

Nebraska Balloon Club Newsletter



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Season's Greetings to All!

From the Editor: May you all be blessed with a wonderful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. **This is Your** newsletter, so Please send me articles and pictures as they happen. Enclosed you will find this year's ballot and renewal forms, please mail them back by January 5, 2018 to:
Penni Weyant at 11427 S. 173rd Ave. Gretna, NE 68028

Congratulations to Our Newest Private Pilot

by Elane Lacroix

Photos by Elane Lacroix and Denise Petersen-Johnson

Robb Johnson made his childhood dream come true by earning his Private Pilot Certificate for Lighter than Air with an on-board heater. After working with Commercial pilots Matt Fenster, Steve Lacroix, Rich Jaworski, Mike Shrum and Tamie Folley, during the past couple years. On December 2, he passed his check ride with the local FAA examiner Rob Bartholomew in *Joker's Wild*. The club is proud and happy to welcomes a new pilot into our ranks. Wife, Denise, his good friends Justin and JJ Powell as well as Steve and Elane were on-hand to help with the flight, pack up and then some celebrations and military style badge presentations.



*****2018 Banquet*****

January 13, 2018 with socializing starting in meeting area at rear at 4:00 PM
Begin food ordering off regular menu around **4:30 PM**

D.J.'s Dugout Sports Bar and Grill at 17666 Welch Plaza, Omaha, NE 68135
(180th & Q Street SE corner of mall with Hy-Vee)

Please let Michael Jones know headcount to expect by January 5, 2018 to:
Michael@EmeraldCityExpress.com

Plan for the usual fun, fellowship and award presentations,
"Chinese Gift Exchange" bring \$15 to \$20 wrapped gift to exchange.
Casual Dress - invite Crew/Friends/Family

2017 Shutterbug & Awards

2017 Shutterbug Theme: Water Balloons

- Rules: 1. Must have water and at least one balloon in the picture.
2. Must be OF or taken BY a 2017 club member.
3. Will be voted on by those attending the 2017 Banquet (to be held early 2018).
4. Please submit your entry by January 10, 2018
5. Send entries to: ElaneLacroix@gmail.com (you will be sent receipt of entry received)
6. One entry per person

2017 "Uncle Bud" Crew of the Year and Pilot of the Year nominations: Please send your nominations to Rich Jaworski by December 26, 2017 to RLJaworski@abbnebraska.com

The Other 2016 dubious award winners are also looking for your nomination/suggestions for this year's winners. Please contact them if you have ideas for them. (See Early 2017 edition for that list).

Short Blasts

Congratulations to Robb and Denise Johnson on their September 2017 wedding each bringing 2 teen or near teens to the blending family. Best of luck! We wish you both many years of happily wedded life together.



Photo courtesy of
Denise Petersen-



Photo courtesy of Pam
Clifford

Another new member this year Sarah Eckstrom, is Steve and Elane Lacroix's niece and has been quite helpful as crew to them. She was bitten hard by the balloonic bug and is now an aspiring student pilot with 1 training flight under her belt. She and her husband David are the parents of 3 year old twins, Matthew and Ryan.

When ask our newest member Lance Olson to tell us a bit about himself, he replied with: "I am an ordinary country boy from Nebraska. I was raised on a ranch in the sand-hills, which will always be "home" to me. As a youngster, I was fascinated with many things ranging from aeronautical to zoology, and "tormented" the adults in my life with many questions in the pursuit of information about God's Universe. I

don't know what it means to be "bored" with life; I suppose that you could say that I just never lost my boyhood curiosity...

