



The Crownlines

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

Volume ~~15~~¹⁶ Number ~~3~~

December 2006

Annual General Meeting



Please join us for the National Capital Balloon Club's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, **January 31** at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in Room 1A of Ben Franklin Place (former Nepean City Hall) at 101 Centrepont Drive.

After the meeting, we will adjourn next door to Marshy's where attendees of the AGM who are members in good standing will receive a ticket valid for \$5 towards a beverage of their choice.

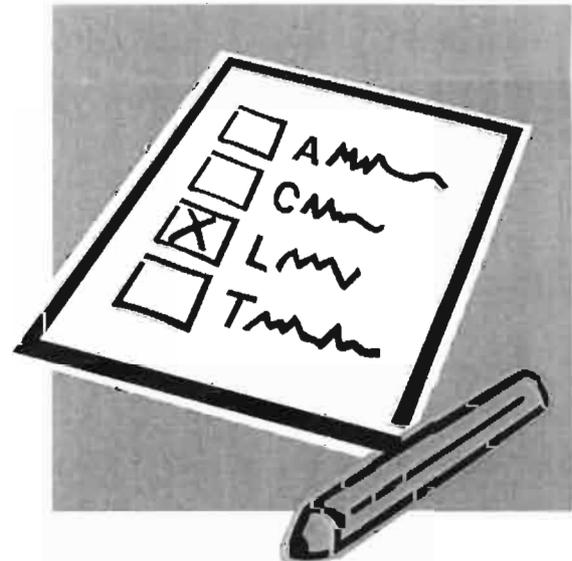
A vibrant club requires participation from its membership. We look forward to you joining us and having a say in the running of the NCBC.

Nomination Committee

Director Les Welsh has agreed to act as the Nomination Committee for Executive and Director positions for the 2007 Board of Directors.

He will be contacting members throughout January. As well, he may be contacted by e-mail at

Please consider putting your name forward or accepting a nomination.



Time to Renew Your Membership

Your 2007 NCBC membership fees are now due.

Rates remain the same:

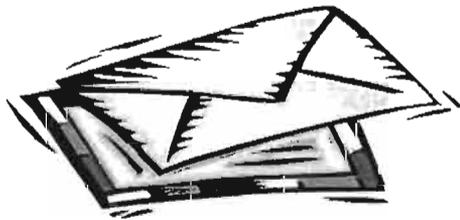
Crew - \$20

Pilot - \$30

Family - \$40

If you joined at Gatineau, your membership is good for 2007.

Please fill out the enclosed membership form in full (i.e. don't write "same" for all the info). You can bring it with you to the AGM or mail to us at



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

A Night with Joe Kittenger

Leslie Manion

with notes from Lynne Deachman

On Thursday, August 31 Joe Kittenger, the King of Skydiving, was a guest speaker at the Aviation Museum as part of the 19th edition of the Gatineau Balloon Festival.

Among Joe's accomplishments are being the first man to cross the Atlantic solo in a balloon, completing five trips into the stratosphere in a balloon, and logging more than 16,000 hours flying in more than 68 different aerostats. As well as being a four-time winner of the Gordon Bennet Gas Balloon Race, Joe was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame and has been named Elder Statesman by the National Aeronautic Association.

Over the course of the evening, Joe filled in some of the details of his amazing life and aeronautical career and began with two of his basic ballooning precepts – if winds are 20 K at 3,000 ft, don't fly and when inflating, always tie it down.

In Joe's mind, it requires more judgment to fly a balloon than an airplane. Ballooning can be hazardous because you can't abort in the middle of a flight whereas a plane can always be diverted.

As a young boy, Joe dreamt of becoming an aviator; he built model airplanes, read about planes, and even went to the airport to smell the aviation fuel. After attending the University of California and entering the US Air Force in 1949, he flew various jets in Germany then became a test pilot in New Mexico.

Aviation had changed with World War II. Pilots were now having to bail out of fiery airplanes at faster speeds and higher altitudes. However, at high altitude, there was a problem with free falling; the higher the altitude, the faster the spin

and falling at 200 rpms (revolutions per minute) could kill a man.

