



500 Tytus Avenue
Smith Park, Downtown
Middletown, OH 45042

July 20-22, 2007

2007 MEDIA GUIDE

PRIMARY SPONSOR



CONTACT:

Ann Mort,
Publicity Chair
513-649-4506

Direct contact to
Communications Center
thru July 23, 2007
513-705-1770

5th Annual MidFirst Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival

Dates: July 20-22, 2007

Time: Friday, 4 to 10:30 pm, Saturday, Noon to 10:30 pm, Sunday, Noon to 7 pm
Grounds will be open early for morning flight viewing —(limited breakfast food items available)

Flights: 7 am and 7 pm, approximate flight times, weather permitting
Reminder: If the wind is high, balloons don't fly.

Extras: Skydivers, arts and crafts, food vendors, musical entertainment, carnival rides, demonstrations, Indian drum and dance, helicopter & plane rides, balloon discovery center, classic car show, 5K race, Skydiver simulating wind tunnel rides, Splash Pad, playground, skate park.

Site: Smith Park, 500 Tytus Ave, downtown Middletown

Contact: 513-705-1770, www.ohiochallenge.com

Cost: \$1 adult walk-in admission (Kids 12 and under -FREE)
OR \$5 per vehicle on-site parking - \$20 RV/Bus Parking

Organized by: MidFirst Ohio Challenge Committee, a non-profit organization

Sponsors: Primary sponsor – MidFirst Credit Union. MidFirst Ohio Challenge is a combined public/private project bringing together government, business, non-profit organizations and individuals working together for the good of the total community.

Why it is special: In 1992, 1993 and 1994, the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships were held at Smith Park in Middletown. The Middletown community enjoyed the balloons so much, this competition event has been welcomed with open arms. The best 30 regional hot air balloon pilots will compete for a \$5,000 purse and points toward their national standings. As balloons decorate the skies, over 70,000 guests are expected to enjoy the ground-based festival at Smith Park.

✦Fifth Anniversary

2007 Marks the fifth year for the Challenge event in Middletown. Many sponsors, chairpeople, pilots and vendors have been loyal supporters of the event for the entire five years. Throughout the program, their names will be designated with the ✦symbol.

Megan Frazer holds the crown line to steady her father's balloon in preparation for a media flight in 2002.



GETTING IN TOUCH

Ann Mort, Publicity Chair - **513-649-4506/513-705-1770***

Direct contact to Balloon Committee now through July 23, 2007 -
513-705-1770

On-Site - contact any member of the committee--tan colored shirts with balloon logo, most in golf carts. All are in radio or cell phone contact with the central communications office.

***Contact for media marking passes**

Other useful numbers:

Manchester Inn (balloon pilot and competition headquarters) – 513-422-5481

Rob Otto – balloon announcer - 248-496-7496

Helicopter Rides - T. J Verrill - 513-827-0280

Middletown Municipal Airport - Jimmy Jonson - 513-320-4480

David Hart - Team Fastrax -513-907-6805

Airplane Rides - Kurt Yearout -513-217-4777

Websites:

www.ohiochallenge.com

www.visitMiddletown.org

www.startskydiving.com

www.jumpinstitute.com

.

Other local events coming up

7/26 Beatles Tribute Band – Eight Days a Week – Smith Park

7/27-28-29 Greek Festival – Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Church

8/9 Classic Rock – Scotty Bratcher Band – Smith Park

8/23 Gospel – The Kingsmen – Smith Park

9/3 SW Ohio Symphonic Band Labor Day Concert – Sunset Park

10/5-6-7 Middfest International featuring The Netherlands – Donham Plaza

11/23-12/31 Light Up Middletown – Smith Park

What's Happening

All flights and many outdoor events are weather dependent. Times of specific performances and events may vary from schedule. Balloon launch times may be delayed as pilots wait for slower wind speeds. Balloons fly only in the early morning and early evening hours – just after sunrise and just before sunset when the winds are lightest. Specialty balloons (Fred B Rabbit and the American Rocket) are particularly susceptible to high winds and may not be able to fly even when other balloons are in the air.

Reminder: If the wind is high, balloons don't fly.



2007 MidFirst Ohio Challenge

Schedule of Events –

July 20-21-22, 2007

Pre-Event:

Balloon practice flights
Skydiving Training Jumps
Tandem Skydiving Jumps with area VIPS

Throughout the weekend:

Indian Village Display
Kids Discovery Center
Leap to Learning Skydiving Discovery Center
Arts & Crafts
Murray Brothers Carnival - \$1 tickets (33 tickets - \$30)
Festival Foods
Special Shape Balloons Fred B Rabbit and The Rocket join each balloon flight
Baker Bowl Skate Park
Playground/Splash Pad
Skydiver Simulator Wind Tunnel Ride

Friday

9 am-5 pm	Airplane Rides/Helicopter Rides
4:00 pm	Park Open/ \$1 Adult Walk-In Admission (12 and under free) OR \$5 On-site Parking
5-7:00	WPFB, 105.9 The Rebel broadcast from site
6:00	Opening Ceremonies National Anthem – Recognition of Sponsors and Elected Officials Presentation of Colors Team Fastrax – Bringing in the 7,500 sq ft American Flag
6-7:00	The Doug Hart Band – Blues/Rock
7-8:00	Balloon Launch from Site (weather permitting)
8-10:30	Slowhand – Eric Clapton Tribute Band
9-9:30	Balloon Glow
9:30-9:45	Team Fastrax – Night jump with pyrotechnic display
10:30	Park Closes

