

# DESERT BREEZES



## Balloon fest kicks off with Friday launch

By Mara Knaub - Sun Staff Writer  
YumaSun.com. November 19, 2010 5:36 PM

**Schedule:** The Saturday morning launch will be at 7:15 a.m. at West Wetlands Park, 1st Street and 12th Avenue, with evening events held at Desert Sun Stadium, 3500 S. Avenue A. Gates open at 6 a.m., and entertainment will be provided until 10 a.m.

The Sunday morning launch will be held at 6 a.m. at West Wetlands Park.

Maria Chieruzzi's favorite part about flying a hot-air balloon is seeing birds soaring in the skies — below her. Her second favorite thing is meeting people and sharing her passion. “People get excited. They want to touch the balloon,” Chieruzzi told the Yuma Sun.

She had an opportunity to share her passion Friday morning. The 20th annual Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival kicked off with a media launch at the combined athletic fields of Gila Vista Junior High and McGraw Elementary Schools near 24th Street and Arizona

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### Note Location:

#### **Board Meeting**

**Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd.**

**Tuesday, January 18th, at 5:45 PM**

#### **General Meeting**

**Deer Valley Airport Restaurant, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd.**

**Tuesday, January 18th, at 7:00 PM**

Avenue, and the Yuma Sun went along for the ride.

Balloonists, crew members and members of the media trickled in for the 6 a.m. check-in, hot coffees in hand to ward off the early-morning chill.

As the crowd gathered, Mario Jordan of the Caballeros de Yuma said 16 balloons were expected to launch shortly after sunrise.

"You're welcome to help. Just don't light up a cigarette," he joked with spectators.

Yuman Jerry Paulin, one of the pilots waiting for the launch, flies Wound Up, a Colt 77A that holds 77,000 cubic feet of hot air. It is six stories tall. He has been flying less than a year.

"I'm the rookie in the family," Paulin said, noting that his son first became a pilot and he has been around hot-air ballooning for 20 years.

"They say your first ride is your cheapest." He pauses. "Because then you have to buy one."

His business, The Filter Factory, used to sponsor a balloon, but then he decided he wanted to be more than a passenger and he got his pilot's license. "It's very calm, very peaceful. The earth moves away from you. It puts a smile on your face."

Paulin flies at least once a month in the winter and often travels to festivals. He pointed out that there are 3,000 licensed balloon pilots in the United States. "It's a close-knit community."

Chieruzzi, a Simi Valley, Calif., resident, pilots Lofty Idea, a 57-foot Lindstrand balloon with a volume of 77,000 cubic feet. She always dreamed of flying, literally dreamed of flying during her sleep. So the idea of being "above all" has always fascinated her.

"Balloons used to fly over our house in Simi all the time," Chieruzzi recalled. "Every Sunday the kids and I would lay on the trampoline and watch them go over us. I would say, 'I'm gonna ride one,' and the kids would laugh."

"The kids would say she had her head in the clouds," Dave, her husband, said. Little did they know that one day she literally would have her head in the clouds.

A year ago, for her 40th birthday, her sister, a real estate broker, got her a ride in a Re/Max balloon. She thought, "That's it. I'm going to buy one. But I've got to start a business to pay for it." So she started Details Above All Interior Design. Even her logo is a balloon. "My clients all think I'm crazy."

She's logged about 100 hours in the past year.

"If you consider that every flight is typically 45 minutes to an hour, in a year that's a lot of flying. I fly every chance I get. Sometimes that's multiple times in a week. It's addictive, let me tell you.

"Dave said he would never get into one. Now he loves it," Chieruzzi said.

Dave, a police officer, is a couple of years from retirement. Then they plan to buy a motorhome and travel from festival to festival. And so ballooning has turned into a family affair. Dave is the "crew chief" while their two children, daughter Kalyn and son Rylan, round out the crew team. They follow the balloon in their "chase" truck, pulling the trailer they use to haul the balloon.

"As the crew, our job is to stay with her or ahead of her. I never know when she'll decide to come down," Dave said. "She has put down in some pretty precarious places."

*continued on page 3*

As the pilots and crew volunteers prepared to launch Friday, they were reminded of the many surrounding lettuce fields and told to avoid trampling over them.

Organizers then released small balloons to check wind direction. Passengers, after signing several release forms, were briefed on safety procedures.

Chieruzzi's Lofty Idea fits two or three people — either three kids or two adults. Some “party balloons,” she noted, carry up 30 people. “Sometimes I have to ask — and I hate doing this — how much they weigh.”

She doesn't need to ask her passengers on Friday; it's only a party of two: a Yuma Sun photographer and reporter. “There's no graceful way to get in,” Chieruzzi explained. “You kind of throw yourself in.”

The rest of the spiel sounded like the safety warnings before boarding a roller-coaster ride. The landing might be rough, she warned. “It's like jumping off a kitchen table. And the basket might tip over and we might end up falling on top of each other and the basket might be dragged, especially if it's windy. Sometimes we walk away with some bruises.

“Remember to keep your hands in the basket, especially when landing. If it drags, turn around — your butt is better for dragging. And keep your knees slightly bended. Do not exit until told to. We're in a balloon; if you get out, we will go up. The riders are ballast.”

The colorful balloons — including a delightful one in the shape of a bumblebee — finally take off between 7:30 and 8 a.m.

