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WE ARE OVERLOADED WITH CARS, TRUCKS, AND SUV’S.
SAVE THOUSANDS!

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On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and hundreds of Navigators (volunteers), welcome to the 2018 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® Presented by Canon.

As a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, I have had the great fortune to grow up around our great annual celebrations, starting with the one that started it all in 1972, when I was not yet quite old enough to walk on my own. It is a true honor to work with our wonderful community to ensure Balloon Fiesta will launch (and land!) for future generations to enjoy as much as I have.

I want to personally thank the thousands of people who selflessly volunteer countless hours throughout the year to ensure the continued success of our event. Thank you also to our corporate sponsors for their financial support that allows us to put on a world-class event while always striving to improve our guest experience. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated pilots and crews who join us from all around the world each year to make our event so wonderful and unique.

Over the course of ten days, this year’s event offers a variety of magnificent events (even if you’re not a morning person). There is truly nothing like the unparalleled sight of the skies filled with balloons during the Mass Ascensions. The evening magic of the Balloon Glows and fireworks show are also some of the most popular events. You never know what you might see during the 30th Special Shape Rodeo as new special shape balloons come to life for the first time. The flying competitions during the weekdays can be immensely enjoyable to watch as the pilots skillfully attempt to accomplish their particular task of the day. Music Fiesta™ has grown in popularity over the years and will be the second Saturday (October 13).

Whether you are a first-time visitor, a fellow native, or fortunate enough to return each year, we hope you thoroughly enjoy the City of Albuquerque, the State of New Mexico, and the 47th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. CARRY ME AWAY!

Ty Young
President, AIBF
IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A CITY WORTH SAVORING

Explore the city's art galleries, museums, sporting events, food trucks, fine dining, live music and cultural performances all in one place. The ABQ365 blog and calendar of events is the easiest way to discover all that Albuquerque has to offer. #TrueABQ

VisitABQ.org/ABQ365
Welcome to the 2018 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® Presented by Canon. We are pleased to be the Presenting Sponsor and Official Imaging Company of this amazing event for the fourth consecutive year. As one of the most photographed events in the world, the Balloon Fiesta provides the ideal setting for us to connect with photo and video enthusiasts and enhance their enjoyment of this spectacular imaging opportunity.

We are also proud to be part of the City of Albuquerque, where we established our Canon Customer Support Center four years ago. We could not be happier here and look forward to continuing to grow with this dynamic city for years to come.

The theme for this year’s Balloon Fiesta is “Carry Me Away,” but you don’t have to be riding in a balloon to get carried away with all of the festivities. There truly is something for everyone. It’s hard to beat the extraordinary sight of colored balloons of all shapes and sizes soaring majestically through the sky. Whether this is your first visit to the Balloon Fiesta or if you’ve been here many times, it is always an unforgettable experience.

When you’re trying to capture that perfect image to take home, don’t forget to stop by the Canon tent to visit with our experts. They’ll be more than happy to tell you about the latest Canon equipment that is on display and answer any questions you might have. We even have some select cameras and lenses available for you to borrow and try out. Our team is looking forward to meeting you.

As in the past, Canon is once again excited to bring to you the Opening Day Mass Ascension and the Night Magic Glow, where our “Canon See Impossible” balloon will be the first to rise. Marking the first and last days of the Balloon Fiesta, these events are always among the most popular.

All of us at Canon wish you a magical experience at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Have a wonderful time!

Kevin Ogawa
President and COO
Canon U.S.A., Inc.
GET EVERYTHING CANON, DIRECTLY FROM CANON.

Stop by the Canon tent to take advantage of exclusive AIBF promotions with on-site purchases from the Canon Online Store!

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Welcome from the Governor, State of New Mexico

The Land of Enchantment welcomes you to the 47th Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta presented by Canon. Bienvenidos a Nuevo México!

For many years, New Mexico has hosted this iconic event that brings balloonists and guests from all over the world who come to share in the magical experience.

The Balloon Fiesta portrays exactly what it means to be “New Mexico True” and we are so glad you are here to experience it, along with everything else our state has to offer. After the Balloon Fiesta, hike up Tent Rocks or visit our many museums or state parks. Just a short drive away, you’ll find our historic capital city of Santa Fe. The options are endless! There are so many ways to experience New Mexico’s rich culture. Just make sure you taste some of our world famous red or green chile.

Whether you’re looking for relaxation or adventure, New Mexico has something for everyone that will leave your family and your friends with memories that will last forever.

Have a safe and wonderful time as you experience the 2018 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta!

Sincerely,

Susana Martinez
Governor
Haverland Carter LifeStyle Group is committed to having multicultural residential and supportive care communities that value and embrace the diversity of all its residents.

Visit our website at HaverlandCarter.com
From a small celebration by a local radio station featuring only 13 balloons in 1972, to now the largest hot air festival in the world, the Annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is truly a sight to see. It is my pleasure to welcome each and every one of you to this festival, and I hope you enjoy all you can, from the zany and imaginative special shape balloons, to the spectacular evening Glowdeo; these are not visuals you can find anywhere else. Enabled by our renowned Albuquerque box wind patterns, balloonists come from all over the globe to participate in the festival, and so should you.

Beginning before the sun rises with the Dawn Patrol balloonists launching by dark, followed by a mass ascension of more balloons than you can count, the Balloon Fiesta is a showcase of Albuquerque’s unique culture and personality. Enjoying the Balloon Fiesta includes different activities for everyone, whether it’s enjoying the sights from afar, like from up top our Sandia Peak Tramway, or right in the thick of the action at the Balloon Fiesta Park.

While in Albuquerque, make sure to take some time to enjoy the culture that is so unique and celebrated here. Old Town and the Hispanic and Indian Cultural Centers are great places to experience the rich history and heritage of our town. The Balloon Fiesta is a great opportunity to take in all that Albuquerque has to offer: cuisine, local art, unique museums of all kinds, flame-roasted local green chile, the mountains and great landscapes of New Mexico, and more.

I hope all have a great experience during the 47th Annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

Best regards,

Timothy M. Keller
Mayor
ENJOYED EVERYPLACE, MADE IN ONE.

EVERY DROP FROM A SINGLE SOURCE – LYNCHBURG, TENNESSEE.
Your Guide to BALLOON FIESTA® EVENTS

Here is a brief overview of what you’ll see during the world’s most colorful and spectacular festival of flying (All events, of course, are weather permitting)
MORNING EVENTS:
Dawn Patrol/Dawn Patrol Show presented by Route 66 Casino Hotel and RV Park
Daily: This “balloon glow in the sky” features as many as a dozen balloons. On Mass Ascension days, pilots perform the Dawn Patrol Show, a choreographed inflation and launch set to music that has been part of the Balloon Fiesta since 1997.

Mass Ascensions and Krispy Kreme Morning Glow
Weekends and Wednesday: The spectacular Mass Ascensions of hundreds of hot-air balloons are the Balloon Fiesta’s signature events and are preceded by the Krispy Kreme Morning Glow, a “mini” balloon glow. Special Mass Ascensions on Thursday and Friday October 11 and 12 feature “special shape” balloons.

Albuquerque Aloft™
Friday, October 5 approximately 7:00 AM: On the Friday before Balloon Fiesta begins, balloons fly from schools in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. Some school PTAs sell food and hot beverages, making the Balloon Fiesta’s visit to their school a true community event.

Special Shape Rodeo™ presented by Wells Fargo Bank
Thursday and Friday, October 12 and 13: Celebrating their 30th year, these special mass ascensions especially showcase the incredible craftsmanship, creativity, and artistry that makes monsters, critters, and just about anything else you can imagine take flight. Learn more about this event on page 82.

