



The Ventline

Jan/Feb/Mar 2013

www.wiballoongroup.org

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Greetings from your WBG Director

Spring greetings to our entire membership! As I announced at the Winter Social, Mark Naber has assumed the duties of the Ventline newsletter editor in addition to managing the WBG website. Thanks Mark. We appreciate your service in support of hot-air ballooning in Wisconsin. A very special thanks goes out to Jan Kohlman and her husband Herb, for their five years of being Ventline editors. I'm sure that all of our readers agree that they have done an outstanding job in producing an extensive and informative newsletter that has been enjoyable to read.

Once again, preparations for the new flying season got off to a great start at the 35th Midwest Hot Air Balloon Continuing Education Conference (formerly known as the Midwest Safety Seminar). This year the planning committee of Ken Walter, chairman, Rod Van Wyngereen, and Corey Goebel selected a new location, the Olympia Resort and Conference Center, located along I-94 between Madison and Milwaukee. This turned out to be a convenient venue for attendees as 74 commercial, private and student pilots, crew and officials attended the one-day conference on March 23. Congratulations and thanks to Ken and his committee, and all the speakers, for planning and presenting this well run and informative conference. Attendees reported that the information obtained in one presentation alone was well worth their time and the registration fee. For example, balloon owners learned critical background information and how to comply with FAA's recently issued AD 2013-03-10 from repair station operator Scott Wooge and Lindstrand USA owner, Phil Thompson. Crew members, and those who train them, were happy to learn about the newly expanded and recently released, Crew Training 101 website presented by Dean Carlton. Details about these presentations and others are reported elsewhere.

Everyone who attended the Continuing Education Conference has received an automatic renewal of their WBG membership for 2013 so don't need to pay any additional dues. For those who are not Life Members and did not attend the Conference, dues for your annual WBG membership should be submitted at this time. Pilot memberships are still \$20 and can be mailed directly to me, or if you have an annual due soon and want to give your WBG check to Pete Asp, that's fine too. We depend on these dues to support the WBG Landowner program, Junior Balloonist Scholarship Program, and other activities of WBG. Your voluntary participation is greatly appreciated, and will save me mailing a reminder to you.

With the abundant snow cover over most of Wisconsin and the unusually cold March, most fields are currently way too wet to even think about getting out flying, and they will probably stay that way for a few weeks. So unless we can get in an early morning flight when it's cold enough for the ground to stay frozen for a couple hours, this will be the time of year when we check over all of our equipment, review what we learned at the Continuing Education Conference, and dream about that first spring flight over trees and shrubs with nice fresh colorful buds and flowers. Happy flying!

Gary Britton



Hudson Hot Affair 2013

by Mark Naber

The Hudson Hot Air Affair was one balloon rally that I had my eyes set on when I decided to become a pilot. Flying in the winter is very enjoyable (despite the cold). The first goal was to obtain my license and then accumulate enough hours to participate. Last year was the first year that I attended as I finally had enough hours to partake in it. I ended up having an o-ring failure on my burner so I was unable to fly. Of course, due to weather conditions, no one else was able to either. Nothing like being a first time attendee with a burner leak and 4 hours away from Pete Asp. Luckily my sponsor (Anderson Heating) was very understanding with the situation.

This year was complete opposite, with good (but cold) weather and a working burner. I was able to bring crew with me which made the flights go smoothly. We arrived in Hudson about 3pm on Friday. Some of the pilots were just about to head out for an afternoon flight. I declined because I had been on the road for 5 hours and my tanks were cold. I was able to watch them ascend from the hotel. Shortly after they were in the air it began to snow. They quickly blended into the sky.



6pm was the torchlight parade. It was still snowing. Not as many spectators attended as last year because of the 5 degree temps. After the parade and refueling there was a gathering back at the hotel. This was the time for us to mingle with our sponsors and participate in a raffle while we ate pizza, barbecue, etc... I did not win any raffles again, so better luck next year.



