



General Meeting

Monday August 13

Lake Flight Stories

*Meeting: 6:30pm
Tres Amigos Resturaunt
U.S. 290 at 183*

Upcoming Events

August 11	Lake Travis
August 24-26	Ballunar
September 10	Club Meeting
September 15	Club Flight

President's Letter

Gary Sertich

The dog days of summer are here and the steady rains have finally left us for at least awhile. The generally calm winds and dry landing spots are a perfect opportunity to get our balloons back in the air and to share with our crews the camaraderie that defines the sport. We had a nice club flight last weekend with Rusty, Lloyd and Joe flying from Pflugerville High School (Thanks, Joe – I really enjoyed the relaxing ride as a passenger).

Our annual Lake Flight is this Saturday, August 11, and with a high-pressure ridge holding steady over the region, it looks promising weather-wise. Don't miss the after flight party Saturday evening from 5:00-9:30

at Windy Point Park (thanks to Rusty for planning the event) sponsored by the CTBA. Finally, Monday's meeting at Tres Amigos promises to be quite lively, with Lake Flight recaps and tales from the National Championships among the topics.

Gary

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Central Texas Ballooning Association Club News

Nationals

Several CTBA pilots flew in the Nationals, held in Waco in July. See Page 4.

Blood Bank

CTBA has an account for blood donations in case members need blood. See Page 3.

Goblin Glow

Lakeway has again invited CTBA for a glow at Halloween. See Page 3

Membership

Please renew your membership. Pay at the Party, but at least by the January meeting. The number of paid members attending the January meeting sets the voting quorum for the year.

Pilots, if you have crew who are not CTBA members, please encourage them to attend meetings and to join CTBA.

CTBA Electronic Newsletter and Web Site

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or have information about a ballooning event, please contact the editor, Joe Reynolds. The deadline for the newsletter is the same as the Board Meeting date. Your contributions make this a much better newsletter and help keep everyone interested in this excellent sport. Please send us your suggestions and let us know about problems so we can improve our communications.

CTBA PHONE LINE

(512) 479-9421

CTBA WEB SITE

www.main.org/ctba

CTBA EMAIL

ctba@austin.usa.com

Quotation

“If you don’t know where you’re going, you might not get there.”

*Yogi Berra,
Catcher, New York Yankees*

Civil Air Patrol

February 6 Bruce Lavorgna and Joe Reynolds took Bruce’s balloon to Georgetown Airport for a demo to the Civil Air patrol. The demo is still echoing in the CAP. It was on the local CAP web page, then in their newsletter, and now in the national CAP newsletter. Way to go Bruce.

Deadline Reminder

All ads, articles, tidbits, photos, cartoons and classified ads are due **NO LATER** than end of the month prior.

CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL BLOOD CENTER

The CTBA has an account, Any CTBA member is guaranteed blood and will receive a discount on the cost of blood in the unfortunate event it is needed.

Please take time to donate.

Central Texas Regional Blood Center
4500 North Lamar Blvd.
206-1266



Crew Refresher

Rusty Kaim

Below are a few tips for new or experienced crew who have not crewed in a while.

General Crew Etiquette

Pilot is in command.

Crew Chief is (usually) second in command.

Know where to meet.

Be on time or early.

Ask for a duty (try to learn all of the different duties over time).

No smoking.

Wear leather gloves.

Be there (don't wander off) – If you're a spectator, be a spectator; if you're crew, be crew – don't switch.

Dress properly.

- Long pants (even in the summer).
- Rubber soled shoes or boots.
- Socks that cover your ankles (tall grass and berry vines can cut).
- Don't wear jewelry that could tear the fabric.
- Leather gloves.
- Layered clothing, if it is cold.
- If you have a special dietary or personal need, bring it with you, as there is little time to stop during the flight.

No alcohol before the pack up.

Leave an area cleaner than when you found it.

Limit your talking time on the radio – Pilot/Crew conversation is for specific items, not conversation. The radio channel is shared.

Ask questions, if unsure of how to do something (each pilot does things a little differently).

As crew you:

Enable the pilot to fly.

Answer spectator questions.

Stop public relations problems before they occur.

Spread the word to friends and neighbors about the sport.

