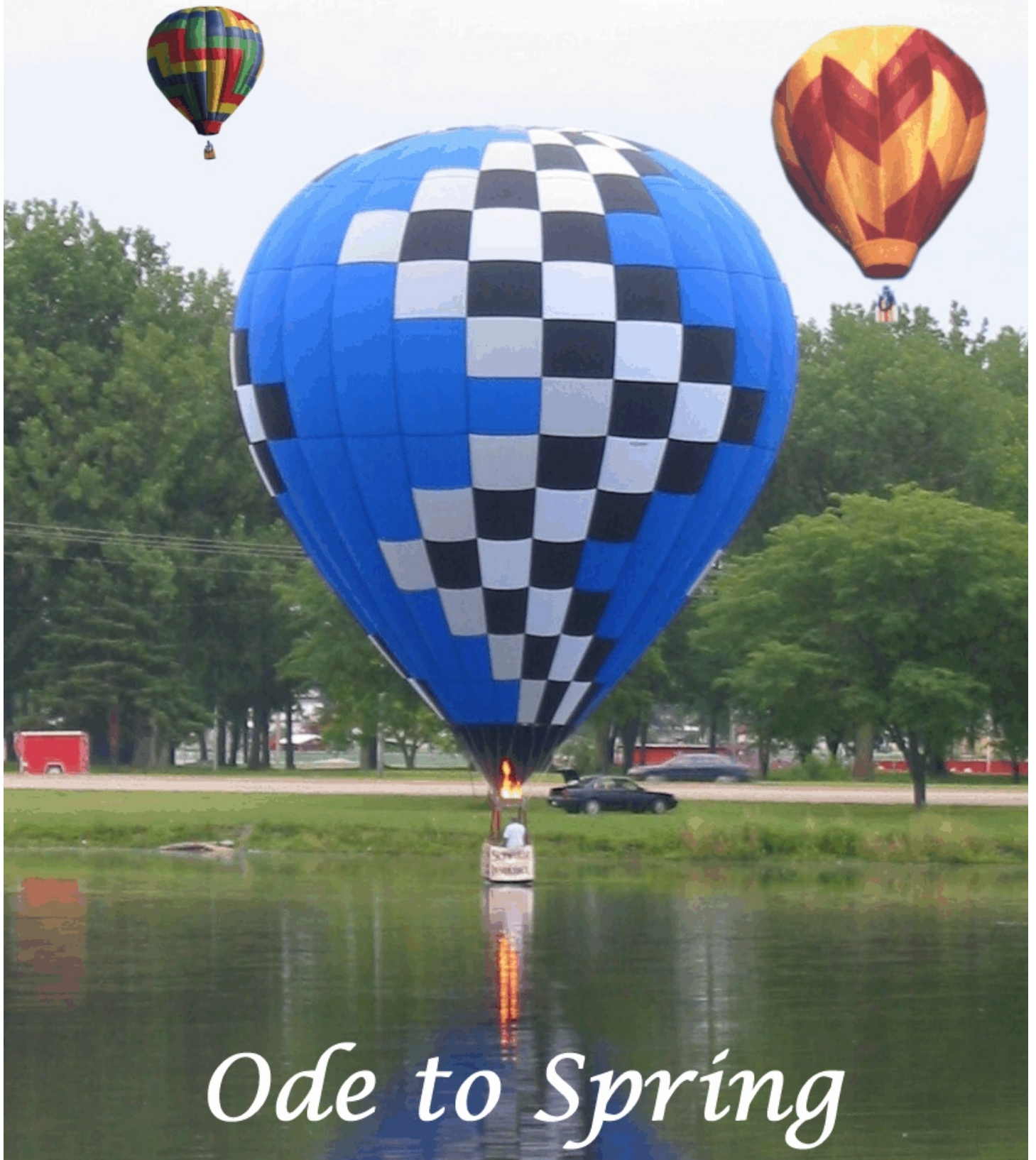


# *Balloons Over Iowa*



*Ode to Spring*

Please join *Balloons Over Iowa* in the celebration of *Ode to Spring*. Because this traditionally has signified the arrival of spring and the start of the flying season, the event will include much merriment & joyous behavior.

Serious business will also take place. The Board of Directors chosen to lead this great club for the next year will be announced. Pilot of the Year, Crew of the year & the famous Cleo award will also be announced. Don't miss this occasion!

Please help stock the Balloonport with paper towels, toilet paper, paper cups, paper plates, plastic utensils & any other valuable items.

*Schedule:*

*4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Registration at the National Balloon Museum, Indianola, IA.*

*5:30 p.m. Pilot briefing at the museum*

*6:00 p.m. Flight (weather permitting). Festivities to be moved to the Balloonport if flight is called off.*

*Pot luck will be held at the Balloonport after the flight. The club will provide meat & beer. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert & your own table service.*



**Balloons Over Iowa Membership Application**

\$20/family (Membership complimentary with Ground School)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

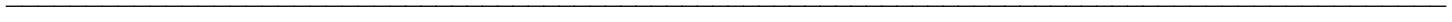
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

List any other Birthdays, Anniversaries or Events \_\_\_\_\_



- Private Pilot
- Commercial Pilot
- Student Pilot
- Crew
- Balloon Enthusiast

If you are unable to attend Ode, mail to: **Balloons Over Iowa,**  
Attn: Carol Harris  
2305 Hillside Ave.  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Check here if you do not want this information published in the newsletter.

Would you like to receive the Newsletter by:

- Mail
- Email with link to Web site where Newsletter is posted - you can then read, save or print the newsletter. Full color copy!

# Touch and Go

BALLONS VER I WA

March - April, 2005

## Ode to Spring

April 30, 2005

Please join us in celebrating **Ode to Spring**. Registration will begin at 4:30 at the National Balloon Museum. Pilot briefing is at 5:30 and flight scheduled for 6pm. After the flight the food, drink & festivities will continue at the BOI Balloonport. After dining will be the announcement of the annual club awards and the crowning of the 2005-2006 Board.

### Ode Officials:

**Balloonmeister** - Max Harris

**Assistant Balloonmeister** - Mark Harris

**Safetymeister** - Rob Bartholomew

**Weathermeister** - Bill Griffin

**Assistant Weathermeister** - Brad Temeyer

**Registrationmeisters** - Jen Nordhagen & Carol Harris

**PilotPakmeisters** - Mark Weeks & Donna Rieck

**Balloonportmeisters** - Rob & Linda Bartholomew

**Scoring** - Mary & Gerald Conklin

**Fire Marshall** - Brian Seymour

**Kegmeister** - Elmo Nordhagen

**Keeper of the Purse** - Jen Nordhagen

**Finder of the Virgin Sacrifice** - Brad Craig

**Protest committee** - Brandon & Tyler Pedersen

**Clean-up** - Dick Drake & Brad Craig

## Ground School 2005

BOI Ground school in February had another great class - 34 students from 6 states - Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska & Kansas.

Welcome to BOI and congratulations on completing Ground School: Al Appenzeller, Cory Bloom, Thad Bloom, Jeff Bridgewater, LeRoy Clair, Spencer Conlin, Larene & Mark Fisher, Tarah Graham, Matthew Grote, Mike Herman, Todd Isley, Jeremy King, Tricia Kruse, Adam Magee, Noel Magee, Jim Maher, James Mueller, Theodore Mueller, Caitlin Oponski, Alex Oponski, Matt Ouverson, Alan Paul, Todd Patterson, Alex Paul, Grant Pfeifer, Holly Pfeifer, Bob & Penny Pieper, Jeff Reid, Nathan & Amy Smith, Charlie Thorman, Jerry Tierman, Pat Tierney, Anthony VanBroekhuizen and Michael Wilhelm.

