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Commemorative Guide



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Commemorative Guide Published by:

Ashland Times-Gazette
Ashland Balloonfest

Editors:

Erin Al-Mehairi, Owner Addison's Compass Public Relations
Pilot, History, and Weather Editorials

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Jim Cusick, Safety Officer

Misty D Miller, PR Chair Ashland Balloonfest,
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Photos Courtesy of Linda Goodman Studios

Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2016

- 4-6pm** **Live Radio Remote (West).** 104.5 WQKT, your source for the best news, sports & country music.
- 4-8pm** **Hawkins Fresh Foods BBQ (West).** Featuring Charcoal Mafia BBQ along with Hawkins freshly made and delicious sides & desserts.
- 4-9:30pm** **Henley Graphics Kids Fun Zone (East & North Central).** Pony rides, laser tag, inflatables, airbrushing.
- 5-8pm** **Merchant Area (North).** Featuring home improvement solutions, to educational options, to personal indulgence & much more.
- 5-10pm** **Ashland Elk's Lodge #1360 Beer Garden (East).** 21 and over, ID required.
- 5:30-7:30pm** **News Journal Media Live Entertainment (West).** Kokosing River Surf Club (www.krscband.com) - Classic Rock & Blues
- 6:00pm** **Opening Ceremonies (Main Stage).** Ashland Veteran's Color Guard
- 6-10pm** **Food Concessions Field (Field Perimeter).** Many to choose from.
- 7:00pm** **Media Flight (Launch Field).** Enjoy the cold inflation process as pilots and crew prepare hot air balloons to take area media for the ride of their lives.
- 8:00pm** **Balloon Glow Encounter (Launch Field).** Tickets can be purchased at www.ashlandohioballoonfest.com
- 9:30pm** **Ashland Times-Gazette Balloon Glow (Launch Field).** Enjoy an interactive display as hot air balloons line the launch field and glow against the night sky choreographed to music.

FRIDAY, JULY 01, 2016

- 7-8am** **Fun Flight (Launch Field).** Bring your chairs, coffee and blankets to watch hot air balloons fly-over Freer Field.
- 4-9:30pm** **News Journal Media Kids Fun Zone (East & North Central).** Pony rides, laser tag, inflatables, airbrushing.
- 4-9:30pm** **Food Concessions (Field Perimeter).** Many to choose from.
- 5-9pm** **WMFD TV Live Entertainment (Main Stage).** Midlyfe Crisis (www.midlyfecrisis.com) 60's & 70's Style Rock 'n Roll.
- 5-8pm** **Jungle Bob (West).** Exotic animal show every 30 minutes.
- 5-8pm** **Merchant Area (North).** Featuring home improvement solutions, to educational options, to personal indulgence & much more.
- 5-10pm** **Ashland Elk's Lodge #1360 Beer Garden (East).** 21 and over, ID required.
- 6-8pm** **Live Radio Remote (West).** 93.7 FM the Super Q Listener Party. Enter to win prizes, and meet your favorite Super Q personalities.
- 7:00pm** **Sponsor Flight (Launch Field).** Enjoy the cold inflation process as pilots and crew prepare hot air balloons to take sponsor representatives for the ride of their lives.
- 8:00pm** **Balloon Glow Encounter (Launch Field).** Tickets can be purchased at www.ashlandohioballoonfest.com
- 9:30pm** **Ashland Times-Gazette Balloon Glow (Launch Field).** Enjoy an interactive display as hot air balloons line the launch field and glow against the night sky choreographed to music.

Keep this for next year's event!
JUNE 29 - JULY 1, 2017
www.AshlandOhioBalloonFest.com

SATURDAY, JULY 02, 2016

- 7-8am** **Donley Ford Lincoln of Ashland Balloon Competition (Launch Field).** Bring your chairs, coffee and blankets to watch hot air balloons compete for cash prizes.
- 11:00am** **News Journal Media Cornhole Registration & Warm-up (Central).** \$20 per team.
- 12:00pm** **News Journal Media Cornhole Tournament (Central).** Double Elimination. Everyone guaranteed to play at least 3 games. 70% payout.
- 12-10pm** **Food Concessions (Field Perimeter).** Many to choose from.
- 1-8pm** **Merchant Area (North).** Featuring home improvement solutions, to educational options, to personal indulgence and much more.
- 1-9:30pm** **News Journal Media Kids Fun Zone (East & North Central).** Pony rides, laser tag, inflatables, airbrushing.
- 2-10pm** **Ashland Elk's Lodge #1360 Beer Garden (East).** 21 and over, ID required.
- 2-5pm** **COSI on Wheels (West).** Play, explore and learn as COSI comes with hands on "Science Spots".
- 2:30-3:30pm** **Donley Ford Lincoln of Ashland pilot Meet & Greet (Park Street).** Bring your programs and meet hot air balloon pilots: if you capture all their autographs you will receive a free T-shirt courtesy of Donley Ford Lincoln of Ashland.
- 3:30-4:30pm** **Safety Fun (West & Launch Field).** Metro Life Flight, K-9 Demonstrations, and Ashland Fire Department Truck Display.
- 5-9pm** **93.7 the Super Q Live Entertainment (Main Stage) KRUSH.** High energy Classic Rock and Roll.
- 7:00pm** **Donley Ford Lincoln of Ashland Balloon Competition (Launch Field).** Enjoy the cold inflation process as pilots and crew prepare hot air balloons for lift off, competing for cash prizes.
- 8:00pm** **Balloon Glow Encounter (Launch Field).** Tickets can be purchased at www.ashlandohioballoonfest.com.
- 9:30pm** **Ashland Times-Gazette Balloon Glow (Launch Field).** Enjoy an interactive display as balloons line the launch field and glow against the night sky choreographed to music.

