



Champagn-E-Vents

February 2024

MAILING ADDRESS:
 c/o 5639 Maidstone Cres N.E.
 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

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
President	Brant Leatherdale	403-478-6800
President-Elect	Scott Gordon	587-435-1334
Past-President	Shane Lockyer	403-771-3002
Vice President	Jenn Podruski	403-397-3637
Secretary	Shelley Kochalyk	403-836-4806
Treasurer	Dirk Luxen	403-992-2194
Director-At-Large	Karl Schultz	403-660-1756

COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Chief Pilot	Linda Then	403-874-0160
Chief Flight Instructor	Del Michaud	403-246-8332
Education	Richard Clark	403-288-2978
Merchandising	Shane Lockyer	403-771-3002
Newsletter Committee		
Rural Events Co-ordinator	Brant Leatherdale	403-478-6800

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The Club is in need of a Newsletter Editor. Please contact a member of the executive if you are able to volunteer!

Several Club members have pulled together to make this issue of *Champagn-E-Vents* possible. Considerable content has been compiled, including some returning features.

Duties of the Newsletter Editor include:

- Asking members for articles, photos, submissions.
- Searching activities from balloon club member's social media posts to find photos and stories, and contacting the original poster for permission to use them in the newsletter.
- Editing articles, submissions, photos
- Requesting info from Executive Liaison for upcoming activities and info on the CBC monthly meetings.
- Having fun putting together the Club newsletter!

And... many hands make light work!

The Club would like to have a complete record of all of our newsletters, past and present, on the Club's Google Drive. While many issues of *Champagn-E-Vents* have been added to the Drive, those prior to 2012 still need to be scanned. Please contact Shelley Kochalyk or Heather Clark if you are able to donate some time to this worthy cause.

Cathy Dudgeon
Heather Clark
Linda Then
Shelley Kochalyk

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President's Report

By Brant Leatherdale

From the Calgary Balloon Club, thank you for your support and membership. Your membership and participation are essential to the Club to keep it going.

Additionally, thank you, on behalf of the entire membership, to the 2023 Board, including Shane Lockyer (President), Richard Clark (Past-President), Jenn Podruski (Vice-President), Emma Lockyer (Director-At-Large plus filled a vacant Secretary role too), and Dirk Luxen (Treasurer). Richard Clark and Emma Lockyer "retire" for at least a year. For many years, it has been challenging to have people volunteer to be on the board, so we have had many voluntolds step up over and over. Thank you to those (you know who you are) for stepping up when needed. Some of the key accomplishments of the past board of the prior year or so are:

- Lowering our monthly meeting space cost and dramatically improving the facilities by moving to the SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre.
 - Thank you, Karl Schultz, for that recommendation! It has essentially provided free space.
- CBC Balloon Exploration Committee was able to work through acquiring a Club Balloon.
 - Thank you, Committee and Cliff Skocdopole, for your assistance with it. It creates a reasonably cost-effective path forward for students.
- Working and encouraging members to fill roles. We are pleased to have three newer members on the board for their first term. Thank you, Scott Gordon (President-Elect), Karl Schultz (Director-At-Large) and Shelley Kochalyk (Secretary). It is always great to have new people on the board.

Lastly, thank all the committee chairs and volunteers who keep the Club rolling and "work behind the scenes." There are too many people to thank here when you include social functions and informally helping. With that said, we can always use more help. Moving forward, we need to fill some challenging and critical volunteer roles:

- Newsletter Editor.
 - We need a Newsletter Editor. After several years of being the editor, Cathy Dudgeon is stepping down. Thank you, Cathy, for your years of contribution, passion for the newsletter and commitment to continue helping the newsletter with contributions to a new editor.
- Webmaster.
 - We need a Webmaster. After several years of being the webmaster, Shane Lockyer is stepping down. Thank you, Shane, for your years of contribution and for continuing until a replacement can be found.

The Club is now in its **48th** year, and we need those who have time and want to help. Our Club can only survive and grow with your involvement and participation.

Brant

Your 2024 Board of Directors

Shane Lockyer: Past President

Shane completed his pilot license in 2017 and has over 325 hours of flight time. He grew up around the balloons and followed in his Dad's footsteps to become a pilot. Shane also has his flight instructor rating and is an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (AME) and is licensed to repair balloons. In 2021 Shane placed 8th at the Canadian Hot Air Balloon Championship in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Along with his better half, Emma, Shane has been a member of the Calgary Balloon Club for many years, with both of them volunteering for many positions on the club executive,

Shane is also the Cameron Balloons dealer for Western Canada.

Brant Leatherdale: Current President

Hello Calgary Balloon Club Members.

Here is a little about my connection with ballooning and the Club.

After our first flight in 2003, I knew "someday" I would become a balloon pilot. I didn't know when then, but I wanted to discover how. Time quickly flew by. In the spring of 2007, The Calgary Balloon Club was in the newspaper. Immediately, I joined the Club and quickly obtained my pilot's license (Thank you, Del!). Del Michaud was my FI, but many balloonists continue to assist me by sharing training, experiences and stories. Thank you, and you know who you are. The rest is history, as they say.

All flights are memorable, but I enjoy flying passengers and sharing the sport with children, communities, spectators, and new students as a FI. It is excellent to re-experience ballooning with fresh eyes and enthusiasm. My most heartwarming moments have been building memories with my family. My wife Tara obtained her license, and our kids are both planning to obtain their licenses.

Now as a family they own and operate Kiss The Sky Balloons, offering flight experiences to all.

The Calgary Balloon Club is a connection to participate, build friendships, create memories, obtain a license, crew, contribute to the sport, and stay active. I am grateful to The Calgary Balloon Club and its members for what it has accomplished in its 48-year history.

Scott Gordon: President Elect

Scott Gordon has been a part of the Calgary Balloon Club for 4 years. His interest in hot air balloons began while watching the balloon Eye of Ra inflate in High River for its first time, and he was hooked after that. Since then, he has become a pilot and fly's Magic Moments as often as he can. Scott has recently become the President Elect of the Calgary Balloon Club and is eager to be involved in the organization, operation, and direction of the club over the next three years.