Ground Schoolmeister was Mike Oberman. Instructors were: Dick Drake, Jim Fromm, Bill Griffin, Jason Jones, Matt

Fenster, Don Prine and Donna Rieck. Thanks to Mike, all the instructors, the computer guys - Al Appenzeller & Joel Worthington and to Linda, Phyllis, Jen & Donna for providing all the great food.

## Letter from President Meika

Hello to all my friends!

Whew, have things ever been busy at the Balloonport. We had another successful Ground School the weekend of February 19th, lots of balloons in for Annual inspection, and the St. Patrick's party will be here soon on March 12th. Of course, my criteria for success is great food and a soft envelope on which to take a nap.

Vice President Sandy was here throughout the Ground School and we had many opportunities to visit and to make strategic plans. Because there are so many great things happening with BOI, we thought it might be appropriate for us to give a State of the Organization Report at the St. Patrick's Party. After further thought, however, we realized that a speech could interfere with the Irish stew cookoff, the new member initiation, and the appearance of the Giant Leprechauns. Sometimes it's better to just live for the moment.

Anyway, a big "Thank you" to all of our BOI members that make each activity a reality. In addition to our St. Patty's Day party March 12th, don't forget to mark your calendar for our 26th Ode to Spring on April 30th. Hope to see you soon, and always remember to Fly Safely. *Meika*

## Dues!

If your label does not say 05-06, your dues are due. Complete the membership form (inside front cover) & bring to Ode or send it & \$20/family to:

Carol Harris  
2305 Hillside Ave  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

If you attended 2005 BOI Ground School your dues are complimentary up to April 2006.



**Front cover: 2004 BOI Champions 1. Benji Clemons, 2. Jim Thompson 3. Aaron Gebhart**

**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

**2004-2005 Balloons Over Iowa**

**Board Members**

LeRoy Clair

Sheri Clark

Jen Nordhagen

Paul Randleman

Richard Swanson

**Treasurer**

Jen Nordhagen

**Secretary**

Tom Ricke

**Editor**

Carol Harris

**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

Touch And Go is a bi-monthly publication of the Balloons over Iowa Balloon Club. Opinions expressed and advertising appearing in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or endorsements of the BOI Club or its members. The BOI Club or its members can not be held liable for the failure of any advertised product. We authorize the reprinting of any original work in this newsletter, please credit Balloons Over Iowa Touch & Go as the source.

**Letter from Vice-President Sandy**

First of all, for those attending ground school who are new to Balloons over Iowa, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the club. You'll find being a member of Balloons Over Iowa can be very rewarding. I hope you will be able to attend the upcoming St. Patrick's party or other parties lined up throughout the year. Also, be sure to attend the BOI monthly meetings. You will not want to miss one of these meetings.

Secondly, I would like to thank all the instructors and volunteers who helped make this year's ground school another huge success. Meika and I hear, on occasion, how hot air ballooning in other states is decreasing in numbers. From the numbers here in Iowa, ballooning has been increasing!

The Iowa Balloonist Association Continuing Education Seminar is fast approaching. If you have not sent in your registration, you probably should do so fairly quickly. I have heard they have an outstanding speaker/topic line up this year...one you will not want to miss out on. For more information contact Jeremy Rubin.

I hope to see everyone at the annual St. Patrick's celebration and BOI initiation party on Saturday, the 12th of March. I've heard the Giant Green Leprechauns have a few surprises up their sleeves. I'm thinking this year I may enter the Irish Stew contest.

Hope this finds everyone doing well. Take care and again, if you are ever in Radcliff, IA please stop by and say "Hi". I always enjoy visiting with people.

Until next time,  
*Sandy Drake*

**Letters to the Editor**

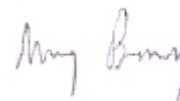
January 14, 2005

Dear Editor:

Next year I intend to retire and have been planning to return to the Indianola area. I have been closely monitoring the progress reports of your BOI Retirement Home Complex. The January-February edition of your excellent newsletter had no information regarding the status of site negotiations, or a prediction when construction will begin. Please include this information in your next edition.

Anxious to retire and return,

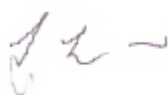
1/17/05



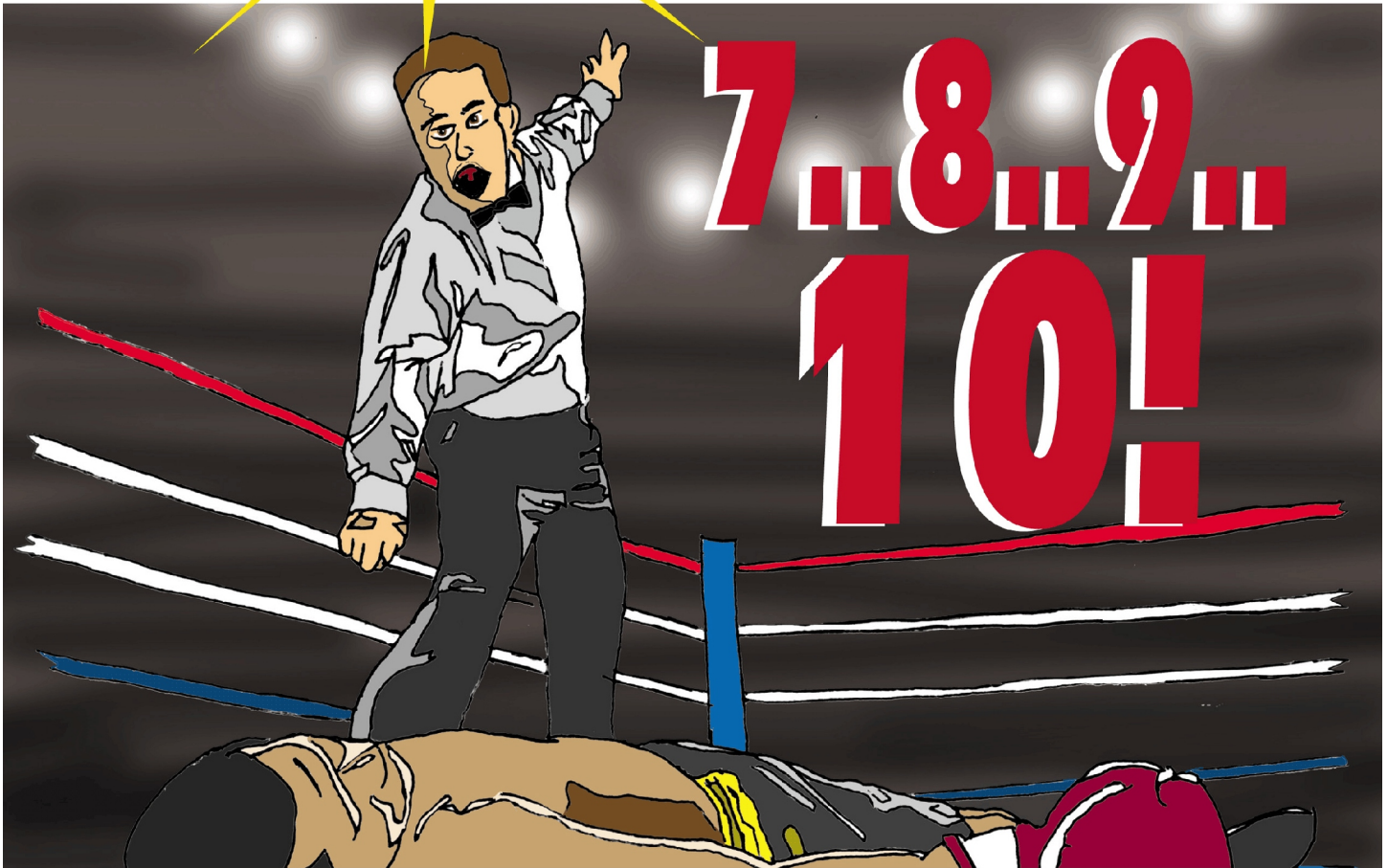
To the Editor:

I have heard that some members of the BOI Retirement Home Committee have been taken into Federal custody. I didn't believe the rumors, but because there was no progress report in the last "Touch and Go" I'm starting to get worried. What is the present status of that committee? Who can I contact to get more information?

A concerned BOI member



# **KNOCKOUT SALE!**



**KO** **7% Off FireFly 7 Envelopes**  
**8% Off FireFly 8 Envelopes**  
**9% Off Firefly 9 Envelopes**  
**10% Off Firefly 10 Envelopes** **KO**

**This sale also includes full systems!**

**Make Sure To Check Our Website in March**  
**We Are Planning Something That Will Make You See Stars!**

810 Salisbury Rd. Statesville, NC 28677

704.878.9501 • fax 704.878.9505

[www.fireflyballoons.net](http://www.fireflyballoons.net) • email: [info@fireflyballoons.net](mailto:info@fireflyballoons.net)

**FireFly**   
[www.fireflyballoons.net](http://www.fireflyballoons.net)

**Sale Ends March 31**

## Retirement Center Update

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

Appreciation is expressed to all the BOI members that have emailed, called and written inquiring about the welfare and progress of your BOIRHPSAC. The advent of 2005 has found your BOIRHPSAC experiencing significant challenges at the Local, State and Federal level.

Chief Negotiator, Dick Drake, reports modest progress in our efforts to acquire an appropriate site for construction of the BOI Retirement Home Complex. Some communication problems between our financial sub-committee and MORK (Motorcyclists Over Road Kill, a group of individuals who do not shave or cut their hair and have been serving as bargaining consultants) have made it temporarily difficult for BOI to extend financial proposals. Drake reports that this will not hinder continuing dialogue as the landowner, who enjoys the smoke filled environment and the refreshment flow, has stopped shaving and cutting his hair and has fallen into the habit at the end of each negotiation session of making negotiation concessions in the absence of proposals from BOI. This promising strategy will continue and expenses will be submitted in the usual manner.

On a more somber note, efforts to locate World Renowned Architect (WRA) Phil Pash may become more complicated. It appears that Pash has either been abducted by a Mexican drug cartel, or placed in a Federal Witness Protection Program. In addition to being a WRA, Pash is also a courageous citizen serving as an undercover agent investigating an international drug ring. This may be related to the fact that during recent BOIRHPSAC members' interviews with State and Federal authorities, we have been notified that our proposed Retirement Home Complex site is adjacent to land owned by MORK, our bargaining consultants. MORK land apparently supports an unusual cash crop valued in excess of \$3000 a plant. BOIRHPSAC recommends to the BOI members that have attended one or more nightly committee meetings that you cooperate fully if contacted by State or Federal agents. Some BOIRHPSAC members, as a result of their courageous support of State and Federal task forces, have been notified that they may need to take action to assure their own safety.

Some committees of lesser timber might become paralyzed by fear into inactivity, not your BOIRHPSAC. We pledge to spare NO expense to

- locate and assure the safety of WRA Phil Pash, and
- enlist the aid of all BOI members in making our BOI Retirement Complex a reality.

A picture of BOIRHPSAC member Prine, somewhere off the coast of Mexico, searching for Pash, accompanies this report.



A picture of a potential BOI Retirement Home Complex recently located in Hawaii by BOI Members Max and Carol Harris is also attached. Expenses will be submitted in the usual manner.



Respectfully submitted\*

\*If you see Michelle Craig, please refer to her by her new assigned name, Babs Vivone.

The meeting was unusually quiet. Jen Nordhagen observed that she “knew something like this was going to happen.” Bill Griffin encouraged BOI Members to “take pride in your BOIRHPSAC, a committee that not only has time to significantly contribute to attainment of BOI goals, but also to become deeply involved in drug and alcohol investigation.” Bill further reported that he has gone into school administration and is not likely to be seen again.

Bill Craig asked if it was safe to use the restroom area south of the Balloonport.

Phyllis and Dick Drake caucused in the corner. Jim Fromm observed that “There may even be some Federal Citations as a result of BOIRHPSAC cooperation.” Rita Fromm said she “will just be happy if there are no Federal sentences.” Phone calls were received from LaVerna Edmister, Jeff Bridgewater, and Michael Hadley offering sanctuary.

Don Prine explained that, upon advice of State and Federal authorities, it may be necessary for BOIRHPSAC to go undercover, providing only rare and sporadic progress reports. Expenses will be submitted in the usual manner.

A rumble of motorcycle engines were heard approaching from the South. The meeting was adjourned.



# National Balloon Museum

1601 North Jefferson, P. O. Box 149  
Indianola, IA 50125-0149

Becky Wigeland, Curator  
515 961 3714 Email: [flamingbecky@aol.com](mailto:flamingbecky@aol.com)  
<http://www.nationalballoonmuseum.com>

## News Release

January 27, 2005 – For immediate release

### BALLOON MUSEUM OPENS NEW EXHIBITS AND OFFICES FEB 1

The National Balloon Museum opens February 1 with new exhibits and offices after being closed the month of January for refurbishing, remodeling and designing new exhibits.

Effective February 1 the Balloon Federation of America (BFA) moved its headquarters offices from downtown Indianola to the museum where the BFA rents newly remodeled office space. Having the BFA offices in the museum is a natural fit as the museum is the official caretaker of the artifacts belonging to the BFA.

New features opening at the museum January 1 are the following:

1. Exhibit of newspaper Balloon Cartoons including cartoons by Frank Miller and Duffy and others.
2. Exhibit of Early Ballooning Apparel
3. An exhibit of ballooning photographs entitled "Balloons Over Indianola" taken by Dennis D. Nicholson, a local amateur photographer and museum volunteer. The exhibit will be displayed during the month of February. Plans are to have a different photographer display his or her photos in subsequent months. Persons interested displaying their photos should contact Museum Curator, Becky Wigeland.
4. A computer flight simulation program called "Hot Air Pilot 2000" which enables the older children, youth and adults to "pilot" a hot air balloon in any one of four scenarios. It is located in the museum's Learning Center which also includes learning activities for young children.
5. A theater room where visitors can view videos or PowerPoint slide shows on the history of ballooning and other aspects of ballooning.
6. A new north entrance to the BFA office suite on the north side of the building for direct access to the BFA offices or times when the main museum doors are not open.
7. A newly marked south side entrance for direct access to the National Balloon Classic (NBC) offices or times when the main museum doors are not open.
8. The museum gift shop has been re-arranged and has many balloon-related items for sale. Come in and see what it has to offer.

