



General Meeting

February 13, 2006

*Tres Amigos Restaurant
[Southwest Corner of the US-183
and US-290 Intersection]*

*“Video From Leon”
by Mike Pryor*

Club Review of Safety Seminar

Upcoming Events

- February 18 Safety Seminar
 “Crew Education & Safety”
 7:30am - 5:30pm
 Community Room
 Central Christian Church
 1110 Guadalupe
 Austin, Texas
- February 25 Club Flight
- February 26 Board Meeting

President’s Letter

Mike Pryor

Welcome 2006 CTBA members. Thanks to everyone who turned out for the first meeting, especially Lloyd and Phillip for providing the visual impact. I would also like to express my appreciation to our outgoing officers and board who made 2005 a great year. Cynthia, as newsletter editor for 2 years then president for 2 more, made a huge contribution to the club...and continues to do so. A big thank you to Lynn, Shari, Charlotte, Joe, Rusty, and Phil for all that you have done to actively support and promote CTBA. We were fortunate to have good weather two week-ends in January allowing us the opportunity to fly and chase across Central Texas. This year will provide us many opportunities to stay involved in the sport of ballooning. Starting with the Safety Seminar on the 18th, I hope you all will come out and volunteer your

time, energy, and enthusiasm to keep the club active. Please let me know if you have any suggestions and stay excited.

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Central Texas Ballooning Association Club News

Safety Seminar Planning

We will be hosting the Central Texas Spring Safety Seminar on February 18, 2006 at the Central Christian Church (11th and Guadalupe). Our topic this year will be "Crewmanship" covering crew training and safety. We will use some of the topics from Hot Air Balloon Crewing Essentials, written by Gordon Schwontkowski who writes BFA Ballooning magazine 'Crew Zone.' Members are in the process of organizing topics, guest speakers, food, etc. and would really appreciate your input. And most especially appreciate volunteers to help set up the event. Please contact Joe or any officer if you want to sign up.

Membership

Please renew your membership by paying your dues for 2006. Pilots, if you have crew whop are not CTBA members, please encourage them to attend meetings and to join CTBA.

Albuquerque Fiesta Site

If you haven't seen the photo gallery at www.aibf.org by now, what are you waiting for? There are many great ballooning web sites all over the country offering informative reading and beautiful viewing. Go surfing!

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. We are still working on creating a more comprehensive web site; Philip has registered a better URL and Joe has volunteered to host it - we'll keep you posted. Please send us your suggestions and let us know about problems so we can improve our communications.

January Flying

Saturday Jan 7, Joe and Adam flew from Graham Elementary to Weis Rd N.E. of Pflugerville. Joe had a camera crew shooting for an 8th Grade Science feature. See V IDEO

Saturday Jan 14 Sam, Rusty, and Adam flew from Old Settler's Assn, landing in the vicinity of Hutto HS. Former club pilot Bruce Lavorgna flew too. See CLUB FLIGHT.

CTBA PHONE LINE

(512) 479-9421

CTBA WEB SITE

www.main.org/ctba

CTBA EMAIL

ctba@austin.usa.com

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



**The Central Texas Ballooning Association
&
Lone Star Hot Air Balloon Association**

Present

**The 2006 BFA Safety Seminar
Crew Education and Safety**

February 18

7:30 am-5:30 pm

Central Christian Church

1110 Guadalupe, Austin

[The church is just west of the Capitol, see map]

This is a single topic seminar focusing on enhanced crew training.
Crew members learn how to improve their effectiveness.
Pilots learn how to improve team effectiveness.

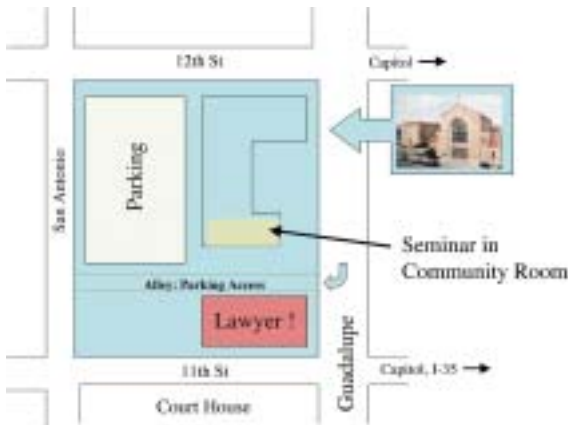
- Breakfast & Sign-In, Introduction
- Preparing for Balloon Event
- Launch & Chase Safety
- Break
- Flight & Landing Safety
- Special Considerations
- Emergency Medical & 911
- On-Site Lunch
- Gas Balloon Crew Safety
- Fire Safety
- Break
- Fire Extinguisher Use
- Power Line Strike Safety
- Media Interface
- Review

Bring Your Fire Extinguisher
You can leave it for service

Pilots \$50.00

Non-pilots \$25.00

Fee Includes: Continental Breakfast, On-Site Lunch and Fire Extinguisher Use



**Registration must be postmarked by
Feb. 10 – no late registrations**

Pilot and Crew fees are non-refundable.