SPECIAL NOTES:

- Schedule subject to change without notice.
- All Hot Air Balloon activities are weather permitting and subject to delay or cancellation.
- Like us on Facebook for updates leading up to and during the event.
- For other weekend activities, visit Ashland Area CVB www.visitashlandohio.com
- ATM available on field.
- No Soliciting Permitted.



History of Hot Air Ballooning:

By Erin Al-Mehairi, Owner, Addison's Compass Public Relations

Last year was Ashland BalloonFest's 25 Year celebration and we featured an article about the history of our particular festival here in Ohio. However, have you ever wondered about the history of hot air ballooning as a whole?

Hot air ballooning has been around for well over 200 years, though the art of releasing paper balloons had been used in China for centuries. Its documented start was in 1783 by a scientist named Pilatre De Rozier who launched the first balloon into the air for 15 minutes before it came crashing down. The first passengers weren't humans though, but a sheep, a duck, and a rooster. The first manned attempt wasn't until a few months later, by French brothers Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier. They launched a balloon made of silk, lined with paper on the inside, and adorned it in gold with suns and zodiac signs. It launched from Paris, France and flew for 20 minutes, supposedly to a large crowd that included Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The two fed the fire themselves into the balloon, one on either side.

Just 10 days later, the first gas (hydrogen) balloon was launched by physicist Jacques Alexander Charles and Nicholas Louis Robert. Also in Paris, it flew for 2 ½ hours. According to the National Balloon Museum in Iowa, gas ballooning was very expensive so only few could take advantage of it, but it was the main mode of air travel until the Wright Brothers invented the fixed wing aircraft in 1903.

In 1785, De Rozier attempted to cross the English Channel for the first time in a hot air balloon. The craft consisted of a hydrogen balloon and hot air balloon tied together, but exploded half an hour later, causing both he and the co-pilot to be killed. However, this system (obviously improved) still remains the most used for long distance flying. It wouldn't be long until someone else would do it though. The same year Jean-Pierre Blanchard and American John Jeffries became the first to cross the English Channel.

George Washington was present in 1793 to see the first hot air balloon launch in North America, also by Blanchard, which went from Philadelphia to New Jersey in 45 minutes. During the next decades up until the 1940s, balloons were used often in battle in America, from the civil war to WWII, for surveillance, communication, and transport.

During the Civil War, they were used for aerial reconnaissance and to find artillery from both sides, but the Union's use was more organized and successful. Thaddeus Lowe designed balloons for the Army made of tough materials as well as gas generation wagons, which made hydrogen, for use in the field.

An interesting local story came about in 1906, when Frank Purdy Lahm, who was born in Mansfield, Ohio and is the namesake for Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport, had recently become a first lieutenant in the Air Force after attending West Point. His father had owned a hot air balloon and Lahm received his balloon license. He then won the International Balloon Race, which was a flight across the English Channel from Paris, France to Yorkshire, England.

Among many other military accomplishments, and his friendship and flying relationship with the Wright Brothers, in 1917 he commanded the Army Balloon School and was an inspector for British and French balloon services. He had many other accolades as he increased in rank and ended his career with numerous awards of merit. However, in the interest of his ballooning feats for the military, the Air Force Academy's first hot air balloon was named in his honor in 1973.

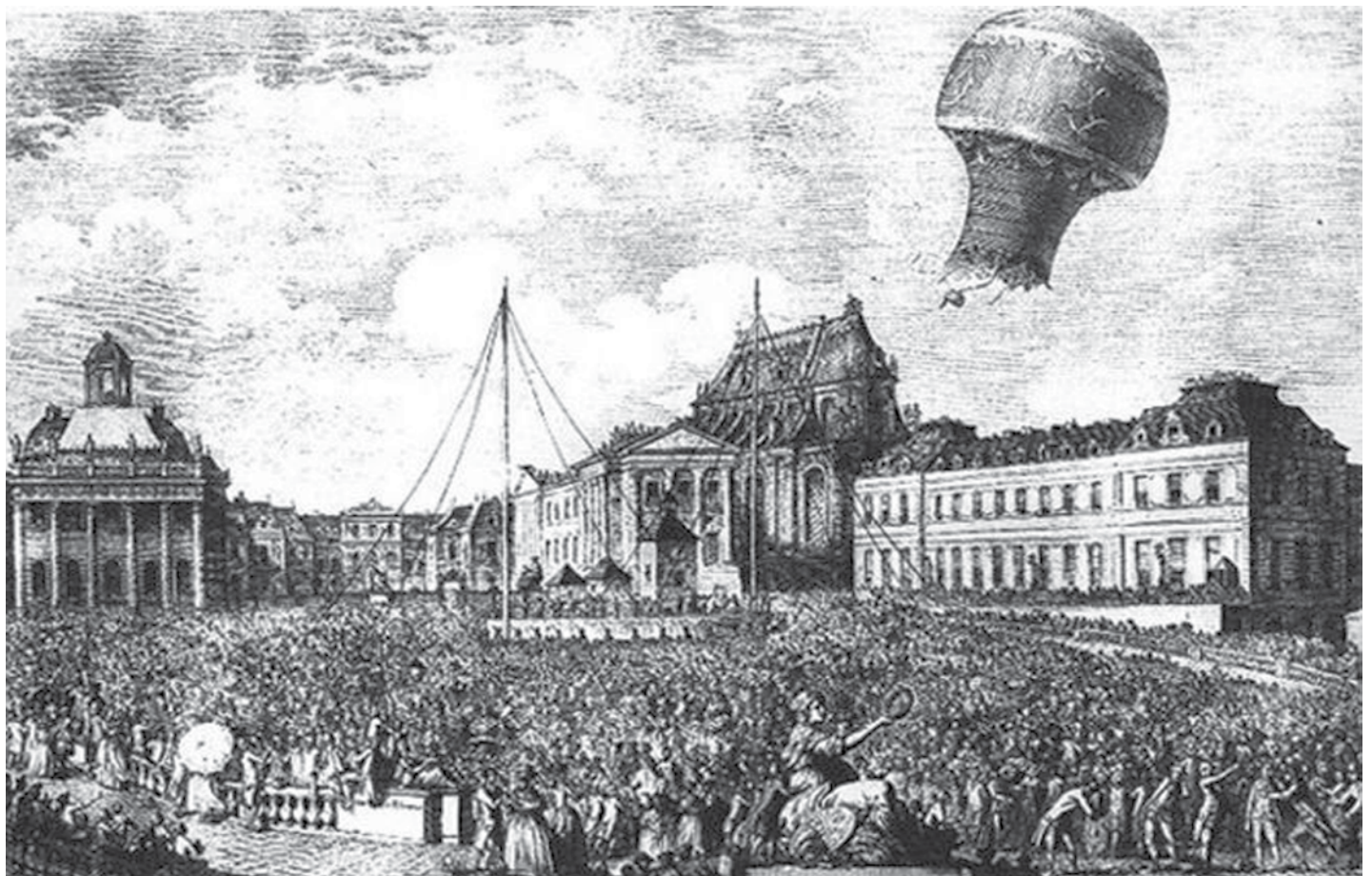
Ballooning would be used widely in military expeditions for numerous reasons over the years, but the sport of ballooning took to new heights as altitude records were made and broken. Finally a record would be set in

