

# HOT AIR HIGHLIGHTS

The Monthly Publication of The Great Plains  
Balloon Club of Topeka, KS.



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# THE GREAT PLAINS BALLOON CLUB

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## 2024 OFFICERS

### President

**Lori Hutchinson**

### Vice President

**Tony Goodnow**

### Secretary

**Michele Harrison**

### Treasurer

**Danielle Sheehy**

### Historian

**Diane Moulden**

### Pilot Technical Advisor

**Brian Carlson**

### Member At Large

**Tim Rumpel**

**Michael Scott**

### Rally Coordinator

**Lori Hutchinson**

### Balloonmeister

**Tony Goodnow**

**Current Membership-100+**

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1 FULL PAGE - \$25.00    HALF PAGE - \$15.00

QUARTER PAGE - \$10.00    BUSINESS CARD - \$5.00

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## COMING UP...

### March 27th

**Exec Meeting**

**6pm - Thru Zoom**

### April 1st

**Felker Park - 5pm**

**Possible flight after Meeting.**

### May 8th

**Exec Meeting**

**6pm - Thru Zoom**

### May 11th

**General Meeting**

**11:30am - Location TBD**



# APRIL BIRTHDAYS...

**Mary Crabtree - 1st**  
**Breana Schoenals - 7th**  
**Kiel Harrison - 8th**  
**Joe Stratton - 10th**  
**Megan Plum - 11th**  
**Darrin Harrison - 17th**  
**Jim Smallback - 27th**  
**Brian Hutchinson - 29th**

## Edward Jones



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## *A new balloon in town...*

*Congratulations to Dan & Danielle Sheehy  
 who are once again balloon owners! We  
 cannot wait until Dan & Danielle finish up  
 their LTA Licenses so we can share those  
 Topeka skies with them! Congrats You All!*



# A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

Time flies when you are having fun I hear...kinda crazy we are already looking at our APRIL newsletter - yikes!

BIG THANK YOU to all of you who helped make the club float happen for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 16th! The club floats are always a hit with the huge crowd and we appreciate all that were able to be a part...thank you!

Our club shirt orders are in the works....we will let you know once they are ready to head your way. Something fun and different, will be great to see them all made up!

Our next exec meeting will be Wednesday, March 27th at 6pm thru zoom. If you want to be on the call, please let me know...and I will get you the link. Our next general meeting will be MONDAY, APRIL 1ST at 5pm at Felker Park. Our traditional 'Meeting on the Mound'. We will have a quick meeting about 5...and then weather permitting hoping to get a balloon or two in flight. Bring your favorite tailgating dish and join us!

Our FOURTY-NINTH edition of the Huff 'n Puff is already in the works. We have vendors coming in and are almost full on vendor spots. Sponsors....we are in need. So if you or someone you know would like to become a sponsor of the Huff 'n Puff...please let one of your board members know...and let's see what we can do!

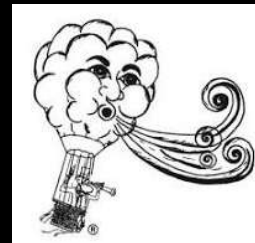
Our event logo is in the works. Mount Hope's marketing team has our submitted ideas and mind and will hopefully be submitting us a few images to pick from here very soon. Once an image is selected we will get to work on event tees etc. We will be doing a members-only color or item...so stay tuned as more info becomes available.

If you would like to be a part of the event...speak up. Any and all help is much appreciated as it takes quite a bit to make everything work and work smoothly. New ideas are always welcome, as most of us have been at this a bit, and it's always good to have something fun and new if it works for the event. You all have a voice here...so reach out to myself or any board member and we will go from there...thanks!

I hope to see everyone at our next general meeting,  
Take care...and I hope to share the sky with you all very soon!

**Lori D. Hutchinson**

2024 GPBC President



# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

*Date/Location: 3/9/2024 @ Noon @ Spawn Inn*

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## **Executives and Rally VIP in attendance:**

Lori Hutchinson, Tony Goodnow, Mary Crabtree, Danielle Sheehy, Brian Carlson, Diane Moulden, Michele Harrison, and Tim Rumpel.

## **Announcements/Introductions:** None.

## **Future Meetings:**

- April Executive: March 27, 2024 - 6pm thru zoom

April General: April 1, 2024 - 5pm @ Felker Park - Possible Flight to follow - bring your favorite tailgating snack if you'd like.

## **Correspondence:** Nothing.

**First Order of Business:** Minutes from February meeting approved by all in attendance.

**Officer's report:** Treasurer's report given and approved.

## **Old Business:**

- The 2024 club shirt order is due today.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade is 3/16. Club will do a float for parade. Bubba and Darrin are PICS for the float. Darrin has check for parade. Meet 9:40 at Ward Meade park to load trailer.
- Club needs to decide if we want to do the following events that were brought to the club:
  - Shawnee County Public Library Summer Kick-Off Event - Saturday, June 1st - Wanting a basket display - Harrison's volunteered to rep.
  - Wings, Etc. willing to do a fundraiser day for the Huff 'n Puff. Lori to contact Wings, Moved and Seconded to do Sept. 7th during the rally.
  - Celebration Walk at Midland - Greg Herin reached out for a flight donation and possible static for May 10th. Lori will send email to club pilots.