Just in time, according to Chieruzzi. “The rule is we don't fly three hours after sunrise. We only fly in the morning because as the sun

## SUNRISE / SUNSET

January 2011 for Phoenix

W 112° 05' N33° 30'

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sat. January 1st  | 7:32 AM / 5:30 PM |
| Sat. January 8th  | 7:33 AM / 5:36 PM |
| Sat. January 15th | 7:32 AM / 5:42 PM |
| Sat. January 22nd | 7:30 AM / 5:49 PM |
| Sat. January 29th | 7:27 AM / 5:55 PM |

Mountain Standard Time

Source: [http://www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar.asp?comb\\_city\\_info=Phoenix,](http://www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar.asp?comb_city_info=Phoenix,%20Arizona;)

[%20Arizona;  
112.1;33.5;-7;0&month=2&year=2009&time\\_type=  
0&use\\_dst=0](http://www.sunrisesunset.com/calendar.asp?comb_city_info=Phoenix,%20Arizona;112.1;33.5;-7;0&month=2&year=2009&time_type=0&use_dst=0)

rises, the ground heats up and creates thermals. We don't want to be in them. The balloon starts going up, but it's a false lift, and it will suddenly come right down.”

Lofty Idea lifts off very smoothly and effortlessly, leaving behind waving spectators. Up in the air, Chieruzzi maneuvers the balloon by alternating the two burners. However, the direction is mostly up to the wind.

“A pilot is constantly aware of what's going on. There's a lot going on in the pilot's head. And we have to keep passengers entertained at the same time,” she said.

The balloon soars up to 800 feet. The maximum height is 10,000 feet, at which point passengers would need oxygen. During her training, Chieruzzi had to fly up to 8,000 feet. A nearby balloon skims over rooftops, which Chieruzzi explains is called contour flying. She spots another balloon floating over the river and notes that some balloonists like to “splash and dash.”

*continued on page 4*

After nearly an hour of viewing Yuma from a totally different perspective, it's time to come down to earth. As the gondola gradually comes down, people on the ground look up and wave. Fenced-in dogs run around in circles.

Chieruzzi throws cheese puffs to see where the wind takes them. She weighs her options — there are several empty fields. She prefers grassy fields but any vacant field — sans power lines — will do, even an empty street. Landings are very unpredictable. “You just don't know where the wind will take you,” she says.

Finally she opts for the Yuma High School Doan Field, but at the last minute it looks like the balloon is headed a different direction. But before the balloon leaves the area, Chieruzzi makes the quick decision to come down. And before a surprised audience, Lofty Idea lands — with a hard thud — precariously close to the bleachers. And then it tips over, and its passengers tumble about the basket briefly.

Teachers, students and school workers, excited about the unexpected treat, approach the basket. Chieruzzi invites Rhonda Fry, YHS special services department chairwoman, and Michelle Butler, assistant principal of

## **Member Update**

Longtime ABC member Wendy Wolfenden recently suffered a stroke. She is recovering at Dreamcatcher and should return home soon.

A remembrance and celebration of life of Darlene Newnam will be held on January 8th, 2011, for family and invited friends only. The size of facilities limits the number of attendees.

academics and special education, to go on brief tethered rides.

Then special education students and school custodians help deflate and pack the balloon. “It was fun for our kids,” Fry says.

“I never expected this. I was just going about my work,” custodian Florencio Castro tells Chieruzzi. “You made our day. It was exciting.”

Afterwards, Chieruzzi treats her passengers to a longtime tradition: a glass of champagne. And she hands each one a certificate acknowledging their adventures aboard Lofty Idea.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



Quick facts about Lofty Idea:

- Volume: 77,000 cubic feet
- Envelope weighs 220 pounds
- Burner weighs 49 pounds
- Burners put out two million BTUs versus a home furnace that puts out 200
- Basket weighs 157 pounds
- Empty fuel tanks weigh 49 pounds each
- Each tank holds 15 gallons of propane totaling 132 pounds
- With pilot weighs 791 pounds

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**2011**

**JANUARY**

8th Glendale Glitter & Glow Glendale, AZ Bob Romaneschi, [Aerialmco@gmail.com](mailto:Aerialmco@gmail.com)

21-23 Havasu Island Balloon Festival Lake Havasu City Arizona Constant Stoepler, 928-505-5240 [constant43@gmail.com](mailto:constant43@gmail.com) or [www.havasuballoonfest.com](http://www.havasuballoonfest.com)

**APRIL**

7-10 BFA Convention Des Moines, IA See next page

16th Safety Seminar by Southern California Balloon Association Flabob Airport Riverside, CA Wendy Walsh [wendym1530@roadrunner.com](mailto:wendym1530@roadrunner.com)

**July**

29-31 Citrus Classic Balloon Festival Santa Clara, CA <http://www.citrusclassicballoons.com>  
Steve & Cindy Wilkinson  
760-568-0997  
Email: [hotballoo@aol.com](mailto:hotballoo@aol.com)



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We are looking into holding a balloon event on the border. We have the Bisbee-Douglas Intl airport available, which accommodates large airline jets. We need to speak with you, the experts for information, resources and perhaps some kind of joint venture, if interested?

Please contact me.  
Carlos Valenzuela  
Douglas Tourism Plan Manager  
Valenzuela Resources, LLC [carlos@getcarlos.com](mailto:carlos@getcarlos.com)  
520-220-6221

**FOLLOW UP: Ron Aros from Tucson has contacted Carlos. If you are interested in attending this future event, please contact Ron (an ABC member) and let him know.**

## **BFA National Convention Announces Speaker Lineup**

*Des Moines, IA (Dec. 10, 2010)*

Planners have released a full slate of speakers scheduled to appear at the Balloon Federation of America's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in April.

The event, held April 7-10, 2011, in Des Moines, IA, will offer ballooning enthusiasts the opportunity to hear from some of the best, most experienced balloonists in the world and have some fun, too!

