



Champagn-E-Vents

May 2023

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 Calgary, Alberta,
 T2A 4C3

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
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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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Chief Pilot Report

By Linda Then

I've taken ideas from a TC article published originally in 2015 and altered it to pertain to our ballooning community.

Does Our Balloon Group Think Safety?

Most of us fly as part of a group. In our case, this is the Calgary Balloon Club and with others who share an interest in our sport.

Regardless of what it is called, or how big or small it is, any group will establish a set of norms that serves to provide a code of behavior for people in that group. We don't sit down and decide how to behave in the group. Normally, this is something that develops as the various people relate together; some behavior is accepted and works, while other behavior doesn't work very well within that group.

This set of norms or behaviors is sometimes called the group's culture, and can have a profound effect on the safety of that group. I like to think of it as self-monitoring within our group as well.

- Hindsight bias refers to our tendency to believe that what has already happened was more or less inevitable and should have been predicted by people beforehand.

We all have 20/20 hindsight, and this makes it easy to be critical of other people's decisions, when we know they didn't work out very well.

- Attribution error refers to our tendency to attribute the errors of other people to their own personal shortcomings rather than to the situational factors that often play a major role in producing an error.
- Invulnerability refers to our tendency to believe that accidents happen to other people, but not to us.

Because all humans are susceptible to these patterns of thinking, it is common for them to find their way into the beliefs and norms of a group of people. In looking at our culture, I would ask you to consider our group to see if your norms contribute to safety, or work against it.

- Human error—how do we respond to human error? People often respond by being critical of the person making the error. Error is believed to be evidence of incompetence. When someone in your group makes an error, are they subject to ridicule? When you discuss accidents that have happened to others, are you very critical of the people involved?
- Expecting the unexpected—how can we plan for the unexpected? Do you expect everything to go pretty much as expected, or do you build in some margin for unexpected things to happen? We should be ready for any event that could happen, even when the probability is low. Sometimes safety measures seem extremely conservative. People might take issue with a regulation or safety advisory, pointing out that the events at issue are so unlikely that it seems silly to consider them. However, we need to consider how best to prevent events, even if they are only remotely probable.

- Risk management—in our case, this is mostly weather conditions. We should know that different pilots will make different decisions regarding the risk of certain weather conditions. Each pilot needs to be respected for his/her decision making.

A group that works towards safety, views human error as a symptom of a deeper problem. How can we, as a group, assist a pilot who has experienced an issue that was likely human error and how can we ensure that the pilot is aware of this for future flights? With frank discussion the group learns from error, and can make changes when appropriate. When making plans, the group thinks about unusual events, as well as the everyday, and tries to build resilience to error and other unexpected events. The group also considers what could go wrong, and tries to build in safeguards to keep risk to a level as low as reasonably possible.

Not respecting these 3 areas and not having frank discussions within the group, will drive errors and unexpected events underground. People will hide their errors and strange occurrences. As a result, systemic conditions that lead to errors will never be brought to light. Many times pilots do not feel free to discuss a problem that they might have had with a flight as they worry about being identified with human error and incompetence. It is only through discussion of the problem that we can find out if it was human error, mechanical error or an unexpected occurrence.

Without this discussion, errors will occur and will be the result of systemic conditions. We need to realize that if one person can make the mistake or have an unexpected occurrence, any other person in the same set of circumstances could have the same thing happen.

If the group can accept a notion of discussion and sharing, error or unexpected occurrence can be identified with a solution of a problem within our group, and the group will want to identify errors in order to fix potential problems that might occur during another flight. We should make a conscious effort to avoid criticism of people making errors, and learn how to solve systemic issues within, and beyond, our group.

Over the past 40+ years, our ballooning community has been fortunate to learn from the occurrences of others. I say occurrence because if it happened in the present, we would call it an error. This came to light when discussing the pilot recently flying in the middle of the day. It used to be an occurrence but it has been an error for many, many years!

Feel free to ask me about the burning fur “occurrence” and let’s open it up for a frank discussion...

Linda Then
Chief Pilot

Work is underway for the CBC 2024 Calendar.

Please send your pictures to Dirk at luxen@shaw.ca by mid-July.

Raven Memories

By Linda Then

For those that have known my Caron family for the last 40 + years, I wanted to pass on a short note in memory of my brother, Dale Caron, who passed away on March 3, 2023.

