

# Touch and Go

BALLONS VER IWA

May-June, 2007

## Ode to Spring

The weather gods finally took pity on BOI and granted us a special treat - a flyable day for Ode to Spring. We hadn't flown Ode to Spring since 2000. Pilots & crews gathered at the Museum for registration & pilot meeting. The winds were marginally high, but after a couple of weather holds, Balloonmeister Dick Drake released pilots to fly at their discretion. Several took off from the west side of Indianola & flew to the National Balloon Classic field. There was a mixture of traditional sport balloons and new "racer" style balloons. Several pilots of both varieties flew right to the target. Bill Griffin was the winner in 2000, and had won also one other year. Would he be the first pilot in BOI history to be named the winner of Ode to Spring three times? He dropped his baggie 6' from the center of the X & was in first place. Mere moments behind him, though was Joel Worthington. Joel, flying a traditional shaped 105,000 cubic foot balloon flew right to the X & knocked Bill out of first place with a 2' 7" drop. Thanks to Gerald & Mary Conklin, Teresa & Doug Purdy and Terry Garrett for scoring.

Members then headed back to the BOI Balloonport for a delicious meal of BBQ pork & pot luck. Kidmeister Derek Nordhagen lined up the kids for some early lessons in baggie tossing. We're going to have some great pilots in the future - they all won prizes! Great tossing! Derek did such a great job, there was talk of having him named permanent Kidmeister. Bill Griffin and Rob Bartholomew then announced the following awards:

**Crew of the Year.** Last year's winner Bill Craig added a set of jumper cables to the award. 2007 Crew of the Year was awarded to Joel Worthington's crew.

**Pilot of the Year** - Eldon "Gomer" Benus - only the second pilot to have won this coveted award twice.

**Cleo award** - Jen Nordhagen for her service to the club as Treasurer, party planner, Karaoke madam and keeper of the secret keg factor.

**2007-2008 Board** announced:

|                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Thad Bloom      | Brett Christian | Joyce Jensen |
| Scott Armstrong | Jim Norris      |              |

## Ode to Spring flight winners:

1. Joel Worthington
2. Bill Griffin
3. John Jensen

Balloonmeister Dick Drake awarded prizes donated by the Iowa Pork Board. Thanks to Prizemeister Mark Weeks. Dick pointed out that Joel was flying a 105,000 cubic foot traditional shaped balloon, not a football shaped balloon & he had no laptop or map program in the basket with him.

## St. Patrick's Day party

The cooks of BOI must have been on vacation during March, because there was only one entry in the Irish Stew Cookoff - Jim Fromm. Jim's delicious stew obviously won first place! Max Harris & Karen Worthington won some delightful door prizes. Members dined, then prepared for the initiation ceremony. Derek Nordhagen made his debut as Giant Leprechaun - and a fine Leprechaun he was! The Leprechauns escorted the new members to the front of the Balloonport as members greeted them along the way. Founding Fathers Bill Griffin, Rob Bartholomew and Don Prine lead the new members of BOI in a solemn, moving pledge. Welcome the following new members to BOI!

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Sue Anthony       | Aricka Lambson |
| Brett Boerner     | Chad Parsons   |
| Richard Jaworski  | Peggy Parsons  |
| Marianne Kitchell | Emma Pearsons  |
| Kierstin Keller   | Kaly Pearsons  |
| Tammy Lambson     | Jordan Pierce  |
| Lexi Lambson      | Brad Temeyer   |

## LazerFest

There will be a concert held on the balloon field Sunday, May 13. They will begin setting up on Friday, May 11. Two things that will impact pilots:

- 1) **Don't plan to fly into or out of the field on May 13,**
- 2) **Filling with propane, especially on Sunday, May 13, will not be possible.**

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Greg Marchant

**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

**2007-2008 Balloons Over Iowa Board Members**  
Scott Armstrong  
Thad Bloom  
Brett Christian  
Joyce Jensen  
Jim Norris

**Treasurer**  
Jen Nordhagen

**Secretary**  
Carol Harris

**Newsletter Editor**

**Webmeister**

Carol Harris

Joel Worthington

**BOI Web site**  
[www.balloons-over-iowa-club.com](http://www.balloons-over-iowa-club.com)

**Advertising Rates**

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Insert .....         | \$30.00 |
| Full Page .....      | \$20.00 |
| Half Page .....      | \$10.00 |
| Quarter Page .....   | \$5.00  |
| Business Cards ..... | \$3.50  |

Please send all ads to:

Carol Harris  
2305 Hillside Ave  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
e-mail: hotairflyn@aol.com  
Phone 515 221-3193

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**Alliance for Aviation Across America  
Member Action Alert!**

Alliance for Aviation Across America Members: We Need Your Help!  
Congress has reached a critical stage in drafting a bill to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) right now. The big airlines' lobbyists have been relentless in their efforts to influence Members and staff and now there is a draft bill in the Senate NOW that includes this harmful "user fees" proposal.

This "user fee" tax proposal would levy a huge tax hike onto small businesses, farmers and towns across America that depend upon small planes. Not only that, according to news reports, this sweetheart deal would increase the fuel tax, yet the big airlines would walk away with a huge tax cut.

Your Senators will play an important role in deciding NOW whether to include "user fees" in the bill the Senate Aviation Subcommittee will send to the Senate Floor to vote on later this year.

It is vital that all members of the Alliance contact your Senator TODAY to urge him or her to reject "user fees" on any segment of the general aviation community in any form!

To contact your Senators please call toll-free 1-866-908-5898 to be automatically connected. When you have finished speaking with your first Senator's office, simply stay on the line to be automatically switched to the second office.

If you have any questions please feel to contact the Alliance at (202) 223-9523.

Thanks for your attention and support!

**E-mail address changes**

Gary & Merrie Fouche - loonarmagic@msn.com.

Don & Gerry Prine - gerryprine@msn.com

**Congratulations**

- ★ Chloe Elizabeth Gebhart, born September 21, 2006. Chloe weighed 7 lbs, 14 oz, and was 20 1/4 inches long. Parents - Aaron & Elizabeth Gebhart. Grandparents - Jim & Cheryl Gebhart
- ★ Elijah William Fenster, born Tuesday, January 23, 2007. Elijah weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. Parents - Matt and Emily Fenster. Grandparents - Wendy and Don Fenster.
- ★ Brody Ray Hermanson, born January 29, 2007. Brody weighed 8 lbs, 3oz. Parents - Jake and Jennifer Hermanson. Grandparents - Gary & Merrie Fouche.
- ★ Congratulations to Melissa Harris and Brett Boerner on their upcoming wedding - May 12, 2007. Parents of the bride are Max & Carol Harris.
- ★ Congratulations to Patrick Cloyd who received his private license in April

## Letter from President Meika

Hello to all my friends!

It was an old fashioned "Ode to Spring" when Balloonmeister Dick Drake cancelled the points part because winds were projected to fall close to sunset, but left it up to pilot discretion to fly for the trophy. (Actually, it's their name on a plaque, but at Ode we never sweat the details). Fourteen intrepid pilots took to the air and Joel Worthington's two foot drop earned him immortality.

Cousin Bill Griffin was second, and for a while it appeared his six foot drop would give him his third Ode to Spring victory. Considering the history of being "weathered out", that would likely be a record that could never be touched in my lifetime. Whew ! I heard many pilots say we dodged a bullet there. They feared that with notoriety, weather briefings could last 'til sunset.

Dad did an active business following the flight. Pilots of those strange football shaped balloons were inquiring about the trade in value on a 105 cubic foot model. The virtues of a stable flight path and a solid platform from which to throw your baggie were extolled. Lots of grumbling around the keg about the jerky and unpredictable nature of "competition" balloons. There may be some great bargains on the market.

The downside of a flight is the disruption of supper. Although everything was delicious, I thought I would starve before we ate. It was great though to get together with so many friends and welcome yet another ballooning season. When you are in the neighborhood, stop by the Balloonport. We will pull a packed envelope into the sun and have a good visit or a great nap. And as we open the 2007 season, always remember to:

Fly Safely,  
*Meika*

## Letter from Vice-President Sandy

Some great news to start this article out with and that is several flew during Ode to Spring. I believe the last time anyone flew was about 6-7 years ago. I heard it was a sight to be seen over Indianola. After the flight, many gathered back at the Balloonport for supper, kids games, and the awards ceremony. Also, the naming of the new board was announced (see Ode review - page 1). It was good to visit with many of you back at the Balloonport after the flight. I just wish Meika and I could have actually seen the flight, but someone needed to stay back at the balloon port to get everything ready for the evening festivities. Thank-you to

everyone who helped coordinate the 2007 Ode to Spring.