AND DON’T MISS!
Music Fiesta™ featuring Old Dominion, presented by Nash FM KRST 92.3 and Coca Cola
1 PM Saturday, October 13: This exciting afternoon event spotlights country music superstars Old Dominion and Michael Ray, with Albuquerque’s own The NOMS. Your admission also gets you into the Night Magic Glow and AfterGlow Fireworks Show! For more on this event, visit page 19.
EVENING EVENTS

Balloon Glows
Saturday, October 6 presented by the Albuquerque Journal, Sunday, October 7 and Saturday October 13, presented by Canon: The static displays of illuminated balloons known as “Balloon Glows” are among the Balloon Fiesta’s most popular events. The “All Burn,” when all the balloons fire their burners and light up at the same time, is perhaps the most spectacular single moment in all of Balloon Fiesta. Special shape balloons have their own balloon glows on Thursday and Friday of Balloon Fiesta week (see below).

Special Shape Glowdeo™
Thursday October 11 and Friday October 12: The fantastic special shape balloons are even more fantastic in the glow of early evening! The Special Shape Glowdeo™ features everyone’s favorite shapes, from bees to birds to bears. Come early, because this is one of the Balloon Fiesta’s most popular events!

AfterGlow™ Fireworks Show presented by Sandia Resort and Casino
Saturday October 6, Sunday October 7, Thursday October 11, Friday October 12, and Saturday October 13: immediately after the Glows; note that AfterGlow times may change due to field and weather conditions.

The fireworks shows at the Balloon Fiesta are some of the best performed anywhere! Plan to stay after the balloon glows to enjoy the spectacle!

OTHER EVENTS

While at Balloon Fiesta Park, be sure to enjoy the AIBF Chainsaw Carving International, the morning and evening Laser Light Shows, the Fiesta of Wheels Car Show, pin trading, and our many Main Stage performances! Check online at BalloonFiesta.com or on our social media pages for details and times. Also, don’t forget to shop and eat your way through Main Street, visit the Balloon Discovery Center and our Artisans’ Tent, and more!
GATES

ENTERTAINMENT
1) KID ZONE
2) MAIN STAGE
3) CHAINSAW CARVERS
4) MUSIC FIESTA STAGE (2nd SATURDAY)

OFFICIAL PARK LOCATIONS
A) GONDOLA CLUB
B) SPONSOR HOSPITALITY
C) CORPORATE VILLAGE
D) SID CUTTER PILOTS’ PAVILION
E) CHASERS’ CLUB
F) GROUP TOURS HOSPITALITY
G) 7-ELEVEN BALLOON DISCOVERY CENTER
H) ARTISANS AT BALLOON FIESTA
I) OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE & SPORTSWEAR

SPECIAL AREAS
A) MEDIA CENTER
B) BALLOON MANUFACTURERS
C) ABQ & NM TRUE VISITOR INFORMATION
D) BALLOON RIDES TENT
E) UBER

INFORMATION
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Old Dominion

Old Dominion has emerged as one of the hottest breaking bands in country music, fusing clever lyrics and an infectious sound. In 2016, the band was named ACM New Group of the Year, ACCA Breakthrough Group of the Year, AIMP Songwriter Artist of the Year, and Music Row Breakthrough Artist of the Year.

The band recently released their highly anticipated sophomore album, Happy Endings, which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Top Country Albums Chart & #7 on the Top 200. Their first full-length album, Meat and Candy, was certified GOLD by the RIAA and hailed a “stellar debut “by Entertainment Weekly. Old Dominion has also charted several singles, including “No Such Thing As A Broken Heart,” “Written In The Sand,” “Break Up With Him”, “Snapback,” and “Song For Another Time.”

Michael Ray

Country singer-songwriter

Michael Ray was a hit right out of the box, scoring both with critics and on the charts. He has been dubbed “the future of country music” by Digital Journal, his live shows lauded by Nash Country Daily for displaying “the energy and the polish of a pro,” and quite simply “lip-smacking good” by USA Today. His debut self-titled album “Michael Ray,” spawned two #1 singles: “Kiss You in the Morning” and “Think a Little Less.” Ray’s sophomore album, Amos (named for his grandfather), has already spawned the hit single “Get to You,” currently climbing the Mediabase and Billboard charts.

Inspired by his rescue dog Wrigley, Ray recently launched the charitable initiative Wrigley Cares: Helping Animals in Need, collecting donations for local animal shelters at every stop on his Get To You Tour.
The NOMS
As New Mexico natives, The Noms are proud to represent The Land of Enchantment on stage every time they perform! They’re a six-piece alternative rock band from right here in Albuquerque whose kinetic, exciting shows bring real energy, passion, and life to the stage and attract audiences of all ages. Their unique brand of harmonic rock blends a wide array of varied influences into a distinct, energetic sound, blending blues, country, and soul with a dash of bluegrass and funk, influenced by styles from Dave Matthews to Stevie Ray Vaughan, from Selena to The Beatles.

Gates for Music Fiesta open at noon, with music kicking off at 1:00pm. As always, Music Fiesta™ fans have a variety of ticket options, including the return of the Albuquerque Dance Box, which offers a grassy area night in front of the stage for those who want to kick up their heels and dance all afternoon! Looking for a real VIP experience? Then look no further than our Ultimate Music Fiesta (UMF) package, which offers a very special experience for music fans. The UMFs receive exclusive, front-row seating, as well as prime parking, backstage tent and bathroom access, a goodie bag with official Balloon Fiesta merch and dinner at the Gondola Club following the concert. Tickets for this cool experience close each year in early September, so if you’re interested make sure to listen for when tickets go on sale in 2019! For more ticket details visit Balloon Fiesta’s website: www.balloonfiesta.com
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Statewide Products Company, Inc.
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Photo Tips

BE BOLD AND TAKE RISKS
Here are some tips for getting amazing images of this spectacular event!

DAWN PATROL
Rising into the still-dark skies each morning are the Dawn Patrol. At 6AM every day, Dawn Patrol pilots head into the air with only their burners to light the way.
Pro Tip: Early in the morning, we suggest using a tripod and remote. If you use your tripod and have an IS lens, make sure you turn off the IS function while you shoot. Since the balloons lift off while it’s still dark outside, a wide-angle lens is ideal.

MASS ASCENSION
This is when the balloon field kicks into high-gear. Pilots will fire up their burners, shooting flames into the balloons to inflate them.
Pro Tips: Use a wide-angle lens to get photos of the ground activity. Use a telephoto-zoom lens to get detail shots or portraits of reactions in the crowd. Shooting with the sun rising behind the balloons will provide some beautiful silhouettes and add ambiance to the scene.

ASCENDING BALLOONS
By this point in the morning, the horizon will be awash with vibrant colors as balloons inflate and take to the skies to fly across the valley.
Pro Tips: Once the sun is on the rise, try to shoot with the sun to your side or back. At this position you can use it to better show the curve of the balloons and illuminate their colors.

BALLOON GLOW
This sets the mood for a magical evening. Don’t miss the twinkling lights of random balloons just before the order for "All Glow", when a warm light illuminates the entire field.
Pro Tips: Adjust your angle. Set-up your gear with the main field in front of you and the mountainside behind you, for the best shots. Use a tripod and a wireless remote or cable release to reduce motion blur.

FIREWORKS/LASER SHOW
Getting your camera dialed-in to the correct settings can make or break a fantastic light display.
Pro Tips: Fireworks need long exposure times, so use a tripod for this event. A remote or cable release prevents accidental camera shake to you get clear, sharp images. The balloons won’t be moving either, so turn off auto-focus to keep it from draining your camera battery. Use a longer shutter speed to increase the trails of the fireworks.

SPECIAL SHAPE BALLOONS
The Special Shape Rodeo™ and Special Shape Glowdeo™ are both a big hit with kids and adults alike.
Pro Tips: Frame other balloons with the ones in the foreground. Use special shape balloons as fun backdrops for family photos and selfies.

