



General Meeting

Monday March 12

Weather

Flight Planning

Joe reynolds

*Meeting: 6:30pm
Tres Amigos Resturaunt
US 183 & US 290*

President's Letter

Gary Sertich

If you are a fan of weather forecasting and how to determine if the data you are using will make or break your day, then the March meeting is the place to be. In addition to the great assistance pilots get from the pre-flight briefer, there is a wealth of information on the internet to check prior to flight. Some of it is useful, and some of it may be so outdated as to be dangerous. Weather forecasting using online computer models and how to use these tools to make a more informed decision on marginal days is a skill that benefits pilots and crew alike.°

Upcoming Events

March 12	Meeting
March 17	Club Flight
April	Ink's Ranch

We are all aware that when both pilots and crews constantly challenge themselves to think about and plan for emergency situations, the result is a safe flight. Safety is directly related to planning ahead, and a good example relates to the Central Texas weather. Dry conditions have created large amounts of combustible grass in landing areas. The heightened fire danger associated with launching or landing means that pilots and crews should always have readily-available fire extinguishers ready for emergencies, and the knowledge to use them properly. °When the rains do come, we can then complain that the fields are too wet for landing/recovery!

Gary

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Central Texas Ballooning Association

Club News

Potential Austin Balloon Event

Therelocation of the Children’s Hospital to the Mueller site presenta a chance for the CTBA to have a balloon event. See P-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.

Quotation

“In the same way that ‘All Politics is local’, all weather is local.”

Don Day

Houston Safety Seminar, 2007

LSHABA Safety Seminar

This year the Safety seminar is in Houston on February 17. LSHABA has the lead with CTBA support. See Report and Forms Page 3.

Inks Lake Planning

Brett Miller has a request from Petey that CTBA choose a date for the balloon camp-out. So far, the camping area is only booked April 19-22. Sounds like we need another committee.

New CTBA Projector

CTBA is the new owner of a Dell video projector to support club video and slide shows. It will be on display at the March meeting for Lloyd and Joe’s presentations.

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



**CTBA To Be At
Dell Children's Hospital Opening**

Plans continue for CTBA to be a part of the opening ceremony of the Dell Children's Hospital, at the old Mueller Airport development site. Dick Goss is leading the effort. A couple of meetings have confirmed the event. It is scheduled for June 26, the last Tuesday in June.

CTBA will organize a glow of 19 balloons along the Mueller Rd. Expect details to follow. A combination of local and out of town balloons is expected. Details of rooms, and other event arrangements are pending.

This could be the start of an annual balloon event.

LSHABA/CTBA 2007 Safety Seminar

The safety seminar in Houston was a real success. It was a traditional 'full spectrum' seminar covering all the required BFA topics. But the speakers were excellent. As one fellow, who came from Seattle area to attend, "I didn't get out my SUDOKU book once."

Don Day, who's done Philip and Brian's gas weather support for a couple of years, gave the weather segment. It was excellent. He covered things like which weather models to use and how one model can be interpreted differently by different services.

There were sessions on Pilot decisions, Handling Heavy Stuff, and Footwear. The CTBA 2001 meeting series, on how should crew respond when a pilot is disabled, was presented in abbreviated form. And there were tales of 'Near Misses'. Finally, Andy Cayton told of adventures making world record duration and distance flights. Situations were illustrated with graphic footage.

Great job to the Houston balloonists.

CAP Balloon Demonstration

February 6 Bruce Lavorgna took his balloon to Georgetown for an instructional inflation and glow at the Civil Air Patrol meeting.

You can still see their story of the evening at <<http://www.texascadet.org/>><http://www.texascadet.org/>

They really appreciated the balloon show.



Deadline Reminder

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



Hot Air Dirigible

Machine Design Magazine reported in the Feb 22 2007 issue about a hot air dirigible. They called it a Blimp, but Blimps are Limp, they have no internal frame or rigid structure. This airship does have a frame and as a result is more maneuverable. Hot air Blimps with propane fueled engines were at AIBF for a couple of years and there were races.

See the article at:

<http://www.machinedesign.com/asp/viewSelectedArticle.asp?strArticleId=62082&strSite=MDSite&catId=2>

I've reprinted it below.

