15 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ September '90 – Altoona Balloona – flights Saturday morning & evening. Sunday morning weathered out. The line for propane was so long that you had enough time to learn everyone's life history.
- ★ Midair Collision in Creston by Bill Griffin & Jim Thompson.
- ★ Jim & Connie Thompson observers for 1990 World Gas Balloon Championship
- ★ 11-3-90 Halloween party huge success. Theme – come as your favorite Road kill. Rob lead the Bunny Hop. Steve Matthews DJ. First Annual Becky Riley Wild Earring Contest.

10 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 9-9-1995 Matt Fenster received his Commercial license.
- ★ 9/16-17/95 Creston: 18th Annual event; Balloonmeister – Rob Bartholomew. 40 pilots from 4 states; only 1 flight (2 for Dan Campbell) 1st Mike Hadley, 2nd Chuck Schrader, 3rd Jim Fromm
- ★ No meeting September or October - flyable. This makes 5 months of no meetings due to flyable weather.
- ★ Todd & DeanAnn Netley purchased a balloon
- ★ Jason Jones moved to AZ
- ★ 10-1-1995 Brian Seymour received his Commercial license.
- ★ Halloween party: Jim Oakes recaptured his title of the chili cook-off winner; 1st place Costume – Kay Fee; Towards the end of the evening the jukebox played the limbo theme over & over until one person was left - Rob Bartholomew was the '95 Limbo winner
- ★ 11-12-1995 Denny Anderson received his Commercial license.

- ★ Webster City: canceled due to bad weather, rescheduled 1 wk later; 13 balloons, 2 flights #1 Tom Fitzpatrick (won \$1.75 – it would have been more, but not all pilots put in their quarters) #2 tie between Paul Randleman & Bill Clemons

5 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ Storm Lake – Balloonmeister Mike Reinert. 2 flights. Foggy!
- ★ Brookfield – Balloonmeister Jim Thompson. 3 flights, one glow. #1 – Ken Schroeder, 2 – Liz Magee, 3 – Terry Montague. Jason Jones won the John Petrehn Memorial Cup.
- ★ New commercial pilots: Brad Craig, Scott Moon, Eric Young
- ★ Dennis & Carol Firestone have moved to Missouri
- ★ Creston – After a summer of rain-outs, wind-outs and just overall bad weather for events all across the Midwest, who would have thought that Creston would have nearly perfect flying with 4 flights! A new flight was added – a fun flight Friday night. Scott Moon won that and was awarded a color TV. Overall winners: #1 – Maury Petrehn, 2 – Richard Schick, 3 – Mike Hadley. Mark Covey was named Rookie of the year.
- ★ No BOI meeting Sept – weather flyable
- ★ Anna Schirm born 9-20-2000 (granddaughter of Barbara Thompson).
- ★ Madison Rubin born 8-28 to Jeremy Rubin & Macenzie Pollitt. Madison's Grandmother is Jill Rubin).
- ★ Becky Wigeland received the BFA Board of Directors Award for the North Central Region. She was nominated by Jim Thompson.
- ★ 2000 BOI Championship: #1 Rob Bartholomew, #2 Brad Craig, #3 Mike Hadley.
- ★ Jill Rubin passed away in Albuquerque Oct 14, 2000.
- ★ 10-21-00 More than 20 pilots gathered at Ledges State Park to pay respects to fellow balloonist and friend Jill Rubin. The winds were borderline, so not all flew. Pilots and crew gathered after the flight in Boone for a chili supper. Several pilots participated in a glow of Jill's Balloon "Midnight at the Oasis".
- ★ BOI Halloween Party: "Survivors" theme; Chili contest - #1 – Carolyn Holland, 2 – tie between LuAnn Randleman & Tom Blumer; Rita Fromm won the Survivors \$1,000,000 (in Cleo bucks) for the BOI / Ballooning trivia; Barbie (of Veisha fame) joined in the festivities
- ★ New members – Lori Schmidt and the Jensen family – John, Tracey & Ashley.



Do you recognize the Iowa Hot Air Balloon Pilot who made front page of the Des Moines Register?

Member Directory Changes

For those of you who received the Member Directory at the Classic, here are a few changes. Those receiving the directory with this newsletter - the changes have been made.

Sheri Clark: New email address - Slynclark@yahoo.com

Scott Moon: New email address - Scott.Moon@mchsi.com

Derek & Jenn Nordhagen:

New email address - djrnordhagen@msn.com

Richard Swanson & Patti Todden: Corrected email address

countryfarmers@iowatelecom.net

Roger & Jody Woodruff - Corrected address:

8504 - 165th Ave., Indianola, IA 50125

Retirement Center Rumor

By Jim Thompson

While traveling to Anderson, SC for the Balloon Federation of America National Hot Air Balloon Championship, Connie and I stopped in Lexington, KY for gas. While filling the van, another customer noticed the balloons on the van and asked if we were balloonist. We, of course, responded yes and inquired about the reason he asked. He indicated that he came across some other balloonist from Iowa in the area not too long ago looking for a location for a retirement home. He pointed out the fact that there was a stud retirement farm not too far from Lexington and he had given them directions to find it.

As we traveled out of Lexington we came across the Kentucky Thoroughbred Retirement Farm shown in the picture and wonder if this is a location being



considered by the BOI Retirement Home Committee.

Balloons Over Iowa Repair Station

Rob & Linda Bartholomew

18999 Blue Pl., Carlisle, IA

Phone: 515 989-3708

email: balloonsover Iowa@msn.com



2005 Classic Maps - FOR SALE

Pilots, Students, & crew

2 for \$5.00

Contact: John Jensen

515-961-3154 - Home

or I will have them in Creston.

Winterset Covered Bridge Flight

Saturday October 8, 2005



Meet at Midwest Balloon Services at noon for potluck/BBQ. Bring a dish to share, tables, chairs, table service. Flight will be in the evening (sunset 6:34pm). For more information, contact Bill or Louise Clemons - 515 287-6934 or 515 432-2771.

Congratulations to Christine Bertsch & Keith Svare who were married May 7, 2005



Congratulations to Matt & Emily Fenster on the birth of their Baby Girl.



