

Touch and Go

BALLONS VER I WA

July-Aug, 2006

Letter from President Meika

Hello to all my friends!

Dad says time goes fast when you're having fun. The sky must be full of joyous balloons because I can't remember time moving so rapidly. In three weeks, the National Balloon Classic will start. Although I have seen lots of pleasure flights this season, many have been lamenting the fact that few competitive events have been flown during recent rallies. Paul Randleman says this favors the veteran pilots for those inclined to wager.

Weather for the Fourth of July was the best I can remember. The whole family, except me, enjoyed the festivities in Carlisle. Once again, I had to stay home and guard the farm. I'm seriously considering entering the Classic Queen contest. A win there and Dad would have to finally let me be in a parade.

Sweet corn and rich ripe tomatoes have now become our nightly fare. If you can make it to the Balloonport for a visit during the Classic, I will be glad to share. Rumor is, we even have some "Hot Dogs" around here.

It's starting to get very dry. Please use good burner judgement during inflation and landings. I hope we can have some good practice flights, and then a great Classic. Above all, always remember to

Fly Safely

Meika

Congratulations to Brad Craig & Amy Williams who were married June 3, 2006.



Letter from Vice-President Sandy

Greetings everyone! Can you believe it is July already? Before you know fall/winter will be here, but for now we won't go there.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2006 National Balloon Classic. From what I have heard, this is going to be one of the biggest and best years yet for the Classic. A great line up of special shapes are attending this event. Ones you will not want to miss out on. I have already discussed the weather with Mother Nature and she assures me that the weather will be awesome (ok that's really according to the magic eight ball).

Council Bluffs and Creston are just around the corner, I can hardly wait as we always have fun at both of these events. Then there is Albuquerque International balloon Fiesta, what can a person say about this event. If you are not able to attend any of these events, be sure to watch your newsletter for race updates and/or photos. Definitely watch your newsletter for updates on the BOI Halloween Party. It's pretty scary to see what type costumes show up for this event.

Well, need to wrap this article up. As always, if you happen to be driving through Radcliff, be sure to stop by and say "Hi".

Until next time,

Soft landings

Sandy Drake

Congratulations to Jen & Derek Nordhagen on the birth of their son - Caleb Robert Nordhagen, born on June 19th. He weighed 9lbs 6ozs 21 inches long. Caleb joins sister s Josie & Riley.



Balloons Over Iowa 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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Please send all ads to:

Carol Harris
2305 Hillside Ave
West Des Moines, IA 50265
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Phone 515 221-3193

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Flight Over Des Moines

There will be a Flight over Des Moines on Monday morning, July 24th around 6:00 a.m., Pilots wanting to be part of this event, please contact John Jensen (515) 371-3682 to be added to the pilot list. Location to be called on Sunday evening and may change on Monday morning due to the weather. Rob Bartholomew will be the Balloonmeister & Bill Griffin will be the Weatherperson.

MEDIA RELEASE

June 30, 2006
Statesville, NC

Firefly Balloons, North America's largest manufacturer of Hot Air Balloons is pleased to announce effective today, a new and buoyant change with the introduction of new ownership of Firefly Balloons.

The new owners of Firefly Balloons are:

- ★ George Hahn, owner of AERCO of Albuquerque, NM - the largest and busiest repair station in North America, who will be the company's General Manager and will be responsible for day - to - day operations.
- ★ Barry McGonigle, owner of Sundance Balloons, the largest manufacturer and operator of Hot Air Balloons in Canada.

Combined, George and Barry bring 50 years of experience and look forward to working with Firefly's longstanding and exceptional employees that have built, maintained and grown Firefly for more than 30 years!

Chris Dawson, Firefly's most recent owner was presented with an opportunity that he had been seeking and believes that this change in ownership is a very positive step forward for Firefly Balloons. Chris says "The combined experience of George, Barry and the many talented employees is sure to continue the growth of Firefly Balloons for many years to come".

Chris and Jean Dawson, wish to thank the many friends they've met, the jokes that have been shared and each of the employees that have taught them so much about the Hot Air Balloon World.

George and Barry are excited to be able to continue the Firefly/Balloon Works tradition and look forward to not only maintaining the tradition, but more importantly, working with the many Firefly customers for many years to come.

For those that may not know, the Firefly Balloons/Balloons Works has been one of the premier Hot Air Balloons in the world, since 1972. To date there have been more than 3,000 balloons manufactured, ranging in size 56,000 cu. Ft. to 280,000 cu. Ft. The company builds traditional shape balloons, special shape balloons, and inflation fans and in the coming months and years, will be expanding the existing product lines and related products to the industry.

For more information, please contact:

George Hahn, General Manager	Jack Ponticelli, Sales Manager
Rob Wise, Customer Service Manager	
Tel: 704-878-9501	Fax: 704-878-9505
e-Mail: info@fireflyballoons.com	

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:

Near normality has returned to your BOIRHPSAC. All charges against committee members that were lodged as a consequence of our ill-fated fund raising partnership with Motorcyclists Over Road Kill (MORK) have now been dismissed. World Renowned Architect Phil Pash has been allowed re-entry into the United States and has taken up temporary residence at Edisto Beach, South Carolina. Pash, a paid BOIRHPSAC consultant, continues to refine architectural drawings and is preparing to host BOIRHPSAC site selection subcommittee meetings. Don Prine, Liaison to Pash, and wife Gerry recently completed a site visit to Edisto Beach. Prine reports the area has few launch sites, and fewer landing spaces. Despite these problems, the area has excellent facilities to host subcommittee meetings.