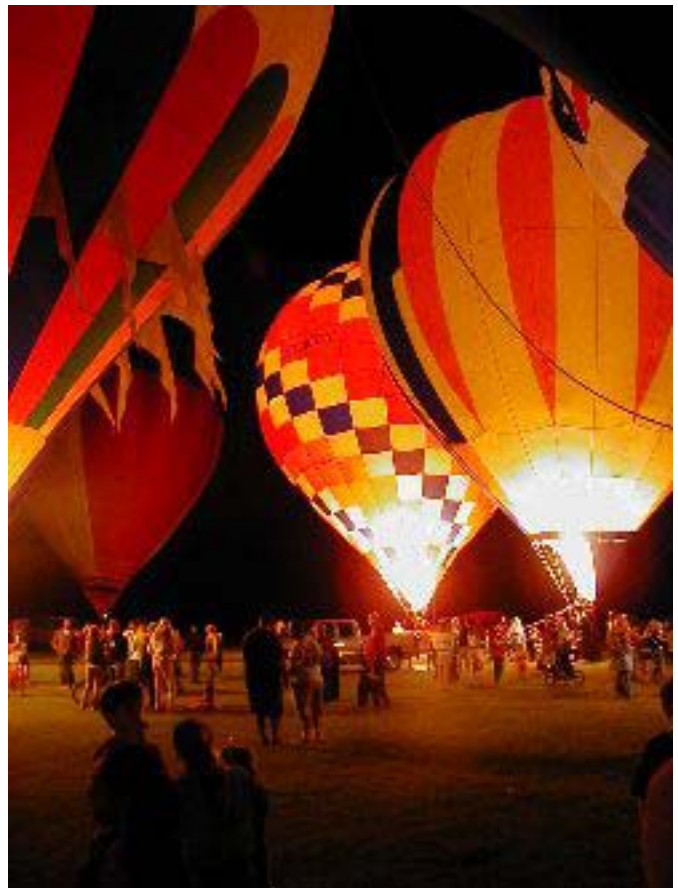
Have Fun!

Blood Bank

CTBA has a longstanding account at the Blood Center of Central Texas. The account was started by Kim Cathcart so that CTBA members would have help if they ever needed blood. Members are encouraged to go make a donation in the next few weeks. Offices are at 4300 N. Lamar in Austin and on Mays in Round Rock.

Goblin Glow

Goblin Glow is scheduled for Saturday October 27, 2007 at the Lakeway City Park from 5:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. Ten to fifteen balloons are invited. David Smuck is coordinating. He's trying to negotiate a change in the Lakeway City Ordinance that prohibits balloons from launching or landing. The glow was a lot of fun last year. Good luck David.





Nationals

CTBA had a respectable presence at the Nationals held in Waco, July 16-22.

Local pilots competing included Fred Edmiston, Sam Edwards and Dick Goss. Other CTBA's included Kay, Linda Christopherson, Jean Edwards, Leah and Lowell Linney and Ronda Comer.

Ronda promises a full report 'later'. We can hear about it at the August meeting.





Man flies 193 miles in lawn chair

BEND, Oregon (AP) — Last weekend [July 7], Kent Couch settled down in his lawn chair with some snacks — and a parachute. Attached to his lawn chair were 105 large helium balloons.

Destination: Idaho. With instruments to measure his altitude and speed, a global positioning system device in his pocket, and about four plastic bags holding five gallons of water each to act as ballast — he could turn a spigot, release water and rise — Couch headed into the Oregon sky.

Nearly nine hours later, the 47-year-old gas station owner came back to earth in a farmer's field near Union, short of Idaho but about 193 miles from home.

“When you're a little kid and you're holding a helium balloon, it has to cross your mind,” Couch told the Bend Bulletin. “When you're laying in the grass on a summer day, and you see the clouds, you wish you could jump on them,” he said. “This is as close as you can come to jumping on them. It's just like that.”

Couch is the latest American to emulate Larry Walters — who in 1982 rose three miles above Los Angeles in a lawn chair lifted by balloons. Walters had surprised an airline pilot, who radioed the control tower that he had just passed a guy in a lawn chair. Walters paid a \$1,500 penalty for violating air traffic rules.

It was Couch's second flight.

In September, he got off the ground for six hours. Like Walters, he used a BB gun to pop the balloons, but he went into a rapid descent and eventually parachuted to safety.

This time, he was better prepared. The balloons had a new configuration, so it was easier to reach up and release a bit of helium instead of simply cutting off a balloon.

He took off at 6:06 a.m. Saturday after kissing his wife, Susan, goodbye and petting his Chihuahua, Isabella. As he made about 25 miles an hour, a three-car caravan filled with friends, family and the dog followed him from below.

Couch said he could hear cattle and children and even passed through clouds.

“It was beautiful — beautiful,” he told KTVZ-TV. He described the flight as mostly peaceful and serene, with occasional turbulence, like a hot-air balloon ride sitting down.

Couch decided to stop when he was down to a gallon of water and just eight pounds of ballast. Concerned about the rugged terrain outside La Grande, including Hells Canyon, he decided it was time to land.

