



General Meeting

March 13, 2006

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

*BFA & CTBA Competition Events
by Mike Pryor*

Club Review of Safety Seminar

President's Letter

Mike Pryor

Dear CTBA Members,

Congratulations to the Safety Seminar Committee for putting on an excellent educational event. Many thanks to chairman Joe Reynolds, Lloyd Cates, Rusty Kaim, Charlotte Thompson, Shari Pearson and Cynthia Pryor along with Phil Bryant and Brian Critelli for all of their efforts. Next year the seminar is scheduled to be hosted by the LSHABA in Houston so mark your calendars.

At this month's meeting, we will discuss the new BFA competition rules and club flights for the year. Whether you are interested in participating in scored events, fun and challenging target practice or hare and hound flights, please let us know so we can start planning. We hope to build some interest in

Upcoming Events

- March 13 CTBA Monthly Meeting
- March 18 CTBA Club Flight
- April 7,8 Inks Ranch Camp Out
- April 15 Bellville
- June 12 Zilker CTBA Meeting
- July 7,8 Lampassas Spring-Ho
- July Lake Travis Flight

more frequent group flights and try to bring out larger crowds. Who knows, we might even try launching from Zilker Park again!

If you are reading this and know that you have not yet joined the CTBA this year, please do so by contacting Cynthia as soon as possible. We have had very good turnout so far and look forward to a great ballooning year. See you Monday.

Mike Pryor

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Central Texas Ballooning Association

Club News

CTBA Competition

BFA has proposed new rules for competition flights and for collecting ratings. This month's program will discuss the new rules and whether CTBA should reinstitute competitive flights as part of normal club activities. With the new relaxed rules it may be possible to hold competitions at the monthly club flights and not over burden volunteers coordinating the flights. Come discuss this topic. Regular competition means better results at events and more prizes.

Membership

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

Albuquerque Fiesta Pilot Registration

Fiesta pilot registration is open.
Visit <http://www.balloonfiesta.com>

February Flying

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.

Inks Ranch Camp-Out

It's time for the club's annual campout at Inks Ranch. This year it will be Friday and Saturday nights, April 7th and 8th. If you've never been, come to the March club meeting and find out more about this great club

tradition. Roy and Petey Inks have one of the most gorgeous ranches anywhere, just north of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area and with the same type of terrain. There's a large primitive camping area, hiking, swimming, relaxing, very unique flying opportunities, and of course the Saturday night bonfire. Don't miss it! If you have questions or want more information contact David Murphy at blueskies@austintexas.com.

CREW Training

The CTBA has copies of Gordon Schwontkowski's book on crewing balloons; "HotAir Balloon Crewing Essentials" which is an excellent book covering crew attitude, involvement and techniques.

Also Available are copies of the DVD "From the Ground Up" by CTBA members Chris and Martin Theophilus. This video was shot during Dan Sherrill's crew classes. Contact phantom@austin.rr.com to order.

To reorder Gordon's book,
1-3 copies: \$30 each (add \$5 S&H total)
4 copies for \$100 (add \$10 S&H)
10 Copies for \$200 (add \$20 S&H)
Send name, address, city, state, zip code, phone number, and e-mail address with each order.
Gordon Schwontkowski
82 Silver Tree Circle
Cary, IL 60013

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



CTBA / LSHABA March 2006 Safety Seminar

Joe Reynolds

The 2006 Safety Seminar was a real success. The committee was:

Joseph Reynolds,
Rusty Kaim,
Lynn Sawyer,
Cynthia Pryor,
Mike Pryor,
Lowell & Leah Linney,
Lloyd Cates,
Charlotte Thompson,
Shari Pearson,
Brian Critelli,
Phil Bryant,
Austin Young,
Lisa_Giguere.

This is the second year the CTBA has organized the effort, next year lead switches back to LSHABA. We had 55 attendees, most from the Austin/Houston/College Station triangle, but a whiff from the Dallas area.

This was a topical seminar focused on Crew Safety. Sessions emphasized crew aspects of ensuring a safe flight. The first rule being “Keep Yourself Safe” because an injured crew distracts from flight safety by diverting effort and resources. Hands-On activity was practice using fire extinguishers. The seminar included a catered breakfast and lunch, with snacks at breaks.

Next year will be a ‘traditional’ seminar covering pilot oriented topics like FAA regulations and flight planning / decision-making. Plan to go to Houston for the seminar.



Thanks Lloyd for the pictures

CTBA PHONE LINE

(512) 479-9421

CTBA WEB SITE

www.main.org/ctba

CTBA EMAIL

ctba@austin.usa.com



New Goodyear Airship

Mike Emich
Akron, Ohio

Just returned from watching the maiden voyage of the new Goodyear airship N2A. She was built just east of Akron, Ohio at the Goodyear Airship base in Suffield, Ohio. As far as I know they are still deciding on a name and no christening date has been announced.

