



# The Crownlines

The Newsletter of the / Le journal du  
National Capital Balloon Club  
Club de montgolfières de la Capitale nationale

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## Annual General Meeting Follow Up

The National Capital Balloon Club's 2011 Annual General Meeting was held on January 31<sup>st</sup>, at Louis' Steak House.

In their reports, the President and Vice-President recognized that, with the exception of the 2010 Fall Social at Bill Whelan's, there was a lack of NCBC activities in 2010. Although there were various reasons for this, the members of the Executive indicated their commitment to improving this, should they be re-elected, in 2011.

It was agreed to combine the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer into one position and that the number of Directors be decreased from four (4) to three (3). A motion was made to re-elect the existing Executive Committee – they accepted and it was unanimously approved.

### 2011 Board of Directors

**President:** David Lopushinsky  
**Vice President:** Lynne Deachman  
**Secretary/**  
**Treasurer:** Laurie Manion  
**Directors:** Bill Whelan  
Brigitte Johnstone  
Gary Moreau

## Mark your calendars!

**April 2011:** Combined Safety and Crew Training Session

**April 16, 2011:** Kick off Social and Fly Day will be hosted by Mary Anne Stevens

**October 22, 2011:** Year-End Social and Fly Day will be hosted by Bill Whelan

Club members are encouraged to submit their ideas for club activities to the web site

## The Crownlines

As you can see, work began right after the AGM. Other members who would like to assist are always welcome. Finally, members are needed to provide items and / or photos for its content.

It has been suggested that the *Crownlines* incorporate member profiles in future issues.

This would just be a short paragraph about how long you've been involved with ballooning or the club, how you got involved, your experience to date, etc. A picture would be lovely.

Please send information to Sandra Rolfe

# Winter Flying

Sandra Rolfe

I have always loved winter flights for the beautiful snow-covered scenery. In the winter I dream of setting a basket down in a pristine field of untouched snow and taking off again – my version of crop circles!

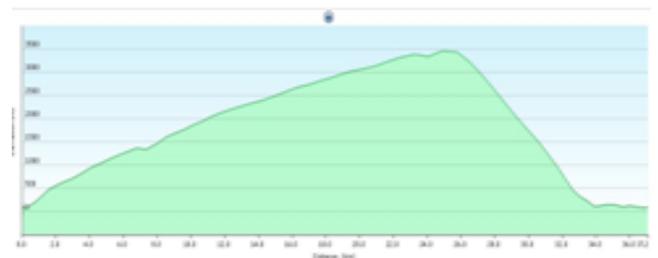
A few years ago we began the construction of an AX4 balloon. The final paperwork for the balloon came through in the summer. We waited with eager anticipation for the winter of 2011 and the opportunity to challenge the records set by Raymond Munro, in 1970. The current records were 2 hours 4 minutes for duration, 57.25km and 2,878m (~9,442ft).



The first major flight took place on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. We picked up Emily and Makayla Jaring in the morning and took them to breakfast to wait out the snow flurries. By noon the weather had cleared to clear blue skies. I took off from Sandown and flew in an easterly direction. Though I was alone in the basket, I was joined in flight by a paraglider from Bourget. He did a few circles around the balloon and then landed and talked to the crew, then took off again to rejoin me in the air. I lost sight of him as I flew over Herbs Restaurant and would later find out he stopped in to warm up with coffee and soup – such are the advantages of an aircraft on your back that packs into a duffle bag! Just before landing near St-Anne-de-Prescott, the paraglider caught up with me again and landed in the same field. We packed up both the balloon and the paraglider and drove everyone home. The flight was 1 hour 45 minutes in length, and reached a peak height of about 1800 ft. While the flight, in and of itself, would establish new records in the female category, it did not exceed the General category. Regardless, we were pleased with the

performance of the balloon and information it provided us with for future flight planning.

