



The Crownlines

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

Volume 15 Number 3

August 2005

Gatineau Balloon Festival Schedule of Events

Wondering what's going on at the Gatineau Balloon Festival? Here are some of the details:

Thursday

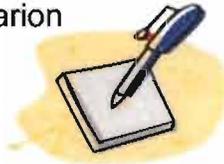
Don Cameron Lecture / Wine & Cheese
7 p.m. Aviation Museum
NCBC rate - \$10 Non members - \$15
Contact Élyse Drouin at [REDACTED]

Registration

Friday - 10 - 2:30 - Hotel Clarion

Daily Briefings

Mornings - 6 - 6:30 a.m.
Evenings - 5 - 5:30 p.m.



Flights

Mornings - 6:30 - 7:00 a.m.
Evenings - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

BBQ & Karaoke

Friday 7:30 p.m. - Pilots' Tent
6:30 if flight is cancelled

Crew Competition

Saturday - 2:30 - 4 p.m. - Launch Field

Corn Roast

Saturday - 7:30 -
Pilots' Tent
6:30 if flight is cancelled



Fireworks

Saturday - 10:15 p.m.



Meet & Greet the Pilots

Sunday - 2:30 - 4 p.m. - Launch Field

Night Glow

Sunday - 8:30 p.m. - Launch Field
Monday - 8:30 p.m. if cancelled on Sunday

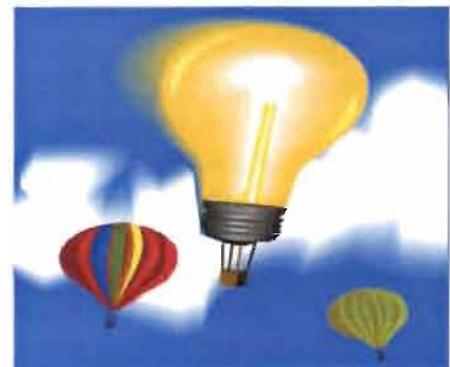
Farewell Brunch

Monday - 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
Hilton Casino Lac-Leamy

Raffle

All weekend - the Club will be selling raffle tickets (\$.99) for a beautiful framed balloon embroidery worth \$800. Board director Debbie Wright did the handiwork and Malen Framing professionally framed it. You can support the Club by purchasing tickets or helping out with the sale of tickets. See page 8 for details.

We look forward to seeing everybody at the Festival.



Fall 2005 Suggested Social Calendar



Cindy Toffanello and Debbie Wright have put together some suggestions for activities for the remainder of the year.

September: Tower Tour. We have been offered the chance to tour the Ottawa Tower. A date and time will be arranged and sent to all club members. As space is limited, reservations must be made.

October: Saturday, October 22 or Sunday, October 23 - Halloween Social. Wear NCBC colours and bring a bag of treats which will be donated to a shelter for children who wouldn't otherwise get treats for Halloween. Place to be determined; locations welcomed.

November: November 19 - Bowling afternoon 4 - 7 p.m. - a family-oriented time. November 30 - NCBC Board Meeting/Dessert Social at Algonquin College. Members can drop by and take a name off the Angel Tree to buy a gift (\$10 or under) for an underprivileged girl or boy. Out-of-town members can forward their donation and a board member will purchase their gifts.

December: Our idea is to work in conjunction with Toy Mountain at the Corel Centre. We can deliver our Angel Tree presents to help fill the seats and bring the mini balloon to fly in the arena. This would provide added excitement to the event as well as promote the NCBC.

Please contact Debbie at [REDACTED] with your feedback on these ideas and suggestions for other events. Your contributions and comments would be greatly appreciated.

The Making of a Mini-Balloon

Françoise Proulx & Diane Casault

The NCBC enjoys combining social activities and fly days. But, in the past few years, Mother Nature has not been on our side weatherwise. In order to get together more often, a suggestion was put forward at the 2005 AGM: Let's build a mini remote-controlled balloon. If we cannot fly together, we can at least sew together and finally have our own club balloon which could be used for promotion and demonstration.