The public is invited to visit the museum. Winter hours (February thru April) are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday thru Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is located at 1601 North Jefferson (highway 65/69) on the north edge of Indianola. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated. The museum is operated entirely by volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact the museum. For more information call 515 961 3714 or go to the museum's website at [www.nationalballoonmuseum.com](http://www.nationalballoonmuseum.com).

**Other Museum news:** We are starting a revolving display of amateur photographers of balloons that will change every two months. So get those photos out. I need big shots--8x10 and larger, framed preferably. Ward and Diane Roscoe and Dennis Nicholson's photos are up now - probably until April.

We are planning an Open House for the BFA on the same day as Ode to Spring.

*Becky Wigeland*

## NTSB Reports

The following reports were provided by Rob Bartholomew for review & educational purposes. Full reports can be found on the NTSB Web site: [www.nts.gov](http://www.nts.gov) under "Accident Reports".

### **NTSB Identification: DEN04LA006.**

Thursday, October 09, 2003 in Albuquerque, NM  
Aircraft: Firefly Balloons Galaxy 11B, registration: N2190S  
Injuries: 2 Serious, 6 Minor, 3 Uninjured.

According to the pilot, he prepared for landing and descended the balloon to check the winds. He noticed that the winds had increased to "16 to 22 mph," so he decided to climb back up and look for a larger area in which to land. He briefed his passengers and prepared them for a high-wind landing. As the balloon descended, it came out of the "12 to 14 mph winds into 16 to 20 mph winds." The pilot said he had to "burn hard" to control the balloon as it came into the faster winds. When the balloon leveled out at approximately 2 feet off the ground, he pulled hard on the vent line. However, at that time, he "didn't turn off the pilot lights, because I [he] knew that with all the extra heat, it was going to bounce up." When the balloon struck the ground, it bounced approximately 20 feet into the air. On the second touchdown, the pilot turned off the pilot light. As the balloon slid across the ground, the basket rotated approximately 90 degrees and then tumbled on its side. When the basket tumbled, the pilot felt a "flash back from the burner." At that point, the pilot noticed that two passengers had been thrown from the basket. One of them had caught her foot on the basket and the balloon was dragging her across the ground. The balloon came to a stop approximately 800 feet from the first touchdown point. The pilot stated that when he went back to the balloon, he identified that "both pilot lights were off" and he found a "jacket wrapped around the blast valve handle." Although three passengers were not injured, the pilot, and one passenger received minor injuries, and six passengers were seriously injured.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows: the pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control during a high-wind landing, resulting in a hard landing, the subsequent tipping of the balloon's basket, a post impact flash fire, and the ejection of two passengers. Contributing factors include the high wind conditions and the rough/uneven terrain.

### **NTSB Identification: NYC04LA017**

On October 25, 2003, about 0840 eastern daylight time, an Aerostar RX-8, hot air balloon, N3597H, received minor damage during a hard landing in Ithaca, New York. The certificated private pilot and one passenger were not injured. Two passengers received serious injuries. Visual

meteorological conditions prevailed for the personal flight, which departed from an open field in Ithaca, New York. No flight plan had been filed for the local flight that was conducted under 14 CFR Part 91.

According to the pilot, he was taking three friends on a balloon ride. He said that he checked the weather the night before the flight, and again on the morning of the flight. Upon arrival at the launch field, the pilot released a pilot balloon (PIBAL), at 0705. The winds were higher than he desired, and he waited. He released a second PIBAL at 0730, and although the winds had lessened, they were still stronger than he desired for flight. He released a third PIBAL about 0750, and the winds were satisfactory for flight. Prior to takeoff he briefed the passengers to flex their knees upon touchdown, and to face in the direction of travel during landing. The balloon was inflated, and he took off about 0805.

About 15 minutes into the flight, the winds increased, and he started to look for a place to land. He aborted on his first landing attempt and picked a second field. After clearing trees and power lines, he continued to descend for a landing. At an altitude of about 10 feet, he vented the envelope. The balloon hit hard in a grass field, and the basket laid over. The basket was dragged for over 300 feet, and then became airborne as it neared a tree line. The balloon impacted a line of trees with the basket about 15 feet above the ground. The pilot and passengers were able to exit the basket to the ground. The pilot added that the injuries occurred during the initial touchdown.

The closest weather observation to the departure point and accident site was Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport (ITH), Ithaca, New York, which was located about 8 nautical miles from the departure point on a bearing of 65 degrees magnetic. The 0750 weather observation from Ithaca included winds from 180 degrees at 10 knots, and the 0850 weather observation included winds from 180 degrees at 10 knots, with gusts to 18 knots.

A check of the terminal forecasts for Ithaca revealed that the winds were forecast to remain at or below 10 knots at the time of the accident flight. The first terminal forecast with winds greater than 10 knots was released at 0700, and effective at 1112. The forecast called for winds from 180 at 12 knots with gusts to 20 knots.

The pilot reported that his total flight experience was 43 hours, all in hot air balloons, including 31 hours in make and model.



**NTSB Identification: NYC04LA078**

Saturday, February 28, 2004 in Nicholasville, KY  
Aircraft: Raven Industries Rally RX7, registration: N4110M  
Injuries: 1 Fatal.

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 February 28, 2004, at 1630 eastern standard time, a Raven Industries Rally RX7 balloon, N4110M, was substantially damaged during takeoff from a field in Nicholasville, Kentucky. The certificated private pilot was not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the personal flight conducted under 14 CFR Part 91.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspectors interviewed several witnesses after the accident. According to the witnesses, the balloon was to be launched from a field about 300 feet long and 100 feet wide, with 35-foot tall power lines lining the north edge of the field.

The balloon was laid out on the ground about 200 feet south of the power lines, and inflation was "normal." As the balloon began to stand up, the wind increased in velocity and became gusty. At the pilot's request, the ground crew members placed weight in the basket. The wind pushed the balloon forward, the basket tipped slightly. The balloon began to "scoot" along the ground, and the pilot released the tie-down line, which was secured to the vehicle trailer. The pilot then activated the burner and instructed the crew to "weight off." The balloon ascended to an altitude of about 5 to 10 feet, as it traveled north. It skimmed the ground for about 30 feet, and then settled back to the surface. The pilot was observed activating the burner several times; however, the balloon did not rise as expected. As the balloon approached the power lines, the pilot turned off the pilot light and closed the fuel tank valves. He pulled the redline to open the vent, and just prior to impacting the power lines, he ducked inside the basket.

The balloon suspension cables at two corners of the basket contacted the power lines, which severed the cables and caused the basket to tip 90 degrees to a horizontal attitude. The balloon continued to move toward the north, and a third suspension cable came in contact with the power lines and was severed. The fourth suspension cable then separated from the balloon envelope and the basket fell about 35 feet to the ground in a horizontal attitude. The balloon envelope, free of the basket, continued about 1,500 feet to the north, and came to rest in a residential area.

The weather reported at an airport about 9 miles to the north, at 1654, was winds from 150 degrees at 4 knots, 10 miles visibility, and clear skies.

**NTSB Identification: ATL04LA094**

On April 7, 2004 at 1815 eastern daylight time, a Firefly F8B, N2200D, registered to and operated by a commercial pilot, broke a quick release tie down eyebolt during inflation near Eatonton, Georgia. The intended personal flight was operated under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 with no flight plan filed. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed. The commercial pilot was fatally injured and the balloon sustained minor damage. The local flight was intended to depart Lake Oconee near Eatonton, GA, at 1820.