Regular, nearly nightly meetings have resumed. Your BOIRHPSAC is delighted to have so many of our younger BOI members now attending committee meetings. On the advice of legal counsel, however, committee membership must be restricted to adults that are at least 21, and consenting. Because of renewed activity, we encourage BOI to investigate additional means by which our treasury may be increased. Expenses will be submitted in the usual manner.

Discussion ensued. Kerrie Van Broekhuizen said she appreciates husband Anthony's new interest in retirement benefits, but noted she would appreciate help with newborn Breiden. Jen Nordhagen reminded husband Derek that he is now a father of three. Amy reminded husband Brad Craig that he is no longer a footloose bachelor. Cheryl Gebhart called to ask if Jim was at another BOIRHPSAC meeting, as he has been gone for two days. Rob Bartholomew requested a ponderance.

Bill Griffin tried to help the Chair regain control of the meeting. Linda Bartholomew said she wanted to make a motion. Dick Drake called for a ponderance, and then shared three. Wayne Wasson said that "In the interest of family harmony, we should consider installing a permanent keg in the Balloonport". BOIRHPSAC members retired to the refrigerator to toast Wayne. The meeting was adjourned before any official action could be taken.



Landing site five miles west of potential retirement home visited by the Prines in Edisto Beach, South Carolina. Flights to the east are not recommended.

West Des Moines Parade



Scott Moon and crew getting ready for the WDM 4th of July parade. Unfortunately, an evening storm rolled through during the first part of the parade. Most floats, including Scott's crew, pulled out due to the rain.

Sid Cutter Award

The Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA) is now taking nominations for the Sid Cutter Award. First awarded in 1975, this Award is presented in Sid Cutter's Name by the AAAA to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the sport of ballooning. The nominee should be an individual whose extraordinary dedication has benefitted the hot air ballooning community as a whole and is someone whose actions and efforts are not otherwise widely or publicly recognized. Recipients of the Sid Cutter Award are automatically awarded an honorary membership in AAAA. The award is presented during the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta awards banquet.

Written nominations must be submitted to the AAAA Board of Directors prior to the last day of August. Send nominations to: AAAA Board of Directors, P.O. Box 90160, Albuquerque NM 87199-0160 or email AAAAcloudbouncer@marchco.com

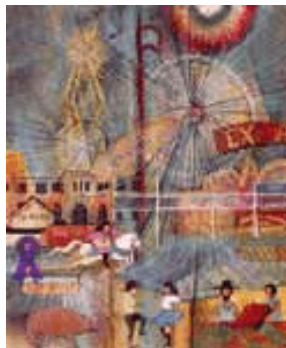
Raffle to Benefit the Balloon Museum

Artist P. Buckley Moss has graciously donated two of her framed prints for a raffle fund raiser. The prints are, Iowa State Fair and St. Joseph Academy. (See pictures below.)

Each framed print is valued at \$300. They are being raffled as a fundraiser for the museum.

Iowa State Fair celebrates the excitement of the yearly Iowa State Fair. It depicts the 400-acre, 114-year old fairgrounds in Des Moines, location of the 142nd fair in 2000, famous for hundreds of exhibits, live entertainment and Duffy Lyon's sculpted Butter Cow, which has been part of the fair since 1911.

St. Joseph Academy commemorates the 125th Anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Academy was a boarding school for young women and a day school where the sisters taught both boys and girls. The sisters arrived in 1875 while the academy was still under construction. This was the first Catholic school in the city and served as motherhouse, novitiate and school for 30 years.



Iowa State Fair

The Academy

Tickets are \$5 each, or 6 for \$25. You may specify which print you want the ticket for.

The drawing will be held on August 6, 2006. Tickets are available at the Museum Gift Shop or by calling 515 961 3714. Master Card or VISA are accepted.

Easy Tick Removal

Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20), the tick will come out on it's own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away.

Editor's note - I haven't tried this, just one of those things that came by email that might be helpful.

BFA Election

Fellow Balloonists:

I am seeking your support for my campaign for the BFA Board for North-Central Region. I have been a balloonist for many years, and have been active in the sport in a non-ballooning manner as well.

Starting many years ago flying Raven balloons (I was a Dealer for a short time), I was converted by Rob to Balloon Works. My first balloon was owned jointly with Father Lawrence Burns and Roy Godwin, and I was a partner with Father Burns for 15 years. I have owned a total of thirteen balloons.

Involvement in the Nationals caused my early interest in ballooning. I was the local chairman for the first Nationals held in Indianola, and have been a board member and Chairman of NBC. I also have been involved in the National Balloon Museum since it's inception.

In real life, I am CEO of Cemen Tech, Inc. in Indianola.

My interest in asking for your support and running for the BFA Board is generated by the feeling that many balloonists and balloon clubs have lost interest in the BFA, and do not understand the value which the BFA brings to our sport. While the BFA has made a lot of positive changes in the past few years, and I fully support those changes, their membership is lackluster and needs growth as well as input from balloonists in general.

Please do not throw the ballot away when it arrives in the mail, please vote, and I would greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,
Gary Ruble

BOI Reflector

The BOI Reflector / Discussion list is similar to the International Balloon Reflector, but much less emails. Any message sent into the group will be sent out to all who subscribe. It can be used to make announcements, discuss events, discuss weather, tell about a recent flight, gather others for a flight, or just to say "Howdy".