Covering topics ranging from competitive ballooning and event planning to the history of ballooning and building your own aircraft, the program list includes such presenters as Tom Couch, Senior Curator of the Division of Aeronautics at the National Air and Space Museum; gas ballooning expert Peter Cuneo; several national champions and record setters:

### **CONVENTION SPEAKERS AND TOPICS**

- **BALLOON HISTORY IN AMERICA** – Tom Crouch
- **THE HISTORY OF THE MODERN HOT AIR BALLOON** – Orv Olivier
- **SAFETY FIRST – THE BFA'S BALLOON EVENT GUIDELINES** – Maury Sullivan
- **BALLOON MAINTENANCE** – Mark West
- **CREW TRAINING AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION** – Gordon Schwontkowski
- **NAVIGATING THE ALPHABET AIRSPACE** – Randy Coller
- **RACER VS STANDARD SHAPE – FRIENDS OR FOES?** – Pat Cannon
- **LOWER IS BETTER – FAR 91.119** – Kevin Knapp, Ken Yoest, J D Huss

- **BALLOON ACCIDENTS – WHAT HAPPENED?** – Pat Cannon
- **RIDE OPERATORS FORUM** – Scott Appleman
- **BLIMPS AND AIRSHIPS** – Rick Wallace
- **PASSENGER MANAGEMENT AND LIABILITY WAIVERS** – Scott Appleman
- **COMPUTER IN THE COCKPIT – TAKE 2** – Al Nels
- **PRIMER FOR GAS BALLOONS** – Peter Cuneo
- **DIY BALLOONING – HOME BUILT AND EXPERIMENTAL** – Paul Stumph
- **FLIGHT RISK MANAGEMENT** – Bill Hughes
- **BALLOON PONG** – Chase Donner and Joe Zvada
- **MEET THE EDITOR** – Glen Moyer
- **[WWW.BFA.NET](http://WWW.BFA.NET) - WHAT DO YOU WANT AND WHAT CAN IT DO FOR YOU** – Rick Jones
- **BALLOONING IN BUDDY BOMBARD'S EUROPE** – Buddy Bombard

### **OTHER SESSIONS AND ROUNDTABLES**

- **COMPETITORS FORUM** and other sessions on competitive ballooning
- **2012 WORLD HOT AIR CHAMPIONSHIP** – event planning and observer Training
- **BALLOON INSURANCE ROUNDTABLE**
- **BALLOON MANUFACTURERS** – separate sessions for each
- **THE WAY IT WAS** – panel discussion by Indianola national hot air balloon champions
- **BFA HISTORY ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENTS** – forum by early

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BFA presidents

• **BALLOON PHOTOGRAPHY**

Program sessions start April 8. The convention programming has been developed to fulfill the continuing education requirements for a BFA sanctioned safety seminar. A complete list of topics and speakers will soon be available at HYPERLINK "<http://www.BFA50.com>"BFA50.com.

For media contact info, e-mail HYPERLINK "<mailto:bfamarketing@pobox.com>"bfamarketing@pobox.com.

Follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/bfa50](http://twitter.com/bfa50)), or join our Facebook page (HYPERLINK "<http://www.facebook.com/bfa50>" \t "\_blank"<http://www.facebook.com/bfa50>).

About the Balloon Federation of America: it is a 501c3 non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of the sport and science of lighter-than-air aviation, both hot air and gas balloons. Founded in 1961, membership in the BFA is open to anyone who shares a fascination with lighter-than-air flight. For more information, go to [bfa.net](http://bfa.net).

**BFA National Convention Extends Early Registration**

*Des Moines, IA (Dec. 16, 2010)*

The planning committee for the Balloon Federation of America's National Convention has extended the early registration through January 31, 2011 to accommodate the holidays. Anyone registering before midnight on Feb. 1 will receive the discounted registration price of \$190. After midnight on Feb. 1, registration will go up to \$245.

The event, held April 7-10, 2011, in Des Moines, IA, will offer ballooning enthusiasts the opportunity to hear from some of the best, most experienced balloonists in the

world and have some fun, too! For a full list of speakers and topics, go to [bfa50.com](http://bfa50.com).

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Follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/bfa50](http://twitter.com/bfa50)), or join our Facebook page (HYPERLINK "<http://www.facebook.com/bfa50>" \t "\_blank"<http://www.facebook.com/bfa50>).

**PROPANE DISCOUNT!!!**

**Glenn Murray, a balloon pilot who flew Albuquerque for 17 years and lived and flew many more years in Colorado, now owns BIG G Convenience Store at 17027 N. Cave Creek Road at Bell Road.**

**He is offering a discount on propane to balloonists (currently \$2.35/gal- that may need to be adjusted for credit card charges if you use a card to pay, but we will try to keep you informed).**

**He has told his staff that balloonists know more about propane than they do, so let the pilots and crew pump their own fuel.**

**Glenn also owns a place in the southeast valley and is looking to expand the discount for pilots in that part of town. Locally owned & operated. Thank you, Glenn!**

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## **45 Life Lessons**

*Submitted by Fran Reynolds  
Written by Regina Brett, age 90*

This is something we should all read at least once a week!!!!!! Make sure you read to the end!!!!!!

Written by Regina Brett, 90 years old, of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio . "To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 45 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column I've ever written." My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
- 18.. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.

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- 33. Believe in miracles.
- 34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
- 35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
- 36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
- 37. Your children get only one childhood.
- 38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
- 39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
- 40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
- 41. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
- 42. The best is yet to come...
- 43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.

- 44. Yield.
- 45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

### CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:  
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### Saguaro Aerostat Association Information

#### **KISS**

(Keep It Safe and Sane) SAA Flying Event

#### **Ring in the New Year with a KISS.**

We all know that KISS also stands for Keep It Simple Silly so we are keeping this rally simple. Show up, fly safe, be friendly, have fun and start the year out right.