Many of you have asked if Dad has purchased his new non-standard balloon yet. Well the answer is no not yet. It's still a work in progress. Don Prine approached Dad Saturday night stating, "You know Dick, if you purchase that non-standard balloon then Gerry would allow me to purchase a non-standard balloon as well." Max Harris was laughing in the background stating that Carol made the same comment, that if Dick purchased one then Max could have a non-standard balloon as well. Mom still says we are crazy for even thinking about this whole idea. But then again, Dad thinks the standard balloons will rule this year!

I have heard rumors that Donald Trump has been asking about helping to develop the BOI retirement village. Don Prine, is this true?

Balloon events will be going full throttle here in the months to come. I hope everyone is able to get to one or all of the events planned this year. In looking at Mom and Dad's balloon calendar, it looks to be another busy season, well depending on weather. Mom assures me that I will be able to attend one other event besides the National Balloon Classic.

If you have not paid your dues to Balloons over Iowa yet, be sure to send dues to Carol Harris. Carol does an outstanding job with the newsletter!

Dad (who is on the Board of Directors for the Balloon museum) asked that I mention that if you have not renewed your dues to the National Balloon Museum to please be sure to do that as well. If you are not a member of the Museum, please give the Museum a call to get a membership set up. Or, if you are not interested in a membership, you can also make a tax-deductible donation to the Museum or to the National Balloon Museum Endowment. The ballooning community should be proud of the Museum and the history it holds on ballooning.

It's time to finish pawing this article, as the bank is about to open. I always love Monday mornings at the bank, as the regular customers who come in to visit Dad are good enough to bring me treats.

Until next time, fly safe and treat your crew like royalty,  
*Sandy Drake*

## Web site for practice FAA exams

[http://www.ballooningtexas.com/Practice\\_Test\\_Info\\_Page.htm](http://www.ballooningtexas.com/Practice_Test_Info_Page.htm)

## Retirement Center Update

May 2007

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

Your BOIRHPSAC committee has been thrown into disarray with the recent disclosure that the City of Sandyville has less than \$1000 in their treasury, is not paying bills, has not collected taxes in two years, and may declare bankruptcy. Countless hours have been spent speculating on availability of basic services to our tentative retirement home site. Deliberation has been complicated because our meeting site has been declared, on every other Saturday, "Karaoke Night". On a positive note, some very talented new committee members have been recruited and some of their suggestions could revolutionize our retirement home concept. Charter committee member, Wayne Wasson, has been so immersed in this endeavor, he has recently moved so he is now within walking distance of committee meetings. This has proven to be particularly convenient for Wayne, for occasional committee members overcome with enthusiasm for our retirement home, and for one very pretty karaoke singer that has taken a personal interest in Wayne's project.

Some committee members think the Sandyville dilemma may be a great opportunity and are investigating the possibility of purchasing the city government of Sandyville and establishing a governing structure similar to that employed by Balloons Over Iowa. This idea has infused our committee with new enthusiasm and a new subcommittee composed of members that are former "flower children" is being contemplated. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Wayne Wasson, or his new co-chair.

Respectfully submitted

Michael Van Hamme said his fondest memories were of his flower child days and requested the phone number of Wayne's co-chair. Linda Pickering expressed the opinion that Mike's flower power has significantly wilted and he is not likely to have enough energy for any additional committee work. Jen Nordhagen requested a definition of "flower children" and Rob told her to ask her mother. Gerald Conklin mentioned his growing appreciation of Karaoke and Mary said something that sounded like, "shush". Linda Bartholomew said she hopes the founding fathers won't be called upon to coordinate Sandyville because she never sees Rob now, with all his BOI and BOIRHPSAC committee responsibilities. Bill Griffin acknowledged that BOIRHPSAC committee activities can be intense and requested that the fact that he is also within walking distance of our meeting site be mentioned in our minutes.

Jim Fromm reported that the Sandyville crisis has also placed additional pressure on the site selection subcommittee to intensify efforts to visit alternative sites and that expenses would be submitted in the usual manner. BOIRHPSAC members retired to the refrigerator. BOI board members appeared to be in stunned appreciation of the 24/7 dedication of the BOIRHPSAC committee.

## Calendar of Events

- May 20, 2007 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- June 1-3 **Manitowoc Air Show Balloon Rally** Manitowoc, WI Contact [www.wiballoongroup.org](http://www.wiballoongroup.org) or Ken Walter @ [WiWindancer@cs.com](mailto:WiWindancer@cs.com)
- June 2 **Hog Rally** – Danville [dean@heritagedevelop.com](mailto:dean@heritagedevelop.com)
- June 9-10 **Great Plains Balloon Race** Sioux Falls, SD
- June 14-17 **Monroe Balloon Rally**, Monroe, WI. Contact Matt Urban: [urban@tds.net](mailto:urban@tds.net)
- June 17, 2007 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- June 22-24 **Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race**, Ottumwa IA Contact Dale or Holly Dommer
- June 22-24 **Balloons in June** Clinton IA [www.balloonsinjune.us](http://www.balloonsinjune.us)
- June 24-25 **Rochester Mayor's Cup Invitational** Rochester, MN
- June 29 - July 4 **Battle Creek Field of Flight**, Battle Creek, MI. [www.bcballoon.com](http://www.bcballoon.com) Contact: Barbara Haluszka 269-962-0592 [bchabc@bcballoons.com](mailto:bchabc@bcballoons.com)
- June 30- July 4 **Lisle Eyes to the Skies** [Balloonnow@aol.com](mailto:Balloonnow@aol.com)
- July 6-8 **Wausau Balloon Rally** Wausau, WI. Contact: Steve Woller: [wausauballoon@msn.com](mailto:wausauballoon@msn.com) or [www.wiballoongroup.org](http://www.wiballoongroup.org)
- Jul 20-22 **Waukesha, WI Skyfest** Contact: [WiWindancer@cs.com](mailto:WiWindancer@cs.com)
- July 13-15 **Peoria Balloon Fest** Peoria, IL. Contact: Allen Yost: [allenyost@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allenyost@sbcglobal.net) or Becky Riojas 309-686-0101
- July 15, 2007 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- July 20-22 **Waukesha Skyfest Balloon Rally** Waukesha, WI Contact: [www.wiballoongroup.org](http://www.wiballoongroup.org) or Ken Walter @ [WiWindancer@cs.com](mailto:WiWindancer@cs.com)
- July 15-19 **BFA Youth Summer Camp** Tyler, TX. Contact: Shelley Caraway 903-986-0933 [balloonist@peoplepc.com](mailto:balloonist@peoplepc.com)
- July 17-22 **US National Balloon Championships** Waco, TX. Contact: BFA (515) 961-8809 [bfaoffice@bfa.net](mailto:bfaoffice@bfa.net)
- July 27-August 4, 2007 **National Balloon Classic** Contact Greg Marchant at 1-800-FLYIOWA or [www.nationalballoonclassic.com](http://www.nationalballoonclassic.com)
- July 27-29 **Galesburg Great Balloon Race** Contact: [cptfire@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cptfire@sbcglobal.net)
- August 3-5 **7th Annual Seymour Hamburger Festival Balloon Rally** Seymour, WI. Contact: Tom Wittman 920-993-6985 [BumsInParadise@new.rr.com](mailto:BumsInParadise@new.rr.com)
- August 10-12 **Hartford Balloon Rally** Hartford, WI Contact: [www.Wiballoongroup.org](http://www.Wiballoongroup.org) or Ken Walter @ [WiWindancer@cs.com](mailto:WiWindancer@cs.com)
- August 17-19 **Centralia Balloon Fest** [www.centraliail.com](http://www.centraliail.com)
- August 19, 2007 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- August 24-26 **Wisconsin Rapids, WI** [www.cmnballoonrally.com](http://www.cmnballoonrally.com)
- August 24-26 **Columbia, MO** [gsw1@mchsi.com](mailto:gsw1@mchsi.com)
- August 24-25 **19th Lincoln Balloon Fest** Lincoln, IL. [www.lincolnilinois.com/balloonfest](http://www.lincolnilinois.com/balloonfest) Contact: Annette Chapman 217-735-2385, [events@lincolnilinois.com](mailto:events@lincolnilinois.com)
- August 25-27 **Children's Miracle Network Balloon Rally** WI Rapids, WI. Contact Steve Woller: [wausauballoon@msn.com](mailto:wausauballoon@msn.com)
- Sept 1-3 **Great Pershing Balloon Derby**, Brookfield, MO. Contact Sherry Techau - [rstechau@classicnet.net](mailto:rstechau@classicnet.net)
- September 7-9 **Huff n' Puff Rally** [www.huff-n-puff.org](http://www.huff-n-puff.org)  
E-mail: [info@huff-n-puff.org](mailto:info@huff-n-puff.org)
- September 7-8 **Macomb IL Balloon Rally** Contact: [balloons@macomb.com](mailto:balloons@macomb.com)
- September 14-16 **SW Iowa Pro Balloon Race** Creston, IA. Contact Rob Bartholomew 515 989-3708
- September 14-15 **Eagle Creek-Shelbyville IL** [bdenhart@insightbb.com](mailto:bdenhart@insightbb.com)
- September 14-15 **Forest Park, St. Louis** [www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com](http://www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com)
- September 15-17 **Faribault Airfest and Balloon Race** Faribault, MN Contact: [steve@mnvalleyballoons.com](mailto:steve@mnvalleyballoons.com)
- September 16, 2007 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- October 21, 2007 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- October 27, 2007 **BOI Halloween Party** BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- November 18, 2007 6:30 p.m. **BOI meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- October 6-7 **Milton Historical Society Heritage Days & Balloon Event** Milton, WI. Contact Jim Bushelle: [n1965n@ticon.net](mailto:n1965n@ticon.net)
- October 6-14 **Albuquerque Fiesta** [www.aibf.org](http://www.aibf.org)