Your 2024 Board of Directors Continued...



Jenn Podruski: Vice President

Jenn Podruski got her HAB license in 2017. Most flights are in Alberta but have flown in Quebec at the Nationals and several different states in the USA. Joined the CBC in 2016 and participate in any club events as much as work schedule allows. Hoping 2024 will bring good flying weather for us all. Cheers!



Dirk Luxen: Treasurer

In October 2008 I was invited to crew for Ed Pue at the Canadian Hot Air Balloon Championships in Grand Prairie, even though I had never seen a balloon up close and personal. Since then I have joined the club becoming involved in crewing for many pilots over the years. In 2012 I was invited to join the executive as the club treasurer. I like the advancements in electronic banking that makes for good paper trails for all involved. I will continue to strive to make the finances transparent and as easy to follow for the club. I appreciate any and all feedback from members to make this possible.

Karl Schultz: Director At Large

Growing up under the approach path for CYYC in Calgary I was bitten by the aviation bug at a very young age. Through the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program I was able to obtain both my Glider Pilot's license and Private Pilot's license. When I aged out of the program I became involved as an adult and have worked as both a Gliding Instructor and Tow Aircraft Pilot for the program. Outside of flying I have been working as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer since I graduated SAIT in 2005. I currently work as a Technical Instructor for WestJet.



I became involved with the Calgary Balloon Club and Hot Air Ballooning after tagging along with the Davidsons to an event. Living in Calgary, I'd always seen balloons flying, we even had one land in the school yard behind the house when I was little. I had always ruled it out as something a little spooky (something about not having control over where I am headed 😊). At this first event I was very fortunate to be asked to go for a flight with Del. I loved it. Between my passion for aviation and my love of learning I started reading and researching as much as I could.

I started my Balloon Pilot's license training a few months ago, training under Shane on the club balloon and my goal for this year is to finish that up. My goal on the executive this year is to assist as much as possible in the running and operation of the club.

My favorite event is Hespero.

Shelley Kochalyk: Secretary, Social Media Director

My balloon club journey began at Drumheller in 2023. I was fortunate enough to experience my first time crewing (with Black Magic), a perfect flight (my first), and of course the infamous emergency landing and pack out on my second day. I was hooked. Not only to flying but to the community I experienced that weekend.

Since then I've enjoyed participating any way I can. From crewing every chance I get to now actively pursuing my own Pilot's license.

When asked to help out with the club executive as secretary I saw an incredible opportunity to learn, make connections and offer anything I can to progressing and growing an amazing community I hope to be a part of for many years to come.

Thank you to everyone for the experiences so far.



Chief Pilot's Report

By Linda Then

Club Balloon and Operating Rules:

Since our last newsletter in November, the renewed Calgary Balloon Club balloon program is well on the way.

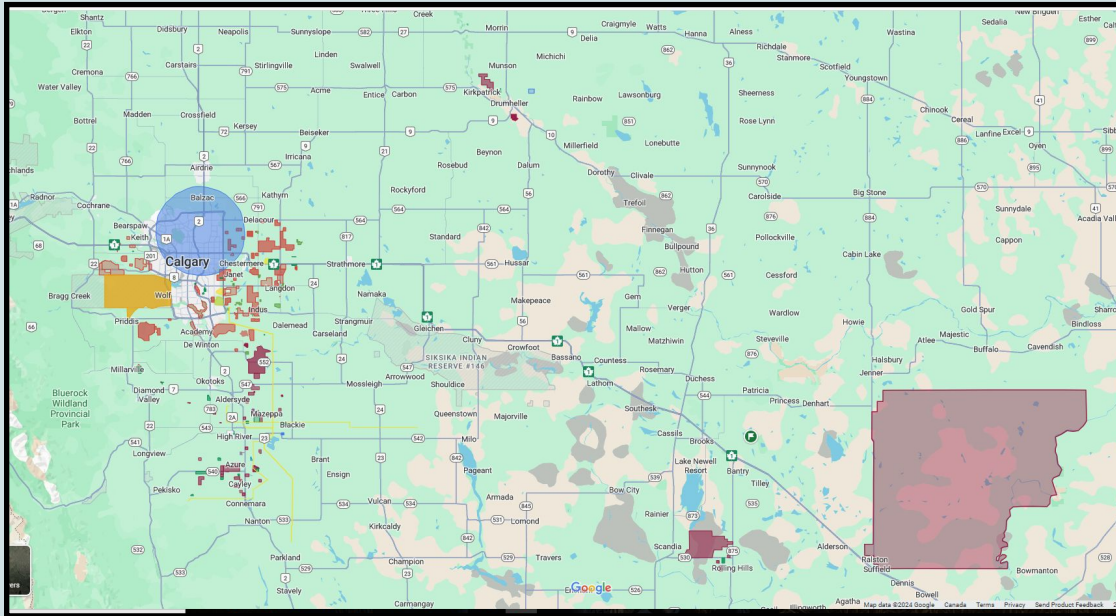
We have two Club approved pilots and instructors, Shane Lockyer and Jenn Podruski and one Club approved Student Pilot, Karl Schultz. Karl has completed 2 training flights with Shane and we have had interest from a couple of future student pilots that will carry our program well into the future. We are expecting a few more club approved pilots and instructors as well. Club pilots interested in instructing or flying the club balloon can contact me and I will forward them the Application. Future Student Pilots can also contact me to receive the data and application for student training on the club balloon.



While we currently have Operating Rules in place for the Student Training program, the Balloon Committee has also completed their work on the full Operating Rules for the benefit of club approved pilots and interested club passengers and crew. These Operating Rules are awaiting Executive approval before presenting them to the Membership at a General Meeting or in the next newsletter.

