

February 14, 2018

Ballston Spa, NY

The 5th Annual Saratoga Balloon and BBQ Festival is back once again at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds in Ballston Spa. There are two important differences in 2018: The Festival will no longer be held on Father's Day Weekend; the new date is June 22-24. Perhaps, more importantly, the name of the Festival has changed: formerly the Saratoga Balloon and Craft Festival has become the Saratoga Balloon and BBQ Festival.

After four successful years, the event organizers realized that they wanted to create a bigger and better event. Organizer, Tim Cianciola, from Craftproducers, said "We needed to diversify and add non-balloon related components." "There's nothing more appealing than mouth watering barbecue," added Christian Dutcher, co-organizer, from Americade. "With the barbecue and bacon additions, no one will be disappointed."

Both organizers agree that by adding barbeque the Festival will have a far greater appeal. Cianciola points out, "People love to eat and drink. We will add a craft beer pavilion and serve wine too. With all the abundant great entertainment our audience can have an enjoyable day." Dutcher points out, "Let's not dismiss the balloons; they are worth the price of admission. As they ascend a parade of skyward seeking colorful balloons and their passengers leave behind their friends on the ground. Actually an amazing sight."

Besides the balloons and barbeque, The Festival will add a "bacon" theme. Organizers expect to host a dozen vendors serving bacon on one form or another. How about bacon ice-cream? With all the emphasis on eating and drinking, there's still a full slate of options at the Balloon and BBQ Festival. The popular Kids Zone will be there with games, bounce houses, tethered balloon rides, pony rides, petting zoo, face painting, balloon twisting, a magician, and a walk-about balloon. For the adults, the Marketplace has a cornucopia of art, craft, specialty foods, and commercial vendors. It makes for creative shopping. Throw in a helicopter ride for excitement will really make it a memorable day.

While waiting for the Balloon launches or the Balloon Glow, there's a lot to choose from. World famous street performers like Brent McCoy, a comic juggler, and magician, Kozmo, will have their audience howling with laughter. The Jersey Disc Devils, a team of trained pups, who amaze with their talented routines delighting young and old alike. If this is not enough, there will be several bands throughout the weekend to provide ambiance to those eating and savoring their drinks.

So keep the date: The 5th Annual Saratoga Balloon and BBQ Festival, at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds, June 22-24. The show opens on Friday at 3PM and closes after the Balloon Glow at dusk. Saturday runs from 10 until 8PM. Sunday hours are 10-4. Adult admission is \$10, kids \$5. Discounted advance sales tickets are available on the the Festival website www.balloonandbbq.com. Besides the Jersey Disc Devils, no dogs are allowed at the Fairgrounds.