

# 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

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**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+**

### ADVERTISING RATES:

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

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

(A DISCOUNT WILL BE APPLIED FOR GPBC MEMBERS.)

## COMING UP...

### May 8th

**Exec Meeting**

**6pm - Thru Zoom**

### May 11th

**General Meeting**

**Will be held in June.**

### June 5th

**Exec Meeting**

**6pm - Thru Zoom**

### June 8th

**General Meeting**

**Location TBD.**

# MAY BIRTHDAYS...



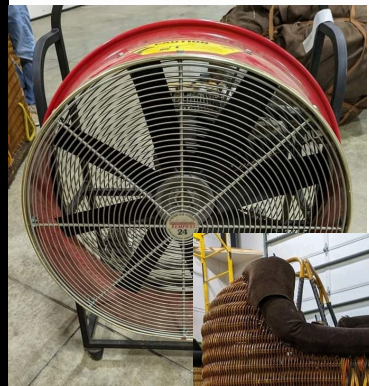
Mike Feiden- 1st  
Cora Plum - 2nd  
Stacy Plum - 4th  
Michael Schoenals - 27th  
Catherine Reed - 31st

**Edward Jones**



**Tedd Maxfield**  
Financial Advisor

11020 King St Ste 102  
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Bus. 913-499-1525 • Fax 833-291-2649  
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*For Sale: 77,000 cf National Balloon 132 hours.  
Turning vents, banner velcro, Flytec 3040,  
fresh annual. Comes with Firefly 4.0 basket  
578 hrs, (new hoses 8.2020) T-3 burner,  
tempest inflator fan. Call Bill or Louise at  
Midwest Balloon Services at (641) 765-4770.*

# ~BALLOONING EVENTS~

Wanting to attend a balloon event and don't know when and where the next one will be? Well here are a few submitted by some of our Club Pilots. This list may change from time to time so check back to see where the latest is happening!

May 11th - JC Freedom Fest - Junction City, KS

May 17-19th - Sunflower Balloon Fest - Anthony, KS

May 24-25th - Twisted Flying - Lawrence, KS

June 14-16th - Falls City Hot Air Balloon Festival - Falls City, NE

July 12th - John C. Fremont Days - Fremont, NE

August 9-11th - FireLake FireFlight Balloon Fest - Shawnee, OK

August 23-25th - Oklahoma Festival of Ballooning - Muskogee, OK

September 6-8th - Huff 'n Puff Hot Air Balloon Rally - Topeka, KS

September 21st - Edwardsville Fall Festival - Edwardsville, KS

October 5-13th - Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta - Albuquerque, NM

October 11-13th - Columbus Balloon Regatta - Columbus, KS

October 18-19th - Twisted Flying - Lawrence, KS

November 1-3rd - New Event...stay tuned - Manhattan, KS



# A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT...

These newsletters seem to keep coming faster and faster....here we are....already at our MAY newsletter. YIKES!

Mother Nature will hopefully start giving us some more consistent flying windows. Balloon Events are starting to ramp up more....so take a look at the events page now included in this issue of Hot Air Highlights. If you know of a ballooning event that you are attending or that you would like to see added, send us an email at [gpbnews@gmail.com](mailto:gpbnews@gmail.com) and we will get it included.

Our club shirt orders are now complete...so stay tuned on how to get your orders. Miss Danielle & Michele will be heading that up...so look for more information on that.

Our next exec meeting will be Wednesday, May 8th at 6pm thru zoom. As a reminder, we will NOT be having an in-person meeting in May. A chunk of our board will not be local, so our next general meeting will be Saturday, June 8th. Michele is working on a meeting location, so I will let you know that piece, as soon as it becomes available.

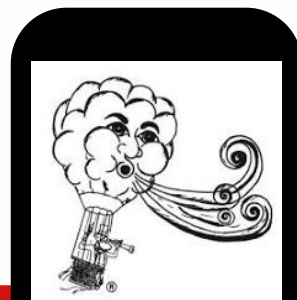
Our FORTY-NINTH edition of the Huff 'n Puff is in the works. We have vendors coming in and are almost full on vendor spots. Sponsors....we are in need. Our hotel is set for this year...and we believe it will be a nice change for our attending pilots and out of town crew. Propane is once again being donated by Propane Central. This is a huge piece of our event...and we truly appreciate the continued support and sponsorship of Russ and his team over at Propane Central!!

