

# The Crownlines

THE NEWS LETTER OF THE NATIONAL  
CAPITAL BALLOON CLUB  
*Volume 10, Issue 2*

## **Tether Spot!**

Congratulations to Joseph and Madeleine Lussier for their 39th wedding anniversary on June 10, 2000!

The Pacific Asia Travel Assoc. Dragon Boat Team 2000 finished an outstanding 46<sup>th</sup> out of 150 teams on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The team consisted of many NCBC members: Alexis, Leslie & Dave, Debbie Wright, Steph & Todd, Dave Johns, Angela, Estelle, and Wendy! Congratulations Singapore slings and thanks to Gary and Laurie who came out to cheer us on!

Ken Rolland and Christine Lamonde had baby Xavier, on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. Congrats!

Diane Casault just got her pilot's license. Look out for flying champagne Diane and we promise not to get that nice Albuquerque jacket wet!

OCTOBER 2000

## **Canadian Balloon Championships Competition Results. Congratulations!**

- 1) Denis Unsworth
- 2) Stan Wereschuk
- 3) Bill Whelan
- 4) Mary Anne Stevens
- 7) Sandra Shannon

## **NCBC Seminar Series Continued**

March 3rd @ 2:00 P.M.

### ***Weather Information for Ballooning!***

NCBC member Mr. John Davidson will be hosting a seminar on behalf of the club. "Weather Decision Making for Balloon Flights" Mr. Davidson will present the weather tools available to balloonists. All interested members are welcome!

CNCN

## Oldsmobile Balloon Classic Illinois

You want to go where? Danville!

Danville, Illinois

So like where is that? It's easy go to Chicago turn left, 2hrs south. So Stan calls and says we are going to fly gas in Danville. A brand new competition, at the Oldsmobile Balloon Classic, in Illinois. It was voted the number 1 balloon event in North America by the Balloon Life Magazine and we were to find out why. By now every balloonist knows that May and June was a wash. In Danville for three consecutive years was to be the same.

Diane Casault, Bud Throop and myself took the 18-hour drive to Danville and were scheduled to fly on Thursday night at the Yacht Club. Yes, there is a lake in the middle of Illinois. Sixteen balloons were to fly at the target in the middle of the lake. All the U.S. National and Female Champions were there as well as the only Canudk. That is when the hospitality began. It was free food and free booze once the flight was called off and Friday a.m. was a no flight morning. We thought we take the extra rest just in case.

Friday morning found us preparing our gas balloon for our launch on Friday night. Before coming down to Danville, we told Uncle Stan that the winds would be out of the south, southwest. And as promised they would hold true to form. The Lakes sure look ominous. Friday

p.m. was pilot check-in and pilot briefing.

ATTENTION TC OFFICIALS, this was real simple: sign to say that your documents are in order and show proof of insurance with subject to a spot check.

Pilot briefing was simple and straight to the point. We were informed not to land in cornfields but to pick any bean fields or land close to a road. If any damage to the official landowner committee took care of the crop restitution. After 14 years of existence, the festival has no PZ to report in Danville. As preparation for the gas flight took place Friday evening, sandbags were filled and the basket was ready. It was the usual hurry up and wait. Wait for Mother Nature to Cooperate. Oh well at least our entry fee is paid for next year.

Launch facilities at Danville takes place at an active airport where amusement rides, free games for kids, lots of adult activities, lots of music/concert and for pilots and crews the hospitality tent could not be beaten. We are not talking about the usual choke and puke type food (hot dog and hamburgers) but according to Bud it was gastric orgy with food abundance. Even Stan had many, many, many helpings (Stan you got to "lighten up" for the gas flight). The food was prepared and sponsored by a local hospital for many years. This was really, really, really great food. Now as far as shopping goes Diane fell in love with a guy named Hobby Lobby. You should see his merchandise. Once

we introduced her to the big Hobby we couldn't get her away. She already has a date for next year.

So the whole weekend was eat, rest, shop and listen to the tchoo tchoo all night long. Oh by the way the temperature was in the 90's and the air conditioner sounded like my old diesel truck or worst.

And then it was a quick 18-hour drive home. Youppppppieeeeeee. Whew.