Saturday

7:00 am	Balloon Launch – Fly into festival site (gates open/free admission/parking)
7:00	Registration for 5K Race
8:30	5K Race – Sponsored by Middletown High School Athletic Boosters
9 am-5 pm	Airplane Rides/Helicopter Rides
Noon	Park Open/ \$1 Adult Walk-In Admission (12 and under free) OR \$5 On-site Parking
1:00	Team Fastrax – Skydiving Demonstration
2:00	Team Fastrax – Skydiving Demonstration
3:00	Team Fastrax – Skydiving Demonstration
3-5:00	Cold Air Inflated Hot Air Balloon Walk Thru/ \$1 donation to charity
4:00	Team Fastrax – Skydiving Demonstration
4:30-5:00	Ohio Cardinal Cloggers
5:00	Team Fastrax – Skydiving Demonstration
5:30	Thank You Foundation Awards to Soldiers
5:45 -7:00	Daniel Smith - Country Music
5-7:00	WPFB, 105.9 The Rebel broadcast from site
6:00	Team Fastrax – Salute to the Troops –Flag Jump
7-8:00	Balloon Launch from Site (weather permitting)
8:00	Team Fastrax – Skydiving Demonstration
8-10:30	Midnight Special – 70's Rock
9-9:30	Balloon Glow
9:30-9:45	Team Fastrax – Night jump with pyrotechnic display
10:30	Park Closes

Sunday

7:00 am	Balloon Launch – Fly into festival site (gates open/free admission/parking)
9 am-5 pm	Airplane Rides/Helicopter Rides
10:00	Car Show Registration
Noon	Park Open/ \$1 Adult Walk-In Admission (12 and under free) OR \$5 On-site Parking
12-4:00	Classic Car Show
12-2:00	Corky's Rock and Roll Review –50's Music
2:00	Team Fastrax Skydiving Demonstration
2:30-4:00	The Rebel/105.9fm Broadcast from Site
2-4:00	Timeless Country Music Band
3:00	Team Fastrax Skydiving Demonstration
3-5:00	Cold Air Inflated Hot Air Balloon Walk Thru/\$1 donation to charity
4:00	Car Show Awards Presentation
4:00	Team Fastrax Skydiving Demonstration
4:30 -7:00	Joe Hedges Modern Rock Band
5:00	Team Fastrax Skydiving Demonstration – Water Jump
7:00	Balloon Launch from inside Smith Park (weather permitting)
8:00	Park Closes

Entertainers



Rob Otto has been Master of Ceremonies for ballooning events in the Midwest for more than a decade. He knows the balloon pilots and has been in close touch with the balloons and their crews. He will offer that personal insight from the main stage to the crowds who watch the launches and events at Smith Park. Rob has been the MC at every Ohio Challenge, and always looks forward to the weekend he gets to spend in Middletown. When not enjoying ballooning he works at Sportsradio 1130 – WDFN in Detroit.

Doug Hart

The Doug Hart Band – Doug Hart – songwriter, guitar/vocal, The Doug Hart Band plays a blend of blues and rock with original music woven into the performance.





Slowhand

Slowhand – Chris Smith – Bass Guitar, Joe Mercer – Drums, Rick Bailey – Vocal/Guitar, Daniel White – Guitar, Ray Gooch - Keyboard

Slowhand – Eric Clapton Tribute Band – Formed in 1994 in Fairborn, the band looks and sounds like the original Eric Clapton band. Slowhand has performed at The Frazee Pavilion, Ohio State Fair, Lock 3 Live Amphitheatre in Akron, live on WONE, Soaring Eagle Casino in Michigan, featured artist on Time Warner Television, WTUE Radio, Gilly's in Dayton and many other sites.

Midnight Special

Midnight special: Erik E Danials-vocals/guitar, Gregg St Charles – Bass Guitar/Vocals, Joey Von Richter – Guitar/vocals, Craig Wilson – keyboards/vocals, David masters – drums/vocals

Midnight Special – 70s Rock – In 1976, two Cincinnati bands were slated to perform together—but only one man from each band showed up. The show must go on so they regrouped, called in some friends and Midnight Special was born. The nationally touring group has been one of the country's premier Rock N Roll bands opening for many headliners. Their playlist is right off the Billboard magazine All Time Greatest classic rock song list.



Daniel Smith

Daniel Smith – Country – Wrote and sings Thank You – (Tribute to the American Soldier)

Thank You Foundation honoring military troops and veterans.

Country musician/songwriter with a hit album American Made

Corky

Corky – Dirk Lavoy – Keyboard/Vocals, Corky Shull - Lead Guitar, Brenda Allen – vocals, Frank Dunn – Drums, Dale Oakley – vocals/Rhythm Guitar, Hank Walters – Bass Guitar/Vocals

Corky's Rock 'n Roll Revival – 50s – Formed in the Dayton, Ohio area in 2004, the band performs 50s and 60s rock-n-roll music with a style that blends contemporary and original into their own unique sound. Originally two area bands, they joined together for a 50s sock hop event and stuck together to play many Midwestern venues.