Saturday morning – 1 degree and flyable. We had our briefing at the hotel at 6:30am and then proceeded to the launch field for a 7:30am launch. The wind was out of the North which took us just down the East side of the St. Croix River. My flight was not extremely long since I found a great place to land (along with Gus T Guppy) at the YMCA camp. We were able to pack up on the plowed road, had a champagne toast with the passengers and headed back to refueling. The passengers were Sharon Young (Sponsor's wife) and her nephew. Both were a little nervous but quickly overcame that.

Unlike a summer balloon rally, sunrise is later and sunset is earlier which means there is not as much time between flights. We plugged in the tanks to give them as much time as we could to heat up before an anticipated afternoon flight.

We met in the ballroom at 2:15pm for the afternoon briefing. As expected, the weather was good for a flight. We adjourned to the launch field for a 3pm flight. This time the wind was out of the SW which would take us towards the Willow River State Park. The crowds were growing larger as we began to inflate.

My passengers were Dick Young (sponsor) and his step daughter Stephanie. Stephanie came over from Western MN for the 5K run earlier in the day. Dick did not want to fly in the morning (because he had to work the 5K run and he is afraid of heights) but after his wife Sharon flew in the morning they were able to convince him to fly.



What a beautiful flight with 25+ balloons in the air. During my flight I kept swapping position with Glenn O'Connell from Elgin, IL. He had a video crew along with him taping the afternoon flight experience. Since I was near him most of the flight and in the same landing location there is some excellent footage of my flight. You can view it on YouTube here: http://youtu.be/D9v0RzSFz_8

About half of the balloons performed during the night glow. I opted out since it was snowing again and I wanted to stay packed up fairly dry. I joined in with some others for a "field of fire".

Sunday morning we met at 7am for a briefing. Half the pilots did not warm their tanks overnight because it did not look good. At the briefing it was confirmed that it was not flyable. Everyone proceeded to pack up and wait for the closing brunch.

My sponsors asked me to come back next year and I am looking forward to the Hudson Hot Air Affair in 2014. If you do not mind the cold, I highly recommend this event.

The WBG pilots that attended were: Ken Walter, Nick White, John Trione, John Rucker, Mark Naber and Chris O'Keefe. They are always looking for more pilots to participate in this event. If you are interested, please contact them and get on the mailing list for next year. <http://www.hudsonhotairaffair.com/>



Ethanol Gasoline in Inflator Engines

by Gary Britton

Recently there was a series of messages on the Reflector regarding possible problems related to the use of gasoline containing ethanol in small engines. For example, one posting included the link <http://www.kandsservice.com/ethanol.pdf> where a service shop for small engines discusses fuel problems and how to avoid them. It appears that most of the problems are a result of using old gasoline, gasoline with more than 10% ethanol, and not adding a fuel stabilizer such as STA-BIL when the engine is stored for an extended period or used infrequently.



Guidance from the Wisconsin based manufacturers of small engines may be worth noting here. Briggs and Stratton has the following information at their web site <http://www.briggsandstratton.com/support/frequently-asked-questions/Fuel%20recommendations/>.

"Fuel must meet these requirements:

- Clean, fresh, unleaded gasoline.
- A minimum of 87 octane/ 87 AKI (91 RON). High altitude use, see below.
- Gasoline with up to 10% ethanol (gasohol) or up to 15% MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether), is acceptable.

CAUTION: Do not mix oil in gasoline, or modify engine to run on alternate fuels. This will damage the engine components and void the engine warranty.

To protect the fuel system from gum formation, mix in a fuel stabilizer when adding fuel. See Storage section below"

In response to a question about gasoline, the FAQ section of Kohler Engines' web site, says "Gasohol (up to 10% ethyl alcohol, 90% unleaded gasoline by volume) is approved as a fuel for KOHLER engines. Other gasoline/alcohol blends including E20 and E85 are not to be used and are not approved. Any failures resulting from use of these fuels will not be warranted." See <http://www.kohlerengines.com/maintenance/faqs.htm>.