Prohibited Zones (PZs):

Pilots are often discussing how to handle the current Prohibited Zones (PZ) around our flying areas. Thanks to Dirk, we all have access to a current PZ map but as we all know, the more that you fly in an area, the more that the PZs tend to increase.



We have certainly seen this in the High River area. Whether a PZ is still a PZ or would the landowner benefit from having a follow up meeting with a Balloon Landowner Liaison Committee are topics of conversation whenever PZs are being discussed. The Executive is considering using this as a topic of conversation for sessions to be held at one or more of the club meetings in lieu of a speaker. Information from pilots, crews, and our more rural members would be greatly appreciated to come forth with some constructive ideas on the handling of Prohibited Zones.

AAIR:

A reminder to pilot owners that Transport Canada has resumed the requirement to complete the Annual Airworthiness Information Report (AAIR) for their balloon(s). Last year, the reporting requirements were temporarily suspended and with the requirement for a new submission, owners must include data for 2022 and 2023.

If you have not received an email from Transport Canada regarding the AAIR report, you can contact Transport Canada at tc.aair-raina.tc@tc.gc.ca

Insurance:

Sound Hot Air Balloon Insurance, through social media, has been offering a new insurance company proposing a new balloon insurance that they are proposing to be less expensive than the existing companies.

<https://www.soundinsurance.ca/sound-aviation/hot-air-balloon-program>

The contact is a name that many of us are familiar with, Sandy Odebunmi. For those who decide to get a quote from the new company, make sure that you make a complete comparison for your complete insurance needs. It will be great to have an actual comparison for insurance rather than only having rates available from one company.



Sound Hot Air Balloon Insurance

- † Coverage for Private and Light Commercial Balloon Use
- † Open Pilot Warranty
- † Coverage for Festivals
- † \$1,000,000 Third Party Liability, \$100,000 per Passenger (automatically \$300,000 per Passenger if they are fare paying)
- † Optional Hull Coverage
- † Flexible Payment Options

CONTACT: Sandy Odebunmi
416-756-3334
sandyo@soundinsurance.ca

SOUND Insurance Services Inc.
205 Lesmill Rd., Toronto, ON M3B 2V1
TF 1-888-756-3334 x 636 • FAX 416-756-1635
aviation@soundinsurance.ca • www.soundinsurance.ca

Fly Safe with Sound Insurance

Skills:

And Pilots, take the time to read Jenn’s article “Taking Your Aviation Skills to the Next Level” coming up in the newsletter. Thanks Jenn for taking the time to put this together.



We’re all looking forward to completing our winter flying and starting into spring. Hope to see many of you in February in Sylvan Lake and again in May in Drumheller. In the meantime, let’s get out for some fun flights, flying along with Karl and Shane.



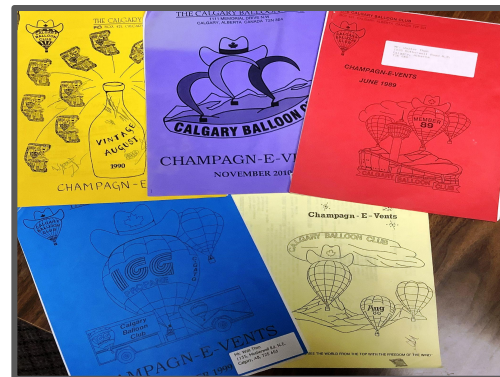
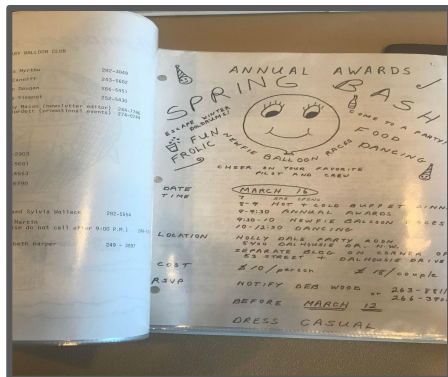
Linda

Is This Exciting or What??

The Club newsletter has been a fundamental staple of the Calgary Balloon Club since back to our beginnings. We've had lots of fun throughout all those years, and most of it is reflected in these historical newsletters. A few of you can remember the Fizzy and Sparkle days before it became Champagn-E-Vents but the fun and camaraderie has always been present as well as a lot of the updates, changes, new balloons, new pilots, and so many more things that have happened during the existence of the club.

Now, in the current era, social media has become an instant communication for society. A lot of the flights, events and other activities are posted, sometimes within minutes, on Facebook or Instagram. By the time the information reaches the newsletter, one to three months later, much of the information for many of our members is old news.

Because the newsletter is still our record of history, and also reaches many members that don't have social media access, it is important to maintain our club's historical record. Something tangible to look back on many years from now.



With this in mind, we are going to look at three updates:

1. Newsletter: make updates to encourage our readers with helpful articles, more-in-depth articles about past events and adding more color to the newsletter.
2. Facebook: Introduce a Private Members only Calgary Balloon Club Facebook Group
3. Webpage: Update pages regularly to remove old news, photos and replace with new current and topical information. Also, include an online registration form.

To maintain and move forward with these items, the club requires a Newsletter Editor and a Social Media Editor.