DURING HOT AIR BALLOON FLIGHT
Going on a balloon ride? Get your camera in either Auto or P (Program) Mode so you can focus on your aerial experience instead of the camera settings.
Pro Tips: Now would be a great time to bring a point-and-shoot. Neck straps and wrist straps are your best friend. With your camera properly secured to your person, you can feel more confident shooting extreme angles.

BE CREATIVE: Whether you’re going for a day or the entire event, there are plenty of chances to grab amazing shots. While we’ve suggested some camera settings here, the ultimate goal is for you to have fun! Find your own style and see what you like best.

Canon

Photo Tips

BE BOLD AND TAKE RISKS
Here are some tips for getting amazing images of this spectacular event!
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Safety Tips

Lovelace Health System is proud to be the official health care provider for the 2018 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®. Below is a list of helpful safety tips to help you enjoy your visit in good health:

1. **Limit alcohol consumption.** Remember, you’re at a mile-high altitude, which could increase alcohol’s impact.
2. **Dress in layers.** It’s sometimes very cool in the morning, but after sunrise it will warm up noticeably.
3. **Bring water.** Stay hydrated throughout the day.
4. **Use sunscreen.** At a higher altitude you’re at an increased risk for sunburn.
5. **Bring appropriate eye protection.** Sun and wind could be your enemies on a sunny or windy day.
6. **Smoking is not allowed on the Balloon Fiesta Park.** A lit cigarette could melt a balloon’s fabric or even ignite propane from a fuel tank.
7. **Choose a place to meet in case someone gets separated or lost.** Make sure young children have some form of identification on them.
8. **Don’t “drive and watch” at the same time.** The balloons are a magnificent but distracting sight. Move completely off to the side of the road to watch.
9. **Watch where you’re going.** Beware of vehicles moving around the field, especially emergency vehicles trying to get through the crowd.
10. **Bring a flashlight for evening events.** Also, take note of where you parked your car—it’s more difficult to find in the dark. Use the Balloon Fiesta app to pin the location of your car.

Lovelace Health System’s emergency medical professionals provide on-site emergency medical care for problems ranging from minor scrapes to heart attacks. Lovelace’s medical volunteers will be located at the Lovelace First Aid Center.
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It’s where you’ll find the finest physicians, nurses and medical professionals in every specialty. Where high-tech and high-touch combine to deliver compassionate care everyday. It’s where a network of specialized hospitals offer world-class medicine with neighborhood convenience. It’s a health care system called Lovelace. And it’s committed to being here for you and your family today and tomorrow.

To make an appointment with a doctor or provider, call 505.727.2727.
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United States

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Hagéville, Lorraine
France

Bussey, Bill
BLUE DIAMOND
Longview, TX
United States

Butko, Alex
COLORFUL
Moscow
Russia

Buron-Pilatre, Philippe
PILATRE DE ROZIER
Hagéville, Lorraine
France

Carlton, Dean
CAZOOEE
Danville, IL
United States

Carlton, Ryan
SEYMOUR
Danville, IL
United States

Carlton-Vish, Donna
SUNNY SIDE UP
Danville, IL
United States

Cass, Gary
RED HOT
Yuma, AZ
United States

Cassell, Chad
RAINBOW RYDERS
Coatesville, PA
United States

Bueno, Javier
FIG LEON
León, Guanajuato
Mexico

Byer, Randy
DOUBLE TROUBLE
Corrales, NM
United States

Byer, Randy
DOUBLE TROUBLE
Corrales, NM
United States

Byer, Randy
DOUBLE TROUBLE
Corrales, NM
United States

Byer, Randy
DOUBLE TROUBLE
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United States

Carlton-Vish, Donna
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United States

Carlson, Brian
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United States

Candelaria, Joe
MO-JOE BLUE
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United States

Cassel, Chad
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United States

Carter, Buddy
FLYING RAINBOW
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United States

Cass, Gary
RED HOT
Yuma, AZ
United States

Cass, Gary
RED HOT
Yuma, AZ
United States

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RED HOT
Yuma, AZ
United States

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RED HOT
Yuma, AZ
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Rio Rancho, NM
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United States

de Koevend, Gery
INDEPENDENCE
Fort Garland, CO
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Derebey, Steve
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Roscoe, IL
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*ENCHANTED*
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*RIK RAK*
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*FIESTA*
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*AIN’T MISBEHAVIN’*
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*ALMOST THERE*
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*LA CUMBIA*
Bogotá, Distrito Capital
Colombia

Head, Jr., Tarp
*HIGH OVER HEAD*
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TEXAS RACER II
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Hoefler, Greg
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DESSERT DRIFTER
Phoenix, AZ
United States

Hooper, Jerry
SS AMERICA
Corpus Christi, TX
United States

Hoppe, Roger
VOLCANIC MOTION
Albuquerque, NM
United States

Howell, Dustin
SPORT PILOT LLC
Minden, LA
United States
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<td>Santa Cruz, NM</td>
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Quiet enough to hear the “oohs” and “aahs.”

It’s only fitting that Honda is the official generator of Balloon Fiesta®—they’re famous for being quiet, lightweight, and reliable. Whether you need power for RVing, tailgating, home backup, DIY projects, or almost anything else you can think of, Honda Generators rise to the occasion.

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*For rules, details, and registration, visit the Honda display. Please read the owner’s manual before operating your Honda Power Equipment and never use in a closed or partly enclosed area where you could be exposed to odorless, poisonous carbon monoxide. Connection of a generator to house power requires a transfer device to avoid possible injury to power company personnel. Consult a qualified electrician. © 2018 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
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WILEY COYOTE
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United States

Wilkinson, Steven
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Palm Desert, CA
United States

Williams, Robert
GEORGIA FLOWER GARDEN
Lavonia, GA
United States

Williams, Andy
BIG POPPA
Galena, IL
United States

Whitling, Ian
FRUITLEY
Albuquerque, NM
United States

Wiley, Sam
WILEY COYOTE
San Marcos, TX
United States

Wilkinson, Steven
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Palm Desert, CA
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Galena, IL
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San Marcos, TX
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Palm Desert, CA
United States

Williams, Robert
GEORGIA FLOWER GARDEN
Lavonia, GA
United States

Williams, Andy
BIG POPPA
Galena, IL
United States

William, Glen
FLAMETHROWER
Anthony, NM
United States

Wright, John
INDIGO
Sebastopol, CA
United States

Wright, Jonathan
UNCHAINED
Las Vegas, NV
United States

Wright, Thornee
CHAIN GANG
Albuquerque, NM
United States

Wright, John
INDIGO
Sebastopol, CA
United States

Wright, Jonathan
UNCHAINED
Las Vegas, NV
United States

Wright, Thornee
CHAIN GANG
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Whether you’re a first-time visitor looking for the perfect souvenir of your Balloon Fiesta experience or a long-time balloonist seeking a great gift for family and crew and an addition to your own library, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, is the book for you!

As you page through this book, imagine yourself going along for the ride or strolling among hundreds of swaying giants, seemingly lost in a dizzying kaleidoscope of color. Seven long-time members of the Balloon Fiesta Heritage Committee explore the event’s past and present in 96 pages featuring 50 carefully-selected color photos and captions. Their efforts captured first place in the Sports and Recreation category at the 2017 New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards.

Join in the camaraderie that draws pilots and fans to Albuquerque from all over the world! Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is available now at the Balloon Fiesta gift shop or through online store and bookstores near you.

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**Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®**

**Other Participating Pilots**

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**2018 Official Program**

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WITH THE OSITO BIMBO HOT AIR BALLOON

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If it moves, people will figure out a way to “race” it, and balloons are no exception. You wouldn’t think balloons would be a very likely vehicle for racing — they’re huge, (usually) slow, and go only where the wind takes them. But balloonists are an inventive lot, and they’ve invented creative ways for pilots to compete against one another.