Dr. John Stapp approached Joe to help with his air and space research. Dr. Stapp was a visionary who wanted to look into life support systems and the physiological effects of air and space travel. Part of Joe's training included a 24-hour claustrophobic test as well as 10 free fall jumps to get his jump rating. And, because airplanes could not get to the altitude required to conduct effective tests, gas balloons were used so Joe also obtained his gas rating.

Dr. Stapp wanted Joe to work on escape systems for pilots. He tested parachutes, survival systems, and pressure suits. To combat the spin problems, a multi-stage parachute system with a five foot drogue was developed which allowed a man to survive the initial fall long enough to deploy a regular parachute. There were 100 chamber tests and three high altitude jumps.

In his last test jump, Joe free fell for over four minutes from 100,000 feet and is the only human to go supersonic without the aid of equipment.

In addition to this Project Excelsior work, Joe was involved in Project Stargazer. He flew a pressurized gondola with a gyroscope to 82,000 feet over Holloman Air Force Base and hovered there for 18.5 hours to look at planets and stars without the interference of the atmosphere. That was his only flight because the research funds dried up.

In addition to his test work, Joe flew three combat missions in Vietnam where he was a F4 Phantom Squadron leader. He was shot down by a MIG and parachuted out but was captured and spent 11 months as a POW at the infamous Hanoi Hilton. Because he was a troublemaker, he was often in solitary confinement which he endured with the help of mental gymnastics and the planning of an around-the-world balloon flight.

After the war, Joe attempted his around the world flight and, though he came close, he did not circumnavigate. He then called Ed Yost who partnered with Joe to find a sponsor for a second attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean, but it took them ten years to find a sponsor. Finally, on a black night, he flew from Caribou, Maine, with no compass, no navigation, and one harness.

At that time, 400 airplanes flew over the Atlantic. On his second night out, Joe called one of the planes on his VHF radio and ended up speaking with a TWA pilot. It turned out the plane was carrying Joe's chase crew, his wife Sherry. She was invited into the cockpit to have a chat with Joe.

It was 3600 miles and 82 hours later that Joe was out of ballast in a 30-knot wind with a storm building. He hit a tree as well as the only rock in five miles. Joe broke his foot upon landing and was greeted by Sherry carrying two bottles of champagne.

Overall, Joe has set five world records. The purpose was not to have fun but to provide assistance for scientific experiments to help the war effort, space exploration, and other pilots.

The five-foot drogue chute he tested is still being used today. A pilot recently ejected at Mach 3 from 90,000 feet and survived.

Joe never missed a jump target by more than a quarter of a mile which was not easy. He attributed all his successes to the right equipment, the right team, and God. Joe considers himself to have had a wonderful trip and feels he is a very fortunate man.

The NCBC members in attendance felt fortunate to meet him and hear about his incredible exploits.

Draft Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting National Capital Balloon Club

January 26, 2006
Ben Franklin Place

1. Membership Renewal

Attending members were invited to renew their memberships.

2. Registration of Proxies and Establishment of Quorum

There were nine proxies noted. The Club has 25 paid memberships and, to achieve quorum, it was determined that a minimum of 25% of the membership was present.

The members present were Anne Benoit, Carole Brassard, Tina Daniels, Lynne Deachman, Liz Dowd, Kingsley Glover, Dave Johns, David Lopushinsky, Leslie Manion, Gary Mills (guest), Françoise Proulx, Les Welsh, Bill Whelan, Debbie Wright.

3. Call to Order

President Leslie Manion called the meeting to order at 6:55pm.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Debbie Wright **moved**, seconded by King Glover, that the agenda, as distributed, be approved. **Carried.**

5. Minutes of the 2005 AGM

5.1 Approval

King Glover **moved**, seconded by Debbie Wright, that the minutes be approved. **Carried.**

5.2 Business Arising

There was no business arising.