Calendar of Events

- September 16-18 **SW Iowa Pro Balloon Race** Creston, IA.
Contact Rob Bartholomew 515 989-3708
- September 18 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**,
Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- September 30 - October 9 **Albuquerque International
Balloon Fiesta** Albuquerque, NM
- October 8 **Winterset Covered Bridge Flight** contact Bill or
Louise Clemons - 515 287-6934
- October 13 7pm **Pilot Relations Meeting** National Balloon
Museum
- October 15 **Jill Rubin memorial Flight** Belva Deer State
Park, Sigourney, Iowa (See page 1)
- October 16, 2005 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**,
Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- October 29 **BOI Halloween Party** Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- November 10 7pm **Pilot Relations Meeting** National
Balloon Museum
- November 20 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**,
Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- December 8 or 15 7pm **Pilot Relations Meeting** National
Balloon Museum
- February 18-19, 2006 **BOI Ground School**
- March 18, 2006 **BOI St. Patrick's Day Party**
- April 29, 2006 **BOI Ode to Spring**
- June 2-4, 2006 **My Waterloo Days**, Waterloo, Iowa;
Contact Carla Brinker 319 239-2903 or
cbrinker@ballooningmail.com
- July 28-August 5, 2006 **National Balloon Classic** Contact
Greg Marchant at 1-800-FLYIOWA or
www.nationalballoonclassic.com
- Sept 1-4, 2006 **Great Pershing Balloon Derby** Brookfield,
MO. Contact Sherry Techau 660 258-5290 or
rstechau@shighway.com
- October 28, 2006 **BOI Halloween Party**

*Race organizers - please send your dates, etc for 2006 to
Carol - hotairflyn@aol.com*

Happy Anniversary

Mark & Deanna Ziino	10-10
Dennis & Carol Firestone	10-13
Denny & Lynn Craig	10-20
Terry & Jeanettee Montaque	11- 3
Anthony & Kerrie VanBroekhuizen	11-7
John & Tracy Jensen	11-8
Jacob & Jennifer Hermanson	11-11
Max & Carol Harris	11-11
Robert & Cynthia Nutting	11-19
Stephen & Sharon Foltz	11-25

Happy Birthday

Nazzle Jensen	10-1	Kim Anderson	11-1
Kierstin Keller	10-1	Avery Rubin	11-2
Scott Allsup	10-2	Clifford Clark	11-3
Trinity Keller	10-3	Mackenzie Hermanson	11-4
Pamela Winkenwerder	10-3	Jill Maxfield	11-5
Alisa Lawrence	10-4	Ashlynn Williams	11-7
Mark Weeks	10-6	Janis Carlton	11-10
Dena King	10-7	Mindy Foell	11-10
Jerry Riley	10-8	Madelyn Jones	11-10
Rob Spence	10-10	Mark Ziino	11-11
Sean Carey	10-10	Jennifer Reid	11-11
Allan Keller	10-10	Carol Firestone	11-11
BJ Anderson	10-10	Andy Sponsler	11-11
Scott Moon	10-10	Paul Craven	11-12
Alex Funaro	10-11	Tyler Pedersen	11-16
Mary Eagan	10-13	Leonard Taylor	11-17
Russell Winkenwerder	10-13	Boyd Tyler	11-20
Tracy Jensen	10-14	Allison Jensen	11-21
Emily Williams	10-14	Stephen Foltz	11-21
Hana Appenzeller	10-16	Ben Smith	11-22
Gina Garrett	10-17	Becca Bridgewater	11-22
Lori Schmidt	10-19	Jim Fromm	11-25
Jim Thompson	10-20	Warren Stone	11-26
Joe Thompson	10-20	Carol Firestone	11-27
Jacob Mitchell	10-20	Charlie Thorman	11-27
Roger Woodruff	10-20	Deb Bridgewater	11-27
Jeanettee Montague	10-23	Allison Fisher	11-27
Spencer Conlin	10-25	Jared Netley	11-28
Kay Fee	10-29	Kaitlin Wiley	11-29
Sara Pieper	10-29		



National Balloon Museum News

The museum will be celebrating Christmas in the Air on Dec.4th. We will be having crafts and Santa for the kids. We would like several pilots to be on hand to answer or explain any balloon questions. Please join us for the festivities. It will be from 1:00-4:00 on Sunday afternoon. There will be 10% off on all gift shop items and if you're a member there is another 10% discount. There will be free gift wrapping also.

We also are in need of help with our Preservation Framing Fund. All our pictures are presently in need of new acid-free matting and UV glass and new frames to extend their life. We have received our first donation to the fund, but are in need of many more. The pictures are costing between \$125-\$200 to reframe, depending on size. We also have several original Watercolors donated to help fund our Preservation Framing Fund. These watercolors are on sale at the Museum.

The National Balloon Museum has joined the IOWA SPORTS MUSEUM ALLIANCE. The Iowa Sport Museum Alliance is comprised of six museums across Iowa which represent the state's diverse sports heritage industry. From balloons to baseball; motorcycles to sprint cars; wrestling to collegiate sports, the Iowa Sport Museum Alliance members offer something for everyone. Museums involved include:

Bob Feller Museum

Van Meter, Iowa

International Wrestling Museum and Institute

Newton, Iowa

National Balloon Museum and Ballooning Hall of Fame

Indianola, Iowa

National Motorcycle Museum

Anamosa, Iowa

National Sprint Car Hall of Fame and Museum

Knoxville, Iowa

University of Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame

Iowa City, Iowa

The PASSPORT program is designed to encourage and reward further study of Iowa's rich sports history. Participants can pick up a PASSPORT at any of the six member museums. When you travel around the state and visit each site you will receive a stamp inside of the PASSPORT to verify your visit. Once the PASSPORT is

completed, it can be left at the last site visited or mailed to any of the participating museums and your name will be entered in a quarterly drawing for some exciting prizes. Prizes include everything from a skybox for 20 at a race at Knoxville, tickets to the Bob Feller Night at Principal Field and getting to meet Bob Feller, Balloon Ride, Tickets for two to a University of Iowa basketball game, etc.

These six museums are open year around, are accessible to persons with disabilities and all have Gift Shops on the premises. Admission fees and hours of operation vary so it is best to contact them in advance of your visit. Museum visits can be completed separately over the course of time or perhaps you can make a full weekend of travel around Iowa and see all of the museums in a single outing. There is no deadline by which the visits need to be completed. It is recommended that groups of 10 or more people traveling together should phone ahead to the museums for reservations.

Hours of Operation (May-Dec.) for the National Balloon Museum are:

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Saturday 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Sunday 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.