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® is no exception. From its earliest days, flying competitions have been among the most exciting aspects of Balloon Fiesta. Pilots especially look forward to taking advantage of a weather phenomenon known as the “Albuquerque Box” which creates the perfect playing field for competition, and pleasure balloonists alike.

The box is a phenomenon which occurs in mountain valleys. Air can flow like a liquid. Often, in the early morning when conditions are right, the lower level air which has cooled overnight flows downhill (sinks) to the south. As the sun comes up over the Sandia Mountains to the east, it warms the air about 1,000 ft above the ground, which causes that warmer layer to flow uphill (rise) to the north. By changing altitude, pilots move their balloons from one layer to the other and navigate up and down the valley. Viewed from the side, the flight profile would look like a box. These winds usually do not hold more than an hour or so because other weather changes begin to affect the flow.

From the early Balloon Fiesta events in 1972 & ’73, competition has enjoyed many evolutions. But there has been one constant: the competitions, referred to as “tasks,” are variations of a theme. The idea is to launch and navigate the balloon to a goal or a target and drop or place a marker on that target, or as near to it as possible. Pilots fly a series of tasks, with daily winners and a Balloon Fiesta champion who achieves the best cumulative result.

Tasks generally fall into two categories: Fly-in tasks, where a pilot chooses a launch site a specified distance (say, at least a mile in any direction) from a target and flies to the target, and Judge-Declared Goals where the balloons all launch at the same site and fly to a target or targets downwind.

It takes concentration and determination to score during the Ring Toss!
YESTERDAY’S COMPETITIONS
The signature event of the early Balloon Fiestas was the Hare and Hound, which in Albuquerque was known as the Roadrunner Vs. Coyote Race. The first balloon to take off, usually representing the event host, or a non-competing volunteer, was the Hare, or Roadrunner. This balloon launched several minutes before the Hounds, or the Coyotes, and flew a profile that they believed would be difficult for the rest of the pack to duplicate. The Hare then landed and became the target for the Coyote balloons. Most often the winds changed just enough to make it difficult for the Hound pilots to fly the same profile as the Hare, so the Hound pilots had to devise a different navigational plan to get close. The balloon landing closest to the Hare won the race. Hare and Hound races are today still a feature of many ballooning events around the country.

For many years, probably the biggest attraction and crowd pleaser was a Fly in Task called the Key Grab. Pilots launched from an off-field site of their choice, no closer than one statute mile from the center of Balloon Fiesta Park, tried to navigate to a tall pole (approx.. 30 ft.) in the target area, and grab a set of keys attached to the top of that pole. Those keys fit a brand-new car or chase vehicle, so the stakes were high. A variation of the key grab required pilots to fly to the pole and use a large poker carried in the basket to pop a balloon to collect a prize coupon inside. Great care was taken to carefully stow away that popping pin for the landing so no one would get hurt. Today’s Balloon Fiesta still includes a pole, where pilots fly to poles and attempt to place a ring over the top of the target poles.

How, you might ask, did the creative minds at Balloon Fiesta work a bicycle into a balloon race? Well in 1974 they did just that, with pilot Bob Russell being declared the winner. The idea was to launch and fly a minimum of eight miles, to land as soon as safely possible after covering the eight miles, then jump on a bike and get back to the launch site (in this case the State Fairgrounds) as soon as possible.

One intrepid pilot’s crew forgot to check out a bike from the scoring team. The pilot talked a young spectator out of his bicycle and quickly pedaled back to the launch site. He didn’t get back in time to win, but he did later make sure that the bike was returned to the kid along with some nice thank you gifts. Those included balloon pins and the offer of a ride.

Another fun race was the Race to a Line with a Le Mans start. The race began with the balloon and equipment still loaded in the chase vehicle. A loud horn or other noisemaker signaled the start of the race. Pilots and crew had to unload, inflate, and launch the balloon as quickly as possible. Then the pilot would fly to a designated road or other landmark by finding the quickest wind going in the right direction. An observer would record the precise time that the goal was reached and the team with the shortest time was declared the winner.

Balloon Fiesta Hold ‘Em was a Fly in Task that amounted to playing poker from the balloon. Large facsimiles of playing cards were placed in the target area. The pilots shared hole cards and completed the hand by dropping markers on the cards in the target. The best hand won.

Balloon Fiesta Blackjack was similar to the poker game, the pilots made the best hand of 21 by dropping markers on the playing cards. All tasks today, and many of the tasks from the past, involve dropping a marker on a target.

Examples of Fly in Task(s) (FITs)
Pole/Key/Prize Grabs &/or Ring Toss
Minimum Distance Double Drop (MDD)
Maximum Distance Double Drop (XDD)
Gordon Bennett Memorial (GBM)
Sid Cutter Memorial (SCM)
Balloon Fiesta Golf
Balloon Fiesta Hold ‘em
Balloon Fiesta Blackjack

Examples of Judge/Fiesta Declared Goal(s) (JDGs)
Hare & Hound (Roadrunner Vs Wile E. Coyote)
Balloon and Bicycle Race
Crepe Paper Duration Race
Race to a Line with a Le Mans Start
Judge-Declared Goal
Barograph (Flying to a sequence of specific altitudes)
Today’s markers are small baggies with a couple of ounces of bird seed or sand inside and a ribbon attached to the baggie. The ribbon can be used to apply an adhesive label with the pilot’s identifying information so that the scorers know who gets the points.

Over the years, though, many more creative scoring markers have been used in Balloon Fiesta competition: five-pound bags of flour, tumbleweeds, lightweight boxes with the sponsor’s logo, rings similar to a hula hoop, and ping pong balls with a crepe paper streamer. The winds have more or less effect on the markers depending on what they are made of. A ping pong ball with a streamer will tend to be blown off target more than a 5 lb. bag of flour. For obvious safety reasons, a 5 lb. bag of flour would not be allowed today.

It is a rule violation and point deduction to drop a marker outside of the target zone designated for scoring. The idea is to discourage pilots from dropping markers over spectators, or when there is no chance of a score.

**TODAY’S COMPETITIONS**

Today’s Balloon Fiesta competitive events include Fly In Task(s) (FITs), Judge Declared Goal(s) (JDGs), Multiple Judge Declared Goal(s) (MJDGs), Minimum Distance Double Drop (MDD), Maximum Distance Double Drop (XDD), Balloon Fiesta Golf, the Gordon Bennett Memorial (GBM) and the Sid Cutter Memorial. A Memorial race is a task designed to honor the memory of a notable balloonist or individual who has made a contribution to the sport of ballooning. Some races are run concurrently and a pilot can score in two events in the course of one flight. The Balloonmeister – the chief official in charge of flying events – working with the competition scoring team determines which competitions will be flown based on the day’s weather and wind conditions.

Sometimes, two or more tasks are combined so pilots compete in more than one task during a single flight.

The daily competitions are broken up into groups with around 50 pilots in each group. These groups are determined by the size of the balloons. Football-shaped envelopes, also known as Racers, are grouped together with the smaller standard shape balloons. The Racers are more maneuverable than standard shapes and are the balloon of choice for serious competitors. The largest balloons allowed to compete are 105,000 cubic feet and those balloons also get grouped together.

On days when the targets are on the launch field at Balloon Fiesta Park, pilots start a minimum of a mile outside of the Park, and, attempt to navigate as closely as they can to the pre-arranged targets off the field. On days when the targets are off of the launch field pilots start from Balloon Fiesta Park, and attempt to navigate as closely as they can to the pre-arranged targets off the field.
FLIGHTS TO TARGETS AT BALLOON FIESTA PARK

Competitors find their own launch area at the specified minimum distance, no closer than one statute mile from the center of Balloon Fiesta Park and excluding Prohibited Zones and Sensitive Areas (areas where pilots are discouraged from launching and landing). They will attempt to drop a marker close to a target set by the Balloonmeister within the target area at Balloon Fiesta Park. The target will be on the field in view of the spectators.

