



The Crownlines

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

Volume ¹⁶~~15~~ Number 2

August 2006

Gatineau Balloon Festival Schedule of Events

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

Thursday Night



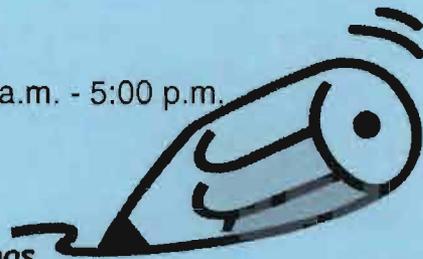
Lecture followed by a wine and cheese
Museum of Aviation of Canada

See page 5 for details



Registration

Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hotel Clarion



Daily Briefings

Mornings
Breakfast 5:30.
Briefing 6 - 6:30
Evenings - 5 - 5:30

Flights

Mornings - 6:30 - 7:00
Evenings - 5:30 - 7:30

BBQ & Show

Friday Night - 7:30
(6:30 if flight is cancelled)
Pilots' Tent
Free for pilots and crew

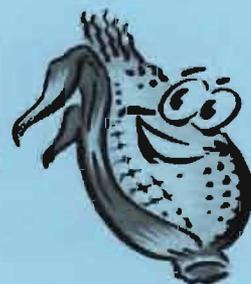


Crew Competition

Saturday Afternoon
2:30 - 3:15
Launch Field

Corn Roast

Saturday Night - 7:30
(6:30 if flight is cancelled)
Pilots' Tent
Free for pilots and crew



Fireworks

Saturday Night
10:15
Access to Pilot's Tent
via P3



Meet & Greet the Pilots

Sunday Afternoon
2:30 - 4:00
Launch Field

Night Glow

Sunday - 8:30
Launch Field
(Monday 8:30 if cancelled)



Farewell Brunch

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



Raffle & Souvenirs

All weekend - the Club will have a table in the Pilot's Tent to sell raffle tickets, memberships as well as Festival souvenirs and pilots' pins.

See page 6 for details of this year's raffle



A New Pilot in the Skies

One year after completion of his homebuilt balloon, 14 months after beginning his training, and almost 22 years to the day of his first balloon flight, David Lopushinsky joined the ranks of hot air balloon pilot on July 31, 2006.

After completing his two solo flights on the Friday night, he was on Transport Canada's doorstep first thing Monday morning to complete the paperwork and become official.

He and Leslie are both looking forward to flying *Wicked* and sharing the skies with NCBC members locally and away.

If you would like to crew for him, please give him a call at [redacted] or e-mail him at [redacted]



Trainer Bill Whelan and fellow pilots Diane Casault and Jean Drouin give Dave his prerequisite champagne shower.



you at the Festival!

ALL ABOUT THE MINI

Mini Balloon Update

It is finished! The Club balloon in miniature is now completed (though it could use a skirt). Begun in February 2005, approximately 10 club members and various friends, cut and sewed the balloon, which is now ready for use as an educational tool for balloon demonstration and fun.

David Lopushinsky has agreed to be the Steward of the Mini. The board is still working on a rate sheet for its use, and an instruction manual and Log Book are in progress.

The balloon will be available to club members in good standing who have taken the operator training and received their mini license.

To learn more, call David at home [REDACTED] on his cell [REDACTED] or e-mail him at [REDACTED]

Looking for a Name



The National Capital Balloon Club finally has its own balloon. Although it's a remote controlled one, it's awfully cute and somewhat easier to handle and administer than a full size one.

Like all good balloons, it needs a name.

E-mail your ideas to [REDACTED] or fill in a ballot at the NCBC table at the Gatineau Festival.

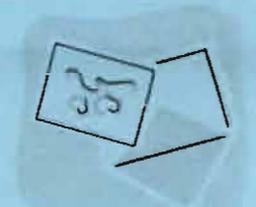
Mini B by the Numbers

- ♣ 150 pieces
- ♣ 110 yards of fabric
- ♣ 2600 cu. ft.
- ♣ 25 ft. high
- ♣ Club letters = 20 in.
- ♣ Maple leaf artwork = 7.5 ft.
- ♣ Envelope = 17 lbs.
- ♣ Basket = 17 lbs. with fuel
- ♣ Operating system uses four 1 litre canisters and a vapour pilot light
- ♣ Useful lift of 50 lbs. at 250 degrees
- ♣ 15 people
- ♣ 70 hours of building
- ♣ Numerous hours of sewing
- ♣ Countless miles of thread
- ♣ Unknown quantities of pizza



And, finally

You're Invited

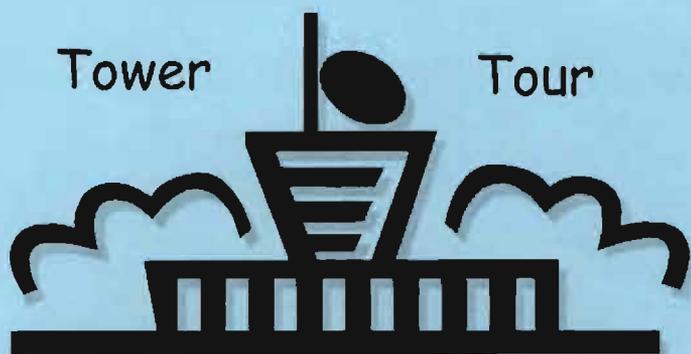


With the NCBC balloon in mini version now completed and ready to fly, you' are invited to the Official Launch Party.

Please join your fellow club members at Carleton Heights Community Centre Park for the debut of the mini. We will meet in the parking lot of Carleton Heights Public School (corner of Prince of Wales & Falaise – south of Meadowlands) on Tuesday, August 29 (rain date Wednesday, August 30) at 6:30 p.m.

