

# Touch and Go

BALL  NS  VER I  WA

July-August, 2008

## Letter from President Meika

Hello to all my friends!

When I was just a pup there was a ditty that said "Rain, rain, go away. Come again some other day." When we get rain five inches at a time, let's hope another day of rain doesn't come for quite a while. The reality is that most of Iowa has been subjected to unprecedented bad weather. The fact that we can't fly in tornados or land in floods is a minor inconvenience compared to the problems confronting our friends throughout the Midwest.

As we approach the National Balloon Classic, maybe our weather will stabilize. It will be great to return to normalcy and will be greater if we can get in many flights and celebrate ballooning's roots of bringing joy and wonder to others. I hope everyone will be sensitive to the feelings of local farmers and that we all exhibit our most courteous behavior.

It is probably important to report that, to the best of my knowledge, the rumor that some of our more competitive balloonists have installed pontoons is just not true. Anticipation that fewer flights this year may have leveled the competitive playing field is likely. Although a last minute flurry of flights to the balloon field may help, I'm hoping this will be the year of the dark horse.

As usual, duties of my Presidency will keep me home on the farm. Winds out of the southwest will bring the show to me. An open invitation is extended to use the pasture just west of the Balloonport. You can always depend on a warm welcome here. No matter what direction the wind blows, always remember to

Fly Safely,  
Meika

## Congratulations

- ☺ Mark Moen and Sheri Clark were married on March 19th in Hawaii
- ☺ Jeremy King received his commercial license June 21, 2008
- ☺ Adam Magee received his private license July 9, 2008. Adam is the son of Liz & Noel Magee.
- ☺ Ken Bolton received his private license July 5, 2008

### Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meetings

Meetings are held every third Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the BOI Balloon Port.

Schedule of meetings:

August 17

September 21

October 19

### Beth Miller

Beth Miller from IMC Balloon Agency has recently been diagnosed with Uterine cancer. She is preparing to undergo chemotherapy and eventually surgery. Her husband, Bill, in an email forwarded to the balloon reflector, asked for all to remember her in your thoughts and prayers. Her home address is:

16849 Interlachen Ct.  
Lakeville, MN 55044

**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

**2008-2009 Balloons Over Iowa**

**Board Members**

Kirk Bloom

Ken Bolton

Jeremy King

Caitlin Oponski

Todd Patterson

**Treasurer**

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Carol Harris

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Joel Worthington

**BOI Web site**

[www.balloons-over-iowa-club.com](http://www.balloons-over-iowa-club.com)

**Advertising Rates**

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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](mailto:hotairflyn@aol.com)

Phone 515 221-3193

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**Letter from Vice-President Sandy**

Wow, it's hard to believe it is time for another article. Mom had to remind me that I missed the last article due to a banking convention so it has been awhile since I last pawed out an article.

I'm sitting here trying to figure out what to write. It seems like the last month or so was a time to forget with all the wild weather rolling through the state of Iowa. I would like to take this time to send out my thoughts and prayers to the community of Parkersberg, IA; the flood victims in Cedar Rapids and the Iowa City area; and to the many other towns that were effected by the weather. Hopefully the future months will be quiet, which will give these folks time to recover.

Many of you, along with your crews, have been trying to get some flight time in between rain storms. Others are still patiently waiting to get the balloons out and fly. I just hope July and August will not bring hot and humid conditions, but great flying weather!

Several events have taken place in the last few months. I'm anxious to read the event reviews and check out photos. I was hoping to attend the Emmetsburg race, but that weekend was spent trying to get the lake cabin opened up. Whew, what a chore.

Can you believe the National Balloon Classic is just a few weeks away? Where has the time gone? Will we have another great year as we did last year? Will Kirk Bloom make another attempt for a \$10,000 pole grab? Some cool shapes will be attending the classic this year. For more information on events and happenings check out [www.nationalballoonclassic.com](http://www.nationalballoonclassic.com).

If you are looking for something to do on those weathered out days or looking for some place close by to visit, be sure to check out the National Balloon Museum in Indianola. This is a really neat attraction to visit. If you have never stopped by the museum, be sure to make a stop. It's worth the time. For those of you who have been to the museum, be sure to stop by and check out some of the new exhibits and some of the new items in their gift shop. Some exciting news is that the National Balloon Museum will be overseeing the souvenir booth at the National Balloon Classic field. There will be many items to choose from. Did you know you can order gift shop items on line? Visit the National Balloon Museum's web site at [www.nationalballoonmuseum.com](http://www.nationalballoonmuseum.com). If you purchase items from the gift shop, renew a membership, sign up for a new membership, or give a donation, the Museum appreciates your support. These items are just some of the things which keep the museum going. Plus, we can not forget the many volunteers who help make the organization run smoothly.

By now you and your family have celebrated the 4th of July. I hope it was a safe one. Do not forget those folks who are serving our country!

Well, it's time to sign off. As I'm looking out the window I'm seeing lightning off in the distance. I guess that means more rain coming. I hope to see everyone at the Classic or at one of the BOI functions/club meetings.

Until next time, keep looking up

Sandy Drake

## Raise Funds for the National Balloon Museum at No Extra Cost to You!

The National Balloon Museum is excited to announce its involvement as a Museum Partner with ShopforMuseums.com. As a Museum Partner, anyone shopping online with their favorite national retailers can have a portion of their purchase directed to the National Balloon Museum at no additional cost. ShopforMuseums.com is nationally recognized with hundreds of Museum Partners across the country. Whether you are in the market for books, office supplies, apparel, gifts, travel reservations, home improvement, school supplies, toys, electronics, flowers or gourmet food...You name it, the place to start is at ShopforMuseums.com!