This is a great communication tool for members. To Subscribe - go to the web site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BalloonsOverIowa> or email: BalloonsOverIowa-subscribe@yahogroups.com To send messages - email BalloonsOverIowa@yahogroups.com Contact me (hotairflyn@aol.com) with any questions or for more information. *Carol*

Happy Anniversary

Todd & Errin Patterson	8-2
Tom & Julie Ricke	8-4
Fred & Judy Schoening	8-5
Jerry & Rosa Tierman	8-9
Paul & Valerie Craven	8-13
Dan & Jeanne Wiley	8-14
Aaron & Elizabeth Gebhart	8-18
Mike & Julie Herman	8-24
Al & Mel Appenzeller	8-26
Wyman & Mendi Borts	8-27
Randy & Kathy Schmidt	9-1
Allan & Mandy Keller	9-4
Marv & Joyce Blevins	9-8
Bob & Janice Shelton	9-14
Rob & Erika Nutting	9-20
Bob & Penny Pieper	9-25
Nolan & Kinda Schuler	9-25
Tarah Graham & Ryan Wrigley	9-26
Ward & Diane Roscoe	9-28

For Sale

1983 4.0 Balloon Works with 338TT

- T-3 burner with Fire 3 valve
- 3 10g Worthington aluminum tanks with matching brown leather tank jackets
- Brown leather burner bag and dropline bag, fire ext. and holder
- Red down cover in great condition



Has not been flown since 6/12/06 annual. \$1,500

Mark Harris 515-238-5457 mg_harris@hotmail.com

Calendar of Events

July 24 **Flight Over Des Moines**. Contact John Jensen 515 961-3154 or email IFDDMFD59@aol.com

July 28-August 5 **National Balloon Classic** Contact Greg Marchant at 1-800-FLYIOWA or www.nationalballoonclassic.com

August 20 **BOI meeting** 6:30 p.m., Balloonport, Carlisle

August 25-26 **IWCC Council Bluffs**.

Aug. 25 -27, **Children's Miracle Network Balloon Rally & Music Festival**, Wisconsin Rapids WI, contact John Symonds, 800-762-7087, <http://www.cmnballoonrally.com/>

Sept 1-4 **Great Pershing Balloon Derby** Brookfield, MO. Contact Sherry Techau 660 258-5290 or rstechau@classicnet.net

Sept 8th – 10th **Huff'n Puff**; Topeka, KS. Contact info@huff-n-puff.org www.huff-n-puff.org

September 15-17 **SW Iowa Pro Balloon Race** Creston, IA. Contact Rob Bartholomew 515 989-3708

September 17 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle

October 7th - 15th - **Albq. International Balloon Fiesta**, Albuquerque, NM. Contact: Pat Brake: 505.821.1000 or pjb@balloonfiesta.com

October 15 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle

October 21-22 **Wakefield, NE – 15+ Balloons?!!** Contact Alan Paul 712 527-2896 or alan.paul@conagrafoods.com

October 21 **Jill Rubin Memorial Flight**

October 28 **BOI Halloween Party**

November 19 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle

December 1st - 3rd - **2006 Holiday Balloon Fest**, Battle Creek, MI. Contact: Derrick Jones: 269.209.1792 or derrickjjones@comcast.net

Happy Birthday

Mendi Borts	8-2	Gene Frame	9-1
Todd Netley	8-2	Kayla Hogan-Alexander	9-1
Amy Williams	8-2	Monica Thompson	9-2
Jen Nordhagen	8-3	Nathan Ziino	9-4
Jena Erger	8-3	Thad Bloom	9-4
Al Appenzeller	8-4	Corrin Clemons	9-4
LeRoy Clair	8-4	Caitlyn Clair	9-5
Matt Fenster	8-4	Celsey Clair	9-5
Christine Clemons	8-4	Bill Sponsler	9-5
Kathy Schmidt	8-5	Wendi Anderson	9-6
Carla Brinker	8-5	Sasha Konvalin	9-6
Jesse Smith	8-5	Gabe Dalby	9-7
Jenny Bridgewater	8-5	Hailey Schmidt	9-7
Dan Bertsch	8-6	Tedd Maxfield	9-8
Gary Fouche	8-8	Joel Worthington	9-9
LaVerna Edmister	8-8	Ron Nollen	9-9
Alex Oponski	8-8	Steve Jones	9-10
Mark Fisher	8-9	Mark Harris	9-11
Annette Niedere	8-10	Georgia Oakes	9-11
Wrigley Ryan	8-10	Melinda Worthington	9-12
Elizabeth Stefani	8-12	Michael Hadley	9-13
Sarah Stefani	8-12	Cathy Clair	9-14
Maureen Drexler	8-12	Eric Brown	9-16
Michelle Dalby	8-13	Bailey Marhoun	9-16
Michelle Craig	8-13	Karin Riepe	9-18
Sharon Foltz	8-14	Adena Worthington	9-19
Terry Garrett	8-15	Anna Schirn	9-20
Mike Blevins	8-15	Becky Wigeland	9-20
Pam Hadley	8-16	Tricia Kruse	9-20
Cynthia Nutting	8-16	Gerald Conklin	9-21
Brenton Wrigley	8-16	Robert Nutting, Sr.	9-22
Ariel Williams	8-16	Carolyn Holland	9-23
Jon Danielson	8-19	Larry Van Wyngarden	9-23
Paul Schneider	8-21	Eric Carlton	9-24
Jeff Bridgewater	8-21	Alyssa Craven	9-24
Emilee Norris	8-21	Wayne Wasson	9-24
Brad Holcomb	8-21	Brian Seymour	9-25
James Thompson	8-23	Teresa Purdy	9-26
Katie Mitchell	8-26	Rita Fromm	9-26
Julie Ricke	8-27	Gil Wigeland	9-27
Brandon Pieper	8-28	Dan Corbin	9-27
Deb Nollen	8-31	Jason Jones	9-27
		Madison Rubin	9-28
		Jeremy Rubin	9-28
		Mike Reinert	9-30
		Michele Corbin	9-30
		Tiffany Anderson	9-30
		Jennifer Delaney	9-30
		Debbie Thorman	9-30



The Way It Was

25 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 1981 Nationals: 96 pilots competed; 100 non-competitors; Crew of the Year – Gerald & Mary Conklin; 7 gas balloons launched from Simpson field - their goal was to fly to St. James, Mo.
- ★ 8-30-1981 Charlie Ong received his Private license.
- ★ 8-12-1981 Randy Stone received his Commercial license.
- ★ 8-20-1981 Warren Stone received his Commercial license.