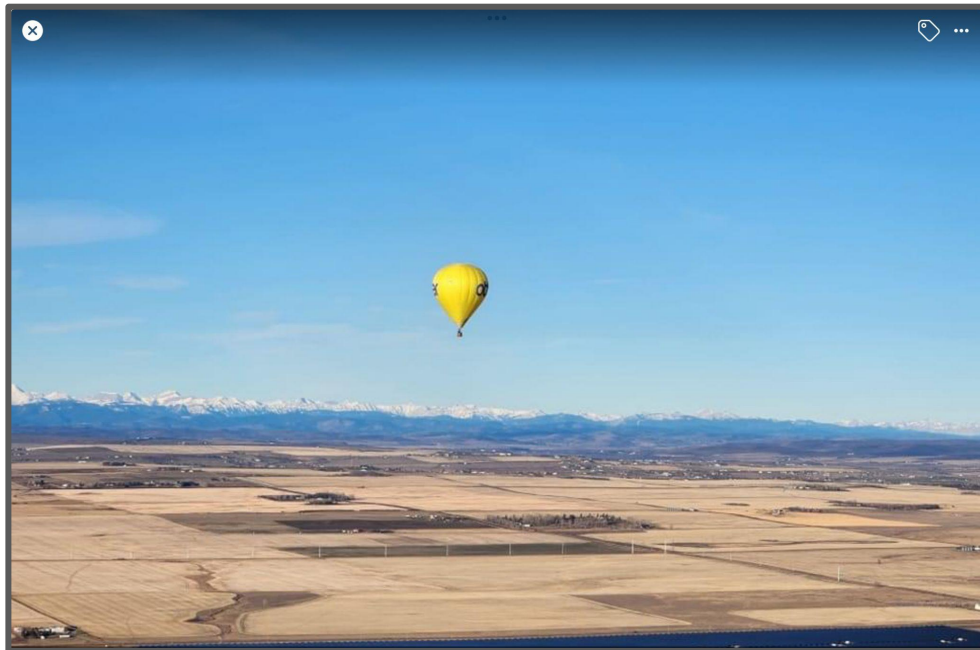
Sheleyi Kochalyk will be the liaison with the executive for each of these positions.

The Newsletter Editor position is currently vacant but several members have offered their services to assist a new editor. This is a great opportunity to learn the features of the newsletter with great assistance available. The Editor will also be able to use photos and information posted in the Club Member's Private Facebook Group and with permission from other member's Facebook pages. And members will be asked to contribute articles and photos as it is NOT the duty of the Newsletter Editor to be the main contributor. The posting and job description for the Newsletter Editor is elsewhere in the February Newsletter.

Shelley Kochalyk has volunteered as the Social Media Editor and has taken on the initial task of setting up the Private Members Only Facebook Group.

The Calgary Balloon Club Facebook Group has been set up as a private, current members only Facebook group. On this group, we will include activities as they happen, promotions for upcoming events, meetings and allow for feedback and discussion from our members. Current members will be invited to join via email so that, if you do not currently utilize Facebook but would like to join, you can be a part of this Group,

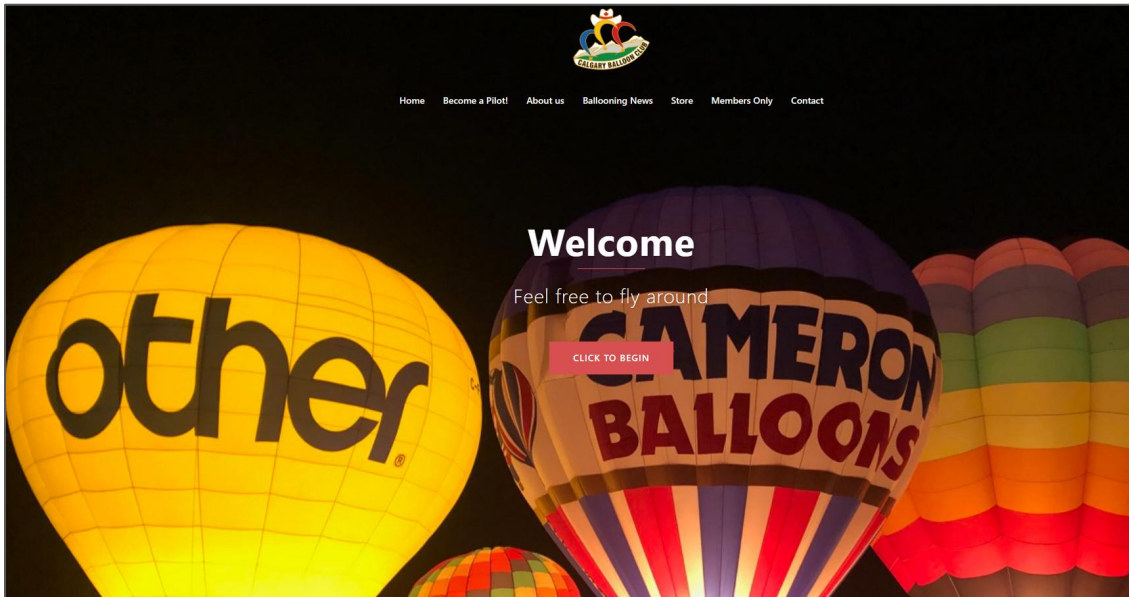
Calgary Balloon Club *CURRENT MEMBERS*



If you accept this invitation, and as long as you maintain your membership in the Calgary Balloon Club, you will be a part of this private group. Even after you have accepted and been approved for the Group, you may still leave the Group at any time.

Shortly, in February, you will receive an invitation and link from the Calgary Balloon Club via your club registered email. Again, only those members with the current membership will be admitted to the group.

The **Webmaster** position is also open but Paul Benninger will be maintaining the pages until another volunteer comes forward. Again, with both Shane and Paul available, this is a great learning step for a new volunteer. It should be noted that the Webmaster is NOT responsible for the content of the Calgary Balloon Club website but will update the pages when new information is presented. The Executive will be responsible for supplying new information either directly or by delegation.



[Home - CalgaryBalloonClub.ca](http://CalgaryBalloonClub.ca)

On a secondary note, the February issue will be the final issue newsletter that you will receive access to if you have not renewed your membership. This also means that you will no longer receive the upcoming newsletters or announcements regarding our upcoming meetings, events, or activities and will be removed from the Private Facebook Group.

Aviation Adages

- Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgment.
- Stay out of clouds. The silver lining everyone keeps talking about might be an airplane going in the opposite direction.
- There are three simple rules for making a smooth landing. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.
- Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make all of them yourself.

