



Champagn-E-Vents

February 2023

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 Calgary, Alberta,
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WEBSITE: <http://www.calgaryballoonclub.ca/>

Live PZ Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/Twu821rLYiR2>



MEETING HALL ADDRESS:
 SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
 1916 McCall Landing NE
 Calgary, AB, T2E 9B5

MEETINGS:
 Second Wednesday of each month, (except July, August & December) @ 7:30 p.m

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
President	Shane Lockyer	403-771-3002
President-Elect	Brant Leatherdale	403-478-6800
Past-President	Richard Clark	403-288-2978
Vice President	Jenn Podruski	403-276-6507
Secretary	<i>vacant</i>	
Treasurer	Dirk Luxen	403-992-2194
Director-At-Large	Emma Lockyer	403-968-4147

COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Chief Pilot	Linda Then	403-276-6507
Chief Flight Instructor	Del Michaud	403-246-8332
Education	Richard Clark	403-288-2978
Merchandising	Shane Lockyer	403-771-3002
Newsletter Editor	Cathy Dudgeon	403-603-8774
Rural Events Co-ordinator	Brant Leatherdale	403-478-6800

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Past President's Report

Happy New Year to all of our Club members! 2022 saw us coming out of the covid restrictions. During 2022, our activities opened up with participation in balloon events and a 46th Club anniversary. As 2023 started with a great New Year's Day flight, we anticipate a fun year.

Thank you to those that have served on the executive. Cathy Dudgeon as secretary, has provided excellent records of our meetings while keeping us on track. Linda Then as vice president provided the executive with strong guidance and motivation to get things done. At the Christmas party, the Club gave recognition to Linda for her years of service in many positions in the Club. Thank you to both of these individuals. We appreciate your contributions.

The Calgary Balloon Club operates with the efforts of volunteers. Volunteers are those who show willingness to contribute time, effort, and talent to the many types of ballooning activities. At the November meeting, we had volunteers come forward to be on the executive board along with returning members. The Club executive for 2023 is:

- President elect, Brant Leatherdale
- President, Shane Lockyer
- Past President, Richard Clark
- Treasurer, Dirk Luxen
- Vice President, Jennifer Podruski
- Director at Large (and secretary support), Emma Lockyer

To close, "Thank You" to all who contributed to the Club in 2022. In 2023, we can use good ideas, and volunteers to make things happen. The Calgary Balloon Club is strong, with great potential.

Thanks, *Richard*

From the Newsletter Crew

We are thrilled to share news of a record-setting hot air balloon flight that took place in November 2022. A dedicated team of balloonists worked together to help Alicia Hempleman-Adams set new world and British records. The team's achievement is a testament to their skill and dedication to the sport of hot air ballooning, and we extend our congratulations to them for this incredible accomplishment. Their success and cooperation is an inspiration to all those who share a passion for ballooning, and we look forward to seeing what new **heights** Alicia will reach in the future.

Huge thanks go out to all those who submitted content for this newsletter. Your contributions have enriched the publication and helped to make it a success. We appreciate your time, effort, and creativity in sharing your stories, opinions, and expertise. Thank you for your support and for being a part of our community.

The May newsletter (and spring!) is just around the corner, and we want to hear from you! We are seeking submissions for photos, articles, stories, opinions, and updates that are of interest to our readers and related to ballooning.

Do you have a new project or initiative that you want to share? Do you have expertise in a particular field or topic that you would like to discuss? Or do you have a personal story or experience that you believe would inspire and inform people? Do you have any feedback about this newsletter?

We welcome submissions from all members of our community. Whether you are an experienced writer or just starting out, we encourage you to send us your content for consideration - pictures, bullet points, even just a few simple sentences.

We kindly ask that all submissions be directly emailed to us by April 15th to ensure that they are included in the next newsletter. Please email it to Cathy at cathycdn@gmail.com or to Sharon at sjelliott@sasktel.net with the subject line "Newsletter Submission." We look forward to sharing your ideas and thoughts with our readers. Thank you for your contributions and ongoing support!

Cathy Dudgeon, Sharon Elliott, Heather Clark, Darla Grasley



Auction Items

We removed two special items from Ralph's donated goods that we set up as auction items at the 46th Anniversary Celebration. Members and guests were invited to bid on either of the items.



Auction Item #1 was a lovely pewter set of handcrafted locomotives along with the wooden display shelf.

