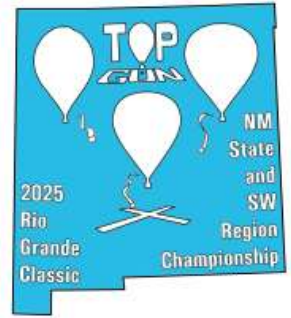




# Rio Grande Classic 2025

## May 23-26



A special thank you to our sponsors!

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Balloon Port

**Platinum Sponsor:** Centric Title & Escrow

**Gold Sponsor:** Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

**Silver Sponsors:** Brew Lab 101, Siarza-Public Relations, DeSantis Realty, Highland Balloon Repair, The Top Gun Target Team

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**Official hashtag for social media:** **#RGC2025**

### Rio Grande Classic 2025 Schedule of Events

#### Friday, May 23rd

- Registration Party and Master Briefing: 4 pm to 7 pm at:
  - Brew Lab 101 - 3301 Southern Blvd SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124
- Register and pick up your pilot bags.
- Sponsors, Pilots and Crew welcome!
- Appetizers from M'tucci's Italian Restaurant will be served.
- Start a tab for you and your crew at the bar.
- Master Briefing will be at 6:00 pm – ALL PILOTS MUST ATTEND

#### Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> (sunrise 05:55)

#### and Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> ( (sunrise 05:55)

- Pilot Briefing
  - Elks Lodge, 1530 Barbara Loop SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124
  - Doors open at 5:00 am
  - Continental Breakfast & Coffee -all crew welcome!
  - 5:25 am Pilot Briefing begins -Pilot plus Navigator/Crew Chief only at briefing tables
- Post Flight (BEFORE REFUELING) Drop off Baggies at Elks Lodge
- Refueling with Ortega's Propane, 8 to noon- 3914 2nd St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

#### Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day (sunrise 05:54)

- Pilot Briefing
  - Elks Lodge, 1530 Barbara Loop SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124
  - Doors open at 5:00 am
  - Continental Breakfast & Coffee -all crew welcome!
  - 5:25 am Pilot Briefing begins -Pilot plus Navigator/Crew Chief only in the briefing room
- Post Flight (BEFORE REFUELING) Drop off Baggies at Elks Lodge
- Refueling with Ortega's Propane, 8 to 11- 3914 2nd St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107
- **11:30 am – 1:30 pm Awards Ceremony** at Elks Lodge -
  - (Note: Absolutely No Outside Beverages are allowed. Bar will be open inside.)

## **Your Event Director for the 2025 Rio Grande Classic is Paolo Oggioni**

### **Paolo Oggioni – RGC Event Director**



I started ballooning in 1989 as a crew member and got my certificate in 1999. Since then I have flown almost 3,000 hours in many different countries both privately and commercially. I have won the Italian Nationals 3 times and participated in many continental and world championships. I have directed quite a few National Championships in Europe, mainly in the UK and Denmark and I directed the last World Championships in 2024 in Hungary. I am also a FAI/CIA Senior Juror. I have been the FAI/CIA Secretary for 5 years from 2015 to 2019.

### **Jody Browning – RGC Assistant Event Director**



Jody was born and raised in Albuquerque and got involved in ballooning in 2019, and got his LTA certificate in early 2021. He enjoys leisurely flying with his kids, family and friends. Jody has been a Navigator for multiple RGCs, US Nationals, Women's Nationals, and Top Gun events over the years, enjoying the challenge of helping the pilot adding electronics into their competitions. Outside of ballooning, he and his wife stay busy with two boys and their hectic sports schedules.

### **Grant Tosterud – RGC Weather Official**



Grant Tosterud is the Chief Meteorologist at KRQE News 13 in Albuquerque. Grant grew up in North Dakota where his passion for weather started at a very young age. He got his meteorology degree from the University of Oklahoma. In his free time, Grant loves exploring New Mexico, especially hiking and skiing. Grant is also a bit of an aviation buff and loves combining his passion for weather with hot air ballooning. Grant has previously helped do the weather for the Rio Grande Classic in 2022 and is excited to be back helping out again this year!