

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA®

The World's Premier Balloon Event

2009 BALLOON FIESTA FINAL STATISTICS

Event Theme: Mass Happiness

Final Numbers: Following are the official statistics for the 2009 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta held October 3 – October 11.

• Registered Balloons	550
• Registered Special Shapes Balloons	87
• Registered Gas Balloons	9
• Estimated Guest Visits	*761,864
• Media Organizations	301
• Media Representatives	895

Past Year's Attendance:

- **2008** ***702,884**

The launch of the 14th America's Challenge race for gas balloons scheduled for Saturday evening, October 3 was cancelled due to winds at Balloon Fiesta Park being too strong and gusty to permit the balloons to launch safely. This is the first time since 1994 there has not been gas race launch during Balloon Fiesta.

States registered: 38

Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming

Countries Registered: 17

Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States

Balloon Competition Winners: \$10,000 first prize in the hot air overall competition was awarded to Albuquerque pilot Frank Dickey. Gary Bennett was the lone pilot to pull a prize envelope in Thursday's Pole grab competition, and in it was \$2,000. On Friday, all five Key Grab prizes were captured in less than 30 minutes. Winners of Grand Cayman Island trips were Richard Abruzzo and Steve Jones. Bob Mass grabbed the \$5,000 envelope; Johnny Petrehn took home \$2,500; and Gerry Graff won a Cloud Hopper single passenger hot air balloon.

***It's difficult to accurately track the number of guests attending the 9-day event. To answer media requests about attendance, Balloon Fiesta computes "estimated guest visits" to Balloon Fiesta Park. The estimate includes the number of advance tickets and gate passes sold to guests plus provided to media, balloon teams, chase crew, sponsors, corporate buses, entertainers, recreational vehicles and Balloon Fiesta VIPs. In some instances different multipliers are used because of multiple and return visits to Balloon Fiesta Park.**

Additional information about the 2009 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta can be found at www.balloonfiesta.com, or contact Kathie Leyendecker at kleyendecker@balloonfiesta.com or at 505-228-9874.

The 2010 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, "Earth, Wind and Flyers," will lift off October 2 – October 10. Join us for some high flying fun!