Days later, on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we attempted the altitude record. Mary Lalonde came up from Cornwall to observe. Rick Smith and Dale Pelky came up from the States to help crew. Eric Jaring also came along to crew for the flight. Arrangements were made with Montreal for flight authorization and a transponder code. Launch was planned from Fournier. Despite a checklist, I still seemed to have difficulties! The truck had not left the driveway before I realized the major piece of equipment was missing – the transponder! And then....I forgot to install the transponder and was forced to land in the adjacent field and wait for the crew to bring it out. Once all the equipment was installed on the balloon, the flight was great. The ascent had to be limited to 200ft/min in order to keep the envelope temperature in check. Peak altitude was reached at 12,008ft. The internal temperature was running in the 240F range and each burn would spike the temperature upwards. The decent was faster than ascent. Without burning, the balloon dropped at 1000ft/min. With a landing again near St-Anne-de-Prescott, the flight was a great success! Seen below is the altitude profile of the flight extracted from the GPS.



Keeping our eyes on the weather, later in February, a few more days presented themselves as potential flight windows. We watched the approach of an arctic high which would bring the colder temperatures needed for the duration flight. February 23<sup>rd</sup> dawned crisp and cold – time for the duration flight. We planned on a 4-6 hour flight, with 55 gallons of fuel. At the launch site a problem with one tank forced it to be off-loaded before launch. Then shortly after the launch the second tank

exhibited issues as well, so the flight was flown mainly on one tank. We launched down in the valley of the bog, planning to stay low and slow in the valley for as long as possible. The plan was great; the winds on the surface were light, and at times I was able to literally hang in place – the GPS showed 0.0km/hr! After 2 hours and 20 minutes of flight, we decided to land and try the flight over again. So, a few hours later, we launched with 40 gallons of fuel. The strategy would be the same – stay low and slow in the valley. The first part of the flight was spent around Fournier, then the wind drifted the balloon towards the bog. The direction wasn't "solid" and I was concerned that I might not make it across the bog, I took some altitude and found a little wind current that would take me up the ridge and away from the bog. A landing after a flight of 3 hours 17 minutes re-establishes the duration record. Thank you to Paul Porter, Keith Allan, Eric Jaring, and Bill Whelan.

With duration and altitude in hand, we still wanted to attempt the distance record. Weather on February 27<sup>th</sup> promised fast winds at 3000ft in the direction we were looking for. Lynne and Keelan O'Flaherty were on standby for crewing, and Diane Casault agreed to be the observer. The morning weather check confirmed favorable conditions, so we geared up and headed out for a launch from Navan. The surface winds were more southerly in direction, but the turn back towards Montreal could be seen with a pieball at about 1500ft. The wind direction continued to back on itself as the altitude increased. The optimum direction and speed was attained at around 3800 - 4000ft, averaging ~40km/hr. Though the CYOW Metar indicated clear skies, the skies were becoming overcast, and the winds began turning more towards the south again. The flight proceeded with a close eye on the weather. I landed near Mont-Joie and kept the balloon standing up hoping the crew would find me. Realizing that the crew was farther away than we thought, and the beginning of the snow flurries, I decided to take the balloon down by myself and waited it out sitting on the basket. The crew eventually found me, and we packed up the equipment and went for a well-deserved breakfast brunch at

Lavoie's in Vankeek Hill. The flight was 80.9km in length. The female world record is only 92km. So we missed that distance by 9km and a snow flurry! Ah well – there is always next year!

All record applications have been submitted to the CBA, and we are anxiously awaiting their ratification of the records! With great respect for Raymond Munro, cheers to re-writing the record books!

Picture of the crew after recovery.



Lynne O'Flaherty, Diane Casault, Sandra Rolfe, Keelan O'Flaherty

Below is the GPS track of the distance flight of February 27, 2011.



