

Press release - 17. Februar 2016

The second edition of “balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT” in Zell am See-Kaprun is over!

The dates for 2017: February 11 – 18, 2017

More than 30 balloons from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Great Britain competed for trophies in 6 competitions on 4 days during the second “balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT”. The Swiss balloon pilot Eugen Nussbaumer was the winner of the sportive competitions: All participants were fascinated by the picturesque mountain scenery around Zell am See-Kaprun.

On Saturday, February 6th, the participants met for the first briefing and the Welcome Cocktail at the TAUERNSPA in Zell am See-Kaprun. On the next day, the weather did not allow for competitions to take place. On Monday, February 8th, the Dutch Dirk Wendt won the competition “Hare and Hounds” and the Austrian balloon pilot Christian “Wuzi” Wagner won the first “Maximum Distance Flight”. The weather on February 9th allowed for only one competition, the “Minimum Distance Flight”, won by Inge and Richard Mayrhofer from Austria.

After heavy snowfall on Wednesday, February 10th, without competitions, the Swiss Eugen Nussbaumer won the second “Maximum Distance Flight” on the following day. On the last day of the competitions, Friday February 12th, the Czech Petr Havlacek won the popular competition “Fly-In” near Lake Zell and the Austrian Leo Rawa won the third “Maximum Distance Flight”.

The Swiss Eugen Nussbaumer won the final result; last year’s winner, Austrian Christian “Wuzi” Wagner came in second this year.

The “Night Glow” in Kaprun, (Monday, February 8th) with about 3000 spectators and the “Night Glow” in Zell am See (Wednesday, February 11th) with about 3500 spectators were a full success. The glowing balloon envelopes fascinated children and adults alike. Also, performances of the ski instructors, local companies (Bergbahnen) and a fire show created a unique ambiance.

Jupp Hein and his new attraction, shows for kids with a model balloon, made children smile. His shows took place at the airfield in Zell am See and he also visited kindergartens in the area as well as the Caritas in Bruck.

The group of balloon enthusiasts will come back next year to the area of Zell am See-Kaprun. The dates for “balloonalps 2017 – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT” are set: **February 11-18, 2017.**

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FACTS OF THE EVENT 2016

- More than 30 balloons (compared to 20 in 2015)
- 6 competitions in the course of 4 days (the weather did not allow for competitions to take place on 2 days)
- 4 Social Events for participants:
 - Welcome Cocktail - TAUERN SPA
 - Casino Night - Zell am See
 - "Weißwurst" meal (Bavarian veal sausage) – restaurant of the airfield
 - Award ceremony – Kaprun castle
- 1 lecture
- 2 "Night Glows" – free entry!
 - Kaprun: about 3.000 visitors – 15 balloons on site
 - Zell am See: about 3.500 visitors – 8 balloons on site
- NEW: Shows for kids with a model balloon: airfield, kindergartens, Caritas, Night Glows etc.
- Team balloonalps 2016: more than 15 people helped to make this event a great success!

FEEDBACK

Mag. Renate Ecker, Managing Director Zell am See Tourismus GmbH:

"We are very proud that also the second edition of "balloonalps– THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT" was such a great success. The Night Glow was a unique event that fascinated adults and children alike. We are very happy to be cooperating again in 2017 and we hope to be working together for many years to come. A balloon ride, no matter in which direction you go, is a unique experience with the beautiful winter scenery and the impressive mountain range around Zell am See-Kaprun and never to be forgotten. Especially the Fly-In across the Lake Zell was extremely pulsating and caused great excitement.

Gerhard Hobiger, Organizer balloonalps 2016:

„For my part, it was a great sequel to the striking success of the first event in 2015. The weather was fine and we were able to carry out six competitions despite the bad weather forecasts. The very positive feedback of the participants shows that they were very satisfied with the overall organization. Many participated in the program, the lecture, Welcome Cocktail, Casino Night, "Weißwurst" meal, the evening event in Kaprun Castle and many other events. My expectations were exceeded in every way and I am looking very much forward to organizing 'balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT' in 2017."

