

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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Chrissy George, Editor-in-Chief

Proposed Changes to the Montreal Protocol

On March 14, 2007, the United States Department of State submitted its suggestions for changes to the Montreal Protocol to aid in the phase out of ozone depleting substances for a quicker healing of the ozone layer. These were made in conjunction with the celebration of the Protocol's 20th anniversary.

The four major suggestions the U.S. made were:

1. Accelerate the phase-out date of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 10 yrs for developed and developing countries.
2. Adding interm reduction steps
3. Setting an earlier baselin for developing countries
4. Phasing out the most damaging HCFCs to the ozone layer as first priority.

While huge steps have been made in reducing emissions thus far (in 2005, the U.S. reduced emissions by 1,500 million CO2-equivalent metric tons), based on analysis and technological advancements, the U.S. believes a faster phase out can be achieved, thus reducing the human health risks of excess UV radiation and depletion of natueral resources.

The Air Up There: Close but no Cigar

by John Demeter

Chrissy's Corner Notes from the Editor-in-Chief



I'm going to take this opportunity again to apologize to anyone who received multiple copies of last month's Halon Herald (or, no copies at all). We had problems with our server this past month, and it was either feast or famine. I can't tell you how confused (then, nervous) I was to have gotten so many newsletters in MY inbox!

Please know that everyone here at Wesco regrets any inconvenience this may have caused you.

With that being said, onto happier news! We have decided to add more "human interest" stories in The Halon Herald - sometimes you need a break from industry news (however exciting it may be) and read about recipes, movies, etc. It was a different - enjoyable, but different - experience for me to write about the "fun" stuff, like closet organization (which I did to my own closet this past weekend), or try out the recipe we showcase this month (it's very tasty). It has been so long since I've written about human interest stories - and I love them!

We're proud to introduce a new regular column, "The Air Up There", by John Demeter. Agree with him? Disagree? That means you need to email the HH and let us know! Every month we will print responses to his column, anonymously (if you wish).

I hope you enjoy all the changes we have made to The Halon Herald - if you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact us - we'd be happy to hear from you!

Our Readers Speak:

Who's Who in FSSA

It was brought to our attention that in last month's HH we did not give as comprehensive a list of the major players in



When people ask us what we do for a living (and we sense that they want the short version rather than the long) we simply say that we are in the environmental business. That always seemed to us to be the easiest way to describe the essence, or at least the end result, of what we do. If we've piqued their interest and they ask us to describe our business further, we usually start by pointing up and asking if they've heard of the hole in the ozone layer. The answer is always "yes" (a tribute to the twenty years of publicity given the subject). We then proceed to talk about halon 1301, halon 1211, halon 2402, clean agents, fire suppression systems, valves, recycling, sampling, testing, the EPA, import regulations, etc, etc, etc.

Often by now their eyes are either glazed over or darting around the room looking for someone else to talk to, figuring that this subject is either way above their head (which of course it is not - only literally) or way too boring (again, not so). Our favorite parting line was, "well, I guess someone has to do it?"

We believe that all work has value, but we are especially proud that our chosen field results in contributing to a healthier environment. That's why it is troubling when actions taken (or actions avoided), often in the name of environmental protection, result in the exact opposite!

Elsewhere on these pages we report on a set of recommendations by the U.S. State Department to the Montreal Protocol that would speed the elimination of ozone depleting substances. This action, coming in the Platinum Anniversary (that would be the 20th for those of you who don't have a crackerjack Editor-in-Chief to look up things like this). We don't doubt that this is a good idea. Expediting the elimination of HCFCs seems on the surface to be a good idea. Nevertheless, when we look at the actions that could have been taken to make the Montreal Protocol even friendlier to the ozone layer, we can't help but think of the missed opportunities.

For example, the 2006 Report of the Halon Technical Options Committee (view it [here](#)) identifies "regional imbalances" (of halons) as a growing concern. These "regional imbalances" (too much halon where it is not needed and not enough halon where it is needed), if not dealt with, pose an environmental risk. Experience has shown us that unless halons maintain a value (as in \$\$), kept in the stream of commerce and handled responsibly by recyclers and end users, the result is, at best, dangerous high-pressure cylinders rusting and, at worst, a continuing damage to the ozone layer through escaping gas.

We ought to be thankful that HTOC did see fit to identify "regional imbalances" as a concern. Perhaps some MOP

FSSA that we had hoped.

Jim Kidd wrote to us last month and pointed this out:

"As a charter Member of the FSSA I appreciate the press space that John has been giving the association. We always need new members.

However, the list of major players has a lot of errors in it.

Walter Morgan was the president of the NFPA. Bob Roos (Previously at original Fyr-Fyter Co.) was our first Technical Director, but he was with the Navy when we started the association. We didn't hire him for a few years after the start of the organization. There are many missing! Just a note...keep publishing, you are doing all a great service!!"

We always appreciate feedback about our articles, and a thank you to Jim Kidd for bringing this to our attention! If we left out any names in the FSSA article last month, I apologize.

Thanks again, Jim, for your feedback - we love hearing from our readers!

The Boeing 777 Revolutionizes Travel!

