



# 2005 Northampton Balloon Festival

September 10th and 11th

Northampton Airport - 160 Old Ferry Rd., Northampton  
413.584.7980 - [www.pioneervalleyballoons.com](http://www.pioneervalleyballoons.com)  
contact is Sarah Carpenter

---

**August 28, 2005**

**For Immediate Release:**

**Northampton, MA--** The Fourth Annual Northampton Balloon Festival will be taking place Saturday, September 10th and Sunday, September 11th at the Northampton Airport. This two-day festival is completely free and open to the public and will include balloon pilots from all over New England. Whether families are looking for an interactive event for their children or couples are looking for romantic scenery, the festival is the place to be!

The festival will consist of a morning and evening launch on Saturday, September 10th and a morning launch on Sunday, September 11th. Boarding passes are still available and can be obtained by calling 413.584.7980.

Pioneer Valley Balloons, based at the Northampton Airport, has been flying balloons for over 15 years and has a 100% safety record. Manager of Pioneer Valley Balloons and veteran balloon pilot, Lisa Fusco, has over 700 hours of balloon pilot flight time. She is just one of the many experienced balloon pilots that will be present at this year's festival.

Another balloon pilot to join the 2005 Northampton Festival is Dr. Clayton Thomas of Brimfield, MA, who has over 35 years and 1700 hours of experience as a balloon pilot. Dr. Thomas has instructed over 128 individuals in the art of hot air ballooning and has introduced over 6,000 passengers to ballooning.

The festival is also proud to host Jim Clark of Bolton, CT, the pilot of the POW Forget Me Not Balloon, which is dedicated to United States soldiers missing and not returned home from all wars/conflicts. Jim's dedicated balloon crew is made up of veteran soldiers and supporters and have been working with him for over 25 years.

-End-