According to a witness during the inflation process of the balloon one of the tie down eyebolts broke. The quick release tie down eyebolt was installed on the tailgate of automobile. The windline hit the commercial pilot in the head. The balloon skid across the grass and hit a tree. Examination of the balloon revealed that six wicker panels were broken. The fractured quick release tie down eyebolt was sent to the National Transportation Safety Board Materials Laboratory for further examination. The examination of the eyebolt revealed that the threaded portion of the eyebolt was fractured adjacent to one of the nuts. The fracture features were typical of a recent bending overstress fracture.

The commercial pilot was airlifted to Putnam County Medical Center, and subsequently moved to Atlanta Medical Center on April 8, 2004. The commercial pilot expired on April 11, 2004. No autopsy or toxicological examinations were performed. The death certificate states the cause of death as "cerebral herniation due to cerebral edema, blunt head and neck injury."

According to a representative from Firefly Balloons, the F8B is not equipped with the quick release tie down eyebolt system. The quick release tie down eyebolt is an after-market item.



*From an ATM receipt  
Radcliff Bank using  
new advertising?*

## Balloon For Sale

1999 TBW FF 7B-15 w/198 hours

The Envelope is a beautiful blue, green, yellow spiral and the 4.0 basket has lovely blue suede. The system is complete with a Mirage burner, 3-10 gal tanks and the envelope has velcro for a 15 x 28 banner. The entire system is in fantastic shape and comes with the following extras:

Quick disconnect refueling adaptor, nomex skirt and original cloth skirt, envelope bag with bag bottom, tank covers with padded jackets and heat tapes, dropline with bag, burner bag, radio holder, tool pouch and fire extinguisher. System includes inflator fan with 8 hp Briggs and Stratton Motor with 30 inch wood prop. Quick release and tie down, United Instruments altimeter and variometer with DigatronTemp System on instrument panel.

Also includes a 1999 Kiefer Kargo King 6 x 10 enclosed trailer completely customized for hot air ballooning including internal pressurized system, helium tank with holder, jack with holder, first-aid kit, tool kit, gloves, storage cabinet, tongue lock, fire extinguisher, spare tire and extra wide side door.

All our annuals have been performed by Rob and Linda Bartholomew with Balloons Over Iowa, Carlisle, Iowa.

System also includes three Spirit M Series Motorola radios complete with one clip-on microphone, two charges and one drop-in charger and many extra miscellaneous ballooning items.

\$13,500 takes the whole package

Contact us for more information and photos at [knoll@raccoon.com](mailto:knoll@raccoon.com), (515) 961-5807 or Rob Bartholomew at (515) 989-3708.

## Mondial Air Ballons - Lorraine 2005

News from France, ballooning's birthplace !

In 2005, the 9th edition of the most international balloon fiesta in the world, MONDIAL AIR BALLONS - LORRAINE 2005, will take place from July 22 to 31. Let every pilot from every ballooning country know that Chambley Air Base definitely is the place to meet.

We are eager to welcome you back, or to make you discover the area if you've never had the chance to experience flying in Lorraine region. For that concern, entry fee has been lowered. More, we have planned a lot of fun and challenging activities specially for you! As usually, each and every pilot and crew member will be given a warm and friendly welcome. We are now settling the last details to make on line registration available within February 2005 on [www.pilat-re-de-rozier.com](http://www.pilat-re-de-rozier.com)

Take good care for now and best season's greetings!

Pilâtre de Rozier Organisation

BP 18

F-57530 Courcelles-Chaussy

Tél : +33 (0)3 87 64 08 08 Fax : +33 (0)3 87 64 15 84

Email : [adu@pilatre-de-rozier.com](mailto:adu@pilatre-de-rozier.com)

## The Ballooning Club of India

January 15, 2005

Dear Balloonist,

We have great pleasure in extending this invitation to the Hot-Air Balloon Mela & Rajasthan Safari 2005, scheduled from 11th November to 26th November 2005.

This will be the twenty first 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. Should you require more information, please contact us.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,  
VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA  
Honorary Secretary

8-B, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
New Delhi-110002, INDIA

Tele: +91 11 23716665 Fax: +91 11 23317947

Email: [balloonindia@yahoo.com](mailto:balloonindia@yahoo.com)

Call or email Carol (515 221-3193 or [hotairflyn@aol.com](mailto:hotairflyn@aol.com)) for more information & registration forms for this event

Long time friend of the Balloon Community, Lyle Ellis passed away March 2. For those of you who aren't immediately putting a face to the name, Lyle lived right across the pilot compound entrance of the balloon field and could be seen frequenting the field on his golf car. He had been sick for some time. *Cory Bloom*

## Calendar of Events

- March 19 **IB Continuing Education Seminar** Des Moines IA. Contact Jeremy Rubin 515 963-9307 or RubinJeremy@hotmail.com
- March 20, 2005 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**, Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- April 17 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**
- April 30 **BOI Ode to Spring** Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- May 15 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**
- June 4-5 **My Waterloo Days** - Waterloo Iowa. Flights Sat am & pm, Sun am. Contact Carla Brinker 319 239-2903 or cbrinker@ballooningmail.com
- June 19 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**
- June 24-26 **Ottumwa Pro Balloon Race** Ottumwa, IA. Contact Phil Gray 515 961-6113
- July 17 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**
- July 23-29 **BFA Nationals**, Anderson, SC
- July 29 - August 6 **National Balloon Classic** Contact Classic office at 1-800-FLYIOWA or www.nationalballoonclassic.com
- August 19-21 **Lighter Than Air Balloon Affair** Council Bluffs, IA Contact Stacy Kirchert 712 325-3257
- August 21 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**
- Sept 2-5 **Great Pershing Balloon Derby** Brookfield, MO. Contact Sherry Techau 660 258-5290 or rstechau@shighway.com
- September 16-18 **SW Iowa Pro Balloon Race** Creston, IA. Contact Rob Bartholomew 515 989-3708
- September 18 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**
- September 30 - October 9 **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta** Albuquerque, NM
- October 15 **Jill Rubin memorial Flight**
- October 16 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**
- October 29 **BOI Halloween Party** Balloonport, Carlisle, IA
- November 20 6:30 p.m. **BOI membership meeting**

## Happy Birthday

Jeremy King	4-1	Michael Wilhelm	4-23
Emma Thompson	4-1	John Brinker	4-24
Keonna Kintzel	4-1	Jacob Hermanson	4-24
Mike Mitchell	4-1	Christopher Reinert	4-25
Carol Harris	4-3	Patti Todden	4-25
Chug Hubrich	4-4	Cathy Williams	4-26
Kim Hemmingsen	4-4	Ashley Jensen	4-26
Angelica Corbin	4-4	Donna Hill-Snipes	4-27
James Mueller	4-4	Kelly Danielson	4-30
James Mueller	4-4	Drew Holmes	4-30
Ryan Stone	4-5	Drew Holmes	4-30
Bandit Brown	4-5		
Andy Clark	4-6	Rosa Tierman	5-2
Mike Herman	4-7	Jessica Stone	5-2
Larry Owen	4-7	Larene Fisher	5-3
Jennifer Hermanson	4-8	Dean Ann Netley	5-3
Joseph Seymour	4-9	Amber Clark	5-5
Rick McCubbin	4-10	Bill Marhoun	5-6
Francine Kennedy	4-11	Barbara Jones	5-6
Barb Knoll	4-11	Paige Erger	5-14
Lisa Stone	4-12	Donna Rieck	5-15
Gavin Pash	4-12	T.J. Appenzeller	5-15
Peggy Bloom	4-13	Melissa Lamb	5-15
Jim Gebhart	4-14	Crystal Nollen	5-16
Kathi Pfeifer	4-14	Daisy Pieper	5-18
Steve Pfeifer	4-14	Don Prine	5-18
Brad Craig	4-15	Holly Pfeifer	5-19
Dixie Ruble	4-17	Melissa Coe	5-22
Gary Lawrence	4-21	Karen Worthington	5-23
Tony Oberman	4-21	Jeff Lawrence	5-25
Ralph Rieck	4-22	Helen Wilson	5-25
Kimberly Jones	4-22	Jeanne Wiley	5-29
Christopher Hade	4-22	Amy Foelske	5-31
		Sherry Techau	5-31