October 27-28 (?? 21-22) **John Symonds Memorial Challenge** LaCrosse, WI. Contact: Tom Wittman  
BurnsInParadise@new.rr.com 920-993-6985

November 30-December 2 **Battle Creek, MI Holiday Fest**  
www.holidayballoonfest.com

December 1-2 **Bluff's and Valley Balloon Race** Caledonia, MN

*Race organizers - please send your dates, etc for 2007 to Carol - hotairflyn@aol.com*

### Happy Anniversary

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Steve & Jerri Hoover        | 6-1  |
| Brad & Amy Craig            | 6-3  |
| Randy & Rochelle Kochheiser | 6-6  |
| Kathy & Tom McCoy           | 6-7  |
| Jeff & Deb Bridgewater      | 6-10 |
| Gerald & Barb Knoll         | 6-11 |
| Gil & Becky Wigeland        | 6-12 |
| Charlie & Debbie Thorman    | 6-17 |
| Steve & Barbara Jones       | 6-21 |
| Rod & Maureen Drexler       | 6-21 |
| Jim & Rita Fromm            | 6-22 |
| Mike & Beth Oberman         | 6-22 |
| Nate & Amy Smith            | 6-24 |
| Bill & Becky Sponsler       | 6-29 |
| Jeremy & Macenzie Rubin     | 6-30 |
|                             |      |
| Mary Eagan & Rick McCubbin  | 7-1  |
| Ronald & Misty Dobesh       | 7-1  |
| Norm & Kay Fee              | 7-3  |
| Kirk & Melissa Bloom        | 7-3  |
| Mason & Heather Fromm       | 7-4  |
| Jake & Paula Hamlin         | 7-11 |
| Linn & Marsha Hoskins       | 7-16 |
| Randy & Lisa Stone          | 7-22 |
| Joe & Monica Thompson       | 7-22 |
| Dan & Michele Corbin        | 7-22 |
| Matt & Emily Fenster        | 7-26 |



### Happy Birthday

#### June

Jacob Ricke  
Lee Trebbien  
Amy Smith  
Mike Wildung  
Mya Foelske  
Barbara Ross  
Jim Norris  
Ben Clark  
Wynne Clark  
Paula Boe  
Richard Swanson  
Loretta Taylor  
Brandon Pedersen  
Jake Hamlin  
Gretchen Ryan  
Don Wiley  
Melissa Harris  
Blair Brody  
Jodi DeZurik  
Macenzie Rubin  
Aaron Gebhart  
Terry Riepe  
Charlie Ong  
Caleb Nordhagen  
Edel Fromm  
Ellis Benus  
Mallori Adams  
Nicholas Pash  
Mark Mohring  
Jerry Tierman  
Bob Shelton  
Ashley Oakes  
Thomas Hemmingsen  
Meghan Taylor  
Michael Dunnick  
Eldon Benus  
Beth Oberman  
Kristie Wildung

#### July

6-2 Riley Nordhagen 7-1  
6-4 Dustin Herman 7-2  
6-4 Whitney Oberman 7-2  
6-4 Gerry Prine 7-2  
6-5 Brenda Rohr 7-3  
6-6 Penny Pieper 7-3  
6-6 Sheri Clark 7-4  
6-7 Mary Conklin 7-4  
6-7 Meg Allbaugh 7-5  
6-8 Alexandra Adams 7-5  
6-9 Randy Kochheiser 7-7  
6-10 Pat Tierney 7-7  
6-10 David Edmister 7-7  
6-10 Jody Woodruff 7-7  
6-11 Matthew Grote 7-8  
6-12 Courtney Schulte 7-8  
6-12 Cory Bloom 7-8  
6-12 Julie Herman 7-8  
6-12 Doug Purdy 7-9  
6-13 Anthony VanBroekhuizen 7-9  
6-14 Benji Clemons 7-10  
6-14 Bret Christian 7-11  
6-14 Keith Williams 7-13  
6-14 Tom Ricke 7-13  
6-16 Phil Smith 7-13  
6-18 Abigail Jensen 7-15  
6-19 Michael VanHamme 7-15  
6-19 John Jensen 7-15  
6-20 Aaron (AJ) Foelske 7-15  
6-20 Nathan Smith 7-15  
6-22 Deb Jensen 7-15  
6-22 Kristy Pash 7-16  
6-23 Tony Funaro 7-17  
6-23 Christina Sponsler 7-17  
6-23 Emmy Konvalin 7-21  
6-26 Bloom Kirk 7-21  
6-27 Laurie Allbaugh 7-23  
6-27 Collin Oponski 7-23  
6-28 Lynn Craig 7-23  
6-29 Steven Ross 7-24  
6-29 Jodi Erger 7-23  
6-29 Ken Allbaugh 7-26  
Dan Ricke 7-26  
Todd Isley 7-26  
Gene Elsasser 7-27  
Sue Anthony 7-29  
Ruth Montague 7-30  
Chad Anthony 7-30  
Branden Bloom 7-30  
Misty Dobesh 7-31  
Brad Temeyer 7-31  
Jennifer Anthony 7-31  
Linda Bartholomew 7-31

## NTSB Reports

### **NTSB Identification: LAX05LA135.**

Wednesday, April 13, 2005 in Marana, AZ

Aircraft: Cameron Balloons A-210, registration: N210EW

Injuries: 1 Fatal, 3 Serious, 7 Minor.

