



From The Directors Desk:

The dog days of summer are here....

We are in the midst of one of the hottest and driest Wisconsin summers in a very, very long time. Balloon events in Monroe, Wausau and Waukesha have had successful flights and balloon glows.

(propane allergies not withstanding....ask me about that one sometime)

As Kay, Jack and I prepare for the National Balloon Classic in Indianola, and half of the summer has gone by, I've been thinking about how we can work together to get more people involved in our sport. The EAA Airventure is currently underway and hopefully our members giving tether rides and the BFA tent will help the cause.

I picked up this idea after talking to Nick White, one of my instructors and the newest *Balloon Works Dealer*, as well as from reading newsletters from other clubs. Nick reminded me of how I got started in ballooning seventeen years ago and how he became involved in the sport.

I ask each and every one of you to reflect on your start in this sport. Take that memory and any other early memories that you have and bring them forward to today. Take the time to introduce someone new to ballooning. This is easy to do by having them come out to crew, offer a balloon ride or do a school or youth group presentation. Invite a friend along that hasn't been out before; give some tether rides after a stand up landing in a neighborhood. Pass out balloon cards and info. Offer a balloon ride for your church or school fundraisers.

My point is that there are many, many things we can do to get new people involved in ballooning. We need to spread the word in WI and throughout the country if our sport is going to grow and prosper.

Take the time, reflect and spread the joy that you feel in your heart, like I do, for ballooning. As many of you know, for myself and my family, ballooning is not just a hobby, it's our lifestyle.

Remember this is YOUR Wisconsin Balloon Group. Each member is a vital part of making our group successful. Volunteer, help out and get involved.

Ken (and Jack)

PS: As a proud papa, I just had to share a picture of my boy. He is eighteen weeks old now and just loves ballooning.

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AWARDS BANQUET TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 12

New pilots, Recognition of meritorious service, Landowners Drawing, Wisconsin State Championship

We will hold our fall awards dinner on November 12 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Brookfield Wisconsin. We have a full agenda for our dinner this fall. We think it is fitting at this time of the Thanksgiving holiday to honor two sets of people in our organization. Our first recognition is for some special members that have given of themselves for many years. Our second recognition is to welcome new balloon pilots into our sport. The enthusiasm of both groups is a necessity to the growth of our organization. Organizations such as ours can not continue to grow without both sets.

Our program for the evening will be centered on acknowledging new balloon pilots in the area. Both Pete Asp and Allan Zielinski will be speaking to us concerning their roles as DE's for the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois areas. We will be introducing new pilot members in attendance.



We also want to recognize the special contributions to ballooning that David and Donna Spaeth have made through the years.

They became involved in ballooning in 1975 when their daughter, Debbie, started flying and they were crewing. At the 1977 Wisconsin Dells Balloon Rally, they helped with "organizing" propane. David was the liaison to the Propane truck driver and handled the refueling process. Donna handled pilot/balloon check-in. From that time on, David & Donna were "the propane people" at all events organized by TDS Aviation. Over the twenty-five years, they handled propane services at events including Rockford, Battle Creek, Amana, Neilsville, Green Bay, Galena, McGregor, Minocqua, Lake Geneva, Alpine Valley, Rockton, Freeport, Monroe and Wisconsin Dells. They "retired" following the 2003 Monroe events.

At the 1989 Battle Creek Championship, David and Donna were surprised when it was announced they were receiving the first "Alan Boston Spirit of Ballooning" award. This bronze medallion award was given to participants of the Battle Creek Championship who "emulate Al's renowned style of ballooning". Al was a Battle Creek native, a gentleman and an ambassador of ballooning.

In addition, our program for the evening will be centered on acknowledging new balloon pilots in the area. Both Pete Asp and Allan Zielinski will be speak to us concerning their roles as DE's for the Wisconsin and Northern Illinois areas.

AWARDS BANQUET continued from page 2

The fall awards meeting of the Wisconsin Balloon Group will be held on November 12, 2005 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Brookfield. The address is 18155 W Bluemound Road, Brookfield Wisconsin. 1-262-792-1212.