Over 200 Years of Protecting and Flying the Skies

1935 that would last for 20 years when a gas helium model proved that humans could survive in a pressurized chamber at high altitudes. This 72,395 foot altitude flight would assist space travel in the future. The next altitude record was set in 1960 when a man parachuted from a balloon and broke the sound barrier with his body. There were many other flying records obtained across the Atlantic and the Pacific, with it being always a challenge for someone new.

Balloons today are mostly used for recreation. Ed Yost is considered the father of modern hot air ballooning because in 1960 he launched a balloon with a nylon envelope and propane burner, but no basket just a seat. It would only take a few years for the balloons we see today to be developed.

In 1963 the sport of hot air ballooning, which consists of balloons not using gas but helium, had intensified enough that the first U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan by the Balloon Federation of America. It then moved around to various locations over the years. The National Balloon Museum organizes the Ballooning Hall of Fame. Thousands of people are recorded as owning hot air balloons today. To the delight of many festival goers, now local ballooning events are held all over the country now much like at Ashland BalloonFest.




Credit for photo black and white pulled from the site. The first balloon flight on Sept. 19, 1783.

Credit: 2001 National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution- See more at: www.livescience.com


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5 O'Clock High

Sponsored by: Ashland Area CVB

5 O'Clock High is flown by Tom Mullinax, who states the balloon is named after Jimmy Buffett music. It's described as having blue gores with red, green, yellow, and orange panels. His crew chief is Judy and this is his first time flying at Ashland BalloonFest. He received his pilot's license in 1993 and he likes flying all his friends and first-time passengers.



Tom Mullinax
Greenville, SC

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Benevolence

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Benevolence is flown by Jake Tyler, which is named since flying it is an act of benevolence. It has a stained glass, multi-colored pattern. His most memorable experience is flying in Mexico and the Philippines. His crew chief is Jessica Tyler and his crew is Riley Tyler, Reagan Tyler, and Cannon Tyler. He received his pilot license in 2010 and this is the first time he's participated in Ashland BalloonFest.



Jake Tyler
Toledo, OH

Pilot Autograph



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Bolt

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The balloon named Bolt is flown by pilot Jim Cusick. He said the name came from the manufacturer of it, as it best describes its design of red and blue with a lightning bolt on each side. He is proud to have won the 2013 Ohio Challenge and feels that's his greatest ballooning experience. In July 2010 at the Ashland BalloonFest he proposed to his wife by dropping a banner out the side of the basket. His crew chief is Laura Cusick and his crew consists of Ben Parsons, Payton Cusick, Logan Repp, Kayla Repp, Tenley Repp, Braxton Repp, Jordan Repp, and Kevin Repp. He obtained his pilot's license in 2004 and he's flown at seven Ashland BalloonFest events!



Jim Cusick
Marysville, OH

Pilot Autograph



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Carolina Twist

Sponsored by: **Directions Credit Union AND Ashland Comfort Control**

Anthony Seeger pilots Carolina Twist, which is named because he lives in South Carolina and the balloon has a multi-colored spiral pattern. He said his most memorable experiences are being able to meet new people and go different places to fly. His crew chief his Erin Seeger and the rest of the crew is various friends and family. He received his pilot's license in 2006 and this is his first time at Ashland BalloonFest.



Anthony Seeger
Travelers Rest, SC

Pilot Autograph

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Chasing Dreams

Sponsored by: **Neil Kadey Insurance Agency**

Jack Semler flies the lovely Chasing Dreams, which his wife named after his long desire to fly balloons. It has a black base, with multiple colors like a mixed up Easter egg. His most memorable experience was flying in the Philippines, but feels his most outstanding achievement is being married for 18 years! He obtained his pilot license ten years ago and his crew chief is Lynn Semler. His crew consists of John Semler, 17, Hannah Semler, 15, Thomas Semler, 13, and David Semler, 12. This is his second year at Ashland BalloonFest.