5th Annual Extreme Flight to Find a Cure

Photos and article by Tim Cloyd

This year the flight had added a new feature. The Hormel Institute for Cancer Research/ Mayo Clinic in Austin, MN is partnering with the flight. They are a world class cancer research institutes. So this expanded the reach and awareness of the flight to people of Austin, MN and the awareness of the Hormel Institute to the ballooning world that I know. Jim Pearson and Rich Jaworski helped me with weather. As normal I patiently watched the weather until an opportunity for a flight to arise. The Sunday of February 5, 2017 showed promise. As Sunday drew closer the possibility got better and finally it was decided it was a GO. The launch site had been moving that week from Sioux Falls, SD to Southwest IA to Southeast NE to Northern MO to finally Indianola, IA. So on Saturday, before the flight I notified everyone to meet at the Indianola, IA Balloon Field at 6:30 am for a launch from there. I knew the surface winds for launch and landing would be very good. I woke up at 3:30 am and found that Indianola would have low cloud ceilings until mid-morning. After talking to my weather man Jim, we decided I should drive south to find sun. My ground team was my wife Elsie, Steve Metz, Craig Swanson, Nathan and Tiffany Wheeldon. Lucas Stephens, Katie Leveke and Rich Wheeldon followed behind for launch only. We left the field at 7:05 AM and drove south into Missouri and found sun. We went to Bethany, MO for launch. The winds were not bad. On the drive down we picked a high school for a launch site, arrived there and quickly set up. In a pre-flight conversation with Jim Pearson, he said to stay at about 7-9,000 ft. and fly due east for 2 hours then I could ascend. If I immediately ascended to 17,000 ft, I would fly towards St. Louis. As I flew the flight plan, I stayed between 7 & 9,000 ft. moving at speed not much faster than 42 mph for 1 hour and 20 minutes. Then I received a text from Jim and he said I could now climb because St. Louis now would not be a factor. I climbed to 10,000 feet and leveled off. This is when I read the names of the 59 Loved Ones (people that have dealt with cancer). After that I continued to ascend where I found a speed of 68 mph. As in previous flights, I climbed to see what speeds were up higher. As I climbed the speeds slowed down to between 50 and 60 MPH. I decided to descend for the speeds were better at lower



altitudes. For the next 2 ½ hours I flew between 12 & 14,000 ft., at speeds from 60-68 mph. Tanks 1-4 were now empty. I had been using tank 5 and when I changed to tank 6, I decided to descend and land. I text weather man Jim to ask for surface winds and he said they were 4-6 mph, which I thought was great. I now was over Illinois as I started my descent. I was prepared for possible thermal activity so I approached the landing carefully. At 300 ft. above ground the speed was 4 mph. I had some VERY large farm fields to land in. I then descended for landing and saw the speed increase, from 5 to 9 mph at which I landed. It was a good stand up landing. I then called Elsie on the

phone to ask how far away they were. She said 25 miles. So for the next 20 minutes I kept the balloon standing until the ground team arrived. I had landed in a corn field which had tall stalks. When the crew arrived they guided me to a soybean field where we laid the balloon down. Here are some of the stats. Distance-192 miles, Top Altitude-16,325 ft., Top Speed-68 mph, flight time 4 hours 15 minutes. The flight was a success and I was thrilled with the accomplishment. I had over 2,800 people watch the Facebook live video. The Hormel Institute addition was very good. Thank you to my wife Elsie, ground team and to all of you who support the flight.

I am planning on the 6th annual Extreme Flight for this winter and have started collecting names to be flown on that flight. If you would like to have a name or names flown on this winter's Extreme Flight, visit my website at <http://www.tecvisions.org/ExtremeFlight> to submit names. Also consider becoming a sponsor of this one of a kind cancer flight. **Email: Tecvisions@hotmail.com**

Al Boston Memorial Trophy submitted by Travis Boston

A peak of behind the man for which our competition trophy is named as told in these 1989 newspaper articles.

ward memorializes late balloonist's spirit

To balloonists, the name Al Boston might ring a bell.

Boston, a native of Battle Creek, became an avid balloonist in 1981 and projected his love for ballooning until his death from cancer on Oct. 29, 1988. A skillful balloonist, Boston always had a positive attitude toward the sport.

"He touched people with his ballooning," said Priscilla Banghart, chairperson of the Al Boston Memorial Award. "He loved ballooning so much that he wanted to share it with others."

Boston worked for the Kellogg Co. for 17 years, including stints in Battle Creek, Omaha, Neb., and Lancaster, Pa., where he was plant manager until his death.

On Saturday, June 24, at the awards banquet in the Kellogg Arena, a bronze medallion in the name of Alan M. Boston will be given to a pilot, crew member, observer or other volunteer who demonstrates the spirit of Al Boston during the week of the championships.

"We want his spirit of ballooning immortalized in this award," Banghart said.

Championship organizers have been collecting donations for the Alan M. Boston Spirit of Ballooning Award.