Balloon Fiesta Golf: The object of the competition is for the pilot to drop his/her marker(s) closest to the pin (flag) on a “golf green” outlined on the field. Only markers that land within the outlined golf greens will receive a measurement and score. Shortest distance gets the highest score.

Minimum Distance Double Drop (MDD): Competitors drop two markers as closely together as possible but on different, associated targets (scoring areas).

Maximum Distance Double Drop (XDD): This task is the opposite of the MDD: this time, competitors try to drop markers as far apart as possible in different but associated scoring areas. Only those markers inside the scoring areas will be scored.

GORDON BENNETT MEMORIAL

(GBM): Named after a pioneer in gas balloon racing, the GBM requires the competitor to drop a marker in a defined scoring area (often a geometric or unusual shape) adjacent to the defined goal. The target can be outside of the scoring area. The objective is to drop the marker inside the defined or outlined scoring area (cactus shape in this example) as close as possible to the target. Markers dropping outside the scoring area, even if closer to the target, receive a “no result” score.

Sid Cutter Memorial Task (GBM): The event is designed and dedicated to the memory of Balloon Fiesta founder Sid Cutter. When Sid won the National Championship for the second time, a boat was anchored in a lake and the goal was to land a marker on the boat. Markers landing in the water were not scored! Balloon Fiesta created its own version of this event, naming the target boat (yes, it’s a real boat) the “USS Sid Cutter.” Competitors attempt to drop a marker on one of four targets in proximity to and/or surrounding the (X) in the center. The tip of the bow of the boat is the best possible score, and is closest to the (X). The other three scoring areas represent two islands and a beach. Scores are measured from the center of the target (X). Any marker outside of the announced scoring area will not be scored.
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FLIGHTS FROM BALLOON FIESTA PARK TO TARGETS OFF-FIELD

Judge/Fiesta Declared Goal (JDG):
Competitors launch from Balloon Fiesta Park and use available surface and upper level winds to navigate to a point near the selected goal and drop a marker. The targets are at least one mile from Balloon Fiesta Park. The shortest distance between the marker and the center of the target gets the best score.

Multiple Judge Declared Goal (MJDG):
Similar to the single goal, competitors use available surface and upper level winds to navigate and attempt to drop a marker close to any of several goals (targets) selected by the Balloonmeister. Pilots generally have to fly at least one mile to a target designated on the Balloon Fiesta Pilot Map. The pilot does not have to declare his/her goal in advance. The shortest distance between the marker and the center of the target gets the best score.
We make the balloons fly.

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“Hey Mom, we’re supposed to be at the Discovery Center in five minutes. Where is it?”
“Sweetie, I can’t find the map they gave us. Let’s ask that woman over there with the official-looking turquoise jacket. It has the same logo on the back as that pilot we were talking to.”
“Ma’am, can you help us find the Discovery Center?”
“Sure - come with me and I’ll show you. By the way, my name’s Marsha, and I’m a Navigator. We volunteer here at Balloon Fiesta, and we help people just like you.”

If you’re lost or injured or curious or trying to find a certain balloon or pilot, who do you approach for help? The field is thronged with pilots, balloon crew people, and sponsors. And it seems like almost everyone has a jacket with a logo on it.

Different types of jackets identify officials and VIPs for this year’s Balloon Fiesta. However, others are from past Balloon Fiestas or from balloon events in other places in other years, even some from other countries. Some official-looking jackets are from businesses not connected with Balloon Fiesta. Many balloon teams have their own jackets and logos.

For 2018 alone, there are eight different official jacket (or parka) colors, and four different logos that you will see on the jacket backs. In this sea of jackets and logos, how do you figure out who’s the right person to ask for directions to the first aid center . . . or the rest room? If you know who wears what jacket, it’s easy to know who’s “in the know,” so here’s the inside skinny. And if you nod off reading this article, the author promises that you will not be held accountable. He nodded off writing it.
ROYAL BLUE jackets with the full official Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta logo are worn by the members of the Board of Directors and the organization’s permanent staff, the key people who plan and manage the Balloon Fiesta year-round. These include the Executive Director, Director of Operations, the Director and Assistant Director of Public Relations, and members of the paid Balloon Fiesta staff.

RED jackets (parkas) with FIESTA logos are worn by the officials in charge of flying events: the Balloonmeister, and Assistant Balloonmeister, Safety Officers, the lead officials in charge of launch, scoring, and propane, and members of the Weather and Landowner Relations Teams.

YELLOW-GREEN jackets with this year’s “Carry Me Away” official logo and the words “PUBLIC SAFETY” below are worn by Public Safety Officers. These individuals are employed by the Balloon Fiesta to assist with security and traffic control, and work directly with the many local police, fire, rescue, military, and law enforcement agencies (whose officers wear their own agency uniforms) to help keep guests safe at Balloon Fiesta.

TURQUOISE jackets with the “Carry Me Away” logo are worn by Balloon Fiesta volunteers, who are called “Navigators” because they act as “guides” interpreting the event for Balloon Fiesta guests. You’ll see Navigators all around Balloon Fiesta Park: in the Gondola Club, Chasers’ Club, Balloon Discovery Center, the RV lots, Courtesy Shuttles, Information Booth, the Media Center, and of course on the launch field.

Launch directors are essentially “referees” working the field during launch, coordinating with the officials and pilots to safely manage the Balloon Fiesta’s mass ascensions and other events. So they wear BLACK AND WHITE STRIPES, as they have since 1978, and they’re nicknamed “Zebras”. Their outfits often feature self-created outrageous variations on the basic black-and-white scheme. A Launch Director in training is called a ZIT (zebra-in-training) and must qualify for three years before becoming a full-fledged Zebra. As volunteers, Zebras are Navigators, and off-duty often wear Navigator turquoise jackets.

So, about those questions . . . Balloon Fiesta staff and officials, launch directors, Navigators, and Public Safety Officers can all assist guests on the field. Navigators all receive training on ballooning and Balloon Fiesta and can answer most questions and summon assistance if needed. Most field officials (including launch directors) and public safety officers carry radios.
You’ll also see these official jackets at Balloon Fiesta Park:

Pilots wear NAVY jackets with the “Carry Me Away” official logo. You can tell which pilots fly special shapes because the little balloons on the right side of the big balloon in the logo are special shape balloons.

TEAL GREEN jackets are worn by sponsors as part of their paid sponsorships. These are the people and companies who purchase various promotional products and services. Be sure to thank them, because Balloon Fiesta could not go on without them!

And finally, you too can look “official” at Balloon Fiesta! The DARK NAVY jackets with the event logo are sold in the official merchandise tents and at the Balloon Fiesta gift shop at Alameda and Balloon Museum Drive. Get yours today!

OK, wake up now and enjoy the Carnival in the Sky!
MORNING GLOW
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VISIT US AT OUR BOOTH ON MAIN STREET
Greetings Balloon Fiesta fans! Submarine USS New Mexico here, coming to you from the briny deep. I surfaced here in the official program because I’d like to convey some little known facts about my relationship with the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. I hope I didn’t splash you too much on the way to the surface.

I know the Balloon Fiesta is truly international. I get that. After all, balloon pilots, crews and fans come from all over the world to be a part of this annual ballooning extravaganza. But I’d like to point out a completely different reason for it being international.

Inside my thick steel hull, along the port side of my crew’s mess, there has been a nuclear-powered undersea mass ascension underway for over seven years. As a gallery of six high-resolution photographic panels depicting balloons flying over your city, this mass ascension has been taking place all over the world, from the North Pole to the Caribbean, from our Atlantic seaboard to Europe and the Mediterranean, logging over 125,000 miles and descending to depths that I cannot report.