Participation is simple and secure. To designate a portion of your next online purchase to the National Balloon Museum, simply:

- ◆ Go to [www.ShopforMuseums.com](http://www.ShopforMuseums.com).
- ◆ Log in.
- ◆ Click on the National Balloon Museum.
- ◆ Then just click on the link of the store you want to visit and go about your shopping. Stores are organized by categories.

The percentage of your purchase will be tracked automatically as long as you begin each time at ShopforMuseums.com.

Please use ShopforMuseums.com each time you shop online and spread the word to friends and family. The National Balloon Museum appreciates your support.

### What is ShopforMuseums.com?

Founded five years ago by a former science museum director, ShopforMuseums.com is an online shopping fund-raising tool designed for museums, parks, zoos, aquariums, nature centers, science centers and other culturally and/or socially significant organizations to easily receive extra donation money. Funds can be used for whatever the greatest need is within each facility. It is free to join both for the Museum Partners and the shoppers who support them.

### How does ShopforMuseums.com work?

ShopforMuseums.com has established a special

relationship hundreds of national retailers, including Lands' End, Amazon, Dell, Staples, Best Buy, Ebay, Office Depot, Sears and many more. By making online purchases with participating retailers through ShopforMuseums.com, individuals can designate a percentage of their purchase to go to your organization, at no extra cost to them. With each online visit, shoppers simply start at [www.ShopforMuseums.com](http://www.ShopforMuseums.com), sign in and select your museum to receive a donation. They then click on the store they would like to shop at. The rest is automatic! ShopforMuseums.com tracks the sales and sends donations to the designated museums quarterly.

### Balloons Over Iowa Repair Station

Rob & Linda Bartholomew

18999 Blue Pl., Carlisle, IA

Phone: 515 989-3708

email: [balloonsoveriowa@msn.com](mailto:balloonsoveriowa@msn.com)






**Steve Palash Photography**  
[www.balloonsgalore.us](http://www.balloonsgalore.us)  
Hot Air Ballooning Merchandise  
**Steve Palash**  
2529 Rebecca St.  
Sioux City, Iowa 51103  
712-255-7068  
[Steve@balloonsgalore.us](mailto:Steve@balloonsgalore.us)

### Mystic Moods Photography

Hot Air Balloons  
Landscapes Scenic Nature  
Ward & Diane Roscoe  
Photographers  
515-360-0530 515-961-0644  
[www.mysticmoodsphotography.com](http://www.mysticmoodsphotography.com)



## Calendar of Events

July 25- August 2 **National Balloon Classic** Contact Greg Marchant - 515-961-8415 or info@nationalballoonclassic.com

August 8-10 **Seymour Hamburger Balloon Rally** www.homeofthehamburger.org

August 8-10 Hartford WI WIWindDancer@cs.com

August 15-17 **Centralia IL Balloon Fest** www.centraliail.com

August 17 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**, BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

August 22-24 – **Garden City Hot Air Balloon Classic** Garden City, Kansas

August 22-24 Wisconsin Rapids, WI www.cmnballoonrally.com

August 22-24 **Lincoln IL Art & Balloon Fest** www.lincolnilinois.com/balloonfest

August 22-24 Columbia MO gsw1@mchsi.com

August 27 - September 1 **US National Hot Air Balloon Championship**, Anderson, SC. Contact: BFA Office, 515 961-8809

August 29-31 **Danville IL Non-Event** dean@heritagedevelop.com

September 5-6 **Macomb IL Balloon Rally** balloons@macomb.com

September 5-7 – **Huff 'n Puff Rally** Lake Shawnee, T o p e k a , K S  
http://greatplainsballoonclub.googlepages.com  
E-mail: greatplainsballoonclub@gmail.com

September 12-14. **1st Annual Fields of Flight: Council Bluffs Hot Air Balloon Festival** Contact Matt Fenster 402 740-6629

September 12-13 Eagle Creek-Shelbyville IL bdenhart@insightbb.com

September 12-13 Forest Park, St. Louis www.greatforestparkballoonrace.com

September 13 - 21 18th **World Hot Air Balloon Championship**, Hofkirchen, Austria Contact: http://www.balloon2008.com/

September 19-21 **SW Iowa Hot Air Balloon Days**, Creston, IA Contact Rob Bartholomew

September 21 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**, BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

Sep 26-28 **NKT Hot Air Balloon Rally** East Moline, IL

Contact Stan Pasley 309 792-3000 home; stanpcs@mchsi.com or stan.pasley@yahoo.com

October 4-12 – **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** Albuquerque, New Mexico

October 10-12 – **Hot Air Balloon Regatta** Columbus, Kansas

October 19 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**, BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

October 25 **BOI Halloween Party** BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

November 16 6:30 p.m. **BOI Membership Meeting**, BOI Balloonport, Carlisle, IA

*Race organizers - please send your dates, etc for 2008 & 2009 to Carol - hotairflyn@aol.com*