The balloon collided with boulders located atop a hill, fatally injuring a passenger. After a normal departure on the for-hire sightseeing flight, the pilot transferred control authority to a crewmember who held a private pilot certificate. The purpose of the control transfer was to help the crewmember obtain more practice hours and log pilot-in-command time. He was additionally receiving instruction from the commercial pilot. As the balloon approached rising terrain the crewmember continued the ascent up to about 1,000 feet above ground level (agl). The pilot said the balloon began a gradual descent and the crewmember reacted by manipulating all the burners to produce maximum lift. The balloon's basket impacted a boulder on the peak of the hill and bounced upward. The balloon again collided with another boulder and subsequently became airborne, clearing the peak of the hill. After maneuvering the balloon over power lines, the pilot landed. A passenger reported that the balloon continued to gain altitude continuously as it proceeded toward the mountain. In the cumulative 2 minutes prior to impact, the passenger noted that the balloon did not appear to increase in altitude, and he assumed that the pilot was going to attempt to maneuver around the approaching peak. He stated that during the flight's duration only one burner was operating at a given time, with the exception of just seconds before the impact when the pilot instructed the other crewmember to "turn on both burners." The passenger said that the two burners appeared to be operating. He added that the balloon's altitude never appeared to reach higher than the top of the hill, and the flight path consisted of a continuous ascent up the mountain. Safety Board investigators reviewed an atmospheric sounding of the area around the time of the accident. The data did not support any thermals and no clear air turbulence was identified at the accident altitudes. The wind profile indicated calm surface winds, defined as below 10 knots. No defined mountain wave pattern was identified. A post accident examination of the balloon found no anomalies or discrepancies with the envelope, basket, or burners. Regulations restrict private pilots from being pilot-in-command during commercial operations with fare-paying passengers; however, a private pilot can be the pilot-in-command if a commercial pilot is providing instruction.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the

probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: the failure of the flying pilot to attain a proper climb rate and maintain an adequate clearance from rising terrain. Also causal was the commercial pilot's inadequate supervision of the flight and his delayed remedial action.

### **NTSB Identification: LAX05LA162**

Sunday, May 08, 2005 in Del Mar, CA

Aircraft: Ultramagic -250, registration: N3002J

Injuries: 1 Serious, 9 Uninjured.

This is preliminary information, subject to change, and may contain errors. Any errors in this report will be corrected when the final report has been completed.

On May 8, 2005, at 1930 Pacific daylight time, a passenger sustained a serious injury during the landing of an Ultramagic -250, N3002J, hot air balloon in a field 2 miles east of Del Mar, California. The balloon was operated by the commercial pilot under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 91 as a commercial revenue sightseeing flight. One of the nine passengers was seriously injured during the landing, and the balloon was not damaged. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a visual flight plan had not been filed.

The pilot reported to the National Transportation Safety Board investigator that the passenger said she had numbness in her legs but did not mention that to the pilot prior to the landing. Upon landing the passenger fractured her ankle. No other injuries were reported. The pilot told the police officer that responded to the scene that the landing was a normal landing in the designated landing area.

### **NTSB Identification: DFW05LA125.**

Wednesday, May 18, 2005 in Shreveport, LA

Aircraft: Aerostar International Inc. S53A, registration: N699WH

Injuries: 2 Fatal.

While flying over a residential area, the balloon struck electrical power lines approximately 60 feet above ground level (agl). Subsequently, the balloon was observed by witnesses ascending to an altitude of approximately 2,000 feet, with the basket of the balloon engulfed in flames. The balloon drifted for approximately two miles before gradually descending and coming to rest in a parking lot.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: The pilot's failure to maintain clearance from electrical power lines.

**NTSB Identification: CHI05CA133.**

Friday, May 27, 2005 in Sparta, MO

Aircraft: Aerostar S-57A, registration: N71072

Injuries: 1 Serious, 2 Uninjured.

The balloon sustained minor damage and the pilot sustained serious injuries when a wind gust was encountered while descending for landing following a tethered flight. The two passengers on-board were not injured. The pilot reported that he obtained a preflight weather briefing during which he was advised that forecast winds were to be 7 knots. He noted that he departed from his residence on a free balloon flight. After take off the flight proceeded in an easterly direction and landed about 30 minutes later. He stated that no unusual weather activity was observed during that flight and winds remained light. The pilot stated that after landing he elected to provide tethered balloon rides for residents in the area. He reported that while descending to land after the final ride, while about 30 feet above ground level, a "strong north wind suddenly hit the balloon." He estimated the wind gust was 25 miles per hour. He stated that he could not hold the balloon and it began to travel toward the south at a "rapid speed," which resulted in a hard landing in the next field. He reported that he pulled the vent line in an attempt to deflate the balloon envelope. The pilot stated that he was subsequently "bounced out" of the basket and was dragged through the field. The balloon "relaunched" itself in the high wind and flew into a tree. He was no longer able to hold onto the vent line and fell about 20 feet to the ground. The pilot suffered a fractured pelvis and compressed vertebrae.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: The pilot's inability to maintain a proper descent rate due to the wind gust resulting in a hard landing. Contributing factors were the wind gust and the tree struck during the landing.

**NTSB Identification: CHI05CA209.**

Monday, August 01, 2005 in Indianola, IA

Aircraft: National Ballooning 751-12, registration: N3219T

Injuries: 2 Uninjured.

A free balloon sustained substantial damage during a forced landing when it impacted power lines after an in-flight fire. The pilot reported that during the preflight checks of the balloon he connected the two liquid propane lines and the pilot light vapor line properly. The pilot reported the balloon lifted off the field and that the burner was functioning normally. When the balloon was about 700 feet above ground level (agl), the pilot observed flames "coming from both the pilot light hose and the tank hose (right side of aircraft and the side where two tanks are manifolded together)." He attempted to put out the fire with his gloved hand, but was unsuccessful. He then shut off the tanks at the tank valves on the right side of the balloon, but the fire

continued. He reported that an emergency landing was imminent so he shut off the third tank on the left side of the balloon. Then he rechecked to make sure the manifold valves were shut off. The bottom of the balloon's basket hit the power lines. The balloon continued to descend until the basket impacted the ground. The basket tipped over when it hit the ground, and the pilot and passenger exited the basket. The pilot used the on-board fire extinguisher to put out the fire that was still burning at the hose-burner connection. The pilot reported that once the balloon was removed from the power lines, he retrieved the envelope and basket. He disconnected the fuel lines and the pilot light line while the ground crew put the envelope away. During the inspection of the balloon, the burner and basket were reassembled. The pilot reconnected the fuel lines and the pilot light line. During the burner operational check there were no propane leaks and the burner functioned. Pictures of the propane bottle provided by the fire department appeared to show frost on the pilot light valve.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: The in-flight fire due to the loose fuel line connection as a result of the pilot's inadequate preflight. A factor was the power lines.

**NTSB Identification: DFW05CA223.**

Friday, August 19, 2005 in Denton, TX

Aircraft: Aerostar International RX-8, registration: N6339G

Injuries: 1 Serious, 2 Uninjured.

The 700-hour commercial pilot, with about 400-hours in balloons, was assigned two passengers for a non-revenue media flight. The pilot cautioned the passengers that the winds at landing could be eight to ten miles per hour (mph), and that the landing could be bumpy. He briefed both passengers on landing procedures, reminding them throughout the flight and landing approach to flex their knees, hold on, and stay in the basket. Upon landing the injured passenger immediately stated that she had broken her ankle. The pilot reported the landing impact was "moderate with no rebound." The second passenger reported the landing as "firm, but not violent." After landing the balloon dragged about 125 feet before coming to rest. The pilot reported the winds were from the south-southwest at 9 knots.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: The passenger's failure to follow landing instructions, which resulted in serious injury. A contributing factor was the high wind.



☘ St. Patrick's Day party ☘



New members prepare for Initiation



Derek Nordhagen debuts as Giant Leprechaun along with Jim Fromm



Karen



Tyler



Gil



Ralph



Giant & Lil' Leprechauns



Joel



LuAnn, Mary & Conk



Sue



Allan & Becky



Ryan & the kids sing Karaoke

# Ode to Spring 2007



*Crews wait patiently*



*Pilot meeting*



*John scores*



*Bill in the lead for about 2 minutes*



*Thanks to Mary, Conk, Teresa, Doug, Terry for scoring*



*Joel Wins!*



*Kidmeister Derek lines up the kids for some early lessons in baggie tossing*



*Nice hat, Larry*



*Dick & Paul*



*Cleo award - Jen Nordhagen*

# Ode to Spring (continued)



*Crew of the Year - Joel Worthington's crew*



*#2 - Bill Griffin, Balloonmeister Dick Drake, #1 Joel Worthington*



*2007-2008 BOI Board Bret Christian, Scott Armstrong  
(Not shown Thad Bloom, Joyce Jensen, Jim Norris)*

## *New Balloons (or new owners)*



*Joel Worthington*



*Tim & Patrick Cloyd*



*Aaron Gebhart*



*Benji Clemons*



*Todd Isley*



*Brad Craig  
(new last year)*

## The Way It Was

### 25 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 5-27-1982 Donna Rieck received her Private license.
- ★ June 18-20 "Balloons Over Bagley" – Bagley Centennial Celebration. Race officials: Balloonmeister (AKA Head Honcho) – Terry Boettcher; Assistant Balloonmeister (AKA Finance & Promotion) – Don Prine; Scoring Officer (AKA Logistics Chairman) – Jerry Riley; Weather Officer (AKA Registration & Housing) – Bill Griffin; Safety Officer & FAA (AKA Hospitality Chairman) – Rob Bartholomew.

