

July 22, 1017

**SITE VISIT – SID CUTTER PILOTS’ PAVILION**  
**New Site of the 2017 Duke City Hamfest**

Background: Due to apparent collusion among all of the hotels in Albuquerque, they have raised prices this year for hosting the DCHF several-fold to the point where the DCHF board had to choose between dramatically raising its entrance fees, banquet fees, etc. in order stay at a hotel – or looking for a non-traditional site within our traditional budget. The board selected the brand new Sid Cutter Pilots’ Pavilion at the south end of Balloon Fiesta Park as its best alternative. Better yet it is able to *reduce* prices compared to last year’s Hamfest.

Facilities: The main building (Pavilion) can be divided into two uneven sections (1/3 & 2/3). The smaller section is not available on Friday but on Saturday/Sunday will house the indoor swap meet and club tables. The larger section will house the commercial vendors. The smaller building attached to the Pavilion via the blue-covered tunnel is the public restrooms. There is also a small semi-covered patio on the west side of these restrooms which will provide a quiet area for friends to sit down and visit.

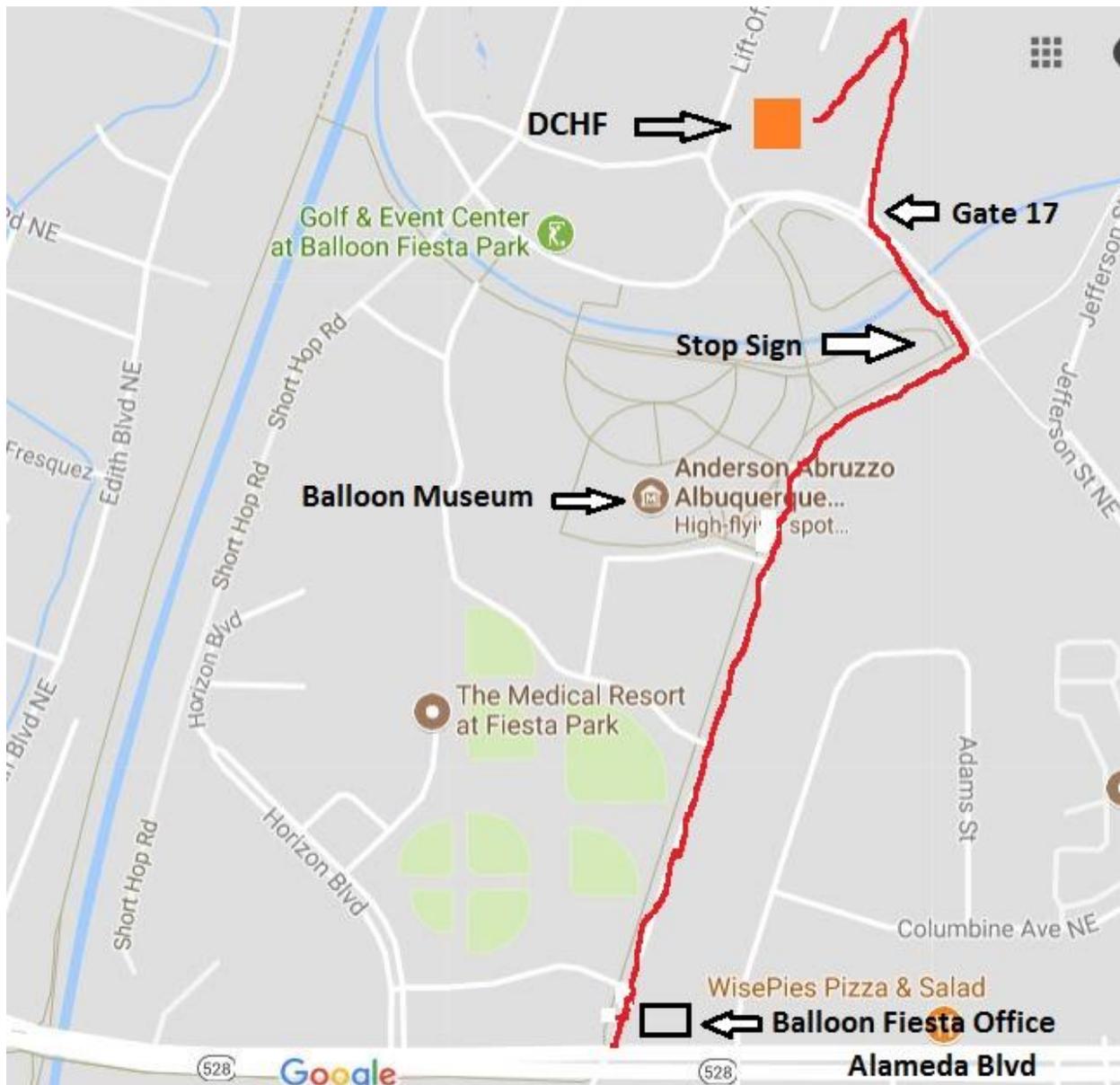
The City of Albuquerque will erect *three* tents one of which will be used by the HF University on Friday and all three as forum rooms on Saturday and Sunday. These are not your ordinary tents; they are insulated and air cooled. They should work out fine for our needs.

The outdoor tailgate will be held on Saturday only and will be situated in the parking area closest to the bluff southeast of the Pavilion. We will have roughly the same number of parking stalls as in past years but with one improvement...last year, hotel patrons already had taken some of our allotted tailgate spaces. Balloon Fiesta Park does not permit overnight parking on the grounds so we can claim our entire allotted spaces by arriving before 6 AM on Saturday. There is plenty of other parking nearby for hams.

In conclusion, the DCHF board has worked hard to make this new facility work. Our alternative is to go back to renting hotel facilities with its associated higher costs to all. No doubt there will be some glitches in this first year but hopefully they can be corrected this year or next. The City of Albuquerque has been a strong partner with us by doing their best to provide us what we need.

Pete Stine, KE5WTM

**MAP - TO THE 2017 DUKE CITY HAMFEST**  
Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavilion  
at the City of Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta Park



Directions:

1. From Alameda Blvd, turn north on Balloon Fiesta Parkway,
2. Drive past the Balloon Fiesta office and Balloon Museum to the stop sign.
3. Turn left as stop sign, proceed a short distance to Magic Ave (Gate 17),
4. Turn right and drive down the hill between the fences with the flag poles on them.
5. At the bottom of the hill, make a sharp left turn to drive over to the Pavilion (the large building on your left).
6. The tailgate area is the parking area nestled next to the bluff southeast of the Pavilion.

## PHOTOS



Sid Cutter Pilots' Pavilion



Entrance tunnel



Inside Pavilion from west end



Looking south in "smaller" room



Looking SE in "larger room"



View north from inside Pavilion



Restrooms inside entrance tunnel



Patio west of tunnel



1 of 3 insulated tents used for forums



Inside tent looking south



Inside tent looking east



Looking SW toward tailgate area



Tailgate area looking east



Portable restrooms in tailgate area



Tailgate area looking west