20 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ July 27, 1986 BOI Board of Directors meeting: Treasurer's report - \$1218.95
- ★ August '86 – ground broken for National Balloon Museum.
- ★ 1986 Nationals: New launch field east of Indianola; New executive director – Judy Porter; Championship Director – Bill Murtoff; Non-competitors Balloonmeister – Gary King; Special shapes – Chesty, Uncle Sam & Chic-I-Boom; #1 Sid Cutter, #2 Tim Darrin, #3 Bruce Comstock, #4 Steve Jones. #11 Rob Bartholomew, #13 Dave Edmister.
- ★ August '86 Norm Fee - new balloon named "Tranquility"
- ★ Jon Thompson - new job as a professional balloonist with the Sid Cutter organization
- ★ Sherry Allsup - purchased new balloon
- ★ Rob & Linda Bartholomew purchased new envelope.
- ★ 8-23-1986 Mark Ziino received his Private license.

15 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ July '91 4 balloons flew over RAGBRAI XIX at Knoxville.
- ★ 1991 National Balloon Classic: Championship Director – Nick Saum; Assistant Balloonmeister – Rob Bartholomew; POW / MIA balloon appeared; Winner – Rich Jaworski, #2 Denny Cox, #3 Jim Fromm, #4 Jim Oakes, #5 Phil Gray
- ★ August 18, 1991 BOI Meeting: Dr. West's family donated his weather instruments to the Balloon museum, BOI donated \$200 towards display; BOI donated \$200 for the Dr. West Tower at the Balloon field; The design for the BOI Jackets– the old BOI design inside an outline of the State of Iowa; Mark Weeks introduced & welcomed to the meeting; Bill Griffin moved that during parties at the Balloonport it will be known as the Okeedokee Corral with the "Not a Chance Saloon" inside. Motion tabled until next meeting.

10 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ BOI received recognition in Indianola Record-Herald for its donation of stuffed animals to be given to children who are victims of abuse or face an emergency
- ★ Whitney Oberman born - daughter of Mike & Beth
- ★ James Thompson born 8-23-96- grandson of Jim & Rita
- ★ Ottumwa report - 33 balloons; no flights. 19th annual Pro Balloon Race. Prize money divided up between all the pilots attending. "Rain, wind... you name it and we had it"
- ★ National Balloon Classic 1996: 100 + units in Classic Parade. Thompsons won first place in the balloonists division; Balloonmeister – Jim Thompson; Special shapes: Energizer Bunny, Purple People Eater, Burger King Whopper, Grand Illusion; Jon Russell award to David Daviss of Texas; Crew of the year award to Dennis Shelley's crew; 1st place - Al Wiltse (in his first year at the Classic) #2 Dick Drake #3 Todd Netley
- ★ US Nationals – Aug 9-18. Harold "Bubba" Cliver from Texas is new US National Champion.
- ★ 8-8-96 Julie Frueh received Private license
- ★ 8-96 Steve Knapp received private license.

5 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 7-4-01 Aaron Gebhart received his Commercial license.
- ★ 7-29-2001 Christine Bertsch received her Private license.
- ★ National Balloon Classic: Balloonmeister Dick Drake, assistants Don Prine & Jim Gebhart; Mark Harris & crew won the balloonist category in the parade; Saturday evening was a Memorial flight for Jill Rubin, Christine Bertsch & Jeremy Rubin launched first as the Hare balloons, with the remainder of the balloons following in a mass accession; Crew of the Year - Bill Smith's crew; John Russell award - Mike Oberman; Farmer of the year – Fay King; Iowa State Championship - 1. Brad Craig 2. Matt Fenster 3. Rob Bartholomew North Central Regional - 1. Johnny Petrehn 2. Brad Craig 3. Matt Fenster; New Competitor Award - Nick Donner; Overall National Balloon Classic: 1. Johnny Petrehn 2. Al Muir 3. Brad Craig; 15 out of 17 possible flights were flown.
- ★ 8-11-2001 Bret Wiltse received his Commercial license.
- ★ August 19, 2001 BOI Meeting: held on Linda's new pool patio; Coal – the chief of security for the Prez & VP is relocating to Minnesota. He's taking Lori & Tim with him.
- ★ 8-26-01 Lori Schmidt received her Private license
- ★ Lighter than Air Balloon Fair (Council Bluffs): 30 balloons, 3 flights 1 glow. Gerald Knoll flew over the X!



Brian,
Bill and Keith
Galena, Illinois



Benji,
Dale and
Gomer



BUB



Gomer and friends

Clinton, IA



(hit a truck OR be hit by a truck)

Ottumwa



Cory, Gene, Bill, Dan & Benji set up for the crowd



Patti's first event!