Contributors are Jean Monroe; Bob and Joby Ray; William and Nancy Carpenter; Barbara Fulmer; Gil and Annie Pryne; Lee and Eleanor Boston; Stephen and Sandy Peck; Glenna, Becky and Travis Boston; Kellogg Co.; Priscilla and Bruce

ALAN BOSTON



Spirit
of
Ballooning



Banghart; Phillip and Barbara Lapekas; Ed and Mary Heltshe; Vic and Nancy (Boston) Chiasson; Joel and Janet Lemmer; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Knowles; Tom and Pat Roush; Jerry and Janet Petersen; Marian F. Uldriks; Marilyn Lenz; Casper Uldriks; Janet A. Disbrow; Joyce E. Bowman; Gary, Judy and K.C. Cass; Deborah Wickham; Charles and Laura Cook; Jerry, and Molly McClellan; Deb Hadley; E.G. "Jerry" Mahoney; Battle Creek Ballooning Club; Elaine Vanderbilt; Barbara Brenner; Jim Hazel; Tucker and Bruce Comstock; Cathy and Denny Stults; Joni Thompson; Donna Fox; Monte and Kandy Kizzier; Michael and Carol Teale; Eric and Frances Mildebrath; Kellogg Co. Memphis plant; Bruce and Kathryn Lackey; Larry and Cindy Bair; Dennis Crofoot family; Carrie Johnson; Steve Hickie; Sherry Simmons; and Nordstrom, Fitzpatrick and Partners.

Award created in honor of late balloonist

By TRACE CHRISTENSON
Staff Writer

Friends will remember Alan Boston at the 1989 Battle Creek International Balloon Championship by honoring someone like him.

The Alan M. Boston Spirit of Ballooning Award will be presented for the first time at the end of the 1989 championship.

"He was very close to all of us," said Barbara Brenner, executive director of the championship. "We want to keep him with us."

The award will be given to "someone who embodies the spirit of ballooning as exemplified by Alan," Brenner said.



Alan Boston



"He went all out, no holds barred but always had a joke or a kind word and always stopped to help you out," said Tom Roush of Battle Creek, a balloon pilot and friend of Boston.

Boston, 40, died of cancer on Oct. 29, 1988. He worked for the Kellogg Co. for 17 years in Battle Creek, Omaha, Neb.,

and Lancaster, Pa., where he was plant manager when he died.

Boston started ballooning in 1981, crewing for Bruce Banghart. He bought a balloon and completed pilot training in 1982. He placed fifth in the 1987 championship and was named Nebraska Pilot of the Year five times. His illness prevented him from competing in '88.

Banghart, his wife Priscilla, Roush, Donna Fox and Dennis Crofoot, all friends of Boston, proposed the memorial award.

Roush said he and Boston were competing and both were in the top 10 standings during one of the championships when grasshoppers ate several holes in Roush's envelope. Boston gave him some material and helped him repair the holes.

"He did a lot of joking and carrying on and told me 'I wouldn't have done that yesterday when you were ahead of me,'" Roush recalls.

"He was always easy going," said Fox. "He always had a smile on his face and was fun to be around."

Fox said the group would like to see the winner as someone who is dedicated to ballooning and works on the championship, either behind the scenes or out front.

The winner could be a pilot, observer, member of the support staff or other volunteer, Brenner said, and will be selected by a committee during the championship.

Money for design and casting of a bronze medallion, which will be presented to the winner, is being collected by the balloon championship organizers.

Contributions may be sent to the Alan M. Boston "Spirit of Ballooning" Award, P.O. Box 589, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0589.

"Al represented something unusual and special in ballooning," said Roush. "What we wanted to do was create something that helped promulgate the memory of Al."



Photo courtesy of Travis Boston

Blue Baron, flown by Al Boston was one of the last (if not the last) balloon made in England and shipped to the states before Cameron US started making them.

Notable Upcoming Balloon Events

IBA Continuing Education and Safety Seminar February 24, 2018

St. Thomas Pastoral Center in Indianola, Iowa.

Register by February 10, 2018 for best price.

The basis for this one day seminar is to satisfy the basic requirements by the BFA and qualify pilots for a possible insurance discount.