Wild Bill

## Patriotic All Sew

In April 1999, after a long search and wait, my lightweight fabric for my home built arrived. I had decided to built a 42,000 square feet balloon to fit ovetop of my two seater chair. David Johns, Gilles Tremblay, Diane Casault and myself started cutting the fabric. It took us a day and a half to cut 144 pieces of fabric. From the colored pattern sheet, each panei cut was placed into a bag containing all the panels for each gores. The rest of 1999 was to give me time to locate and purchase the load tapes, wires and all other necessary equipment to assemble the balloon.

At Turkeylude 1999 in Sussex N. B. plans were made to meet at Brian Carleton here on the East Coast, as he had already built 3 balloons before we were to assemble this one.

The first week of January, we loaded up the truck and drove to the East Coast with Gilles, Ron Eades, Diane and

myself. We arrive at Brian's at 2:30 PM to find Jim Rogers, Deborah Bockus and Derald Young anxiously waiting for us. By 3 o'clock we had our first panel sewn together. We worked until eight o'clock that night. The next morning we were up at it early and our numbers were to increase again. George and Darleen Poulin and Dena and Vaughn York joined us. We were now 12!! The guys were in charge of the pinning and the girls were in charge of the sewing and showing the guys how to operate the sewing machines. Brian told me not to worry as the local pizzeria had extra staff on to supply our stomach needs.



We worked a total of 12 hours on Saturday and on Sunday we worked form seven till one. We had completed the assembly of all 12 gores and assemble 10 of the gores together. The two remaining gores were to be where our turning vents would go much later. The old saying 20/80 came into effect where it took us 20% of the time to built 80% of the balloon and for the last 20% left of work to be done it took us 80%.

We returned home Sunday night not truly believing how much we had accomplished. We were to find out, as



we were completing the assembly of the balloon that the interest of home built balloons in Canada was starting to rise.

For the final assembly of the balloon at home, Gilles, Diane and myself were joined by Gary Moreau, Laurie Mannion, Frank Bellatoni, Gino Caruso (I'm not sure how it is spelled) Sandra Shannon, Dave Johns, Nicole Rochon, Tina Daniels and little Dany.

We waited for weather to cooperate to do the real test, the inflation. Finally in late April it happened. How exciting that was, to see the results of everyone's hard labor.

A very special thanks goes out to our sewing machine maintenance expert, overall cleaner and liner Gary Moreau and a real special thanks to our seamstress mistress Diane Casault who without her I would still be seating in the basement saying the &?%?%& is going on now.

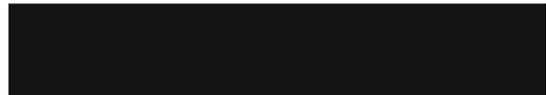
Oh and by the way, the last person I really need to thank is the guy that always encourage me to do whatever I need to do and was always there to give me a hand and was always amaze that I was sewing. And the best thing of all was when he asked me to sew his pyjama back together. Thanks Dad for all the help.

Wild Bill

## **Hey Sport Balloonists!**

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The NCBC has purchased a launch agreement from the N.C.C. You may purchase a copy of this agreement from the Club for \$20.00. This enables sport balloonists to have launching privileges for both Lebreton Flats and Jacques Cartier Park until May 2001.



**For the Avid Balloonist or those just with their heads in the clouds; a website designed with you in mind!**

<http://www.pnr-rpn.ec.gc.ca/english/WEATHER/cloudchart/cloudguide.html> (web site for clouds)

## **To Reminisce:**

A picture web site.... From an NCBC Member! Should you want to reminisce about Cornwall (even some shots of Gatineau & St. Jean)....

Please indulge in my photos I have posted at the following address...

<http://www.picturetrail.com/liftoff>>

Have great flights!

And may the winds be kind...

Carole Parisien

Volunteer Director, Cornwall Lift-Off

1994-99



Most balloonists in the Ottawa area are familiar with the recent issues on balloon repairs. In most cases, Skyview's position is firmly against the use of materials and parts in balloons, which are not recommended by the manufacturer. There are those who strongly disagree with our position, and who feel that the manufacturers have unfairly priced their products. It is my feeling that few operators have maintained the consistency of quality and good service, which has been provided by a number of competing manufacturers. That competition ensures appropriate pricing. Skyview is well positioned to take advantage of the cost savings presented by the new forms of repair - but chooses not to. It is my belief that some of the alternatives being presented today may have an effect on the safety of our industry. Instead, we are relocating in order to expand our ability to perform quality repairs on Cameron Balloons with Cameron parts. We believe our new facilities will allow Cameron

balloon owners in Ottawa an important service and cost advantage and invite you to give us a call for a personal tour of our new home. John Davidson