It might not be the perfect vehicle for everyone, but the personal hot-air blimp could be the next big thing for the pilot who wants to launch from the backyard. The blimp's designer, Dan Nachbar of Amherst, Mass., recently completed 10 hr of test flights. Unlike other hot-air blimps, Nachbar's design has a rigid internal frame. And unlike helium blimps, it can be deflated and stored between flights without a hangar. The internal frame folds for storage. The blimp, which is 102-ft long and 70 ft in diameter, is capable of slow, low-level flight as well as turn-on-a-dime steering, according to Nachbar.

Nachbar plans to further develop his prototype and seek FAA approval to produce the airship commercially. A blimp would probably cost between \$100,000 and \$200,000, depending on configuration, he says. The ship could prove useful for tasks such as forest canopy research, wetlands survey/management, eco-tourism, aerial photography, and filmmaking.



The 205,000-cu-ft hot-air blimp with a ribbed envelope flies for the first time.



A duct (blue-colored tube) that carries air from the fan into the bottom of the ship is visible on the right side of the photograph. The envelope is filled about half-way with cold air before the burners are fired up.



Sam & Phil Show

Sam Edwards & Phil Bryant put on the morning Sam & Phil Air Show on Wed Mar 7. The show was supporting video 'filming' of a commercial for the Propane Association that Phil flies for. The launch spot on Tuesday morning didn't get them near enough to the Capitol for the camera guys. So, Wednesday was a re-take.

CTBA supplied crew; Tim Baggett, Shari Pearson, and Joe Reynolds. After several PIBALS and lots of GPS and Garmin Map activity, looking at steam from buildings, and flags, the TxDOT parking lot on River-side just East of Congress was chosen for launch. There were several interested by-standers and one guy talking into a radio, but inflation was uneventful.

Sam carried a camera guy and was slotted east of Phil in the Propane Balloon. There was another camera on the Capitol grounds. This flight the two tracked up Brazos and flew just up the eastern edge of the Capitol grounds. Re-take successful.

Sam landed at the Hancock Golf Course. He was greeted by the same green keeper as on Tuesday – and after promising that this wasn't going to be a really recurring thing, deflated along the sidewalk. Lloyd stopped to help and photograph some school kids.

Then we proceeded to find Phil and see about helping. Tim was local navigation in Phil's van. They landed at Highland Mall and were met by a very irate and verbal mall operations guy, not a rent-a-cop, but Mall guy. After some verbal haranguing, Phil flew on to the old airpark that is mostly Dell, just east of I-35. An uneventful retrieval and breakfast followed.





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

BALLOONING STUFF!!!

Collectibles, Decos, Ornaments, Gifts, Puzzles, Toys, Books, Art, Tins, Stamps, Mugs, You-Name-It! Lifetime collection of balloon stuff!

Will sell entire collection to right offer or 1x1.

Jim Main Houston, TX

832-321-4683 or jballoon@houston.rr.com



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

Auction Items

Just thought I would drop you an email to let you know that there will be about 30 lots of mostly flown International Balloon mail covers AND an entire Japanese FUGO balloon (unique in private hands) offered in the April 19th Regency Superior Space Memorabilia auction. The covers range from the extremely rare to the not so rare with many coming from the Don Piccard collection. This full unreserved sale will be up on the Regency Superior web site <http://www.regencysuperior.com> about 15 March. If you are interested in Balloon Mail or Space Memorabilia, you won't want to miss this sale.

I'll be glad to answer any questions you may have ahead of time.

Regards. Michael Orenstein, Space Memorabilia Consultant

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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Equipment For Sale

Contact Rusty

1. Delcom aircraft radio (needs new battery)
2. refueling adapter, for two tanks at one time
3. rope tie off with quick release

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

2/25/07	2/26/07	2/27/07	2/28/07	3/1/07	3/2/07	3/3/07 6:54 18:32
3/4/07	3/5/07	3/6/07	3/7/07	3/8/07 Lisa Giguere	3/9/07 Shari Pearson	3/10/07 6:46 18:37
3/11/07	3/12/07 Club Meeting	3/13/07	3/14/07	3/15/07	3/16/07 Adam Reinstein	3/17/07 7:47 19:41 Club Flight
3/18/07	3/19/07	3/20/07	3/21/07	3/22/07	3/23/07	3/24/07 7:29 19:45
3/25/07 Kim Cathcart-Ringer	3/26/07	3/27/07	3/28/07	3/29/07	3/30/07	3/31/07 7:20 19:50

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:	joe Reynolds

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.