My family, starting with Oscar and Val Caron, have always been very supportive of ballooning in Alberta by hosting the Raven Rally since the early 80s.

My brother Dale and his family took over ownership of the property in 2016 and they continued supporting our ballooning, offering the Roundhouse for our gathering, providing a great balloonport for launching, and in that -30° weather, he purchased and set up a propane furnace to keep us warm. And you can't forget that he provided great support and training to anyone wanting to learn how to produce the fluffiest, tastiest pancakes!

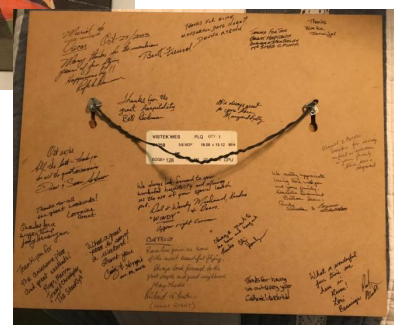
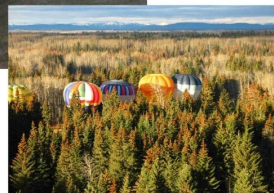
He will be missed this October but with the support of his children, Darcy and Dawn, the Raven Rally will continue, and we look forward to your continued presence, adding the fun element to an already fun event.

Thanks,

Linda and Walt



Raven



My Final Years of Ballooning

By Del Michaud



Well, I guess after considering all the years I have been ballooning, and add to that how old I am, the next few or however many years will be my final years of ballooning.

If needed, I will help with pilot training and the growth of ballooning in our area. I still wish to attend the balloon gatherings such as Drumheller, Raven, Hespero, High River, Medicine Hat, New Years Day flight and any others that may start up. In addition to the above I have added a few things to my list.

To start with, I have purchased a larger balloon than *Pepe le Pew*, the balloon I have been flying for the past few years. *Pepe le Pew* is capable of taking one to two passengers and the balloon I have purchased is capable of taking three to four passengers. I intend to offer rides to friends and family relations, some that I have taken up in years past and some that haven't been up. That is why I require more passenger carrying capability.

This summer Wendy and I, with the balloon, will be headed for Eastern Canada. We have friends in Regina and Winnipeg, friends and relatives in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. We will be doing the odd flight on our way, with our destination being New Brunswick where many of my relatives live.

I am registering for balloon events in Presque Isle, Maine, Bath, New Brunswick and Sussex, New Brunswick. For those who don't know, there are two former Calgary balloonists living in New Brunswick, Bill Lester and Brian Juke, and one in Newfoundland, Ralph Dowson.

Now, the story of the new balloon. It was purchased and flown by Tim Earle in Calgary in 1982. He flew it until 1989. He worked for the Federal Government for 32 years, transferring to Edmonton and Vancouver. He married along the way and passed away four years ago at the age of 68. I don't know for sure but don't think he flew balloons past 1989. Tim was a very responsible person with a great sense of humour. There are pictures of him dressed in costume at Harvest Crunch 1985.

To commemorate the memory of Tim I am naming this balloon "Duke of Earle"

Sheri Lights Up the April CBC Meeting

By Heather Clark



Sheri Skocdopole was the guest speaker following the monthly business meeting.

Sheri explained the conditions that create the northern lights, and told us about her passion for photographing them. She also spoke of other interesting night subjects, such as, S.T.E.V.E. - "Strong Thermal Emission Velocity Enhancement".

Sheri's photographic skills and strong interest in the northern lights were wonderfully combined, with her and Cliff's passion for ballooning, when they had their Northern FLights balloon created using one of Sheri's' pictures.

The presentation was interesting, informative, and a visual treat to see many of Sheri's photographs.



Practical Ballooning

In the decades of 70, 80, 90's, the Calgary Balloon Club (Club) produced a reference document of ballooning, called "Practical Ballooning". It was used locally by the Club, and around the world to instruct crew, and new pilots about ballooning. Some topics included crew duties, rules of the air, weather, skills, and safety. It continues to be a good reference on flying a balloon.

The Fourth, and last edition, was in 1992. The preface to that Edition by Brian Hval, reprinted below, provides observations on ballooning as it was 30 years ago. With a little help, it may be possible to make Practical Ballooning available to members.

