

# 2011 MidUSA Ohio Challenge Balloon Pilots

Middletown hosted the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships in 1992, 1993, 1994. For the next several years, residents kept asking when the balloons would return. In 2003, the MidUSA Ohio Challenge (formerly MidFirst) began with 30 balloons and a small ground festival.

In 2011, the event now involves 40 hot air balloons and a full ground festival. The MidUSA Ohio Challenge has become a premier event in Butler County and is a part of family, group and reunion plans. The public/private partnership and many grants and sponsorships make the event friendly to family budgets.

Participating hot air balloons are all flown by licensed balloon pilots and will take to the skies in the Middletown area, weather permitting, per the schedule in this program. Balloons can fly only when the air currents are less than 10 mph aloft. Conditions for hot air balloon flights generally are only in the time immediately after sunrise until about 9am and again in the evening from about 6pm to official sunset when all balloon craft must be on the ground. (Even when balloons cannot fly, there is still much to see and do at Smith Park in Middletown.)

### Balloons flicker in the night like giant fireflies

After dark on Friday and Saturday nights, weather permitting, many of the balloons will “glow” on site for the guests in Smith Park topped off with a pyrotechnics show by Team Fastrax Skydivers.



**Purple People Eater**  
John Cavin  
Indialantic, FL

**1 Celtic Cross**  
David Troutman  
Louisville, KY  
**2010 Champion**



**2 American Football**  
Henry Rosenbaum  
Mechanicsville, VA  
2nd 2010



**3 Second Wind**  
Michael Emich  
Akron, OH  
3rd-2009 & 2010



**4 NIKE**  
Nicholas Donner  
Fisherville, KY  
2009 Champion



**5 Twisted Charlie**  
Scott McClinton  
Prospect KY  
2007 Champion



**6 Arrythmia**  
Rick Cusick  
Lima, OH  
2005 Champion



**7 Adam's Nirvana**  
Ron Terranova  
Fairfield, OH  
2004 Champion



**8** Atrium Medical Center/  
BOHICA  
Sean Askren  
Middletown, OH



**9** Tumbleweed  
Jeff Bartlett  
Mentor, OH



**10** Who Cares  
Jim Birk  
Defiance, OH



**11** Conglomeration  
Zachary Burgess  
Kent, OH



**12** IMTS - International  
Manufacturing  
Technology Shows  
Gary Cass



**13** Butter Knot  
Jim Cusick  
Marysville, OH



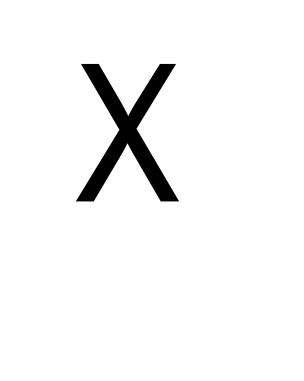
**14** Acolus  
Chase Donner  
Indianapolis, IN



**15** Still Contagious  
Ken Draughn  
Burlington, NC



**16** Release  
Dr. Mark Frazer  
Middletown, OH



**17** Withdrawn



**18** Smiley  
Michael Gliatti  
Lebanon, OH



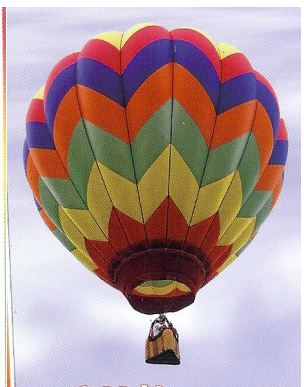
**19** Wind Trek  
Rick Kohut  
Louisville, OH



**20** Bella Vista  
Rob Konkus  
Lebanon, OH



**21** Moonlight Sun  
Janet Lutkus  
Medina, OH



**22** Miss Niagara  
Charlie Mays, Sr  
Williamsburg, OH



**23** ARAY  
Charlie Mays, Jr  
Ryland Heights, KY



**24** Big Little Red  
Matt McClinton  
Prospect, KY



**25** Tuscan Sunrise  
William Meserth  
Springboro, OH



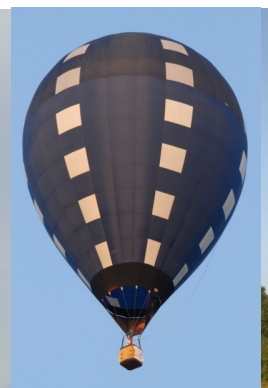
**26** Littlest Angel  
Ben Miller  
Louisville, OH



**27** Big Red  
A J Nels  
Beavercreek, OH



**28** Carolina Racer  
Sam Parks  
Statesville, NC



**29** Special Purpose  
Jeff Pestun  
Zeeland, MI



**30** Zula Lima  
Paul Petrehn  
Howell, MI

X



**31 - Withdrawn**

**32** Hot Flash  
Socrates Rettos  
Liberty Twp, OH



**33** Last Gasp  
Shannon Rote  
Doylestown, OH



**34** Two Sweet  
Jeffrey Sweet  
Indian Trail, NC



**35** Balloons Balloons  
Travis Vencel  
Bloomington, IN



**36** Legal Eagle  
Theodore Watts  
Meadville, PA



**37** Mariah  
Mark Yeakle  
Springboro, OH



**38** Airgasm  
Debby Young  
Newbury, OH

**39** Superfluous  
Larry Coan  
Livonia, MI

## BALLOONING IN MIDDLETOWN 2 Champs From One Event

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## MidUSA Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival Past Champions

2003 - No Champion - Very few competitive tasks could be flown due to bad weather.

2004 - Ron Terranova - Fairfield, OH

2005 - Rick Cusick - Lima, OH

2006 - James Wannemacher - Middletown, OH

2007 - Scott McClinton - Prospect, KY

2008 - Robert Mihaly - Lakewood, OH

2009 - Nicholas Donner - Indianapolis, IN

2010 - David Troutman - Louisville, KY

The top three competitors from the previous year are given the first three banner numbers.

2010- David Troutman  
Henry Rosenbaum  
Michael Emich

## Ohio Champion Will Go Straight to Nationals - 2011

The highest finishing pilot residing in Ohio will be declared the Ohio State Champion and will earn a coveted spot in the 2012 US National Hot Air Balloon Championship to be held in Longview, TX

Adding the Ohio State Hot Air Balloon Championship to the MidUSA Ohio Challenge IX is extremely exciting for all Ohio pilots. The addition of the State Championship will be seamless and transparent-- running simultaneously with the weekend event.

## Spirit of the Challenge Award

The award began in 2010 – the 8<sup>th</sup> Year of the Ohio Challenge Hot Air Balloon Festival. The Spirit of the Challenge Award is given to an individual or group demonstrating enthusiasm, hard work, creativity and/or outstanding effort in support of the Ohio Challenge event chosen by the Executive Committee.

### Winners:

2010 Winner - James Wannemacher, Balloon Pilot/Executive Committee Member