**Sunday, January 9, 2010**  
**Clayton Launch Site 7:30 AM**  
KISSable tailgate (use your imagination)  
See you there.

Ron has been working hard with the great folks in Lake Havasu to put on an incredible Festival January 21-23 and many of you have committed to being there. The local people are really excited and involved from the young people of the Civil Air Patrol to the city leaders, tons of volunteers, business people and tourists. There are billboards from Quartzsite to Vegas and this promises to be the start of some exciting flying in a beautiful location.

Rally Schedule:

Sat. Feb. 19 Rally - March Rally TBD  
Margret J. Aros 520-203-6078

## **FAA Safety Team | Safer Skies** **Through Education**

### **Updates to FAASafety.gov** Notice Number: NOTC2712

### **Changes to FAASafety.gov** **Effective December 3, 2010**

1. The biggest change is a change in policy affecting online courses. Previously the policy was that users had to wait nine months to re-take a course for credit. That policy has been revised so the waiting period for credit is now 90 days. This will allow users who wish to refresh their knowledge about a subject to earn WINGS credit for their efforts.
2. We launched an error-checking routine that looks for duplicate credits when users make a credit validation request and when validators are validating a credit request. If the system finds that specific credit already in your record, you will be asked a series of questions to confirm that the credit is in fact a valid credit, and not a duplicate. Additional text has been added to the Activity History to clarify that "Adjusted" may appear if a duplicate credit was removed. In those few cases where an activity was completed twice on one day, send an email to [Support@FAASafety.gov](mailto:Support@FAASafety.gov) with details.
3. Note that we have put the word "Basic" back in the WINGS Program, inasmuch as we want to forestall the confusion caused by its previous removal.
4. We clarified that the search bar is only for FAASafety.gov by placing a shadow text in the search bar.

5. We found a few cases where expiration dates for activities were not to the end of the month. That "bug" has been fixed so that expiration dates are the end of the month, not the exact day.

## **FAAST Blast — Week of** **November 29, 2010 Biweekly** **FAA Safety Briefing News Update**

### ***FAA Proposes Rule to Require Pilot Certificate Photos***

On Nov. 18, 2010, the FAA issued a proposed rule that would require all pilot certificates to include a photo of the certificate holder. This action follows a requirement of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act that all pilot certificates be made of plastic and contain a photo, a hologram, and an ultraviolet-sensitive layer, to prevent tampering, altering, and counterfeiting.

The proposed change includes both a phased-in and trigger-based implementation approach. Trigger events would leverage times when a pilot would normally need to interact with the FAA, such as applying for a new certificate or rating. Because not all pilots will have a triggering event during the implementation period, the FAA also proposes a phased approach for requiring photo certificates. Commercial pilot certificate holders would have four years after the effective date of the final rule to comply, while a private, recreational, or sport-pilot certificate holder would have five years to get a new photo certificate.

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New certificates would have a photo expiration date of eight years, after which pilots must resubmit a photo and receive a new certificate. FAA also proposes to charge a \$22 processing fee for the new photo certificate, which is comparable to drivers' license fees in many states. For more details, reference the NPRM on page 70871 in the Federal Register, vol. 75, No. 223 at [www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/). Comments will be accepted until Feb. 17, 2011.

### **"FAAsteam CFI Workshop Module #1 (MAKE-UP)"**

Topic: CFI Workshop Module #1; 'The FAAsteam and WINGS'  
On Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 9:00 AM  
Location: ASU Simulator Building,  
Williams-Gateway Airport

7442 E. Tillman Avenue  
Mesa, AZ 85212

**Select Number:**  
WP0735860

**Description:**  
This is Workshop Module # 1 in a series of 8 modules. This Module will cover information about the **FAAsteam** and the **WINGS** Pilot Proficiency Program.

To view further details and registration information for this seminar, [click here](#).

The sponsor for this seminar is: **AWP-204 AZ FAAsteam**

The following credit(s) are available for the WINGS/AMT Programs:

KEB 1.00  
KEM 1.00

*The FAA updated the **Balloon Flying Handbook** in 2008. Small excerpts are included each month.*

## **Chapter 4: Weather Theory and Reports**

### **Introduction**

Weather is the state of the atmosphere at a given time and place, with respect to temperature, moisture content, turbulence, and cloudiness. These factors interact to form the following five major meteorological elements:

- Atmospheric pressure (high or low)
- Air temperature (heat or cold)
- Wind (calm or storm)
- Clouds (clearness or cloudiness), and
- Precipitation (rain, sleet, or snow)

A solid understanding of weather theory provides the tools necessary to understand the forecasts obtained from a Flight Service Station (FSS) weather specialist and other aviation weather services. No other means of aviation relies more heavily on knowledge and understanding of weather for its safety than ballooning. It is important to note, however, that there is no substitute for experience.

There are many excellent texts and online sources available for learning about weather that are referenced at the appropriate point in this chapter. Much of the following information can be found in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Advisory Circular (AC) 00-06A, Aviation

*continued on page 12*

Weather Services For Pilots and Flight Operations Personnel, and AC 00-45E, Aviation Weather Services, both of which may be found at the FAA's Regulatory and Guidance Library (RGL) located online at [rgl.faa.gov](http://rgl.faa.gov).

Other online sources for weather information are also helpful. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) offers a weather tutorial at [www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/srh/jetstream/). Developed to meet the needs of educators, weather professionals, and others interested in learning more about weather, it provides a number of concise explanations of weather theory. Additionally, [www2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/home.rxml](http://www2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/home.rxml) is a site developed as part of the Weather World 2010 project by the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

This chapter is designed to give balloon pilots a basic knowledge of weather principles, acquaint them with the weather information available for flight planning, and help them develop sound decision-making skills as they prepare for and execute a safe flight.