Submitted by Richard Clark

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PRACTICAL BALLOONING - Preface to the Fourth Edition, 1992

The third edition of Practical Ballooning found a place on the bookshelves of many balloonists worldwide. The rapid growth of the sport in the last decade plus new technology and techniques created the need for the Fourth Edition. The task of updating the manual has been formidable; hence, the decision for this edition to use an editorial task force to share the work.

A few comments on our sport are appropriate. In some respects, ballooning has now reached a stage of maturity. With maturity comes greater responsibilities for the sport, for the pilot and crew, for the passengers and sponsors, and for each other. We are long past our often naive enthusiasm for what can at times be a dangerous pastime. Ballooning is an adventure ... with risks ... and rewards.

A look at some of the statistics is interesting. The rate at which new pilots are being added to the sport has slowed to less than 15% per year. There are now over 8,000 pilots worldwide with an equivalent number of balloons. The average balloon logs about 25 hours per year but commercial balloons log over 150 hours per year. Approximately 1,000 balloons are being built annually, but many of these are replacements for equipment that has gone into honourable retirement. Of the balloons being built about 35% are marked with sponsor advertising and this segment is increasing. The balloon industry worldwide is a \$75,000,000 per year business. About half of the balloon industry is related to the United States market. The majority of business is in the passenger market with approximately 200,000 being carried worldwide each year.

The level of piloting skill and technical expertise has also matured. This is seen in the sophisticated balloon competitions and championships. The need for an adequate ground school is now well recognized and this manual is now the standard text in many of these schools. There is also the recognition that balloon flight instructors must receive training to be instructors. Many people can learn to fly balloons, but it requires special skills and training to be a good instructor.

There are some trends clearly visible in the sport. In areas where ballooning has been practiced for many years, landowner relations receive special attention. The increasing number of *prohibited zones* (PZ's) underlines the need for improved landowner/balloonist relationships. The landowner is part of the balloon team. His willing participation is an essential part of every flight.

Another trend is the rise in insurance premiums. The insurance companies are not at fault. The premiums are the result of the increasing number of frivolous and malicious lawsuits combined with court awards that appear to stimulate and encourage even more nuisance suits. It would be ironic if the peaceful sport of ballooning came to end as a result of fear of what others may do to us. Should that occur, there are no doubt profound implications for the rest of our society governed by the same legal system.

Maturity has not only brought new problems but great opportunities. In the last few years there have been great technical and piloting achievements. The recent crossing of the Atlantic and the Pacific by hot-air balloons is a notable triumph both for the sport and the adventurers who made the flights. No doubt the round-the-world flight will occur soon, certainly by gas and now possibly by hot-air balloon!

New directions in balloon technology are also apparent. Special shape balloons have come to play an important part in the advertising market. At last we are beginning to see balloon baskets really designed for the safety and comfort of pilot and passengers. And who would have thought spin-off businesses such as cold-air inflatables and balloon boutiques would be as important as they are in commercial ballooning?

It is also fascinating to see a "new" direction actually return ballooning to its roots. Gas ballooning has enjoyed a revival as hot-air enthusiasts move up to the "real" thing. Many years ago, the modern hot-air balloon grew out of the efforts of the U.S. Navy to find a inexpensive way to train airship pilots in basic ballooning. Now we have almost come full circle, with the U.S. Navy recently resuming its airship program and the balloon industry developing small airships.

But some things never change. The weather. Human nature. The need for education. The need for training and retraining, to keep on learning. We hope this Fourth edition will help you and the sport to grow and advance in experience and understanding!

Soft landings!

Brian Hval, XDB-5
Editor-in-Chief

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(Reprinted from Practical Ballooning, Fourth Edition 1992, Calgary Balloon Club)

Aeronautics Club at School

By Cathy Dudgeon

Last February, a group of enthusiastic Grade 8 students asked me to start a Hot Air Balloon Club at school. I created a virtual classroom, found projects, and reached out to friends as potential guest speakers. Renamed the Aeronautics Club, we set a start date and I was pleasantly surprised when sixteen students attended the first meeting during their lunch hour. Together, we built and test flew tetrahedrons using plastic, tape, string, and hair dryers.

During one of our meetings, a group of students asked to work together to build a colossal tetrahedron, using as much plastic sheeting as possible without any seams. They were eager to test fly it outside, and after seeing that the wind was only 3 knots, I agreed. After completing the construction, they test-inflated it in the classroom, then carefully carried it outside. They managed to get it off the ground, however an unexpected encounter with a tree caused some damage to the tetrahedron - yes, one of them has flown with Del. They quickly repaired it with tape, transforming their model balloon into a “special shape”, but they persevered and succeeded in flying their creation.



