



June 29, 2023

Dear Pilot:

A message from your Event Director, Tomas Hora:

*“Congratulations once again for being part of the 66<sup>th</sup> Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race. We are all looking forward to this event. I am impressed and happy about the professionalism with which the organizing committee in Albuquerque is putting on this even at a relatively short notice.”*

We have roughly 98 days to go until the General Briefing, which will take place at the Sandia Resort & Casino in Ballroom A, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1300 LCL. (Schedule below)

**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		POL-3	Olszewski / Cieślak
FRA-3	Moine / Blanchard		SUI-1	Wicki / Erni
GBR-1	Scholes / Rose		USA-1	Forden / Padelt
GER-1	Eimers / Eimers		USA-2	Fricke / Cuneo
GER-2	Munz / Schlegel		USA-3	Sullivan / White

**Schedule:**



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

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Pilot Registration	Thursday, October 5	1000 – 1900 hrs.	BALLOON FIESTA PARK
	Friday, October 6	1000 – 1230 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	1200 – 1330 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	TBD	SANDIA RESORT & CASINO "ABC"

### Shipping Reminder:

All pilots who are shipping with Blaser, please note all equipment must be at Blaser by August 1 (Calendar week 31). If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact:

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### 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.

#### Lodging/Accommodations reminder:

If you haven't already submitted your nights of stay or selected option B (which you secure your own lodging), please contact Jennifer Garcia at [jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com](mailto:jgarcia@balloonfiesta.com)

#### Competition Area-Rule 6.3:

According to **Rule 6.3** the competition area shall be defined as: the **50 States of the USA** and **Canada** including all solid ground islands that belong to this defined area.

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

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/aviation/general-operating-flight-rules/flying-canada-what-you-need-know-tp-15048>

Pilots flying an experimental registration please apply for validation as stated in the document.

We will let you know more about the procedures for flying into Canada either in one of the next bulletins and/or during general briefing.

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.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/courseLanding.aspx?CID=405>

#### 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. The next pilot memo will be sent on 7/14/2023. 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 Directors Team