Jack Semler
Westfield, IN

Pilot Autograph



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Columbia

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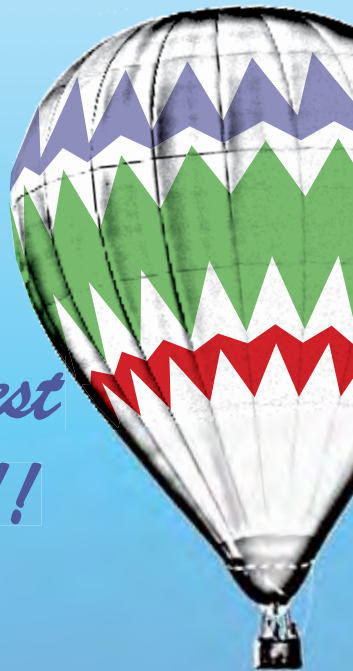
The commanding Columbia is a balloon piloted by Jeff Conley. Named by the previous owner, it graces the sky with vertical stripes of green, blue, yellow, light blue, and white. His greatest experience is sharing flights with his wife and family! His crew chief is Jill Conley and his crew members are his daughters: Katie, Kendra, and Kyla. He said that each time he flies there is something great and that sharing flights with his wife is one of his best experiences! He received his pilot's license in 2006 and he's been participating in Ashland BalloonFest for seven years.



Jeff Conley
Upper Sandusky, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Weekend!!*



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Zee-Nith

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Alex Jonard pilots Zee-Nith, which is orange, yellow, and blue checks with a black falcon on a yellow background on front and back. In coming up with the name, the definition of zenith is the point in the sky or celestial sphere directly above an observer. We have a letter "Z" at the top of the balloon to honor our dear friend and mentor Bob "Professor Zee" Zanella, so Zee-Nith just seemed fitting. Sharing the sport of ballooning with friends and family, as well as answering questions from those curious about ballooning is his favorite aspect! Alex's crew chief is Monica Jonard and crew members are Alex T and Nick Jonard, plus the Swaisgood family of Maxine, Tim, Sarah, Jack, and Claire of Ashland. He obtained his pilot's license in 1987 and they've flown at every Ashland BalloonFest.



Alex Jonard
Saint Charles, IL



Pilot Autograph



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Diamond Girl

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Diamond Girl is flown by Ken Kus and is named after the hit 1973 song "Diamond Girl" by Seals and Crofts. It is red, white, and blue with solid blue panels and white arrows from the top and bottom with alternating red panels. His most memorable experience was meeting Jim Seals (of Seals and Crofts) and having him autograph his log book. He said that hopefully he will someday give them a ride! He has flown at 16 Ashland BalloonFest events and has had his pilot license since 1999. His crew chief is Aaron Blose and his crew consists of Bill, Leah, and Dave.



Ken Kus
 Chagrin Falls, OH

Pilot Autograph

Robin's Nest



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Endeavour

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BalloonMeister

Pilot Gregory Miller flies the balloon Endeavour, which is a dark captain blue balloon with teal and pink tear drops. It has its name because he realized each flight would be a little bit of work or an endeavor. His wife, Sherry, is his crew chief. Michael and Julie are his crew members. Receiving his pilot certificate in 2004, his favorite memory so far is taking his first flight with his wife and son Michael. He's a two-time BFA long jump winner, was a NOBPA Club Rookie of the Year and a Champion in 2013. Greg has flown at Ashland Balloonfest for 13 years and this is his first year as serving as Balloonmeister, the head balloonist or competition director. His job is to direct pilots to safe and successful flights. He leads the pilots in briefings prior to each flight, advising them of conditions they may face or obstacles they may encounter. The Balloonmeister is also responsible for determining the tasks for each competition flight.



Gregory Miller
Grafton, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Flying Dolphin

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Russell Wells
Seville, OH

Pilot Autograph

Pilot Russell Wells takes The Flying Dolphin to the air, showing to the sky the balloon's yellow and green stripes, which run up and down the middle of the balloon, as well as its checkered top of black and yellow. He said his greatest experience would be hard to choose: either winning a car while flying their first dolphin balloon, flying over the Serengeti in Africa, or perhaps flying over the pyramids in Mexico! His crew chief is Renee Wells and his crew is Levon Wells, Drew Felix, Danny Sharier, Neena Sharier, Andy Lippert, and Lisa Wells. He received his pilot's license in November of 2015 and he's flying at Ashland BalloonFest for the first time (though the balloon has been here before flown by different pilot).



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This information provided by NGEH's Health Studies Branch.

Free Spirit V

Sponsored by: **Minuteman Press**

Eric Wasson flies the soaring balloon Free Spirit 5, which is the fifth balloon in the family. It was originally named in the 1970s, when being a "free spirit" was cool, by the people that taught his parents to fly. It is an orange, yellow, and green chevron pattern on a red background. His greatest memory is learning to fly with his father. His crew chief is Sneha Shah, with his crew consisting of Diedre and Brian Kosier and children Jack, Peter, and Drew. He obtained his pilot's license in 2009 and has flown at Ashland BalloonFest approximately six years.



Eric Wasson
Hudson, OH



Pilot Autograph



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Great Adventure

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Pilot Karen Holt flies the colorful Great Adventure, which is aptly named as after each time her brother would take a ride, he'd say, "That was another great adventure!" It has vertical purple stripes with pink and teal insets. Her favorite memories are sharing in ballooning with family, friends, and everyone they have met during a flight. Her crew chief is Tim Alexander and her crew member is Justin Flinger. She's had her license since 1999, has won a 2004 long jump competition, and has been flying in Ashland for 14 years.



Karen Holt
Wooster, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Hazmat

Sponsored by: **Al Farnam Maintenance, LLC & WQKT 104.5**

Hazmat is piloted by Steve Gross. The balloon was in storage for a number of years, and when the bag was opened after it was purchased, there was a strong odor. Several people commented that hazmat training was needed to handle it and the reference stuck as its name! You'll spot it for its multi-color gores alternating with maroon gores. One of his most memorable experiences is giving many, many people their lifelong wish to ride in a hot-air balloon. Andy Gross is his crew chief and Susan Gross makes up the crew. He's had his pilot's license since 1985, but this is his first Ashland BalloonFest.