One of our most enthusiastic members, WB, was so excited about his first model that he asked for more plastic the next morning, and used it to build a model during his lunch break, which we tested in the gym at the end of the day. He regularly asks for supplies, then builds more models at home. During the last meeting before Easter Break, he told us about his plans to buy a whole box of plastic sheeting to build a model big enough to carry people, leading to a discussion about differences between aircraft and toys, and licensing requirements.

Local Event & Get-Together Updates

Drumheller



The very flexible plan includes...

Flights beginning Friday evening and hopefully continuing through Sunday morning.

Saturday afternoon BBQ will be held at the Travelodge. The Club will provide plates, cutlery, napkins, hot dogs and brontoburgers, along with condiments. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

CBC members get a special room rate at the Travelodge. Mention that you're a member when making your reservation.



Local Event & Get-Together Updates

Submitted by Willy Taillon

Medicine
Hat

The **Rise Up Festival** in Medicine Hat is just a few weeks away, with lots planned! All balloon flights and static displays are dependent on the weather, of course. There are multiple launch locations throughout the city, and the wind directions will determine which location is used, so that balloons can fly over the city.

Thursday, May 18

- In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Day, Medicine Hat's teepee will be lit green and stay green throughout the festival.

Wednesday, May 24

- Pre-sunset BBQ
- The *Northern FLights* balloon will be set up inside the teepee at sunset. We're hoping that an Indigenous Elder will attend to teach us about what the Northern Lights represent in their culture. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll postpone this to another evening.

Thursday, May 25

- Morning pre-festival "media flight"
- Evening flight

Friday, May 26

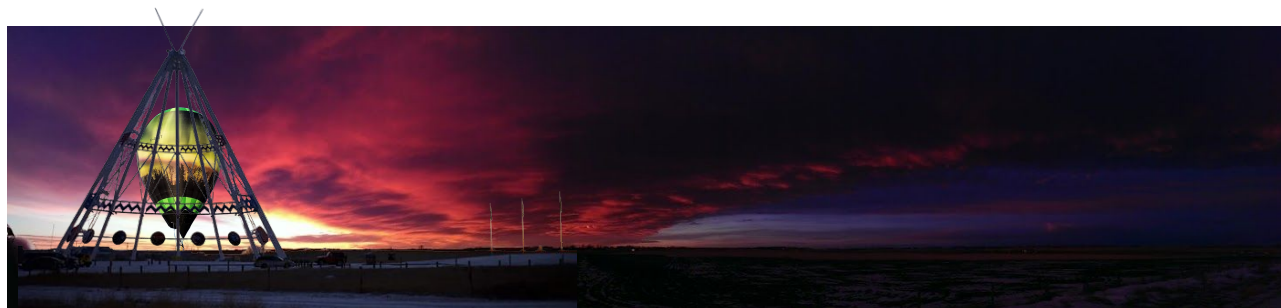
- Morning flight
- *Our Collective Journey's* Gala is being held at The Mezz building downtown, and we'll try to fly over it.
- Family movie will be shown at Kin Coulee Park.
- Evening flight

Saturday, May 27

- Morning flight
- Numerous festivities at Co-op Place, starting at noon.
- Noon until 8:00 p.m., market with over 40 vendors, life-sized games, and a Kid Zone
- Noon - 10:00 p.m., numerous food trucks on site
- 1:00 - 9:00 p.m., live music on the patio area.
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., "Chipmunk Adventure" movie on the Jumbotron, where chipmunks race around the world in a hot air balloon.
- 6:00 - end of the Glow, Radio DJ's on site
- Around 9:00 p.m. Balloon Glow.

Sunday, May 28

- Morning flight
- Volunteer thank you BBQ at Co-op Place on Sunday afternoon, following Festival clean up.



Local Event & Get-Together Updates



The High River Balloon Events Committee is excited to announce the Heritage Inn has agreed to be our title sponsor once again in 2023.