Timeless

Timeless Band – Danny Davidson, George Daniels, Mark Roy, Mike Cain, Rex Gore
Formed in the mid 90s, Timeless regrouped for New Years Eve 2005. Rex Gore is the new front man for the group.

Joe Hedges

Joe Hedges Modern Rock Band – The critics love him. Joe Hedges – Vocal/Guitar/piano, T Miller – guitar/cello/keyboard/vocals, Dan McQuinn – drums/vocals/guitar, Brian Ives – bass – Album – Curvature album

Ohio Cardinal Cloggers

Ohio Cardinal Cloggers – Long-time regional dance group kicking up their heels and ruffled dresses.



Cold Air Walk

Get the insider's view of hot air ballooning. Donate \$1 and see what it is like to walk inside a hot air balloon. Local pilot Dr. Mark Frazer will bring his balloon to the festival grounds, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, inflate the envelope with cold air and allow the public to walk inside. Proceeds will be donated to a local charity.



Balloon Glow with Skydiver Pyrotechnics

Friday and Saturday nights, about 9 pm, several balloon pilots return to the festival grounds and reinflate their aircraft on the ground for a Balloon Glow. The propane flames light up the inside of the balloons to give the appearance of giant fireflies flickering in the night. Occasionally the announcer will orchestrate all balloons to glow at once to delight the crowd and photographers. Skydiver pyrotechnics will round out the evening. Team Fastrax skydivers will do an after-dark jump into the festival site with pyrotechnics streaming from their boots.

5K Race

Saturday morning, just about the time the balloons float overhead at Smith Park, area runners will be registering for the first Ohio Challenge 5K Run/Walk. The course is entirely inside Smith Park on the paved exercise trail. \$15 pre-registration or \$20 day of race includes a t-shirt while supplies last. Race time is 9 am. Sara Newlin and the Middletown High School Athletic Boosters Club are organizing the race which will award prizes to the top three men and women runners and top three walkers – glass etched trophies. Register online at www.sprunning.com.



Classic/Antique Car Show

Larry Herron of Trenton brings the second Classic Car Show to MidFirst Ohio Challenge. Register beginning at 10 am on Sunday at the festival site inside Smith Park. Car show is noon to 4 pm. \$15 registration fee, no parking fee.

Airplane/Helicopter Rides

Local pilots will offer rides all three days 9 am to 5 pm. Rides on four-seater Cessnas (20 minutes) and a helicopter (5-7 minutes) will be available at \$60 for one passenger, or \$30 per person with 2-3 passengers. Access to the ride area is from inside Smith Park festival area. For plane ride reservations call 513-217-4777, for helicopter ride reservations call 513-827-0280 or sign up at the northwest corner of the festival grounds near the airport.



Team Fastrax, Professional Skydiving Team

See and meet the most professional commercial skydiving team in the world. The team includes, experienced skydiving instructors, past world champion competitors, and a combined jump total approaching 200,000. Team Fastrax competes in multiple skydiving disciplines, nationally and internationally, and routinely jumps into high-profile events to represent team sponsors. Highly qualified skydiving instructors provide first-jump tandem skydives. www.StartSkydiving.com

Team Fastrax 4-Way Formation Skydiving Team



Team Fastrax is currently one of the top formation skydiving teams in the world. Competitive formation skydiving involves the precise timing required for synchronized swimming, as well as the anticipation of swing dancing, all while free falling at speeds approaching 120 MPH, with four other teammates. Four team members fly their bodies to build the various formations required to score points, while the fifth hovers above them with a helmet-mounted video camera to document the performance. The judge's score the first 35 seconds of video, from the time the team leaves the aircraft, allowing one point for every successful formation built. The team with the most points after ten rounds of competition wins the meet. On a fast sequence also called a "draw", a top team can transition from one formation to the next in less than a second, scoring 35-40 points in 35 seconds. As in running hurdles in track, formation skydiving requires that you fly your body quickly, yet remain in control. Like a wide receiver in football it requires that you are focused on catching the ball, yet aware of the other players around you. Finally, formation skydiving requires the nerves of a golfer to be relaxed, yet ready.



Team Fastrax Swoop Team

Canopy Piloting, or swooping, is a skydiving discipline that focuses solely on canopy (parachute) flight. Today's ultra high performance Ram Air canopies are highly efficient wings that are fast and highly maneuverable. Swooping showcases these high speeds, and maneuverability; all while the pilots interact with the earth's surface, whether it is solid ground or water. Skilled pilots often achieve speeds in excess of 80 MPH, while covering up to 500 feet or more along the surface, and performing different maneuvers. National and international competitions are held on predetermined courses set to challenge even the most skilled pilots. Speed, Distance, and Accuracy have become "classic" events involving highly precise skills where only inches or one hundredth of a second can separate those at the top. Freestyle swooping brings out the creative side of these normally hard-nosed competitors, as each showcases their best tricks. Pilots perform moves with names like nac-nac, blind man, ghost rider, and switchblade.



Team Fastrax Demo/Tandem Team

Team Fastrax adds a unique touch to events as jumpers descend from thousands of feet in the sky with trails of multi-colored smoke, flags and banners. Team members will be on hand to meet their fans before and after each jump.