The world's longest range jetliner, the Boeing 777 Worldliner, provides travelers comfort and traveling in the lap of luxury. We can say from personal experience that, when the jet was ready to land we begged the flight attendant to have the plane circle around Newark - just to enjoy the flight for a little bit longer! The jetliner has been in service for a full year now, and is changing traveling for the better.

Pakistan International Airlines was the first airline to put the jet into its normal rotation. Since then, Air Canada, Air India, and Emirates have put orders in for the 777 to add to their expansive flight lines.

The 777 Worldliner is able to fly more nonstop routes (up to 9,450 nautical miles), carry 301 passengers, and connect cities virtually anywhere, without stopping. In addition, the 777 also proved itself with a 99.7% reliability rate. Its engine, the GE90-110B1L, is a revision of the world's most powerful engine, boasting fuel efficiency, outstanding reliability, and low cost.

To date, 48 customers have placed order for over 900 of the 777 planes from Boeing. We can't wait to fly the friendly skies on a 777 again!

For more information, please click [here](#).

World's Newest Largest Jetliner Lands: Protected by Halon 1301

Chicago's O'Hare airport welcomed the world's largest jetliner, the Airbus A380, on Tuesday, March 20, 2007.

The previous day, the A380 completed it's initial flight to the US, landing at New York's JFK airport, before continuing on to O'Hare, as fascinated workers and spectators looked on. The 200-foot wide runway accomodated the 239-foot long

Upcoming Events

April 2007

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					

- 1st - April Fool's Day
- 5th - 6th - NAFED's 2nd Regional Conference - Atlantic City, NJ (www.nafed.org)
- 8th - Easter Sunday
- 22nd - Earth Day

Upcoming Events

May 2007

		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		

- 11th - 12th - NAFED 3rd Regional Conference -

Indianapolis, IN (www.nafed.org)

13th - Mother's Day

19th - Armed Forces Day

28th - Memorial Day

Upcoming Events

June 2007

					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

3rd - 7th - NFPA World Safety Conference - Boston, MA (www.nfpa.org)

14th - Flag Day

17th - Father's Day

21st - Summer Solstice

(Member of the Party to the Montreal Protocol) will notice this and do something about it.

Now THAT would do something about the air up there!

Operation: Closet Organization

Springtime is right around the corner, and now is the perfect opportunity to do some spring cleaning in the way of revamping and organizing your closet! This is quite the task to undertake, so The Halon Herald is here with some tired and true methods for organizing your closet space to its maximum potential!

1. Parting is such sweet (and clean) sorrow.

There are a bunch of things you don't wear in that closet. I don't even KNOW you, but I know you haven't worn those pants since 1984, and that shirt still has the tags on it. Go through your closet and take EVERYTHING out. Anything that you haven't worn or used in the past year gets ditched or donated to charity.

2. Divide and Conquer What do you have left? Divide it into piles - spring pants, winter sweaters, button-down shirts, shoes, misc, etc. Divide it as accurately as possible.

3. Get Your Tool Time On. Now you have a completely empty closet. Take a look at how you can organize it. How many piles do you have? Can you put an extra bar in (see [Linens and Things](#) for an example). What about a shelving system (once again, [Linens and Things](#) has a good, inexpensive version). Depending on your tool expertise, there are easy and simple, to complicated and time consuming systems to put together in your closet. Look for decorative boxes or bins to store smaller things in. Perhaps a shoe rack, or cloth lined bins for socks. There are lots of creative ways to hide "piles" from the human eye.

4. A Place for Everything... Now it's time to put everything into those shelves, baskets, bins, and boxes you so trendily purchased for your closet. If you have a deep closet or high ceilings, maximize that space as much as you can. Put things not normally used (luggage) on higher, out of reach shelves, and the things you take everyday (jeans, slacks) near the front, easily accesible. Ahhh.

5. Relax. The tough part is over. Put your feet up, have some lemonade, and bask in the glow of your clean, organizing closet.

I'm not going to say these solutions work for everyone or every closet, but they are basic guidelines to help you tackle your closet. You could apply these to pantries, utility closets, etc. - remember, for as many closets/shelves/storage units you have in your home, there are ten times as many decorative baskets and boxes to hold everything! Good luck on your organizational project!

- Take it ALL out
- Ditch what you haven't used in 12 months
- Separate and organize into sections
- Boxes, baskets, shelves, bins
- Drink a margarita

jet, sparking controversy in Chicago about expanding current O'Hare ramps to accomodate such planes in the future.

The jet is protected by halon 1301 in several compartments - specifically, the cargo bay, the engine nacelles, and the auxiliary power unit.

Fore the full article, please click [here](#)

Recipe of the Month!

I am proud to say I tried this one myself - and it is quite tasty if you are a buffalo wing fan, such as myself! These babies moved fast from the serving plate! These are great for appetizers, or pair 2 potato halves with a salad for dinner. Yummy!