Try your hand at piloting the mini and enter the **Name the Mini Contest**. Refreshments will be served in Debbie Wright's backyard (1013 Stormont) after 7:30.

This will be a great opportunity to reconnect with your fellow balloonists and get in the balloon festival spirit. For more information, call Leslie at [REDACTED]



On Thursday, May 25, NCBC members were treated to a tour of the Macdonald Cartier International Air Traffic Control Centre (ATC). New club member Jean Beauregard, who is a fixed wing and hot air balloon pilot as well as an air traffic controller, was our host and guide.

Before beginning the tour, the 15 members in attendance got a mini lesson in the lecture hall where we looked at aerial maps of the airport and learned some of the basics of air traffic control.

As well as handling 300 scheduled flights daily, ATC is also in control of light aircraft flying through the zone like those of the Ottawa Flying Club and other local flying schools. All this traffic is required to give way to balloons.

After our lecture basics, we broke the big group into two smaller ones and took turns visiting the Tower. Although it was a weeknight, we were surprised at how busy the airport was. In addition to Air Canada and West Jet flights coming and going, there were private planes and Flying Club members maneuvering around; we even had a military helicopter fly past. We were able to listen in on communication to pilots as they taxied out and looked at the computer screens to follow the movement of the traffic on the ground and in the airspace.

While many of us thought that the educational requirements for an air traffic controller would be high, a high school diploma is all that is required.

More important are aptitude and personality and an ability to see in three dimensions. The capacity to stay calm and unflappable is also important.

Other interesting points were that Ottawa Tower has control of an aircraft within a 7 nautical mile radius of the airport while Ottawa terminal's airspace has a radius of 30 nm. After that point, they are handed off to the next ATC unit, either the Montreal or Toronto area control centers. As well, in the event of a serious breakdown at a control center, the operations could be transferred to a room located in the same building as the tower.

In addition to the tour, Jean provided some tips for balloon pilots flying in the Ottawa area. He recommended contacting the ATC on departure and noted that if you are close to the airport, you will probably be requested to go high. And, if you ever need to climb, ask.

Depending on who is working the ATC and how busy they are, touch and go's may be permitted. However, do not land at the airport as there is a \$2000 fine. He amended that landing is allowed if it is precautionary but retrieving your balloon will be a challenge.

He also recommended that, if you need to land in built up, to inform the Tower and request that your call is logged in. This will provide a record should there be any Transport Canada follow up at a later date.

Like all pilots, Jean noted that balloonists are entitled to courteous and good service from Tower personnel.

After the tour, a few of us retired to a nearby pub to debrief. Everyone agreed it was an interesting, fun, and worthwhile activity, and a good time was had by all.

Thanks to Jean and the ATC staff for a very informative evening.



Help Wanted

Are You Available?

The NCBC has been offered a table in the Pilots' Tent during the Gatineau Festival on the Labour Day weekend. As well as selling souvenir articles from both the festival and the pilots' collections, we would promote the club and sell our raffle tickets. In return, the NCBC will receive a percentage of the sales.

All we have to do is provide the man/woman power to staff the table. Ideally, we would like to have at least two people per shift.

Here is the schedule:

Friday - September 1
3 - 6 p.m.
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Saturday - September 2
5:30 - 7:30 a.m.
3 - 6 p.m.
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Sunday - September 3
5:30 - 7:30 a.m.
3 - 6 p.m.

Monday - September 4
5:30 - 7:30 a.m.
3 - 6 p.m.

If you, or family, or friends are able to fill in any of these shifts, please contact Françoise Proulx with your availability and preferred times. She may be reached at [REDACTED] (home) or [REDACTED] (cell) or by e-mail at [REDACTED].

Joe Kittinger, Star Pilot at the 19th Festival!

(from the Gatineau Festival Official Program)

Known as the "King of Skydiving" in ballooning, Joe Kittinger is one of the pioneers of aeronautics.

Born in Orlando, Florida on July 27, 1928, his passion for aviation started at a very early age, while watching the airplanes at a nearby airfield. In 1949, he enrolled in the American Air Force, earning a long series of military and civilian decorations for his numerous accomplishments.

In 1960, during the Excelsior III project, Mr. Kittinger jumped 31,335 metres from a 60-metre high helium balloon. This remains the highest parachute jump completed to this day. His exploit lasted 4 minutes and 36 seconds, the longest parachute jump ever. This jump earned him the title of the first man ever to exceed the speed of sound without an airplane!

Some of his accomplishments:

- ◆ First man to cross the Atlantic solo in a balloon (September 14 - 18, 1984)
- ◆ 5 trips into the stratosphere in a balloon
- ◆ More than 16,000 hours flying in more than 68 different aerostats.
- ◆ Four-time winner of the Gordon Bennet Race (gas balloon distance competition)
- ◆ Inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1997
- ◆ Named Elder Statesman by the National Aeronautic Association

Joe Kittinger, the star pilot of this 19th edition of the Festival, will offer a lecture followed by a wine and cheese reception at the Canada Aviation Museum on Thursday evening, August 31. For additional information or to buy a ticket (\$10 NCBC members / \$20 public), contact Elyse Drouin at [REDACTED].

Raffle 2006 Tirage

This year's raffle prize is a lovely handcrafted hot air balloon clock with cloud pendulum.

Created by Timeless Collectables of Winnipeg, it is worth \$80.

Tickets are still! \$.99. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please call Leslie at [REDACTED] or drop by the NCBC Table at the Gatineau Festival.



Picture & Story Request

Please send along any festival stories or balloon pictures from your 2006 adventures for our next edition and the will-it-ever-be-ready?-constantly-in-progress NCBC Web site.

You may 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

As well, if you could help with any aspect of the Web site, please call Leslie at [REDACTED]

