

AUG 27 2009

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Among ³¹⁵ the clouds

*The Reno skies
come alive
in September*



Courtesy of The Great Reno Balloon Race

By Zoe Rose

If you're in Reno in September, you'd be smart to look up. Chances are, you'll see a graceful hot air balloon or catch the tail of a zooming jet. Indeed, this month makes for an aerial good time.

Great Reno Balloon Race

If you're coming to the 2009 Great Reno Balloon Race, from Sept. 11-13, there are some things you'll need.

Bring flashlights to help navigate the paths up to Rancho San Rafael Park in the dark, sturdy shoes to walk the dewy grounds and a coat and hat to keep you warm. But don't forget a box of tissues because the silent beauty of dozens of hot-air balloons will make you weep.

As many as 140,000 people are expected to attend the 28-year-old event. They'll be there to enjoy the balloons, including crowd favorites such as the Energizer Bunny – with ears as tall as the presidents' faces on Mount Rushmore and a body that stands 15 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty.

Two balloons will be debuting at this year's event: the 100-foot-tall Pandy the Panda and Kellogg's Tony the Tiger. Tony stands almost nine stories tall and has a special rotator that allows the pilot to rotate the balloon as it flies through the air.

Other event highlights include Dawn Patrol, a choreographed parade of glowing balloons in the pre-dawn hours; Pajama Fest, billed as the world's largest pajama party, complete with a "bed-head"

competition; and the Wells Fargo Mass Ascension Launch, when more than 100 balloons are launched over Rancho San Rafael Park.

Admission is free. Just bring money for all the goodies and fun vendor products.

For more information, go online to <http://reno.balloon.com>.

Championship Air Races & Air Show

On the other end of the sound spectrum is the high-decibel Championship Air Races & Air Show in Reno, set for Sept. 16-20.

The 46th annual event features five days of racing by six different classes of aircraft – including biplanes, jets and sport airplanes – plus an air show with aerobatic performers, hundreds of vendors and a

variety of food and beverages.

Between races, something is always going on in the air, whether it's a military or civil aircraft flight demonstration, a daredevil aerobatic performance or a fly-by.

Kids can enjoy special displays and hands-on activities as well as chances to visit the pits and talk with the pilots.

Shuttle service from downtown Reno is available, as well as free, first-come, first-served onsite auto parking and reserved RV parking.

Tickets range from \$5-\$27 per day, with special prices for children, seniors and military personnel. Children younger than 7 are free.

For more information, go to www.airrace.org.