Honda also has similar requirements as noted at <http://engines.honda.com/parts-and-support/fuel-recommendations> where they state "E85 is an alternative fuel. It is not gasoline. It is made by combining 85% ethanol with 15% gasoline. Honda engines are not currently certified or designed to run on E85 or any other alternative fuel."

Additional details are available at each of these web sites, as well as several others. As we add gasoline to our inflators it will be wise to adhere to these manufacturers' requirements, particularly over the winter months.

Thank You!!

Thanks to those that contributed to this issue of the Ventline. Debbie Spaeth, Gary Britton, Ken Walter, Pete Asp and Pat Brouillet.

I cannot put the newsletter together without you. If you have something to contribute please send it to Mark Naber.

35th Midwest HAB Continuing Education Conference

Held March 23, 2013 @ Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc WI

By Debbie Spaeth

Wisconsin Balloon Group hosted the 35th Midwest Hot Air Balloon Continuing Education Conference at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. Attendance was approx. 80 persons, including pilots and crew member. Ken Walter and his committee did a great job organizing the day and the speaker's panel.

A note: Yes, we have a longer name. The term 'Safety Seminar' is out, and 'Continuing Education Conference' is the newest terminology. I agree that Continuing Education better reflects what we are trying to accomplish, but anytime a name is replaced by a name that has twice as many syllables, it will take longer for it to catch on. Maybe we could start the trend here in Wisconsin and call it a CEC.

The speakers for the CEC included:

Ryan Carlton on Weather Forecasting. Ryan has a web site www.cazooee.com that offers a list of links for weather sites. Ryan had a live link and did a nice overview of the variety of information available via his site. I recommend checking it out as you prepare for flights. (But still check in with FAA to be sure you have NOTAMS, etc.)

Dean Carlton on Crew Training. Ryan's Dad outlined the section on Crew Training that is on the Carlton site www.cazooee.com. It is a good collection of information for new crew and a refresher for more experienced crew as we start the 2013 flying season.

Scott Wooge handled Maintenance & Repair. During Scott's presentation, a lot of time was spent on the FAA Airworthiness Directive AD 2013-03-10 dated 3-19-13. This AD applies to a Lindstrand fitting but has a 60 day window to comply for ALL balloons. Check with your local repair station for information related to your balloon and what is required for compliance. Note: A correction was issued after the seminar. Check www.faa.gov for a copy.

Jeff Chatterton spoke on Risk Management. And the need to establish empathy and an emotional connection with the public following a high profile balloon accident or incident. Be pro-active and you can minimize the peripheral damage to our local business from an incident that has gone viral.

Larry Konash of IMC shared information on the insurance and pilot decision making. Bill Zangs updated us on the Relevant FARs for 2013. Almost everything can be done on-line now so be sure to check out the FAA sight for NASA forms, etc. Wisconsin Pilot Jim Bushelle shared his experience with a power line accident. I congratulation Jim on the courage to share the details and help us learn from his experience.



It was an interesting slate of speakers who did a nice job. They presented material in a format that was entertaining and educational. Thanks again to the speakers and organizing committee. Great Job!

FREE HACD Task Cards!

Have you ever wanted to compete, but didn't know where or how to start?

Do you know someone that wants to try out competition flying but isn't sure that joining the HACD is worth it?

Have you been away from competition for awhile, but are now looking to get back into it?

To encourage growth and introduce would-be competitors to the sport, the HACD is offering 10 FREE competition cards per region to new members. A "new member" is someone that has not been a part of the HACD for the last 5 years. An applicant must be a current BFA member (you may apply for both at the same time)

These cards are being offered on a first-come, first-served basis and several have already been awarded. If interested, contact Gary Britton at gary.britton@uwc.edu.

Have balloon equipment to sell? Looking for equipment?