February 2006

Fill out legibly and mail to:

CTBA Safety Seminar
PO Box 2675
Austin, TX 78767-2675

Include check for fee [Pilot \$50 / Crew \$25] payable to Central Texas Ballooning Assn.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE: H _____ W _____ E-MAIL _____

CERTIFICATION TYPE: ___ COMMERCIAL ___ PRIVATE ___ CREW ___ STUDENT

CERTIFICATE # _____ BFA# _____ N # _____

BALLOON
MAKE/SIZE _____

Please use one form per person. Amount Enclosed _____ Check No. _____

Questions? Email ctba@austin.usa.com
Phone 512-479-9421



Why Bother Crew Members With A Pilot Safety Seminar?

Tim Baggett

In February, the Central Texas Ballooning Association will be hosting a safety seminar. The focus of this year's seminar is crew safety. It has been my experience that seminars are typically held for and marketed to pilots. Perhaps this pilot-centric focus of safety seminars is due to the insurance breaks pilots get by attending. Crew members tend to believe all they need to do is carry some heavy fabric, drive the truck, and drink the beer. However, I would like to readjust this focus of seminars a bit, and urge crew members to also participate.

Ballooning is a bit different from other forms of flight. Pilots cannot go fly their balloons without crew. Although it is the pilot who is ultimately responsible for the safe operation of the aircraft, the pilots still heavily depend on their crew to make decisions that greatly impact the safety of the flight. Let me phrase that another way: The pilots (and their insurance) are responsible for the mistakes their crew can make.

Pilots, do you trust your crew to know how to act in a serious situation? Crew, do you know how to act in a serious situation without risking yourself and making the situation worse? Here are some hypothetical situations for pilots and crew alike to ponder.

What do you do in the event of an on board fire or rupture of a fuel line while at equilibrium on the ground with passengers on board? These aircraft come with 30 gallons of a highly flammable liquid, plumbed with minimal flow restrictions. There are some things crew should know about the construction and operation of a balloon as well as what to expect of a propane fire. First, I wouldn't go pulling passengers out of the basket. They'll get out on their own, and climb over each other to do so. I would grab the red line, and pull like crazy to dump heat. The pilot will probably be reaching for the tank valves by reflex. Otherwise, as the passengers get out of the burning balloon in a panic, the balloon could go skyward taking someone

with it (probably the pilot!) – an ugly situation. When something like this occurs, typically everyone will have to act on training and education. The pilots cannot make and communicate decisions to the crew fast enough. There just isn't time for it. The difference between the pilot having a bad day and filing an accident report with the NTSB may rest solely on the quick, trained decisions of the crew.

When should a crew member handling a dropline on landing, let go of the dropline if the balloon comes too close to a powerline because of a wind gust? This is a little sticky, and I'm sure some pilots won't be calling me to crew for them after reading my answer, but if the situation appears to be going bad fast, I'll let go of the drop line. Sorry. If I'm on the dropline when the balloon makes contact with the powerline, I *know* I'm dead. The balloon occupants are in less risk should the balloon contact the lines with them in it. Although the pilot would be responsible in this situation, they would have no choice in the matter of the death of a crew member still choosing to cling to the drop line.

How about a typical Texas high wind landing? Many crew jump onto the basket on landing to add weight and stop the basket or prevent a rebound. If a crew member does not pay attention, they may find themselves off the ground dangerously hanging from the basket. Again, the pilot would be responsible for an accident, but it would be the crew member making the decision not to let go when their feet left the ground.

Your crew can also identify that visitor about to get their long blonde hair sucked into the fan, or the excited paid passenger running after the balloon through the knee high grass field about to step in a hole and break their ankle. The pilot can't be everywhere controlling everything, yet they have the responsibility if something goes wrong.

These are just some situations I've come up with based on my experience the past ten years in ballooning. They are not intended to represent every situation where a pilot cannot control a crew member's decision that directly affects safety. Certainly, there are an



infinite number of such situations. Safety is a team effort, not just the pilot's responsibility — they have to pack the ice chest and tail gate, *as well* as remember to bring all the balloon equipment after all!

So I would like to urge all crew members to come to the safety seminar, sit through the presentations, even if it seems to “only pertain to pilots”. The more you know about the ballooning, the better decisions you will be able to make regarding your safety and the safety of others when ballooning.

Pilots, please bring your crew. Your safety depends on their education.

2006 Safety Seminar

CTBA of Austin and LSHABA of Houston are hosting a Safety Seminar all day Saturday February 18, 2006. The seminar will be in the Community Room of Central Christian Church 1110 Guadalupe in downtown Austin. Check-in and Breakfast start at 7:30am. The final session ends at 5:30pm.

The first morning sessions will address crew and flight safety following the typical sequence of events of a balloon flight. The sessions try to answer “How can the crew help the flight to be safer?” This includes preventing crew injury, making the flight safer, and the landing safer. The morning ends with Emergency Medical topics; these include responding to injuries but also cover interacting with EMS and 911 dispatch. This will be presented by a trainer for AFD.

