



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Old West Balloon Festival 2016

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“Old West Balloon Fest – Frequently Asked Questions”

Scotts Bluff County, NE – August 24, 2016. Come touch the sky at the 2016 Old West Balloon Fest; the must attend three-day premier hot air balloon event in Western Nebraska Labor Day Weekend!

Frequently Asked Questions About the Old West Balloon Fest:

What are the dates of the Festival events?

- Sunrise Balloon Launches – September 3 & 4, 2016 (Saturday & Sunday); **weather permitting**
- Evening Concerts at Five Rocks Amphitheater – September 2 & 3, 2016 (Friday & Saturday)
- Night Glow & Closing Ceremonies – September 4, 2016 (Sunday)

Where does the Festival take place?

- Sunrise Balloon Launches at the Mitchell Airfield – 171 South 20 Road – **weather permitting**
- Concerts at Five Rocks Amphitheater - 2505 D Street in Gering
- Sunday’s Night Balloon Glow & Closing Ceremonies – Western Nebraska Regional Airport in Scottsbluff

What are the driving instructions to the launch site? (See attached launch site map)

There are two major entrances to the launch site this year.

Directions, Coming from Gering:

- Take Old Oregon Trail Road to Highway 92
- Head West toward Mitchell South Road
- Turn North on Mitchell South Road and follow the large digital sign to launch site one on right hand side. **Anyone taking this route will use the South Parking Lot labeled Lot B.**

Directions, Coming from Scottsbluff:

- Take Highway 26 West to Mitchell
- Turn Left on to 19th Avenue and follow the large digital signs to launch site (approximately 2.5 miles south). **Anyone taking this route will use the North Parking Lot labeled Lot A.**

What services will be available at the launch site?

- Lots of Port-a-Poddies; approximately 25 “seats” will be available at the launch field
- Food vendors; including beverages and breakfast items
- Merchandise vendors; Old West Balloon Fest t-shirts and posters
- **Old West Balloon Fest events are CASH ONLY for food, beverages, merchandise, etc.**
- **NO private drones will be allowed at the launch site or night glow venue for the Festival.**
- **NO smoking allowed the launch site; this includes vaps**
- **NO parking on the shoulder of the road**
- **NO parking on railroad tracks**
- **NO parking on private property or private driveways**
- **NO alcoholic beverages**

Are Balloon “rides” available to the general public on Saturday or Sunday morning?

Balloon rides are NOT available to the public; balloon rides are for sponsors only. The sponsors are paying so that the event can be free to the public.

Are pets allowed at the launch site or evening glow?

No pets are allowed at the launch site at the Mitchell Airfield or at the Balloon Glow site at Western Nebraska Regional Airport. Pets become very anxious and get agitated by the high pitched sound the balloon burners make as they inflate and launch. For the safety of attendees and your pets; no pets will be allowed at the event sites.

Can I bring a cooler to the launch site or evening glow?

We do not prohibit coolers at the launch site or the Balloon Glow site; however, we strongly discourage people from bringing them. Our goal is to provide nonprofit agencies an opportunity to raise funds and awareness for their programs and services. Several of our food vendors are nonprofit agencies. **NO alcohol at the launch site. NO COOLERS are allowed brought in at the concert events at Five Rocks Amphitheater in Gering.**

Is there an admission to the Festival?

NO, admission to the sunrise balloon launches (Saturday & Sunday) and the evening Balloon Glow (Sunday) are free of charge. Concerts at Five Rocks Amphitheater (Friday & Saturday) **are ticketed events.**

Can I bring blankets and/or chairs to the Festival?

Absolutely, we encourage attendees to bring their own blankets and lawn chairs. The launch site is grass; so blankets-lawn chairs are great for viewing the balloon launch field and the evening glows at Western Nebraska Regional Airport.

Is there a parking fee at any event venue?

NO, **parking is FREE** at all the Festival event venues.

Is there Handicap Parking?

YES, designated handicap parking areas will be available at all Festival venues; Mitchell Airfield, Five Rocks Amphitheater and Western Nebraska Regional Airport.

Where can I purchase concert tickets for Friday and Saturday nights?

Two great nights of entertainment for Old West Balloon Fest at Gering's Five Rocks Amphitheater; Bluff's Broadcasting presents "Rockin' the Bluff". Friday night, September 2, "Rodney Atkins" takes the stage and Saturday's lineup is "Lita Ford", Kip Winger" and "Jack Russell's Great White" on September 3rd.

Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$35 reserved seating each night; take in both nights with a weekend concert pass for \$40 general admission and \$50 reserved. Ticket outlets are at Heilbruns Racks, The Steel Grill or Bluffs Broadcasting.

Are there free Kids Activities?

There will be FREE kids activities at the Night Glow on Sunday, September 4, 2016 at the Western Nebraska Regional Airport. Kids can enjoy bounce houses, kite building, entertainment, face painting and tons of family interactive activities.

For more information, please contact Brenda at (308) 633-1808 or Becky at (308) 641-2279.

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