Childrens Miracle Network Balloon Rally

Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin

by Jim Thompson

Connie and I have been on the go all summer, starting in Chagrin Falls, Ohio on Memorial Day. We had one open weekend after the National Balloon Classic and a second one scheduled the week after Council Bluffs. Our son Jon called early in July and said he was going to be flying in an event in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin late in August and wanted to know if we could join him there. Jon flies the Children's Miracle Network Balloon and that was the sponsor of the Wisconsin event. Jon contacted the organizer and they were looking for additional balloons. There went our second weekend off.

Jon was going to arrive in Wisconsin Rapids on Thursday evening so we decided to arrive early and spend an additional day with him. We were staying in the Mead Hotel in downtown Wisconsin Rapids and the accommodations were great. The hotel was a large convention center hotel and was busy with meetings and weddings in addition to the balloonist. We were scheduled to fly on Friday evening and the first pilot meeting was at the hotel at 5:30 that night. It was evident from the pilot meeting that the event was laid back as John Symonds, the balloonmeister indicated there would be no competition and if you didn't want to tether or nightglow that was OK. He further told the pilots if they were uncomfortable with the weather or flying conditions, they didn't want to fly that was OK also. We could fly from the field or fly into the field during any of the scheduled launches. There were about 31 balloons registered for the event and he requested the pilots to consider flying sponsor rides and that he had about 15 sponsors lined up for rides. It was up to the pilots to volunteer to fly sponsors if they wanted to.

The event was held at the Wisconsin Rapids airport and there were large crowds for each of the scheduled launches. Blair Brody served as the announcer for the event. The best flying area was to the east and fortunately the winds were from the west all weekend. For the first 5 or 6 miles there were limited landing sites but after that there were large open areas with many tracts of prairie chicken preserve areas that were open for landing. To the south and to the southwest there was a lot of timber and a large lake. Further to the southwest was a large military facility, a bombing range that was totally off limits. To the west there were potato farms and cranberry bogs and large areas of timber and wildlife preserves. Ocean Spray had a large processing plant in a small town just west of Wisconsin Rapids.

On Friday evening the rain let up for about an hour and approximately 7 balloons tethered for the crowd. Jon put up

the Children's Miracle Network balloon and was able to pack it away before the rain began again.

On Saturday morning, there was a low ceiling at about 300 feet. We went out to the field with the expectation that the clouds would lift and we could get a flight off. At about 6:30 the skies cleared, a real sucker hole, and we all started to inflate. Several balloons took off and I had my passenger on board ready for flight. Suddenly the overcast reappeared and the wind picked up. When I looked to the sky to the east, I could barely see a balloon in the clouds at about 400 feet. Jon and I both decided to abort our flight at the same time.

On Saturday evening, there was an extremely large crowd on hand to see the balloon flight, a scheduled glow and fireworks. The winds did not cooperate for a flight although one pilot flew into the field from the west and was able to land on the airport. At sundown, the winds let up and we were able to have a nightglow.

On Sunday morning we were treated to a beautiful flight. The winds were light on the surface with the speed picking up to 20mph at about 300 feet with a huge right turn at 400 feet. I took a first time flier and was able to treat her to a spectacular balloon flight. We flew to the east and watched balloons do touch and goes on a lake. I landed in the backyard of a residential property and Jon landed at the next house.

The event was well organized and very relaxed. Each morning at the pilots' meeting there was coffee, fruit and donuts or sweet rolls. On Friday evening the pilots and crew were treated to a Subway and pizza meal. On Saturday at 4:30 before the schedule flight, there was a sit-down dinner served by the hotel. After the glow that evening, there was additional food at the hotel consisting of pizza and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

It was about a 6 hour trip from Des Moines to Wisconsin Rapids and we decided it was worth it. The scenery in Wisconsin is beautiful and the crossing of the Mississippi River at LaCrosse is spectacular. We were able to meet some new balloonists that we had not met before and also saw some friends that we had not seen for some time. We are seriously considering returning again next year. They are looking for additional balloons for the event to make it even more successful. They have raised over \$40,000 for the Children's Miracle Network and that money stays in the local area to help children in need.

2005 National Balloon Classic



Photos by Cory Bloom, Brad Temeyer, Mark Weeks & Carol Harris



New Classic Queen?

Maneuvering for space over the target

BOI Member Caitlin Oponski was the 2005 Classic Queen



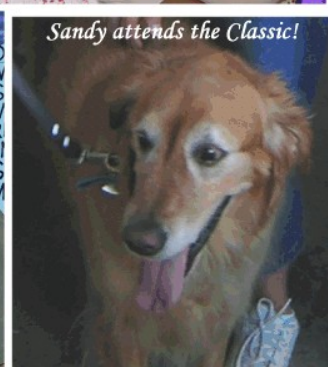
Crew of the Year



John Jensen wins the John Russell award



Top 3 - John Jensen, Dick Drake, Rob Bartholomew



Sandy attends the Classic!



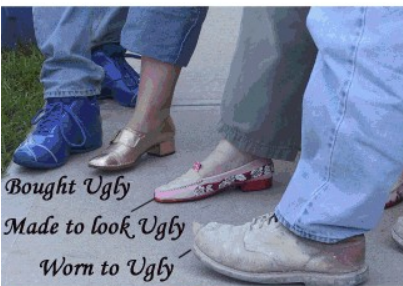
Brookfield 2005



Benji - Tangled Up In Blue Julie - Tangled Up In Baggies



The Hare balloon waits for the Hounds



*Bought Ugly
Made to look Ugly
Worn to Ugly*



The winner with his amazing trophy!



Judges pondering



Photos by Carol Harris & Mark Weeks

Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA

July 17, 2005

Present: Jim Gebhart, Al Appenzeller, Bob & Penny Pieper, Patti Todden, Richard Swanson, Michelle Craig, Amy Williams, Ashlynn Williams, Cory Bloom, Rob Bartholomew, Don Prine, Joel Worthington, Adena Worthington, Charlie & Maggie Worthington, Rick McCubbin, Mary Eagan, Brad Craig, Max & Carol Harris, Meika Bartholomew & Jenn Nordhagen. Guests: Al & Evelyn Todden.

Meeting called to order by Chair Al Appenzeller at 6:43:40.

Secretary's report: Minutes from June's meeting presented. Jim G. moved to approve secretary's report, Patti 2nd. Motion approved with only Jim voting "Not a chance".

Treasurer's report: Treasurer coming later, report on hold. Will we have to have an audit?