Cocktails and conversation	5:00 PM
Dinner	6:00 PM
Program	7:30PM

We will be having the buffet menu listed below:

Chef's Soup of the day
Salad of Mixed baby greens, tomato, cucumber and cabernet
vinaigrette
Pasta salad Provencal with artichoke hearts
London Broil with Sauce Forestiere and buttered fettuccine
Ginger-soy glazed char broiled chicken
Fresh seasonal vegetables
Rolls and butter
Chef's choice of dessert
Coffee, tea, milk or iced tea

This wonderful meal will cost \$20.00. I can see you writing your checks already. Then mailing them in to me before the deadline of November 8, 2005. Be sure to get those landowner certificates to Ken Walters.

WindDancer Balloon Promotions
W241 S4115 Pine Hollow Ct.
Waukesha, WI 53189
(262) 522-6675
wiwinddancer@cs.com



AWARDS BANQUET continued from page 3

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

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3776 SOUTH LOGAN AVENUE

MILWAUKEE, WI.

53207-3959

414-483-6328

JDIEBALL@WI.RR.COM



Name _____

#attending _____

I PREFER TO GET YOUR ACTUAL CHECKS, BUT I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE GET PROVIDED WITH MORE FOOD IF WE GIVE A CORRECT COUNT AHEAD OF TIME. YOU KNOW YOU'RE COMING---SEND THIS IN NOW.

Pulling the Line – Mary Jo O'Brien

Hi all. It has been a busy flying season. I hope all of you have had great times and soft landings. In the November-December newsletter I would like to feature pictures and articles of all the different events you have participated in this year. It will be in color so send me your best photos and articles. Try and get them in by the 1st week of November if possible. Thanks and please send me your articles!

**Advertise your business in The Ventline and support
The Wisconsin Balloon Group**

Classified Ads— \$10.00 (members free)

Business Card Size Ads—\$7.50

1/4 Page Ad—\$10.00

1/2 Page Ad—\$15.00

Full Page Ad—\$25.00

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Wisconsin Balloon Group - Membership Application

() Renewal () New Member

____ Pilot - \$20.00

____ Crew - \$15.00

____ Family - add \$10.00 (one newsletter/household)

____ Business/Corporate Member - add \$50.00

____ Life Membership - \$200.00

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

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

BFA Member Yes / No Membership # _____

NABA Member Yes / No Membership # _____

Please complete all appropriate information

() Pilot	() Crew	() Observer
Student ()	Primary Pilot you crew for:	BFA Observer Achievement level: _____
Private ()	_____	_____
Commercial ()		
Sport () Competition ()	BFA Crew Achievement level: _____	
Ride/Promo ()		
Instruction-will take new students ()		
BFA Pilot Achievement level: _____		
Balloon Owner N# _____		

Please mark any areas you would consider volunteering for based on specific needs of the WBG:

[] **Ventline Reporter**

[] **Special Events**

[] **Social events**

[] **Membership**

[] **Land Owner Relations / Drawing**

Mail Application to: **Jeff Trzebiatowski W5801 Skippers Lane** Appleton WI 54915

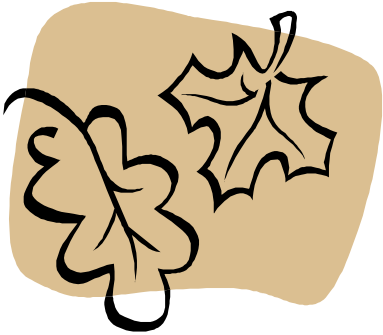
Wisconsin balloonists dedicated to safety and education in the sport of ballooning, who encourage communications and fellowship among the ballooning community

Weather—Brad Teymeyer

While I was presenting a weather briefing at a recent balloon event, I handed out copies of a local wind profiler. There seemed to be a little confusion as to what to do with the profiler data, so I thought I would dedicate this edition's column to interpreting wind profiler output.

A wind profiler is very similar to a Doppler radar that is directed in the vertical as opposed to the horizontal. Profilers measure the winds in a vertical column almost directly above the instrument site. Its antenna is fixed, sending low power long waves in the vertical to detect fluctuations in the density of the atmosphere, which are then related to the mean wind at given altitudes above ground level.