RAVEN RALLY 2023

By Jenn Podruski

Great costumes this year in Raven! Bill Dickinson was Crayola Crayons with his sidekick Layne as a hippy. Jenn & Elaine were Ice Ice Baby. Sheri was an owl. Dirk was Jim Craig from the movie, 'The Man from Snowy River'. We had Teenage Mutant Ninja turtles, a social butterfly and Emma was Carole Baskin from the Tiger King. Jack Top was a witch, Heather Davidson was a bar wench, and Mark & Kerry were Bob & Doug McKenzie from the Great White North sketch.

It was a smaller group this year but we still managed to squeak in 2 flights. Shane actually got 3 in! He flew again right after his night flight.

We even had an unexpected cattle drive that happened on RR 45 driving back to the Caron Family Farm. Mooooooooooooovvve!

Thanks to Linda, Walt, and Darcy for hosting us again and to Heather & Richard, Dirk & Gwen, Angie & Jack, Elaine & Doug, Shane & Emma, Del & Wendy and everyone else who helped with meal prep, cooking and cleaning duties. Raven is a club event I think we all enjoy attending and look forward to every October.

Raven Night Flight

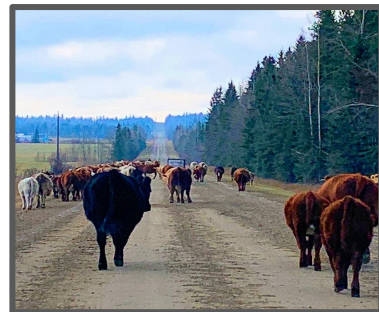
By Jenn Podruski



Shane Lockyer and I did a night flight in Raven on Sunday morning (October 22). It was -1C ambient temperature at launch. Sunrise didn't warm things up too much. In fact it gets a lot colder just before sunrise. I was shivering! I should have worn more layers! Brrrrr! Only 59.9% moon cover, so it was very dark for the duration of the flight. Total hours flown was 1.9. I can log 1 hour towards my solo time needed for twilight time.

It was a great landing in a nice soft grass field and great landowners. Elaine Lee, Doug Robson & Jack Top were my crew.

I've got one more hour to do during twilight, then I can apply for my night rating! Yay!



RAVEN 2023



RAVEN 2023

**Variety of
Costumes**



Photos by Angie Gardner, Jenn Podruski, Linda Then, Bill Dickenson, Heather Davidson

“Still Standing” in High River

By Cathy Dudgeon

What sort of ballooning happens at 10:00 a.m. on a hot, sunny July morning, when thermals are picking up and sensible balloonists are relaxing in the shade? How about a 40-minute static display in front of a camera crew for a TV show? If you watch “Still Standing,” a CBC-TV show about small towns, you’ll see just that. The show filmed an episode in High River, and it was fascinating to have a behind-the-scenes perspective about how they bring the show to life.

The show first aired on November 7th, but the work began the preceding June, when CBC story producer Camille Lawrence spent a week in High River interviewing locals to discover the stories most suitable for a TV show. She interviewed Jamie Kinghorn, who also showed her around town. I met with her at the Balloon Port one day after school, to show her how a balloon and mini balloon work.

Camille returned to High River on the morning of July 31st, along with a production team. By the time their trucks full of equipment started rolling into the port, we were all decked out in Ra hats and shirts, had set up snacks on the picnic tables, pulled Ra’s basket out of the trailer, positioned trucks for the tether, and had the mini balloon standing by in case it was too windy for a full size balloon.



Balloon Team and Production Team getting ready.

We started the actual filming with a cold inflation, during which one of the camera operators went inside the envelope. After Jamie hot inflated the balloon, he had Brent Gordon and I get into the basket and crouch down to add dead weight, as a precaution against the thermals that were starting to dance across the field. Ahh, the glamorous life of a balloon pilot, to crouch down in the bottom of a basket, not sure where to turn one's face when others are *still standing*.

Jonny Harris then approached the basket, and climbed in. Jamie gave him a quick briefing about what to expect, then took the balloon up to about 30' before ducking down into the basket himself so the film crew could get footage of Jonny saying, "This is High River, Alberta!" We repeated it several times, because Jonny seemed rather nervous at first. Maybe having three giggling pilots crouched down in the bottom of the basket making comments like, "Bend your knees! We're coming down!" didn't help. Ironically, that first scene is the one that is shown at the end of the show.



Johnny's first look inside Ra.



Cathy Dudgeon and Brent Gordon, dead weight experts

After filming the initial meeting, Jamie put me on the controls, with clear instructions not to pull out the top, no matter how gusty it got, then went with Jonny to the north end of the field for what they had said would be a 20-minute interview. To help steady the balloon against the sudden wind gusts, Ken Dudgeon stayed on the crowline, and lots of great crew held onto that basket - Brent, Stacey, Ella and Breeley Jensen; Linda Tolman, Brenda Norrie, and Scott Beaton. It's a good thing we had so many crew - the 20-minute interview turned into 45 minutes of standing in a swaying basket, looking up into a swaying envelope each time I hit the burner.

The film crew carefully positioned a champagne bottle on the interview table to try to hide the crowd of people hanging onto that basket. The TV crew also asked if the noisy burner could be turned off during the filming. Jamie replied that it would work if they wanted footage of the balloon's envelope coming down.

The interview eventually concluded, and Jamie suggested that Jonny pull out Ra's top. He cautiously climbed back into the basket, where I explained how to put a big hole in the top of Jamie's balloon. Jonny pulled the vent line and Ra gracefully settled to the ground.

After a few more shots where the team all gathered in the basket to say, "Congratulations on 100 episodes!" the equipment was packed up and put away, but the work continued for the Still Standing team. They met with several other people in and around town to record more stories.



On Thursday, August 3rd, a live comedy show was held in downtown High River, during which several comedians warmed up the audience before Jonny took the stage. He expertly wove together stories about High River, including the story of the Heritage Inn International Balloon Festival.

Months later, Camille emailed to say that the show would be airing on November 7th. We were all wondering how it would look on T.V., and gathered at the Heritage Inn's lounge to watch it together. They did an amazing job weaving the stories together, and it was great to see all the familiar faces being featured, and in the audience.