Old Business:

- ★ He's here!
- ★ Jim reported that 26 balloons flew for Balloon & Toons. Good promo for the Classic. Thanks to all who participated.
- ★ Flight over DM - Monday a.m., 7/25, rain date 7/26. Propane to be provided by NBC.
- ★ Joel reported on the club Web site - he's flying too much, so not many changes. www.balloons-over-iowa-club.com.
- ★ Pilot pack stuffing - Sunday 7/24, 2pm at the Pilot Compound.
- ★ Crew Training - Wed, 7/27 6 p.m.

New Business:

- ★ Landowner Relations - they have removed 160 acre red zone. Jim visited with landowner at Balloons & Toons.
- ★ The conditions are very dry - use caution when flying. Landowners may not be happy, due to potential low yields.
- ★ Warren County Fair overlaps the first weekend of the fair, so may have some landowners gone.
- ★ Jim G. announced a new Chamber of Commerce event - Sat 9/24 - Wine Festival - on the Indianola Square. He's looking for some balloons to fly over the Square.
- ★ Al apologized about giving names out to the Republican party for possible balloon rides.
- ★ Patti spoke about the Lincoln Highway days parade - last weekend in August. Contact Patti Todden.

Treasurer has arrived - **Treasurer's report:** We have 64 kegs. Cory & Joel moved to accept. All approved.

New Business: (continued)

- ★ Pieper's new balloon is in the air. Maiden flight for Balloons & Toons.
- ★ Derek soloed Friday night - he's flying a 1977 Thunder & Colt.
- ★ Al reported on the Clear Lake flight 7/16. Clear Lake is a "large body of water". Rob reported that he threw his baggie & was rewarded with a great view of some female boaters.
- ★ Carol mentioned that the rumor on the Reflector is that Firefly has been sold.
- ★ Rob says "Beware of dissipating Thunderstorms. They can get you". Some balloons were in the air when storms many miles away were dissipating - squirrely winds.

Jim moved to adjourn, Richard 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:29:55. Members report that the meeting was calm without Bill Griffin.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Harris, temporary secretary.

Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA

August 21, 2005

Present: Richard Swanson, Patti Todden, Bob & Penny Pieper, Don Prine, Brenda Rohr, Rob & Linda Bartholomew, Bill Griffin, Max & Carol Harris, Jenn Nordhagen, Riley Nordhagen, Josie Nordhagen.

Meeting called to order by Founding Father Bill Griffin at 6:54:38. No current board members present.

Secretary's Report: July minutes presented & discussed. Rob moved to accept minutes, Max 2nd. All approved.

Treasurer's report: Rob left to get the treasurer. Treasurer's report on hold.

New member Brenda Rohr introduced. Brenda says she will crew for chocolate. She lives in Indianola.

Treasurer's report: We have 64 kegs.

Old Business:

- ★ He's here
- ★ Classic report: We flew all evening flights, only 3 mornings. Classic officials report large crowds. Discussion, discussion (you had to be there)

Don called for a Ponderance. Bill requested we adjourn outdoors to watch balloons launch. Don stated "Bill, don't mess with a Ponderance". After the ponderance, Don moved for a temporary adjournment. Patti second, all approved. Meeting adjourned 7:05:09.

It was so nice outdoors, the meeting was reconvened outside at 7:21:22. Let the minutes reflect that Old Business had to take a mule ride over to see the balloon launch.



Brad & Todd fly away - some people will do anything to get out of chairing a meeting



BOI members discussing serious business

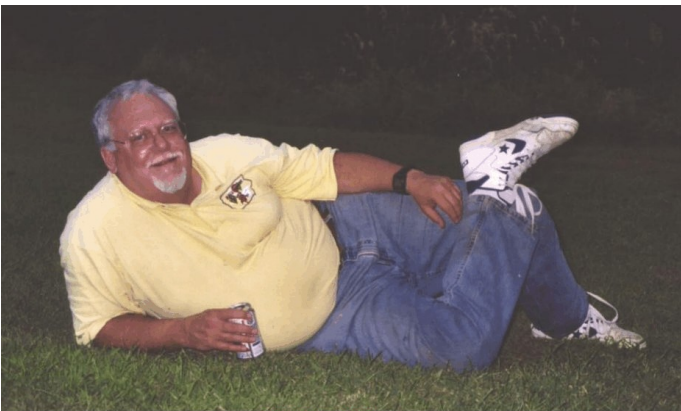
Rob moved to adjourn. Richard 2nd. Membership vote tied. Richard 2nd the motion, but then voted "Not a chance". Chair called for a division of the house. Show of hands showed majority for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:52:24.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Harris, temporary secretary.

- ★ Discussion on Crew / Pilot party at the Classic

New Business:

- ★ Patti has spoken with a man who has plates from the Nationals. He is enquiring about pricing for these plates.
- ★ Don reports on the Retirement Committee - many members are currently in Federal Witness Protection.
- ★ Rob reported on Creston. There are currently 49 pilots signed up - almost full. "The Race is On". Rob will be



Bill Griffin

able to tell the pilots where to go!

- ★ Halloween party discussed. The theme will be "Red, White & Blue - Support our Troops". Discussion on entertainment. Jenn moved that the club purchase a Karaoke machine for less than \$100. Patti 2nd. Jenn amended the motion to \$300, so she can purchase some Karaoke CD's. Patti seconded the amendment. Discussion. Someone (who shall remain nameless) suggested we also buy a Gong! Motion carried.

The Field

by Herb Heriford

The Field...You remember it. You drove past it on the way to Indianola...or Tulsa...or Brookfield. It reminds you of another field. 100 acres of CRP land, perfectly flat, or maybe slightly rolling contours. Surrounded by trees with a tractor path down the north edge. A small bluff peeking out from behind the oaks and cedars lining the east. Easy access from the highway since there is no fence to negotiate.

As a crew member you mentally calculate the best place to walk the balloon to most easily deflate and load it into the trailer without leaving a trace of your presence and without disturbing the two does standing on the far end. As a pilot you check your map to be certain it is not a PZ for any reason and that it has no obvious stubble or thorn bushes that would damage the fabric. Is it a safe place to land? Will your passengers be able to comfortably get to the chase vehicle? Can you tell where the landowner may live so the crew can get permission?

Then you remember drifting gracefully over the last line of trees and making a final check for power lines as you let the balloon cool and descend down over the tops of the weeds, slowly drifting towards the crew. Or maybe zipping over those trees at 20 MPH and preparing to rip out the top as you brace yourself for the inevitable knock down drag out landing you must complete before the envelope gets to the trees on the other side.