This submarine, with her perpetual undersea mass ascension, was commissioned in 2010 in Newport News, Virginia. Since then I have been home-ported in Groton, Connecticut – the Submarine Capital of the World.

The photo panels, mounted on two-foot double-door lockers, have featured balloons launching at the 2008 Balloon Fiesta by Kim Vesely and balloons ready for launch by Ron Behrmann. And a favorite of my crew has been Raymond Watt’s image of Azul with its monstrous jaws about to swallow a basket full of juicy passengers at the 2005 Balloon Fiesta. The three spectacular images by the late Cindy Petrehn have also been crew favorites; namely, over 100 balloons inflating at Balloon Fiesta Park in 2005, a mass ascension at the 2002 Balloon Fiesta, and 20 balloons lining up for a splash n’ dash in the Rio Grande in 2007. I would like to have been part of that splash n’ dash but I had not undergone my sea trials yet – and besides, my navigator tells me that the river would have been far too shallow for me.

In 2013, I made my maiden deployment, a 6-month, 34,000-mile journey that included a North Atlantic port call in Haakonsvern, just southwest of Bergen, Norway; Faslane, 25 miles northwest of Glasgow, Scotland; and the Atlantic port of Rota, Spain. Think of it as the Balloon Fiesta travelling to Norway, the United Kingdom and Spain.

The Balloon Fiesta ventured across the Arctic Circle in 2014 and conducted under-ice operations
200 miles north of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. While in the Arctic, I surfaced at the North Pole, and then on my way home I made a port call in Halifax, Nova Scotia. So the Balloon Fiesta has not only been to the Top of the World, but has also been to Canada. I understand that 22 Canadian balloon pilots, hailing from Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, participated in the Balloon Fiesta that year.

In 2015, as part of the US Navy’s Sixth Fleet operations in the North Atlantic, I made our second 6-month deployment, cruising 36,000 miles and making return visits to Norway, United Kingdom and Spain. The latter two nations were represented by pilots at the 2015 Balloon Fiesta. In fact, Spain had hot air and gas balloon pilots at both the 2014 and 2015 events. On such port calls, I serve as a goodwill ambassador, enhancing US-Europe relations as our Navy helps to maintain security and stability in the region.

My captain is getting ready to order me to submerge again, but first I want to quickly fill you in on our third 6-month deployment in 2017, when I operated in both the North Atlantic and in the Mediterranean. I logged 37,000 miles on my odometer and quietly maneuvered past the shoreline of 17 countries! On that voyage, while sitting among drifting balloons, my crew consumed 150,000 pounds of food. Also on that voyage, I visited Faslane, Scotland; Souda Bay on the Greek island of Crete; and the Mediterranean port of Toulon in southern France. Standby, I’m preparing to dive but just wanted to confirm that my sources report that, at last year’s Balloon Fiesta, among the 79 international pilots, there were five pilots from France, three flying hot air balloons and two co-piloting a gas balloon, plus two pilots from Norway and one from Spain.

“Dive! Dive! Make your depth one-five-zero feet.” That’s the captain on the 1MC. I’m going down. To quickly summarize before my antennas dip below the waves, my Undersea Mass Ascension has cruised from the Submarine Capital of the World to the North Pole, Canada, France, Greece, Norway, Scotland and Spain, while balloon pilots from these nations have launched from the Balloon Capital of the World – emphasizing the word “international” in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Glub-glub.
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Richard Abruzzo
HALL OF FAME 2011

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HALL OF FAME 1985

Scott Appelman
HERITAGE AWARD 2013
HALL OF FAME 2017

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HALL OF FAME 1998

Wally Book
BALLOONMEISTER 2001-02
HERITAGE AWARD 2014

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Carry Me Away

IONAL BALLOON FIESTA

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HALL OF FAME 1983

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Doug Gallagher
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PRESIDENT 1995-96
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LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!
The Special Shape Rodeo™ Celebrates 30 Years
BY KIM VESELY
Ask any Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® guest what their favorite balloon is, and chances are (unless it’s a pilot or crew member talking about their own balloon) it’s going to be a bird, a bee, a baby, a dog, a cat, a fish, a science fiction villain (or hero), an astronaut, even an alien . . . one of those fantastic creations known as “special shapes.”

A special shape balloon, simply put, is a balloon that is any shape other than the conventional inverted teardrop shape of a traditional hot-air balloon or the “football” shaped small “racer” balloons flown by some pilots in competition. The variations can be simple – the ears, noses, whiskers, snouts, hats, and other little appendages used to create Carmen Miranda, Uncle Sam, Ham-Let the flying pig, Smokey Bear, the flying Football, and numerous puppies, kitties and other critters. Or they can be incredibly complicated: Airabelle the Creamland cow, Wells Fargo’s¢NT’R Stage, fire engines, dragons, even whole flying buildings like The Cathedral or the Brandenburg Gate. If someone can imagine it, sophisticated computer design and hundreds of hours of hand-sewing can create it!

Special shape balloons began appearing at the Balloon Fiesta in its earliest days. The earliest ones, in the 1970s and early 1980s, include G-GOLLY (a kind of weird-headed cartoon character), the Whaleloon, a popcorn kernel, Mr. Peanut, lots of beverage cans and bottles, and all-time favorites like The GR-E-A-T Tony (the Tiger) and Earforce One (read: Mickey Mouse). In the mid-1980s, more sophisticated designs began to appear: the Virgin America airplane, the flying saucer, Chick-I-Boom (the first Albuquerque-based special shape), and the (rolled-up) Financial Times newspaper. By 1989, as the number of special-shape balloons continued to grow, the Balloon Fiesta Board of Directors decided these amazing creations should have a showcase of their own: the Special Shape Rodeo™.

The new event was an immediate, huge hit and is now one of the most popular events at the Balloon Fiesta. Originally it included – as it does now – morning Special Shape mass ascensions/competitions on Thursday and Friday of Balloon Fiesta Week, as well as afternoon free flights. Over the next several years, the always problematic afternoon flights (it was often too windy) evolved into the evening Special Shape Glowdeos™, a balloon glow specifically showcasing the 100+ special shape balloons. Glowdeo guests can wander among the balloons, talk to the pilots, and get an up-close view of the intricate systems of cables and baffles that help the inflated balloons keep their special shapes.

Today’s Special Shape Rodeo is a pleasing combination of old favorites – Darth Vader and Master Yoda, the Bee family, Uncle Sam and Chick-I-Boom, The Stork, Koshare Gallup, and of course Airabelle – and new, ever-more-imaginative balloons like Piranha, Armadillo, the jailbird Con Air and his pursuer Keystone Willy, I Mariachi and Mexican Doll, Pandy, Bill the Vampire, and every launch director’s favorite, the zebra Mister Z. Some readers may be booing now that we didn’t mention 1 Down 8-2Go (the dead cat), Cutie Dink (the not-dead cat), Cosmos 1 the astronaut, Mr. Fish, Big Hug, Robbie, Squawkurs, Baby Car . . . But one thing is sure – at the Balloon Fiesta’s Special Shapes showcases, everyone has a favorite! Come and find yours!
Celebrating community spirit

Friends, family, neighbors, and local business owners are the backbone of this community. Our vibrant spirit comes alive at events like these.

It’s an honor to be a part of Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® and the community.
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Maricopa, AZ
United States

Glen, Chris
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Colbert, WA
United States

Gantt, Doug
HAM-LET
Deland, FL
United States

Garcia, Mike
1 DOWN B-260
Rio Rancho, NM
United States

Grimes, Doug
BILA
Albuquerque, NM
United States

Griggs, Katie
SUSHI
Dayton, NV
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Lambert, Michel
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Brazil

Assis, Luiz Paulo
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São Paulo, São Paulo
Brazil

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Great Britain

Bell, Graham
BLANK CZECH
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Bonimcontro, Marcos
ARMADILLO
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You would think that it wouldn’t take 46 years for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the most photographed event in the world, to put some live pictures of their own, on the air for the world to see. But it did.