The club purchased a mini basket and burners which are too cute! One club member had piles of material. We agreed that the colours would be silver and red. Once that was established, we then proceeded with the cutting, assembling and, finally, the sewing.



The mini is 2500 cubic feet, 24 gores, 5 panels high, with a Velcro rip out top cap. It stands 25 feet tall with a lift capacity of 50 lbs.

The project began mid-February and was put on hold at the end of June for the summer. With the mini-balloon 55% completed, sewing will resume sometime in September.

We meet every Wednesday around 6:00 p.m. at Bill Whelan's. His basement is the ideal location since it is spacious and contains two commercial sewing machines. We grab a piece of pizza and pop, then sew until 8:30 or 9:00.

Cutting, assembling and sewing a mini-balloon is not very hard; we would even say it is quite easy. No zig zagging - just a straight line. And, as you get more experienced, the faster you sew - **not to worry, no speeding ticket is issued.**



You certainly don't have to be an experienced sewer to help put the MB together. It's your mini-balloon so just being there to take part will make it worthwhile.

If you are fascinated by the sight of a hot air balloon and curious as to how all the pieces fit together, come join us again in September and take part in this fun club venture.

Watch for a QuickRelease with the details.

Hope to see you then.



They shot 7.5 hours of film for only 24 minutes of show time. We shall see what makes it on to the TV when the show is aired some time this winter.

Thanks to Brie Johnston, Janet Power, and Jean Drouin and their crews for coming out with their balloons to help fill the sky.

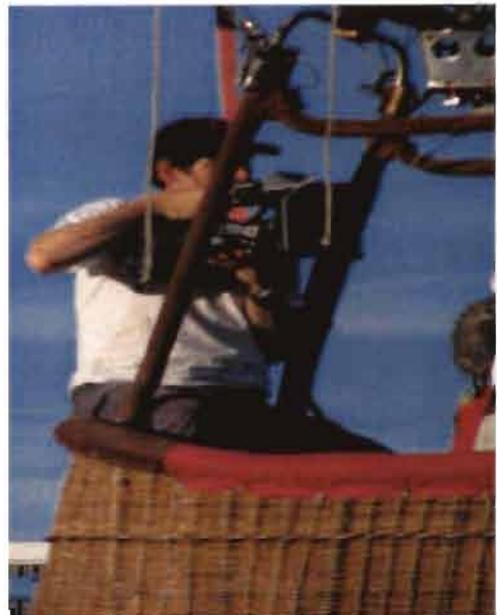
Lights ...
Camera ...
Fly

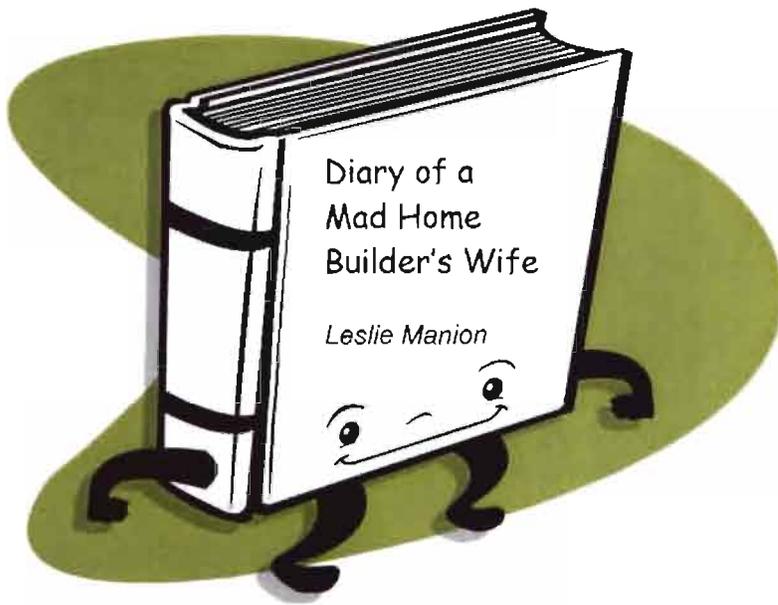


Bill Whelan

The History Channel came to town a few weeks ago to shoot Episode # 17 for their show *Things That Move*.