You know the field I'm talking about. It stretches the entire 5 hour drive from Jefferson City to Indianola. As you drive past fields or yards on the way to or from a race you can't help but recall past trips, previous landings, your favorite events. They are all stuck back there in the recesses of your

memory just waiting for that field to pop up and remind you. Isn't memory swell! Well, most of them anyway.

Indianola 2005 will remain in my memory but something tells me it won't surface too often. Through no fault of anyone available to blame, the forecasts that the computer gave us all the week before the event proved to be...inaccurate? Of course, we should know better than to put too much faith in a 10 day forecast. The perfect weather that was supposed to happen turned into the extremes of higher winds than some of us were comfortable with, rain, and winds so slow that calling a task would be iffy.

Due to family obligations I was required to leave after the Wednesday morning lack of flight. Leading up to that point didn't actually involve much flying but what flying I did get to do was...mediocre at best. Oh No! not that the flights weren't fun and valuable, they just didn't involve a great deal of the main ingredient of balloon races...Baggie Tossing! The first flight, Friday night, Brian and I managed to fly over the field just to the east of the hare. We did find a nice pasture to land in and a pleasant farmer. We returned to the field as quickly as we could to set up for a short glow. Two of my crew are aspiring student pilots so they got to get a practice inflate and some stationary burner time. Saturday morning and evening got no line in the logbook unfortunately. A few more than half of the balloons did manage to get off in the evening for the mass ascension. The crowd was huge and really appreciated it but some of us were happy to watch and cheer instead of risking burning a hole in our envelope the night before the competition was to start.

Sunday morning was not flyable for some good reason that escapes me right now, but Sunday evening I was able to take up a sponsor ride. Brian...a different one... was the representative of an insurance company that offered its sponsorship to put on the race. We flew into the field from the front yard of "the Castle" and spent the last half mile of the approach to the field rubbing gently against Rob Bartholomew's balloon as we flew straight over the X about 50 feet in the air. Our toss looked closer than the 16 feet that they recorded but we were going past pretty fast so it must have bounced after it hit!

Monday morning Francine and I lifted off from the back yard of a new-to-the-area family down by Milo. It was wonderful to see their faces as we floated over their house but that was the only wonderful thing about that ride. Just remember, if there is no one else launching there it probably is for a good reason! We floated past the first target one field to the east, The second target one field to the east and the third target...yes, one field to the east. There was just no left turn to be found. Francine did get to see what a knock down drag out landing was like, however! Yee Haa!

Monday evening we launched from the field and Mike and I managed to find that surface left we needed. Sailed right over the target! Unfortunately, the baggie we should have been tossing onto the X was comfortably riding along in the chase vehicle. Bummer. Since we had plenty of time before sunset Mike got some burner time but the space between corn fields was a little tight so he let me land it.

Tuesday morning proved to be unflyable so they called the dorm to call it off so we could sleep in. Tuesday evening was supposed to be a fly-in, fly-off night but the winds were brisk so we went on hold for a bit until they slowed a bit. Once again, the more daring pilots flew to the north as some of the rest of us set up to glow as sunset approached. It was still a little breezy but several of us got a chance to entertain the crowd.

Wed. morning was once again threatening rain, wind, lightning, tornadoes or some other nasty weather phenomenon, so after telling everyone good bye and promising to meet at the same place and time next year, if not sooner, I loaded up and headed home.

Yes, I did take a different route home. But I passed that field again...No, not the same one but ...the same one just the same. It reminded me of events, the year of which I could never recall, and it reminded me that there are more events to come.

I just can't hardly wait!!!

See you in Brookfield!
Herb

2005 Riverton Rendezvous

by Jim Thompson

Connie and I have been attending the Riverton Rendezvous for the past three years. Riverton is a western community in an irrigated mountain valley in the central part of Wyoming. This was the 25th anniversary for the event and was attended by 32 balloonists. Each year they invite a celebrity balloonist to be their guest and to speak to the balloonists and public at the Friday evening reception. Past celebrities have included Malcolm Forbes, Dewey Reinhart, Ruth Lind, Maxie Anderson and many other notable balloonists as mentioned below. This year's celebrity was BFA Editor Glen Moyer. BFA Director Nancy Griffin and her husband Dan also attend the event. Although the weather was hot, 104 degrees, when we arrived on Wednesday and 102 degrees on Saturday, we were able to get in two beautiful morning flights.

On the Sunday morning flight, I became becalmed and was unable to get to several landing sites where my crew was

waiting. Suddenly the winds reversed and I found myself heading to an open green pasture that I had previously passed over at an altitude of about 250 feet. I had noticed and mentioned to my passenger, George Peck, that the horses (about 15 in number) in the pasture were extremely calm. As I approached and prepared for a landing, I told George that if the horses spooked or ran we would abort the landing and fly on. They stood in my path and did not part to clear space for my landing until my last burn when I was only about 5 feet above their heads. Connie had talked with the landowner, Wayne Majors, Jr., prior to my landing. He was pleased to have us land on his property and led Connie into the field with his four-wheeler. I had to try to move the horses from the vehicle path as we exited the field. They were more interested in me than the chase vehicle and Connie finally had to divert around them to drive out. Another example where animals take on the personality of their owner, in this case very calm and friendly.

We have been surprised at the number of former Iowans that we have met at the event. Many of the spectators, crew and even pilots have ties to Des Moines or Iowa and are proud to let us know of their connections. Pilot Alan Jenkins, from Brighton, Colorado is originally from Des Moines and his parents live on SW 17th Street near the Des Moines International Airport. Another pilot, Larry Kline, and his wife from Vernal, Utah were raised in the Algona area and are graduates of Iowa State Teachers College, now the University of Northern Iowa. The FAA observer, James Smith, served in Des Moines and I worked with him at the Classic when I was Event Director. The weather officer and pilot, Joe Sullivan, was stationed at the Des Moines Weather Station in the early 1990's and tried to recruit Brad Temeyer for the Riverton Office earlier this year.

Each of the three years that we have attended, our sponsor has been the local newspaper, the Riverton Ranger. Bob Peck, the Publisher of the Ranger, is a long time resident of Riverton, was the founder of the event, and represents the area as State Senator. Bob, his friend Joanne Knobel, his family, and members of the newspaper staff serve as our crew. Their knowledge of the area and of the landowners is especially helpful. His son Steve is Co-publisher and Editor of the Ranger and following is a July 15, 2005 editorial that appeared in the newspaper. The editorial gives the local perspective of a hot air balloon rally and gives some insight on why this event is special for Connie and me. The editorial is reprinted with the consent of Steve and the Ranger.