## Happy Anniversary

Todd & Errin Patterson	8-2
Tom & Julie Ricke	8-4
Jerry & Rosa Tierman	8-9
Dan & Jeanne Wiley	8-14
Aaron & Elizabeth Gebhart	8-18
Al & Mel Appenzeller	8-26
Wyman & Mendi Borts	8-27
James & Julie Cahill	8-31
Allan & Mandy Keller	9-4
Darcy & Marcy Hoch	9-14
Bob & Janice Shelton	9-14
Rob & Erika Nutting	9-20
Bob & Penny Pieper	9-25
Ward & Diane Roscoe	9-28
Jeff & Rhonda Thomm	9-29



## Happy Birthday

### August

James Cahill	8-1	J.D. Montague	9-1
Mendi Borts	8-2	Monica Thompson	9-2
Amy Craig	8-2	Thad Bloom	9-4
Julie Cahill	8-2	Corrin Clemons	9-4
Jena Erger	8-3	Nathan Ziino	9-4
Morgan Fenster	8-3	Caitlyn Clair	9-5
Jen Nordhagen	8-3	Celsey Clair	9-5
Al Appenzeller	8-4	Bill Sponsler	9-5
LeRoy Clair	8-4	Tom Hatcher	9-5
Christine Clemons	8-4	Gabe Dalby	9-7
Matt Fenster	8-4	Ron Nollen	9-9
Cameron Hatcher	8-4	Joel Worthington	9-9
Katie Hatcher	8-4	Steve Jones	9-10
Jenny Bridgewater	8-5	Mark Harris	9-11
Dan Bertsch	8-6	Georgia Oakes	9-11
LaVerna Edmister	8-8	Tim Cloyd	9-13
Gary Fouche	8-8	Michael Hadley	9-13
Alex Oponski	8-8	Cathy Clair	9-14
Michelle Craig	8-13	Lance Hoch	9-14
Michelle Dalby	8-13	Bailey Marhoun	9-16
Sharon Foltz	8-14	Karin Riepe	9-18
Terry Garrett	8-15	Dan Walker	9-18
Pam Hadley	8-16	Adena Worthington	9-19
Cynthia Nutting	8-16	Anna Schirn	9-20
Ariel Williams	8-16	Becky Wigeland	9-20
Jon Danielson	8-19	Gerald Conklin	9-21
Jeff Bridgewater	8-21	Tyler Reinert	9-21
Brad Holcomb	8-21	Chloe Gebhart	9-21
Emilee Norris	8-21	Zachary Nutting	9-23
Paul Schneider	8-21	Larry Van Wyngarden	9-23
Robert Nutting, Sr.	8-22	Wayne Wasson	9-24
James Thompson	8-23	Tesha Huffaker	9-25
Julie Ricke	8-27	Brian Seymour	9-25
Melissa Christian	8-27	Rita Fromm	9-26
Brandon Pieper	8-28	Teresa Purdy	9-26
Bruce Thorman	8-29	Dan Corbin	9-27

Jason Jones	9-27
Gil Wigeland	9-27
Taylor Hatcher	9-27
Madison Rubin	9-28
Jeremy Rubin	9-28
Tiffany Anderson	9-30
Michele Corbin	9-30
Mike Reinert	9-30
Debbie Thorman	9-30

## The Way It Was

### 30 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ August 1978 – Nationals: Lawrence Burns – “The Flying Father” & John J. Johnson of Mason City were among the 150 that launched in a mass ascension. Governor Ray flew in “Midnight” piloted by Rob Bartholomew. Mrs. Ray flew in “Archway” piloted by Dale Points; Balloonmeister was Tom Sheppard; Event results - #1 Sid Cutter, #2 Harold Carter, #3 Jeff Thompson, #13 J.J. Johnson, #23 Rob Bartholomew; Article in DM Register about 18 year old Jeff Thompson, flying “Blue Max”. Jeff placed third in the competition; BFA adopted a resolution providing for the National Hot Air Balloon Championships to be held in perpetuity at Indianola, unless an 18 month notice is first given
- ★ This is the 9th year Nationals have been held in Indianola. The preliminary’s were held in Indianola in 1970 with the finals at the Iowa State Fair. 11 balloons participated in that first event. 17 participated in 1971; 42 in 1972; 86 in 1973; 168 in 1974; 199 in 1975; 215 in 1976 and 182 in 1977. 210 participated this year.

### 25 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ July 1983 – 110 Competitive & 100 Non-competitive Pilots expected at Nationals. BOI members erected the fencing around & about Simpson College.
- ★ 7-24 Elaine Lawrence received her Commercial license.
- ★ 1983 Nationals: Quote from an article in the DM Register “Rob Bartholomew, a Carlisle farmer who has evolved into the Luke Skywalker of Iowa balloonists”. Rob is quoted - “Back when I started there were maybe five or six pilots in the state. Now there’s probably 100.” 60 Iowa pilots competed at the Nationals; #1 - Owen Keown #2 – David Levin, #3 – Phil Glebe, #4 – Dave Schaffer, #5 – Rob Bartholomew. Balloonmeister – Jim Birk; Pat Barz of Colorado was named the new president of the BFA – the organization’s first woman president; Special Shapes – Mr. Peanut & The Flying Chateau; Leo Eisenberg donated \$100,000 to the National Balloon Museum. This gift was a catalyst for a fund-raising campaign for the construction of a new museum.