Final bid on this item was Jenn Podruski for a total of \$155.00.

A great deal! Thanks Jenn! Thanks Ralph!



Auction Item #2 was a framed set of 62 Flags of the Nation pins from the 1988 Olympics in Calgary and featuring Hidy and Howdy.

Final bid on this item was Layne Dickinson with a final bid of \$100.00.

Another great deal and so nice to see the next generation enjoying these lovely pins.

Thanks Layne and thanks Ralph!

The Calgary Balloon Club 2023 calendars have sold out! Thank you to everyone who purchased a calendar and supported our Club. We hope that you're enjoying the beautiful photos and finding the calendars useful throughout the year.

If you missed out on purchasing a calendar this year, don't worry - we will be releasing new calendars for 2024. Dirk is already accepting photo submissions for next year's calendar and invites you to share your favourite photos. Please send your high-resolution images to luxen@shaw.ca. We can't wait to see your submissions and create another stunning calendar for the upcoming year. Thank you for your participation and support! *(Dirk says to turn your phone sideways!)*

New Hot Air Ballooning Records Set

*By Richard Clark, Cathy Dudgeon, Brent Gordon, Johnny Green, Dennis Myrthu, and Linda Then
All photos by Johnny Green, unless otherwise indicated.*

On Tuesday, November 22, 2022, Alicia Hempleman-Adams launched from High River and flew for over seven hours before landing in Saskatchewan, setting several new records. She was alone in the balloon, but supported by a core of dedicated balloonists.

Back in February 2020 Alicia and her father, David Hempleman-Adams travelled from the United Kingdom to Canada to fly, and set new ballooning records then. (details in the February 2020 issue) It went so well that they decided to return for more record attempts. After several delays due to the pandemic and paperwork, November 21, 2022 was set as the target date for the next adventure.

The equipment needed to be prepared long before the U.K. team started their trip. The balloon itself, an Ultramagic H-31 (AX4), arrived in February 2022 and was stored at the Clarks' unofficial balloon port. Two titanium and two aluminum propane tanks were checked, certified, and filled. The Techno basket was assembled, including unique Ultramagic mounts for exterior tanks. Radios, inflation fan, burner assembly, nitrogen system, helium, Windsong, a trailer in which to put everything, and a vehicle to pull it - all was arranged.

Meanwhile overseas, Alicia worked with her support team to prepare for the task ahead. It would be a long, lonely, demanding flight. She prepared mentally and physically.

The team from the U.K. arrived in Calgary late in the afternoon on Monday, November 21st. Alicia was accompanied by her father, David, as well as Martin Cross, Johnny Green, Archie Miller-Bakewell and Rosalind Smith. The whole team stayed at the home of Richard and Heather Clark.

No time to rest. One of the requirements for the FAI record was to complete a measurement of the panels of the hot air balloon G-CLGY, as it had been flown before and required confirmation that it had not stretched by more than 5% and was therefore a different size category. Richard Clark was able to find space at a nearby dance studio, where Linda Then and Rosalind Smith carefully measured the envelope and compared it with measurements from Ultramagic. The task was completed late on Monday evening. The official observers, Archie and Ros, were very pleased that the envelope hadn't stretched at all.



Alicia Hempleman-Adams

While part of the team was working on measuring the envelope, others were checking the weather. The forecasts predicted that conditions might be favourable for a flight the very next morning and the word went out to meet early at the High River Balloon Port.

Tuesday morning was quite windy, but people optimistically gathered at the Port. The U.K. team travelled from Calgary to High River, along with Richard Clark, Brant Leatherdale, Linda Then, Walt Then. Local balloonists Cathy Dudgeon, Brent Gordon and Scott Gordon met them at the Port.

It was cold, dark, and a strong chinook wind was blowing from the west-southwest. A flight seemed unlikely, but balloonists are optimists and a pibal was released. And another pibal. And another. The first pibals appeared to be travelling on an invisible, out-of-control ferris wheel, looping around the sky before hitting the ground just over the trees on the edge of the Port. Brant Leatherdale released a Windsond attached to a pibal. It too touched the ground just past the trees, but then regained altitude and flew off towards the east-northeast.

David continued to be positive, and still wanted to prepare for a flight in case anything changed. Richard Clark, Brant Leatherdale, Linda Then, Walt Then, Cathy Dudgeon, Brent Gordon and Scott Gordon worked on installing the tanks and burner in the basket, as well as getting the envelope ready for the cold inflation. In the meantime, Alicia and her dad went over the logistics, the opportunities, and potential challenges.