High River

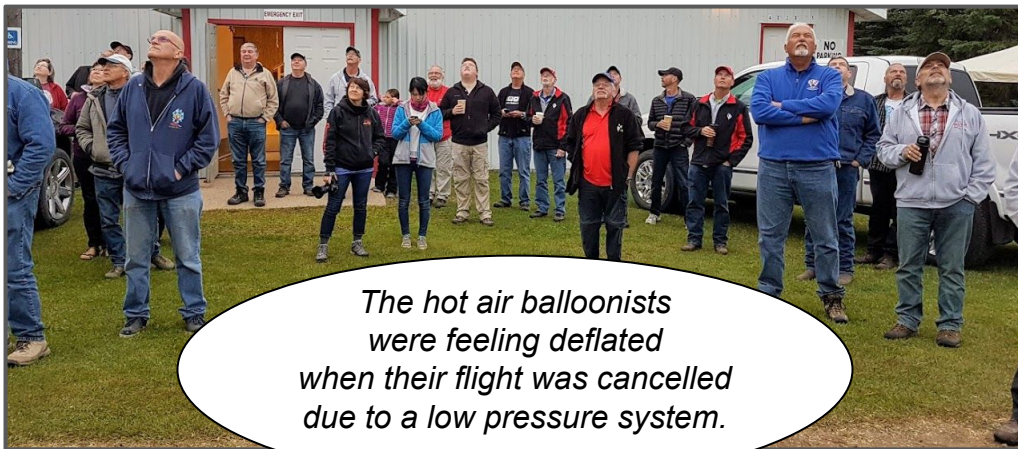
We have 25 registered pilots as of April 23rd, and are expecting more special shapes than any previous year. The Glow will return to the Wallaceville site.

Submitted by Jamie Kinghorn



Congratulations to Leanne Henderson, who is now the proud owner of the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta 50th Anniversary jacket that was donated to the Club by the Hespero Hot Air Balloon Team.

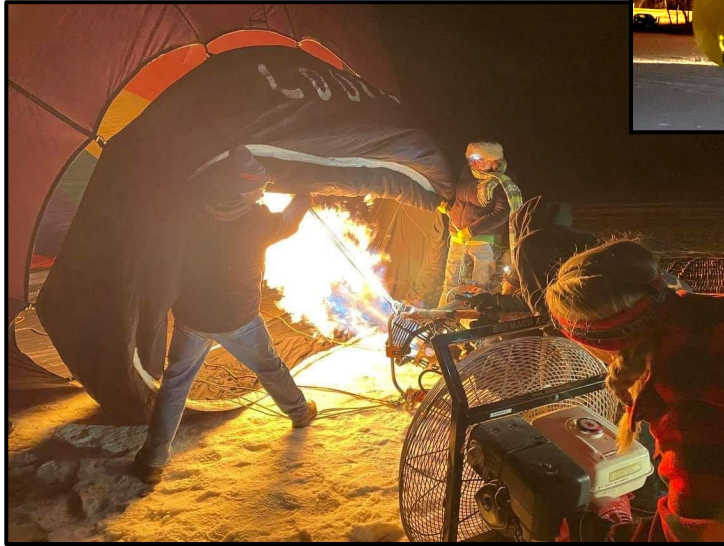
Thanks to Leanne and all who were interested in the jacket for their support of the Club, and a special thank you to Cliff and Sheri for their generous donation.



*The hot air balloonists
were feeling deflated
when their flight was cancelled
due to a low pressure system.*

(ballooning pun from ChatGPT)

Recent Flights



Way To Go!

Jennifer Podruski achieved her Flight Instructor rating, and started her Night Flight endorsement.



Migrating Snowbird Returns

Having been away in sunny Mexico for the winter, I could not wait to get back into flying my balloon again. Just a few days following my return the weather was cooperating and I was able to fly for just under one hour. We launched about 20km east of Cayley and flew further east into the sunrise. It couldn't get any better than that. Ground was still frozen when I landed. *(submitted by Brent Gordon)*



THEN Balloon Flight March 18, 2023

We planned a flight for Saturday, March 18 but as it turned out no one else was available to fly with us. If a balloon flies alone in the sky, and no one else around is around to fly with them, does it still make an impression? Of course!