- ★ 8-14-1983 Gary Ford received his Private license.
- ★ 8-25-1983 Dave Edmister received his Private license.
- ★ 8-31-1983 Jim Gebhart received his Commercial license

### **20 years ago in BOI History:**

- ★ July '88 – Thom Roberts, photographer died suddenly of a heart attack. Pictorial remembrance of him & his love of ballooning in the National Balloon Museum.
- ★ 7-10 Joyce Blevins received her Commercial license.
- ★ August '88 – National Balloon Museum opens.
- ★ August '88 – Report of Ballooning trip to Australia by Donna Rieck. The original plan to pack the balloon into a van & ship it all to Australia would have forced them to refinance the house, cash in all the life insurance policies, sell the car & start selling themselves on the streets. Those traveling with Ralph & Donna included Carl Young, Cathy Jensen, Laurie Allbaugh & Ken Allbaugh. Donna reported that the winds were so strong in Perth, that the indoor pool had whitecaps on it!
- ★ 1988 National Championship - 18th and final US National Hot Air Balloon Championship to be held in Indianola. The Championship will move to Baton Rouge, LA for the next 3 years; 12 tasks flown; David Levin grabbed a pole for \$10,000; Marlene Wall was the Event Coordinator, Nick Saum was the championship director; Willard Scott from NBC's "Today Show" broadcast live from the launch field; Rob Bartholomew, flying the familiar yellow balloon with the black zig-zag, known at "Charlie Brown" won with 10,059 points – 352 more than #2 Bruce Comstock. Rob was the first Iowa pilot to win the Nationals.
- ★ 1988 Iowa Championship: #1 Ralph Rieck, #2 Gordon Acuff, #3 Dennis Cox & Steve Hoover, #5 Dan Terry, #6 Dennis Tiege, #7 Wayne Wasson & Jim Oakes, #9 Royce Pierson, #10 Norm Dockstader.

### **15 years ago in BOI History:**

- ★ July 18, 1993 BOI Meeting: \$1,568.55 in treasury.
- ★ July newsletter: Interview with Classic Balloonmeister Rob Bartholomew – Due to the recent floods & heavy rains, fields & waterways are wet – choose your landing spots carefully.

- ★ National Balloon Classic – July 30 - Aug 8 1993 - Balloonmeister – Rob Bartholomew; Executive Director – Chris Goodale; 12 flights, 22 tasks; 8-7 2nd Annual Dick Drake Duck Drop; Jim Pearson's crew - Crew of the Year; Special shapes: Hog Heaven, Case International Tractor, United Van Lines Truck, Balloon Hilda and Hagar the Horrible; 3 balloons retired - Rainbow Connection (Ongs) Mnementh (Prines) & Whispering Blue (Fromms); 1st Place - Bill Clemons, 2nd Becky Petrehn, 3rd Jim Fromm, 6th Jim Thompson, 7th Sherry Allsup, 8th Ralph Rieck. Bill sat out the 1992 event while he and wife Louise built a balloon
- ★ August 15, 1993 BOI Meeting: \$15,68.55 in treasury; Jill Rubin has ordered a balloon & will become a pilot – to be trained by Wayne Wasson; Ground school to be held in October; Paul Randleman is to be the BOI representative to NBC's Pilot Relations Board; a cookout was held after the meeting.
- ★ All Iowa Championships - Oskey; 30 pilots, 1 flight; IBA Crew of the Year - Joy Pearson; IBA Balloonist of the Year - Sherry Allsup.

### **10 years ago in BOI History:**

- ★ 7-1-1998 Bill Mooberry received his Private license.
- ★ 7-8-1998 Jill Rubin received her Commercial license.
- ★ 7-13-1998 Jeremy Rubin received his Private license
- ★ 7-16-1998 Benji Clemons received his Commercial license
- ★ 1998 National Balloon Classic: Balloonmeister Jim Christianson & Assistant Balloonmeister Mike Reinert; Maury Petrehn overall winner, 2nd place Paul Quandee, 3rd Karen Reipe; Special shapes included UniRoyal Tire, Birthday Cake, Lady Bug, Giant Clown & Moving van; Mike Oberman & Black Diamond crew won 1st place in Balloonist category at the Classic parade; Jill Rubin's crew placed 2nd in bathtub races; President's Award – Barb Knoll; Volunteer of the year - Mark Weeks; Crew of the Year - BJ Excursion crew (Gebharts & Seymours); Jon Russell Award - Tim McConnell; First Annual BOI/IBA Tailgate party held – Oakes Swine & Dine BBQ team provided the meat.

(continued - page11)

# Clinton '08

Photos  
by  
Paul  
Schneider II



**Dubai - possible sight for BOI Retirement homes? Each home has an ocean view!**



## Sioux Falls



Away he goes! When he wants to come down, he releases a balloon one at a time.



John Ninomiya prepares for cluster balloon flight



## Rochester, MN



Photos submitted by  
Brad Temeyer



# Ottumwa



Crown line - now that's a tough job!



Water, water, everywhere



Brad  
Craig



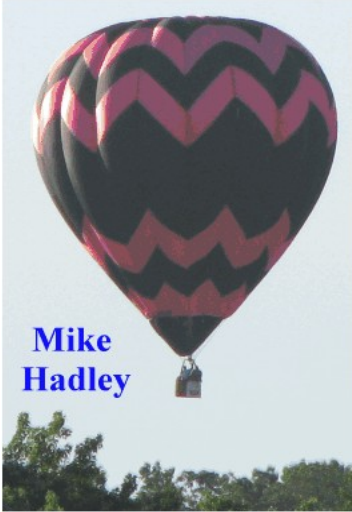
Jon  
Shelton



Jeremy  
Rubin



Kirk Bloom



Mike  
Hadley



Dan  
Corbin



Cory  
Bloom



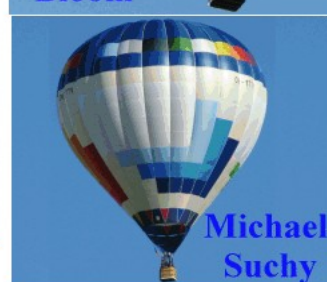
A pilot taller  
than Max!!