Our Skyscrapers

They say the first time two brothers named Montgolfier flew their hot-air balloon – made of paper, with an open fire burning in the basket – over the French farmland near their

home, the local farmers were so frightened that those who didn't flee charged the balloon with pitchforks, thinking the thing was a monster.

The next time the Montgolfiers went aloft, they carried a bottle of champagne with them and toasted the locals when their fire-breathing flyer set down in the countryside. That was more than 220 years ago, but today it's still customary for balloonist to carry champagne.

If you're lucky, you'll get to take a ride in a hot-air balloon at least once in your life. If you live in Riverton, or visit the third weekend in July, then your chances are better than most. We host an annual mid-summer festival here called the Riverton Rendezvous, and its signature event is a hot-air balloon rally.

The rally is far from the only thing happening during Rendezvous. The demolition derby and Day in the Park last week both drew more on-site spectators, as did the rodeo. Many times more people will be at Friday night's street cruise downtown and/or wander through the car and bike show Saturday than will see the balloons up close. All of them are fine, fun events.

But the balloon rally retains its magic – partly because the balloons don't need to be seen up close to be enjoyed. Quite the opposite, in fact. The sight of two dozen balloons, all similar but each different, floating above a field of baled hay, or a plain dotted with sagebrush, or a downtown cityscape, or, yes, an industrial parking lot or even a junkyard, isn't to be forgotten.

That's not to say a close-up look at the balloons as they stand up on the Central Wyoming College launch field for those wonderful few minutes before they lift off and scatter with the breezes isn't one of the best parts of Riverton's year. Even the most-jaded person's heart swells when the balloons tower over the field.

In the early morning July sun, the balloons are our small town's skyscrapers. And then, they fly.

Over the past 25 years, Riverton's balloon rally has brought some marvelous sights. One pilot landed his basket in the Wind River, floated downstream 50 yards or so, then took off again. Once a golf foursome stopped play on the 11th hole at the Riverton Country Club and let a balloonist "play through" as he landed just in front of the green. Once a balloonist landed his basket directly in the back of a pickup truck that was following him.

Once a magazine zillionaire saw his flight rained out, and he sat on a bench and ate pancakes with the common folk who had come to see him. The next morning, with the storm cleared, he flew a balloon shaped like a castle – and almost as big.

We've hosted the first men to fly a balloon across the Atlantic, the first across the Pacific, the first around the world. We've had the guy who flew his balloon to the North Pole, and the one who made a balloon out of raincoats and used it to escape from behind the Iron Curtain.

We've had the man who invented the portable gas burner every balloon now uses, the man who photographed the milestone balloon flights for National Geographic, and the old Riverton uranium prospector who set ballooning's first great record.

And we also have all the skilled, adventuresome, fun-loving "ordinary" pilots who travel to balloon rallies around the nation each year purely for love. Some have been here many times. Others will fly our friendly skies for the first time this weekend.

It doesn't cost any money to see the balloons, either at the launch field or in the sky. There won't be any car crashes (at least there'd better not be), no bucking bulls, no skyrockets and no cold beer at that hour of the morning.

So we gather again this summer to watch and smile and sigh, all with the full realization that a balloon isn't the fastest way to fly, nor the most powerful, nor the most accurate, efficient or convenient. It is simply, the most beautiful.

- Steven R. Peck

Pershing Balloon Derby

Brookfield, Missouri
September 2-5, 2005

NEWS FLASH!

Southern Iowa has annexed Northern Missouri. Or at least some kid named after a cute show biz puppy has taken over the skies there. Benji managed to squeak out a 1st place finish through bribery, witchcraft, or threats to the scoring team I'm sure. It couldn't possibly be because he is a great pilot. It's a good thing he won or we wouldn't even have noticed he was there except for a close encounter with a hare and hound. He's kinda like the silent killer that smiles as he sneaks up on you just before he plunges the knife into your back.

Only kidding Benji. We knew you were there. But this means you have to let one of us mediocre Missouri pilots win an Iowa race one of these years.

Now, down to the important stuff that all readers want to know...What were all of those 23rd place finishers doing that made their event so memorable? Well, I am unable to speak for all of the other 23rd place finishers but as for me and my crew, we had a wonderful year! They are not used to me

actually crossing that many of the correct fields, let alone actually (or literally) hitting the target.

The event started, as per normal, with a balloon glow on Main street Friday night. Some of the pilots attempted to fly over the football game first and a couple tried to get a look at the field but the winds were kinda slow so mostly they just did sightseeing over beautiful downtown Brookfield. Now that they have lifted flight restrictions due to terrorists threatening to attack north central Missouri in hopes of bringing us to our knees, they could do that. Otherwise they would have had to get a written permission slip from the FAA and their Mothers to do that.

Saturday morn brought nice breezes from the southeast so most of us went to the general area of Wal-mart to launch toward our first target which I somehow managed to hit although I am going to have to take baggie throwing lessons from Theron because despite the fact that I went RIGHT OVER the target I still managed to miss by 6 or 8 feet. That's ok though! First target and I had a score already! The next target was the launch field and that required a bit of a right turn so most of us went high and turned thusly. It was neat watching all of those skilled pilots as they dropped into the field and deposited thier baggies onto the X...as I flew past to the north. Had a nice landing though!

That night there were winds from...the south. May as well get used to that this year. Every weather report had "South" in it somewhere this year. The field was split with some flying in and some flying out to chase a hare. We flew in...sorta. The announcer, who the pilots could hear if they were paying attention, said "And over to the east is Herb from Jefferson City. He apparently decided to fly over some other field tonight!" or something equally disgusting. The objective of the flyin was to drop your baggie on the X and a small plastic duckie into a miniscule little wading pool that Karin hd placed onto the field. A duck in the pond would be worth \$20 but my duck was no threat to her \$\$\$. I think it is still in my glove box in the balloon. I'll save it for next year...maybe install a homing devise...YES, a "Smart" Duckie. Just watch out next year Karin!

Sunday morning winds were... Oh, never mind...As we flew into the first target and dropped our baggie onto the road we could hear some of the scoring officials exclaiming in amazement "Look, Herb's going to score!" Then as we floated toward the target on the field the announcer bragged on us as we tossed our baggie, and then the croud moaned as I planted the balloon about 6 inches into the hard ground surrounding the target. For you non ballooners that means that despite a wonderful toss (for me anyway) there was no score...or at least a significant penalty. That's history at this point, however because there is still one more target to the northeast that we can pursue and by gollie! I got to throw at

all three targets that morning! However, because of my constant practice at mediocrity I was only able to improve my overall standing from 22 to 18.