## **New Business:**

### **Rally:**

- Working to finalize a contract with Hyatt Place Topeka on Wannamaker for the HNP.
- Mount Hope - contract has been signed. Logo is in the works with their marketing team.
  - Logo idea is a 49th balloon up front...with a 50th inflating behind...stay tuned.
- Current Sponsors on Board: DeBacker's (2), Schendel Lawn/Green Pest,
- Event tees - Danielle working with Blue Daisy Tees
- Vendors - have about 23 now, 3 more sending in money, food is full, and likely to fill very soon.
- Insurance - LH has submitted app - will know more later.
- Spread the word on the HnP FB page - new page needs to grow.
- Toilets & Lights - Bubba working on them.
- Propane - Russ happy with the agreement, should remain the same for this year.
- Pilots - Tony (BM) will be sending out an invite on or before April 1st. Pilots can now pay their entry fee of \$50 thru the website or thru venmo once pilot is accepted. Thank you Tedd for setting this up. Would also be sending out a hotel link for crew/teams to book a room.
- Trash - Tony will reach out.
- If anyone knows any local businesses or if you would like to add something to the pilot pack - get us 25 of an item and we will add it to the bags - thank you.





# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED...

- Sherri Sheldon has old HnP shirts if anyone wants them.
- Name Drawing for \$5 - Number 44 - Logan Reed, not present. Drawing for \$10 in April.
- Mark Wunder - Please consider working for your local elections, August 6th & November 5th - training and then paid for the day. If interested, please reach out to Mark.
- Motion to adjourn - moved and seconded.

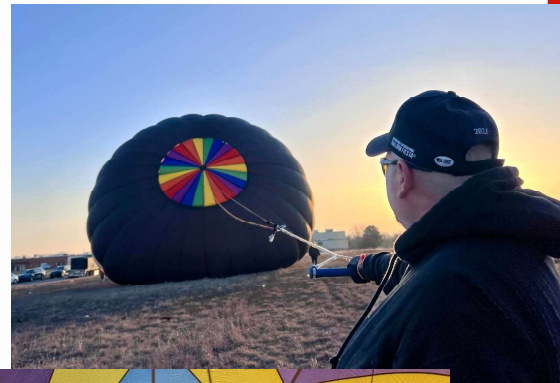
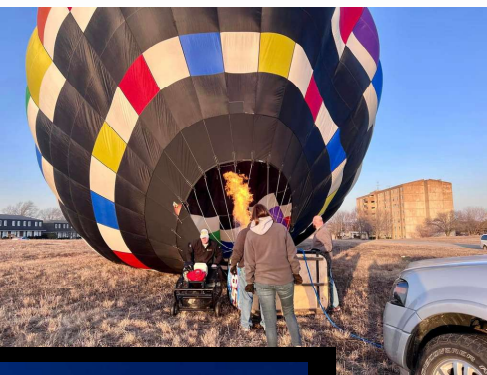
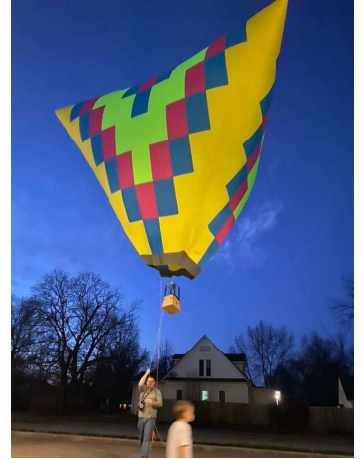
Minutes submitted by

*Michele Harrison*

2024 GPBC Secretary

2.24.2024

February the 24th proved to be a good day to take to the skies for some of our club pilots. Brian Carlson knocked out a flight right here in Topeka launching out of Mount Hope, while GPBC Pilot Tedd Maxfield took to the skies over in the KC area. Great flights by both teams! RC Pilot Joe Stratton also had a chance to get his latest RC balloon out to take 'flight'. Very cool Joe! (Photos courtesy of Laura Allen, Tedd Maxfield & Joe Stratton.)





3.16.2024

Another successful St. Patrick's Day Parade here in Topeka! The GPBC once again took part in the great event on Saturday, March 16th. Big thank you to GPBC pilots Brian Carlson & Darrin Harrison, as well as student pilot Elliott Crabtree who brought their systems for our club float. Shout out to all those who made this year's club float great. Amazing job All! (Photos courtesy of Mary Crabtree, Tony Goodnow & Michele Harrison.)

