



Welcome to the first edition of **The Vent Line Views**, the official newsletter for the Great Reno Balloon Race Aeronauts. We look forward to a great year and lots of fun! Future issues of the e-newsletter will cover crew training, upcoming events, basic balloon information, feature aeronauts and local pilots, just to name a few topics.



A Message from Aeronauts President, Shirley Keys

The Aeronaut Board has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming year. I'm looking forward to having lots of fun and seeing what people have been up to since 2007! We are always looking for new members that are interested in getting involved in the hot-air ballooning community. If you have anyone you know that is interested in joining, please bring them to a meeting!!

The Great Reno Balloon Race Board has hit the ground running. After a successful Board retreat in February they have been actively planning for the 2008 event on a regular basis. Some of the highlights for 2008 include **Balloons & Bubbles**, a Champagne Tasting which will take place this May; launching a brand new Web site in April and planning to set a world record – which will be announced by the Great Reno Balloon Race soon!

In addition to all of the fun, the Great Reno Balloon Race Board and the Aeronauts Board have identified opportunities for the two organizations to come together as a team in 2008 so that everyone's time and energy is used as effectively as possible to ensure a positive experience for all.

Thanks to everyone who helped last year and for working so hard to make the event the success it was! The Balloon Race confirmed that 2007 was the largest year for attendance in the history of the event. Without the hard work you all put in it would not have been as nice or as successful!!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming: **Thursday, March 27th, at Round Table Pizza!**

Your president, **Shirley Keys**

Meet the New 2008 Board of Directors!

Shirley Keys, President

Shirley returns for her third term as president and has lots of great ideas for this year!

Ted Stutzman, Vice President

Ted returns in his role as vice president and Shirley's right hand man.

Barb Muscutt, Secretary

Barb moved over from Treasurer to Secretary for this year



Lyn Hopkins, Treasurer

Lyn was appointed by the board as treasurer. Those of you who were at the appreciation party will remember that Vickie Stutzman was elected as treasurer. Due to a conflict with the by-laws concerning family members serving on the board Vickie graciously stepped down and Lyn was appointed. We appreciate all Vickie's hard work and thank her for her many contributions to the board.

Kymerly Tamburello, Member at Large

Kymerly returned to the Aeronauts this past year after an absence. We're very glad to have her back!!

Connie Benedict, Member at Large

Connie is a long time member. She served as one of our crew commanders last year and did an outstanding job along with Lynette Stewart.

Upcoming Aeronauts Meetings

Thursday, March 27

Round Table Pizza, 4th & Vine (across from Gold Dust West) at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22

Nelson Building, Room 119, 401 W. 2nd Street, Reno at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28

Nelson Building, Room 119, 401 W. 2nd Street, Reno at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 26

Nelson Building, Room 119, 401 W. 2nd Street, Reno at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22

Nelson Building, Room 119, 401 W. 2nd Street, Reno at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27

Nelson Building, Room 119, 401 W. 2nd Street, Reno at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 3

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park at 5:30pm



The March meeting is the only meeting that will be held at Round Table. The remaining Aeronauts meetings will be held at UNR's Nelson Building. UNR has been gracious enough to let us use the room. The Nelson Building is a brick building located west of Arlington on 2nd Street. The front doors face south, but you cannot get access to Room 119 through the front doors. Instead, park in the front and enter the building through the west side entrance. Parking permits are not necessary to park for the meetings

Crew Training

We are in the process of putting together the crew training program. Dave Howe has graciously agreed to help us with this task. We are looking into doing the training classes in conjunction with Truckee Meadows Community College. The crew training program will cover all aspects of crewing including (but not limited to) terms, proper attire, set-up and inflation, take down and pack up, chusing, radios, land owner relations, safety, first aid, drop line and tether procedures. We are also planning on having training sessions the mornings of **Saturday, June 14** and **Saturday, July 19** at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park with the balloons for actual hands-on training.





Safety Seminar

On Saturday, March 8, Katie Griggs held her annual Balloon Safety Seminar. It was held at Wooster High School with more than 40 people attending. Subjects covered included ropes/knots, fan safety, FARs, Crew Achievement Program, repairs and maintenance, weather, accidents and first aid. There was also a brief discussion on the importance of wearing the correct clothing and shoes when crewing. It was a great learning experience for both pilots and crew members who attended. I urge every Aeronaut to try and attend a seminar if they have the opportunity!

Aeronauts Membership Renewal

See attached page for Aeronauts Membership renewal form for 2008.