Dale's new Special Shape - Burgess



Deb Miller flies away



Brian ready to go



Gary, Terry, Brian, & Terry heading for the targets



Good catch, crew!



Gomer - 3rd place!



#4 Scott Armstrong, #3 Eldon Benus, #2 Christine Bertsch, #1 Terry McGonegle



Race Director - Phil Gray



Christine Bertsch



Terry McGonegle

Channel Champ

Photos by Mark Weeks

The "Channel Champ", the first hot air balloon to fly across the English Channel, is part of a new exhibit at the National Balloon Museum. Ed Yost was present on Saturday May 20, 2006 as part of a special open house.

The balloon was launched from Rye, England April 13, 1963 & landed in Gravelines, France in a flight lasting 3 hours & 17 minutes.



Ed Yost



The Channel Champ



John Craparo from the International Aeronautic League, Jon Shelton, Ed Yost, Thad Bloom. John handed out the special ED Yost medalation.



Ed Yost & Russ Pohl (crew member for the Channel Champ)



Ed Yost signs autographs for Jon Shelton and Cory Bloom

Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting

Sunday May 21, 2006
BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

Meeting called to order by Chair Cory Bloom at 6:58

Present: Cory Bloom, Jen Nordhagen, Bill Griffin, Brad Craig, Amy Williams, Ariel Williams, Ashlynn Williams, Madison Williams, Michelle Craig, Max Harris

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the April meeting presented. Max moved to approve the minutes, Bill seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: We have 68 kegs. The keg factor has dropped because of cheaper kegs.

Old Business:

★ He's not here again.

New Business:

- ★ Discussion on Pilot Gift for the Classic. Chamber Bucks seem best.
- ★ Discussion on mowing at NBC Field
- ★ Balloons & Toons July 13. Max called Jim Gebhart to confirm date. 5-8 balloons wanted to tether on the square, others will need to pay own propane if they fly.
- ★ Discussion on bass fishing by the Williams'. Ashlyn caught the biggest, Ariel caught 21 - the most & Madison told jokes.
- ★ Cory Bloom attended the Channel Champ exhibit at the National Balloon Museum where Ed Yost spoke. All new balloon pilots receiving their license since October 2005, will receive a Medal commemorating Ed Yost the Channel Champ (silver dollar size). These are sponsored by the International Aeronauts League.
- ★ Brad Craig announced that he & Amy Williams will be married June 3. Congratulations to all. Discussion of weddings & receptions.
- ★ Bill spoke of an inflation at a farm near Jefferson, IA. The bride & groom climbed into the basket, surrounded by the minister, bridal party, family & friends.
- ★ Brad & Cory will be going to Emmetsburg for a balloon event to inaugurate the new casino.
- ★ Discussion on casinos, Las Vegas, bars, late night phone calls, cell phones, lost cell phones in hay fields, etc. *You had to be there!*

Michelle moved to adjourn meeting, Max seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:24

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Griffin, filling in for Temporary Secretary, Carol, who fills in for Secretary Tom.

Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting

Sunday June 18, 2006
BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA

Meeting called to order by Chair Linda Bartholomew at 7:04:20 on the deck of the Bartholomew's pool

Present: Jen & Derek Nordhagen, Josie Nordhagen, Riley Nordhagen, Rob & Linda Bartholomew, Kerrie & Anthony Van Broekhuizen, Breiden Van Broekhuizen, Bill Griffin, Michelle Craig, Max & Carol Harris

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the May meeting presented. Rob moved to approve the minutes, Max seconded. Motion carried. Derek voted "Not a Chance".

Treasurer's report: The Balloonport is closed for construction, so Jen doesn't have a Treasurer's report

Old Business:

- ★ He's not here again.
- ★ Jen is still pregnant. She's having contractions as we speak. She's having a baby boy named "We don't know". Discussion on possible baby names. Bartholomew "Bart" Nordhagen, Nathaniel "Nate" Robert Nordhagen, Hagen Robert Nordhagen.

New Business:

- ★ This is Breiden's first meeting.
- ★ Brad & Amy were married June 3.
- ★ Monroe event - bad weather
- ★ Sioux Falls event cancelled - bad weather.
- ★ Discussion on the Pilot, crew, volunteer party at the Classic. Carol volunteered to contact John Jensen, assistant balloonmeister, to voice our concerns.

Max moved to adjourn meeting, Rob 2nd. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 7:24:35

Respectfully submitted,
Temporary Secretary, Carol Harris.

Balloons In June

Thurs night we had 4 balloons up on our down town street for a night glow!! Fri night the Balloonmeister Jim Gebhart called for a FUN flight. Half of the balloons to come back and glowed. It was a Great night

Sat am Jim called for the same - a long safe FUN flight !!!!! Then came the wind, rain and lightening, so Sat night was a wash out !!! Sunday came with the same RAIN, so all were safe and had a FUN time.

THANK YOU to ALL the PILOTS that were here!!!!!

PAUL

See photos page 8

The Great Galena Hot Air Balloon Race

Eagle Ridge Resort
Galena, Illinois
June 16 -18th 2006

24 Pilots from (4) states were heading to the Galena area for a fun filled weekend. Some met in Iowa City for lunch, and some were late getting there. Not mentioning any names but initials were J.W. and crew.....

When we arrived in Debuque, Iowa we noticed the winds were somewhat windy. Most started arriving at the Eagle Ridge Resort about 5:00 for check-in to the event. Unfortunately this pilot found out he was staying in a big house with none other than, Dale Dommer and Brian Bennett from Ottumwa, Iowa.....we knew it was going to be a fun weekend no matter what the weather.