Wind profilers are very good at detecting changes in the atmosphere with time, but are not as good at detecting spatially what is going on because of the distance between each profiler site. However, profilers can be used to determine what is going on in the atmosphere. Hourly averaged wind observations as low as half a kilometer (1500 ft) above the surface are reported by each wind profiler. Wind profilers generally report observations at half kilometer intervals up to 16 kilometers above ground level. The reason data at lower altitudes can not be observed is because the instrument is still sending out signals when the return signal from the lower levels is returning back to the instrument. In fact, sometimes the half kilometer observations become contaminated with outgoing signals, and are therefore thrown out by quality control processes.



Wind profiler output reports wind speeds and direction to the nearest 5 knots in a graphical format. Wind direction is displayed by a wind barb, where the direction is indicated from the tail of the barb towards the head of the barb. On the tail, the wind speed is reported. A full tick mark is representative of 10 knots (11mph) of speed, while a half of a tick mark indicates five knots. Strong winds of fifty knots are indicated with a triangular flag. The total wind speed is represented by the sum of these symbols on each barb.

Certain generalizations can be made about the about the atmosphere when viewing the entire dataset. When the wind direction changes clockwise with height, this is a sign that warmer air is moving into the region. Conversely, transport of cold air is signified by a counter-clockwise change in direction with height.

The sparsely populated wind profiler network is primarily found in the middle portions of the continental US where severe weather is quite prominent. For a map of the various profiler locations along with current data from each site, please go to <http://www.rap.ucar.edu/upperair>. In addition to these observations in the Midwest, wind observations are made all across the country using an instrument called a rawinsonde. Rawinsondes are balloons that carry an instrument pack that not only can be used to measure wind throughout the atmosphere, but also measure temperature and moisture as well. From this data, much can be determined including stability of the atmosphere, inversion heights and depths, jet stream information etc. In the next several articles, we will explore rawinsondes and how to read the information gathered in a rawinsonde launch.

Profiling the Atmosphere Part 1

Every day, atmospheric balloons (often referred to as "soundings") are launched all over the world to help determine the state of the atmosphere and to provide forecast models with much needed data. For simplistic sake, you can think of these as large and expensive pibals. Worldwide, there are nearly 900 sites which sample the atmosphere regularly. A network of sites which launch balloons are scattered across the United States, separated by approximately 300 miles. In the continental US, 69 National Weather Service Offices launch these balloons a minimum of twice a day. A few offices in the Midwest that makes these launches include La Crosse WI, Davenport IA, Minneapolis MN, Omaha NE and Aberdeen, SD. Each balloon costs nearly 300.00 to launch, which is why there are specified locations which perform these launches.

Balloon launches across the United States are performed at as close to the same time as possible, to provide an accurate picture of the atmosphere at a specific across the United States. Each balloon is made out of a stretchy latex material, and is most generally filled with hydrogen. Initially, the balloon that is launched is nearly six feet in diameter, but by the time the balloon bursts, the atmospheric pressure around the balloon has reduced significantly so that the balloon has expanded to a size of approximately thirty feet in diameter.

During the balloons flight, three main types of weather observations are made directly by an instrument pack (called a "rawinsonde") carried by the balloon. These observations are then transmitted back to the launch site in nearly real time. Ten observations per minute are made of pressure, temperature and relative humidity. Wind information is also computed using a simple geometry. A satellite dish is used to track the radio signal from the rawinsonde, and using the position of the balloon, an accurate wind speed and direction can be computed.

Each balloon ascends at a rate of around 1000 feet per minute, and rises to a height around 100,000 feet before bursting. At this height, the balloon has traversed the entire depth of the troposphere, and has generally sailed into part of the mesosphere (where the temperature increases with height). When the balloon bursts, the rawinsonde falls back to the earth slowly with the help of a parachute. During a flight, radiosondes can drift more than 125 miles from the original launch site. A mailbag also accompanies the rawinsonde in case it is recovered after a flight. The rawinsonde may then be able to be sent in for reconditioning, and then used again on a future flight.

By now, you may be wondering what type of information can be obtained, especially at that kind of price tag. The rawinsonde may be the single most important meteorological tool available, and can be used for many purposes including aviation and for verification of satellite observations. For example, one of the most important pieces of information is a temperature profile of the entire troposphere (where most to all of the weather as we know it occurs). This allows for analysis of the atmosphere that helps determine the stability of the various layers and the depth and strength of an inversion to name just a few. Wind information (both speed and direction) can be helpful in determining the location of the jet stream and in determining storm motion prior to the storm formation. Moisture information for a large depth of the troposphere is also recorded, which along with the wind data and temperature data, can be helpful in determining the type of storms that would occur if they were to form.