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MMag. Heinz Derflinger, Head of Marketing balloonalps 2016:

“Also in 2016, the event was a great success in Zell am See-Kaprun. I am very happy to be there right from the beginning and to be a part of this annual event where I can put my 20 years of experience in organizing events to a good use. We have great visions for this event and the coming years will show if our visions will become reality. We achieved our goals set for 2016 and preparations for 2017 have begun. We want to grow continuously in a good and healthy way. Our goal for 2017: 40 balloon participating at the balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT.”

Werner Schrank, Competition Manager balloonalps 2016:

“In 2015 we laid out the foundation of a great event with competitions. We were able to keep up and even surpass this level in 2016. We offer a combination of fun and competitions and the participants’ feedback is fantastic. Be it the “Long Distance Flight”, the crossing of the Alps or the Fly-Ins across the Lake Zell, taking off here is just amazing. I am very much looking forward to more competitions here in Zell am See-Kaprun because the next winter is just around the corner.”

Andreas Lanzinger, meteorologist balloonalps 2016

“In the beginning the forecasts showed very unsettled weather conditions. But the great variety of the region and the flexibility in planning made wonderful balloon rides and interesting competitions possible.”

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FINAL RESULTS

position	points	Team	pilot	nation
1	153	Sky Fun Balloon Team	Eugen Nussbaumer	SUI
2	150	www.fallschirmspringen.at	Christian Wuzi Wagner	AUT
3	145	Bilek & Schül	Richard Mayerhofer	AUT
4	143	Pink Spiral	Manfred Oschounig	AUT
5	139	Eco Magic	Leo Rawa	AUT
6	136	Reach for the Sky Ltd.	Anthony Brown	GBR
7	129	Flaggl Ballooning 1	Peter Flaggl	AUT
8	123	Ballonsportfreunde Aloisius	Michael Abel	AUT
9	121	Country Benovy	Petr Havlacek	CZE
10	120	Hulvat a Holomek CZ	Jaroslav Kaiser	CZE
11	115	Ballonclub Alpenrheintal 1	Arthur Müggler	SUI
12	113	Balloonalps	Anton Peter	AUT
13	111	SUN	Karl Mann	AUT
14	104	Special Balloon Service	Dirk Wendt	NED
15	103	Regenbogen	Günther Brunnthaler	AUT
16	102	Ballonclub Alpenrheintal 2	Andreas Frank	SUI
17	101	Pink Skyvan	Thomas Lewetz	AUT
	101	Stone 4 you	Franz Urban	AUT
19	96	AMA	Martin Mörtinger	AUT
20	93	Waldviertler Ballooning	Thomas Stauderer	AUT
21	92	Frederik	Gerhard Weisz	AUT
22	87	Team Bachstroem	Nils Bachstroem	GER
	87	Team Papageno	Peter Derganc	AUT
	87	Flaggl Ballooning 2	Andreas Flaggl	AUT
	87	Haberler	Michael Haberler	AUT
	87	Zillertal Arena	Karl Maierhofer	AUT
	87	Team Henry Schwarz	Henry Schwarz	GER
	87	Jonny	Andreas Simoner	AUT

Please note: Not all the balloons took part in competitions!

the 6 winners

- Competition 1: Pilot Dirk Wendt, Team Special Balloon Service (NED)
- Competition 2: Pilot Christian Wuzi Wagner, Team www.fallschirmspringen.at (AUT)
- Competition 3: Pilot Inge & Richard Mayerhofer, Team Bilek & Schül (AUT)
- Competition 4: Pilot Eugen Nussbaumer, Team Sky Fun Balloon (SUI)
- Competition 5: Pilot Petr Havlacek, Team Country Benovy (CZE)
- Competition 6: Pilot Leo Rawa, Team Eco Magic (AUT)

COTACT

balloonalps – THE ALPS CROSSING EVENT / 2016

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