

Entertainment



An Aviation Extravaganza featuring magnificent, colorful Hot Air Balloons, The DFW Summer Balloon Classic & AirFest takes to the skies June 11th through the 13th at MidWay Regional Airport, just 20 minutes south of Dallas and Ft Worth in Midlothian. This is a free event to the public. Actually, it is not just an event; it is an experience that will affect all of your senses with something to offer every age.

The Hot Air Balloons are the stars of the show with ascensions, or balloon flights, twice a day. Balloons can only fly right at sunrise and in the afternoon a couple of hours before sunset. This is when the air is the most stable. Gates open at 4pm on Friday afternoon with opening ceremonies beginning at 6pm with a Trojan Phlyers T28 warbird precision fly by, celebrated Re/Max skydiving team and all the balloons in mass ascension.

The morning flights are followed by top ranked competitors flying their balloons to compete in challenging tasks right before your eyes. If you have not experienced a balloon competition, it is worth getting up early to see. These are the NASCAR drivers of the ballooning world. National and World champions will participate creating a very exciting atmosphere. They have to go off site and then find winds that will bring them back to the airport to fly over targets and other tasks our Balloonmeister, Pat Cannon, himself a national champion and world competitor, sets out to challenge them. The targets are right in front of the spectator area so that we can all cheer them on to success!

Saturday evening is our big showcase event, the "Lite the Nite" balloon glow where all the balloons will stand inflated and as the sun goes down you experience the breathtaking sight as the balloons start to glow like huge colorful orbs. The balloons will perform twinkle burns, waves, all burns directed by our event announcer, Glen Moyer, who is the premier announcer in ballooning. Weather permitting, this is the one time when spectators may be able to come up close to the balloons and talk to the pilots and see just how everything looks and works. Truly a wonderful experience!

Saturday afternoon features even more excitement with our Air Show, MidWay To the Skies. Beginning at 2pm a variety of airplanes will perform in dramatic formation flights and aerobatic performances, a thrilling sight for all! The stars of the show are the breathtaking Trojan Phlyers, also based at MidWay, with their astounding formation aerobatics that will keep you on the edge of your seat! Jan Collmer, cofounder of the Frontiers of Flight Museum, will fly his Extra 300L in maneuvers that will have you biting your knuckles!

We are proud to announce this year's debut of the Aerobatic Air Racing Challenge Series (ARC Series™) within the Air Show. This will be the first event of its kind held in the south! Teams of two will take to the skies in dramatic aerobatic maneuvers in a timed sequence. Pick your favorite and cheer them on to victory and we'll see who wins as they

come to a stunning finish before us. Women pilots, male pilots, everyone is even in the air and anyone can be the winner!

After the Air Show be sure to head to the Event booth to meet the Air Show and Balloon pilots and get their autographs!

During the day our Aviation Extravaganza will entertain you with helicopters, a variety of airplanes, military aircraft, Commemorative Air Force, powered parachutes, radio control aircraft, kites and more, in static displays, demonstrations and flyovers! Some flights will be available to the public. Wander through concessions of delicious foods, exhibits and booths. Listen to music. Be sure to visit the Carter Energy exhibit and learn more about fuels and power of the future! The US Air Force Academy will have a booth and their official mascot, a live falcon, on display. Our Kids' Area has a variety of attractions for different ages and most of it is aviation themed! There is so much to see and do!

This year's DFW Summer Balloon Classic & AirFest promises to provide something for everyone in an action packed weekend of fun for the entire family! There is something for every age! Introduce your kids to the vast wonderful world of aviation and show them how they can become involved!

The mission behind the DFW Summer Balloon Classic is to encourage kids and young adults to become involved in aviation, thereby contributing to better future adults. Bring the entire family and introduce them to the vast wonderful world of aviation and show them how they can become involved!

The DFW Summer Balloon Classic & AirFest, presented by the City of Midlothian, could not exist without sponsors and we are proud to be sponsored in part by Re/Max of Texas, 103.7 Lite FM, The Greensheet, Babe's Chicken, Gerdau Ameristeel, Cotton Patch Café of Waxahachie, Texas Army National Guard, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Freebirds World Burritos, Culligan, Nelson Putman Propane, Propane Council of Texas and Republic Services.

Both Curves and Re/Max have corporate balloon teams and a huge commitment to hot air ballooning. Re/Max International has the largest corporate balloon fleet in the world with over 150 balloons! The Re/Max precision Skydiving team will appear each afternoon just before the balloons fly.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook for the latest information, DFW Summer Balloon Classic & AirFest and visit www.summerballoonclassic.com for our schedule and detailed information. The festival is free to the public. Parking is \$10 per vehicle or \$15 for two-day passes; no buses. Please leave your ice chests, food and pets at home! Bring your sunscreen and chairs or blankets.

Truly an experience and one you won't soon forget, the DFW Summer Balloon Classic and AirFest will take off June 11th at 4pm, run Saturday from 6am to 8:30pm and Sunday from 6am to noon. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

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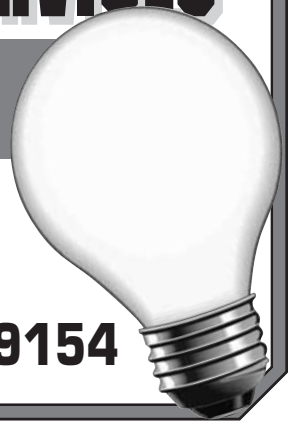
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