In 2017 Balloon Fiesta produced, for the first time ever, its own live video coverage of the entire event and streamed it via Facebook, YouTube and on the Balloon Fiesta website. And the response was overwhelming. The 30 hours of live video racked up 384,000 views across all the platforms.

The concept of Balloon Fiesta Live! began to take shape in January 2017 with a meeting to better coordinate multiple entertainment activities at Balloon Fiesta Park. By the end of the meeting, the topic had changed to: can we put on a live video show? Attendees at the meeting were tasked to research cost and feasibility. It was determined it could be done, even though the
budget for the 2017 event had been set months before.

Art Lloyd Jr., one of the event announcers, stepped up to take on the role of Executive Producer. Art has been involved with Balloon Fiesta for 36 years in a multitude of roles and at one point in his career spent time as a radio and TV reporter, anchor and producer. Back in 1990, he wrote, produced and anchored a television special on Balloon Fiesta complete with a live broadcast of the Special Shapes Rodeo.

With just 208 days until The World’s Premier Balloon Event would take to the skies, a decision was made to proceed full steam ahead.

While cost explorations and production options continued to be explored, staffing also had to be decided. The option of merely streaming live pictures had been ruled out early on, as the project’s stated goal was to combine and coordinate the previously segregated entertainment elements of the main stage, video wall, and event announcers. A broadcast of this complexity would require talent both in front of and behind the cameras.

Fortunately Balloon Fiesta’s announce team of 28-year veteran Glen Moyer, and Art Lloyd Jr., was well equipped for the on-camera roles as the prime announce team. Beyond their extensive knowledge of ballooning (both Moyer and Lloyd Jr. are pilots), Balloon Fiesta, and the City of Albuquerque, both have years of broadcasting experience in radio and television both as on-air hosts and in behind-the-scenes video and audio production. The third member of the regular announce team, veteran radio personality Larry Ahrens, served as the on-field reporter. Ahrens and a camera team roamed the launch field during the morning sessions, bringing live “cut-in” reports featuring interviews with pilots, spectators, vendors, and more. In that way “Balloon Fiesta Live” was able to bring an entirely new experience to online audiences.

A lot of material was needed. While Moyer, Lloyd Jr. and the balloons themselves easily filled the “live” portion of the show, the video walls in the park go live each morning at 4:30 am until the balloons launch at 7 am. This required the creation of “pre-produced” informational segments that could be aired during the pre-launch hours and after the launch ended. The same thing was repeated for the five evening sessions as well. While a lot of ideas for coverage were considered, it was decided to forego some of these bells and whistles to concentrate on putting on a quality first broadcast, and with an eye to expanding coverage and options in future years.

With the addition of this live video component, the announcers, Moyer and Lloyd Jr. found they were, for the first time, talking to two distinct audiences, the spectators on the field and online viewers from around the world. Thus they had to not only watch the balloons on the field and in the sky,
but now also had to pay attention to TV monitors displaying what the online audience was seeing. Add to that, manipulating their iPad-based balloon spotting app, monitoring entertainment staff and flight officials’ radio communication, using iPhones and computers to interact live with online viewers on Facebook and Twitter, all the while coordinating their “chat” with the rest of the production team was definitely a huge expansion of information and complexity.

Even the usual “Good Morning” greeting had to be adjusted due to the time differences of viewers around the world, where people might be enjoying lunch, afternoon tea, or dinner while watching the feed. Viewers reported being from nearly every state in the US in addition to England, Ireland, Japan, Australia, Belgium, Scotland, Germany, and Columbia.

For 2018, the team is planning on improving the technical quality of the broadcast and adding new material, including video live from the air to give viewers the experience of being in a balloon during Balloon Fiesta. And the team has set a lofty goal of tripling the viewership from 2017, aiming for the one million view mark in 2018.

So tune in on Facebook, YouTube or the Balloon Fiesta website and join us online, live or just to relive the event. It’s Balloon Fiesta Live!
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FORTY YEARS AGO, DOUBLE EAGLE II CHANGED BALLOONING HISTORY

BY KIM VESELY, FOR THE AIBF HERITAGE COMMITTEE
PHOTOS COURTESY ANDERSON ABRUZZO ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

On August 17, 1978, three businessmen/balloonists from Albuquerque enthralled the world by completing the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by balloon. Before them, more than a dozen teams had tried and failed to make the crossing. Five pilots died. Gas and hot-air balloonists Ben Abruzzo and Maxie Anderson had stared death in the face during an unsuccessful attempt to complete the crossing with their gas balloon, Double Eagle, the previous year.

But Abruzzo and Anderson were convinced the Atlantic could be conquered, and with a third team member, Larry Newman, they launched Double Eagle II on August 11 from Presque Isle, Maine. They hoped to reach Le Bourget field in Paris, the same airport where Charles Lindbergh, the Lone Eagle, landed his single-engine airplane the Spirit of St. Louis in 1926, completing the first flight across the Atlantic. But for safety reasons, they landed outside just outside Paris in a farmer’s field. Throngs of ecstatic Parisian suburbanites stormed into the field to greet the New Mexican balloonists.

The flight set a slew of gas balloon world records for distance and duration (a couple of which still stand), and laid the groundwork for Anderson’s first successful non-stop flight across North America, Abruzzo and Newman’s first manned crossing of the Pacific, and the later trans-global flights of Bertrand Piccard, Brian Jones, Steve Fossett, and Fedor Konyukhov. The Double Eagle II’s flight was the feel-good story of 1978 – the lead story on network newscasts, front page news in papers across the globe, and the cover story for major magazines like Newsweek, National Geographic, and Sports Illustrated. Today, the City of Albuquerque’s Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum exhibits some of the equipment carried aboard Double Eagle as well as a full-size replica of the gondola.

Double Eagle II put Albuquerque on the map in a big way. Sid Cutter, who that same heady week won his first national hot air balloon championship, joked that maybe the rest of the world would finally figure out New Mexico was part of the United States. Interest in and enthusiasm for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and in ballooning in general reached...
a fever pitch as fascinated balloon-watchers realized they themselves could become crew and pilots, and a part of this colorful, adventurous sport.

The flight re-energized gas balloonists around the world. Within two years, the first distance gas balloon race since World War II – the “Friends of Gordon Bennett” – launched from the pier next to the Queen Mary in Long Beach, CA. Four years later, the world air sports federation, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, revived the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, the world’s oldest air race (originally founded in 1906) and now recognized as the world championship of long-distance gas balloon flight. In 1995, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta founded the America’s Challenge for gas balloons, which with the Gordon Bennett are the only two such competitions in the world.

The America’s Challenge will not be held this year, because the world championships (Gordon Bennett) overlaps the Balloon Fiesta, making it impossible for teams to compete in both races. The America’s Challenge is scheduled to return to the Balloon Fiesta in 2019. Meanwhile, weather permitting, it is possible that some U.S. gas teams may launch flights from Balloon Fiesta Park during Balloon Fiesta week.
As Albuquerque grows, landing sites become scarcer, and the “X Marks the Spot” initiative is the perfect opportunity to “find the hidden treasure.”

Starting back in 2007, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® asked the citizens of the Albuquerque area with at least one acre of vacant land free of power lines and other obstructions to share the space with hot air balloon pilots in October. The response has been overwhelming! Since the program started, generous landowners had volunteered hundreds of acres of land suitable for landing!

These additional landing sites, necessary for the safety of our pilots and their passengers, will improve the flying experience for all pilots and increase the opportunity for spectators to assist pilots and crew in landing and packing up their balloons.