## Happy Anniversary

Gary & Elaine Lawrence	4-5	Brian & Chris Seymour	4-28
John & Carla Brinker	4-6	Gerald & Mary Conklin	4-29
Keith & Cathy Williams	4-8	Mike & Shelly Mitchell	5-8
Jim & Cheryl Gebhart	4-9	Terry & Gina Garrett	5-12
Wayne & Janet Mohring	4-11	David & Lysa Holmes	5-15
Mike & Pam Hadley	4-13	Terry & Karin Riepe	5-18
Brent & Amy Williams	4-16	Rob & Wendie Spence	5-28
Steve & Elane Lacroix	4-26	David & LaVerna Edmister	5-31



## The Way It Was

### 25 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 4-20-1980 Denny Pash received his Commercial license.
- ★ 4-20-1980 Jim Oakes received his Private license.
- ★ 4-25-1980 Warren Stone received his Private license.
- ★ Ode 1980 – won by Orv Olivia – a balloonist who was driving through Iowa on his way to South Carolina & stopped to join us when he saw the balloons.

### 20 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 3-10-1985 Wayne Wasson received his Commercial license.
- ★ April 20, 1985 Crouse Café's First Annual Balloon Party Fund Raiser. Band – Beer – Hor d'oeuvres. All proceeds go to NBC Ltd.
- ★ April 21, 1985 BOI Board of Directors meeting - Treasurer's report - \$859.75
- ★ April 27 – Ode to Spring at Piccard Park. Bill Griffin - Balloonmeister; Donna Rieck – Assistant Balloonmeister. The weather Gods looked upon us. 39 Hot-Air Balloons floated in the sky in pursuit of that elusive Bunny Rabbit as a Hare and Hound was run for Sanctioned flight. The winds were unstable but that didn't stop the Poor Bunny Rabbit from out foxing the Hounds by going high on take off and then working the winds to the best of his ability. Everyone tied for first place in the flight because no one was within the 500 ft. scoring are of the Hare with their drops. Overall scoring for the winner of the Ode to Spring race is as follows: 1st Gary Ford, 2nd Dave Tallant, 3rd Henry Schick, 4th Gary King, 5th Sherry Allsup. The flight covered 5.6 miles in one hour. Hog Roast furnished by Sally Kirtley and Dan Terry.
- ★ New BOI Board Members for 85-86: Jim Oakes, Fay Shelley, Becky Riley, Doug Purdy, and Gary Fouche.
- ★ 1985 Crew of the Year – Tom Harvey, Jim Love, Darlene Terry

### 15 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 3-17-90 St. Patrick's Party: 5 entries in the Chili cookoff: #1 – Jim Oakes “Georgia can't cook.” #2 – LuAnn Randleman “Paul can't cook worth sh\_\_” #3 Rita Fromm “Are you kidding, Jim only eats the food” (The quotes were recorded when the editor asked for a clarification on who the cook actually was). All 5 crock pots went home empty.
- ★ 3-24-1990 Jim Fromm received his Commercial license.
- ★ 12th Annual; it was Flyable! Officials: Jim Oakes - Balloonmeister: Dan Terry - Assistant Balloonmeister. Jim Oakes, the Balloonmeister welcomed everyone to the 12th annual race and a discussion ensued as to whether it was too wet to fly – most pilots with their balloons at the rally decided to fly. It was a slow easy race with a launch site at the new balloon field and a target east of Warren Stone's house. Those who took off soon after the

pilot briefing missed the field to the east, but those launching later flew right over the field, but the scorers had rolled up the X & headed for the Balloonport for the “Pot Luck” of the year.

- ★ The 1989 board of Louise Clemons, Jim Fromm, Sally Kirtley, Merrie Fouche & Ralph Rieck was brought forward. They will long be remembered as the Board to start the “Ponderances”, “Okey-Dokey & Not-a Chance” forms of voting)
- ★ The board for 1990 was then introduced - Bill Clemons, Rita Fromm, Jeri Hoover, Georgia Oakes, Mark Ziino
- ★ Cleo Award – Rob Bartholomew
- ★ Pilot of the Year – Jim Oakes
- ★ Crew of the Year – Bartholomew & Craig crews – Bob, Helen, Denny, Lynn, Bill, Brad, Michelle
- ★ Smith Ford Memorial – Kay Fee for her dedication & love for ballooning
- ★ Ode to Spring winners - #1 Mark Ziino, #2 Don Prine #3 Warren Stone
- ★ BOI presented a US flag to Jim & Maxine Wieman to be flown at the National Balloon Museum

### 10 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ March '95 - Norm & Kay Fee's new balloon - Tranquility
- ★ St. Pat's day party: Irish Stew Cook-off - Sherry Allsup first place, second place to Virginia Van Hamme, 3rd place to Bill Griffin. New members included - Mike & Beth Oberman, Todd & DeanAnn Netley, Julie Frueh, Brent Hess, Shannon Smith, Jim Pearson, Mason Fromm, & the Stone family
- ★ 4-2-1995 Todd Netley received his Private license.
- ★ April 23, 1995 BOI Meeting: Members were able to get first opportunity to listen to the new selections in the Juke Box; We have a new coat rack – it is not assembled
- ★ Ode to Spring '95: Weather won. Balloonmeister Joel Blom, Assistant Don Prine. Indoor event – Miniature golf. This event tested pilot skills as well as crew skills. Each pilot recruited 4 other people. Each person would then take one turn putting around different obstacles ranging from balloon envelope bags, chairs and people in the way. 1st place Winkenwerders, 2nd place - Drakes.
- ★ Cleo Award – Founding Father Don Prine
- ★ Pilot of the Year – Joel Blom for impersonating Balloon Watcher Bob
- ★ Crew of the Year – Mike, Beth, April & Tony Oberman
- ★ New board – Jim Pearson, Julie Frueh, Todd Netley, Mike Oberman, Mike Wildung

### 5 years ago in BOI History:

- ★ 3-11-2000 Brad Craig & Scott Moon received their Commercial licenses.
- ★ St. Patrick's Day party Irish Stew contest - Winner was Tom Blumer! Runners up were #2 Luann Randleman; #3 - a tie between Helen Bartholomew & Drew & Cathy

Gocken. Honorable mention went to Wendie Spence for her White chili. A special ceremony was held for a special signing of documents by the President & Vice President of BOI. Gerald Knoll made a fantastic debut as Kegmeister with the Green Beer. Initiation of 22 new members - Amber Clark, Ashley Oakes, Ann Espinosa, Polina Poliektova, Kim Rosenboom, Bill Smith, Wendie Spence, Rob Spence, Laurie Allbaugh, Ken Allbaugh, Wyman Borts, Wendi Borts, Bill Marhoun, Bonnie Marhoun, Joe Page, Jake Hamlin, Dean Carrington, Dan Strand, Patti McGaughey, Karen Riepe, Terry Riepe & Tiffany Everts.

