

BALLOON FIESTA 2010 – A WONDERFUL SUCCESS!!!

David and Kay Piper, Wagon Masters
Rocky and Peggy Rahkola, Co-Wagon Masters

Wednesday was arrival day for the 2010 Monaco International Balloon Fiesta Rally. We parked our coaches in the VIP parking area at the south end of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta launch field. We had 55 coaches in attendance and with guests had 115 people. These coaches came from 20 different states and 3 Canadian provinces! Five of these coaches represented the Eastern states and five represented the Western states, and the rest came from the middle of the country and the Canadian provinces.

Thursday turned out to be a gorgeous day with perfect flying weather in the morning and fireworks in the evening. At noon we all enjoyed a tasty lunch at the Tanoan Country Club where the view of Albuquerque was a sight to behold.

Friday was a repeat of Thursday with wonderful weather for the special shapes balloons and the flying competitions. There were 650 special and regular shape balloons representing nineteen countries. Seventy eight of them were the special shapes, eighteen of them were new this year. It is a spectacular sight to see 650 balloons flying over our motor homes. Some of them were so close to us that we could talk to the pilots and passengers from where we were standing.

Also on Friday we were treated to a Mexican buffet at El Pinto Restaurant. That afternoon we enjoyed another social hour, Balloon Glow and a fantastic fireworks display.

How lucky we were to have another perfect, but cooler morning on Saturday. The balloons flew in mass and again were spectacular and the “Albuquerque Box” was really working. Saturday lunch was on our own, and we had time for shopping and sightseeing before another social hour and fireworks display that evening.

Sunday morning, the balloons did fly; but the box didn't work. This year, every morning the balloons flew which was a Fiesta record.

We would like to express our appreciation to those who helped park the coaches and prepare the food for our social hours.

We also would like to extend a very special thank you to Rocky and Peggy Rahkola who were valuable co-hosts for this rally.

The 39th annual Balloon Fiesta has now concluded, and a wonderful time was had by all!

The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta offices are busy preparing for the 40th Anniversary, October 1-9, 2011.