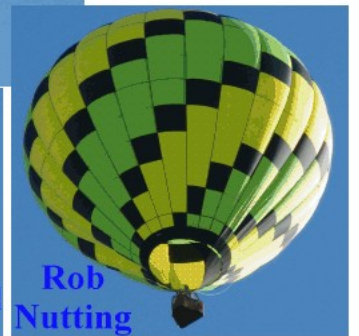
Brian Bennett



Tom  
Ricke



Michael  
Suchy



Rob  
Nutting

## New Balloons



**Barb & Gerald  
Knoll**



**Ken & Jerry  
Bolton**



**Al Appenzeller**



**Darcy Hoch**

*Any other new balloons - send photos to Carol*

### Know Your Fellow Balloonists

Match these balloonists with "Something no one knows about you".

- |                       |       |  |   |
|-----------------------|-------|--|---|
| 1 Bret Christian      | _____ |  | a My nickname is "Skid" after a flying mattress on the interstate                       |
| 2 Tom Ricke           | _____ |  | b I am a state Licenced Examiner for CDL's  |
| 3 Eldon "Gomer" Benus | _____ |  | c I'm an Eagle Scout  |
| 4 Max Harris          | _____ |  | d I am a wine enthusiast  |
| 5 Ron Dobesh          | _____ |  | e I was born in Newton, IA but moved out of state right out of college for my first job |
| 6 Rob Nutting         | _____ |  | f I teach others how to milk chickens   |
| 7 Terry Reipe         | _____ |  | g I wish I could move to Arizona  |
| 8 Karin Reipe         | _____ |  | h I am probably the best smelling pilot around due to my cologne collection.            |
| 9 Sherry Techau       | _____ |  | i I used to perm my hair  |
| 10 Richard Techau     | _____ |  | j I was a radio D J and had own cooking show on radio                                   |
| 11 Patti Todden       | _____ |  | k I competed twice in the GEO Metro Challenge during DM Ruan Grand Prix                 |
| 12 Jacob Hermanson    | _____ |  | l I'm part Native American  |
| 13 Mary Huntington    | _____ |  | m I have my own Music DJ business   |
| 14 Kirk Bloom         | _____ |  | n I grew up on dairy farm   |
| 15 Patrick Cloyd      | _____ |  | o I was born in a nursing home  |
| 16 Aaron Foelske      | _____ |  | p I have visited all 73 Elks Lodges in the state of Missouri.                           |

**(The Way It Was - 10 years ago** - continued from page 6)

- ★ 8-7 Chris Reinert received his Private license.
- ★ 8-8 Bret Wiltse received his Private license.
- ★ 1st Annual River Bandit Concert & Balloon Rally - Charles City: 8 balloons flew Fri night, storms Sat a.m., 3 balloons flew, 1 inflated & 1 glowed Sat night, Sun a.m. - Hare & Hound. 1st place - Mike Oberman, 2nd - Gordy Accuff, 3rd Ralph Rieck.
- ★ 1998 Nationals report: 82 balloonists competed, 30 flew in the Sport Balloon division. 12 out of 14 flights took place. #1 Johnny Petrehn, #2 Pat Cannon, #3 Jo Heartsill. Rookie of the year – Lucas Heartsill.
- ★ 8-14 Brad Craig received his Private license.
- ★ August 16, 1998 BOI Meeting: 24 members present; Meeting chaired by Brian Seymour; Treasurer not at meeting. Membership thinks the treasurer has a new tractor for his farm; 1st Annual Balloons & Toons on the Square huge success; Committee formed for Balloons Over Iowa Retirement Center - Don Prine & Wayne Wasson to chair the committee. Their budget to be a 6 pack per trip to Sandyville; Meeting totally out of control, secretary took to drinking; Jill Rubin announced plan to have an all-female chase crew for Albuquerque 2000
- ★ Brent Hess & Julie Frueh married 8-28.
- ★ 8-25 Mark Harris received his Private license
- ★ 8-30 Tom Ricke received his Private license.
- ★ Classic field to be locked due to recent vandalism

**5 years ago in BOI History:**

- ★ July 1 Riley Nordhagen born to Jennifer & Derek Nordhagen. Grandparents are Rob & Linda Bartholomew.
- ★ 7-20 BOI Meeting: Meeting chaired by Patti Todden; 24 Members present; Balloons Over Iowa Retirement Home Planning and Site Acquisition Committee identified a likely site for our Retirement home. It is a golf course adjacent to a cow pasture – beautiful Iowa countryside! Don COULD NOT identify the exact location – the committee was in top secret negotiations. The golf course would be a launch site and the cow pasture would be the site of the Retirement Complex; Memorial service held for Gretchen Bartholomew.
- ★ National Balloon Classic: 14 flights, 4 glows! 1st place - Jeremy Rubin; 2nd - Rob Bartholomew &

3rd - Harold Graves; Taylor Aldous of Arizona won the Newcomer award; Jerry Tierman of Missouri won the coveted John Russell Spirit of Ballooning award;

- ★ 8-17 BOI Meeting: 16 members present; Meeting chaired by Patti Todden; Balloon Crew Federation of America actively recruiting crew members to join. The pilots of Iowa are worried; Sandy Drake is chosen as the new Vice President for BOI. Ellie Bartholomew is the new Security chief and Elmo Nordhagen is the new Kegmeister

★

**Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meeting**

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA

May 18, 2008

**Present:** Ken & Jerry Bolton, Caitlyn Oponski, Scott Armstrong, Bill Griffin, Jeremy King, Brenden & James Cahill, Joel Worthington, Charlie Worthington, Michelle Craig, Brad Craig, Max & Carol Harris

Meeting called to order by Chair Ken Bolton at 6:37:21.