### 20 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 6-28-1987 Bill Clemons received his Commercial license.
- ★ June 1987 – Gary Fouche takes over as newsletter editor
- ★ Events on the schedule for 1987: Quad Cities; Kansas City; Ottumwa; Grinnell; Nationals, Oskaloosa; Storm Lake; Altoona; Creston; Mason City; Albuquerque.

### 15 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 6-13-1992 Andy Williams received his Private license.
- ★ June '92 – Gary Ford Newsletter editor

### 10 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ May 18, 1997 BOI Meeting: 16 members present; Kay Fee chaired meeting; New board members wore beer hats.
- ★ Benji Clemons graduated from Lincoln HS; Edel Fromm graduated from DMACC; Mason Fromm graduated from UNI
- ★ Jennifer McMahon (daughter of Merrie & Gary Fouche) graduated from Indianola HS
- ★ Brad Craig graduated from Carlisle High School
- ★ 6-1-1997 Al Wiltse received his Commercial license.
- ★ Gerald & Mary Conklin are to be King & Queen of the Classic Parade
- ★ Ballooning Cleaning tip - for "burner drip" - black marks on shirts, use Dawn Dishwashing soap - apply to spot, scrub with toothbrush, then wash
- ★ Brandon Pedersen born 6-10-97 to Chris & Melissa Pedersen. Grand-parents are Max & Carol Harris.
- ★ Grinnell review: 16 balloons; Balloonmeister – Frank Upton; Nite Glow Fri, Trip to Tama casino Sat am, Hare & Hound Sat night with some pilots qualifying for the long jump due to the speedy winds!; Brunch & Awards Sun a.m. - 1st place Terry McGonegle, 2nd – Dave Tressel, 3rd – Mike Hadley
- ★ 6-14-1997 Mike Oberman received his Commercial license.
- ★ June 15, 1997 BOI Meeting: 13 members present; Meeting chaired by Gerald Knoll; BOI is concerned that the Classic is the same time as the July monthly

meeting. Next year, the Classic will need to look at the dates for BOI meetings and schedule their event around BOI

- ★ Ottumwa review: 30 balloons registered for the 20th Annual Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race; Fri night - a few balloons flew, some glowed; Sat a.m. - CNT; Sat - only 1 balloonist flew, others glowed; Sun a.m. - CNT; Winner - John Johnson, 2nd – Maury Petrehn, 3rd – Ralph Rieck
- ★ Wisconsin Dells review: 100 balloons registered; 2 tasks - one fun flight; large crowds of spectators – 5,000 in a.m. & 30,000 in the evening; Peter Fay from Colorado won 1st place.

### 5 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ May 2002 Balloons Over Iowa Retirement Home Planning and Site Acquisition Committee report: Rob and Linda traveled to Cancun, Mexico to search for sites and study Inca ruins; Dick and Phyllis Drake are exploring the feasibility of utilizing our motor home option, on moving barges; Don and Gerry Prine traveled to Caracas, Venezuela, exploring a rumor that there was significant interest in using balloons to carry commercial cargo; Members Fromm, Oberman and Wasson have also been very busy, submitting expenses for fish bait, seed corn and support of horses, respectively
- ★ BOI Member Eric Mildebrath has retired from ballooning.
- ★ Randy & Lisa Stone bought a new balloon
- ★ No BOI meeting - it was flyable
- ★ 5-27-2002 Aaron Foelske received his private license
- ★ June 2002 Retirement Center update: Secret site acquisition negotiations continue; BOIRHPSAC has been meeting nearly every night to conduct difficult and sensitive negotiations to acquire land on which our Retirement Center may be built; The committee has discovered that we are now entering a phase where site specifications must be developed. Many long hours are being spent discussing what features must be incorporated into our Retirement Center. Swimming pool, hot tub and sauna are some suggestions that can be shared
- ★ Jim Thompson's dream flight – in a gas balloon. "My first gas flight was a complete surprise and was everything I had ever dreamed it would be. In addition it was my first night flight, over four states, with a total flight distance of approximately 200 miles."
- ★ 6-6-2002 John Jensen received his Commercial license.
- ★ Ames Summer Breeze (NABA Iowa Championship) - 43 pilots; Bill Clemons was Event Director & Bill

- Griffin & Brad Temeyer were the Weather Officials; 3 flights & 2 glows. NABA Iowa Championship top 3 were #1 Tom Ricke, #2 Benji Clemons & #3 Jeremy Rubin. The overall winner for the second year in a row was Maury Petrehn. #2 Nick Donner, #3 Joe Heartsill.
- ★ Max & Carol Harris bought a new balloon - Ambrosia.
  - ★ Todd & DeanAnn Netley bought a new balloon
  - ★ Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race Phil Gray was the Balloonmeister, Jim Thompson was the safety officer and Bill Griffith was the safety officer. 3 flights, one glow. Jim Thompson took best in show, Rich Jaworski finished second and Brad Craig placed third.
  - ★ Balloons in June Clinton, IA - 32 balloons. 2 flights, 2 glows.
  - ★ Great Galena Balloon Race Galena, IL. 1 glow, 2 flights. Wyn Gustafson took first place and Phil Thompson took second.
  - ★ Marshalltown Balloon Festival - 28 pilots. 3 flights
  - ★ 6-23-2002 Terry Montague received his Commercial license.
  - ★ 6-27-2002 Wyman Borts received his Commercial license.

### **Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting**

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA  
March 18, 2007

**Present:** Michael VanHamme, Linda Pickering, Bill Griffin, Sue Anthony, Joel Worthington, Jake Worthington, Bill Craig, Jeremy King, Brad & Amy Craig, Ariel Williams, Madison Williams, Ashlynn Williams, Colton Craig, Michelle Craig, Max & Carol Harris, Rob & Linda Bartholomew.

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:36:47 by chair Linda Pickering.

**Secretary's report:** Minutes from the February meeting presented. Bill G. moved to approve secretary's report. Linda P. protested, said she would have been present last month, but Bill forgot to pick her up. "He stood me up!". Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer is at the computer, it is a work in progress

#### **Old Business:**

- ★ He's not here. He was here at the St. Patrick's party last night.
- ★ Michael asked to commend Carol on the way she handled his bottom. *You had to be there.*
- ★ Bill said there is a good chance that we will fly Ode to Spring. Dick is Balloonmeister. Rob moved to have Dwight Freitag cook the pork. Michelle 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.
- ★ Members commented that Old Business isn't here & so

far all votes have been unanimous.

- ★ Discussion on other food for Ode.

**Treasurer's report:** Bad news - the secret keg factor has gone up due to the increased cost of kegs. We have 72.5 kegs. Rob moved that Bill pick up the kegs for Ode. Michael 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Okey-Dokey except Bill. Joel moved to accept the treasurer's report. Bill 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

#### **New Business:**

- ★ Carol presented an invitation to Tijuana, Mexico balloon event.
- ★ Carol presented a letter from the BFA concerning Youth National Balloon Camp in Tyler, Texas.
- ★ Discussion on Kidmeister for Ode.
- ★ Discussion on parties at the Balloonport. Discussion on parties in VanHamme's bottom. *Again, you had to be there!*
- ★ Carol presented an updated Logo to be used for the new sign at the Pilots' entrance to the NBC field.

Michael moved to adjourn, Jen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 7:17:24.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Harris, secretary.

### **Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting**

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA  
April 15, 2007

**Present:** Joel Worthington, Bill Griffin, Linda Pickering, Michael VanHamme, Dick & Phyllis Drake, Max & Carol Harris.