Here are some web resources. Maybe you will find them useful?

www.aerostatz.com

www.hotairballooning.com/ads

firesideballoonsforsale.weebly.com

www.sky-ads.net

Overseas lists

www.zebedeelist.co.uk

www.balloonsforsale.co.uk

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FiresideHotairballoonsales>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Hotairballoonequipmentforsale>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Balloons-for-Sale/160909444068620>

 Find us on
Facebook

Look us up on Facebook
"WisconsinBalloonGroup"

CHICKEN WINGS

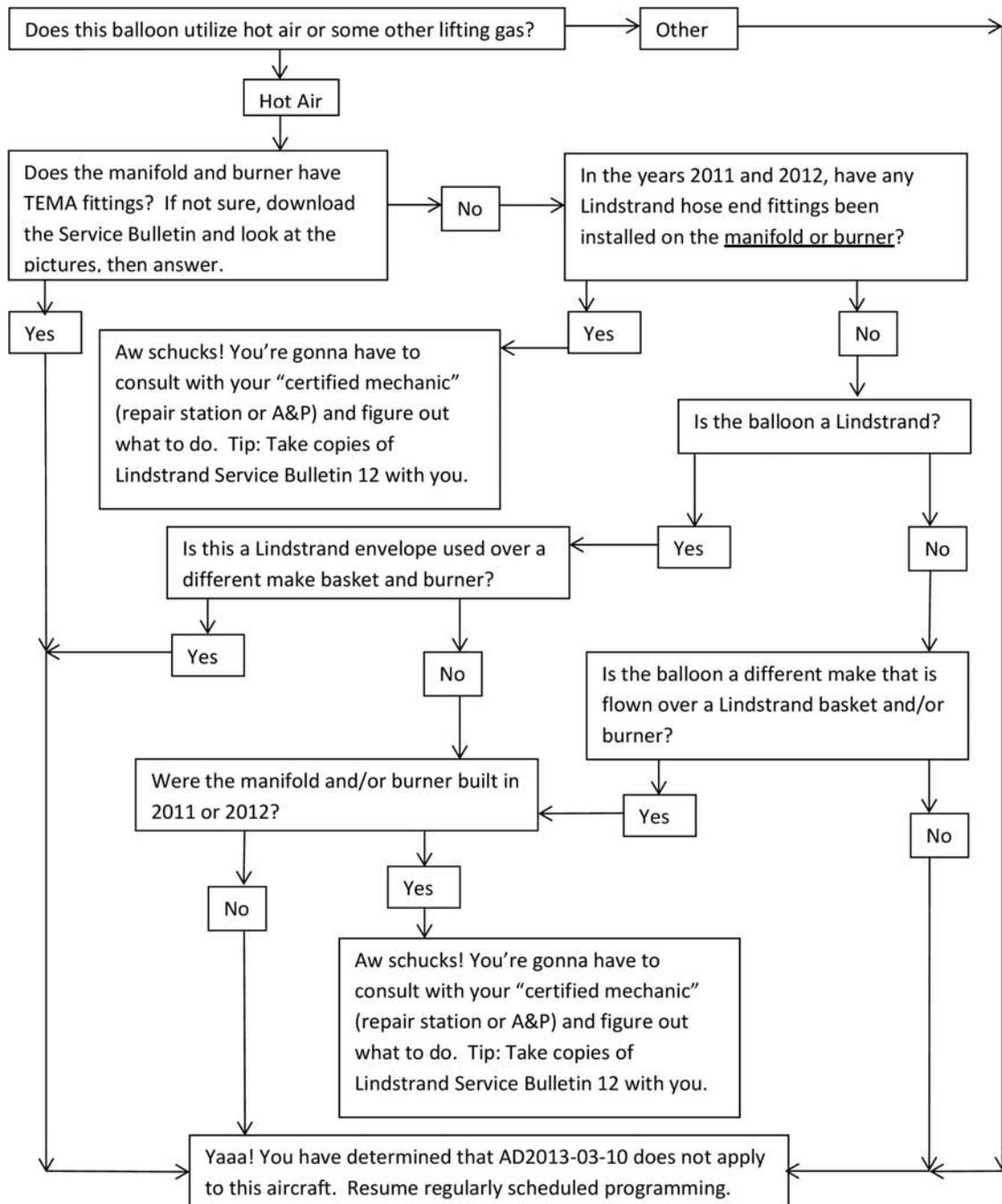
BY MICHAEL AND STEFAN STRASSER



Comic courtesy of www.chickenwingscomics.com

After the continuing education seminar, I was still confused as to what I was supposed to do for AD2013. Then the AD was revised and that along with the reflector chatter made me even more confused. I asked Pete for his recommendation on what to do and he created the following flowchart to share with everyone. I hope this helps clarify this for you too.

