



# WHIRLED PEAS

ACOUSTICAL MUSICIANS

Whirled Peas is a group of musicians that come together on a regular basis to share our love of blues, bluegrass and folk music.

Our musical journey includes rock, oldies and show tunes based on the audience's support and enthusiasm.

The core of our group focuses on guitar, harmonica, banjo and more. We often are complemented by an array of talented **guest** musicians.

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## HOT AIR HOAX AND HISTORY OF HOT AIR

In recalling some news events that occurred in 2009, one of the most bizarre is that of the "Balloon Boy." Remember, the family that shilled their son to assist them in getting PR for a reality show?

But, without the balloon there would be no "Balloon Boy." This week's **HONORARY PEA(S)** are the Montgolfier Brother, inventors of the *globe aérostatique*, the hot air balloon.

Born to a family of paper manufacturers in France, the brothers, Joseph-Michel and Jacques Étienne, were the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of 16 children, respectively. While Joseph was the dreamer, Étienne had a business-like demeanor, hence, he was sent to Paris to study architecture.



*Joseph Michel Montgolfier*

Upon the sudden death of the eldest brother, Raymond, who ran the family business, Étienne was recalled to succeed him. In the following 10 years and with his proclivity to use new

technologies, Étienne and the Montgolfier factory was recognized by the French government as a model for all other French papermakers.



While Étienne was taking care of business, Joseph, always the, dare I say, air head, was contemplating the great military issue of the day – an assault on the fortress of Gibraltar. These musings were inspired while observing laundry drying over a fire

causing the laundry to form pockets that billowed upwards. A *eureka* moment – an air assault using troops lifted by smoke, which contained a special gas, which he called "Montgolfier Gas," which had a special property called "levity."

Joseph started his experiment by building a box-like chamber (3'x3'x4') out of thin wood covered with lightweight taffeta. He crumbled paper under the box, lit it and voilá the box collided with the ceiling.

So excited by this event, Joseph wrote Étienne these prophetic words: "Get in a supply of taffeta and of cordage, quickly, and you will see one of the most astonishing sights in the world."

The 2 brothers collaborated in building their "contraption" 3 times larger in scale. On their first test flight **DECEMBER 14, 1782**, the balloon floated about 1.2 miles. It was destroyed after landing by the "indiscretion" of passersby.

Étienne had faith in his inventor brother and with his business-like sense decided that they should make a public demonstration of the balloon in order to establish their claim to the invention. They constructed a globe-shaped



balloon of sack cloth with 3 thin layers of paper inside. The four piece construction was the dome, and 3 lateral bands and was held together by 1,800 buttons. A reinforcing “fish net” of cord covered the outside of the

envelope.

Dignitaries were invited to the demonstration flight which covered 1.2 miles lasting 10 minutes and had an estimated altitude of 5,200-6,600 feet.

The news of this success reach Paris and Étienne went there to solidify his brother invention. Étienne was chosen because of his sober demeanor where as Joseph was unkempt and shy.

While in Paris, Étienne collaborated with wallpaper manufacturer, Jean-Baptiste Réveillon in constructing a 37,500-cubic-foot envelope of taffeta coated with a varnish of alum (a substance containing fireproofing properties). Its grand appearance, sky blue, decorated with golden flourishes, signs of the zodiac and suns, was attributable to Réveillon.



Questions arose about the effects of flight into the upper atmosphere on living creatures. The king, Louis XVI, proposed they send 2 convicts on this voyage. Étienne and Réveillon opted for a rooster, a duck and a sheep, called Montauciel (Climb-to-the-sky).



Hand written notes of the invention

The balloon was launched from the royal palace at Versailles before a huge crowd including the King and Marie Antoinette. The flight lasted 8 minutes, covered 2 miles, obtained an altitude of 1,500 feet and landed safely.

This success gave impetus to the construction of a 75’ tall, 46’ in diameter craft built for the purpose of making flights with humans. Pilatre de Rozier, a 26 year old physician, volunteered his services. The balloon was tested in a tethered flight with Rozier. Rozier, along with André Giroud de Villette, a wallpaper manufacturer from Madrid, repeated the experiment before a group of scientists and reached 324’ within 15 seconds.

On November 21, 1783, the first free flight by humans was made by Pilatre, together with army officers and the marquis d’Arlandes. They flew aloft 3,000 feet above Paris for a distance of 9 kilometers. They landed after 25 minutes, still having enough fuel to allow the balloon to travel 4 or 5 times as far but, the flight was aborted early because the burning embers were scorching the balloon’s fabric and Pilatre deferred to landing early.

From the fiery musings of Joseph combined with the good business sense of Étienne,

ballooning flights made a sensation – perhaps – the “Balloon Boy’s” family knew of the Montgolfier’s.



### BALLOON

First to answer all correctly and submitting the answers to Shirley wins a FREE beer or wine.

1. Who had King Louis XVI intended to be pilots of the first hot air balloon ride?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who sang the song, *Up, Up and Away in My Beautiful Balloon*.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the name of the balloon 3 American pilots flew to become the first ever to cross the Atlantic in 1978?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which gas is used in most modern hot gas balloons?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The “gottcha” moment that revealed the “Balloon Boy’s” parents staged the event occurred on what show?  
\_\_\_\_\_

BONUS...Who was the interviewer?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### HARRY CHAPIN ANSWERS

Taxi takes place in **San Francisco**, the driver wanted to **fly** and the fare’s name was **Sue**.  
The son was **10** in the song, *Cat’s in the Cradle*.  
Harry directed the documentary **Legendary Champions**.

December 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### WHEN AND WHERE

The *Whirled Peas* perform at the (BSG) Bourbon Street Grille. The highlighted dates listed above indicate when; they start about 7:30 and play until 10.

BSG, formerly the Coachhouse, is located at 2605 Philadelphia Pike in Claymont. If you go **north** on Philadelphia Pike, it’s on the left just before the Wawa at Harvey Road. If you are coming **east** on Harvey Road, turn right when you get to Philadelphia Pike. Go past the Wawa and BSG is on the right. There is no problem with parking.

### PEAS PONDERERINGS...

We now know a method of mounting into the air, and I think we are not likely to know more. The vehicles can serve no use till we can guide them; and they can gratify no curiosity till we mount with them to greater heights than we can reach without; till we rise above the tops of the highest mountains, which we have yet not done. We know the state of air in all its regions, to the top of Teneriffe, and, therefore, learn nothing from those who navigate a balloon below the clouds. The first experiment, however, was bold, and deserves applause and reward. But since it has been performed, and its event is known, I had rather now find a medicine that can ease asthma.

**Dr. Samuel Johnson, October 6, 1784**

I have known today a magnificent intoxication. I have learnt how it feels to be a bird. I have flown.

Yes I have flown. I am still astonished at it, still deeply moved.

**Le Figaro, 1908**

The balloon seems to stand still in the air while the earth flies past underneath.

**Alberto Santos-Dumont**