Meeting called to order by Chair Linda Pickering at 6:37:34

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the March meeting presented. Michael VanHamme requested to have minutes changed from Mike to Michael. Bill moved to approve the minutes, Max seconded. Motion carried. Dick voted "Aye". Discussion. Bill called for a ponderance. Dick read from his "Book of Imponderables". "Why do dogs tilt their heads when you talk to them?"

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer not present.

#### **Old Business:**

- ★ He's not here.
- ★ Bill questioned last month's decision on having him pick up the kegs. Bill moved that Elmo, as kegmeister pick up the kegs. Michael observed that Bill is trying to pass the buck. Phyllis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.
- ★ Joel reported on evaluations received from Ground School participants. They were very positive. He will print the comments & bring next month.

## New Business:

- ★ Discussion on Pilot packs for Ode.

*Rob Bartholomew, Jen & Derek Nordhagen arrived.*

- ★ Bill presented the Des Moines article on the town of Sandyville from this morning's DM Register. Part of the BOI Lifetime Benefits from the Initiation speaks to the "BOI Retirement Home in Sandyville". Should BOI save Sandyville? By placing the retirement home there, wouldn't it save the economy in Sandyville - job opportunities, property tax relief? Discussion, discussion. Jen pointed out that Sandyville doesn't have a Convenience store - no place to purchase beer - we can't go there!

*Crisis - VP Sandy is running away.*

- ★ Discussion on beer for Ode - kegs vs. cases of beer. Due to a new law by the "great Democratic governor", anyone buying a keg must register with driver's license. Jen moved to buy cases of beer instead of kegs. Carol seconded. All approved. Discussion on kegmeister Elmo. He can bring cans of beer to those in need. An appropriate reward should be given - maybe a sip of your beer or a dog treat - no contaminated treats.

**Treasurer's report** - same as last month.

- ★ Michael reports that VanHamme's bottom is too wet to fly out of. Maybe it will be dry enough in 2 weeks if the weather is dry.
- ★ Discussion on Ode to Spring. We last flew 2000.

*Some members rushed outside to see a balloon fly over. You'd think they'd never seen a balloon fly before!*

*Michael called for a Ponderance. Dick was outside watching the balloon.*

- ★ Discussion on having Bill oversee the Kidmeister for Ode. After all, he is an Educator & Administrator.

Joel moved to adjourn meeting, Phyllis seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned 7:43:15

Respectfully submitted  
Carol Harris, Secretary

## Pilot Relations Meeting

Thursday, March 8, 2007

Attendees: John Jensen, Gary Ruble, Gary Haynes, Brad Craig, Joel Worthington, Kirk & Missy Bloom, Dick & Phyllis Drake, Tom Ricke.

Agenda:

- ▶ Registration has been EMAILED or SNAIL MAIL, if anyone hasn't received the registration packet please notify the Classic at 515-961-8415.
- ▶ Forwarded emails from Greg about the 2008 registration. The attendees didn't feel the need for the 2 week advantage. Also need to make the registration in ONE file with multiple pages in word form (read-only) because some pilots fill out the form on the computer.
- ▶ Question was about the STC part of the registration - should be some part of the log book or paperwork where the basket and balloon have been mated with each other.
- ▶ January Classic Board's comments: Still requesting some pilots on the Classic Board. This request was made in Sept/Oct with a response from the Board in Jan, which the deadline had already passed.
- ▶ Daily Pilot Committee: Lindstrand, Cameron, National and Balloon Works have ALL said they would support the daily pilot gift for the week of the National Balloon Classic. Committee: Joel Worthington, Crazy Al, Jim Gebhart and Jim Fromm
- ▶ Classic Balloon Staff: Balloonmeister - Matt Fenster, Asst. Balloonmeister - Todd Isley, Jason Jones & Jeremy Rubin, Scoring Officials - Bill & Dunky Christian, Rural Relations - Roger & Jody Woodruff, Launch Director - Mark Ziino, Computer - John Jensen
- ▶ Crew Training: Joel Worthington (will ask Crazy Al) to do the Crew Training night. Date is Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Flight over Des Moines: Will be Monday, July 23rd at 6:00 a.m. location TBA. Raindate: Tuesday July 24th at 6:00 a.m. Rob Bartholomew will be the Balloonmeister, Bill Griffin will be the weathermeister. We need someone help to coordinate the pilots the day before.
- ▶ BFA North Central Region and BFA Iowa Championship: After receive an email of the classic doing an open sanction, the Classic has decided to do the North Central Region and the BFA Iowa Championship.
- ▶ IBA had voted to spend roughly \$300 to place a sign board at the lower gate to welcome pilots and crew. The old sign has been misplaced. Thank Jim & Connie Thompson for their efforts.

Thanks,

John Jensen

## Pilot Relations Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 2007

Attendees: John Jensen, Gary Haynes, Joel Worthington, Dick & Phyllis Drake, Al Appenzeller.

### Agenda:

- ▶ Al Appenzeller - brought to the group that the Indianola Chamber/ Economic Development is paying a research firm to look at what Indianola has to offer. Example: Pella for the Dutch/Tulip Days, Winterset the Bridges, Indianola - ??.
- ▶ Reminder: LazerFest will be held at the National Balloon Classic Field on May 12 & 13. Landing at the Balloon field will be VERY difficult and refueling will possibly be impossible.
- ▶ Also, looking for 3 persons to review the Pilot Registrations. If interested, please let me know.
- ▶ Registration has been EMAILED or SNAIL MAIL, if anyone hasn't received the registration packet please notify the Classic at 515-961-8415. Currently, 51 pilots have registered for the 2007 National Balloon Classic. Question was about the STC part of the registration - should be some part of the log book or paperwork where the basket and balloon have been mated with each other. Pilot Relations review 2 pilot applications for hours and were approved. Forwarded emails from Greg about the 2008 registration. The attendees didn't feel the need for the 2 week advantage. Also need to make the registration in ONE file with multiple pages in word form (read-only) because some pilots fill out the form on the computer. Will probably remove the Pilot Biography, unless there is a new pilot or a pilot that hasn't been to the Balloon Classic in 5 years, or someone with a new balloon. Will remove the crew request form and add a spot for crew request.
- ▶ Daily Pilot Committee - Lindstrand (Jeremy Rubin), Cameron (Cory Bloom), National (Bill & Louise Clemons) and Balloon Works (Rob & Linda Bartholomew) have ALL said they would support the daily pilot gift. Committee: Joel Worthington, Crazy Al, Jim Gebhart and Jim Fromm
- ▶ Classic Balloon Staff -- Balloonmeister - Matt Fenster, Asst. Balloonmeister - Todd Isley, Jason Jones & Jeremy Rubin, Scoring Officials - Bill & Dunky Christian, Rural Relations - Roger & Jody Woodruff, Launch Director - Mark Ziino, Scoring/Computer - John Jensen
- ▶ Crew Training - Joel Worthington & Crazy Al Appenzeller will be doing the Crew Training night Wednesday, July 25 at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Flight over Des Moines - Will be Monday, July 23rd at 6:00 a.m. location TBA. Raindate: Tuesday July 24th at 6:00 a.m. Rob Bartholomew will be the Balloonmeister, Bill Griffin will be the weathermeister. We need someone help to coordinate the pilots the day before.

- ▶ BFA North Central Region and BFA Iowa Championship - National Balloon Classic has decided to host the BFA - North Central Regional Championship. A group of Iowa pilots, will be hosting the BFA - Iowa Championship through a point system, which the National Balloon Classic will be a part of.
- ▶ Some Info: the IBA had voted to spend roughly \$300 to place a sign board at the lower gate to welcome pilots and crew. The old sign has been misplaced. Thank Jim & Connie Thompson for their efforts.

Thanks,  
John Jensen

The next Pilot Relations Meeting will be MAY 10th, 2007 (Thursday) at the museum.

*From John Jensen - Here is the Proposal that I had sent to Jim Thompson for the BFA Competition Committee:*

### BFA – Iowa State Championship Proposal

#### Requirements:

- 2007 BFA Member
- 2007 BFA Sanction Card holder
- Iowa Pilot

#### Registration Fee - \$50 per pilot

- Expenses of \$150 for the BFA State Championship fee
- Expenses of \$25 for the BFA Open Sanction fee
- Mailings/web site fees

Remaining Funds will be distributed at the end of the year:

- 1st place – 38%
- 2nd place – 26%
- 3RD place – 19%
- 4th place – 12%
- 5th place – 5%

Use of percentages, due to unknown number of pilots wanting to join the BFA – Iowa State Championship.