He popped enough balloons to set the craft down, although he suffered rope burns. But after he jumped out, the wind grabbed his chair, with his video recorder, and the remaining balloons and swept them away. He's hoping to get them back some day.

Brandon Wilcox, owner of Professional Air, which charters and maintains planes at the Bend airport, said Couch definitely did it. Wilcox said he flew a plane nearby while Couch traveled and took photos of the flying lawn chair. Whether Couch will take a third trip is up to his wife, and Susan Couch said she's thinking about saying no. But she said she was willing to go along with last weekend's trip.

“I know he'd be thinking about it more and more, it would always be on his mind,” she said. “This way, at least he's fulfilled his dream.”





August 2007

Lake Travis Flight 07

The 2007 Lake Flight is to be Saturday Aug 11. Launch from Mansfield Dam Park. Sunrise is about 6:45am so a pilot briefing will be about 6:20am. Expect photographers from Austin American Statesman and from Texas Monthly.

A reduced tailgate will follow the flight and the main party will be Saturday night [5pm to 9:30pm] at Windy Point Park arranged by Lisa Giguere. The club is providing admission to the park and some of the food. Cut out the ticket below and use them to get in. Bring drinks and stuff to go with burgers. Help where needed. Have fun. Windy Point is a SCUBA park and very water oriented. The sunset will be good but it's the dark of the moon.



**Entry for one to
Windy Point Park
August 11, 2007**



**Entry for one to
Windy Point Park
August 11, 2007**



Launch Map, Mansfield Park



Entrance to Windy Point Park, on Right



Party Map, Windy Point Park



Turn to Windy Point, Note Sign



Party Pavillion



August 2007

Flight August 4

The weather finally let balloons fly. Three flew on Saturday August 4. Lloyd and Gayle flew for a check ride. Rusty and Philip also flew a check ride. Joe flew crew, including new club member Anastasia Veltri. Launch as from the high school in Pflugerville. There was some steorage, but wind was mostly light to the north. Clouds came and went, mostly not an issue. About halfway into an 80 minute flight Joe forecast a landing in bright sunshine. And it was so. The balloons separated as the check rides imposed various tasks, with Joe landing just across the road from dell Diamond, in bright sunshine.







Patches

CTBA Marketplace

Get Your CTBA Spirit

Display a **CTBA Decal** on your car, truck, trailer, bike, or cooler. Offer them to friends or passengers. Blue, yellow and white, 3 inch diameter with adhesive back. Only \$2.

T-Shirts - Royal Blue with the same logo as decals. Small emblem on the chest and large one on back - \$10

Patches - Embroidered cloth - \$2

All available at club meetings and club flights.



Shirts and Decals

CREW BOOKS and VIDEOS

The CTBA has copies of Gordon Schwontkowski's book on crewing balloons; "HotAir Balloon Crewing Essentials" Regular price is \$30 plus shipping.

"From the Ground Up" DVD for crew training. \$20 each phantom@austin.rr.com

Buy, Sell, Trade

Classified ads are FREE to members. Buy, sell, trade or swap balloon or non-balloon related items. Submit copy to the editor no later than the first of the month.

For Sale or Trade

2000 Lindstrand 105A with less than 20 hours. Over Cameron bottom. Double burners, Rotation Vents, 1/3 Hyperlast. Contact Nick Stanko at (512) 251-4024.

Trade: anyone want to trade a 24" fan guard for my 30 inch? call phil. if your guard is all beat up, don't call.

DO IT YOURSELF Magnetic Sign Kit for Cars, Trucks or Vans. Kit comes complete with 2 12x18 White Magnetic Signs and 10 Full Sheets of: Red & Black Vinyl Letters, Numbers and Borders. Cuts with Scissors to make Custom Shapes. Regular Retail Price \$29.95. CTBA Member Special Price \$20.00.

Contact Lowell 459-1339

For Sale: 4 tanks, one 11 HP Honda fan, T&C Fiesta basket, flytec 3040 and flytec 4005 for sale.

Photos showing condition of all items are on the CTBA web site.

Call or email for further details at wlohmeyer@yahoo.com or 469-879-1615

Thanks - Wayne Lohmeyer

For Sale: Delcom Air 960 handheld VHF radio, probably needs battery, \$15. Rusty 512/282-2667

Restraint harness with quick release, double point attachment, 3 carabiners, 14 ft tie down, excellent condition, \$85 or best offer (see photo). Rusty 512/282-2667





FAA Web Site Home page (<http://www.faa.gov>) has a list of links for pilots that lead to **graphic TFRs** (<http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr/list.jsp>), **NOTAMs** (<https://pilotweb.nas.faa.gov/distribution/atcsc.html>), **Weather** (http://www.faa.gov/airports_airtraffic/weather/), and a downloadable pilot certificate application. We encourage all pilots to use these resources and promote and support the Federal Aviation Administration.