PETE'S SELF HELP GUIDE TO AD2013-03-10



Link to Lindstrand Service Bulletin 12 if needed:
<http://www.lindstrand.co.uk/static/lindstrand/manuals/uploads/Service%20Bulletin%2012%20iss%202.pdf>

Spots are still available for the following WI balloon events!
(For more information contact Ken Walter at winddancerballoons@gmail.com)

The Manitowoc Air Show and 11th Annual Hot Air Balloon Rally
Manitowoc, WI
June 7-9

We are accepting up to 15 applications for the 10th Annual Balloon Rally. Last year was very successful for the Airshow so once again we are planning morning flights and evening balloon glows downtown and at the Airport. Show up money of \$125.00 will be provided along with the usual amenities. There will be a live band, more food and refreshments than in the past, and an all around fun event.

Waterford Balloon Fest
Waterford, WI
July 19-21

We are proud to announce and include a new event to this year's WI balloon rally season. The Waterford Chamber of Commerce will once again be hosting the Annual Waterford Hot Air Balloon Festival. This event will be held July 19-21. Along with the customary pilot amenities, this event guarantees \$200.00 to each participant.

Waterford is a small community in Racine County, just southwest of Milwaukee. This is a beautiful flying area and the community has a lot of cool things to offer. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this great event. We will be accepting the first 20 applications.

** Tentative **

2013 Wings over Waukesha Air Show
Waukesha, WI
August 23-25

We are currently negotiating with Wings over Waukesha to include a balloon rally with their Airshow in 2013. Contact me if you are interested in getting on the waiting list for this event

** To Be Announced**
Aug 30-Sept2

We are currently in the planning stage for a possible new event in Southeastern WI. This is a brand new event and location and hopes to become a long standing event. Contact me if you are interested in getting on the waiting list for this event.



BFA Youth Scholarships

In order to support participation in the BFA Jr. Balloonist Hot Air Balloon Camp program, the Wisconsin Balloon Group is offering up to three scholarships to help cover costs of the camp fee. The fee is expected to be around \$450. Each scholarship will provide at least half of the amount, depending on how many scholarships are awarded. Summer Camps will be held in Dubuque, Iowa, June 23-27, and Reno, Nevada, July 21-25. Additional information and the BFA registration form for the camp can be found at the web site <http://www.bfacamps.com/index.html>.

The WBG scholarship application form is available at the WBG website, <http://wiballoongroup.org>, or contact WBG Executive Director, Gary Britton at gary.britton@uwc.edu.

Upcoming Balloon Events

June 7-9	Manitowoc Air Show, Manitowoc, WI
June 14-15	Monroe Balloon Rally, Monroe, WI
June 14-16	Great Galena Balloon Race, Galena, IL
June 14-16	Indy Air Show has been canceled
July 4-6	Eyes to the Sky Rally, Lisle, IL
July 11-14	Wausau Balloon Rally and Glow
July 12-14	Angola Balloons Aloft, Angola, IN
July 19-21	Waterford Balloon Rally, Waterford, WI
July 19-21	Elkhart County 4H Fair Balloon Chase, Goshen, IN
July 26-28	Great Balloon Race, Galesburg, IL
July 26-August 3	National Balloon Classic, Indianola, IA
August 9-11	Seymour Balloon Rally, Seymour, WI
August 9-11	Great Midwest Balloon Festival, Olathe, KS
August 16-18	Centralia Balloonfest, Centralia, IL
August 23-25	Lincoln Art & Balloon Festival, Lincoln, IL
August 30-Sept. 2	Marshall County Blueberry Festival, Plymouth, IN
Sept. 6-8	Macomb Balloon Rally, Macomb, IL
Sept. 6-8	Cascade of Colors, Carbondale, IL
Sept. 20-21	Forest Park Great Balloon Race, St. Louis, MO
Oct. 3-5	Oktoberfest, Seymour, IN
Oct 5-13	Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, NM
Nov 15-18	Festival Internacional Del Globo 2013, Leon, MX