Our event logo will be finalized hopefully this week. So stay tuned on it's debut, as well as information on members-only pricing and order forms. We will be offering a pre-order for our balloon teams like we did last year, but we will NOT be offering a public pre-sale on event shirts this year.

As I have said before...and will say again...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 soon!

*Lori D. Hutchinson*  
2024 GPBC President



# GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date/Location: 4/1/2024 @ 5pm @ Felker Park

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

Lori Hutchinson, Tony Goodnow, Mary Crabtree, Brian Carlson, Michele Harrison, Tim Rumpel and Lynda Smallback.

**Announcements/Introductions:** The Smallbacks have welcomed a new granddaughter to their family - Congrats All!

## **Future Meetings:**

- May Executive: May 8th - 6pm thru zoom
- May General - to be held with June General on June 8th - Meeting Location TBD

**Correspondence: Nothing.**

**First Order of Business:** Minutes from March meeting moved and seconded. Paul opposed.

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

## **Old Business:**

- Club shirt order is in process.
- St. Patrick's Day Parade - Thank you to those who made the float happen..we appreciate you!
- Shawnee County Public Library Summer Kick-Off Event - June 1st 11AM - 1PM.... Darrin & Danielle to rep the club on this - thank you.
- WINGS ETC...Willing to do a fundraiser for the Huff 'n Puff - finalizing this for Sept. 7th.
- Greg Herin emailed-Wanting us to donate a ride for their celebration walk at Midland and a static display May 10th - None of our commercial pilots are available.

## **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.
- We are in need of sponsorships.
- Event tees - getting prices to compare...see our options.
- Vendors - have about 26 now, food is full, and likely to fill very soon.
- AMR on the field Friday & Saturday nights
- Insurance - LH has submitted app - price increase of \$600.
- Permit - Danielle to handle.
- Toilets & Lights - Bubba working on them.
- Propane - Russ happy with the agreement, same deal as last year - amazing!
- Pilots - Tony (BM) 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...

Date/Location: 4/1/2024 @ 5pm @ Felker Park

- Balloon Discovery - Lynda - opening sign up June 1st, cost of \$25/youth, limit of 25 kiddos.
- Discussion on if we are doing a charity of choice - trying to help an organization without having to majorly fund a donation - One Can One Kid, Pack the Bus-School Supplies, Lighthouse.
- Name Drawing - Next meeting drawing will be \$15
- Motion to adjourn - moved and seconded.
- Ended meeting with our annual fools in flight balloon release.

Minutes submitted by

*Michele Harrison*

2024 GPBC Secretary

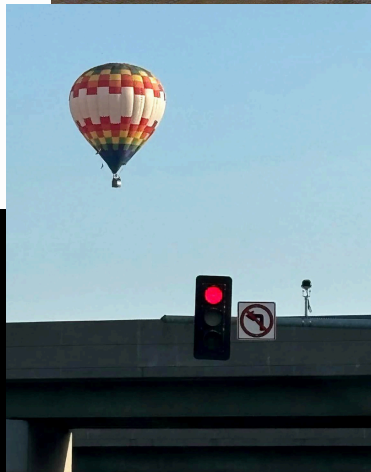
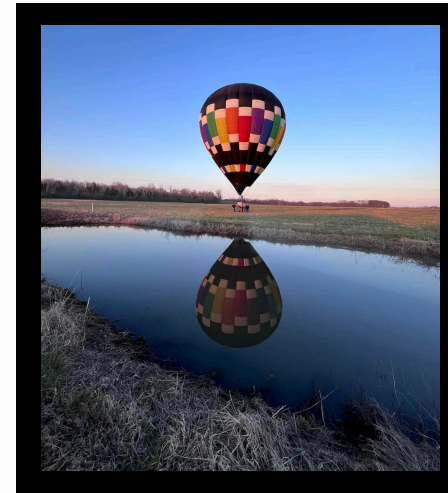
3.27.2024



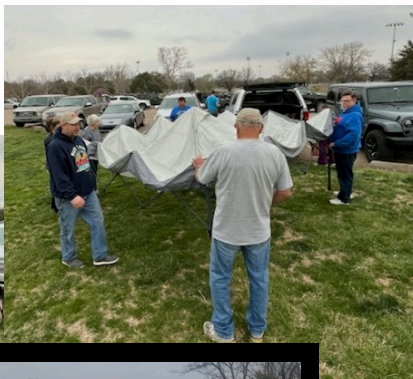
March 27th and then the 30th turned out to be flyable for many of our club pilots. On the 27th GPBC Pilot Brian Carlson took to the Topeka skies with his son Benji, and then again on the 30th.