Start Skydiving Drop Zone

Home Of Team Fastrax

The Start Skydiving Drop Zone is the home of Team Fastrax. Staffed with the world's best skydiving instructors, Start Skydiving takes jumpers on 120 MPH freefalls from 13,500 feet. They offer tandem skydives attached to a highly qualified instructor. Others choose to learn the sport through the extensive ground school, then experience accelerated freefall and first jumps with a solo parachute system, including two instructors holding on to the student in free fall. Individuals and groups often make their first jumps at Start Skydiving Drop Zone. www.StartSkydiving.com

Team Fastrax Skydiving Simulator – Wind Tunnel

Emulate Team Fastrax Skydivers and experience the sensation of free fall, all while not leaving the ground. Participants are first outfitted with a flight suit, helmet and goggles, then given instructions on how to enjoy this thrilling experience. From here, qualified flight instructors will assist the participants into the flight area where they will float on a 120 MPH pillow of air, seemingly levitating the body pilot. They will then assist that participant out of the air column, and in the same manner bring in the next participant. The skydiving simulator will be operated all weekend at the Ohio Challenge and is open to the public. The cost is \$20/person for approximately a two-minute ride. To learn more about Team Fastrax visit www.StartSkydiving.com or visit the team at MidFirst Ohio Challenge.

Talk The Talk

To enjoy any sport, it always helps to understand the terms used by those who are involved.

- Baggie – a 3 ½ ounce bag of sand, rice, beans or corn meal dropped by the balloon pilots to hit a target on the ground. Closest to the center of the “X” wins the most points for that task.
- Basket – the part that carries the pilot and passengers. Most are made of woven rattan with a plywood bottom.
- Balloon Glow – While balloons fly only during the daylight hours, they often gather after dark to use their propane burners as huge night lights causing their balloons to “glow.” The balloons are tethered to the ground and act like giant “fire flies” as their lights twinkle in the dark.
- Chase vehicle – the van or truck following along on the ground as the balloon flies overhead. The crew helps the balloonist when launching or landing.
- Envelope – the large balloon part of the craft. Made of rip-stop nylon or polyester, it lasts about 500 flying hours.
- Helium – an inert gas used by balloon pilots for the small “pibal” balloons they release prior to a flight to judge the wind directions aloft.
- Kissing – when two balloons bump in the air.
- Load tapes – straps of fabric running vertically and horizontally on the balloon envelope. They support the weight of the basket and passengers.
- Marker – a baggie after it is on the ground.
- Pibals – two or three small helium-filled balloons released prior to flight to test the winds.
- Propane – gas used to fuel the open flame burner which heats the air that keeps the balloon in the air.
- Splash and dash – a method used by balloonists to change direction. Touching down on a body of water and then immediately lifting off again will often change the direction of flight.
- Tether – a thick rope that keeps the balloon attached to its chase vehicle. Often pilots will give “tether rides” taking passengers up just the length of the rope and then back to earth.

Competition Tasks

Competition tasks may be one or a combination of two or more challenges for balloon pilots during a single flight. Many target areas will be set at roadway intersections unobstructed by trees or power lines.

PDG – Pilot Declared Goal. Each pilot selects a map coordinate as a personal goal. The pilot writes the map coordinates and a description of the goal and turns it into the race officials before the flight begins. Pilots then launch all together from the same area and attempt to reach their personal goal to throw their markers as near that goal as possible.

JDG – Judge Declared goal. All pilots launch from the same general area with boundaries set by the officials. Each pilot will attempt to reach the same target and many will arrive at the same time to jockey for position.

MJDG – Multiple Judge Declared Goal. Several targets will be set in the area. Each pilot will choose a goal to use as a personal target. Pilots choose a target while in flight and drop a marker as near as possible to the center of the “X.”

ELBO – Each pilot will fly from the same general launch area and attempt to achieve the greatest change of flight direction during the flight. Pilots will take off from spot A, drop a marker at point B and again at point C. By drawing an angle using the three points, the pilot with the smallest angle in flight will score highest.

HNH – Hare and Hound. A single balloon will fly away to land and place a target on the ground. All other balloons will attempt to fly to the same spot to drop a marker on the hare’s target.

FIT – Fly in Task. Pilots find their own launch areas and attempt to reach a set point. Maximum and minimum launch limits are set. For instance, all competitors may be required to travel at least 5 miles from the goal to launch but no more than 10 miles.

FOT – Fly on Task. Each pilot declares a goal to which he or she flies after dropping a marker in another task site.

GBM – Gordon Bennett Memorial – Pilots attempt to drop markers within a designated area with definite boundaries. No points are scored for those who do not land a marker within the defined area.

WSD – Watership Down. A two-part task, pilots will find their own launch sites and fly to a target. At a specified time, a hare Balloon will take off adjacent to a target. Pilots must drop one marker at the target location and then fly on to the Hare’s landing spot to drop a second marker.

MAX – Maximum Distance. Pilots must drop a marker within a defined scoring area. They choose their own launch sites as far as possible away from the target. The pilot scoring highest on this task will be the one who travels the longest distance and is still able to drop a marker within the scoring area.

MIN – Minimum Distance. Pilots will attempt to fly the shortest distance within a definite period of time. Many will stay near the ground for this task to avoid higher winds at higher altitudes. An additional penalty for touching the ground during the task is imposed.

CRAT – Calculate Rate Approach Task. Pilots must drop markers at a target within a limited time period. Points are scored for only those pilots whose markers are dropped within the scoring area during the very short period of time.

