

Nebraska Balloon Club Newsletter



Winter 2016

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Season's Greetings to All!

From the Editor: May you all be blessed with a wonderful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year. 2016 has been a busy year and news has not been getting out like I wanted, hopefully this will catch you up. Enclosed you will find this year's ballot and renewal forms, please mail them back by **January 5, 2017** to: Penni Weyant at 11427 S. 173rd Ave. Gretna, NE 68028

+ + + + 2017 Banquet and Awards + + + +

FarmHouse Cafe & Bakery

3461 S. 84th Street, Omaha, NE 68124.

Starting at 5:00 PM Saturday, January 28th

Order off the menu \$10.00 to \$15.00 range

Sodas, Beer, Wine and Margaritas available

they have a room towards the back that they will partition off.

Separate checks, gratuity will not be added so please be sure to tip your server.

Please remember to bring any awards and a nomination for its new winner.

"Chinese Gift" exchange, bring your wrapped gift value of 10-20\$.

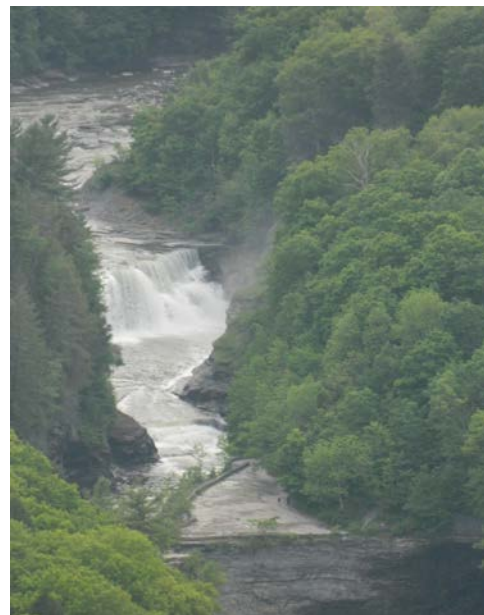
Red, White and Blue Balloon Rally- Letchworth State Park, NY

by Red McDonald and Elane Lacroix, photos courtesy of the same

On Saturday morning, May 28, 2016, I had the opportunity to fly with Pilot, Steve Lacroix and passenger Lisa Green at the Red, White, and Blue Balloon Rally. It was an amazingly beautiful morning and we arrived early so we could pick a good launch site, and attend pilot briefing etc. This also gave us the chance to take some pictures as the canyon was filled with mist/fog as the sunrise appeared. Much thanks to crew chief, Elane and the rest of the crew of my lovely wife, Janet and our new friends from TX Lisa and Johnny Green from TX. The Greens actually have been going to crew at various



events after being bitten by the ballooning bug in Albuquerque. Steve was one of the first balloons to launch, and we soon encountered some stronger winds aloft. Steve was not able to negotiate the canyon as easily as the first flight (the night before) due to the winds. As we ascended over the ridge, and then started to descend into the gorge, we encountered a "wind shear", and the side of the balloon was partially collapsed. It quickly recovered as we descended further into the canyon the winds were more stable, and we actually seemed to be moving backwards. I was able to take several pictures with the balloons in the canyon before the mist was burned off by the sun. It took some time to find a suitable landing site as the wind was @ 10 mph. Steve found an open field that was not planted and we were able to drag gently to a stop. Letchworth State Park is sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of the East" and contains several waterfalls, although we didn't get to fly over them. The Genesee River runs through the park and the views from the balloon and ground were awesome at this event.



Celebrations in Ballooning by Red McDonald

A big thank you to pilot, Steve Lacroix and crew-chief, Elane Lacroix for helping me celebrate the 1 year anniversary of my heart valve replacement surgery, by giving me a ride aboard Celebrate Too, on 8/06/2016. We launched from Valley and it was a beautiful evening flight over the Platte River. We were not able to complete our splash and dash due to some debris in the river/flight path. We saw a lot of deer, and some air-boats enjoying time on the river. It was fun flying low and slow just over the top of the corn and then bean fields.

A few days later, Steve Lacroix had another morning flight launching from Chalco Hills. It was a very nice morning and winds were light making the launch easier. I was driving my Mustang, Craig and I were following the balloon as best we could, as I had to stop at McDonald's to get some breakfast. Steve flew to the SW, and eventually landed next to the Gretna water tower. It took me several minutes to determine I could not get there from where I was. I had to back track and thankfully cellphone communication was established to guide us to the landing spot. Another fun adventure in ballooning.



I was speaking with a co-worker and was explaining why I like helping crew the hot air balloon with Steve Lacroix. I explained that it is a way for my wife, Janet and I to spend some quality time. We enjoy watching the sunrise/sunset together; we are getting out of the house and into the fresh air and great outdoors. We enjoy sharing the moment with passengers as it is always a fun occasion, someone's birthday, anniversary, on a "bucket list". We've been part of numerous proposals and even a few weddings I then, explained that it is something unique. And then I said something funny... I meant to say "it is something people don't normally do". But what I said was, "it is something normal people don't do". Now, the more I think about it the more I think I had said it right after all.

Newest Member: Bret Christian

Reports that "when I am not ballooning I like to ride my Harley or play golf. I got started in ballooning by volunteering to crew when I was in Middle school when the Nationals were at Simpson College". He pilots a "ride balloon" named *Tequila Sunrise* and competes in *V Quest* pictures to the right.



Photo Adventures from The National Balloon Classic

by Angelina Peace



With Matthew Grote, Jeremy King, Matt Fenster and Rich Jaworski hard at flying Dawn Patrol, competing, or tickling the corn tassels it is nice to see a smiling crew.



Short Blasts

Follow Rich's Auto Pilot Around the World...

In October of 2015, Cameron Balloons England, who assembled the roziere Balloon System for Russian adventurer and balloon pilot Fedor Konyukhov asked if I would sell my Comstock AutoPilot for use in Fedor's Round the World Project to be launched in July 2016. For more info on this successful flight breaking Steve Fossett's RTW solo record. <http://konyukhov.ru/en/index.html>.

My Aching Back!

After an MRI of my curved spine and an assessment by a back surgeon, I have been advised to avoid stressing my back further and avoid making lifts of over 20 pounds. The advice from the surgeon, physical therapist, and primary physician is to keep physically active but not to make lifts which stress the back. "Swim, bike, fly, but don't run or lift." The restrictions will hopefully not limit or restrain my flying activities as long as I have support and leave the lifting to others. I withdrew from competition and carrying the Coke banner at Indianola because the support needed could not be in place at this short notice. My Omaha area flying will continue but at a reduced pace because the necessary support staff can be pre-planned and coordinated. My objective in the last five years has been to fly until I'm eighty. Thanks to my supportive friends and crew, that objective has not changed.

Student Pilot, Robb Johnson has had *Joker's Wild* out and has been seen with a variety of pilots on board practicing for his private Pilot's Certificate aka "License to Learn". Keep up the good work. Also flying in this flight was Mike Shrum and Tamie Folley in *Storm's End*.





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Quantity	Cost	Shipping
1,000	\$76.50*	\$17.50*
2,500	\$106.25*	\$25.00*
5,000	\$161.50*	\$35.00*
10,000	\$233.75*	\$48.50*

Price includes layout/art work with color both sides
*All prices subject to change without notice

www.balloonsgalore.us



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C/o Elane Lacroix
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