After Lunch catered by Jason's Deli there will be a session on crew safety for Gas Balloon flights. CTBA and BFA have members who conducted record breaking gas balloon flights this past year. Here's a chance to learn about crewing for them.

The middle of the afternoon will focus on Fire. There will be instruction on fighting fires which crew are capable of attacking with portable extinguishers. Then everyone will go outside to practice using extinguishers. Pilots can bring their extinguishers to have them checked and leave them for service if needed.

Cost of the practice extinguishers is included in the seminar fees.

Following the fire session will be Crew Powerline Safety. Topics include how to avoid becoming the next victim, how to help ‘rescue’ the balloon occupants, and how to interface with emergency responders. A recent powerline strike will be discussed.

A session on Dealing With Media will cover how to effectively interface with reporters and spectators who have cameras and cell phones.

All current and prospective balloon crew should make an effort to attend this seminar. The price for crew is very reasonable and benefits very extensive. Submit the application form in this edition of the Hill Country Flyer.

Quotation

“When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.”

- Loenardo da Vinci

Deadline Reminder

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

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.



CTBA Supports 8th Grade Science Video

Two CTBA balloons conducted a flight January 7 supporting a Junior High level science video on atmosphere and weather. Joe and Adam flew from Graham Elementary.

Weather forecasts for the dawn were obtained on-line, with Winds Aloft and SKEW-T chart. The PIBAL was the first demonstration of weather reality versus forecast. And the PIBAL showed the changes in wind with altitude. The balloons launched at about the same time. The camera was with Joe and was able to record wind changes with altitude. The balloons took turns leapfrogging each other. There was a nice demonstration of wind following a creek, and of steering for an objective. The track went North over the regional park outside Pflugerville, and the camera got a nice low level flight over the lake there. The sun cooperated with shadows of the balloon moving across farm sites.

The flight ended in another cotton field being turned into a subdivision.



January Club Flight

The January Club Flight was Saturday the 14th. Rusty was 'Meister. Three club balloons, Rusty, Sam, and Adam, and one former member Bruce Lavorgnia, flew from the Old Settler's Association. The balloons lifted in sequence and took a track south of US79 paralleling the creek. All landed east of Hutto High School; Sam at the school, Rusty and Bruce about 4 blocks further and Adam about 1 mile east. Mike and Cynthia, Joe, and David Pinckney were roving crew, helping several balloons.





February 2006

Classified



**Clean Up
Your
Basket!** Slickers,
Lacing, Covers,
Scuff Leather, Re-Suede, Padding, & Wicker
All at 2005 Prices

**All New Leather or Suede Pouches
at Cordura Prices!**

First Aid Pouches -Red Cordura



\$34.79

The FireFly First Aid Pouch has elastic tie-downs for tweezers and scissors. Many compartments fill this 12" x8" storage satchel.

DOES NOT CONTAIN FIRST AID EQUIPMENT



Professional Nomex Flight Gloves

Lamb Skin Palm
Fire Resistant up to 700° F
Made to Military Spec
MILG-81188B

Available in Black, L
O.D. & Tan
Sizes S, M, L, XL
\$28.57



Check Out the New Website!

www.FireFlyballoons.net

810 Salisbury Rd. Statesville NC • 704.878.9501 fax 704.878.9505
email: info@fireflyballoons.net or sales@fireflyballoons.net



*Sale Prices valid
until March 10, 2006*



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

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

The CTBA Newsletter, *Hill Country Hot Air*, is published monthly by the Central Texas Ballooning Association in Austin, Texas. All facts and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CTBA. Original material may be reproduced without permission as long as proper credit is given. The acceptance of advertising by this publication does not imply endorsement of that product or manufacturer.

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.



Patches



Shirts and Decals

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.

Pilot Seeking Envelope - Cameron or Lindstrand 90 with less than 200 hours (has Cameron bottom). Contact Dick Goss

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



Calendar

1/29/06	1/30/06	1/31/06	2/1/06	2/2/06	2/3/06	2/4/06 7:20AM 6:10PM
2/5/06	2/6/06	2/7/06	Jean Edwards	2/9/06	2/10/06	2/11/06 7:15AM 6:16PM
2/12/06	2/13/06 Club Meeting	2/14/06	2/15/06	2/16/06 Ronda Comer	2/17/06 Dick Goss Sandra Ferguson	2/18/06 Safety Seminar 7:08AM 6:22PM
2/19/06 Leo Schulz	2/20/06	2/21/06	2/22/06	2/23/06	2/24/06	2/25/06 Club Flight 7:01AM 6:27PM
2/26/06	2/27/06	2/28/06	3/1/06	3/2/06	3/3/06	3/4/06 6:54AM 6:32PM

CTBA PHONE LINE

(512) 479-9421

CTBA WEB SITE

www.main.org/ctba

CTBA EMAIL

ctba@austin.usa.com

Officers / Board Members

President:	Mike Pryor
Vice Pres:	Phil MacNutt
Treasurer:	Cynthia Pryor
Secretary:	Lloyd Cates
Board:	Joe Reynolds Tim Baggett Gary Sertich

Librarian:	Jim Rice
Editor:	Mike Pryor

Committee Chairpersons

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

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.