- ★ March 19, 2000 BOI Meeting: Approval given for BOI apparel – golf shirts.
- ★ 3-26-2000 Bill Marhoun received his Commercial license.
- ★ Roger Brandt passed away April 8, after a long battle with cancer.
- ★ Veisha - April 15 - the winds did not cooperate. Only 2 pilots flew that day - Benji & Barbie; BBQ at Andersons' after the flights. Barbie flew a long jump, allegedly landing in Winterset.
- ★ Maiden flight of Golden Griffin 3 - April 17th
- ★ Maiden flight of "Step'n Up" - Gebharts new balloon - April 21st
- ★ Ode to Spring: Bill Griffin was the only pilot to score
- ★ Crew of the Year - Scott Moon's crew
- ★ Jill Rubin was "honored" as Pilot of the Year
- ★ Cleo Award to Donna Rieck for all her work in helping with Ground School & the Museum
- ★ 2000 - 2001 BOI Board - Eva Blumer, Brad Craig, Carol Harris, Scott Moon, Eric Young

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

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA  
January 16, 2005

**Present:** Rob & Linda Bartholomew, Meika Bartholomew, Ellie Bartholomew, Dick & Phyllis Drake, Sandy Drake, Todd Isley, Leroy Clair, Celsey Clair, Kaitlyn Clair, Michelle Craig, Patti Todden, Richard Swanson, Rick McCubbin, Mary Eagan, Jen Nordhagen, Riley Nordhagen, Josie Nordhagen, Al Appenzeller, Paul Randleman, Bill Griffin, Bob & Penny Peiper, Joel Worthington, Maggie Worthington, Jody Jensen, Brad Craig, Bill Craig, Max & Carol Harris.

Meeting called to order by Chair Richard Swanson at 6:38:48.

**Secretary's report:** Secretary Tom not present. Minutes from November's meeting presented. Jim moved to approve secretary's report, Patti 2<sup>nd</sup>. All voted Okey Dokey.

**Treasurer's report:** We have 8 ½ kegs less than in November. Jim moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Max second. All approved.

Carol reported on the cost of the newsletter. In 2004 the Newsletter cost \$1,663.24 to print & mail. Our income from dues was \$1,635.00. Some members are now receiving the newsletter via email or web link. Discussion, discussion. Jim moved to increase yearly dues to \$20. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. New fees to start at Ode to Spring.

### **Old Business:**

- ★ Old Business not present. Where in the World is Old Business?? Younger Old Business (Paul) is here, though.
- ★ Ground School. Cost to be \$175 with books and a 1 year membership to BOI. If they refuse the membership, the cost will be \$200.

*The meeting is interrupted by a dog fight. The President is sparring with a potential presidential candidate.*

- ★ New Years Eve Party - it was a great party. Members thanked Al & his father for providing music. There was a large crowd present, the food was good, but the keg went dry at 10:30. Paul won at Quarters, but LuAnn wouldn't let him keep the winnings. Rob stayed awake until after midnight.

### **New Business:**

- ★ Ritz is Feb 12. See a NBC Board member for tickets.
- ★ Carol requested we choose a Balloonmeister for Ode to Spring. She suggested that since Max didn't call a flight last year, he should be Balloonmeister again this year. Max suggested Carol walk home. Motion withdrawn. Patti moved that Max repeat as Balloonmeister. Al 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved except Max - voted "Not a chance". Motion carried.

### **Return to Old Business:**

- ★ Ground School. Mike Oberman will be Ground Schoolmeister. Al is helping with computer work. New software has been purchased. This will enable instructors to make tests - for commercial or private or to make smaller quizzes on specific sections. LeRoy is working on speaker system.
- ★ February meeting will be at 5 pm, due to Ground School.

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

- ★ Bill talked to Mark Ziino about our Web page. He is no longer updating the site. Discussion, discussion. Joel Worthington volunteered to update the site. Bill nominated Joel Worthington as BOI Webmeister, AKA "Web dude", Patti 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, Dick 2<sup>nd</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved. Carol will send dates of BOI functions & Ground School info. Web site address: [www.nationalballoonclassic.com/boi](http://www.nationalballoonclassic.com/boi)

Bill called for a Ponderance. Dick read from his "Book of Imponderables". "Are Lobsters Ambidextrous?". You had to be there!

Jim moved to adjourn the meeting. Max 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair called for the vote. The "Okie Dokies" & the "Not a Chances" tied. Chair called for division of the house. Show of hands - Okie Dokie's have it.

Meeting adjourned 7:27:57.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Harris, Temporary Secretary

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

BOI Balloonport; Carlisle, IA

February 20, 2005

**Present:** Rob & Linda Bartholomew, Meika Bartholomew, Dick & Phyllis Drake, Sandy Drake, Paul Randleman, Mike Oberman, Ellie Bartholomew, Bob & Penny Peiper, Bill Griffin, Max & Carol Harris, Donna Rieck, Michelle Craig, Cory Bloom, Ryan Kintzel, Don Prine, Jeff Bridgewater, Brad Craig, Bill Craig, Jerry Tierman, Lynn & Dennis Craig, Helen Bartholomew.

Meeting called to order by Chair Paul Randleman at 5:20:59.

**Secretary's report:** Secretary Tom not present. Minutes from January's meeting presented. Bill questioned - who's older - Don or Paul - who should be Old Business & who should be Junior Old Business. He also questioned - where was Old Business last month. Don said he will fill the club in during his retirement home report. Paul is older, but Don is a more senior BOI member. So, for further minutes, Don will be known as Old Business & Paul as Junior Old Business. Bill also requested a change from chose to choose in the second item of New Business "Carol requested we choose a Balloonmeister for Ode to Spring". Bill moved to approve secretary's report, Max 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cory called for the question. All voted "Okey Dokey", except for Old Business.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer not present, but she left a report with Linda. We brought in \$4437 for Ground School for a net income of \$2522 after all bills paid. Don reported that there are considerable expenses from the Retirement Committee.

#### **Old Business:**

- ★ Old Business is here
- ★ Mike Oberman reported on Ground School held this weekend. He would like to Thank Linda, Phyllis & Donna for providing food. Also Thanks to the Computer guys - Al Appenzeller & Joel Worthington. There were 34 students. A round of applause was given to the instructors! Discussion on the software used & the practice tests generated from that software. Mike will clarify some questions with Todd's Flying Service.

- ★ Carol moved to have Mike Oberman's membership be complimentary for his work as Ground Schoolmeister. Linda 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

#### **New Business:**

- ★ Bill reminded everyone of the St. Patty's day party - March 12. Jenn will organize judges & pick prizes.
- ★ Max reported on Harris's visit to Hawaii to check out Retirement Home sites.
- ★ Don reported on the search for Phil Pash - world renowned architect. The government is investigation MORK (Motorcyclists over Road Kill), so there is some investigation of their business dealings with BOI Committee Members. Mr. Pash is believed to have been taken by the Mafia or Mexican drug runners or he may be in the Federal Witness Protection Program. The committee is sparing no expense in their search. The Retirement committee will investigate all sites brought to their attention & will make recommendations.
- ★ Max reported on Ode to Spring. He is making progress on Officials & tasks. He has an engineering student working on tasks.