LRT – Land Run Tasks. Pilots will attempt to achieve the greatest area of a triangle from the launch point to two other points.

STFT – Shortest Flight Task. Competitors fly from a designated launch area and drop a marker in a scoring area. Winner of this task will have the shortest distance from launch point to marker drop point.

MDDD – Maximum Distance Double Drop. Pilots must fly from a designated launch area and drop their markers as far apart as possible within the scoring area.

MNDD – Minimum Double Drop. Competitors fly from a designated launch area and drop their markers as close together as possible in different scoring areas.

Balloon Watching

The best viewing spot is at MidFirst Ohio Challenge in Smith Park. Evening flights will launch from Smith Park/Hook Field and fly elsewhere to accomplish their assigned competition tasks. Morning flights will launch at a location away from the field and attempt to fly to targets at Smith Park/Hook Field. To earn points balloon pilots drop a 3 ½ ounce bag of beans with their pilot number on the streamer as near as possible to the center of a ground target – a huge fabric “x” at the target site chosen for that flight. There are many variations on the task(s) assigned at the pre-flight briefing – shortest flight, longest flight, multiple drop zones, hare and hound. The site announcer will explain the tasks during each flight time.



Ballooning is a sport that does not adhere to the clock and launches happen when the wind speeds are best. Balloons fly in the early morning and early evening, just after sunrise and just before sunset, when the winds are lightest - 5-10 miles per hour. A breeze may feel good on a warm day

but it may mean that a balloon cannot fly. Sit back, relax and enjoy the day. Ballooning is a gentle sport that goes where the wind blows and only where the wind blows. If you find that balloons cannot fly today, continue to enjoy the entertainment and know that if they could fly they would fly. Safety is the primary reason flights are cancelled.

Balloons are huge bags of hot air much like giant parachutes and even if ripped, will float gently back to earth using their parachute qualities. Only a very large hole in the top would cause trouble.

Balloon envelope designs are chosen by the pilot. Special shape balloons are generally the most expensive to make and sometimes the most difficult to fly. While balloon designs are generally not trademark designs, it would be considered a breach of etiquette for a pilot to copy another pilot's design—except for corporate balloon fleets which carry a sponsor trademark.

To fly, a balloon pilot spreads out the fabric envelope on the ground, inflates it partially with cold air using portable fans and then heats the air inside with an open flame propane burner. When the air heats it rises and soon the balloon, with its wicker basket attached, will begin to stand upright. When the air inside the balloon is heated enough, the balloon rises from the ground carrying its pilot and passengers on a very gentle trip through the heavens.

Balloon flight is relatively quiet –punctuated only by the “whoosh” of the propane burners heating the air periodically to maintain a certain altitude. Balloons steer by going up and down to “catch” an air current traveling the direction the pilot wishes to go. Air at different levels will take different directions. The skill in ballooning is in being able to read the weather, the maps and wind currents to select a launch site that allows the pilot to maneuver his or her craft as close as possible to a target on the ground.

As the balloons float above, the support crew on the ground is following along in their chase vehicle. There are no round trips in ballooning. To return to base, the ground crew must meet the pilot at the end of the flight, help remove the heated air, pack up the balloon, load it on the truck or trailer and bring the pilot and passengers back to their base.

Do not “chase” balloons. Traffic accidents happen when drivers attempt to follow balloons in the sky without watching the traffic on the ground.

A \$5 daily parking fee offers a parking space on site during the afternoons and evenings when the festival is in full swing. There is a \$1 admission charge for adults who walk into the park. Children 12 and under who walk in with an adult, are FREE. Smith Park will be open for morning balloon flight enjoyment.

If you have an open area on your property, away from trees or electric wires, and welcome a balloon crew to use that spot to launch or land, place a bed sheet on the ground at the location you are offering. That is the universal welcome sign for hot air balloon pilots.

If a balloon should land near you please keep a safe distance from the craft until the crew has secured the balloon and basket. There are no brakes or steering wheels on balloons and sometimes they will bounce after they first touch down. Do not follow a balloon onto private property. While balloon crews attempt to obtain permission to land and take off, that permission does not include the general public.



Ballooning Is An Old Sport

Ballooning is an ancient sport. It's been going on for over 2,000 years, beginning in 300 BC when the Greek mathematician Archimedes determined the principle of ballooning – the idea that less dense air will rise and heated air expands which makes it less dense. Humans first took flight in balloons about 800 AD. The early pilots were caught flying over Lyons, France and were called sorcerers and put to death. In 1783, brothers Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier tested a theory that smoky hot air would lift a payload by sending a sheep, a chicken and a duck on a short hot air balloon flight. The sheep kicked the chicken and broke its wing, hence the first hot air balloon accident. The first American balloon flight was Jan 9, 1793 over Philadelphia. Pilot Jean Pierre Blanchard carried a letter from George Washington, a permission slip of sorts, in case he landed in unfriendly territory.

Balloons have been used as observer aircraft during the Civil War and by Napoleon's army, for the study of atmospheric conditions, and for the first aerial photographs of the U.S. In the 1950s, recreational balloon flights became popular. For three years, 1992-1993-1994, the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships were held in Middletown.

