

January 6, 2019

Photo Caption: Look for the RE/MAX Results balloon piloted Mike Sommer of Deer River, MN and the Rubber Duckie balloon piloted Bob O'Brien at the 2019 Hudson Hot Air Affair.

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Hudson Hot Air Affair Pre-Events Begin This Week

The 30th annual Hudson Hot Air Affair celebration is set for February 1-3, 2019. WESTconsin Credit Union returns as the corporate sponsor of this annual winter festival and hot air balloon rally.

The hot air balloons are the highlight of the event, offering a colorful show with mass ascension flights of 30+ hot air balloons (weather permitting) at E.P. Rock school grounds in Hudson. There will be many returning favorite balloons as well as some new pilots and balloon.

Pilot Bob O'Brien from Waupaca, WI, will be returning with his special shape balloon Rubber Duckie. This will be Bob's 24th year at the Hot Air Affair. WESTconsin Credit Union, the corporate sponsor, is the sponsor for this spectacular yellow duckie balloon.

The corporate balloon Re/Max will also be returning. Sponsored by RE/MAX Results, pilot Mike Sommer of Deer River, MN, will be flying the popular red, white and blue balloon. RE/MAX has supported Hot Air Affair since 1991. Thanks for their incredible support!

While the balloon launches on Saturday and Sunday offer a colorful show, HAA isn't just a spectator event. There are a variety of activities to experience throughout the Hot Air Affair, including some pre-events coming this week.

On Friday, January 11 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. there is a Meat Raffle Fundraiser at Big Guys BBQ Roadhouse. Enjoy a fun evening and help support the Hot Air Affair.

Stop by the Hudson County Market on Saturday, January 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for a countdown event to celebrate the Hot Air Affair "Pirates Fly'n the Croix-ribbean" theme. See a hot air balloon basket and kids can pick up coloring sheets of balloons.

There is a Candlelight Hike and Ski on Saturday evening from 5-8 p.m. at the YMCA Camp St. Croix's north property (DayCroix), sponsored by PCK Foundation. Candle-lit trails for cross-country skiing and hiking along with trail side fires for quick warm ups. Come see a hot air balloon. Complimentary refreshments hosted by Art Doyle's Spokes & Pedals.

Come out to support the Hot Air Affair for a fundraiser at the Hudson Jimmy John's on Monday, January 14 from 4-8 p.m. Say you're from the Hot Air Affair and help raise funds to bring Peg Leg Pete the Pirate Parrot balloon to the Hot Air Affair.

The Hot Air Affair brochures with event details will be available at local businesses and the Hudson Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau office. Visit their website at www.HudsonHotAirAffair.com for details and a complete event schedule. The Hot Air Affair Facebook page has the latest events and news.

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For more information or interviews, please contact Evy Nerbonne at 715-222-5375 or Carla Timmerman at 715-220-9550. Media interested in balloon flights during the 2019 Hudson Hot Air Affair should contact Nerbonne as soon as possible to reserve a spot during a flight.