In the next article, we will begin to learn how to read and interpret the data from a sounding.



Upcoming Events

- September 25, 2005** **Fly-In – Wild Rose Idlewild Airport –flight and tether in AM**
- September 30-
October 9, 2005** **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**
- October 28-30, 2005** **Lindstrand Galena Halloween Balloonfest**
- November 12, 2005** **Fall Dinner, Wyndom Garden Hotel Brookfield, WI**
- November 22, 2005** **Appleton Christmas Parade (to help contact Jeff Trzebiamowski)**

October 2005 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Sun Rise: 6:48am Sun Set: 6:34pm
2 Sun Rise: 6:50am Sun Set: 6:32pm	3 Sun Rise: 6:51am Sun Set: 6:31pm	4 Sun Rise: 6:52am Sun Set: 6:29pm	5 Sun Rise: 6:53am Sun Set: 6:27pm	6 Sun Rise: 6:54am Sun Set: 6:25pm	7 Sun Rise: 6:55am Sun Set: 6:24pm	8 Sun Rise: 6:56am Sun Set: 6:22pm
9 Sun Rise: 6:58am Sun Set: 6:20pm	10 Sun Rise: 6:59am Sun Set: 6:18pm	11 Sun Rise: 7:00am Sun Set: 6:17pm	12 Sun Rise: 7:01am Sun Set: 6:15pm	13 Sun Rise: 7:02am Sun Set: 6:13pm	14 Sun Rise: 7:04am Sun Set: 6:12pm	15 Sun Rise: 7:05am Sun Set: 6:10pm
16 Sun Rise: 7:06am Sun Set: 6:08pm	17 Sun Rise: 7:07am Sun Set: 6:07pm	18 Sun Rise: 7:08am Sun Set: 6:05pm	19 Sun Rise: 7:10am Sun Set: 6:03pm	20 Sun Rise: 7:11am Sun Set: 6:02pm	21 Sun Rise: 7:12am Sun Set: 6:00pm	22 Sun Rise: 7:13am Sun Set: 5:59pm
23 Sun Rise: 7:15am Sun Set: 5:57pm	24 Sun Rise: 7:16am Sun Set: 5:56pm	25 Sun Rise: 7:17am Sun Set: 5:54pm	26 Sun Rise: 7:18am Sun Set: 5:53pm	27 Sun Rise: 7:19am Sun Set: 5:51pm	28 Sun Rise: 7:21am Sun Set: 5:50pm	29 Sun Rise: 7:22am Sun Set: 5:48pm
30 Sun Rise: 6:23am Sun Set: 4:47pm	31 Sun Rise: 6:25am Sun Set: 4:46pm					

November 2005

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Sun Rise: 6:26am Sun Set: 4:44pm	2 Sun Rise: 6:27am Sun Set: 4:43pm	3 Sun Rise: 6:28am Sun Set: 4:42pm	4 Sun Rise: 6:30am Sun Set: 4:40pm	5 Sun Rise: 6:31am Sun Set: 4:39pm
6 Sun Rise: 6:32am Sun Set: 4:38pm	7 Sun Rise: 6:34am Sun Set: 4:37pm	8 Sun Rise: 6:35am Sun Set: 4:36pm	9 Sun Rise: 6:36am Sun Set: 4:35pm	10 Sun Rise: 6:37am Sun Set: 4:33pm	11 Sun Rise: 6:39am Sun Set: 4:32pm	12 Sun Rise: 6:40am Sun Set: 4:31pm
13 Sun Rise: 6:41am Sun Set: 4:30pm	14 Sun Rise: 6:42am Sun Set: 4:29pm	15 Sun Rise: 6:44am Sun Set: 4:28pm	16 Sun Rise: 6:45am Sun Set: 4:27pm	17 Sun Rise: 6:46am Sun Set: 4:26pm	18 Sun Rise: 6:48am Sun Set: 4:26pm	19 Sun Rise: 6:49am Sun Set: 4:25pm
20 Sun Rise: 6:50am Sun Set: 4:24pm	21 Sun Rise: 6:51am Sun Set: 4:23pm	22 Sun Rise: 6:53am Sun Set: 4:23pm	23 Sun Rise: 6:54am Sun Set: 4:22pm	24 Sun Rise: 6:55am Sun Set: 4:21pm	25 Sun Rise: 6:56am Sun Set: 4:21pm	26 Sun Rise: 6:57am Sun Set: 4:20pm
27 Sun Rise: 6:58am Sun Set: 4:20pm	28 Sun Rise: 7:00am Sun Set: 4:19pm	29 Sun Rise: 7:01am Sun Set: 4:19pm	30 Sun Rise: 7:02am Sun Set: 4:18pm			