CTBA Library

We have volumes of interesting and educational balloon literature. If you would like to read the latest newsletters from Albuquerque or Colorado, learn about weather or flash back to last century's news, we probably have a document to suit you. Send the editor an email or ask us at the next meeting

Balloon & Trailer For Sale

The Balloon Works, Inc

1993 FireFly 7-15 AX-7 (77K cu ft) Manuf date 3-8-93 Total hours — 232 (yes that's correct)

Out of Annual - last annual 08-24-2002, last flown 09-01-2002

Envelope, °FF7-15

Basket (4 Worthington tanks), 3.9A1°

Mirage Burner F-1 (# 072)

Altimeter / Variometer / Envelope Temperature °Propane Pressure Gauge

\$3500 as - is

Misc gear: BW maintenance manual, balloon bags (3, includes custom rain/travel bag), safety tie-off & release, ropes, EZ squeezer (the crew loved this thing!), strikers, Tether girdle

Covered Wells Cargo/Road Force Trailer available (2004) - \$2500 - firm

Contact Dee Crabtree via e-mail^{oo} <<mailto:deecrabtree@hughes.net>>*deecrabtree@hughes.net*

ADVERTISING

All ads are due on or before the board meeting date.

<u>Size</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Image Area</u>	
Full Page	\$ 20.00	71 x 10	
2/3 Page	\$ 16.00	V 5 x 10	H 71 x 6H
Half Page	\$ 11.00	V 3H x 10	H 71 x 5
1/3 Page	\$ 8.00	V 2I x 10	H 71 x 31
1/4 Page	\$ 6.50	V 3H x 5	H 71 x 21
1/6 Page	\$ 5.00	V 2I x 5	H 3H x 31
Submit copy to:	CTBA - Attn.: Editor P O Box 2675 Austin, Texas 78767-2675		

Disclaimer

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Memberships

The CTBA is non-profit corporation founded in 1984. We welcome new members. Dues are \$20 per year for an individual and \$30 for a family. To receive only the newsletter without voting rights is \$12 annually. Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at Tres Amigos Restaurant, Hwys 290 & 183. Anyone interested in the sport of ballooning is invited to attend.



Calendar - August

7/29/07	7/30/07	7/31/07	8/1/07 Chris Theophilus	8/2/07	8/3/07	8/4/07 Sun: 6:52am 8:22pm
8/5/07	8/6/07	8/7/07	8/8/07	8/9/07	8/10/07	8/11/07 Lake Travis Sun: 6:56am 8:15pm
8/12/07	8/13/07 CTBA Meeting Tres Amigos 6:30pm	8/14/07	8/15/07	8/16/07	8/17/07 Lynn Sawyer	8/18/07 Club Flight Sun: 7:00am 8:08pm
8/19/07	8/20/07	8/21/07	8/22/07	8/23/07 Sam Edwards	8/24/07 Ballunar LiftOff at NASA	8/25/07 Ballunar LiftOff at NASA Sun: 7:04am 8:01pm
8/26/07 Ballunar LiftOff at NASA	8/27/07	8/28/07	8/29/07	8/30/07 Rusty Kaim	8/31/07	9/1/07 Sun: 7:08am 7:52pm

Officers / Board Members

President: Gary Sertich
 Vice Pres: Mike Pryor
 Treasurer: Cynthia Pryor
 Secretary: Lisa Giguere
 Board: Joe Reynolds
 Lloyd Cates
 Phil MacNutt
 Bret Miller
 Librarian: Jim Rice
 Editor: Joe Reynolds

Committee Chairpersons

Safety Seminar: Joe Reynolds
 Lake Flight: vacant
 Web Page: Mike Pryor

CTBA PHONE LINE
(512) 479-9421
CTBA WEB SITE
www.main.org/ctba
CTBA EMAIL
ctba@austin.usa.com

The primary purposes of the **Central Texas Ballooning Association (CTBA)** are to promote, develop and aid the art and science and awareness of ballooning in Central Texas. CTBA provides its members friendship and camaraderie in group ballooning activities. Through this association, members who are student pilots are able to obtain instruction in preparing for the examinations for pilot licenses. Seminars are conducted for all members on ballooning regulations, safety, first aid and landowner relations. Facilities for training and broadening of skills concerning ballooning are provided for members.