## Summer Festivals

### **Jamesville Balloon Fest**

June 10 -12, 2011

Website: <http://www.syracuseballoonfest.com/>

### **Kinsmen Cornwall Lift-Off**

July 14 – 16, 2011

Website: [www.lift-off.ca/](http://www.lift-off.ca/)

### **Festivent (Quebec City)**

August 3 – 7, 2011

Website: [festivent.net/fr/Accueil/](http://festivent.net/fr/Accueil/)

### **International Balloon Festival of St-Jean-sur-Richelieu**

August 13 – 21, 2011

Website:

[www.ballooncanada.com/index.php/en/](http://www.ballooncanada.com/index.php/en/)

### **Crown of Maine Balloon Festival**

August 25 – 28, 2011

Website:

<http://www.crownofmaineballoonfest.org/>

### **Fesitval de montgolfieres de Gatineau**

September 2 - 5, 2011

Website :

[www.montgolfieresgatineau.com/anglais/accueil2010\\_en.htm](http://www.montgolfieresgatineau.com/anglais/accueil2010_en.htm)

### **Atlantic International Balloon Festival**

September 7 – 11, 2011

Website:

[www.atlanticballoonfiesta.ca/](http://www.atlanticballoonfiesta.ca/)

### **Adirondack Balloon Festival**

Glens Falls

September 22 – 25, 2011

Website :

<http://www.adirondackballoonfestival.com/>

### **2011 INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE / PRE-WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

Battle Creek, Michigan

August 22 – 27, 2011

The event will be held in conjunction with the 2011 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship. The Challenge is open to all non-U.S. pilots and U.S. pilots qualified to compete in the 2011 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship. There will be 25 entry slots available to non-U.S. pilots. For more information, contact [Davidnlevin@gmail.com](mailto:Davidnlevin@gmail.com).

If you attend any festivals or  
have an amazing flight - drop us a  
line and share the experience!

## Website

Dave Lopushinsky stated that the site is now available but requires work on specific pages. Posting options will be examined along with possible privacy of information issues and a process will be established for public and member access. Suggestions and help are always appreciated. Please contact your board members with suggestions or offers of assistance.



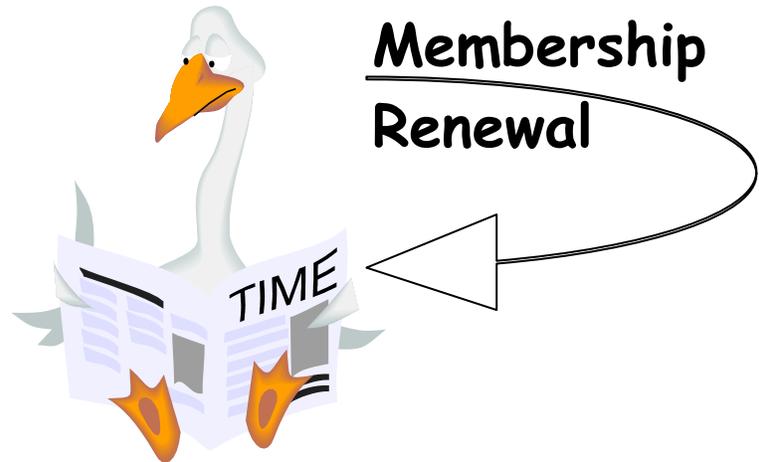
## Reminders

Please check your e-mail system or junk mail folder to ensure that e-mails from the board are getting through.

The club address receives several bounce backs on group e-mails and QuickReleases, so it is possible your spam filters or e-mail providers are blocking these legitimate e-mails from reaching you.

Also, please read the messages in full as several ask that you **do not reply** to the e-mail but send an answer elsewhere.

Th  nk you!



## Membership Renewal

Your 2011NCBC membership fees are now due. Rates remain the same:

Crew - \$20  
Pilot - \$30  
Family - \$40  
Corporate - \$100

Please fill out the enclosed membership form in **full** (i.e. don't write "same" for all the info) and mail to:

National Capital Balloon Club

For membership inquiries, please contact Laurie Manion

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