Thanks to CBC for doing such a great job showcasing ballooning and High River. To see the show, watch it online at <https://gem.cbc.ca/>. Look for Season 9, episode 7.



At the live comedy show, August 3



Gathered at the Heritage Inn to watch the TV show





Balloons On Parade



Fun night with the family at the 2024 Rocky Kinsmen Parade of Lights!! Perfect weather and lots of enthusiastic spectators!!

Courtesy of Sheri Skocdopole





Balloons On Parade



Team Louie and Magic Moments lit up the night at the High River Parade.
Thanks to Shelley Kochalyk and Elaine Lee for the photos.



Left to right: Tim Penney, Lillian Shavaliar, Elaine Lee, Scott Gordon, Shelley Kochalyk, Trevor McIntosh, Jenn Podruski





Balloons On Parade



The High River Balloon Events Committee's float in the High River Christmas Parade won third place for their category. Thanks to the whole team for their hard work, and to Stephen Pond & Cathy Dudgeon for the photos. Plans are already underway for the spring parade on Saturday, May 18 - please contact Cathy if you're interested. All are welcome!



Matt, Meagan, and their mini



Melany Hysert, Cathy Dudgeon



Richard Clark a.k.a. Big Richie



Jagger Leatherdale



Front page news!

Calgary Balloon Club Christmas Party

By Linda Then

Thanks to everyone who made it out to the Club's Annual Christmas party on December 9. It was a really great crowd and everyone seemed to be mixing and enjoying themselves.

The potluck never fails and the food was fantastic. Thanks to everyone for chipping in!

All the guests received 20 draw tickets that could be placed in the draw bag of their choice. This had to be the first year when we had tickets in absolutely every bag although the gift card bags got more of the share.



We also had a Silent Auction item. Colleen Whillans brought the diamond painting that she made and donated to the club and the bids started immediately, ending at \$120.00. Bidding will continue at the upcoming Calgary Balloon Club New Years Day Flight and Brunch in High River on, of course, January 1, 2024 and the painting will be awarded on that day.

We socialized until Shane decided he was just getting too hungry and we called for all to be seated at their tables.

Richard gave some lovely words of welcome and invited everyone to the upcoming Calgary Balloon Club New Years Day Flight and Brunch in High River on January 1, 2024.

The decision on which table would go up first was decided with dice and Christmas balls. Not too simple as it turned out. One table (Shane's, of course) managed it quickly but after watching his table get to the potluck first, the rest were getting restless. We simplified the game and the rest were able to get up and get into line quickly after.

More mixing and socializing after, with a few of us trying to taste *every* dessert... not possible, by the way... The night continued with a few door prizes thrown in the mix as well.

Close to 9:00 p.m., Cathy and I started picking the winners from each donated item. We had close to 20 items. Cathy and I had a bit of fun with each one until I was sampling a lovely watch bracelet and sent the small beads scattering across the floor! Lori won the watch and got to keep the lovely Christmas draw bag (to hold the loose parts).

More socializing... yes, we partied until close to 10:00! At that time, we put everything away, volunteers stayed to help clean up and help us pack up and the night was over.

So good to see everyone and wish each other a Merry Christmas and see you in the new year! At the Calgary Balloon Club New Year Day Flight and Brunch on, of course, January 1, 2024!

Linda.



A certain Club member is celebrating a 50th Anniversary this year. I wonder who that can be?

Calgary Balloon Club New Year's Day Flight and Brunch

January 1, 2024:

Today was the The Calgary Balloon Club New Years Flight and Brunch. Thanks to everyone who showed up. Even with the unseasonal heavy rains last night that caused the cancellation of most of the planned balloons, Shane and Dale managed to find dry areas for takeoff and landing!

With the rest of us on the ground at the Red Barn, wishing we were up in the air, everyone eventually gathered and were able to partake in the delightful potluck Brunch.

Thanks to all who made it out and for all your delicious dishes.

Thanks to Jamie Kinghorn for providing the Red Barn and thanks to the Calgary Balloon Club for organizing this event, snow (rain) or shine!



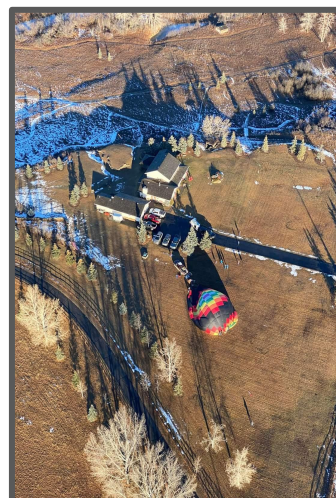
Shane Lockyer



Dale Ritchie



Loads of crew for pickup... a clean balloon!



View from the top



Bill is the latest member of Jamie's Pink bikini Club!

Club Balloon Training Flights

We have some exciting news to share! The Calgary Balloon Club is officially training again in their own Balloon! We look forward to a busy training season this year!



Photo Credit: Karl Schultz, Heather Davidson, Shelley Kochalyk

Take Your Aviation Skills to the Next Level

Submitted By Jenn Podruski with excerpts from Hangaar Private Pilot Course

“You can have 100 hours, or you can have the same hour 100 times over!”

A Good Tip for Aeronauts, Student Pilots and Private Pilots and it's a good reminder for us all regardless of what level we're at with our aviation experience.

- Enrolling in online courses is a great way to refresh your aviation knowledge in areas such as meteorology, radio communications, navigation, etc.
- There are several podcasts on weather that you can listen to while driving to and from work or on those long road trips to the next balloon event.
- The Hangaar Private Pilot course is a great way to get current. I'm subscribed with them and get weekly e-mails on various topics. This one on taking your “aviation skills to the next level” I found interesting and motivates you to want to learn more on various topics.
- Look for a Flight Instructor you can work well with.
- Try and do some flying that's interesting.

“You can have 100 hours or you can have the same hour 100 times!”