6. Reports

6.1 President's Report

The board held eight meetings over the course of the year with varying success. In an attempt to build a solid cohesive board, consultant Alice Kubicek volunteered to do some team building and help frame club goals. A new vision statement was created and Strategic Goals were established. As well, it was recommended that the size of the board be reduced and that sub-committees be established to help with club activities. The session was a good one and created a sense of excitement and optimism which was, unfortunately, short lived. Since not all members were present, team cohesion was difficult to establish, and the overall enthusiasm soon faded. The Gatineau Festival was again successful with many club members involved at various levels. With the involvement of Anne Benoit on the board, our tie to Gatineau has increased greatly. It was felt that both organizations need to find more ways to mutually help each other. A list of recommendations was presented.

Debbie Wright **moved**, seconded by Françoise Proulx, acceptance of the President's report. **Carried**.

6.2 Vice-President's Report

The Vice-President had no report.

6.3 Secretary's Report

There was no report. Secretary Sandra McDonald resigned part way through the year, and Francoise Proulx assumed secretarial duties for the remainder of the term.

6.4 Treasurer's Report

[Only available in hard copy in French]

Les Welsh **moved**, seconded by Bill Whelan, acceptance of the Treasurer's report. **Carried**

6.4.1 Approval of the 2005 Financial Statement

This item was included in the Treasurer's Report

6.4.2 Appointment of Auditor for 2006

Les Welsh **moved**, seconded by Dave Johns, that the AGM sanctions that there no auditor be appointed. **Carried** (one opposed)



6.5 Ratification of Executive Action

David Lopushinsky **moved**, seconded by Liz Dowd, acceptance of executive action in the last 12 months. **Carried** (one opposed).

7. Other Reports - Mini Balloon - Social Committee

Mini Balloon - The Mini Balloon is approximately 70% completed. It was felt that with member commitment to complete the sewing, it could be finished by Tulip Festival.

Social Committee - The social committee of Tina Daniels, Cindy Toffanello, and Debbie Wright met in May to start planning socials and determine the direction of the club. There were three elements that worked very well together: the mini balloon, families, and charitable functions.

Two mini balloon sewing/dessert evenings were held to promote the membership working on the mini balloon as a club project. Although a few members attended each time, it was mainly board members in attendance.

Since several of the plans involved the mini balloon at charity events, they were unable to proceed.



8. Elections for Executive Officers

8.1 Report of the Nomination Committee

All the board's positions were open this year. Stephanie Glover, sole member of the Nomination Committee, gave a report by proxy. There was only one name put forward for director – Bill Whelan.

There was discussion about the number of board positions. Although it had been recommended that the board be made smaller, a review of the By Laws indicated that a minimum of six people was required.

8.2 Nominations from the Floor

It was difficult to get a full slate of nominees. Although several members expressed an interest in assisting with club activities, they did not want to sit on the board. After going around the room twice, a slate was finally established.

For Directors, the nominees were -
Les Welsh
Carole Brassard
Bill Whelan

For Executive, the nominees were -
President: Leslie Manion
Vice President: David Lopushinsky
Secretary/Treasurer: Anne Benoît

Bill Whelan **moved**, seconded by Debbie Wright, that nominations from the floor be closed. **Carried**

8.3 Motion to Establish Number of Directors

Les Welsh **moved**, seconded by David Lopushinsky, that the number of Directors on the Board be set at three. **Carried.**

David Lopushinsky **moved**, seconded by Les Welsh, that the Secretary and Treasurer positions be combined. **Carried**

8.4 Elections

There were no new nominations from the floor for President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and Directors. All the nominees were acclaimed.

9. New Business

Anne Benoit continues to look into the possibility of having access to the La Baie site for launching. This would only be available to pilots who are members of the NCBC.

Anne also noted that the festival is again ready to help with photocopying and printing.

10. Adjournment

Leslie Manion **moved**, seconded by Bill Whelan, adjournment. **Carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. Members in attendance took part in a draw for Gatineau Festival souvenirs and were invited to Marshy's for a social.



**Mini B
Still Looking for a Name**

The NCBC's mini balloon is still in need of a name.

We do have suggestions from our contest held at the Gatineau Festival, but we do need a committee to evaluate them and come up an appropriate moniker.

If you would like to have a say in the name, please call Leslie at 819-682-6546 or by e-mail [redacted]

BTW, if no one comes forward, my name (Dysfunction) is going to win.