At Paul's request, Max moved to adjourn, Phyllis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried (at least that's what the chair said).

Meeting adjourned 7:00:01pm

Respectfully submitted:  
Carol Harris, Temporary Secretary

### **Epilogue**

#### **Finding the Balloon**

#### **The Real America's Challenge**

by Jim Thompson

The balloon has been found. Shortly after Christmas I received a telephone call from Ruth Lind. Ruth and I, both serving on the Board of Directors of the Balloon Federation of America, talk to each other frequently so I had no reason to expect news from her about her balloon. After all it had been almost 3 months since it had disappeared and surely all the farmers and ranchers around Dalhart, TX had been in their fields and would have found the balloon if it had landed in the immediate area.

Ruth sounded excited when she talked and when I finally asked about her balloon, she could hardly contain herself. "That is the reason I called," she said, "the balloon was found last week. A local rancher found it about 20 miles east of where we abandoned the balloon and his wife called to let me know." They indicated that they had not been in their fields for sometime because of being gone and a family illness. They had just returned to the ranch and noticed something strange in their field. When they went to investigate they found the balloon, noticed the basket banner from the fiesta

and went on line to the Fiesta Website to obtain information. They then called Ruth to let her know and asked Ruth not to announce the information until the balloon was retrieved.

A team consisting of Dick Butterfield, Matt Guthrie, J. D. Huss and John Davis headed up by Ray Bair retrieved the balloon and returned it to Albuquerque. Ruth reported that all the equipment, including her and Carol's personal belongings, were intact. The most remarkable outcome was the incredible amount of data that was salvaged from the barograph and tracker. Ray Bair and Peter Cuneo spent literally hours of time retrieving the data. Additionally, the pictures of the developing thunderstorm, taken by Ruth were also intact.

The location where the balloon came to rest was about 19.1 miles east and a little north of the location where Ruth and Carol abandoned the aircraft. It was right at the easterly edge of the area that Carol, Dave and I did the aerial reconnaissance with Bob Bailey the day after the fateful flight. It was a wonder that we did not spot the balloon on the ground.

Ruth is putting together the data, graphs and pictures in presentation form that she is willing to present at Safety Seminars. The subject could be either WEATHER "*Why Our Instructors Told Us Not to Fly Near Thunderstorms*" or PILOT DECISION MAKING "*Things to Consider When You've Blown Past the Edge of Your Comfort Zone and Are Now in the Twilight Zone*".

I am looking forward to seeing Ruth and Ray Bair at the next Balloon Federation of America Board of Directors meeting to get additional first hand information on the retrieval and the condition of the balloon and equipment.

### **BFA News**

The BFA Competition Committee is proceeding with plans for the 2005 Hot Air Balloon National Championship to be held in Anderson, SC from July 23 through July 29. A total of 40 pilots will be competing for the title of National Champion and for the right to represent the United States in the 2006 World Championship to be held in Motegi, Japan.

A BFA Committee consisting of Competition Committee members, John Davis, David Levin and Sam Parks along with BFA President Phil Bryant is scheduled to meet with representatives of NABA on April 16 and 17 in Baton Rouge, LA. George Richard of Baton Rouge has facilitated and has made the necessary arrangements for the meeting. The goal of the meeting is to "TO STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVE BALLOONING IN THE UNITED STATES". The objective, as stated by BFA, is to find common areas where the BFA and NABA could work together to reach the goal.

The Competition Committee has also requested and received proposals for hosting the 2006 Hot Air Balloon National Championships. Anderson, SC has indicated a desire to continue to host the event and new proposals have been received from Baton Rouge, LA and Reno, NV. The Committee will evaluate the proposals and will make a recommendation to the BFA Board of Directors within the next several months.

### **BFA Youth Program**

Shelley Caraway, chair for the BFA Youth program needs your help!

Shelley is collecting balloon trading cards to send to the JB's and Hi-Flyer's. She sent out a trading card and card organizer page with the last newsletter and would like to continue to send a balloon card in each newsletter received by the membership this year. She wishes to help the kids start their own balloon card collections. Not all kids within the program have the opportunity to attend rallies and ballooning events.

For those of you with balloon cards and the desire to participate, please send 10 cards (more would certainly be acceptable!) to Shelley. This would really help with this project and be greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping the youth of ballooning. Her address is:

Shelley Caraway  
322 Knowles  
Kilgore, TX 75662

### **Other projects in the works for Junior Balloonists:**

- ◆ Junior Balloonist mini camps (weekend camps for 2 to 10 kids held in conjunction with balloon events, or week long camps hosted as stand alone camps)
- ◆ Birthday Greeters
- ◆ GEO Balloon project (geocaching)
- ◆ T-Shirt contest
- ◆ Scholarships
- ◆ Patches donated by Plano Pin Company
- ◆ The Junior Balloonist Dropline is being sent to those aged 5-12. The HiFlyer is going to those 13-21.
- ◆ Teen editorial committee (HiFlyers - ages 13-21)

If you would like to assist with any of these activities contact: Shelley Caraway, [balloonist@peoplepc.com](mailto:balloonist@peoplepc.com)

See <http://www.bfa.org/jrballoonists/index.htm> for more information on Junior Balloonists.

## Table of Contents

Membership Application . . . . . Inside cover	Mondial Air Ballons - Lorraine 2005 . . . . . 8
Ode to Spring . . . . . 1	The Ballooning Club of India . . . . . 8
Ground School 2005 . . . . . 1	Calendar of Events . . . . . 9
Letter from President Meika . . . . . 1	Happy Anniversary . . . . . 9
Letter from Vice-President Sandy . . . . . 2	Happy Birthday . . . . . 9
Letters to the Editor . . . . . 2	The Way It Was . . . . . 10
Retirement Center Update . . . . . 4	BOI Meeting Minutes . . . . . 11
National Balloon Museum News Release . . . . . 5	Epilogue - Finding the Balloon . . . . . 12
NTSB Reports . . . . . 6	BFA News . . . . . 13
Balloon For Sale . . . . . 8	BFA Youth Program . . . . . 13

**Thanks to the following for their contributions to this newsletter: Meika Bartholomew, Rob Bartholomew, Cory Bloom, Shelley Caraway, Benji Clemons, Sandy Drake, FireFly Balloons, Max Harris, Melissa Harris, Barb Knoll, Dennis Nicholson, Don Prine, Jim Thompson, Mark Weeks, Becky Wigeland**

*Touch and Go*  
*Balloons Over Iowa*

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

### News from FireFly Balloons

The FAA has just revised their position on our issuance of Airworthiness Certificates for replacement envelopes. Up until now, the FAA has not allowed us to issue a Standard C of A for replacement envelopes and this has caused problems and delays for our customers. Starting now, we will issue a Standard C or A for replacement envelopes, providing that the owner sends us a copy of his logbook which indicates that the basket/burner has had a 100 Hour and Annual or Annual-Type-Inspection that is within 90 days of taking delivery of the new envelope.

This is a major change for us and should ease the replacement envelope procedure considerably.



### Balloons Over Iowa Membership Meetings

Meetings are held every third  
Sunday of the month

6:30 p.m.

BOI Balloonport

Schedule of meetings:

April 17                      May 15