



industries, inc.

Service Bulletin #110

13 April

TO: Owners of Raven balloons with Electric Blast Systems having instrument console. (List attached)

It has come to our attention through factory tests that a potential nuisance type problem could develop on Raven Hot Air Balloon systems which are equipped with optional electric blast valves. This problem applies only to the dashboard-console type system. The problem is described as follows:

When the detachable jack plug for the electric blast pushbutton cord is plugged into the instrument panel, one conductor of the jack becomes common to the instrument panel due to the grounded-chassis design of the jack plug. It is then possible for the instrument panel latch, when engaged, to bring the panel chassis into contact with the grounded side of the system battery at the burner via the gondola framework and burner frame. If this condition occurs, and the blast pushbutton is then depressed, the result will be a short circuit across the system battery via the gondola framework. Since this is a relatively high resistance path and it is in parallel with the electric blast valve solenoid, the result is likely to be sluggish or intermittent operation of the electric blast valve, and/or intermittent operation of the protective circuit breaker.

We emphasize that this problem has not occurred on any system in the field. However, factory tests show that it could occur if conditions were right (insulating anodized coating must be worn off of Gondola framework at strategic points). We further emphasize that due to the remaining dual redundancy of manual blast and metering valves, no flight hazard is presented by this possibility. However, since it represents a potential nuisance, we wish to advise all owners of the situation.

Corrective action is optional at the discretion of the owners. If corrective action is desired, an insulated version of the jack plug can be sent to you. To install, remove the jack plug from the instrument panel and drill the panel hole to 0.5 inch diameter. Install insulating bushing and jack plug from the back side of the panel, position faceplate, and secure with nut. Use a drop of Lock-tite or equivalent on the threads to prevent loosening due to vibration. Resolder leads onto jack plug.

N84BC S55A-387  
Sold to: Brownell Combs II  
9920 Collins Ave., Apt. 20  
Bal Harbour, Miami Beach, FL 33139

N2732R S55A-425  
Sold to: Southwestern Balloon Adventures  
6905 Hensch, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Attn: Doug March

N3220R S55A-441  
Phil and Jackie Werner  
6105 East Sage  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

N913JR S55A-477  
Sold to: Jay and/or Rhonda Sutherland  
3814 Lariat Place  
Fullerton, California 92635

Gondola # CW-233 Burner # HPD-297  
Sold to: Sid Cutter  
World Balloons  
P. O. Box 274  
Albuquerque, NM 87103