**Secretary's report:** Minutes from April meeting presented. Joel moved to approve secretary's report, Max 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer not present. That's 2 months in a row, has she left with our funds?

**Old Business:**

- ★ He's not present
- ★ Ode to Spring - Bill thanks Scott for his job as Balloonmeister. Weather won. Members gave a round of Applause for Scott.
- ★ Jeremy reported on his tether in Missouri. He has a motorized cooler.
- ★ Bill asked Joel for a technology report. Joel reports it is a work in progress. He will look into a computer, projector, etc for Ground School. Jeremy will donate a scanner.

*Charlie collapses in the middle of the floor. Discussion, discussion.*

- ★ Members ask why Old Business isn't coming to meetings. Rob reports he is recuperating from a Mediterranean cruise.

**New Business:**

- ★ The deadline for entering the Iowa Championship

is Friday 5/24 - before the Emmetsburg race this weekend.

- ★ Carol brought up the BOI Championship. Benji would prefer not to do the scoring and requested a volunteer to handle this. Jeremy says if he does the scoring, he'd win. Brad moved to have John Jensen do scoring, Michelle seconded, Motion approved. Jeremy will assist.
- ★ Jeremy is going to Monroe, Wisconsin
- ★ Cost of propane - above \$3/gallon in places

*The Treasurer has arrived - she is preparing the Treasurer's report.*

- ★ James Cahill introduced himself & is willing to crew

**Treasurer's report:** We have 279 cases. Discussion on the Secret Case Factor. Joel moved to approve, Max 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

#### **Return to New Business:**

- ★ Discussion on Classic party. The report is that Hy-Vee is sponsoring the party. Scott suggested using that money for a Key Grab. He will look into cost of insurance for a Key Grab.

Rob moved to adjourn, Joel 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 7:21:41.

Respectfully submitted  
Carol Harris, secretary.

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

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA  
June 15, 2008

**Present:** Jen Nordhagen, Rob Bartholomew, Jeremy King, Ken Bolton, Ken's Wife (not sure of her name), Jerry Bolton, Michelle Craig, Brad Craig, Amy Craig, Colton Craig, Ariel Williams, Madison Williams, Ashlynn Williams.

Meeting called to order by Chair Jeremy King at 6:51.

**Secretary's report:** Secretary not present

**Treasurer's report:** Same as last time.

#### **Old Business:**

- ★ He's not here.
- ★ Jeremy King attend the Monroe Balloon Rally. Some flew Friday night.

#### **New Business:**

- ★ The PBR Master is missing. The question was brought

up does Bill have a hot date? Rob has an idea of who it is. We think it is Lucy. A committee may need to be formed to investigate this.

- ★ Banners are now up on the Indianola square.

Rob moved to adjourn, Jen 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 7:05.

Respectfully submitted  
Michelle Craig, temporary secretary.

## **Event Reviews**

### **Clinton 2008**

June 20, 21, 22

At one point there was some concern whether it would dry up enough to even have Balloons in June in Clinton, Iowa. Things did dry up over the previous week and we all started showing up between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm Friday, June 20th to register at the Holiday Inn Express. Much to our surprise Paul Schneider had sent our crew chiefs and crews on to the Clinton Municipal Airport before the end of our pilot briefing. Not to worry because the bigger surprise was that Paul had rented two limousines to chauffeur all of the pilots out to the airport that night. Talk about your deluxe accommodations! The weather was fairly unstable throughout the day and so we were not able to get a flight in Friday evening. Things did settle down enough for most of us to get a fun, be it a little rocky, nightglow in that evening. The crowd really enjoyed it and several of us were able to put young and old alike in our baskets so they could get just a little taste of how things look from inside the basket.

My hair, or should I say lack of it, was something that seemed to draw much more attention than I anticipated. Saturday morning came and during the pilot briefing I announced that there was a story behind my S.S. (shiny skull) and one pilot out of the group knew what it was. So whoever could find out first and relay the story back to me, as accurately as possible, would win a prize. When we arrived at the airport Saturday morning you could see rain just to the west of the airport coming our way. Needless to say we didn't get a flight off that morning but my crew told me the pancakes they were serving at the airport hangar were delicious!

Saturday afternoon I went looking for something I could give as a clue to the other pilots and another item,

or two, that I could use to get a laugh or two. I found some cancer awareness golf balls that seemed to be a good fit for the clue and some safety razors and travel size shaving cream for my other items. At Saturday afternoon's pilot briefing I handed out the golf balls and then stated that whoever wanted to look as handsome as me should find the next couple items a big help towards that end! It did get some laughs and so mission accomplished. The wind would not drop Saturday night for a flight or for a glow. Aaron Gebhart did finally cold inflate "Crazy in Blue" for the crowd while Blair Brody explained what was going on to all those that had gathered to watch.