- **Contour flying or fast descents & ascents.** A good skill set to have when you want to speed up your flight in low winds and get across a field so you can get to your target or landing spot in half the amount of time instead of just cruising along at 2 knots. Boooorring!
- Find someone with a similar background to go flying with.
- Flying is more fun when you get good at it.
- Consider getting different ratings such as Night Rating, AME License or certification in various meteorology courses.
- **Cloud formations** are a good skill set to have. Each cloud tells a story. Knowing what you're looking at can help you with predicting what's coming your way and deciding if it's safe to fly. Is that weather system far enough away for you to complete your flight and land safely before it reaches your location?

- Brush up on **Thermals**.
Thermals are usually short-lived phenomena and dissipate after a brief period of time. When faced with a thermal an Aeronaut should not vent in an effort to descend and land, instead “**altitude is your friend.**”
If you keep the balloon at flight temperature, the thermal usually “spits” the balloon out at a higher altitude. When this happens, the balloon can again be controlled and a safe landing may be executed.
- **Always keep your envelope pressurized!** Continue to fly the balloon. Many Aeronauts are distracted by the thermal flight experience and may forget that the balloon is cooling at a faster than normal rate so ensure that the temp of the envelope is kept at or above that is required to maintain normal flight. Under NO circumstance should you allow the balloon to cool. The temperature noted at equilibrium should be a minimum temperature to maintain.
- If it’s related to Aviation, any new knowledge will benefit your skill set and refresh old knowledge regularly to keep your skills proficient.
- Being prepared is the best way to have a successful & safe flight every single time.
- Meteorology knowledge will assist you in the Go or No Go decision. Weather is fluid & constantly changing.

The more you know, the better prepared you’ll be.

Check out the link below if you’re interested in expanding your aviation skills & knowledge online. Or there are many books available if you prefer reading a hard copy versus online reading. I’m big on audio books or podcasts since I’m usually on the move from point A to B.

www.hangaaar.com

H E L P !

The club has openings in the following volunteer positions:

- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster

Please contact Brant if you are interested in either of these roles.



Now that we have your attention,
Dirk's waiting for you to send in your
**2024 Membership
Renewal.**

Still just \$45 per year, or \$15 for a
family member.

luxen@shaw.ca for e-transfers
Please see the last page for details.

2023 Membership Pins

are available and have been handed
out to club members at meetings and
events.

If you have not yet received your
2023 Membership pin, contact Dirk
at luxen@shaw.ca



A HAIRY EXPERIENCE

From a series of safety articles compiled and written by -
Dennis Myrthu, former CBC Chief Pilot

It seems that safety items relating to balloon flights are continually being experienced with a lesson to be learned from each encounter. Some turn out to be quite bizarre. This was the case with one of my recent flights when something happened unexpectedly and taught me yet another lesson.

It is a common practice of mine to always brief the passengers at some time during the flight on the preparation for landing. If I anticipate a fast landing, emphasis is placed on the need to stow away loose articles, cameras, binoculars, handbags, etc. Also, the need to take up the correct position prior to landing and to remain in the basket until the word is given to exit.

On this particular day a thorough briefing had been given as a very fast landing was anticipated.

One of my lady passengers was lying on the downside of the basket during the drag landing and her long hair became wedged between the rim of the basket and the ground. Fortunately, the basket came to a stop before any injuries occurred with only some slight discomfort to the passenger.

Under these circumstances, she could have quite easily suffered severe injuries to her scalp, and worse yet ended up with an injured or broken neck. I had never given thought to such a thing happening.

So, girls and fellows, if you are so endowed with long hair, I would suggest you tuck away that long hair under your jacket, blouse, shirt or wherever, before landing.

I would suggest that pilots include in their briefing prior to landing a warning for those with unusually long hair to stow it away safely along with the other items.

Family Day Weekend at Sylvan Lake

We hope for a flight off the lake on Saturday, February 17 with Sunday and Monday as alternates if the Saturday weather does not cooperate.

Contact Cliff for more details.



Drumheller Gathering May 3-5, 2024

Details coming
in the monthly announcements.





Hosted in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada. This is open to all invited pilots regardless of the home residence. This ensures we are inviting the best pilots. In receiving this invitation, you are recognized as being one of those pilots.

Schedule of Events:

- ❖ **Wednesday (May 22/24) – Travel Day, Sign In and we are hosting a meet and greet BBQ. Master Safety Briefing will follow the BBQ at 2000hrs at the hotel for pilots and crew chiefs only (Pilot Information Manuals will be sent out closer to the festival).**
- ❖ **NEW THIS YEAR – We are running two glow nights (Friday and Saturday Evening at Kin Coulee Park). The pilots and balloons will be split into two groups and each group will be scheduled to glow one of the nights.**
- ❖ **Flights will start Thursday morning and we will schedule morning and evening flights up to the last flight time on Sunday morning.**

Registered balloons will receive:

- ★ **Four nights accommodation at Best Western Premier & Executive Residency (May 22-26, 2024).**
- ★ **One additional room for four nights if you have CREW attending (May 22-26, 2024).**
 - **Hotel code will be sent out to pilots if they require additional rooms, and they will be booked through the hotel.**
- ★ **Propane for all Flights and Glows**
- ★ **\$0.25 per kilometer round trip (up to 4000kms)**
 - **Example – Calgary to Medicine Hat round trip = 600kms = \$150**
- ★ **Champagne for all flights and glow**
- ★ **Pilot and Crew Brunch daily (Some evening meals are being planned and will be added with the fine-tuning of details)**
- ★ **Welcome Package**

We are excited to have the city of Medicine Hat and surrounding communities behind us for this amazing uplifting event.

ENTRY FEE: \$25.00 (Non-refundable, covers administration costs)

Hosted By: Our Collective Journey and Local Balloon Pilot Willy Taillon

We hope to see you in May 2024. Rise to Great Heights Together!!

Willy Taillon

willytaillon@hotmail.com

403-928-5101

DID YOU KNOW!?!...