They asked me to be involved because of some of the interesting projects that my crew and I have been doing in the past few years. They liked the two-seat flying chair, as well as some of the mini-balloons we have built. We took them flying from Navan to Sarsfield and did some evening tree topping.





It all started in Sussex when Dave and I crewed for Allan McDonald on Ron Cassidy's home-built balloon during the Atlantic Balloon Festival. It was cute and light, and Ron kept saying how easy it was to build.

We talked about it over the course of the weekend and, after a visit to Ron's spacious New Hampshire workshop, Dave was sold, though I needed some convincing.

It would be fun (really?) - it would be easy (how so??) - we would avoid many of the hassles associated with brand-name balloons (now that sounded appealing!), and it would be cheaper than buying (allrighty then!) One hitch: I don't sew. Years ago I determined that sewing was a mathematical skill and, since the math gene bypassed me completely, previous sewing projects were not pretty. No problem - Dave said he would do it all, and I could assist in other areas.

Next came the search for a pattern. What size? What colours? We poured over balloon books and web sites; Allan's kids coloured in balloon models; we took polls of family and friends. Finally, based on the availability of material, Dave opted for a yellow, blue, orchid, and red spiral. I wasn't totally certain - blue and orchid side by side? Are you sure? Because, along with the math/sewing thing, I also don't have vision. I couldn't see how it would look despite the Excel colour graph he was using.

In early December, we took a trip to New Hampshire to pick up the material and begin the process of creating a pattern. A few visits to some of Ron's favourite haunts supplied Dave with some important tools including an old industrial sewing machine for \$20. Ron also provided many little tricks and tips and, while they cut patterns and talked about the joy of sewing, Sue and I went shopping. My contribution - getting out of the way.

Home again and time to cut material. Over the Christmas holidays, Debbie Wright, Alexis Hum, Dave and I took over the cafeteria at Dave's Lemieux Island work site and cut oddles of fabric. In addition to lacking math skills, sewing capability, and a designer's eye, attention to detail and following lines are also not part of my make up (who knew this would turn into such a voyage of self discovery?) Although I tried to help, the scissors and other sharp objects were forcibly removed, and it was generally agreed I was better suited to organizational duties.

So it is now February, and we are into the sewing stage. This is where things got messy, and the folly of this project began to emerge. One thing we failed to take into consideration at the outset was the notion of space - we lack it. So, while some home builders have entire basements or huge workshops that can be devoted to balloon projects, we have neither. The plan HAD been that Dave would use the spare room. I left for work one day with Dave preparing to move his sewing machine into the room. I came home to find the furniture in the living room rearranged and a sewing machine in the middle of it. Eeeek! Not enough room, Dave explained - though I suspected it had more to do with the TV in the living room than anything else.



There were late night calls to Ron and several trips to Bill Whelan's basement for pointers and equipment. Both provided indispensable help and support through the whole process.

Before I knew it, one sewing machine turned into two then three - who knew they had reproductive capabilities? Material grew exponentially, and thread appeared everywhere. The madness spread into other people's houses as Debbie and Alexis also did some sewing, and Deb's kitchen and living room were engulfed by fabric.

Things started moving from the living room into the dining room, and by extension the whole house was a mess. By May, the project was less a hobby than an obsession, and I was at peak breaking point.