## **The Atmosphere**

The atmosphere is the envelope of air that surrounds the Earth. Approximately one-half of the air, by weight, is within the lower 18,000 feet. The remainder of the air is spread over a vertical distance in excess of 1,000 miles. No definite outer atmospheric boundary exists, but the air particles become less numerous with increasing altitude until they gradually overcome Earth's gravity and escape into space. In addition to the rotation of the Earth, another type of air movement occurs within the atmosphere. This movement of air around the surface of the Earth is called atmospheric circulation.

## **Composition**

The atmosphere is a blanket of air composed of a mixture of gases that surrounds the Earth and reaches over 560 kilometers (km), 348 miles, from

the surface. This blanket of gases provides protection from ultraviolet rays, as well as supporting human, animal, and plant life. Nitrogen accounts for 78 percent of the gases comprising the atmosphere, while oxygen makes up 21 percent. Argon, carbon dioxide, and traces of other gases make up the remaining 1 percent. Within this envelope of gases, there are several recognizable layers of the atmosphere as defined by altitude.

The first layer, known as the troposphere, extends from sea level up to 20,000 feet (8 km) over the northern and southern poles and up to 48,000 feet (14.5 km) over the equatorial regions. The vast majority of weather, clouds, storms, and temperature variances occur within this first layer of the atmosphere.

At the top of troposphere is a boundary known as the tropopause, which traps moisture and the associated weather in the troposphere. The altitude of the tropopause varies with latitude and with the season of the year which causes it to take on an elliptical shape, as opposed to round. Location of the tropopause is important because it is commonly associated with the location of the jet stream and possible clear air turbulence.

## **The Standard Atmosphere**

To provide a common reference when discussing weather, the International Standard Atmosphere (ISA) has been established. To arrive at the standard atmosphere, conditions throughout the atmosphere with respect to latitudes, seasons, and altitudes were averaged. The standard reference point is 59 degrees Fahrenheit (F) or 15 degrees Celsius (C), and 29.92 inches of mercury ("Hg) or 1013.2 millibars (mb). Pressure does not decrease linearly with altitude, but for the first 10,000 feet, 1 "Hg for each 1,000 feet approximates the rate of pressure change. There is also a standard temperature lapse rate of 3.5 degrees F or 2 degrees C per 1,000 feet of altitude, up to 36,000 feet.

At sea level, the standard atmosphere exerts

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pressure on the Earth at a force of 14.7 pounds per square inch (psi). This means a column of air one inch square, extending from the surface up to the the upper atmosphere limit, weighs about 14.7 pounds. A person standing at sea level also experiences the pressure of of the atmosphere, but the pressure is a force of pressure over the entire surface of the skin. The actual pressure at a given place and time will differ with altitude, temperature, and density of air. These conditions also affect balloon performance, especially with regard to useful load and burner performance.

### Measurement of Atmospheric Pressure

Constant pressure charts and hurricane pressure reports are written using millibars (mb). Since weather stations are located around the globe, all local barometric pressure readings are converted to a sea level pressure to provide a standard for records and reports. To achieve this, each station converts its barometric pressure by adding approximately 1 “Hg for every 1,000 feet of elevation gain. For example, a station at 5,000 feet above sea level, with a reading of 24.92 “Hg, reports a sea level pressure reading of 29.92 “Hg. Using common sea level pressure readings helps ensure aircraft altimeters are set correctly, based on the current pressure readings. In order to compensate for pressure variations due to different station elevations, all observations are obtained by mathematically reducing station pressure to MSL. This enables the pilot to read MSL altitudes on the altimeter.

When charting atmospheric pressures over various areas of the Earth, the meteorologist is primarily interested in the pressure difference per unit of distance -- the pressure gradient.

The MSL pressure is plotted in mb at each reporting station on a surface weather map. The isobars outline pressure areas in somewhat the same manner that contour lines outline terrain features on contour maps. Standard procedure on surface weather maps in North America is to draw isobars spaced at 4 mb of pressure apart, with intermediate two mb spacing when appropriate.

Although the isobar patterns are never the same on any two weather maps, they do show patterns of similarity.

By tracking barometric pressure trends across a large area, weather forecasters can more accurately predict movement of pressure systems and the associated weather. For example, tracking a pattern of rising pressure at a single weather station generally indicates the approach of fair weather. Conversely, decreasing or rapidly falling pressure usually indicates approaching bad weather and possible sever storms.

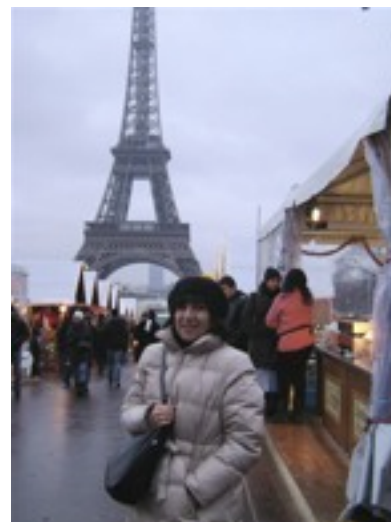
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(A sampling of photos from Judy Holts trip to Europe...speaking of WEATHER!!!

ABC member Hubert clearing the sidewalk



Judy clearing the windshield



A winter day in Paris



### **Thanks, Frank!**

A big thank you to Frank Karlovec for organizing the club's holiday party at the University Club. Frank worked very hard to keep the costs at last year's level. It took some negotiating to do that.

As always, the food was good, decor lovely, and the company excellent. We had the chance to visit with some former members who made it a point to attend and visit old friends. Gary and Karen Stevens and Fran and Judy Reynolds were among the crowd. Some regulars couldn't make it this year- I believe Judy Holt was snowed in by the weather in Europe!