The strong winds eventually diminished enough that conditions looked more promising, and the decision was made to try for a flight. Brant Leatherdale hot inflated the balloon. Alicia carefully went through her checklists. The observers documented all the details.

Alicia was aware of the potential for a downdraft on the leeward side of the trees, so went off hot, easily clearing the trees and floated off into the northeast sky to the sound of cheers. The official launch time was 8:31 a.m.

The crew scrambled to follow Alicia in several different vehicles - observers rode in separate vehicles so as to have different perspectives. David and Johnny were in one vehicle, while Martin and Ros drove in the second vehicle. Walt and Linda headed out in their vehicle. Archie and Richard drove the chase vehicle with the trailer. Brant took time to close up the Port and retrieve the Windsong transmitter, before meeting up with Archie and Richard along the road. Ros provided each chase vehicle with an online link for tracking Alicia as it was being transmitted from her balloon so that the team members were able to see her altitude, the ambient temperature and her speed. Brent, Scott and Cathy weren't able to follow the balloon, but closely tracked the electronic Glympse throughout the day. When the assorted chase vehicles stopped in Bassano, Dennis and Heide Mythru joined them, for a total of five vehicles.



Meanwhile in the balloon, Alicia surpassed the previous world distance record of 118 km. With lots of fuel and daylight remaining, she decided to continue flying. There was no opportunity to relax in the balloon. Alicia had to be constantly alert to maintain level flight to conserve as much fuel as possible, made more challenging in such a small balloon. At times the balloon was travelling at 50kph (27 knots).

Her chase vehicles continued to criss-cross the prairie landscape, occasionally meeting for snacks or to discuss possible routes. Some vehicles stayed ahead of the balloon, while others followed more closely.

Alicia's balloon crossed the border into Saskatchewan around 4:00 p.m., and she contacted her ground crew to indicate that she was looking for a landing site. The balloon eventually touched down in a farmer's field about 500m north of the Richard's truck and trailer, landing just before nightfall near Montario, Saskatchewan.



One of the chase vehicles became stuck in the snow when Google Maps indicated that a snowy track was a road. Fortunately a helpful neighbour was able to pull them out in time to be nearby.

A local resident, Brent McClay, helped contact the landowner. That same helpful neighbour then drove out to check on Alicia where she stood next to her balloon, and offered to give her a lift to where the warm truck waited. She graciously declined, saying that she would wait with the equipment until the observers reached it. Soon the landowner himself arrived, and personally led the chase teams onto the field.

Although it was getting dark at this point, there was enough time to hold a champagne celebration on site that included the landowners and the helpful neighbour.

“It was a bit touch and go whether we’d have enough fuel, but hopefully we’ve broken both records,” Alicia said. She had been in the air for an estimated seven hours and forty minutes.



The four-hour return trip allowed time for much discussion about David's good luck extending to include his daughter, Alicia. To be able to accomplish the record flight the day after arriving, to be able to fly at all during chinook conditions, and to land safely after such a long, challenging flight! Unfortunately that incredible luck didn't include the deer that wasn't quite fast enough to avoid a collision with Richard's new vehicle.

Alicia was quiet on the four-hour return trip to Richard and Heather Clark's home, where they celebrated with pizza before finally retiring for much-needed rest.

In the days that followed, a great deal of time was dedicated to compiling the details necessary to validate the record attempts for the FAI. The observers, Archie Miller-Bakewell and Rosalind Smith, spent countless hours combing through, organising, and documenting the particulars of the flight.

With the work of the record-setting flight accomplished, that left time for the U.K. aeronauts to explore the area, with a trip to Lake Louise in the Rocky Mountains. There was still time left to watch the World Cup.



The teamwork wasn't over yet. The call went out during the week, asking if any local balloonists would be willing and able to take up any of the British balloonists who wanted to go for a flight. Richard Clark, Cathy Dudgeon, Scott Gordon, Brant Leatherdale, Shane Lockyer, Jenn Podruski, Linda Then responded. A total of seven balloons came out to fly, taking up the six passengers, followed by the traditional Alberta post-flight champagne toast. It was a great way to celebrate a successful record attempt.