Sunday morning - finally the moment we had all waited for, conditions favorable for a balloon flight! Winds were out of the west to northwest so we were headed toward Clinton and the mighty Mississippi. Paul Craven and Ralph Rieck decided to see what the swollen river looked like from the air while the rest of us set down before we crossed over the river. It was a beautiful morning and everyone enjoyed the flight and then the time afterwards sharing our experiences with one another.

Oh, by the way Donna Carlton Vish won 1st prize in my little contest and won \$25.00 donated in her name to the American Cancer Society in honor of my niece Amber Birmingham. Greg Saul won 2nd prize in my little contest and won \$15.00 donated in his name to the American Cancer Society in honor of Deb Griest (Deb was the pilot who knew the story. She had talked to Jim and Cheryl Gebhart Friday evening and then came up to me and we talked about my niece who has osteosarcoma and the fact that Deb had colon cancer and has been cancer free for almost 8 years), and finally Jim Pearson won 3rd prize in my little contest and won \$10.00 donated in his name to the American Cancer Society in memory of my mother Shirley Appenzeller who lost her battle with cancer in 1978. As you can now guess, my S.S. (shiny skull) is to support my niece, who lost her beautiful long hair in her battle with cancer.

Al Appenzeller

## **Great Galena Balloon Race**

This year's Great Galena Balloon Race was not on Father's Day weekend, so maybe that's why pilot attendance was down a bit, maybe it was gas prices, not sure. Anyway, those that did show up had a great time!

*Touch & Go*

The tether Friday night on the field worked very well, the band on stage provided some great music and a lot of money was raised by a few generous pilots who did tethered rides. As usual, those new to the area had the grief of trying to find their house in the dark on those twisty roads, but all made it.

Saturday morning there were showers just passing through the area so some flew, other did not. The winds were light, from the NNW, a good direction for flying. I had a wedding in my basket, really a special time for all of us. We'd tried the ceremony while flying, but between the burner blasts and the giggling from the bride every time we'd hit a top of a tree as I was trying to stay low and get a left into the quiet valley floor eventually got the groom edgy and he stopped the ceremony mid-point, suggesting it be done some other time. I did get into the valley and found a nice tall-grass field to stop in so they decided to start the ceremony again. After about 10 minutes on the ground with the rolling hills, rising sun and pretty clouds as a backdrop, the ceremony was a great success and we lifted off again with the happy couple and their 2 friends all a-smiling!

Saturday evening the winds were again from the NNW and was a great night for ballooning, The field was split, half flew away and half stayed on the field to tether and glow. Some that flew also came back to glow and it really kept the crowd on the field and made the evening! There was a fancy dinner for pilots and crew right there at the VIP tent, done by Eagle Ridge, and it was very tasty!

Sunday morning we were off again to the SSE with mostly clear skies, had a great flight with quick winds above the ridges but calm winds in the valleys. My crew actually had to push me over the fence to the road at our final landing spot. When we got back we had a fantastic awards brunch, again, done by Eagle Ridge, overlooking the lake. Hats off to the event committee, the attending pilots and crew and to Eagle Ridge who combined efforts to raise a ton of money for Juvenile Diabetes!

If you're looking for a fantastic place to go for a weekend rally, this is the place. In addition to some off the chart shopping the scenery is unmatched and the event is all first class! Here are some web links to give you a taste of the Galena area:

<http://www.eagleridgeresortonline.com>

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<http://www.galena.org>  
<http://www.buyaballoonride.com>

Hope to see you there next year!

Jim and Rita Fromm

## **Sioux Falls Balloon Race**

The weather heading into the second weekend in June was less than ideal, not allowing for a media flight in the several days prior to the 33rd annual Great Plains Balloon Race. On Friday night, pilots rolled into town for the check-in party. The weather was looking good for a flight on Saturday morning, despite the relatively fast winds aloft. Saturday evening was sketchy though, with scattered thunderstorms expected by mid-afternoon.

Saturday morning rolled around much faster than many would have liked, with a 3 am wake up call for many who volunteered to help John Ninomiya with his cluster balloon. This was John's third attempt at flying at the Great Plains Balloon event, hopefully the third time was the charm. Despite the 30 mph winds forecast at 500 feet and weak thunderstorms well to the north of Sioux Falls, the decision was made to attempt a flight. Surface winds were gusty out of the southwest around 5-7 mph, making the inflation somewhat difficult. As the sun rose, the line of showers to our north became more evident. When I called the local National Weather Service office to get an update on the showers, I found out the showers were in their dissipating stage and were expected to stay well to the north and east of Sioux Falls. As sunrise approached, the surface winds dropped off to near calm and I called the office for one final briefing. At this time, I found out the showers had produced several outflow boundaries that were headed towards the Sioux Falls metro area. Fortunately the boundaries were not all that strong, causing surface winds to temporarily gust up to 10-12 mph out of the north. John Ninomiya launched right at sunrise, and as he continued to climb, it became evident that the brisk winds were still there aloft. Given that the outflow boundaries were relatively weak, a hare and hound event was called with Bill Kullander serving as the hare. Just as he went hot, an outflow boundary moved through and caused an abrupt wind shift out of the north. Bill quickly took off heading south, while John, who was now well aloft, headed east. Before long, the

hounds followed, taking to the sky one by one. With time, the winds continued to decrease behind the front, eventually changing back to the overall southwest to northeast flow. Because of the changing wind conditions, the only balloons that made it to the target were the first few off the ground. Congratulations to Bill Clemons, Matthew Grote and Vern Feekes for finishing first, second, and third respectfully.