Raffle prizes were interesting and inviting enough to raise over \$400, half of which will go to Saint Mary's Food Bank, as is our tradition. Margie Long donated \$25 propane gift certificate from Hot Air Expeditions. A bottle of Patron Gold Tequila raised quite a bit of interest. Ken Tocker picked up a piece of luggage to replace a recently damaged suitcase. The prizes seemed well distributed among the tables.

While we mostly just partied, Commander Mike England handled the little bit of business that had to be conducted and visited every table to make sure everyone was enjoying the evening.

## **COMMANDER'S COLUMN**

### **Happy New Year!!**

We wish you all a very prosperous and enjoyable new year.

Congratulations to Sally Heinrich on receiving the BRAVO award. Sally's hard work on putting together our safety seminar and of course editing this newsletter among her many other contributions to our organization have been much appreciated and most deserving of our recognition as outstanding

### **Mike England**

Commander





## **CHEF FRANK-O'S RECIPES**

### **Panko Shrimp with Strawberry Aioli**

#### **Ingredients**

- Panko Shrimp
- Canola oil, for frying
- 12 jumbo tiger shrimp, de-veined and butterflied
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup honey panko (Japanese) bread crumbs, plus more for coating

#### Strawberry Aioli

- 1/3 cup Japanese mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup condensed milk
- 12 fresh strawberries

#### **Directions**

To prepare the panko shrimp: Heat 1/4-inch of canola oil in a large heavy frying pan to 375 degree F. Meanwhile, place the beaten eggs in a shallow bowl and the bread crumbs in a shallow dish. Dunk the butterflied tiger

shrimp into the beaten eggs, then place in the bread crumbs and coat with honey panko crumbs. Shake off the excess bread crumbs and fry the shrimp for 1 minute per side or until they start curving in on themselves. Place them on a wire rack to drain the excess oil.

To make the strawberry aioli: In a bowl, combine the Japanese mayonnaise with the condensed milk and mix together. Puree the strawberries in a food processor. Place the fried panko shrimp with a side of Japanese mayo sauce and strawberry puree for dipping.

### **Pepper-Crusted Tuna Steak with Teriyaki Sauce and Wasabi Smashed Potatoes**

#### **Ingredients**

##### Wasabi Smashed Potatoes

- 4 russet potatoes, cubed
- 1 tablespoon wasabi\*
- 1/4 cup soy milk
- Pinch sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

\*Cook's Note: Use less if sensitive or prefer less heat

##### Teriyaki Sauce

- 1/2 cup mirin wine
- 4 tablespoons low-sodium tamari soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 teaspoons toasted sesame oil
- 4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 4 knobs fresh ginger, peeled

##### Pepper-Crusted Tuna Steak

- 4 yellowfin sushi-grade tuna steaks, cut 1-inch thick
- 1/4 cup freshly ground black pepper
- 4 tablespoons canola oil

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### **Directions**

To make the wasabi smashed potatoes: Boil the potatoes in salt water until fork tender, about 10 to 15 minutes. Drain and place in a big bowl. Add the wasabi, soy milk, salt, and pepper and smash together. Don't over-mash.

To make the teriyaki sauce: Heat a saucepan on medium, add the mirin, tamari, honey, sesame oil, garlic, and ginger, bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 5 minutes. Strain the sauce to remove the garlic and ginger.

To make the pepper-crusting tuna steak: Coat the tuna steaks evenly on all sides with freshly-ground black pepper. In a frying pan, heat the canola oil on high heat until smoking. Place the tuna steaks in the frying pan and baste with the teriyaki sauce. For medium-rare steak: cook for 1 minute, flip and cook for another minute.

Slice the tuna against the grain to sever the muscle, making tuna even more tender. Serve with a generous scoop of wasabi smashed potatoes. Drizzle the teriyaki sauce over both.

### **Spicy Sauteed Asparagus with Tamari and Toasted Garlic**

#### **Ingredients**

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Hot chile flakes, to taste
- 20 asparagus spears, hard ends removed
- 2 tablespoons low-sodium tamari
- Freshly-ground black pepper

#### **Directions**

Heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the minced garlic and chile flakes, fry until the garlic is a golden color, about 2 minutes. Throw in the asparagus, tamari, and black

pepper, to taste and saute for 10 minutes, or until the asparagus is tender

### **Ricotta Crepes with Raspberry-Chile Coulis and Chocolate**

#### **Ingredients**

- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 1 vanilla bean, halved lengthwise and seeds scraped
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon butter
- 1 cup frozen raspberries, thawed
- 1 red chile pepper, halved, seeds and pith removed
- 1/4 cup grated dark chocolate

#### **Directions**

In a clean big bowl, whip together the whipping cream and vanilla bean seeds. Fold in the ricotta cheese, 1 tablespoon brown sugar, and then whip 5 more seconds to mix. Cover the bowl and refrigerate.

In a food processor combine the flour, eggs, milk, and water pulse for 10 seconds. In a frying pan, heat the butter over medium heat.

Pour in 1/4 cup of crepe batter, swirl the pan while pouring to coat the bottom of the pan with an even layer of batter. Cook for 45 seconds, flip and cook for 30 seconds. Puree the raspberries and their juices, chile pepper and 2 tablespoon brown sugar in a food processor. Place 2 to 3 tablespoons of the ricotta filling in the center of a crepe and roll.

Drizzle with raspberry-chile coulis and top with dark chocolate shavings.

