



### General Meeting

*October 16, 2006*  
**Gordon Bennet & Albuquerque**

*Come See Phots & Video Review.*

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

### President's Letter

Mike Pryor

Greetings CTBA,

Congratulations to Phil McNutt for placing fifth in the Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett international gas balloon race. Launching from Belgium, he and Richard Abruzzo flew almost 1200 miles to Finland. Read more inside. We all were very proud to be part of the event, whether chasing for days (Renee), master tracking (Tim), dragging sand (C&M) or just checking the web for progress. Now let's get excited about the America's Challenge and tune into the Fiesta website to follow the launch planned for Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. Phil will be flying again with Brian Critelli so we'll be cheering for the All-Texas Team.

Best wishes to the pilots and crew headed off to Albuquerque. We will keep you in our thoughts as we check the AIBF Live Cam daily. Share the Fiesta

### Upcoming Events

October 7-15	Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
October 16	CTBA Meeting
October 21	Club Flight

website [www.balloonfiesta.com](http://www.balloonfiesta.com) with your friends and keep the ballooning spirit alive.

The club meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> will recap recent events and start end-of-year preparations. We will discuss the Holiday Party and the Trail of Lights, and club officer nominations will be accepted. Please let us know if you are interested in serving as a club officer, board member or committee volunteer. The CTBA needs YOU!

*Happy Floating,*  
*Mike*

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Central Texas Ballooning Association  
Club News

CTBA and the Gordon Bennett

Philip is on gas! See Page 4

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.

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.

Deadline Reminder

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

CTBA PHONE LINE

(512) 479-9421

CTBA WEB SITE

[www.main.org/ctba](http://www.main.org/ctba)

CTBA EMAIL

[ctba@austin.usa.com](mailto:ctba@austin.usa.com)

Quotation

“Nothing will ever equal that moment of exhilaration which filled my whole being when I felt myself flying away from the earth. It was not mere pleasure; it was perfect bliss . . .”

*Professor Jacques Alexandre Cesare Charles  
First free flight in a manned hydrogen balloon,  
December 1, 1783*

Minutes  
of the

**CTBA Meeting 9-11-06**

Lloyd Cates, Sec.

15 present

The program was a slide show of photos of the Lake Travis flight from **Joe, Ronda, Mike, Cynthia** and Lloyd; Ballunar photos from **Joe** and someone else; Highland Village photo of **Shari** flying with the current national champion; maps of **Phillip's** GB race.

**Rusty** suggested a party to honor **Phillip MacNuttin's** flying in the Gordon Bennett Race. **David** and **Mary** will host the party at their house on September 23.

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



# Gordon Bennett 2006, Waasmunster, Belgium

Cynthia & Mike Pryor

Alright, OK. We were all excited about traveling to Belgium to crew for the Gordon Bennett Pilot from Austin. Alas, we arrived in Brussels a day late due to a baggage-handling snafu in Houston. Phil reported that it had rained most of that day, so we didn't feel too bad checking out New York City, Cynthia's first time. Yes, Splinky was along but this was his second time to the Big Apple.



The Statue and Ellis Island



Splinky in Battery Park  
(Statute of Liberty in the background)

We arrived in Lokeren mid-day, got oriented and went to Waasmunster about 5pm, arriving as the pilot briefing was wrapping up. They had drawn for launch order and there was a lively discussion about the inflation day schedule. USA2 was to launch 13<sup>th</sup>, yet was in the first wave of balloons to inflate – this meant we had to be at the launch field early. Phil and Richard decided to fill sand bags that night before the Opening Ceremony, so they hitched a ride to the sand pit with another team. Lacking transportation, diligent crew stayed behind in Waasmunster, ensuring that the local pub had sufficient variety of beer for them upon their return. The Opening Ceremony/ Reception was nice, and a good chance for us to visit with friends and meet pilots and crew from around the world. Afterwards, we took the balloon to the launch field – this proved to be quite an adventure, as no one had been out there in the dark.