## **AGM Highlights**

We are happy to report that as of January 23, 2001, we have a bank balance in excess of \$6000.00. Thanks to everyone who participates in fund raising and events to keep the club active and growing.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Pilot and Crew Soiree during Gatineau was a great success. Over the course of the evening we welcomed over 160 people. Feedback from participants was good and plans for next year will include a BBQ so that everyone can have a bite to eat, after the flight while socializing with friends.

The Regional Contact Filming for the Club was another successful event. Thank you to Debbie Wright for her great idea and coordination with CJOH. We had an excellent day for flying and an awesome turnout. I think that almost everyone was able to obtain a moment of fame.

The end of season flyday had an amazing turnout. We didn't have the opportunity to fly but the costumes were a hoot! Cathy surprised us with the best costume of the evening.

As always, we are looking for more people to help organize events and bring new ideas to the club. Anyone having a new idea or just some energy please contact any board member. We

will be happy to have you join the team of dedicated balloonists who devote their time to promote ballooning and the club on behalf of the members of the NCBC.

### **The Great Pumpkin Caper ... Is no more!**



After two seasons of NCBC co-sponsorship of The Christmas Exchange of Ottawa-Carleton's Great Pumpkin Caper, The Christmas Exchange has decided to not have a Caper this year, and probably not for years to come. Although it was a wonderfully exciting and high profile event, the Board of Directors of the Exchange decided that there was insufficient financial gain with too much risk should it be weathered out, to make it worthwhile continuing at this time. The volunteers for The Christmas Exchange were also spread too thin, just at the busiest time of their charitable fund raising season. The Exchange thanks the NCBC and volunteer pilots and crew for their past years' contributions.

Remember... you can't keep a pumpkin down, especially the Great Pumpkin. Maybe the Caper will rise again in some future year. I'll be staying in touch with The Christmas Exchange, and looking for additional opportunities for our Club to make a difference!

Les Welsh

#### **Words From the President!**

Well, the Crownlines are really late and it is my fault. Todd finished the Crownlines before Gatineau, but because all of the recent excitements in my life, it has taken me forever to get them off the computer and over to the printer. The good news is that my computer is finally fixed and upgraded so that we can use it again and I could finally print the Crownlines issue.

So here it is! I hope you like it. It will be Todd's final edition. I am happy to report that Les Welsh has volunteered to once again produce our club newsletter. A big thank you to Todd for his two editions and a welcomed thank you Les for volunteering. We look forward to the future Crownline issues!

#### **Advertising & Article Submission**

For advertising information or to submit an article to the Crownlines, please forward to: NCBC

## Regional Contact Filming



### **“Beam me up Stephie”**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Regional Contact Filming for the NCBC. Here is King’s captured moment of fame. King is seen here; talking to himself, as of course the two-ways weren’t working. Don’t let on in front of the camera, King! Way to fool the camera ,.....You’re a natural. Anyone surprised?

### **Aviation Medical News from Transport Canada.**

If you are over forty and you were current on July 15<sup>th</sup> then you have been extended for another year. If you are under forty then you have been extended from 2 years to five.

## Crew Needed

King Glover is looking for some back-up crew people. Anyone interested please contact Kingsley [REDACTED] e-mail at [REDACTED]

King’s new motto is:  
*“Crew for four and you will soar –  
If you crew for eight then bring a date”*

## Winterlude Update

**Check your e-mail or your mailbox for information for Winterlude**

**King tells us that Winterlude will be happening on all three weekends with tethers and launches from the ice. Please participate by bringing your balloon, your hel[ping hands as crew or simply to socialize with old and new friends.**

**Please call the NCBC Hotline @ [REDACTED] for Winterlude activity information.**

**The annual general meeting took place on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We had a good turnout and would like to welcome the new board.**

**Stephanie Glover – President  
Leslie Manion – Vice President  
Diane Casault – Secretary  
King Glover – Treasurer  
Dave Johns – Director  
Bill Whelan – Director  
Debbie Wright – Director  
Tina Daniels – Director  
Alexis Hum - Director  
Paul Porter - Director**