Steve Gross
Pemberville, OH

Pilot Autograph

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2016 Balloons



5 O'Clock High

Pilot: Tom Mullinax
Ashland Area CVB



Endeavour

Pilot: Gregory Miller
2016 Ashland Balloonfest
Balloonmeister

Benevolence

Pilot: Jake Tyler

Ashland Golf Club/
Shank's Bar & Grill



Flying Dolphin

Pilot: Russell Wells

Truax Printing
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Bolt

Pilot: Jim Cusick

Shakley Mechanical Inc. &
Hospice of North Central Ohio



Free Spirit V

Pilot: Eric Wasson

Minutemen Press

Carolina Twist

Pilot: Anthony Seeger

Directions Credit Union &
Ashland Comfort Control



Great Adventure

Pilot: Karen Holt

Dyer Roche & Company &
Ashland University



Chasing Dreams

Pilot: Jack Semler

Neil Kadey Insurance Agency



Hazmat

Pilot: Steve Gross

AI Farnam Maintenance, LLC.
& WQKT 104.5

Columbia

Pilot: Jeff Conley

Thiel's Home Solutions



Heartland Bank

Pilot: Jeffrey Strine

OhioHealth



Zee-Nith

Pilot: Alex Jonard

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Hour Big Bundle of Joy

Pilot: Walter Rudy

Ashland Pump

Diamond Girl

Pilot: Ken Kus

RES-Real Estate Showcase
Mary Hartley, REALTOR®
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Johnny Chango

Pilot: Ted Gransbury

Ashland Safety Council



At A Glance



K-2

Pilot: Tim Midura

Window Nation



RE/MAX

Pilot: Stew Gibboney

RE/MAX Towne & Country Realty

Legal Eagle 2ZX

Pilot: Ted Watts

Brethren Care Village



Shining Light

Pilot: David Seekell

BellStores



Maveryx

Pilot: Steven Sitko

Grandpa's Cheesebarn



Skydancer

Pilot: Michael Ruede

University Hospitals
Samaritan Medical Center

New Horizons

Pilot: James Makowski

Spreng-Smith Agency, Inc.



Spitfire

Pilot: Paul Dale

Classy Chassis



Oompahloompah

Pilot: Curtis Simoney

Donna D's Family Pizza &
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Tetrus

Pilot: John Moran

Smetz's Tire and Service Center, Inc.

PADA

Pilot: Shannon Rote

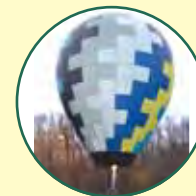
Simonson Construction
Services, Inc.



Updraft

Pilot: Michael Emich

Pioneer National



Perfect Calm

Pilot: Dennis Hall

Beer Barrel Drive Thru



Wildfire

Pilot: Wayne Gibbons

SJE Rhombus

Phoenix

Pilot: Benjamin Sprague

Armstrong & Kingston of Ashland
Nursing & Rehabilitation Center



Moonlight Sun-ata

Pilot: Janet Lutkus

Mazda of Wooster



Heartland Bank

Sponsored by: **Ohio Health**



Jeffrey Strine
Dublin, OH

Jeffrey Strine flies the Heartland Bank balloon and it's named as that because of his advertising contract with the community-based bank out of Columbus. It's described as having horizontal stripes comprised of four different shades of blue, and on the top and bottom of a white equator, with the Heartland Bank logo, which is a farmer with horse-drawn plow. Jeffrey said he was the very first hot air balloon to take off from Freer Field on April 20, 1985. His dad, Bud, a former local banker, put him in touch with the county commissioners at the time. His crew chief is Steve Strine and his Ashland family is the crew: his wife Lisa, Dan Denbow, Susan Strine Denbow, Grant Denbow, Garrett Denbow, and Luke Denbow. He obtained his license in 1985 and he's flown at many Ashland BalloonFest events.

Pilot Autograph



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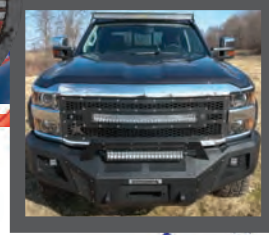
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Hour Big Bundle Of Joy

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Walt Rudy is the pilot of Hour Big Bundle of Joy, which he said is named because they are proud of their balloon and they enjoy sharing experiences with others. It's yellow with an oscillating multi-colored center. His best memory is flying at Letchworth State Park ("The Grand Canyon of the East") with 25 other balloons over a Memorial Day weekend and dropping the balloon into the 700 foot deep gorge. His crew chief is Deb Smith-Rudy and his crew consists of Eric Mayer, Gary Coffman, and others. He received his pilot's license in 1984, was a past president of the Central Ohio Balloon Club, achieved the milestone of 1,000 hours of flight, and this is his third year to fly at Ashland BalloonFest!



Walter Rudy
Wadsworth, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Johnny Chango

Sponsored by: Ashland Safety Council

Johnny Chango takes to the skies with Ted Gransbury, who named the balloon when his instructor told him he wouldn't fly in an unnamed aircraft as it is bad luck... so Johnny Chango came in to existence and it's stuck ever since. He describes it as large'ish and in charge'ish. A memorable flight for him so far was in Albuquerque during the International Fiesta. He flew with his instructor with hundreds of other balloons flying around him. He feels his outstanding achievement has been his "Remove Before Flight" key tag which he received for leaving his chase vehicle keys in his pocket as he flew away in his balloon! He obtained his pilot's license in 2015 and this is his second Ashland BalloonFest.