Speakers and Topics; Mike Heenan and Chris Manthe: Accident Investigations, Terry Davis: Propane Safety, Andy Baird: Pilot Decision Making, Chris Kuball: Weather, John Griffin: Insurance and Accidents, Gordon Schwontkowski: Crewing and Accidents

For more information: Tyler Thompson at (515) 564-9916 or Tjthomps@gmail.com Or Amy Pfeifer at (515) 371-8480 or Pfeiferamy@gmail.com (or ask Elane for a copy of the application form)

Balloons Over Iowa Ground School 2018

February 17-18, 2018

Want to know more about flying a Hot Air Balloon? Attend Balloons Over Iowa Ground School this winter and learn how. We teach you how to take the FAA written tests and give you valuable instructions on how to be a safe and competent Hot Air Balloon Pilot. We will be giving up to 18 hours of instruction in Private and Commercial Operations.

Where: BOI Balloonport, 18999 Blue Place, Carlisle, IA 50047

When: Registration: Friday, February 16, 7:00 P.M.

Class: Saturday, February 17, 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Class: Sunday, February 18, 8:00A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Fees: Individual Enrollment Fee: \$200 (must pay by February 1, 2018) Includes one set of books and a one year membership to BOI

Family Enrollment Fee: Full price for 1st family member, half price per person for any other family member. Includes one set of books per family and one year membership to the BOI for each student. Extra sets of books may be purchased.

Refresher Fee: \$100 (must pay by February 1, 2018) Must attend Saturday & Sunday. This includes one year BOI membership but no books.

Continuing Education: \$70 (must pay by February 1, 2018). Attend Saturday only. This includes one year BOI membership but no books.

Crew Fee: \$50 includes one year membership to BOI, no books included.

NOTE: Lunch and snacks will be provided as well as any handout materials and sample tests.

Please complete the following application form if you would like to attend:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: Daytime (_____) _____ Evening: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Which section are you interested in? Private _____ Commercial _____

Please make checks payable to **Balloons Over Iowa** and mail to: BOI, 18999 Blue Place, Carlisle, IA 50047. For more information contact Donna Rieck at (515) 255-5283, email: drieck683@gmail.com.

Directions to BOI Balloonport:

From west on I-80 - at the west mixmaster, go south on I- 35 (exit 123B) about 4 miles to the Hwy 5 bypass (exit 68). Go east on Hwy 5 - 13-14 miles to the Carlisle exit (exit 72). Go southeast into Carlisle - 1 ½ - 2 miles. Go through Carlisle - continue on Hwy 5 about 2 miles - turn north on 190th Ave (2nd left after Carlisle) over RR tracks, Go north about 1 mile. The Balloonport is on the east side of the road (if the road curves west, you've gone too far). **Note - be very cautious of the train tracks as you are turning onto 190th Ave. This is a very busy train track.**

FAVIA 225/BFA National Convention

Celebrating the 225th anniversary of the First Air Voyage in America in historic Philadelphia
March 22nd-25th, 2018



What's in it for you?

- 2 days of top notch speakers presenting informative and entertaining topics meeting the BFA 3 Tier system requirements
- Breakfasts and receptions included in convention admission
- An opportunity to witness a reenactment of Jean Pierre Blanchard's voyage using the replica basket built by Bert Padelt, a Grand Ball Gala, a trade show, a balloon glow, a Pioneers Dinner, a Montgolfier reception, and a ground school.

Why go to the Grand Ball Gala?

- Hear about the amazing experiences and exploits of keynote

speaker : Sir David Hempleman-Adams

- Time to have some fun and mingle
- Live period and contemporary music
- A chance to dress up - colonial garb, your favorite outfit, or whatever you wish
- Door prizes, raffles, favors, and giveaways
- Have your picture taken with Benjamin Franklin and the replica basket
- Cocktail hour followed by a delicious dinner and dancing



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Quantity	Cost	Shipping
1,000	\$76.50*	\$17.50*
2,500	\$106.25*	\$25.00*
5,000	\$161.50*	\$35.00*
10,000	\$233.75*	\$48.50*

Price includes layout/art work with color both sides
 *All prices subject to change without notice

www.balloonsgalore.us



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 Hot Air Balloons and US Navy related designs.
 Let me make your ideas into reality.



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