The highlight of my weekend was that my son Ellis came up from Columbia, MO. to meet me in Keokuk to be with me Fathers day weekend; he has also been thru ground school and my crew chief since 2003 when I started flying and going to races.

After getting settled in to the house; we found one of the hide-a-beds had been locked and chained; but as you probably guessed one of the unnamed pilots broke out the chain cutters and fixed the problem; however it did not work on such small chain and another unnamed pilot got out a small pair of cutters and proceeded to unlock the bed. After a few exchange of words; a young person commented: "So I guess SIZE of the TOOL really doesn't matter".....referring to the bolt cutters.....a course of laughter and tears were heard through the house.....LMAO.....all was well except for one person getting slightly embarrassed.

After getting to the golf driving range, where we were to fly and glow, we found the winds too strong to fly that evening so we waited until dusk and 5 pilots glowed. Joel and Eldon brought out "old stinky" B.U.B. walkabout balloon: Yes, B.U.B. has been earmarked as "Butt Ugly Balloon" or also known as; "censored" it was the old black bowling ball balloon from the Carlisle, Iowa area. Back in its day it was a gem.

This is a non-airworthy balloon that can be walked thru by all. We decided to take donations for this and all the money was given to help achieve the "J.D.R.F." Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundations goal this year of \$20,000.00.

Comments from the kids were priceless ranging from:

1. This is the biggest bounce house I have ever seen
2. Can I use a coupon for this ride
3. What happens if we put a hole in it
4. Why does it STINK so bad
5. Can we run thru the other balloon here

6. How much does it weigh
7. What happens when it takes off with all of us in it
8. This one needs some air freshener or some powder "for the smell"
9. Why is this one so ugly
10. The best of all: If all the balloons smell likes this one...I want my coupon back...

Our host and event balloonmeisters this year were again Andy & Shannon Williams: not to be confused with the singer but the owner and pilot of "Galena on the Fly" and www.buyaballoonride.com 1-800-777-2747 with 4 commercial ride balloons to date.

They also have the biggest dog / mini-horse named "Brutus" who stands about 4-foot tall. When asked where he sleeps, what he eats and what he does for fun; the reply was anywhere or anything he wants. He is however just a real big puppy who likes to sit on your lap. He is just one big lap dog

Saturday, June 17, 2006 @ 4:00 am, an unnamed pilot come dragging out of a house in Sponge Bob / Square pants. What a site to behold for anyone having to view this.

The trees were holding on for dear life and the disturbing skies with jet entrails dissipating quickly; it did not look real good for a morning flight. At the pilots meeting it was decided to close the field as one tent blew over on the top of the hill at the top of the field. Andy's two dogs were the entertainment for the time playing tug of war with a Snoopy stuffed animal. Others mulled around sipping of coffee and having a muffin brought by Sue the event coordinator from Eagle Ridge. The wind gods were just not cooperating at this time.

Ellis, Sue and I retreated to our local crew couple's condo, Eric & Francine Kennedy's, for an award winning breakfast. Sorry Herb, this will teach you to not be here. We looked from their deck to see a canoe drifting at about 10K across the lake area.

After that we went to visit some other pilots to catch up on the latest happenings. With the current heating, the pool was looking real good for the afternoon and others were heading to the historic downtown area for some "Olympic Shopping".....

Saturday pm June 17th:

Andy Williams, Becky Petrehn, Benji Clemons balloon, Dale Dommer and Eldon "Gomer" Benus in the Clowning Around Balloon decided to get in a glow for the crowd. With moderate wind gust and experienced crew all went well with many kids getting to climb inside of a hot air balloon basket. This was until the skies started to get ugly with lightening and then we all came down. A special note of thanks for Joel Worthington's crew for their assistance to us and others. Joel is now known as the "Human Rollo Envelop Squeeze".

Heck, who needs a bent up pipe when you have a Joel a-round. Some of you will actually GET this if you know what I mean.....LOL

Sunday at 12:33 am there was another blow to the event: Rain had started to pepper down and just got worse as the morning sun tried to arise. Yup, you have probably figured it out by now, but we did not get to fly all weekend. Other pilots up at Monroe had the same problem also. Not as fun for many, however it was Fathers Day weekend and I personally would not have wanted to be anywhere else in the world than with my son, close ballooning family and good friends.

On a lighter and not too serious note: The "Save the Brutus Williams Foundation" is being formed. Due to this years consistent adverse weather conditions; the big puppy is at risk. Please send your donation of cash or especially FOOD to the family, to keep the puppy and his family nourished for the coming months.

Also the next time you see Brian Bennett from Ottumwa: Be sure to ask him about his bull riding experience and the best way to transport a gallon of milk.

If you ever get up to Galena, IL. Highway. 20 & 84, be sure to take a little extra time to drive down the 84 southern river roads and take in Apple River and the beautiful Great River Road along the Mississippi. Be sure to note the town of Savannah, IL. On 84, Home of the One Stop Police, Fire, Ambulance, Town Hall, Hair Care & Tire Center.....Yes, this is a real place....☺

We all would like to offer a Very Special Thanks to the supporters of J.D.R.F., The Williams family and Eagle Ridge Resort for their hospitality. To all the Fathers and Dad's out there celebrating Fathers Day on Sunday June 18, 2006

Respectively submitted from the desk of:

Eldon "Gomer" Benus, Pilot
Clowning Around Hot Air Balloon Team
1201 High Street
Keokuk, Iowa 52632
Cell phone: 319-795-7911
hotairballoonist2003@hotmail.com *See photos page 8*