Champagne, Prosecco & Sparkling Wine

FACTS:

- ★ Contains natural traces of...
Potassium, Magnesium & Zinc which is a proven mood booster.
- ★ The bubbles contain antioxidants that help lower blood pressure and increase circulation which also leads to heightened sexual desire.
- ★ The antioxidants can reduce the chance of getting the sniffles by a whopping 60% and keeps lung tissue healthy.
- ★ 4 million bubbles per 750ml bottle
- ★ Drinking 1 or 2 glasses a week may counteract the memory loss associated with ageing such as Alzheimer's & Dementia.

That must be why all those silver haired Aeronauts out there are still sharp as a tack!
It's all the champagne you've been drinking post flights for the last 30 years! Cheers!

Jenn Podruski
"Propane & Champagne!"



Thank You!

Thanks to

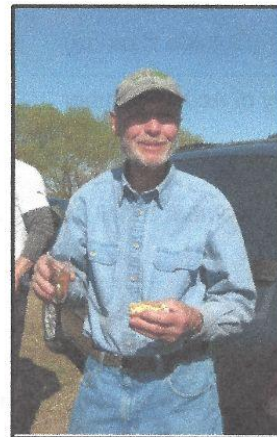
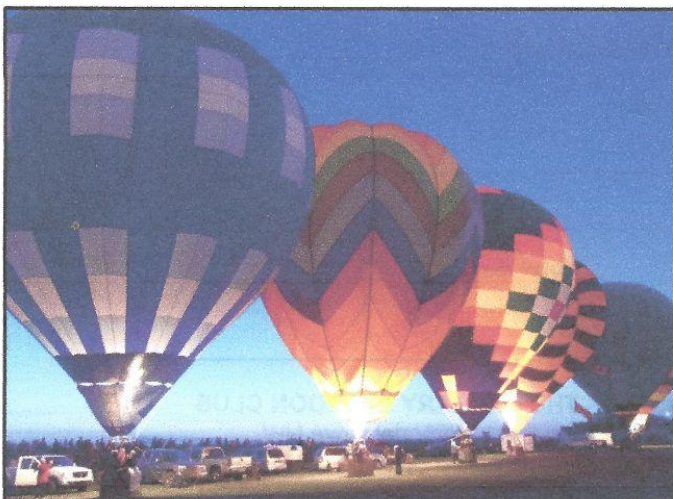
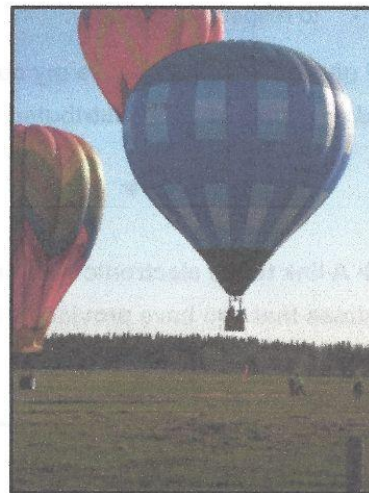
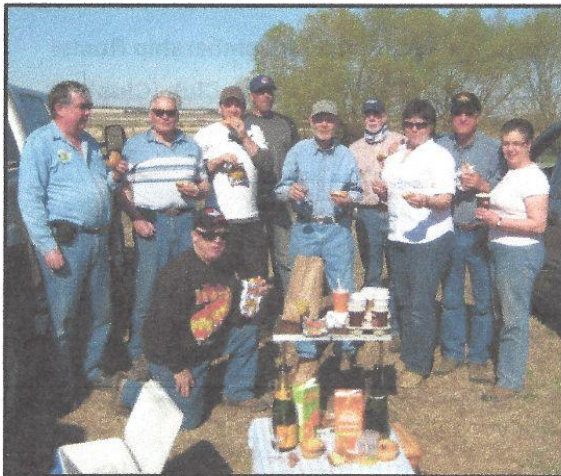
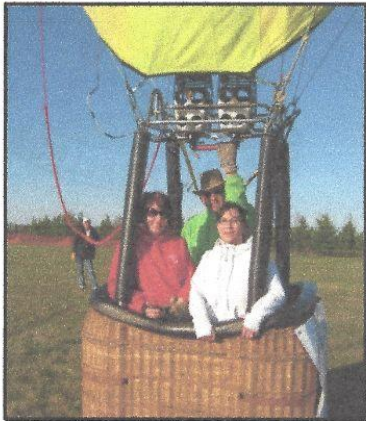
- ★ Cathy for her years as Newsletter Editor
- ★ Richard and Emma for their years on the Executive
- ★ Shane for his years as our Webmaster
- ★ Ralph for the 2023 Pin design
- ★ Colleen for her donation of the Diamond painting
- ★ Shelley for taking on the new post of Social Media Editor
- ★ New Executive members Scott, Shelley and Karl for coming forward.
- ★ Shelley for setting up our new private club membership Facebook Group

Blast From the Past

From the Calgary Balloon Club Newsletter, August 2012 issue

RIMBEY HOT AIR AFFAIR, May 11-13, 2012

Good Times Shared!



Photos Thanks to Norm Gold & Heather Clark

2024 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



Dates and locations will be confirmed by email.

DATES	EVENT	LOCATION
Feb 2-11	Vernon Winter Carnival	Vernon, BC
Feb 14	CBC Monthly Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
Feb 17	Family Day Winter Fest	Sylvan Lake, Alberta
March 13	CBC Monthly Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
April 10	CBC Monthly Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
April 15	Newsletter Deadline	
May 3-5	Drumheller Spring Happening	Drumheller, Alberta
May 8	CBC Monthly Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
May 18	Little Britches Parade	High River, Alberta
May 23-26	Rise Up	Medicine Hat, Alberta
June 12	CBC Monthly Meeting	SAIT Art Smith Aero Centre
June 16	Wings & Wheels	Hangar Museum, Calgary

Please send submissions for the May 2024 newsletter
to:
calgaryballoonclub@gmail.com

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