Saturday night our half of the group had to fly from the field and chase the hare (Benji). Because of some guy in a balloon standing in front of us (What was he thinking!) we were one of the last to leave the field. As we followed everyone out we saw that they all seemed to be headed much to the east of where I thought the hare had landed. So, lacking any better strategy, we floated low and slow over the beantops and followed them. Somehow, as the sun lowered toward the horizon the wind ever so slowly started shifting to the west. Too bad those other guys got off so early! As we approached the field that harbored the hare we weren't exactly certain where he was, but as we moved to the left past a tree we saw his chase parked right in front of us! We went up to miss the tree and drifted straight toward the X! Benji was down there cheering us on (I guess he's not all bad) This time, before I threw the baggie I made sure to give an extra blast on the burner just to make sure not to plant the balloon too soon. I heaved the baggie and saw it slide up toward the center and heard the crowd cheering! Of course it was only Benji, his chase and one other pilot who was wishing I wasn't there right then. One foot four and a half inches! Wow! I think that's the best I have ever done! We hurriedly packed up and drove back down to the launch field to watch Fred fly to the east, Lynn score and immediately bounce off the turf, Jim fly in from the field to the south and score and his son Jon follow him in and score and even almost give his duckie a bath. But, alas, no one was closer than us so, despite the fact that there were no points involved, our team actually won a task! I hope to be able to tell more stories like that in the near future. Would be best if there were actual points involved however.

Sunday morning we once again flew into the field from _____ go ahead, fill in the blank, and once again we did manage a toss and a score but not a good one. Apparently, everyone else did better because we dropped from 18 to 23 overall. I do believe I have permanent membership in the Mediocre balloon pilots Association. 23 out of 40 is pretty close to the middle!

The banquet was very nice. Don't believe all of the suggestions you got in the suggestion box, Fran. He was only kidding...I think. Someone had told us that we would win a cooler or a jacket for our Saturday night victory but we were pleasantly surprised to receive a \$50 bill! I took it home and framed it!...NOT! It now resides in the Suburban's gas tank.

This was truly the best event we have attended in many years. Several earlier events this year, we did get all of the flights and glows in but the afternoon temps were always

closer to the 3 digit point. Tim did a wonderful job of directing the high pressure our direction this year. Hopefully he can tell the weather officer at Creston how he did it for next week!

Thus ends the history of Brookfield (Techniqly The Pershing Balloon Derby I think...discounting spelling). All statements made in this release are guaranteed true and factual. Anyone who doubts it hard enough should write their own story! or go to www.whoreallycares?.dum for the official version of the event!

Hope your Labor Day weekend was as sweet!
Herb

Great Pershing Balloon Derby

Brookfield, Missouri
September 2-5, 2005

Forty-four pilots registered at the Elks club for the 2005 Pershing Derby. Competition started bright and early Saturday morning. Balloonmeister Karin Riepe called a MJDG southwest of town, a minimum distance double drop and a fly in task at the field. Early morning shoppers at Wal-Mart got an extra treat - several balloonists launched from the area around the store. Soon the skies were filled with balloons, headed towards the targets. At the MJDG - 17 pilots scored within 10 feet - 9 of those within 5 feet. At the MDDD - only 9 scored and only 19 scored on the FIT. #1, #2, and #3 on the three targets were Jon Thompson, John Jensen & Brad Craig, respectively. After Saturday morning's flight the standings were: 1. Benji Clemons, 2. John Jensen, 3. Dan Corbin.

Saturday morning was the parade, and a unique parade it is. The parade route goes up Main Street, turns around & goes back down. It's pretty neat - you can see the entries that were ahead of you in line, but sometimes there can be some misbehaving - squirt guns, water balloons, etc. This year the balloonists were on unusually good behavior, except for Gomer who was misbehaving with silly string. Several balloon teams were decorated with "Happy Birthday Cori" signs, commemorating Cori Clemons's 6th birthday. Its not just every kid that gets to celebrate their birthday with a parade!

Saturday evening Karin called a fun flight with half of the pilots flying off the field with Bill Clemons as the Hare Balloon and the other half flying into the field for a FIT and a Duck Drop. Winner for this flight was Dan Corbin, 2nd place was Todd Isley.

Sunday a.m. Karin again called another 3 tasks - JDG, MJDG at the field and another MJDG northeast of the field. 35 pilots scored on the JDG, 12 of those within 10'. The MJDG at the field was a target at the launch field and

another at the field across the road. At the launch field, they would only score outside the 50' circle and at the field across the road, they would only score inside the 50' circle. So, the better scores would be at the 2nd target, but it would be a risk - if you passed up the first and then didn't score inside 50' on the second, you'd get no score. Only 5 pilots scored within the 50' on the second target. At the 2nd MJDG, 36 pilots scored, 15 of those within 10'. #1, #2, and #3 on these 3 tasks were Tim Graham, Terry Riepe and John Esserman. Forgetting to put his number on his baggie on the first target of the day cost Benji his first place spot. Standings after 6 tasks were: 1. Dan Corbin, 2. Jim Thompson, 3. Mark Harris.

Several of the Iowa Pilots and crews gathered in the shade of the Best Western Hotel for a cookout and the annual "Ugly Shoe" contest. There weren't as many entries as previous years, but there were some truly ugly shoes. This year's winner was Dan Bertsch, but there was some controversy, since he entered the same shoes last year. Dan won the Crappy Beer contest at Creston last year, now the Ugly shoe contest. Iowa pilots better watch out if he gets his license.

Sunday evening was another fun flight, with those who flew in last night, flying out behind Benji as the Hare balloon and the other half flying in for a FIT and Duck Drop. The ducks didn't fly well either night, no one got their duck in the pool - Karin didn't have to pay out anything! Winner for this flight was Herb Heriford. We were 1/4 mile away & still heard the whooping and hollering when Herb scored on the target. 2nd place was John Thompson. After the flight was the Night Glow, with Cory Bloom winning the Best Night Glow balloon. Do you think they were looking at the pilot or the balloon??

Monday a.m., Karin called a 1 part task - a CRAT at the field. Unfortunately for the top 3, none of them scored, leaving room for others to move up.