## LINKS!

LINK FOR RE-REGISTRATION ONLINE - [HTTPS://AMSRVS.REGISTRY.FAA.GOV/RENEWREGISTRATION/](https://amsrvs.registry.faa.gov/renewregistration/) AND LINK TO SEARCH DATABASE TO BE SURE CURRENT INFORMATION IS CORRECT. [HTTP://REGISTRY.FAA.GOV/AIRCRAFTINQUIRY/](http://registry.faa.gov/aircraftinquiry/)

From AOPA E-briefs:

### **FAA proposes pilot photo IDs**

A Federal Aviation Administration proposal would give pilots and flight instructors three to five years from the time of the final rule to obtain new photo identification pilot certificates. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention law, passed in 2004, requires pilot certificates to include a biometric identifier "or any other unique identifier the FAA administrator considers necessary," but the agency, at least for now, is proposing only a passport-quality photo. [FlightGlobal.com/Flight International](http://FlightGlobal.com/Flight International) (11/30)

### **Know the regs on giving, sharing love of flight**

During the holidays, many pilots realize they would like to share their love of aviation with others throughout the year. Charitable flying offers that opportunity. Members call AOPA's Pilot Information Center asking how they can sponsor or participate in a charitable flying event such as providing sightseeing flights at local airports to raise funds for civic groups, churches, or youth groups. The FAA revised the rules for these kinds of events in 2007 by creating a new section of regulations, FAR 91.146.

### **Pilot recreates balloon scene from movie "Up"**

Pilot Jonathan Trappe recreated a scene from the animated film "Up" by floating 100 miles across Mexico in a chair suspended by balloons. Trappe, 37, floated at speeds of up to 50 mph while "cluster ballooning" in a comfortable chair. "This was a truly outstanding flight," said Trappe. "I was wonderfully inspired by it." [Daily Record \(Glasgow, Scotland\)](#) (12/1)



### **NTSB looks to take on crash-prevention role**

The National Transportation Safety Board is moving beyond its traditional role of investigating aviation accidents and will start identifying potential risks. The board will spend more time collecting and studying data that sheds light on the causes of dangerous incidents. "As the industry evolves, the safety board has to evolve, too," said Deborah Hersman, who heads the board and outlined the NTSB's new role last week. "We can't be static." The board eventually hopes to make safety recommendations that could prevent fatalities. [The Wall Street Journal](#) (12/27)

**Arizona Balloon Club  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2010**

Commander Mike England called the November Board Meeting to order at 5:45 pm, the meeting location was at the Deer Valley Airport, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85027-2137.

**Members Present:** Commander Mike England, Past Commander Sally Heinrich, Keeper of the Fuel Allen Baron, Keeper of the Log Sally Bartsch, Board Members: Tom Connolly and Gene Clewley

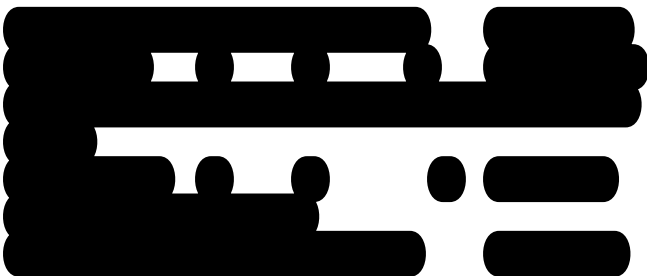
**Board Members Absent:** Vice Commander Bob Romaneschi, Frank Karlovec, Gary Bishman and Linda Jorgensen

A Quorum was met.

**Guest in attendance:** Molly Karlovec and Judy Holt.

After review of the October Board and General Meeting Minutes, there were no changes identified. Mike England requested that a motion to accept both documents be made. Gene Clewley made the motion and the motion was seconded by Allen Baron. The motion passed.

Allen Baron, Keeper of the Fuel presented the following report for November 2010:



A motion to accept the Fuel Report as presented was made by Sally Heinrich. Tom Connolly seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Old Business**

**Committee Reports:**

**Safety/Seminar:** Sally Heinrich reported on the results of the Safety Seminar held October 30, 2010. A written summary was included. The seminar was funded by the fees charged to the members and by additional donations as listed in the report. The seminar expenditures exceeded the proceeds by eight dollars. There were 26 attendees with 8 new members recruited for this year, due to the seminar. It was discussed that the Tuscan Balloon Club would be responsible for next year's seminar or that the BFA might sponsor another seminar on line next year. A motion by Gene Clewley to accept and pay the expenses as proposed was made. Mike England seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commander Mike England and the board members all thanked Sally Heinrich and the members that assisted, especially recognizing the huge effort put forth by Sally H..

**Memberships:**

Judy Holt reported that approximately 80 members have joined and paid dues. She expects that this will increase with the upcoming Holiday Party

**Picnics & Parties:**

**Holiday (Christmas) Party** – Holiday Party will have a raffle and board members will be responsible to provide at least one nice gift. Molly Karlovec presented an update on the plans. An email regarding the event has been sent. The invitation will appear in the next newsletter but encouragement to inform past members was stressed. After discussion, Sally Heinrich made a motion that half of the Holiday raffle proceeds be donated to St. Mary's Food Bank. Allen Baron seconded the motion and the motion past.

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**New Business:**

**Meeting location(s) and Presenter:** It was agreed that the location for the January meeting will be at the Church location if available. January will include chili. Suggestion for January's presentation topic was discussed to include a weather person or Don Edwards from Albuquerque Fiesta. Judy Holt will make arrangements and report back to the Commander.

**Items for the Board:**

**Audit:** An audit and review of the ABC finances will be reviewed by three board members. After discussion, Gene Clewley made a motion that Mike England, Sally Heinrich and Sally Bartsch perform the audit in January; date to be determined. Sally Heinrich seconded and the motion passed.