Competition Officials



Maury Sullivan

Maury Sullivan, Competition Director, is ultimately responsible for a safe, competitive event. Pilots rely on the director to run a fair and challenging event. Maury has been ballooning since 1981 and established the Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Balloon Classic in 1986. Maury has a commercial rating and has logged in excess of 660 hours.

His ballooning trophies include: 1999 US Teams-3rd, 2000 NABA US Nationals – Rookie of the Year, NABA National Ranking 12th -2005; 21st -2003; 2nd – 2001, 8th -2002.

He flew in the first balloon event in the Soviet Union in 1990, which took place in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), USSR. He also flew from Canada to the US over the Canadian Horseshoe Falls. In 2005, he flew 178 miles in a 3 hour, 48 minute Long Jump flight

The career highlight has been two weeks in Tibet where he not only flew with but became friends with the Dalai Lama.

When not flying, he and his family own three restaurants including Pancho's Southwestern Grille and Kozmo's.

Past treasurer and president of Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilot's Association (NOBPA), Maury is currently organizing the educational programming for the 2008 BFA National Convention.

Other competition officials are: a scoring officer, safety officer, scoring teams, staff coordinator, meteorologist, target team and weather officer.

Together they select the competition tasks for the upcoming flight, meet with the pilots and crew chiefs before each flight to review any safety concerns or weather conditions, score and report results on the competition.

Non-Profit Partners

www.TheThankYouFoundation.org

Falcon LaCrosse Club

Knights of Columbus

Middletown High School Football Team

Middletown Board of Realtors

Middletown Youth Soccer

Middletown Little League

Middletown Christian Boosters

Middletown Police Explorers

Food vendors

Blackjack Grill
Miamisburg, OH
Pretzels, Pork Chops, Chicken, Steakburgers,
Smoked Sausage, Hotdogs, Spiral Fries, Fruit
Smoothies, Lemon Shake-ups

Louisiana Grill
Dayton, OH
Chicken, Rice, Red Beans

Middletown Board of Realtors ✦
Middletown, OH
Corn-on-the-cob, Beef Brisket, Sno-cones, Ice
Cream

Natalies Concessions
Germantown, OH
Funnel cakes, sugar waffles, sno-cones, cotton
candy, caramel apple chips, nachos, frozen
cheesecake, pretzels, lemon shake-ups

Wurks A Poppin
Mexico, IN
Kettle Popcorn

Good Times Concessions
Dayton, OH
Mini-melts (Dippin Dots), Old Fashioned Soda
Pop Wagon, chocolate dipped frozen bananas,
cheesecakes

A&S Concessions
Bellefontaine, OH
Ribbon Fries, French Fries, Fountain Soda,
Bottled Water

Juicy Js
Dayton, OH
Lemonade

Falcon LaCrosse Club
Middletown, OH
Beer

Mediterranean Foods
Bridgeview, IL
Gyros, Shish-ka-bob, Chicken, Quesadilla,
Greek Salad, Lemonade

Biancos
Anderson, SC
Funnel cakes, Elephant ears/toppings, soft
drinks, lemonade

Middletown Little League
Middletown, OH
Hot dogs, Hamburgers,

Middletown Youth Soccer ✦
Middletown, OH
Soft drinks, Bottled water

Tasty Soft Ice Cream
Springfield, VA
Soft ice cream, Shakes, Floats, Novelty ice
cream bars

Middletown Christian School Boosters ✦
Middletown, OH
LaRosa's Pizza, Soft drinks, Bottled water

Funl Frenzy
Pickerington, OH
Funnel cakes, Caramel corn

J & S Concessions
Franklin, OH
Hamburgers, Ribs, Hot dogs, Chicken, Cheese
sticks, Nachos

Garrett Concessions ✦
Franklin, OH
Cotton Candy, Deep Fried Twinkies, Funnel
Cakes, Hot Dogs,
Italian Sausage, Nacho's, Ribbon Fries, Soft
Pretzels, Texas
Tenderloin, Soft drinks

Boston Bert's Seafood
Fish and Shrimp Sandwiches

BBQ Junction
Middletown
Bar-b-q Pork and Beef products

Greg's Hawaiian Shaved Ice

Official Souvenirs & Memorabilia

The official balloon pin and t-shirt for the 2007 MidFirst Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival will bear the 2007 logo, a replica of the balloon flown by James Wannamaker, the 2006 Ohio Challenge champion.

Doulos Threads is the official souvenir vendor for the MidFirst Ohio Challenge again this year. Come by and check out the t-shirts, hats, pins, magnets, mugs and much more in the Information Booth.

Ohio Challenge T-Shirts:
\$10 each S-XL, add \$2 for 2X,
\$3 for 3X, \$4 for 4X

Family 4-Pack is \$35.00 (S-XL)
(2X,3X,4X additional)

Pin Logo T-Shirt:
\$12 each S-XL, add \$2 for 2X,
\$3 for 3X, \$4 for 4X

Ohio Challenge Hats \$10



Ohio Challenge Pins \$5

Ohio Challenge Mugs
\$5 each 2 for \$8

Other Items available will be
frisby, magnets, last years pins.