**DEADLINE** for registration of entry into the BFA – Iowa State Championship is **MAY 1st, 2007**.

Once a pilot has registered for the BFA – Iowa State Championship, the pilot will NOT be able to remove him or herself from an event competition. If at an event, not an open sanction, each pilot that has registered will automatically be entered into the BFA – Iowa State Championship sanction.

#### Schedule:

- Emmetsburg: May 26 – 28 ----- AM flights
- Open Sanction: June 9th (Sat) ----- AM flight  
*Rain date: June 10th (Sun) --- AM flight*
- Ottumwa: June 23 – 24 -----AM flights

National Balloon Classic:  
July 29 (Sun) – Aug 4 (Sat) ----- AM flights

Open Sanction: Aug 18th (Sat) ----- AM flight  
*Rain date: Aug 19 (Sun) --- AM flight*

Creston: September 15 & 16 --- AM flight

If a group of Iowa pilots choose to organize a date for competition, they can do so.

**Required:** BFA – Open Sanction filed, fee paid by the funds.

Date – Published in ONE of the Iowa Balloon Club’s Newsletter

Date – Published in the BFA – Iowa Championship

\*Per BFA rules – a Sanction event has to have a minimum of 6 pilots. If at an event sanction, there need to be 6 pilots for the BFA – Iowa State Championship.

If at an open sanction, need to have a minimum 6 pilots to count. IF there are 5 Iowa State Championship and 1 non – Iowa State Championship, the open sanction will count, but will NOT count for the Iowa State Championship, since there will NOT be 6 Iowa State Championship participating pilots.

**Qualify for the Iowa State Championship:**

Each Pilot needs to fly a minimum of 4 BFA – Iowa State Championship tasks.

Each Pilot must compete in a minimum of 2 BFA – Iowa State sanction events throughout the 2007 year.

**Scoring:**

Scoring Avg. – Calculated by the total sum of points divided by the total number of tasks flown.

Example: total of 10,000 points/14 task = 714.3 scoring avg.

BEST overall scoring avg. will be crowned the BFA – Iowa Champion.

ALL scoring will be published in both of the Iowa Newsletters & the Championship website:

[www.ia-championship.com](http://www.ia-championship.com)

ALL BFA rules apply for task scoring, jury and penalties.

Organizers: John Jensen    Bill Clemons    Gary Haynes  
                  515-961-3154    515-287-6934    515-961-5460

*Reply from Jim Thompson after the BFA Competition committee meeting:*

John: Just to let you know the BFA Competition Committee approved the concept presented for the BFA Iowa Championship. They agreed with me that the concept was great and it will be offered to other states for their consideration. I will be working on some of the details that may be needed for formal approval, such as who should make the submittal (I am assuming it will be IBA) and what the sanction fee will be (it will be reasonable). Thanks for coming up with this concept. I will be talking with you soon.

Jim

**Wisconsin Balloon Events**

Its warming up and spring will soon be here, although we had more than our fair share of snow today.....

Anyway, this means that balloon event season is just around the corner. We have been working toward making another successful season of balloon events in WI. The people of WI truly enjoy the spectacle of hot air ballooning. Your participation is a key element in the success of the events, not only from the spectator's point of view, but from volunteers and sponsors. You are cordially invited to participate in the following Wisconsin balloon events:

**The Manitowoc Air Show and 5th Annual Hot Air Balloon Rally**, Manitowoc, WI, June 1-3, 2007. We are accepting up to 15 applications for the 5th Annual Balloon Rally. This will be the second year that we have included a Balloon Glow on Saturday night in Downtown Manitowoc along the Riverfront, this year we will be on both sides of the river and there most likely be fireworks from a barge out on the lake. What a great way to cap the evening!

-----  
**Skyfest 2007**, Waukesha, WI, July 20-22, 2007. We will again be accepting up to 30 applications for the annual balloon rally held in conjunction with the Waukesha County Fair. This event is a signature event in WI and is the second longest running balloon event in WI.

-----  
**Hartford Balloon Rally**, Hartford, WI; August 11-13, 2005. The Hartford Balloon Rally is the most popular and largest event held the by Washington County community. We will be accepting up to 15 applications for this event.

-----  
The Wisconsin communities that are hosting this year’s events have become well known for their excellent flying conditions for hot air balloons, beautiful scenery, and friendly people. Motel rooms, propane, and pilot gifts will be offered at each event, as well as cash prizes will be



awarded at each event.

If you would like to be a part of creating the fun atmosphere of balloon rallies in WI, please contact me.

Go to [www.wiballoongroup.org](http://www.wiballoongroup.org) and visit the events page for more information on all the balloon events in Wisconsin for the 2007 season.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

If you have any questions or comments or would like further information directly, please do not hesitate contacting me.

Ken Walter  
WindDancer Balloon Promotions  
W241 S4115 Pine Hollow Ct.  
Waukesha, WI 53189  
262-522-6675

## **BFA News**

### **Top 2006 Competitive Pilots Announced**

Nick Donner has claimed a \$500 prize as the BFA National Points Champion for the competitive year ending December 31, 2006. Donner flew a total of 21 tasks and maintained a 928.8 point average to lead all BFA competitors. Donner's average topped second place Ken Draughn's average of 868.4 points per tasks with 15 tasks flown.

Other Top Pilot awards were announced at the Competition Committee's Spring Meeting in Houston held on March 31 and April 1. The other winners were: Dick Goss of Texas, Top Senior Pilot (\$300), Steve LaCroix of Nebraska, Top Rookie Pilot (\$300), while the biggest winner overall was Christine Bertsch of Iowa who claimed honors as Top Female Pilot (\$300) and Most Improved Pilot (\$300) for a total cash award of \$600.

These monetary awards were part of a \$5,000 fund donated to the competition committee for the express purpose of awarding the top competitive pilots based on the National Points Rankings. The remainder of the fund was distributed evenly to the Top 20 pilots on the list with each pilot receiving \$175. An identical cash award fund has been established for the 2007 competitive season.

## **Observers Needed for the 2007 Nationals in Waco**

A combination of national and local observers will be needed for the 50 or so competitors expected to enter this event.

Priority will be given to those who can observe for the full event.

Related application materials will soon be posted to the BFA Website in the Competition Section under the 2007 Nationals heading.

All interested should indicate their desires as soon as practical to Mike Tuten. He can be reached as follows:

Mail: 3013 Nottingham Way, Madison, WI 53713-3455  
Phone: 608 274-6340  
Email: Maddog-210@charter.net.

## **National Balloon Camp**

Hello Balloon Club Members!

For the 3rd year, the BFA is hosting the National Balloon Camp in Tyler, Texas. July 15-19 are the dates chosen. Last year, 16 additional teens joined BFA campers thanks to a Seagate Technology grant provided through the Expanding Your Horizons organization.

The 2007 campers have the same chance to attend for a nominal fee of only \$250 if they are BFA members or \$275 otherwise. Upon reviewing the demographics of the campers scholarshiped last year, it is apparent cost would have prohibited their attendance at the balloon camp opportunity if not for the grant.

We are asking for scholarship seed money to fund campers unable to self-pay for the 2007 camp. Balloon clubs and individuals donating a scholarship for a camper will receive recognition on the back of the 2007 camp t-shirts as well as in the journal *Ballooning*.

Those donating smaller amounts will be recognized on a giving wall visible throughout the week to all campers. We ask that you send a picture of your balloon(s) when making a camp contribution so we can display them for all to see.

As always, gifts to the BFA youth program are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to BFA Summer Camp P.O. Box 400 Indianola, Ia 50125. If you know of a teen who would like to attend the 2007 camp, please contact me at [balloonist@peoplepc.com](mailto:balloonist@peoplepc.com) for an application.

Your generosity in raising our next generation of balloonists is so appreciated.

Thank You  
Shelley Caraway  
BFA Youth Program Chair

## Senior Moment

This is a true account recorded in the Police Log of Sarasota, Florida.

An elderly Florida lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of leaving with her vehicle.

She dropped her shopping bags and drew her handgun, proceeding to scream at the top of her voice, "I have a gun, and I know how to use it! Get out of the car!"