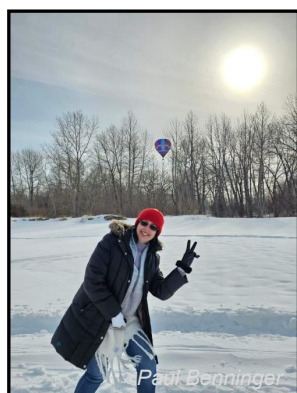
It was a beautiful morning and we met our crew, Paul and Lori Benninger, at the High River Balloon Port at 9:00 a.m. We had extra crew that morning as Debbie Sobb came with two new potential crew and club members, Kamran and Mari Hedayat and Scott Gordon offered to help as well. This worked really well as the snow in the balloonport was quite high, probably 6 to 8 inches, and we were the first vehicle to make a trail.

It was Walt's turn to pilot. It was a beautiful morning heading south over town, and then a little bit east, landing in a windblown field with minimal snow. Consequently, we were able to drive the truck and trailer in to pack up and pick up the balloon with no issues.

With the extra crew, our tailgate after was not as sparse as you might expect, and we all laughed and joked, and had the usual great time.

When Shane contacted us to see if we wanted to fly again on Sunday, with the conditions looking very similar, we said absolutely. Walt had his flight on Saturday and I was going to get mine on Sunday.

What a great weekend... Linda and Walt Then

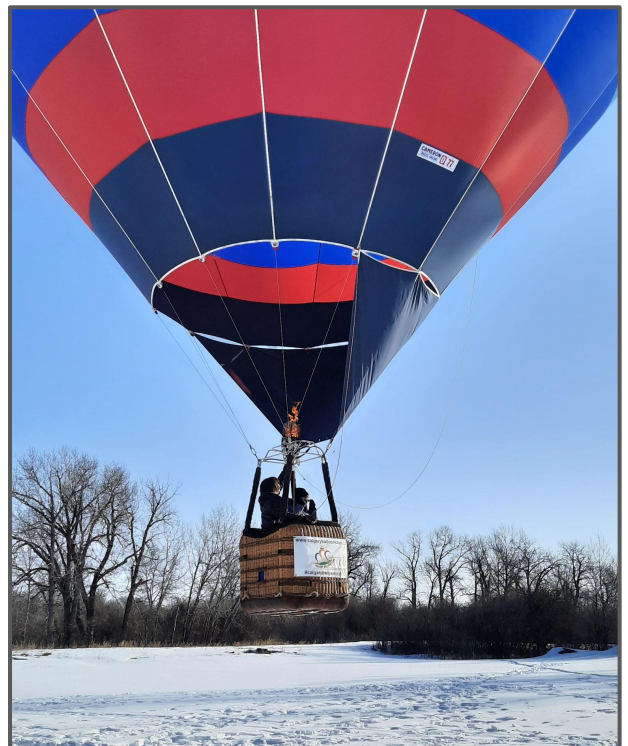


Recent Flights

On Sunday, March 19th, Linda Then and Shane Lockyer both flew from the High River balloonport. This was Shane's second flight in the hopper using his newly created seat.

It was a beautiful morning and a great flight! Retrievals were a little challenging with limited field access and heavy snow cover. With some teamwork both balloons were soon packed out.

submitted by Heather Clark



2023 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



Dates and locations will be confirmed by email.

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION
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	TBA
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
Oct 7 - 15	Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta	Albuquerque, New Mexico
Oct 11	CBC General Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
Oct 20-22	Raven	Raven, Alberta
Nov 8	CBC Annual General Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre

Please send submissions for the August newsletter
to Sharon sjelliott@sasktel.net or Cathy cathycdn@gmail.com by July 15th.

Calgary Balloon Club Membership Application

Membership Year is from January 1 to December 31

Name: _____
Surname First

Address: _____
_____ Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone - Home: _____ Phone - Cell: _____



It is the intention of the Club

- to use the information to contact you about Club activities
- to provide a Membership Roster and email list for Club members
- to use the information for Club purposes
- for you to have access to your information
- to respect your privacy

***I give permission to have my contact information included on the Membership Roster and/or email list to be distributed to the members of the Calgary Balloon Club.**

Circle One YES NO

<u>Membership Class</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount Enclosed</u>
Active	\$45/year	\$
Family of Active Member	\$15/year	\$
Name(s) of Family Members applied for		
Family member's email address, phone		
Total Enclosed	\$ _____	

Please make **cheque** payable to:
'The Calgary Balloon Club
c/o 5639 Maidstone Cres NE
Calgary, Alberta T2A 4C3

For **e-transfer**, please send to Dirk,
Club Treasurer at luxen@shaw.ca