Johnny Green, Richard Clark



David Hempleman-Adams



David Hempleman-Adams

Potentially setting distance and duration records in the women's AX4 Hot Air Balloon category is a remarkable achievement. This project wouldn't have been possible without the combined effort, commitment, and expertise of the volunteers. In addition to an active ballooning community, the Alberta flying conditions mean that we may see more of Alicia's record attempts in the future. Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated!

<i>Records</i>	<i>Sub Class and Categories</i>
World Record - Distance 301.9 kilometres	AX4 FAI Female (Previous 117.84km, Sandra Rolfe, Canada)
World Record - Duration 7 hours, 39 minutes, 30 seconds	AX4 FAI Female (Previous 7:24:35, Sandra Rolfe, Canada)
British Record - Distance 301.9 kilometres	AX4 General British (previous 70.79 km, Mark Shemilt) AX4 Female British (previous 59.57 km, Alicia Hempleman-Adams) AX5 General British (previous 178.00 km, Simon Faithfull) AX5 & AX6 Female British (previous 120.5 km, Jacqueline Hibberd) AX6 General British (previous 221.00 km, Julian Nott) AX7 Female British (previous 163.98 km, Lindsay Muir)
British Record - Duration 7 hours, 39 minutes, 30 seconds	AX4 General British (previous 4 hr 20 min 50 sec) AX4 Female British (previous 1h 45m 18s, Alicia Hempleman-Adams) AX5 & AX6 Female British (previous 7h 7m 46s, Jacqueline Hibberd) AX7 Female British (previous 7h 17m 32s, Christine Luffingham)

Windsond Update

The Calgary Balloon Club will coordinate several Windsond courses for those interested in learning and using it (this winter).

Please contact Brant Leatherdale if you are interested or need assistance with the Windsond.



Retrieving the Windsond during the HIIBF 2022



ANNIVERSARY WINE BAGS

As a hospitality gift for the 46th Anniversary Celebration members and guests, we had some lovely wine bags made up. The amount ordered for the bags was based on an estimate of guests but since we did not achieve our estimated numbers, we have several bags still available.

The bags are great for wine, spirits, or champagne and would be great for hospitality gifts. They're also usable for storing your plastic glasses for tailgating after a flight.

We are offering the remaining bags for sale. \$10.00 each or 3 bags for \$20.00. Please send your request to Linda or Dirk and an etransfer to luxen@shaw.ca. Thanks for your support!

Expressions of Sympathy

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of those who have touched the lives of so many in our community. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and loved ones of these individuals during this difficult time. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of grief, and we extend our sincerest sympathies to all those who are mourning the loss of these special people.

CBC Christmas Party 2022

Thanks to everyone who attended the club Christmas party on Saturday, December 10. We had a good group of 27 members and guests and based on the noise, everyone seemed to be having a good time enjoying the socializing and a great selection of food, including some pretty amazing desserts.

The games were fun. The first one was meant to get everybody sitting down and worked relatively well, but the second game that was meant to get everybody up for dinner took forever. Next time, a calculation on probabilities is probably required in the testing process.



Our very own Santa, Paul Benninger

Thanks to everyone who helped with the set up and take down. It is greatly appreciated to have all that help. Thanks to Heather for all of her pre-party work and running the bar at the party, along with her helper Emma. Thanks to those who donated some great items for the raffle draws, and to Cathy for looking after the draws and encouraging everyone to get a ticket on some great items.

Everyone departed in great Christmas spirit, wishing all a very Merry Christmas and “see you on New Year’s Day”.

The Southwood community Hall works great for our party and it is one of the most reasonable community halls in the city. In fact, the club executive has already booked for next year. Put Saturday, December 9 in your 2023 calendar!

Linda Then





During the Christmas party, Linda was honoured for over 40 years of dedication to the Calgary Balloon Club.

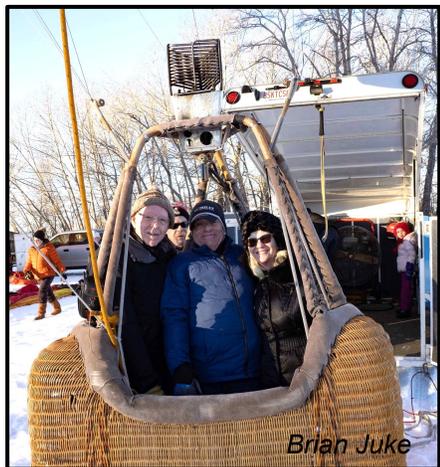
Thank you for all your hard work, Linda!