It Was a Rainy Night in Ottumwa

The "blues was playin" on the radio and the pilots and crews were all waiting to see what Sunday morning would bring. The event started out very promising. The forecasts earlier in the week suggested that we may actually get to fly all weekend. As Friday crept up on us the weather started looking a little iffier, however. Friday evening was clear enough but first pibals that were sent up seemed to barely move at all but as some of the balloons were set up the light

and variable winds became very variable. We set up about 7 with intentions of staying at the field for the glow but the wind shifted toward the west, My sponsor, Fred was there, the crew was just itching to get their chasing shoes warmed up for the weekend so we untied and lifted slowly out of the field to drift over the U shaped lake that surrounds the park. Fred pointed out how, at one time the lake used to be the channel of the river but after a flood a number of years back, either God or the Corp of Engineers decided to re route it to make a more direct route through town. If you have never been to Ottumwa you are missing a great park!

We floated slowly to the SW and then shifted to due west for a bit just enough to aim us for the Walmart (I think) parking lot or there abouts. A quick packup had us heading for the field where we tried our darndest to find a place to glow but the field was packed. We later saw that we could have squeezes in a couple of places but it was fun watching and lending a hand to some of the other crews anyway.

They changed the refueling to a different part of the park! Actually, I understand they did that last year but I was in Chicago with Cheri and missed it. It works MUCH better!

SATURDAY morning was pretty. They sent us down to the south to fly back into the field so we all climbed aboard the chase vehicle and wormed our way to what seemed a likely spot only to find 38 other balloons had already arrived! After sending up a couple of pibals (Or reading someone elses at least) we could see that the strong left that usually occurs at the surface didn't! That balloon just seemed to head straight north no mater how high it went. Almost like an evening flight. I'm sure there is some meteorological explanation for that but it is beyond my level of expertise.

We found an appropriate field next to Jim Thompson so I knew it must be pretty good. When we left the field (Yes, we were the last to leave that field!) I noticed a slight drift to the left before I even got to the tree tops but as soon as we got that high we headed north. A balloon that had launched earlier was quite high and still seemed to be heading north but we kept an eye on him.

Riding with me this morning is Ashley, a student and helper of Connie. Connie, her husband Mark and their son have been helping us up there since the first year we flew there. I figured if Ashley could keep up with Connie she would have to be an excellent crew member and I was not disappointed! Plus, she could reach things for me on the top shelf!

Now, let's set up the task for you. The field contained not only an X for scoring but also a north pointing triangle. You were to toss baggie 1 to the X and 2 to the triangle which was the southernmost point for a minimum distance double drop. The northern triangle for the MDDD would be placed by the Hare balloon when he landed. He had launched from the field when balloons first started appearing to the south.

This task is called a watership down and no, I have no idea why. Now, if you have kept track over the years you know that I NEVER score on MDDD's! They just elude me every time! Lets keep our fingers crossed.

The high balloon we had seen earlier had finally found a breeze to the right so we went up to join him. This proved helpful in a couple of ways. First, it set us up better to turn into the targets but it also sped us up a bit so we could maybe see the hare balloon before it went down and also get us out of the back of the pack. Unfortunately, The hare was already down before we spotted him. Have to look him up after we go to the target.

At first it appeared that we were going to be east of the target on the field but by getting down right over the lake and the treetops we managed to proceed right over the target. Scored on the X as we ascended toward the triangle and tossed the second baggie into it! There's half that MDDD!

We ascended quickly to try to spot the Hare but by the time we saw the deflated Penguin we were too far north to turn that much left so we started looking for friendly farmers. Landed in a ditch between a couple of fields as the crew raced out to help us out of the basket. After untangling a few arms and legs Ashley decided that ballooning might not be all that bad!

As far as scoring goes I knew that anyone that scored on the north triangle had this one in the bag so we went to refuel and eat and await the results. Turns out that NO ONE scored on the hare! Thanks Dale! Our so so toss had put us into 5th place!

Now we are back to the rainy night in Ottumwa. They did need the rain, I'll grant you that but what woulda been wrong with Sunday Night!!!!

Sunday morning looked wet but not too windy so we went to the field with high hopes of getting a chance to beat Gomer but alas, The winds would be taking us right down the river where the landing places were few and far between and 2 inches of rain the night before wasn't going to make it any easier so Phil called the flight off and thus ended the race.

In some ways I was relieved since I did finish 5th out of 38 balloons but one flight just seems too little to judge by. It was probably very lucky for me since I have the tendency to have one flight winning streaks but I would still have liked to flow again,

Thank You to Phil and Linda as well as all the sponsors and especially our crew! They have been the best! We will come back up there next year and NOT be the last ones off the field! High flights and gentle landings to all!

Herb Heriford
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See Ottumwa photos page 9

Classic Info

The 2006 National Balloon Classic Officials will be Balloonmeister Jason Jones from Overland Park, Kansas. Assistant Balloonmeister will be Matt Fenster from Council Bluffs, Iowa, John Jensen from Indianola, Iowa and Todd Isley from Des Moines, Iowa

The 2006 National Balloon Classic has 105 pilots registered.

Every registered Pilot should have received event and housing confirmation. If any pilot has yet to get confirmation, please call or email Eileen @ 1-800-fly-iowa or email her @ assist@nationalballoonclassic.com.

Classic Pilot Registrations will be held at the Classic Balloon Field on:

- ★ July 28 (Friday) from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- ★ July 29 (Saturday) find Esther.

Mandatory Pilots Meeting will be July 29 (Saturday) @ 4:30 p.m. – Pilot Compound

Pilot Meetings

- ★ Morning Briefings – 6:15 a.m.
- ★ Evening Briefings – 6:00 p.m.