Meanwhile the 30th proved to be a good day for multiple KC Pilots to take to the skies.

Club Pilots David Reed & Chris Sabia joined others to grace the KC Skies. Lookin good all! (Photos courtesy of Laura Allen, Jason Jones & KCAS.)



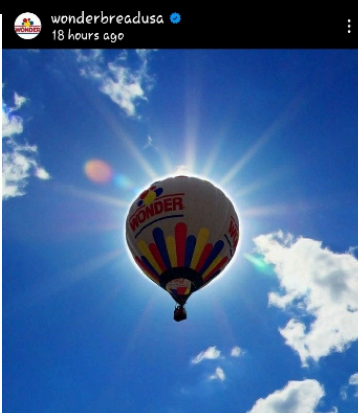
4.1.2024



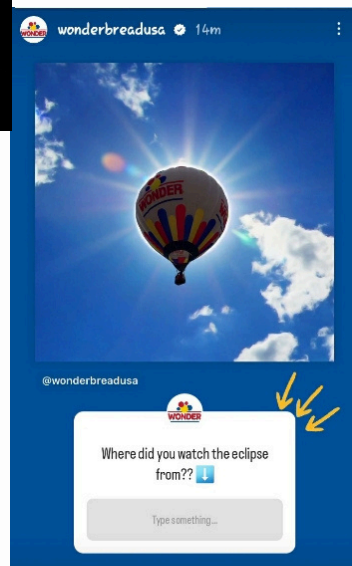
How many pilots does it take to fold up a canopy...hmm. Thank you to all that could join us for our annual 'Meeting on the Mound'. Even though weather didn't cooperate for a balloon flight...a different type of balloon did take to the Topeka skies. (Photos courtesy of Michele Harrison.)

4.8.2024

April 8th, 2024....the date of the most recent solar eclipse. A few of our club pilots took part in a glow the evening of the 7th as part of some eclipse festivities at the Ozarks in the West Plains Fair Grounds. The event itself was fun...but the drive home thru all the traffic was a different story. Wonder Bread also posted a fun little clip on Instagram, check it out. (Photos courtesy of Tedd Maxfield & Wonder Bread.)

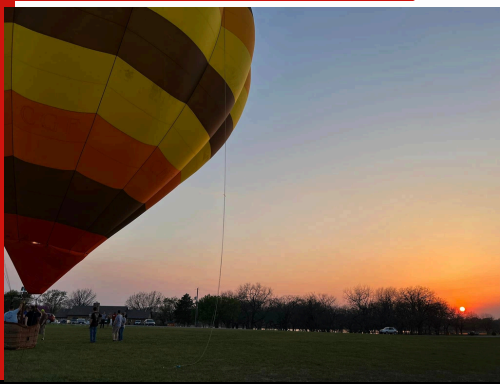


wonderbreadusa 18 hours ago  
132 likes  
wonderbreadusa Without a shadow of a doubt, that is the Wonder hot air balloon and not the moon. 🍞  
#WonderBread #Eclipse2024





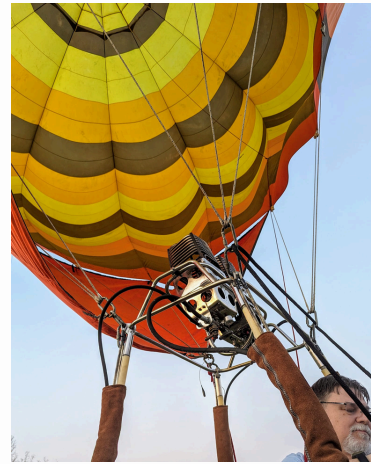
4.12.2024



The evening of April 12th GPBC Pilot Darrin along with his balloon Retro headed to Tinman Circle at Lake Shawnee here in Topeka to do some tethering. Retro and her pilot made a few peoples' day by going on a tether ride. (Photos courtesy of Michele Harrison.)

On the evening of April 14th, 2024 a few of our club pilots took to the skies once again. The KC skies were full of balloons.

GPBC Club Pilot Chris Sabia in the Wonder Bread balloon, shared the sky with Student Pilot Elliott Crabtree, with his instructor David Reed. Meanwhile, deeper into KC, Club Pilot Tedd Maxfield graced the KC skies alongside a few other KC Pilots. Great to see balloons in the air...tis the season! (Photos courtesy of Mary Crabtree, KCAS & Tedd Maxfield.)



4.14.2024