Arts & Crafts Vendors

Discover Balloons	Albuquerque, NM	Hot air balloon items
Grau & Associates	Middletown, OH	Hot air balloon books
Baskets & Crafts ✦ aprons	Cincinnati, OH	Baby items, table runners & mats. Wall hangings, photo albums,
Crafted by Knight ✦	Springfield, OH	Towels, potholders, door stops
Clella Legett ✦	Middletown Oh	Funky Fedoras, Neck "coolers" & primitive crafts
Sarah's Earthstones	Waynesville,	Handmade nature jewelry & Bulgarian Redware Pottery
Dan's Portraits & Caricatures	Dayton, OH	Live caricatures
Randy Albright	Piqua, OH	Pewter figurines, beaded jewelry, pony tail holders
D D's Designs	Liberty Twp, Oh	Jewelry
Brushworks	Cincinnati, OH	Full Face Painting & airbrush tattoos
Dobbins Designs	Trenton, OH	Transfer t-shirts, popcorn shirts
DJ Embroidering & Crafts	Middletown, OH	Embroidered denim and t-shirts. Candles and country crafts.
JDK Magnetic Plus	Montgomery, OH	Magnetic Jewelry
Ray Starr	Hamilton, OH	Unique Wooden Toys
Stitched with family ties	Cinti, Ohio	Childrens Teepees, appliqued shirts, baby items
Winged Wonders	Batavia, OH	Mounted butterflies & insects
Finger Tip Shop ✦ covers	Dayton, OH	Marionettes, goose outfits, hand dipped incense, towels, toaster
Wacky Wax Hands	Cleves, OH	Hand wax molds, Boo boo Bunnies, wind spinners, blue
	jean purses	
Trimble Crafts	Hillsboro, OH	Painted windows, silly signs and mosaic pieces
M & L Ceramics	Lebanon, OH	Ceramics

Individual Balloons

1.Consolidated Business Products

James Wannemacher ✦

Middletown, OH

2006 Challenge Champion

Member of MidFirst Ohio Challenge Committee



2.Arhythmia

Rick Cusick ✦

Lima, OH

2005 Challenge Champion



3.Adam's Nirvana

Ron Terranova ✦

Fairfield, OH

2004 Challenge Champion. 2003 Cincinnati Tall Stacks Champion.

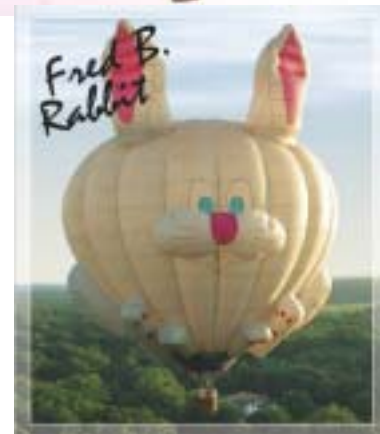


4. Fred B Rabbit

Walt Rudy

90,000 cubic feet of hot air, 60 feet tall with 30 foot ears.

The empty balloon envelope weighs 300 pounds.



5. American Rocket

Scott McClinton

Prospect, KY

Pilot McClinton has flown the soccer ball and football at past Challenge events. The rocket is 87 feet tall and 103 feet from wing tip to wing tip. The empty balloon weighs 380 pounds and rises into the skies considerably slower than anything NASA puts in the air.



6. ReMax I

Laurie Givin ✦

Oregonia, OH

One of the few female pilots, Laurie been flying commercially for 21 years with over 1,000 hours as Pilot in Command (PIC).

7.ReMax II

Steve Searles

Oregonia, OH

Pilot Searles has almost as many hours in the air (300) as the balloon he pilots (370).

8.ReMax III/Cloud Hopper

Brian Trapp ✦

Oregonia, OH

Brian runs the balloon repair facility in the tri-state and is the designated examiner for Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky. His balloon is piloted from a one-seat suspended from the balloon rather than the usual basket.

9.Houser Asphalt

Denny Deis

Kettering, OH

Denny , with 2806 PIC hours, is a long-time balloon pilot and participated in the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships held in Middletown in the early 1990s.

10.Kettering Medical Network

Steve Bond

Lebanon, OH

A pilot with many hours in the air (1,219),

11.Frances Son Dancer

Sean Askren ✦

Middletown, OH

An experienced balloon pilot, Sean has flown in 48 states and has piloted a balloon at the Winston Cup race for 10 years.



12. Who Cares!

James Birk ✦

Defiance, OH

Pilot Birk flew in the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships and has a resume that includes duty as a Geology professor and Chairman of the N.A. Balloon Association.



13. Painless Too

John Burns ✦

Napoleon, OH

Dr. Burns is a dentist, hence the appropriate balloon name.

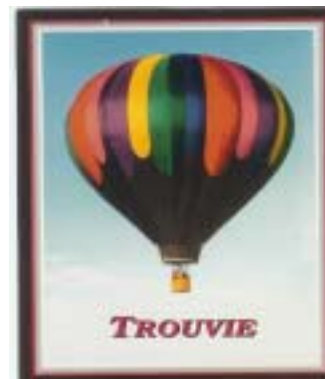


14. Trouvie

James Doty ✦

Carmel, IN

Formerly of Springboro, Pilot Doty bears the name of Middletown's first settler—Daniel Doty.



15. Second Wind

Michael Emich ✦

Akron, OH

Lt. Emich is with the Akron Fire Department, an expert skydiver, scuba diver, sailor and has designed and flown several types of balloons and aircraft.



16. Release

Mark Frazer ✦

Middletown, OH

Dr. Frazer is a member of the Challenge Executive Committee, a private practice family physician, Middletown HS sport team physician and former president of the Board of Education.