This recipe was taken from The Rachael Ray Show - full text of the recipe and its originating site can be seen [here](#)

Blue-Cheese Stuffed Potatoes with Buffalo Chicken Tenders

Ingredients:

4 baking potatoes
 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil (EVOO), plus some for drizzling
 Salt and freshly ground pepper
 1/4 to 1/2 cup milk
 1/2 cup blue cheese crumbles
 5 scallions, white and green parts, chopped
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 2 pounds chicken tenders, cut into bite-size pieces
 3 large cloves garlic, chopped
 1/4 to 1/2 cup hot sauce or Buffalo sauce
 4 tablespoons butter
 Carrot and celery sticks
 Sour cream to garnish, optional

Preheat oven 400°F.

Place potatoes on a baking sheet and drizzle with some EVOO. Prick them with fork, sprinkle with some salt and bake in oven for 40 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked through and tender.

Remove tender potatoes from oven, allow to cool for 15-20 minutes, cut in half lengthwise and carefully scoop out the flesh from each half, preserving the integrity of the skin halves and leaving about a 1/2 inch thick layer of potato around. Place the potato flesh in a bowl and mash with the milk, adding just a little at a time. Add in the blue cheese and scallions and season with salt and pepper. With a potato masher, mash them to combine everything but avoid mashing up the cheese too much. Divide the potato/cheese mixture evenly among the potato skins and return them to the oven to melt the cheese and crisp up the top, about 10 minutes.

While the potatoes are back in the oven, preheat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat with three turns around the pan of EVOO, about 3 tablespoons. Add the chicken, salt, pepper and garlic, and cook, stirring every now and then for 5-6 minutes (depending on your chicken thickness) or until cooked through. Remove from the heat and add the hot sauce and butter to the skillet. Toss to coat the chicken and melt the butter.

To serve, place 2 potatoes on each serving plate and top

Fantasy Baseball



Fantasy sports are a growing phenomenon that many sports fans participate in each year for a variety of sports – one of the most popular being fantasy baseball (football probably surpassed baseball since its easier to follow a 16 week league that plays once a week). Opening Day of baseball season is looming ahead, and fantasy leagues are filling up fast!

The majority of fantasy baseball leagues focus on statistics - each person involved in the league manages their own team of players, taken from all current players on any team across the MLB. Performance in the league is measured by each player's performance in real life games - batting, pitching, errors, etc., in each game every day. Type of statistics and their points scoring depend on the league's set up - they can be altered and changed by the league participants. Teams in the league can play head to head each week, with the results being tallied per week and the team with the higher score "wins" the game. Other leagues just measure the statistics per player per team and tallies them at the end of the league (this method is called "Rotisserie Baseball". This is the way fantasy baseball was first played - the name "rotisserie" comes because it was started by a bunch of guys at a rotisserie chicken joint, no joke).

League participants use an online service - such as CBS Sportsline or Yahoo! Sports - with one person being in charge - the "commissioner" of the league. The commissioner can make up special rules on picking up players, organizing games, who wins, scoring, etc.

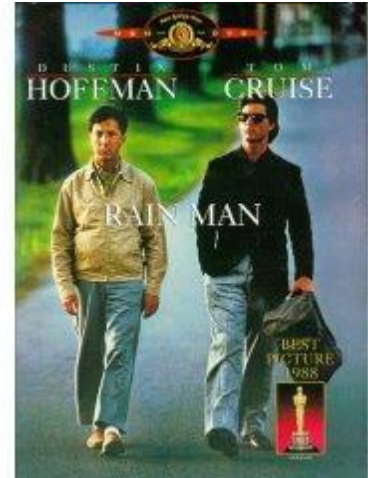
At the beginning of each league, the commissioner arranges a "draft", where the teams involved in the league are organized randomly to choose players until a complete team is made up, or until a salary cap is reached. Trades can be arranged between players, usually with the permission of the commissioner. Any player who is not chosen in the initial draft is placed on a "waiver wire", and can be picked up as a free agent by a team.

Leagues usually are played with a cash prize in mind, and end right before playoff games begin in the MLB. You don't need to know a group of people to join a league - with many services, you can enter and join an open league, someone who is looking for more participants. Leagues can have as little as 4 people in it or as many as 20.

Fantasy baseball is involved, time consuming, but a ton of fun - it helps all the participants truly understand the real game. For all of our readers that are fantasy baseball participants, enjoy, and good luck on a lucrative season!

with some of the Buffalo chicken mixture. Serve a dollop of sour cream if desired, and carrots and celery alongside. Yields 4 servings of 2 potato halves each - this is easy to make larger portions of, just double the ingredients and use 8 potatoes!

Trivia Time!



Congrats to last month's winner - we had one main winner, and offered 2 consolation prizes:

Our Main Winner: Jennifer Williams, Fireboy-Xintex, Inc.
Runner-Ups: Bill Anderson, Minnesota Conway Fire & Safety & Jack Kreckie, Massport Fire Rescue Department

This month's questions focus on one of Wesco's favorite movies - "Rain Man" (definitely...definitely...). The first 2 winners to email us with both correct answers will each get a \$50 American Express Gift card. Remember, if you have won within the last 3 months you are not eligible. Good luck!

- What does raymond have for breakfast on Tuesdays, always?
- What song did Raymond used to sing to Charlie when he was 2? (he begins to sing it after Charlie asks this question)

GOOD LUCK!

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