The weather for High River's Santa Claus parade on December 2nd was a chilly -20C, but crowds of people still lined the streets to enjoy the many Christmas floats - including this one with Elaine Lee, Jamie Kinghorn, Janice Storch, Deb O'Bray, Cathy Dudgeon, Rick Green, and the Jensen family.

New Year's Day Flight & Celebration

The CBC's annual New Year's Day flight included nine balloons launching from the High River Balloon Port, followed by a potluck get-together at Sheppard Family Park.





Ron Kube

Happy
New
Year



Dana Zielke



Dana Zielke Photography



Ron Kube



Chris Jones



Ron Kube



Stephen Pond



Stephen Pond



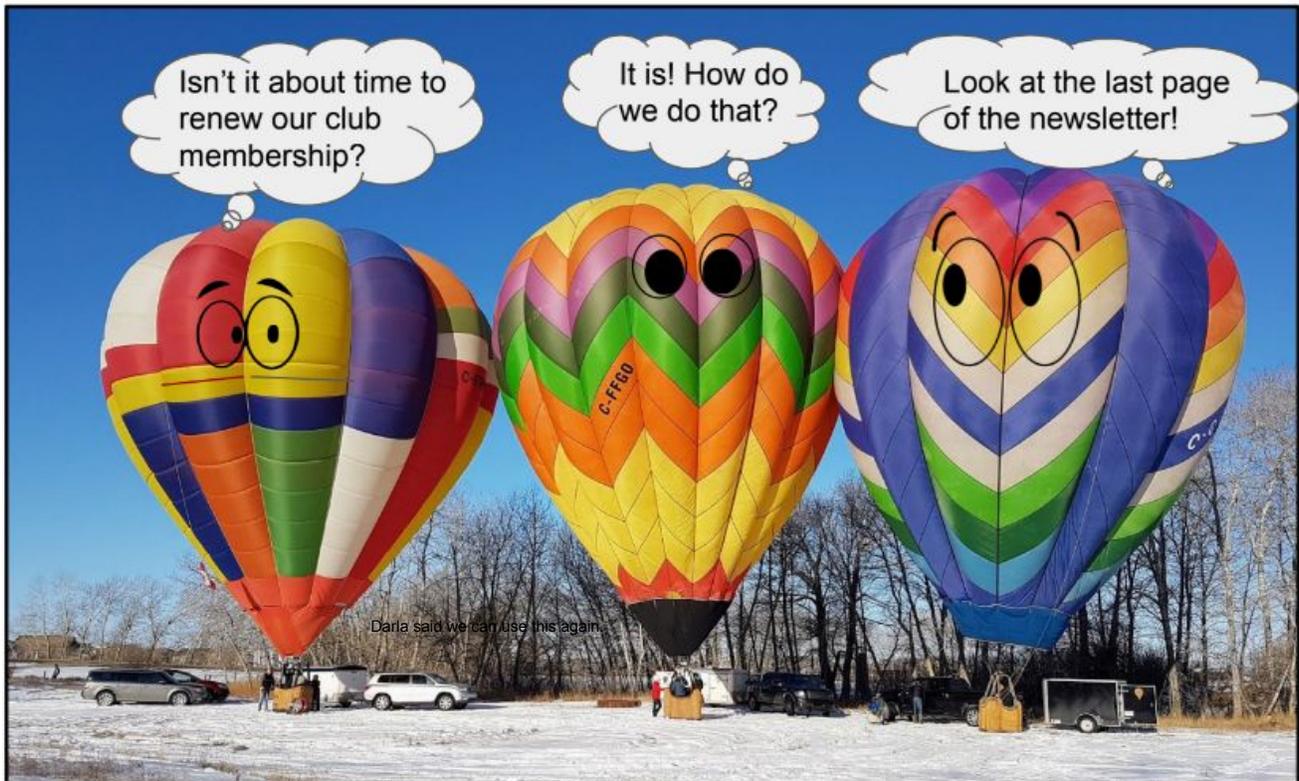
Stephen Pond



Brenda Norrie



People gathered at Sheppard Family Park after flying for toasting and the traditional potluck brunch. A big thank you to Jamie Kinghorn for the venue, and to the CBC for bringing the supplies. It was a great way to start 2023!