17. Dream Catcher

Don Trapp

Oregonia, OH

Don is Brian Trapp's father and the pair often fly together at events.

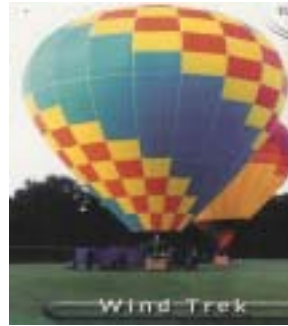


18. Wind Trek

Rick Kohut ✦

Louisville, OH

2001 rookie of the year for NOBPA ballooning association, he serves as a Clinical Director of Pastoral Counseling Services.



19. Bolero

Craig Lucas ✦

Chagrin Falls, OH

The movie "10" sparked the name of this balloon



20. Black Beauty

Bill Mason ✦

Middletown, OH

A tax accountant/balloon pilot who learned to love hot air during the U.S. Nationals held in Middletown 1992-1994.



21. Miss Niagara

Charlie Mays

Cincinnati, OH



22. Tuscan Sunrise

William Meserth

Springboro, OH



23. Boojum

Robert Mihaly ✦

Lakewood, OH

A competitor during the 1992-4 Balloon Championships in Middletown. He thanks the farmers for the use of their land as balloon launch and landing sites by helping to double the Ohio Farm Bureau's scholarship fund.

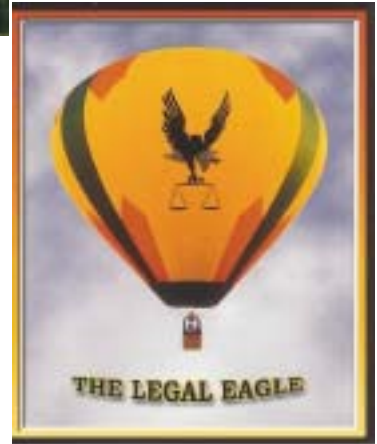
24.Hot Flash
Socrates Rettos
Liberty Twp, OH



25.Celtic Cross
David Troutman
Louisville, KY



26.Legal Eagle
Ted Watts ✈
Meadville, PA
A balloon rally chairman since 1988 himself,
Pilot Watts enjoys flying in events he is not directly responsible for.



27. Mariah
Mark Yeakle
Springboro, OH
As with many pilots, Mark caught the
ballooning bug as a crew member for another pilot.



28. Dulcinea
Debby Young ✈
Newbury, OH
This pilot set the Feminine World Record
for Distance Duration in 2001.



29. PADA
Robert Zanella ✈
Barberton, OH
Pharmacist Zanella takes his message to
the skies – Pharmacists Against Drug Abuse



2007 Sponsors

✦ Continuous sponsor for 5 years.

Primary Sponsor

MidFirst Credit Union ✦
Sponsoring Team Fastrax
Professional Skydivers

Platinum Plus

Middletown Community Foundation ✦

Platinum

910 WPFB Classic Country/ The Rebel 105.9 -
Official Radio Station ✦
Chamber of Commerce serving Middletown,
Monroe and Trenton ✦
Middletown Convention & Visitor Bureau/ City
of Middletown ✦
Middletown Journal - Official Information
Source ✦
StartSkydiving.com - Home of Team Fastrax -
Professional Skydiving Team
Time Warner Cable

Gold

Butler Tech – ✦ Sponsoring Rocket Special
Shape Balloon
Duke Energy
J P Morgan Chase/ Barnitz Fund ✦

Silver

AK Steel Company
Manchester Inn ✦
Middletown Regional Hospital
US Bank

Bronze

Alliance Printing & Mailing Services
Bern's Garden Center
Best Western Regency Inn
Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co. ✦
Cohen Brothers, Inc.
Digital Visuals
Fourth R of Southwestern Ohio ✦
Greg Martin Excavating Inc. ✦
Insurance Associates
Kleingers & Associates
Miller Brewing Company ✦
Mobilcomm Communications ✦

Otterbein Retirement Living Community
Rumpke ✦
Summit Family Physicians ✦
Tom Raper RV

Specialty Balloon Sponsors

MidFirst Credit Union I
Butler Tech I

Corporate Balloons:

Consolidated Business Products ✦
Houser Asphalt
Remax I, II, III
Kettering Medical Center

Special Thanks:

AAA Automobile Club
Area Police & Fire Departments ✦
BeauVerre Riordan Stained Glass
Butler County Waste
City of Middletown ✦
Cooperating Landowners ✦
Direct Maytag
Donato's Pizza
Federal Aviation Administration ✦
Flowers by Roger ✦
Gordon Food Service GFS
Government Agencies in Butler, Montgomery, Preble & Warren
Counties ✦
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company ✦
Public Works Department Employees ✦
Rosedale Elementary School
TV Middletown ✦
Volunteers who make it all work ✦

Pilot Gift Donors

American Red Cross
Butler County MRDD
Community Blood Center
Curves
Fifth Third Bank
Frisch's Restaurant
Kettering Medical Center Network
McKnight Terrace
Miami University Middletown
Middletown Senior Center
Oak Hill Banks
US Bank
Wendy's

VIP/Media Access via Reinartz
Blvd/Columbia Ave, near N. Main
Street