Ted Gransbury
Plainfield, IN

Pilot Autograph



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K-2

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Pilot Tim Midura flies K-2 (or otherwise known as Kismet Two or Too in honor of previous Kismet). It has a yellow top with different colored gores. Tim's crew chief is Melissa Midura and his crew consists of Lori, Jay, Eli, and Mae Nowak. A favorite memory for Tim is flying his first balloon in Costa Rica and he feels his outstanding achievements are winning first place at several rallies over the years, including Ashland! He received his pilot license in 1980 and has flown at Ashland BalloonFest for 20-22 years!



Tim Midura
Marshallville, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Legal Eagle 2ZX

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Ted Watts
Meadville, PA

Pilot Autograph

Pilot Ted Watts flies Legal Eagle 2ZX, which is yellow with orange and magenta panels with eagles on meridian. He calls his balloon after the name of his original Legal Eagle, the nickname given attorneys, but since this is a racer he is hoping to get closer to the X, so 2ZX was added to the original name. Marti Troutner is his crew chief and his crew members are Ray Hinchcliff and Roger Miller. A five-hour flight in a hydrogen gas balloon from Akron to Transfer, PA in August 2015 with his good friend Mike Emich is one of his favorite memories so far. Ted received his pilot's license in 1995 and has been soaring Ashland BalloonFest skies for 19 years!



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11th Hour

Schedule of Events

Sunday, June 26:

10:15 a.m. - Wifflefest Dedication Service

1:00 p.m. - Family Fun

Thursday, June 30:

4:00 p.m. - Elementary & Middle School

Friday, July 1:

4:00 p.m. - High School Tournament

Saturday, July 2:

10:00 a.m. - Make up day - (if necessary)

Sunday, July 3:

10:15 a.m. - Wifflefest Outreach Service with Jason Taylor of Bar None Cowboy Church

Monday, July 4:

9:00 a.m. - Adult Tournament

6:00 p.m. - Community Picnic

7:00 p.m. - Concert with 11th Hour—Fire works at Community Stadium to follow.

AS-1047284

Maveryx

Sponsored by: **Grandpa's Cheesebarn**

Pilot Steve Sitko flies Maveryx, which is mostly pink with lime green and blue spirals and accents of black and silver. They consider hot air ballooning a family sport, so he put his daughters' names, Avery and Maddyx, together to form their balloon name. His wife Sara serves as his crew chief, with his two daughters as the crew. Steve believes that every flight is a unique experience of its own, but his greatest experience was taking his daughter on her first flight last year and seeing her genuine excitement to be flying with her dad. He received his pilot's license in 2013 and he's flown at Ashland BalloonFest for three years.



Steven Sitko
Jackson, MI



Pilot Autograph

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New Horizons

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James Makowski flies New Horizons, which is named as he wanted a name that would convey a new direction and also something aeronautical. It's purple with a fan of colors going up one side and down the other side. His greatest ballooning experience was flying in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Receiving his license in 2007, he's been flying at Ashland BalloonFest five or six years. His crew chief is Marilyn Makowski and his crew consists of Adele Lifer, Ken Briggs, Julie Wilson, and Bob Wilson.



James (Jim) Makowski
Burton, OH

Pilot Autograph



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Oompahloompah

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Curtis Simoney flies Oompahloompah and he named it because it was the first thing that popped into his head. It's black with ascending and descending peacock feathers. His crew chief is Lynn Simoney and he received his license in 1979. The greatest ballooning experience he had was crossing the continental divide in Colorado and he considers his outstanding achievement living this long. He's never flown at Ashland BalloonFest before this year.



Curtis Simoney
Toledo, OH

Pilot Autograph

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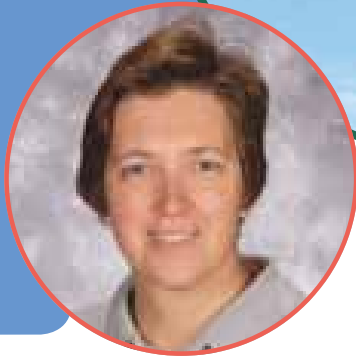
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PADA

Sponsored by: **Simonson Construction Services, Inc.**

Pilot Shannon Rote flies PADA, which was the balloon of her late mentor Bob Zanella. PADA stands for Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse as Bob was a retired Pharmacist. It's black, orange, and yellow with two falcons and two PADA logos. Her most memorable moment is a tie between flying the opening morning at Albuquerque and meeting the Eagle family at last year's Ashland Balloonfest. She's a past president of the North East Ohio Balloon Pilot's Association and her mentors were Sue Korosa, Becky Madick, and Bob and Bev Zanella. Her crew chief is Michael Rote and her crew consists of Tim Eagle, Tracy Eagle, and Clayton Eagle. She's been flying at Ashland BalloonFest for seven years. She said she enjoys coming back to Ashland every year. The people in Ashland are wonderful and very kind.



Shannon Rote
Doylestown, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Perfect Calm

Sponsored by: **Beer Barrel Drive Thru**

Dennis Hall flies Perfect Calm, of which he said it is aptly named as it symbolizes the feeling of flight in a hot air balloon and is also the opposite of how most people view him and his personality! The balloon has the colors blue, green, black, white, and a little bit of gray. The face of the balloon was designed to be unique from other common balloon patterns used. It appears there are blue and green diamonds separated by white panels. He usually travels with Marc and Ali Terrell. They started crewing for him in 2015 and have been a huge asset to the Perfect Calm team. He obtained his pilot license in 2007, but has never flown at Ashland BalloonFest until now!