As the day wore on, it became more and more evident that the low-level moisture was going to stay further south in central Iowa (where they certainly did not need the rain), and the chances of pulling off a flight were looking pretty good. As pilots and crew began gathering at the field, the winds were a bit gusty out of the west with temperatures in the lower 80s. As the thermals subsided, the gusty conditions rapidly subsided and a light west wind around 3 mph prevailed. A second hare and hound was called, with Bill Kullander serving once again as the hare. He took to the sky around 7:30 pm, with everyone following shortly behind. Bill caught a wind to take him to the east north-east, while the hounds remained on a due east if not a southeast heading. Winds continued to decrease towards sunset, approaching calm causing many to walk their balloons to suitable landing spots. Because of the varying wind directions between the hare and the hounds, no one was able to get remotely close to the target allowing the morning results to stand. Congratulations again to Bill Clemons, Matthew Grote and Vern Feekes for displaying great piloting skills and making it to the target Saturday morning. Hope to see everyone at the 34th annual Great Plains Balloon Race June 12-14th, 2009.

Brad Temeyer

## **23rd Annual Mayor's Invitational Balloon Race**

**Rochester, MN**

The outlook for ballooning the last weekend in June was far from optimistic with a strong area of low pressure across southern Canada creating strong winds across the northern plains. Despite the bleak outlook, nearly 30 pilots converged on Rochester, MN to make the best of the hand Mother Nature dealt.

The event was held at a new location this year, at a

soccer complex on the edge of a relatively new housing development on the far northwest side of Rochester. For those that have not been to Rochester before, the town is located 5-6 miles north of Interstate 90 with the airport situated just north of the Interstate. Being that we were on the north side of town, there was a good buffer between the balloon field and the airport. Along with the new location, a few different events were planned as well. Instead of a scheduled flight Friday night, a night glow was scheduled. A key grab for a new Harley was scheduled on Saturday night, with a rain/wind date of Sunday morning. Friday night winds were quite strong out of the south, so the balloon glow was cancelled and a field of fire was held instead.

Saturday morning winds were brisk, with 30-35 mph winds just off the surface. With winds at the surface holding steady around 8 to 10 mph, the task was cancelled but the field was opened to pilots who wanted to squeak a flight in. Five pilots elected to fly, covering 20 miles in 40 minutes. Despite the shallow inversion separating the strong winds aloft from the surface, a few pilots were able to have stand-up landings.

Scattered thunderstorms developed during the late morning hours and continued into the afternoon hours. Pilots gathered at the field Saturday night with ominous clouds on the horizon to the west. The decision was made to wait it out, and if it was not raining at 7:30, a field of fire would be held. Periods of sprinkles moves through the northwest side of town in the interim, while light rain covered the town of Rochester and areas south. As sunset approached, the rain to the north died away and a few pilots set up their baskets for the field of fire. Winds in the Rochester area were not all that strong hanging around 5 mph, but just 50-60 miles to the west winds were gusting 35-45 mph behind a strong cold front marching east. As the clouds began to collapse, a few of the pilots who flew decided to set up to dry out their envelopes. As the front's progression became slower and slower to the east, additional balloons set up to night glow. In total, eight balloons set up and night glowed for nearly an hour.

Overnight, the front moved through the area putting to end any remote chances of flying Sunday morning. For the second time in the event's history, Mother Nature had won, not allowing for a competitive flight throughout the weekend.

At the awards brunch, the first place cup (which can be seen at <http://www.mayorscupballoonrace.com/thecup.htm>) was presented to Mother Nature. The first place champagne glasses were presented to Kevin Knapp for traveling farther than any other pilot to attend the event. The last place trophy, which is also a cup (of another kind), was presented to the meteorologist for the event because of all the crummy weather throughout the weekend. Heres to better weather in 2009!

Brad Temeyer

## **Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race**

June 27-29, 2008

We thought the water was bad around Ottumwa in 2000 - the year that geese were swimming on the launch field, but it was much worse this year. At least it wasn't raining when we arrived in town! A wise suggestion was given at the first pilot's meeting - "Before you land, look down, if you can see yourself, don't land there!" Friday evening there were storms off to the west, possibly headed this way, so pilots were put on hold for a glow later on. That, too was eventually canceled & the rain hit about the time we all went for supper.

Saturday morning the winds were blowing out of the NW - a direction that they didn't want us heading with all the flooding south of town. So Bill Clemons, race director, chose two sets of targets northwest of the town & on the north edge of town. The winds were too much for some, but 16 balloons flew. Brad Craig, Michael Suchy, and Dan Corbin scored 1, 2, 3 respectively on the first target. Michael Suchy, Kirk Bloom, and Brad Craig scored top 3 on the second target.

The wind blew all day and again, pilots were put on hold for the evening's activities. Pilots & crews spent the time socializing & kicking dirt, but the wind never settled down.

Sunday morning it was raining, so again, no flight. Congratulations to Brad Craig & Michael Suchy who tied for first place and Kirk Bloom with a third place finish.

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**Thanks to the following for their contributions to this newsletter: Al Appenzeller, Meika Bartholomew, Brett Boerner, Michelle Craig, Sandy Drake, Jim Fromm, Don Prine, Gerry Prine, Paul Schneider II, Brad Temeyer, 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 Balloon Port. Schedule of meetings:

August 17      September 21      October 19