As a “thank you” to everyone in the Albuquerque area, Balloon Fiesta is teaming with the Hispano Chamber of Commerce to offer Landowner prizes. To be eligible, a pilot must land on your property and be able to identify the owner and their telephone number or email address. Then the pilot will place the landowner’s information in a container at Balloon Fiesta Park and our Landowner Relations Team will draw names for prizes to the landowners. These prizes will include gift certificates from local restaurants and merchants.

To increase the odds of balloons landing on your property and increasing the chances of winning a prize, please contact the Balloon Fiesta office and request a White Sheet! While it’s not the proverbial “X” it will signify to pilots that they are welcome to land on that property. The sheets are free.

The Balloon Fiesta expresses a very special thank you to the people, companies and agencies who allow Balloon Fiesta pilots and balloons to land on their property.

WANT BALLOONS TO LAND AT YOUR PROPERTY?

MARKS THE SPOT!

BY PAUL SMITH, BALLOON FIESTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

▲ Just dropped in to say hi!

▲ All dressed up with no place to land … this photo was taken in 2006, and some of the few empty lots in this photo now have buildings on them!
In 1983, at the time of the 200th anniversary of the first balloon flight in 1783, the U.S. Postal Service released a special series of four stamps celebrating ballooning. Two of the stamps recognized historic balloon flights, and the other two the growing sport of modern hot-air ballooning. Although the stamps did not specifically mention the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the Postal Service chose to release the stamp in Albuquerque, then as now the “hot air balloon capital of the world.”

In three years (2021), the Balloon Fiesta will celebrate its 50th event and already planning is underway to celebrate the world’s biggest ballooning event in a big way. During this year’s legislative session, state legislators formally petitioned the Postal Service and its Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee to support issuing a commemorative stamp honoring the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Senate Memorial 13, sponsored by Senator Bill O’Neill, and House Memorial 6, sponsored by Representative Sarah Maestas-Barnes, unanimously passed their respective chambers. The memorials cite the Balloon Fiesta’s size, scope, and growth and note that a stamp to commemorate our 50th event would become a treasured remembrance for guests, balloonists, and collectors.

You can help! The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee accepts public suggestions and input, so you can write letters supporting the issuance of a Balloon Fiesta commemorative stamp. The committee screens recommendations and submits those deemed worthy to the U.S. Postmaster General, who makes the final decision. Letters should be sent to:

Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee
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Beep beep! Exciting news for Balloon Fiesta merchandise collectors! This will be an extra special year for Fiesta collectibles and for the official Balloon Fiesta poster!

Artist Daniel Killen of the Chuck Jones Companies of Costa Mesa was selected to create the poster images for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta leading up to its 50th event in 2021. Killen, represents the Chuck Jones Companies with work incorporating the Looney Tunes cartoon characters (made famous by four-time Academy Award recipient, Chuck Jones) has produced the first of four images, “Full of Hot Air” for this year’s Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

A new poster will be released each year over the course of four years leading up to the 50th event and will feature the Looney Tune favorites Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner. The suite of four posters will tell a story over the course of a day, starting with the 2018 poster, which begins at sunrise. Even more exciting is that the posters are a special nod to the original posters released in 1972.

“Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner appeared in the very first posters for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta,” said Lisa Mulder, merchandise manager for the Balloon Fiesta, “and bringing them back to celebrate the upcoming 50th event seemed like the right thing to do. We’re delighted with Daniel’s concept and artwork and feel it represents the exuberance and fun spirit of this international gathering of balloon fanatics.”

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When the kids are back in school and it is starting to get chilly first thing in the morning, I begin to think about the sky filled with the beautiful colors of hot air balloons. Many people may recognize those thoughts, followed by the excitement that once again the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta is just a few weeks away.

Soon thousands of people will come to Albuquerque to see the largest premier ballooning event in the world. Many people visit each year on the weekend to walk around Balloon Fiesta Park taking in the excitement of hundreds of balloons inflating and taking off, filling the sky with color. The second half of the event features the Special Shape Rodeo where children’s eyes become huge with excitement as they see their favorite special shape balloon come to life.

Have you ever thought of how many people it takes to put on Balloon Fiesta every year or thought, “I would love to be a part of all the excitement?”

We invite you to come and join us next year, no matter how much
or how little, you know about hot air balloons. Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta volunteers, called “Navigators” are critical to every area of this world premier event. Our Navigators serve on more than 40 different teams, and just about any person with any skills, talents or interests can experience the Balloon Fiesta from a new perspective. The full-time Balloon Fiesta staff consists of just 18 people, so our 1,100 navigators are crucial to the success of this nine-day international ballooning event.

Navigators who live locally are eligible to help in the office throughout the year with donation requests, merchandise, Field Services, front desk and general back office assistance. After Labor Day, our RV Navigators come into town to get the hundreds of RV sites ready for our RV guests. The event may only last nine days every October, but it takes a year of planning and a collaborative effort between our staff and the Navigators to pull it off.

During the event, all of our Navigators work in sync to make the guest experience safe and spectacular. Navigators work in our Information Booths, the Balloon Discovery Tent, Park ‘N’ Ride, the Artisan tent, and (when qualified) in flight operations, just to list a few of the opportunities available. Some of our Navigators have volunteered since 1972 which was the first Balloon Fiesta held ~ 46 years ago! on a site which is now part of Coronado Center. The event continues to grow and so does the need for more Navigators. We have Navigators from all over the USA and they continue to come back year after year. We have all made lasting friendships, and the camaraderie within the ballooning community is fantastic. Come join our team!

If you are interested in being more than a spectator in 2019, contact Kim Judge at the Balloon Fiesta Office, (505) 821-1000 or through the Balloon Fiesta website: http://www.balloonfiesta.com/contact us/volunteering.
Carry Me Away

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The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta’s Heritage Award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Balloon Fiesta through the creation of new traditions or events, through improving the safety and comfort of the Balloon Fiesta, or through presentation of the event’s history. This year’s recipient made history as one of Albuquerque’s early female balloonists and the first woman to serve as the Balloon Fiesta’s top official, and today helps to write the event’s history as a Balloon Fiesta historian.

Charlotte Kinney earned her pilot rating in early 1977, and with ballooning partner John Lynch flew their balloon, Day Tripper, in the Balloon Fiesta and at other events around the state. She soon began volunteering at the event, and by the early 1980s was a member of the Balloon Fiesta’s Board of Directors. In 1981, Charlotte served as Assistant Balloomeister, second-in-command of the Balloon Fiesta’s flight operations. The next year, she assumed the top post of Balloomeisterin (a feminine form of Balloomeister), the first female in the Balloon Fiesta’s history to direct and oversee all flying events. In 1984, Charlotte agreed to partner with her successor, Neida Courtney, as co-Balloomeisterins for the 1984 Balloon Fiesta, the first and still the only time two people have shared the chief official’s responsibilities.

After retiring from officiating, through the last half of the 1980s, Charlotte directed her efforts to a new project, a Balloon Fiesta daily newsletter. Along with fellow pilots Sue-Ellen Osika and Kim Vesely and volunteer Fina Foster, Charlotte was a writer and co-editor of the Fiesta Flyer, distributed in print (in those pre-Internet days) daily to pilots and guests. Today, Charlotte is a member of the Balloon Fiesta’s Heritage Committee and contributes historical articles to the Balloon Fiesta program. She was also one of the seven co-editors of the committee’s award-winning book Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, released last year and still available in a bookstore near you. We anticipate Charlotte will build on her legacy, playing a key role in the development of the Heritage Committee’s 50th anniversary publications.

Charlotte is the daughter of former Albuquerque mayor Harry Kinney, himself a key figure in the Balloon Fiesta’s history and heritage and a member of the Balloon Fiesta’s Hall of Fame.
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