2012 Landowner Winners

\$200 - Jack Austin, Janesville, WI	Pilot Jim Bushelle
\$100 - Nicholas Schultz, Mount Horeb, WI	Pilot Mike Fontaine
\$100 - 4-Way Farms, West Bend, WI	Pilot Gary Britton
\$50 - Denise Baumgartner, Waterford, WI	Pilot Mark Naber
\$50 - Kevin Malchine, Waterford, WI	Pilot Jeff Trzebiatowski
\$50 - Henningfeld Family, East Troy, WI	Pilot Daron Powers

Crew Training (from the Balloon Reflector on 3/25/2013):

Our team has finished a long overdue upgrade to our crew training site. It was developed to give us a tool to send to our "new" crew ahead of rallies so they would have a better idea of what to expect with ballooning.

We have added more content, a completely new layout, and lots of pictures and descriptions. The site is focused on ballooning safely and with less work (some of us are getting older).

We introduced it this weekend for the Wisconsin Balloon Group, and it is available for anyone who wishes to use it.

<http://cazoeee.com/crewing/>

Ryan made all the magic happen, so it should be pretty easy to use.

Dean Carlton



A word from the editor

I would like to thank Jan and Herb for their work on the Ventline the past years. I look forward to taking over the reigns and continuing the publication of the "Ventline".

What I am asking is if there are any storys, comments, ideas, suggestions that you may have, please pass those along to me. This is our newsletter and it will be what we make it.

If you attend a new balloon rally, we would love to hear about it.

If you have a new crew member or student pilot, we would love for you to introduce them.

If there is a lesson to be learned by something you did (or didn't do), we would love to learn from it.

Is there something you don't like or would like to see, I would like to know.

The possibilities are endless, but I need your help in continuing to provide content in these newsletters.

Mark Naber

WBG Membership Application

- Pilot – \$20.00
- Additional pilots in household – \$10.00 each
- Crew – \$15.00 (per household)
- Event Official – \$15.00 (per household)
- Business / Corporate – add \$50.00
- Life Membership - \$200
- New Member
- Renewing Member

Name(s): _____

For new members and renewing members with changes, please complete the following.

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Secondary Phone: (____) _____

E:Mail: _____

Balloon Owner: No/Yes N# _____ Balloon name: _____

N# _____ Balloon name: _____

Preferred communication: E:Mail _____ Surface mail: _____

Please check box if you would like your information withheld from the membership roster. []

Note: The Wisconsin Balloon Group does not publish the contact information of its members.

Related Memberships: [Circle and/or complete]

BFA No/Yes # _____ EAA No/Yes # _____

AOPA No/Yes # _____ Other: _____

Please complete the following information. Check all that apply.

- [] Pilot Student () Private () Commercial ()
- [] Crew BFA Crew Achievement Level: _____ Primary Pilot(s) Crewed: _____
- [] Observer BFA Observer Achievement Level: _____ Hot Air Gas CIA RegisteredObserver
- [] Sport Competition _____
- [] Rides Promotion _____
- [] Instruction / Accept Students
- BFA Pilot Achievement Level: _____ Event official
- Ratings: Hot Air ____ Gas ____ Other _____ Role(s): _____

Indicate areas where you would consider volunteering, to advance ballooning and the WBG:

- Ventline Reporter Social Events Membership Special Events Land Owner Relations
- Safety Seminar Other: _____

Send application form and dues to:

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