Standard/Winter Time for entire month Courtesy of www.sunrisesunset.com

December 2005

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Sun Rise: 7:03am Sun Set: 4:18pm	2 Sun Rise: 7:04am Sun Set: 4:18pm	3 Sun Rise: 7:05am Sun Set: 4:17pm
4 Sun Rise: 7:06am Sun Set: 4:17pm	5 Sun Rise: 7:07am Sun Set: 4:17pm	6 Sun Rise: 7:08am Sun Set: 4:17pm	7 Sun Rise: 7:09am Sun Set: 4:16pm	8 Sun Rise: 7:10am Sun Set: 4:16pm	9 Sun Rise: 7:11am Sun Set: 4:16pm	10 Sun Rise: 7:12am Sun Set: 4:16pm
11 Sun Rise: 7:13am Sun Set: 4:16pm	12 Sun Rise: 7:14am Sun Set: 4:16pm	13 Sun Rise: 7:14am Sun Set: 4:17pm	14 Sun Rise: 7:15am Sun Set: 4:17pm	15 Sun Rise: 7:16am Sun Set: 4:17pm	16 Sun Rise: 7:17am Sun Set: 4:17pm	17 Sun Rise: 7:17am Sun Set: 4:18pm
18 Sun Rise: 7:18am Sun Set: 4:18pm	19 Sun Rise: 7:19am Sun Set: 4:18pm	20 Sun Rise: 7:19am Sun Set: 4:19pm	21 Sun Rise: 7:20am Sun Set: 4:19pm	22 Sun Rise: 7:20am Sun Set: 4:20pm	23 Sun Rise: 7:21am Sun Set: 4:20pm	24 Sun Rise: 7:21am Sun Set: 4:21pm
25 Sun Rise: 7:22am Sun Set: 4:21pm	26 Sun Rise: 7:22am Sun Set: 4:22pm	27 Sun Rise: 7:22am Sun Set: 4:23pm	28 Sun Rise: 7:22am Sun Set: 4:23pm	29 Sun Rise: 7:23am Sun Set: 4:24pm	30 Sun Rise: 7:23am Sun Set: 4:25pm	31 Sun Rise: 7:23am Sun Set: 4:26pm

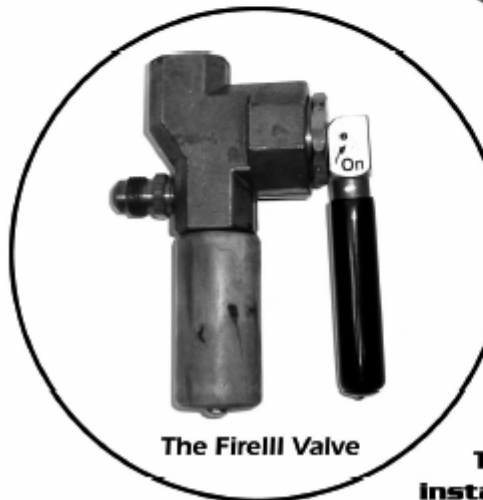
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The Improved Fire III Valve
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Wisconsin Balloon Group

We're on the Web!

www.wisballoongroup.homestead.com

The Ventline

April 2005

The Ventline is the official newsletter of the Wisconsin Balloon Group.

The Ventline welcomes the sharing of its contents when permission to re-print is sought and WBG authorship is acknowledged.

The deadline for the next issue of *The Ventline* is November 1, 2005.

WBG MAILING LIST POLICY

By policy, the Wisconsin Balloon Group will not publish the names and addresses of its members. If an officer of another established balloon group requests the WBG's mailing list for safety seminar use, mailing labels will be provided. However, any other persons requesting mailing lists will be encouraged to place their information in *The Ventline*.