It's one thing to build a balloon in winter when the major chore is snow shoveling. By spring and the onset of nice weather, I felt it was time for Dave to put down the sewing needle and pick up a rake or hammer since 2005 was meant to have been the Year of the House and Garden. The house siding needed to be finished; the lawn needed to be dug up, weeds were out of control, and there were countless other things that needed doing.

May found us trailer shopping and visiting friends in Toronto where we saw the play *Wicked*, the pre-story of the Wicked Witch of the West. Between the song lyrics and the flying theme, as we left the theatre, we knew that we had the balloon's name.

Since we were hosting a dinner party in June, Dave conceded to pack things up. That was VERY exciting. My house was put back to rights, and I breathed a sigh of relief. Alas, it was a short-lived pleasure.

After that early summer break, Dave went back to sewing with gusto, promising it was almost done. As the balloon grew and more gores were added, Dave found himself doing the hardest part on the hottest days. To avoid

sticking to the material, he had to wear long sleeves and pants. Despite every fan going full tilt, without AC, it was a hot job.

In July, gore #1 was sewn to gore #20, so the end really was in sight. Although the parachute had yet to be finished, it was time to start putting together the bottom end which was being leant to us by Les Welsh. The last few days of July found us hauling out the envelope on a regular basis, and it seemed a lot heavier than I remembered Ron's to be. Apparently, over time, we went from building a 65 to a 75. So much for light!

We cold inflated it a few times so Dave could pin the parachute and fiddle a bit more. Then, on Saturday, August 6, we hooked up the burners and stood it up for the first time. We popped champagne, then Allan and David worked on the rigging. The scoop was completed, and *Wicked* passed its Transport Canada inspection with flying colours. Now we are into test mode, and it just has to be flown.

It is a great relief to have it finished and certified; I am proud that Dave has done it, and done it well. His attention to detail has paid off. Dave, too, is feeling a great sense of relief as well as accomplishment. He has joined an elite group of home builders who know every inch of their balloon. And, while he has uttered the words "next time" on a few occasions, I believe, my reply has been "over my dead body."

I do feel a bit guilty when I tell people, "We built a balloon," so I quickly revise to, "Well, actually, Dave built it." But as Milton said, "They also serve who only stand and wait" which I have amended to, "They also serve who give up their homes, handle all the daily chores, and never, rarely, only occasionally complain about it." So, indeed, WE built a balloon.

Nope - still doesn't sound right.



(I hope!)

The Process (or part of it) in Pics



Dave at his machine



Oyel What a mess!



BJ lends a paw by testing the fabric



Allan and Dave fix the rigging



Dave and Debbie sew away



Yipee (& phew)! It holds air!



More Home

Building News

There certainly seems to be no lack of home-built balloons these days. Along with Dave's creation and the NCBC mini, Ron Cassidy has also recently completed one.

He has designed a 16 gore, 66,000 cubic foot balloon. The lowest panel is Nomex as well as the scoop. The next 4 panels are uncoated fabric with the remainder being silicon-coated nylon. It weighs about 110 lbs. in the carry bag and took 150 hours to build.

His friend who will be flying it designed the blue and white pattern and, although it has yet to be named, Ron is unofficially calling it Beone (B-1). Story to come later.

As they are still waiting for FAA registration and a C of A, Ron hopes to have it in the air by mid-September. Its first public flight will likely be in Utah in October. Well done, Ron!



Thanks to Nancy Williams of Parqizrs for donating a gift certificate to her salon to the top seller of our raffle.

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Nancy Williams
Tel: (613) 226-1326
1221 Prince of Wales Drive
K2C 1N1

Picture Request



If you have any balloon-related pictures from your summer adventures, we would like to post them on the soon-to-be-updated NCBC Web site.

Please submit them via e-mail to [redacted] or mail them to:

National Capital Balloon Club
P.O. Box 78084
1547 Meriline RPO
Ottawa, ON K2E 1B1

Raffle Tirage

Cascading Balloons Cascade de Montgolfières

*Broderie par / Embroidery by
Debbie Wright*

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46"x19"