The Classic is BFA & NABA Sanction. Anyone wanting to fly sanction needs to join the sanction group prior to the Classic to qualify for the sanction.

BFA - <http://www.bfa.net/>

NABA - <http://www.eballoon.com/>

The National Balloon Classic website:
www.nationalballoonclassic.com

If anyone has any questions or comments for the 2006 National Balloon Classic event, please contact Greg Marchant @ 1-800-fly-iowa or email: info@nationalballoonclassic.com

John Jensen

NATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

2006 Photo Contest Rules

GENERAL INFORMATION

Enter your balloon photographs in the 2006 National Balloon Museum Photo Contest. The winning entries best depicting the sport of ballooning will be published in *Ballooning*. Photographs must be postmarked by October 15, 2006 to be eligible for judging.

Categories: Photographs of Balloons, Photographs of People involved with Balloons or photographs taken from Balloons while in flight.

Official Photo Contest Rules

1. The contest is open to any individual with the exception of the photo contest committee members and their immediate families and professional photographers (Professional Photographers are those persons who make more than 50% of their income from photography.)
2. All photographs must feature a positive visual image and must not feature the intellectual property of others (i.e. a sign containing a registered trademark).
3. All print photographs must be in color, with prints no smaller than 4"x6" and no larger than 8"x10", without matting and unframed.
4. Pictures taken with a digital camera will be accepted. The camera must have a 3.1 mega pixels or larger rating with the picture resolution set at that level, and be uncompressed. Lower resolutions will not reproduce satisfactorily for publication. If submitting digital images please submit a hard copy along with a CD for judging purposes.
5. Each photograph must include an Official Entry form with the contestant's name, address and phone number clearly labeled on the back of each photo. The entry form should be filled out and attached (clipped or taped) to each photo entry and included with the disc for digital entries. Please do not write on or use a rubber stamp on the actual photo.
6. All contestants will be required to sign and deliver to the National Balloon Museum a publicity release/permission to reprint form with the photo(s) entry as all accepted photographs may be used in various media formats for an unlimited amount of time and at no cost to the National Balloon Museum. If a photograph contains a readily identifiable person as a subject, the photographer must submit the name, address and phone number of each person who is readily identifiable in each picture. The subject, or parent or legal guardian, if the subject is a minor, must provide written consent or model release as to their image being used in this photo contest and any other medium. This is the sole responsibility of the photographer. The consent form must be completed and submitted at the time the photograph is submitted to the Balloon Museum. Incomplete entries will not be accepted.
7. Entries will be returned if a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is included with entry; otherwise entries will become property of the National Balloon Museum.
8. The National Balloon Museum will give photo credit whenever contest winner's photo is used. The National Balloon Museum reserves the right to crop photographs, when necessary.
9. Although care will be taken when handling contest entries, the National Balloon Museum assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to photographs submitted.
10. Entrants into this photo contest must agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth and by the decisions made by the judges of the contest. Decisions of the judges are final and no direct communication with entrants will be entered into.
11. The National Balloon Museum is not responsible for any incorrect or erroneous information. The National Balloon Museum reserves the right to terminate, cancel, or suspend the contest without notice. Incomplete entries will not be accepted.
12. Photo contest categories are: Photographs of Balloons, Photographs of People involved with Balloons or photographs taken from Balloons while in flight. The winning photograph will be used for the Museum's 2007 postcard.
13. Mail entries to: National Balloon Museum Photo Contest, % Becky Wigeland, P.O. Box 149, Indianola, IA 50125-0149. Each entry must be accompanied by an official entry form.

NATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM 2006 Photo Contest Official Entry Form

Complete the information below and then attach it to your photograph entry.
One form must be filled out for each photograph submitted. See rules on page 2.

Entrant Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip Code:
Home Phone Number:
Work Phone Number:
Email Address:
Photo Description:

Publicity Release/Permission to Reprint Form

By signing below I, the entrant of this contest and photographer of the photo(s) submitted, give permission to the National Balloon Museum to reprint the photo(s), which I have entered into this contest, in various media formats for an unlimited amount of time and at no cost to the National Balloon Museum.

Indemnity

By signing below I, the entrant of the 2006 National Balloon Museum Photo Contest and the photographer of the photo(s) submitted, indemnify the National Balloon Museum, the Judging committee and hold these parties harmless from and against any and all claims, actions, proceedings, judgment, damages, injuries, orders, losses, liabilities, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees), arising from or related to the entrant's infringement of the intellectual property rights, or other rights of third parties by the entrant.

Winning Photo Will Appear on Postcard

The Contest winner will have the honor of having his or her picture featured on the new 2007 Balloon Museum Postcard. The photographer's name will appear in the credits on the back of the card and he or she will receive two dozen free copies of the postcard.

Entrant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Form must be signed to be considered a valid entry.
Submissions should be received October 15, 2006,
Mail entries to:
National Balloon Museum Photo Contest
%Becky Wigeland, Curator
P.O.. Box 149, Indianola, IA 50125-0149



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Thanks to the following for their contributions to this newsletter: Meika Bartholomew, Eldon Benus, Michelle Craig, Sandy Drake, Mark Harris, Max Harris, Herb Heriford, Bill Griffin, Nancy Griffin, John Jensen, Jen Nordhagen, Don Prine, Gary Ruble, Paul Schneider, Mark Weeks and Becky Wigeland

Touch and Go

Balloons Over Iowa

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

Newsletter Deadline

September 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:

August 20

September 17