



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth Communications Office

411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-730-5230 | www.duluthmn.gov | Don Ness, Mayor

For more information contact Pakou Ly, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-5309
or Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator 218-730-4312

DATE: 04/05/2013

SUBJECT: Hot Air Balloon Festival Lands in Duluth

BY: Amy Norris, Public Information Coordinator

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Publication

April 5, 2013

CONTACT:

Ryan Kern, Duluth Airshow

218-628-9996

Roger Reinert, Minnesota Senate

651-296-4188

Hot Air Balloon Festival lands in Duluth

DULUTH, MN—For the first time ever an international hot air balloon festival will land in Bayfront Park September 20-22, 2013. The Duluth Airshow is proud to announce the arrival of a new aviation event which is free and open to the public - Le Festival des Montgolfières à Duluth, a.k.a. “Duluth Balloon Festival.” Along with hot air balloons, the event will feature many education related activities including launching of weather balloons and hands on activities for families.

Senator Roger Reinert and Mayor Don Ness are excited the Duluth Airshow and event organizers have seized an event of this caliber to join the ranks of Duluth’s growing list of powerhouse events and festivals.

“I can’t wait to see the colorful fleet of hot air balloons along the Duluth waterfront. Similar to tall ships, the ‘Montgolfières’ are a sight to behold,” said Senator Reinert. “I am pleased the Duluth Airshow has been able to secure another aviation event of this caliber for our region; one that celebrates a very special form of flight.”

Mayor Ness commented, “This festival is another excellent example of the sort of events Duluth’s waterfront and the prime location of Bayfront Festival Park can attract. The event marks a special blend of Duluth history, joining our French and aviation heritages and bringing them together during the peak season of fall colors.”

Ryan Kern, Duluth Airshow President and the lead organizer of the event says the Duluth Balloon Festival will be an educational opportunity for attendees in addition to the entertainment and activities that will also take place at the festival. “Flight has mystified people for generations. The Duluth Airshow is proud to bring another event to the community that features the importance of aviation to our region.”

John Strange, CEO of St. Luke’s, said “St. Luke’s is pleased to be the initial partner of the

Duluth Balloon Festival, an event which will allow families to spend time together on the shore of beautiful Lake Superior.”

Attendees will have a chance to view potential launches two hours after sunrise and two hours before sunset as well as take tethered balloon flights during the festival.

###