



September 25, 2023

Dear Pilot,

We are just about a week away from the 66<sup>th</sup> Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race, here are some last-minute details that we want to share with you all:

#### WhatsApp Group

Please join the WhatsApp Group for Pilots & Crew:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EiruwGoE2RaGsadv38IH0s>

#### Transponder Notice- Rule 4.1 (8):

Regarding **Rule 4.1 (8)** Transponder: The FAA requires transponders to have a valid test for the flight.

For pilots flying a US registered aircraft: Must have a Current §91.413 ATC Transponder Tests/Inspections entry by a certified §145 Repair Station.

For pilots flying an aircraft under EASA: (in GM1 ML.A.302(d)(2)(d)) does require the periodic check according to SIB 2011-15

[https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/easy-access-rules/online-publications/easy-access-rules-continuing-airworthiness?page=54#\\_Toc256000969](https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/document-library/easy-access-rules/online-publications/easy-access-rules-continuing-airworthiness?page=54#_Toc256000969)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02011R1207-20220125>

These documents may be checked by the FAA prior to take-off.

Please note that your call sign on your transponder will need to match the registration number of the balloon in which you are participating with.

**Do you need your Transponder inspected?**



Please contact: **Air One Systems LLC.**  
[david@aironesystemsnm.com](mailto:david@aironesystemsnm.com)  
 505-615-9047 Cell  
 505-839-2284 Shop

**PICKING UP SHIPPED BALLOON**

If you shipped your balloon to the US with Blaser, the location for pick up is at our 8901 Warehouse. You will need to proceed to 8901 Washington Street, Albuquerque, NM 87113. It has two entrances, one off of Balloon Museum Drive and another off of Washington. Curt Dahlquist is the warehouse manager, he will be able to assist with the loading and locating of your balloon.

**CANADA**

For flying into Canada please familiarize yourself with the following content:

- [What you need to know about flying into Canada](#)
- Pilots flying an experimental registration please apply for validation, [VALIDATION INFO](#).
- To enter Canada you will need an eTA. Information below in the link:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html>

Additional details about flying into Canada will be provided at either General Briefing.

**WASHINGTON, DC -SPECIAL FLIGHT RULES**

There is a “Special Flight Rules” area around Washington, DC. **To be eligible to enter the SFRA of Washington, DC you need to complete this course and have the certificate on hand** <https://www.faa.gov/gslac/ALC/courseLanding.aspx?CID=405>

**The list of fellow pilots:**

AUT-1	Stürzlinger / Spät	GER-3	Michels / Michels
AUT-2	Wagner / Liller	LTU-1	Komža / Mikelevičius
ESP-1	Gonzalez / Aguirre	POL-1	Zapart / Halas
FRA-1	Pelard / Peterle	POL-2	Bogdański / Mościcki
FRA-2	Decellières / Havret	SUI-1	Wicki / Erni
FRA-3	Moine / Blanchard	USA-1	Forden / Cowlshaw
GBR-1	Scholes / Rose	USA-2	Fricke / Cuneo
GER-1	Eimers / Eimers	USA-3	Sullivan / White
GER-2	Munz / Schlegel		



**Schedule:**

**Please note the schedule has been changed.**

The schedule for this year's Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race will be:

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Pilot Registration	Thursday, October 5	1400 – 1700 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
	Friday, October 6	1000 – 1100 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
General Briefing	Friday, October 6	1300 hrs. – 1400 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "A"
Opening Ceremonies	Friday, October 6	1430 hrs. – 1630 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "B"
FAI Hall of Fame	Friday, October 6	1700 hrs.	BALLOON MUSEUM
Pilot Briefing	Saturday, October 7	1100 – 1200 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "A"
Launch Preparation	Saturday, October 7	1300 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
Launch Window Opens	Saturday, October 7	1800 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
Launch Window Closes	Wednesday, October 11	2359 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony	Saturday, October 14	1800 hrs.	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "BC"

***Sand filling will be available on Thursday, October 5 and Friday, October 6 morning.***

**Official Notice Board:**

The official notice board can be found by clicking this link: <https://balloonfiesta.com/Gordon-Bennett-2023>

We look forward to see you very soon. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Tomas Hora, [tomas.hora@airwizard.de](mailto:tomas.hora@airwizard.de) or myself, Jennifer Garcia at [jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com](mailto:jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com)

Looking forward to seeing you in October!

Your Event Team