Stanley Jones Elementary Adventures School Presentation

Submitted by Debbie Sobb



On December 3, 2022, Linda Then and Debbie Sobb were asked to present the CBC student presentation on Hot Air Ballooning. There were approximately 40 students between the ages of 5 to 10 years old. They had a number of questions but were especially interested in seeing the special shapes. Thank you to Shane Lockyer for supplying fabric from the Hopper for the students to analyze and play with.

A few weeks later, some of the students mentioned that they would like to go for a ride when they were older and one student said he wanted to become a pilot!

We hope we gave them an introduction to the sport that they will remember in the future.

Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair

January 19 – 22, 2023

- “Windy” is the word to describe the 2023 Havasu Balloon Festival
- Over 70 balloons were registered, including shapes.
- Five Canadian pilots attended – Dale Ritchie, John Phillips, Garry Lockyer, Cliff Skocdopole, Richard Clark.
- School tethers were successful and very well received by the children and teachers, on the morning prior to the start of the event.
- Unfortunately, the opportunities for flying throughout the weekend were very limited due to high winds and/or unfavorable wind direction. (Flying towards the lake is less than ideal!)
- The shapes managed to tether and were certainly crowd pleasers.
- A small number of balloons chose to fly a couple of the mornings.
- One of the evenings, it was too windy to even have a ‘candlestick’ display! (Now that’s windy!)
- On the Sunday morning, four of the Canadians were able to tether their balloons at the launch site, along with several others. The spectators enjoyed the display and the opportunity to talk to the pilots and crews.
- As always, we all had fun and were warmly welcomed by the organizers and the community.
- Looking forward to attending the 2024 event!

Richard and Heather



Sheri Skocdopole

static display on the last day

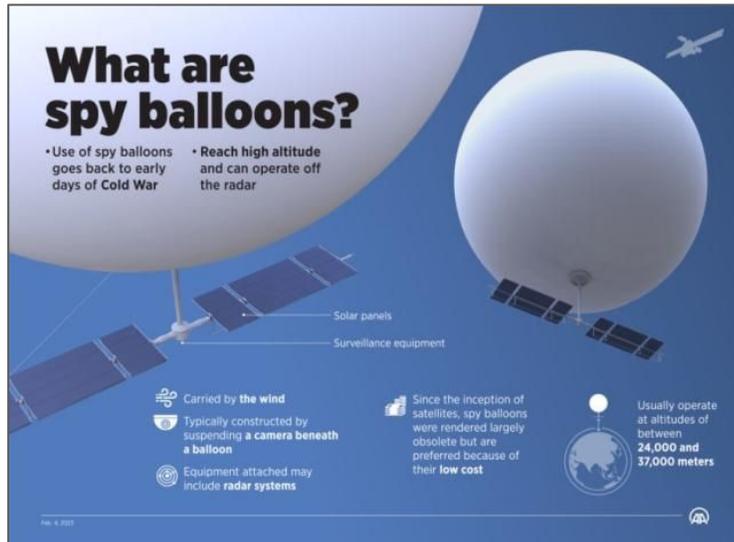


Special Shapes in Havasu



Richard Clark's school presentation

The recent news about Chinese spy balloons has sparked concern among many people, and a flurry of jokes among balloonists.



Canadian spy balloons



A balloon in Kalispell hung this "Not A Spy" sign from the basket



Even the Goodyear Blimp wasn't immune.

2023 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



Dates and locations will be confirmed by email.

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION
Feb 18-20	Sylvan Lake Winterfest	Sylvan Lake
March 8	CBC General Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
April 12	CBC General Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
May 5-7	Spring Drumheller Happening	Drumheller
May 10	CBC General Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
May 25-28	Rise Up Hot Air Balloon Festival	Medicine Hat
June 14	CBC General Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
June 18	Wings & Wheels	Hangar Museum
July 21-23	Big Sky International Balloon Rendezvous	Billings, Montana
Aug 3	CBC Annual Summer BBQ	TBD
Sept 1-4	Hespero Annual Balloon Race	Hespero
Sept 13	CBC General Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
Sept 15-17	Fall Drumheller Happening	Drumheller
Sept 27-Oct 1	Heritage Inn International Balloon Festival	High River

Please email submissions for the May newsletter
to Sharon sjelliott@sasktel.net or Cathy cathycdn@gmail.com by April 15th.
Earlier is better.

