



# The Windbag

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Winners of our Landowner Drawing

*winners will receive  
BAGI T-shirts*



**Chuck & Debbie Spencer**  
Bloomington, Illinois  
*Pilot - Walt Rudy*

—  
**Harold E. Miner**  
Watseka, Illinois  
*Pilot - Jan Sickbert*

—  
**Lloyd Morts**  
Rossville, Illinois  
*Pilot - Gary Moore*

—  
**Lloyd & Nancy Pauley**  
Portsmouth, Iowa  
*Pilot - Jan Sickbert*

—  
**Robert H. Brown**  
Decatur, Illinois  
*Pilot - Jim Ireland*

—  
**Lukow Bros.**  
Chebanse, Illinois  
*Pilot - Harry Hinrich*

## Landowner Relations

*by Jason Harlow*

As the weather turns nice and we once again start flying our beloved aircraft, we must begin thinking about landowners, especially farmers.

While I was crewing for my instructor last summer, we drove down a path we thought would take us to where we could get the balloon packed up. When we reached the end we found it to be a dead-end with a tall fence separating us from the balloon. When we turned around and headed back to the main road, a pick-up truck was coming toward us. We thought nothing of it and continued on. As we again tried to get to the balloon, the same truck motioned for us to stop. The driver, an older woman, told us that we could not get the balloon because there were no through-roads nearby. She began telling us, rather angrily, how we should keep the balloon in the city and not come out into the country.

We shrugged it off and went on our way. When we finally reached the balloon, and began packing it away, another truck pulled up beside us and asked if we had destroyed any crops. We explained that we hadn't. The farmer, a very nice man, told us that his mother, the woman who had stopped us earlier, thought we had landed in their field and destroyed it. He apologized and left.

We've all probably run into a similar situation with landowners who might think of our balloons as machines that do nothing but fly and destroy crops. We know, of course, that's not true. We try to do all we can to avoid landing in or harming crops.

It is important that we as balloonists try to present a positive image to landowners who may not be happy when we land on their property.

Here are some suggestions:

- ① Be **considerate & friendly** when chasing the balloon. Wave at the person driving the tractor. You never know, the person you waved at last week could pull your chase vehicle out of the mud this week.
- ② Carry a gift, such as good champagne, pins, pictures, patches, or maybe a hat or T-shirt.
- ③ Try to think of some suggestions and share them with your crew. The future of this great sport depends on you!