9/11 Sphere



Richard, Drew, Phil and Mike attach the rain shield



Drew, Renee, Phil and Mike



Splinky approves the flight plan

Inflation Day started, in the usual ballooning manner, well before dawn. We were at the field by 6am, sharing a wonderful chocolate bar for breakfast – not a bad start! The crew was like a well-oiled machine with everyone working very smoothly together. We were ready for gas to flow before 8. It turned into a windy day, so our early inflation had some benefit: we got to sit and watch the other balloons do an interesting ‘inflation dance.’ Other than the wind, the weather was perfect, warming up into the 80’s. Reminiscent of Albuquerque. Overall it was a rather diverse day, with preparations at a leisurely pace, a final push to get everything loaded, and an emotional launch just before sunset.

Most of the crews had a late dinner at the hotel restaurant that night and there were many laptops out following the progress of the teams. By the time we finished eating, USA2 was over the English Channel and we were going on about 5 hours sleep in the previous 48. Needless to say, we didn’t make it to the breakfast buffet - but did reduce our jetlag! Renee, Drew and Jean Luc (Brussels-based hot-air pilot and regional expert for our team) left on chase before dawn, and we stayed behind to tour a bit. First there was our nice little host town of Lokeren, followed by Brugge the next day. Meanwhile, our fearless team had flown over England and headed out to the North Sea then over Scandinavia through the next night. We stayed up-to-date with Skinny’s emails, event staff conversations, and the GB website.



Renee puts the Launch Number on



Brugges

By Tuesday, USA2 was over Finland trying to find the last good landing spot before Russia. Meanwhile, we visited Oostende, a Belgian beach resort town where we dipped our toes into the North Sea. It was a pleasant day and there were plenty of sun-bathers, notably some 'clothing-optional' retirees. Team USA2 was packing up and heading south on Wednesday as we packed up and left Belgium for Holland, Amsterdam that is. We visited the Anne Frank House, Van Gough and Rembrandt Museums, and tried to stay out of the red light district. Phil, Richard, Rene, Drew and Jean Luc spent the next couple of days on a Baltic cruise ferry, and then had to drive across Germany.



Splinky takes a carriage tour



Amsterdam



Floral Clock and Calendar in Oostende



Splinky's new friend



Grand Place, Brussels



Belgium Military Museum

Since USA2 had such a long flight and there were many miles and ferries between, the crew didn't get back into Brussels until about an hour before the start of the GB Prize-Giving ceremony and dinner. We met up with them at the Belgium Military Museum, in the Aviation section. This was an excellent setting for the closing event as it houses an impressive balloon collection. As an interesting coincidence, there was an RF-4 Phantom that Mike flew during his tenure in the USAF. We enjoyed the reception, dinner and impressive exhibits and were really pleased to be a part of this historic event. Since a Belgian team won this year, they'll be hosting Gordon Bennett 2007É it sure would be great to go back again!



Phil and Richard with the Russian team



Cynthia, Jean Luc and Phil



*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.

**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



**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/](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.

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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

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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

10/1/06	10/2/06	10/3/06	10/4/06	10/5/06	10/6/06	10/7/06 AIBF America's Challenge Sun: 7:28am 7:09pm
10/8/06 Louann Darling <b>AIBF</b>	10/9/06 AIBF	10/10/06 AIBF	10/11/06 AIBF	10/12/06 AIBF	10/13/06 AIBF	10/14/06 AIBF Sun: 7:32am 7:01pm
10/15/06 AIBF Last Flight	10/16/06 CTBA Meeting	10/17/06	10/18/06	10/19/06	10/20/06	10/21/06 Melissa Kaplan Sun: 7:37am 6:54pm
10/22/06	10/23/06	10/24/06	10/25/06	10/26/06	10/27/06	10/28/06 Sun: 7:42am 6:47pm
10/29/06	10/30/06	10/31/06	11/1/06	11/2/06	11/3/06	11/4/06 Sun: 7:48am 6:41pm

**CTBA PHONE LINE**

**(512) 479-9421**

**CTBA WEB SITE**

**[www.main.org/ctba](http://www.main.org/ctba)**

**CTBA EMAIL**

**[ctba@austin.usa.com](mailto: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.