At the banquet, the winners were announced:

1. Benji Clemons - *by one point!* Iowa
2. Dan Corbin Iowa
3. Matt Riley Missouri
4. Jim Thompson Iowa
5. Brad Craig Iowa
6. Mark Harris Iowa
7. Matt Fenster Iowa
8. John Thompson Florida

Jon Thompson was awarded the Petrehn trophy and Cory Bloom received the Night Glow trophy. Congratulations to all the winners. Thanks to the organizers and sponsors for a great race. Brookfield is a great place to fly - friendly landowners, lots of hay fields, good sponsors & fun times with other balloonists.
Carol Harris

Answer to the quiz question on page 5 - the Iowa Hot Air Balloon Pilot who was on the front cover of the Des Moines Register is Jake Hermanson - Jake was returning from 45 days overseas with the Iowa Air National Guard.

BFA Nationals

Anderson, SC

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|----------|
| 1 | Paul Petrehn | Michigan |
| 2 | John Petrehn | Kansas |
| 3 | Joe Heartsill | Texas |
| 4 | Bill Baker | Texas |
| 5 | Chase Donner | Kentucky |
| 16 | Benji Clemons | Iowa |
| 19 | Brad Craig | Iowa |
| 26 | Jim Thompson | Iowa |

NABA Nationals

Baton Rouge, LA
by Mark Harris

Even though Nationals didn't start until Wednesday morning, Dan and I arrived in town Sunday morning after a 17 hour drive. We figured the extra time would be nice to scout out the area to establish main driving routes to chasing would be less easier, and to have an idea of the launch and landing sites available. The main field was at the Pennington Research Center in the middle of town, so all of our flying would be over the city of Baton Rouge. One of the many lessons I learned was that one day would have been early enough.

Wednesday morning Jim Birk and his staff called a MJDG, FIT, MJDG. There were a few showers within 50 miles but they were light and moving away, so the task was on. I left the pilot meeting and began focusing on the tasks at hand, only to be forced to turn around 3 minutes later because I realized I had forgotten to pick up my GPS on the way out the door, even though I had flown with one several times before. I gave a couple scoring officials a good chuckle; I had forgotten my baggies, too. I couldn't believe how stupid of a mistake that could have been. I tried to stay calm as we went searching for a launch site, trying not to let one mistake carry over into several more. I drove past a couple vans and a truck parked on the side of the road when Johnny Petrehn looked up from a cell phone conversation and gave me the throat-slash sign. Is he trying to intimidate me? Is he gonna kill me, I wondered, or is the flight canceled? Indeed, storms

had popped up near the airport, so the flight was canceled. Thank you, Johnny.

Wednesday afternoon a caravan of chase vehicles drove to nearby Spanish Lake to go on an official swamp tour. There were enough of us to fill their tour boat, and they treated us to some up close views of some giant reptiles and we even got to hold some baby alligators. Check out alligatorbayou.com

Thursday morning brought perfect weather, and holy crap what a task. FIT, GBM, Gate, Elbow. The Gordon Bennet was a cross surrounding the X about 25" in diameter. For the gate task, 6 coordinate we listed, 2 for the border of the south gate, 2 for the border of the north gate, and a middle point for each. The best result would be flying over the center point, but the south gate had a 450-650 AGL limit and the north gate was 1900-2200 AGL. The angle task was the greatest degree of change from a 50-230 degree line, with the final point being where you crossed a defined border made up of streets and grid lines. After the first flight the top 3 were Johnny Petrehn, Maury Petrehn, and Paul Petrehn; all separated by a total of 22 points. The next 3 were Richard Sabin, Mark Sullivan, and Susan Stamats of Cedar Rapids.

Friday morning the Louisiana State Championship pilot reported for a pilot meeting shortly after ours, they would have a launch window 15 minutes after the Nationals pilots. A thin layer of clouds at about 300 feet put us on hold until 8am, but it never went away so the flight was canceled. The weather looked good for the rest of the weekend, so Dan and I figured it would be our only chance to visit New Orleans that afternoon, so that's what we did. New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain were both beautiful places, I feel fortunate to have seen it all before this summer's devastation. Hopefully they can rebuild.

Friday night John Nimoya took off in his Cluster Balloon system, the state pilots flew, and the Nationals pilots glowed for exhibition points. Being the rookie, they stuck us up near the crowd, and there were thousands of them! Strangers kept sitting on the platform. The mob kept inching forward, and I kept having to herd them back like cattle. I had to ask people to move so I could get to my basket. They sure were excited, and I got a giant round of applause once I stood the balloon up. People swarmed the basket, so much so that Dan couldn't get with five feet of me

with the crown line. But once I hit the burner again everyone took 2 big steps backwards, and Dan calmly walked up to the basket. They had given us 9 packs of trading cards to hand out with my balloon on them, and originally we thought that would be a bit much, but we handed out a third of those just for that one nightglow.

Saturday morning brought light NE winds and a FIT, MNDD, and a MJDG. Most pilots got to the field before the winds shifted, and nobody got to the JDG. Saturday night the Nationals pilots, and the cluster balloon, flew from the field and the state pilots stayed to glow.

Sunday morning a task was called but the winds were so light and variable that only a couple pilots got anywhere close to the field, and the standings wouldn't change from Saturday. Maury Petrehn was crowned Nation Champion, and after he recognized Johnny and Paul for their achievements in winning past Nationals he thanked everyone for their hard work, and then proposed to his girlfriend Jen, who accepted, of course. Dan and I caravanned back to the Midwest with Jen and Maury, and we finally got back to Urbandale around 5am. I don't know if we'll go back next year, but I was grateful for the experience because I learned a lot, and everyone in Louisiana and Baton Rouge was exceptionally nice.

NABA Nationals

Baton Rouge, LA

- | | | |
|---|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Maury Petrehn | Kansas |
| 2 | Paul Petrehn | Michigan |
| 3 | Mark Sullivan | New Mexico |
| 4 | Johnny Petrehn | Kansas |
| 5 | Steve Jones | Texas |



Harris brothers check out the local animals during off time at Baton Rouge (NABA Nationals)

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Touch and Go
Balloons Over Iowa
 Carol Harris - Editor
 2305 Hillside Ave.
 West Des Moines, IA 50265





BOI Halloween party
October 29 6:30 p.m.
BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
Pumpkin Carving Contest
Chili Cook-off
Costume judging



Theme: Red, White & Blue - Support Your Troops