Dennis Hall
Howell, MI

Pilot Autograph



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Phoenix

Sponsored by: **Armstrong & Kingston of Ashland Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**

Benjamin Sprague pilots Phoenix. It is described as having bright colors with a Phoenix inlay on two sides. He said the great thing about being a balloon pilot is that this is a hard question to answer because every flight is unique and exciting. He enjoys flying with local pilots and meeting new landowners. His mentor is Jody Leatherberry, a man to which many balloonists owe their passion and knowledge of this sport. His wife is his favorite person he has have flown with, but he said the next favorite will be when his wife gets brave enough to let their daughter go up with dad, but apparently two is not a mom-approved age for the first balloon flight! Benjamin obtained his pilot license at the end of 2015 and so this is his first Ashland BalloonFest. Dana is his crew chief and Sadie crews for him. He also notes of hot air ballooning that every flight is relaxing: "It is such a calm setting that allows you to notice and see things from a different perspective. The hustle and distractions of everyday life disappear when you are in the basket above the world."



Benjamin Sprague
Leslie, MI

Pilot Autograph



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The aptly named corporate Re/Max balloon is flown by Stew Gibboney, with the colors of red, white, and blue. His crew chief is Julie Gibboney and his crew members are Michele Gibboney, Nikki Crister, and the local Ashland Re/Max realtors Tim and Jenni Stoops. His best memory is being one of the 33 pilots invited to participate in the Centennial Era Balloon Festival at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) May 1, 2009. He was the President of the Central Ohio Balloon Club from 2001-2008. He received his pilot's license in 2000 and he's flown at Ashland BalloonFest for 13 years.



Stew Gibboney
Grove City, OH

Pilot Autograph



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Shining Light

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Shining Light is the balloon flown by pilot David Seekell. He named his balloon in memory of his mother who passed away in 2003, as she was their "shining light." It is primarily light blue with an eye-catching red and white striped lighthouse. Tina Seekell is his crew chief and crew members are Nicole and Emily Seekell and Beth Schutzberg. He loves meeting so many new people and making friends. Obtaining his pilot's license in 1994, this is his seventh year at Ashland BalloonFest.



David Seekell
Jackson, MI

Pilot Autograph

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Skydancer

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The balloon Skydancer is flown by pilot Mike Ruede. It's dark blue, with pink and teal tear drops, and is named simply because the first balloon he owned was called Sundancer. His greatest times are taking passengers for their first hot air balloon ride! He obtained his pilot's license in 2003 and his crew chief is Anne Wade. His other crew member is Amy Meyers. This is his second appearance at Ashland BalloonFest.



Michael Ruede
Orient, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Spitfire

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Paul Dale pilots Spitfire, which he named due to the burner spitting fire to heat the balloon, but also because of his personality! It has two larger diamond patterns on the front and back and flame patterns by the mouth. His crew chief is Melissa Larson. Dave Smith and Jake Dale will be the crew. He has 28 years of ballooning experience, but he obtained his pilot's license in 2014. His outstanding achievement so far is earning 2015 NOBPA Rookie of the Year and finishing in the top 20 in the U.S. It's his second year to fly at Ashland BalloonFest.



Paul Dale
East Canton, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Tetrus

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John Moran pilots the interesting Tetrus, which is named of course after the famous game! It's white with various reverse "Ls" of many colors. He's been flying at Ashland BalloonFest for 19 years, gaining his pilot license in 1989. His most memorable experiences have been flying in many states as well as Czech Republic, Poland, France, Spain, and Mexico. Marie Russell is his crew chief and his crew consists of Tammy, Bob, and Bobbie Holton.



John Moran
Cortland, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Updraft

Sponsored by: **Pioneer National Latex**

Michael Emich pilots Updraft, which is named after a WWII bomber. It has an off-set block spiral pattern with colors of white, gray, black, yellow, sky blue, and navy blue. Michael's favorite memory is flying a WWII Navy gas balloon in 1984 from Akron, Ohio to Boston, Massachusetts, which was a flight that was 515 miles and during overnight hours. However, he feels his outstanding accomplishments are winning five distance races, such as National Record AX-4 distance, AX-5 distance, and AA-4 gas distance. He has had his pilot's license since 1974. His crew chief is Roxanne Emich and his crew members are Steve, Cody, and Carrie Uhler. He's flown at all the Ashland BalloonFest Festivals!



Michael Emich
Akron, OH

Pilot Autograph

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Wildfire

Sponsored by: **SJE Rhombus**

Wayne Gibbons pilots Wildfire. He said the balloon was already named when he bought it. It has yellow, red, and black vertical stripes making it a striking balloon against the sky. His crew chief is Ryan Lengel and his crew members are Tyler, Angela, and Lukus Stricker, as well as Kirsten and Aubrey Lengel. His most memorable moment was his flight with instructor Bob Zanella. He obtained his pilot's license in 2002, was Rookie of the Year in 2006, and 2014 was his first year at Ashland BalloonFest.



Wayne Gibbons
Stow, OH

Pilot Autograph



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Moonlight Sun-ata

Sponsored by: Mazda of Wooster

Janet Lutkus pilots the eye-catching Moonlight Sun-ata. It was named by her crew in a contest because it fits its royal blue with sun and moon celestial pattern. To Janet, ballooning is a wonderful sport to share with the family and other enthusiastic people, especially children. Janet's outstanding achievement is in knowing how to fly a balloon safely. Her crew chief is Diana Beck. She has had her pilot's license since 1993 and been at Ashland BalloonFest for 23 years.



Janet Lutkus
Medina, OH

Pilot Autograph

Wishing You a Happy and Safe Holiday Weekend.

Enjoy Balloonfest!



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Are the Balloons Going Up?

How Weather Affects Balloon Flights



The major nemesis for hot air ballooning is the weather. Hot air balloon pilots are superheroes when it comes to monitoring the weather to ensure safety for themselves, their passengers, and their equipment.

One of the most asked questions at the Ashland Balloonfest over the years has been, "Are the balloons going up?" That's because in Ohio, even in the summer, the weather can be fickle. Even if it's not raining, hazy, foggy, or windy conditions can prevent balloons from flying. Weather can change over a few hours too. Most pilots like light winds, no rain (in the approaching weather), and maximum visibility.

