

2011 Plano Balloon Festival

September 16, 17 and 18, 2011

Event Detail

D/FW area operators are invited to volunteer to work communications support for the Plano Balloon Festival. The event runs all day long for three days. Each day will have two balloon flights (weather permitting). Volunteers will be needed in shifts for the duration of the event.

The event will be held:

September 16, 17 and 18, 2011

Oak Point Park

<http://www.planoballoonfest.org/>

Talk-in on 147.18+ pl107.2

Field Simplex: 146.48

The event site is located in Plano on Spring Creek road between Jupiter Road and Parker Road. A map is available on the festival web site.

Information/Communications

Up to date Volunteer/Operator information and training aids are located at: www.w5adc.com/PBF/PBF.html

Communication regarding Volunteer/Operators will be done through the Yahoo group (volunteers must join the group): http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ntx_pse_pbf/

Volunteering

Launch Field Volunteers

Approximately 15 volunteers are needed on the launch field. Launch field volunteers will be foot portable at the festival (CRF-S). The primary task of the field volunteers is to monitor the launch field and help identify balloons by number as they lift off. However, volunteers are encouraged to stay on site for a full shift in the event that we are needed for a non-flight related event.

Field volunteers should dress appropriately for the weather, including water resistant comfortable walking shoes, a hat, a jacket or rain coat and sunscreen. An orange or green reflective safety vest is required. A few extra may be available at Field staging for checkout.

All operators should bring a 2m HT with two batteries and a headset / microphone. Speaker mikes are not appropriate for the launch field due to the heightened noise level.

Volunteers under the age of 18 must have a Minor Release Form completed and submitted prior to operating their first shift.

Please see CRF-S (Link at end of document)

Recovery Volunteers

Recovery volunteers will be vehicle portable outside the launch area, and will follow the direction of the Recovery

net control and the Recovery Field Marshal. Over 20 vehicles are needed for each launch. Volunteers will follow the balloons in their vehicles and verify the safe recovery of the balloonists.

All recovery teams require at least two persons, one driver and one spotter. If you would like to work recovery but do not have a partner or a vehicle, please come anyway and you will be partnered up.

Drivers must be of age 21 or older. Co-Pilots must be of age 14 or older.

Volunteers should call for information on the 147.18+ pl 107.2 for status updates before appearing to work. Recovery teams will be expected to physically appear and sign in at the directed location at their shift time.

All teams must have a 2m mobile radio capable of at least 35 watts and a 5/8 wave antenna. APRS transmit capability is strongly desired. Leather gloves, mosquito spray, water and comfort foods are recommended.

Please see CRF-M and CRF-DT (Link at end of document)

Event T-Shirts

The event provides us with t-shirts to mark our volunteers. However, we will have more volunteers than t-shirts. Priority will go to assigned staff members, then to volunteers who have worked the most shifts.

Volunteers must appear in the paper work log to be eligible for a shirt.

Work Shifts

Each day will have 3 work shifts, and volunteers may sign up for whatever shifts they prefer.

Morning shift - Volunteers are needed to cover the morning balloon flight and should expect to be on site from 7am to 11am

Afternoon shift - The afternoon shift will consist of net talk-in duty only and will be held on the launch field between launch shifts (11am to 4pm).

Evening shift - Volunteers are needed to cover the evening balloon flight from 4:00 pm to approximately 8pm.

How to Volunteer

Fill in the online form at:

<http://www.w5adc.com/PBF/PBF.html>

Please include your work preferences for each shift. Detailed assignments will be published shortly before the event.

(Continued)

Getting in to the event

The festival is a pay-for-entry event, with over 100,000 people attending. Parking is at a premium. Volunteers working the field will park offsite and be shuttled onto the field. Volunteers should call talk-in on 147.18+ p1107.2 and let the field know that they need shuttle service. The shuttle will provide your volunteer passes to get you in the gate. The shuttle will not run all day, but only around shift times, so this will not be available all the time and operators should plan accordingly. We may have a limited number of extra passes for non-ham friends and relatives who will assist the volunteer.

APRS

APRS is desirable for recovery crews but not required.

APRS will run on the frequency of 144.340.

Persons having questions about APRS should join the North Texas APRS Users Group at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/ntx_aprs_ug/

SSIDs

Operators using APRS should set their SSID to be their callsign and a number (example: N5OOM-7). Please do not use tactical calls.

Beacon Rates

All mobile stations should set their beacon rate to no less than 3 minutes (Preferred 5 minutes)

Unproto Address

Please set your path to WIDE1-1, WIDE2-1.

Operators intending to volunteer should have all the equipment they will need in advance of the event. If you need help, please join the North Texas APRS Users Group at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/ntx_aprs_ug

Presentations on various APRS topics are available at:

<http://www.n5oom.org/aprs/>

<http://tinyurl.com/2011-APRS-Presentation-KD5UMO>

Wireless Network

Historically, we have installed a wireless network on the launch field and a few places in the area involved with the festival. Persons interested in learning more about HSMM should join the NTMS HSMM working group at:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DAWG-HSMM>.

What is My CRF?

Learn about resource typing. What do I need to support the mission that I will be performing?

<http://garlandr.s412.sureserver.com/CRF%20Info/CRF%20resource%20data.html>

<http://garlandr.s412.sureserver.com/CRF%20Info/CRF%20Guide-Rev%20G1.pdf>

Field Net Control:

CRF-B
CRF-S
CRF-DA

Field Volunteer:

CRF-S

Recovery Net Control:

CRF-B or M
CRF-DT
CRF-DA

Recovery Operators

CRF-M
CRF-DT
CRF-DA (Not used during mobile operation)

Keeping Up to Date

This document is intended as an overall informative guideline for the event. Updated information will be communicated through the event Yahoo Group indicated at the beginning of this document. Every effort will be made to keep the data up to date at

<http://www.w5adc.com/PBF/PBF.html>

We thank you for your participation.