I will forward details as I get them if anyone is interested.



Quotation

“I think it was during this flight that I went outside on top of the ship for the first time. R.100 had a little cockpit on top of the extreme bow, forward of the first gasbag and reached by a ladder in the bow compartment; this was for taking navigational sights with the sextant. From this cockpit a walking way ran aft on top of the ship along one of the girders; this was a plywood plank a foot in width with the outer cover stretched over it. To give courage to the inexperienced it had a rope lashed down along it every two feet or so, to serve as a handhold. This walking way ran the whole length of the ship to the rear fins, where another hatch was provided behind the last gasbag. The slope of the hull at the bow cockpit was about forty-five degrees which made the first part a little tricky to climb, and personally I always went from the bow to stern because the rush of air pushed you up the first climb and you didn’t have to look down. When the ship was cruising at about sixty miles an hour, as soon as you got on top, or horizontal, part of the hull you were in calm air crawling on your hands and knees; if you knelt up you felt a breeze on your head and shoulders. If you stood up the wind was strong. It was pleasant up there sitting by the fins on a fine sunny day, and whenever I went up there I would usually find two or three men sitting by the fins and gossiping. We kept a watch up there in daylight hours to keep an eye on the outer cover, and the riggers got so used to it that they would walk upright along this little catwalk with their hands in their pockets, leaning against the wind and stepping over my recumbent body as I crawled on hands and knees.”

Nevil Shute
in *Slide Rule*

Note: Nevil Shute Norway was Chief Engineer on the British Airship R.100, built by Vickers in 1925-1930. After WW-II he wrote novels, including “On The Beach”

Deadline Reminder

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



Blimp test flights under way

By Jim Mackinnon
Beacon Journal business writer

SUFFIELD TOWNSHIP - Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s newest blimp rose into the Akron skies shortly before 10 a.m. today for its first test flight.

The blimp took off into the northeast and flew 12-14 miles before returning to the airship base in front of an overflowing crowd. The two pilots, three technicians and one engineer aboard tested all the systems of the still unnamed blimp.

The initial flight was uneventful and lasted about an hour.

The blimp returned to base and touched down in light snow. Three people emerged from the gondola, and three more took their place. The blimp then took off for what was expected to be a second flight of up to 90 minutes.

"It's a big thrill," said Pete Gonzales of Suffield. "I've watched all of them come up. I've been here 20 years, and every time I heard the blimp, I came out."

He had his first ride on a blimp last year.

Goodyear workers started the blimp engines at 9:36 a.m. today. The blimp came off its mooring mast at 9:53 a.m. Then workers positioned the blimp into the wind and it took off.

Jim Crone, chief inspector, tested the blimp's two, 210-hp piston engines during one of the touch-up sessions at Blimp Garage on Friday.

Engine testing, one of the last major steps in building a Goodyear blimp, needs to be done after most of the crew has left. The running engines and spinning propellers make it too dangerous and noisy — the roar

bounces off of the hangar's concrete floor and metal walls — to otherwise work around the airship.

The starboard, or right side, engine was test-started for the first time Thursday.

That engine was tested first because, unlike the left engine, it needed a major overhaul before it was installed on the gondola months ago, Crone said. "We wanted to make sure it didn't have any problems."

The crew testing the engines needs to check the idle, power, fuel pressure and pilot controls, Crone said. The left engine was also getting special attention.

"We're setting the parameter of the engine," Crone said. "We're checking to make sure it will go to full power and will go in reverse."

Shortly after 5 p.m. Friday, the left engine started for the first time and ran smoothly. A minute or two later, the starboard engine fired up and ran.

After five minutes or so, the crew shut off both engines.

See <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/14031364.htm> and <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/news/photos/13369501.htm> for images and video.

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.



March 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

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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

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.

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

2/26/06	2/27/06	2/28/06	3/1/06	3/2/06	3/3/06	3/4/06 6:54 18:32
3/5/06	3/6/06	3/7/06	3/8/06	3/9/06 Lisa Giguere	3/10/06 Shari Pearson	3/11/06 6:46 18:37
3/12/06	3/13/06 Club Meeting	3/14/06	3/15/06	3/16/06	3/17/06 Adam Reinstein	3/18/06 6:47 18:41 Club Flight
3/19/06	3/20/06	3/21/06	3/22/06	3/23/06	3/24/06	3/25/06 6:29 18:45
3/26/06 Kim Cathcart-Ringer	3/27/06	3/28/06	3/29/06	3/30/06	3/31/06	4/1/06 6:20 18:50

CTBA PHONE LINE

(512) 479-9421

CTBA WEB SITE

www.main.org/ctba

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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.