Hot air balloon flights take place just after sunrise and generally two to three hours before sunset. Balloons take off and land the best in winds that are about four to six miles per hour, but maximum is about eight mph (for take offs). Wind is one of the number one reasons flights are canceled. It can contribute to hard / fast landings, could cause the balloon to be burned, and more.

It sometimes may feel to those on the ground that there is not any wind. This usually causes confusion as to why the balloons are not flying. Wind speed and direction is different at higher altitudes. That's why all balloon events utilize a weather officer who looks at all aspects of weather for the general flying area of the balloons. Hot air balloons can fly just above the ground or high in the air (up to 8,000 feet or higher). In over populated areas, balloons are required to fly 1,000 feet higher than the tallest obstacle and in a 2,000 radius from the aircraft. However, the Ashland Balloonfest applies for a special waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to allow the balloons to fly lower over the populated areas.

As a balloon's speed during landings will be the speed of the wind it's coming in at, wind can have an impact on landings. A pilot needing to stop three-10 tons of velocity force (of the balloon), without brakes, can have a rough bumpy landing.

The weather officer and pilots at festivals such as Ashland Balloonfest, send up a pibal, which is short for pilot balloon, in order to check the wind speed and direction. This balloon is filled with helium and let go at a potential launch site. It is then tracked with a compass to determine the direction of the wind.

Once in flight, a pilot can use a GPS, computer, altimeter, variometer, and personal outlooks to gauge maneuvering the balloon. During a balloon flight, there is a delay between the burner being activated and the balloon actually increasing in altitude. This delay can change for every flight based on air temperature, the amount of weight being carried in the balloon basket, wind speed, and other factors. For a balloon to increase altitude, the air inside the balloon must be warmer than the equilibrium temperature of the balloon, and likewise for a balloon to decrease altitude, the air inside must be slightly cooler than the equilibrium temperature.

Rain is always a problem for hot air balloon flights. Generally, if a storm front is within 50 miles, the balloons will not fly. This is because weather systems can speed up and slow down quickly and everyone's safety is always the number

one concern. Lighting from a storm could strike up to 50 miles away from the actual storm system. Getting the balloon material wet can cause problems if it is left wet for long periods of time.

Surprisingly, heat can also be an issue. Even though summer time is optimal weather for ballooning, it also can be too hot. During the day, thermals can form above the ground (large columns of hot air rising) which are dangerous to hot air balloons flights. Usually, that's why balloons do not fly during the day. Hot weather also makes it tougher on the balloon crew who helps set-up and take down these large beautiful aircrafts. The hotter the outside temperature, the less weight a hot air balloon can carry to maintain a safe operation.

Hot air ballooning is one of the most beautiful and serene recreational sports; however, it is also important that safety precautions are followed by everyone involved. Balloonist have a saying, "I would rather be on the ground wishing I was in the air, than in the air wishing I was on the ground." Safety will always be a priority at the Ashland Balloonfest.

By Erin Al-Mehairi and Greg Miller Balloonmeister
Photo Courtesy Linda Goodman Studios

Kid Zone



Thursday, June 30th

4-9:30 pm Henley Graphics Kids Fun Zone - East & North Central

Friday, July 1st

4-9:30 pm News Journal Media Kids Fun Zone - East & North Central

5-8 pm Jungle Bob West

Saturday, July 2nd

1-9:30 pm News Journal Media Kids Fun Zone - East & North Central

2-5 pm COSI on Wheels - West

3:30-4:30 pm Safety Fun - West & Launch Field

2:30-3:30 pm Donley Ford Lincoln of Ashland pilot Meet & Greet - Park Street





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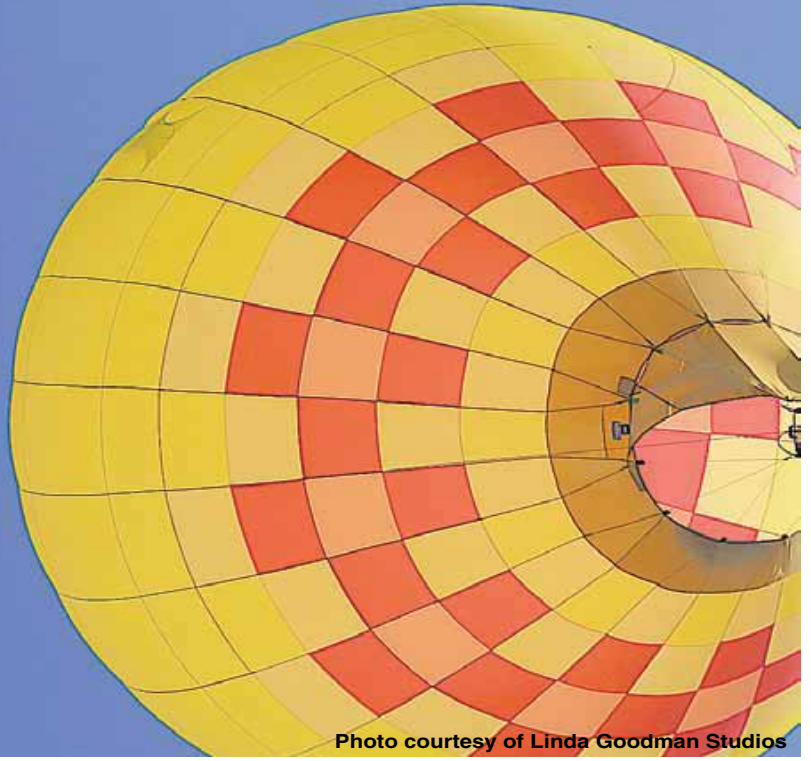


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