



Balloon Fiesta Pilot Radios

Welcome to the 2016 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Presented by Canon! In a continued effort to improve communications with pilots during all flights and glows, AIBF will make the 2015 pilot gift radios available for purchase in 2016 for \$50/each. Lesser priced models may be available, but aren't FCC Part 90 approved.

YOUR RADIO:

The Baofeng UV-82C is a commercial dual band (UHF & VHF) handheld radio that is FCC Part 90 approved. These radios will be pre-programmed to the frequencies authorized by the FCC for use by AIBF pilots during Balloon Fiesta. The purpose for these radios is to insure that pilots can get timely information and instructions from the Balloonmeister. The radio includes the local NOAA weather radio station, but the Balloon Fiesta weather frequency (120.650) still requires an aircraft radio to access. The radios have a feature called Dual Watch, which means you can monitor 2 frequencies simultaneously. One of frequencies is a receive-only Balloonmeister channel that you will be able to monitor during flight operations and balloon glows.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

When you turn the radio on, a "welcome" screen will briefly appear. The top line will display FIESTA and the second line 2016. The radio will then display the 2 channels that are being monitored. The top channel will be labeled FIESTA and cannot be changed. This channel is "receive-only" and will be used by the Balloonmeister to communicate information to the pilots and crews monitoring the radio. The second channel will be set to one of 9 channels for use by the pilot and crew to communicate during flight operations, if necessary. As there are over 500 balloons registered this year, crews should observe courtesy and good communication practices.

Keep your transmissions short and to the point. This is not CB, so unnecessary chatter is discouraged. Individual crews may change the lower frequency to one of the 9 available channels. When the radio is turned on it will display the channel you have previously selected and will be locked on that channel. This will help you to stay on the same channel as your crew. You may change your channel selection by depressing the # key on the keyboard until the lock symbol on the upper right of the LCD display next to battery capacity symbol disappears, then you can step up or down to select your preferred channel by using the up down arrows on the keyboard.

Selectable channels are labeled AIBF 1 thru AIBF 9. We recommend that you work with your team of pilots and crews in selecting channels so as not to interfere with each other. Coordinate

with others communicating with the same channel and make sure you are accurate in who you are calling. A good practice is to use “tactical call signs”, such as “windy pilot this is windy chase”, are customary to identify who you are calling followed by who you are. Please note that the channels approved for Balloon Fiesta use are in the business radio bands and are used by other businesses in the area. We have selected “digital squelch codes” for both transmit and receive on these radios to minimize interference with others in the area. What this means is you should not hear others in the area that may be on the same channel. Balloon Fiesta issued radios should be the only ones that will be able to “talk” to one another. You are authorized to use these radio frequencies during Balloon Fiesta. Balloon Federation of America (BFA) members in good standing with the BFA are authorized to use certain frequencies outside of Balloon Fiesta. If you would like to join the BFA and continue using those frequencies nationwide please visit www.bfa.net.

CHARGING AND OPERATION OF YOUR RADIOS:

Please take time to read the instruction manual that is packed with each radio and is also on the Balloon Fiesta website (Baofeng Radio Manual www.balloonfiesta.com/pilots-and-crew/pilot-radios). It is informative and will provide information on the features of your radios. Be sure to charge your radio before using it and charge it as part of your flight planning and preparation each day. In order to receive instruction from the Balloonmeister during Balloon Fiesta flight operations and glows, the radio must be turned on and the volume set at a level that can be heard. Included with each radio are accessories for your radios including an ear piece/microphone that will allow hands free operation and help in noisy environments.

Technical Support:

The Balloon Fiesta pilot radios will be inspected, programmed and tested prior to onsite registration to insure that they work and operate correctly. AIBF will provide additional technical support for only the Baofeng UV-82C during onsite registration. If you have any issues with your radios you may send an e-mail request to pilotradios@balloonfiesta.com. Please include accurate contact information, (i.e. cell number, e-mail address and launch site number) so we may respond to you in a timely manner.

CONCLUSION:

We hope you have a very safe and enjoyable 45th Balloon Fiesta and good communications with your new radios.