The four men didn't wait for a second invitation. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the driver's seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried and tried, and then it dawned on her why. For the same reason she did not understand why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12 packs in the front seat.

A few minutes later, she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into the car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told the story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, less than five feet tall, glasses, curly white hair, and carrying a large handgun. No charges were filed.

If you're going to have a Senior Moment, make it memorable.

## Hot-Air Balloon Mela & Rajasthan Safari 2007

(Asian Hot Air Balloon Championship)

Dear Balloonist,

We have great pleasure in extending this invitation to the Hot-Air Balloon Mela & Rajasthan Safari 2007 (Asian Hot Air Balloon Championship), scheduled from 16th November to 03rd December 2007.

This will be the twenty third year, we have organized Balloon Melas and Safaris which were highly successful.

We believe you will enjoy our beautiful, hospitable and friendly vast country, as well as the exciting ballooning events.

Kindly fill the attached entry forms and send to us at the earliest. (*Contact Carol if forms needed*)

Should you require more information, please contact us.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,  
VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA  
Honorary Secretary  
balloonindia@yahoo.com

## National Balloon Museum

To: Balloon Clubs Around the USA

The National Balloon Museum in Indianola, Iowa needs our help to preserve the history of ballooning in the USA.

The National Balloon Museum is the official repository of ballooning artifacts of the Balloon Federation of America. But more important, it is "our history", the place to archive the stories and memorabilia for individual balloonists and balloon groups around the country.

There are several ways we can help. We can help as an individual balloonist or we can make the Museum a project that our Local Balloon Club supports.

Ideas on ways to help include:

- A) Donate personal memorabilia to preserve the history of individual ballooning activities and balloon events in the USA. You might say "I only have one of these items with balloon history", but when you donate your "goodies" to the Museum, they can combine all our single items into a beautiful display. When you donate your memorabilia, be sure to include a note or letter explaining the history of the item. Is it from the first balloon event you attended? Can you give the Museum some background/history of the event? Did something special happen at the event that has personal significance (first flight for family member, you won 1st place, etc)? By including a bit of history with the item, you help to save history. The Museum Staff are well versed in ballooning, but they are always looking for new details to enhance the history they are displaying.
- B) Send information on the history of your local balloon club. Some clubs that were very active in the 1980s and 1990s have disbanded. If you have history of a balloon club that has disbanded, send it to the Museum. Hopefully, your local club is still thriving. Share the Club history with the National Balloon Museum. Tell the Museum about the local club activities and events so that history is saved.
- C) Donations to help purchase items on the National Balloon Museum "Wish List". The Museum has a published list of items they need to operate the museum. This ranges from supplies for mounting pictures and documents to furnishing to other unique requests. This wish list is included here. Maybe someone in your local balloon club has a source to purchase "Wish List" items at wholesale prices. Or your Club would like to donate

club funds to help buy the items. Any help is great and the Museum appreciates it.

D) Monetary Donations to help with the needs of maintaining the building. There are the day-to-day expenses of heating and air conditioning to keep the building at the optimum temperature for preservation of artifacts. And the Museum Board is currently evaluating their options for adding to the current building to meet their growing needs. Become a member/supporter of the National Balloon Museum. Membership prices start at \$25 for an individual. Group Memberships are also available. Or make a cash donation, from your balloon club, to the National Balloon Museum. The National Balloon Museum is a 501C3 organization, so all memberships, donations and special gifts are tax deductible.

For more details on any of the above ideas, contact Becky Wigeland, Curator, National Balloon Museum at Tel: 515-961-3714 or email at flamingbecky@aol.com.

Get involved with the National Balloon Museum. The history we are saving is our own!

Thanks,  
Debbie Spaeth  
Member Hall of Fame Committee  
National Balloon Museum  
Indianola, Iowa

## WISH LIST

### NATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

Indianola, Iowa

| #  | PROGRAM OR NEED  | QUANTITY     | COST EACH   | TOTAL COST      |
|----|--|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1  | Logan 760 Simplex Plus mat cutter for framing/mounting photos & documents            | Received     | March 07    | Thanks          |
| 2  | Logan Foamboard cutter & pkg. of blades  | 1            | \$25        | \$25            |
| 3  | Package of 10 acid-free foamboard for framing and mounting 3/16" X32X40(Beinfang)    | 1 or more    | \$104       | \$104           |
| 4  | Museum grade matboard for matting & framing (32"X40" sheets)                         | Lots of 10   | 10 for \$70 | \$70            |
| 5  | Dry mounting film for mounting pictures & documents (archival acid free)             | As needed    | varies      | \$8-\$75        |
| 6  | Funds for misc. matting/framing materials  | As needed    | varies      | \$25-\$500      |
| 7  | GBC HeatSeal H400 Laminating Machine for up to 12.75" material                       | 1            | \$300       | \$300           |
| 8  | Laminating pouches to use with laminating machine                                    | starter set  |             | \$150           |
| 9  | Library Books and materials (ask for details)  | 1 or more    |             |                 |
| 10 | Library furniture, shelves etc. (ask for details)                                    |              |             |                 |
| 11 | Point of Sale Bar code equipment & software for store for sales & inventory control  | 1 system     | *\$1,300    | *\$1,300        |
| 12 | Media Equipment for theater (automated projection system/computer & installation)    | 1 system     | \$13,500    | \$13,500        |
| 13 | Professional productions of shows on ballooning for theater (estimated minimum cost) | Several      | *\$4,000    | ?               |
| 14 | Development and publish curriculum materials for schools & others groups             | Annual cost  | *\$1,000    | *\$1,000        |
| 15 | Making of educational DVD's, VHS tapes or PowerPoint shows                           | Annual cost  | *\$300      | *\$300          |
| 16 | Designing and publishing educational handouts for museum visitors                    | Annual cost  | *\$350      | *\$350          |
| 17 | Tour Group Promotion and advertising expenses (any amount up to estimated cost)      | Annual cost  | *\$600      | *\$600          |
| 18 | Appropriate low level lighting for exhibits  | Ask for info |             |                 |
| 19 | Salary for full-time accredited curator  | Annual cost  | \$40,000    | \$40,000        |
| 20 | Salary for Support staff ½ time to full time   | Annual cost  | \$15,000-   | \$30,000        |
| 21 | Carpeting for all uncarpeted areas   |              | Ask 4 info  |                 |
| 22 | Professional framing & matting of museum photos and documents                        | As needed    |             | \$100-\$300 ea. |
| 23 | Full sized Podium  | 1            | Ask 4 info  | variable        |
| 24 | PA System with microphone and speakers   | 1            | Ask 4 info  | variable        |
| 25 | Grants for Curator to attend IMA and CTIR meetings and workshops                     | 1 or more    | Ask 4 info  | variable        |
| 26 | Grants for Brochures and marketing   | 1 or more    | Ask 4 info  | variable        |
| 27 | Computer and software for the Museum Library (can be new or used.)                   | 1            | Ask 4 info  | variable        |
| 28 | Corporate Sponsors   |              | Ask 4 info  |                 |

For information contact Becky Wigeland, Curator at 515-961-3714 or by email at flamingbecky@aol.com

\*Cost estimates may vary depending on particular project.

Costs shown above were current at time list was made but are subject to change without notice due to market changes.

The museum is a non-profit organization and all cash or in kind gifts are fully tax deductible.

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**Thanks to the following for their contributions to this newsletter: Meika Bartholomew, Brett Boerner, Shelley Caraway, Sandy Drake, Melissa Harris, John Jensen, Greg Marchant, Don Prine, Gerry Prine, Debbie Spaeth, Jim Thompson, Ken Walter, Mark Weeks and Joel Worthington**

### For Sale

2004 Firefly 8B-15 (90,000 cu ft) with 1997 4.9 basket. Mirage burner. Envelope 290 Hrs, basket 585 hrs. Fresh annual in February 2007, zero hours since annual. New fuel hoses, new relief valves, new tank visual inspections. Tether harness, 100 ft drop line

Includes 6 X 10 enclosed trailer with near new tires and 8 HP Honda 30” fan. Ready to fly – the fuel tanks are even full! \$12,500. Joel and Karen Worthington 641-831-3034 joel@balloonride4me.com



### Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meetings

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

May 20

June 17

July 15