

From: EAA983 eaa983@gmail.com 
Subject: Great Plains Super Launch
Date: June 1, 2016 at 12:07 PM
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Hello EAA 983 members,!

The Great Plains Super Launch is only three weeks away and I wanted to enlist a little help from our EAA community.

Friday, June 17th will be our lecture / presentation day and I think I have that covered, but Saturday June 18th is our mass of balloons flight day. There is where I could really use some help!

The plan is to prep, fill and launch balloons from the area east of the pavilion, out and away enough so that EMS traffic and most regular Saturday morning Pecan air traffic won't be hampered by our activities. At roughly 9AM we plan to launch a flock of balloons.

I went to Fort Worth and had a meeting with about 15 FAA controllers and supervisors and they are enthusiastically supporting our event from the air traffic standpoint. But, I need help locally with making sure this group of mine does not wonder onto our runway unattended (sometimes our PHD folks get a little focused :) or that one of our neighbors runs his plane down through the area blowing us away. :) It would be nice to have some Pecan tribal knowledge help me keep things safe near the runway area and keep the EMS driveway clear.

Pecan traffic will only be disrupted for minutes, not hours during this event, we climb at 1000 or so fpm all the way to FL850-FL1350, meaning we will be in Pecan airspace for a short period only. We fill our balloons at the last minute of prepping payloads - say 8:40-8:45AM and then will launch at 9AM when ATC says the airway above us is clear or diverted as needed.

It would be really great if:

- We could get a stand-in flight controller to help with Pecan air and ground traffic at the time prior to and during launch,
- Have a plane or two in the air to shoot pictures of the balloons being prepped and later air-to-air for fun
- Have a chase plane follow the balloons to near the expected touch down area to help locate any balloons that may be hard to find. (He/she can stay below 100,000 ft as needed :)
- Possibly provide access to the hangar we use for EAA meetings, or someplace close, as we have a few pico balloons that need to be filled so accurately the weight of a penny can make or break the flight. We may fly these Friday after the relevant lecture, - these are around the world attempts.

If you are interested in attending the Super launch proceedings, you should find the presentations interesting and enjoyable. See Superlaunch.org.

Caveats:

If the winds are blowing us toward DFW airport, we will likely move our launch to Stephenville or Hillsboro to avoid the Class B congestion.

If it is rainy, really windy or low overcast we scrub.

Thank you!

--Michael Willett

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--Michael Willett
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‘Great Plains Super Launch’ in June:

Pecan Airpark to the Fringe of Space!

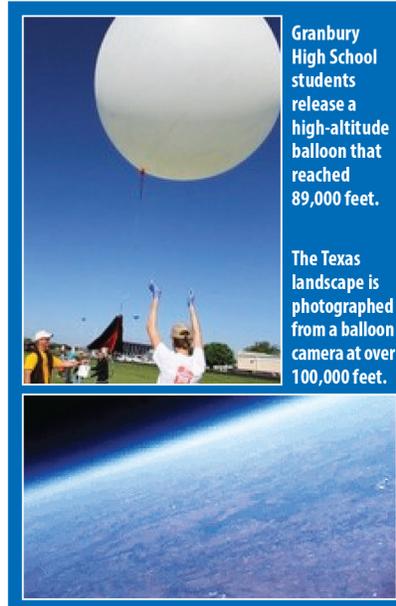
by Michael Willett

The Great Plains Super Launch is the premier international conference for near-space explorers and enthusiasts dedicated to the education and study of aerospace science via Amateur Radio High Altitude Ballooning (ARHAB).

Each year many involved with ARHAB gather in a common location to share ideas and our experiences – typically in the plains states of America. This year the conference is being held at Pecan Plantation June 16-18. The Great Plains Super Launch (GPSL) conference includes lectures and presentations focused on high-altitude ballooning and related experiments. These presentations and discussions can range from grade-school-level STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to Ph.D.-level experiments sampling ozone or detecting cosmic particles from stars. An upcoming project may include working with NASA to capture the total eclipse of the sun in 2017 as it moves across mid-America.

Most of the ARHAB efforts are focused on helping students from elementary grades through college level realize this

grass-roots facet of science, enabling the students to place their experiment in near space previously only available to the very lucky few who could hitch a ride



Granbury High School students release a high-altitude balloon that reached 89,000 feet.

The Texas landscape is photographed from a balloon camera at over 100,000 feet.

to space on a rocket or the space shuttle. Now that NASA has greatly reduced close-orbit space efforts, high-altitude

ballooning has become the vehicle for many of these experiments!

You can find more information on the GPSL Web site at www.SuperLaunch.org.

Pecan residents who wish to attend the conference can register at www.SuperLaunch.org. Registration is open to the public. The conference is being held in the Pecan clubhouse ballroom and costs \$90 per person, which includes an almost-all-inclusive meal package comprised of three meals and all-day snacks on Friday, June 17, and a light breakfast and late lunch on Saturday the 18th, as well as conference registration fees. This conference appeals to those with aeronautical, science, space or communication-technologies interests. Weather permitting, the balloon release will take place at Plane View Park at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 18. You do not need to be registered participant of the conference to watch the launch – just come on out to the park at the end of the Airpark runway (appx. 5400 Wedgefield Rd.) on June 18.

See www.SuperLaunch.org for the detailed schedule of the weekend event. For questions, e-mail to K5NOT@ARRL.org.