**Budget 2010-11:** Allen Baron proposed and made a motion that the budget be patterned after last years budget without the Safety Seminar budget. The motion was seconded by Gene Clewley and the motion passed.

**Bravo Award:** Mike England requested further nominations. Sally Heinrich made a suggestion that Linda Jorgensen be nominated stating that rarely does a non pilot receive the honor and listed Linda's many accomplishments to the club. Judy Holt suggested Sally Heinrich for the many hours of service to the club. A motion to vote in writing on the two nominations was made. Ballots were passed out and a written vote was tallied by the Commander with the results to be made public at the Holiday Party.

Sally Heinrich brought, for display, the latest Neiman Marcus illustration which displayed models and hot air balloons.

Mike England adjourned the Board Meeting at 6:32 pm with a motion. Gene Clewley seconded

the motion. A unanimous vote officially adjourned the meeting.

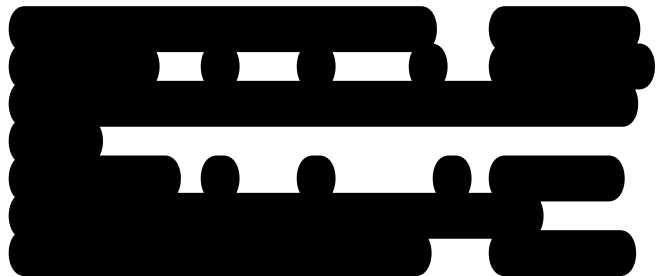
Respectfully submitted,

Sally Bartsch,  
Keeper of the Log

**Arizona Balloon Club  
General Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2010**

The General Meeting was called to order by Commander Mike England at 7:05 pm. The meeting location was at the Deer Valley Airport, 702 W. Deer Valley Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85027-2137. There were 16 members and 0 guests present.

Mike England presented, for Allen Baron, Keeper of the Fuel, the November Fuel Report as follows:



**Committee Reports:**

**Memberships:** Judy Holt stated that approximately 80 members have paid their dues and joined.

**Holiday (Christmas) Party:** The party will be December 21, 2010 at the University Club. The cost for the Holiday Party is \$33.00 and an email announcing the event was sent last week. Members that do not have email will be mailed an invitation. Encouragement to let others know was stressed. Proceeds from the Holiday Raffle will be donated to St. Mary's Food Bank.

*continued on page 20*

**Safety/Seminar:** Mike England announced the success of the seminar. Sally Heinrich reported that 26 persons attended. As the result of the seminar eight new club members were recruited. A list of the speakers and topics covered in the seminar was given. Facilities were rated well by the participants with the exception of the cool room temperature. Sally H. and those who assisted were acknowledged.

**Aviation Day:** Aviation Day is the third Tuesday of January, January 18, 2011.

**Neiman Marcus Catalog:** Illustrations of models and hot air balloons were displayed in the latest edition and was available for the members to view.

**Page, AZ Balloon Event:** A very successful three day event with 54 balloons was reported at Page, Arizona by Tom Connolly. Some hot air balloons were able to fly to Antelope Canyon for a 2 hour plus flight. Other pilots came early to do educational lectures at the grade schools.

**Yuma, AZ Balloon Event:** This event will be held next week November 19-21, 2010. Several of the members will be attending this event.

**Leon, Mexico and Tubac Glow:** November 19-21, 2010 was discussed.

### **FUEL REPORT**

November 2010

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

These are summaries of the treasury report. A detailed itemization of this or any past approved "Fuel Report" is available by request.

The scheduled speaker, Bob Romaneschi, was unable to attend due to an emergency repair of a balloon requiring completion in order to meet a shipping date.

Sales of raffle tickets sales were reported by Molly Karlovec in the amount of \$54.00. The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Bartsch,  
Keeper of the Log

### **Disclaimer**

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Club Officers & Board of Directors

|                           |                 |            |            |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Commander:                | Michael England | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Vice-Commander:           | Bob Romaneschi  | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Keeper of the Log:        | Sally Bartsch   | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Keeper of the Fuel:       | Allen Baron     | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Immediate Past-Commander: | Sally Heinrich  | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Board Members:            |                 |            |            |
| Gary Bishman              | [REDACTED]      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Tom Connolly              | [REDACTED]      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Gene Clewley              | [REDACTED]      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Linda Jorgensen           | [REDACTED]      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |
| Frank Karlovec            | [REDACTED]      | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

Appointed Positions & Committee Chairpersons

|                              |                                  |            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------|
| Awards & Trophies            | Dorothy Harrison                 | [REDACTED] |
| Community Relations Director | Michael England                  | [REDACTED] |
| Competition Director         | Vacant                           | [REDACTED] |
| Government Liaison Director  | Philip Heinrich                  | [REDACTED] |
| Historian                    | Molly Karlovec                   | [REDACTED] |
| Membership                   | Judy Holt                        | [REDACTED] |
| Newsletter Editor            | Sally Heinrich                   | [REDACTED] |
| Picnics & Parties            | Frank Karlovec                   | [REDACTED] |
| Raffle Chairperson           | Linda Jorgensen & Molly Karlovec | [REDACTED] |
| Safety Director              | Fred Gorrell                     | [REDACTED] |
| Webmaster                    | Bill Heck                        | [REDACTED] |

Arizona Balloon Club Website:

[www.arizonaballoonclub.org](http://www.arizonaballoonclub.org)

**Newsletter Advertising Rates:**

Appropriate fees required with camera ready art or electronic files.  
1/8 page (business card size): \$7.50  
1/4 page: \$12.50  
1/2 page: \$20.00  
Full page: \$30.00  
Inserts (submitted): \$40.00

**Memberships:**

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Renewal Individual: \$30; Family \$35

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