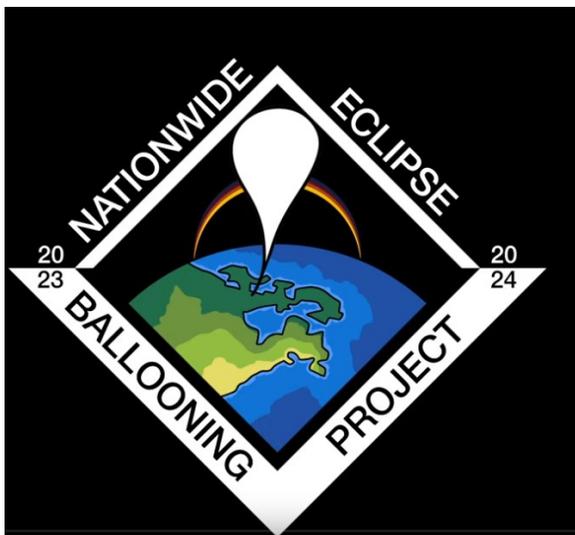


OCTOBER ANNULAR ECLIPSE - Oct 11-15, 2023

Club members Dr J. Pallis KC1MHU, David Mestre KB1YYJ and Larry Reed AB1JC along with University of Bridgeport faculty (Dr Pallis) & University of New Haven faculty Dr Qiu, with Graduate students traveled to San Antonio, TX to launch a high altitude balloon carrying a research payload during the Annular Solar Eclipse known as “the ring of fire. This was done for the Nation Wide Eclipse Ballooning Project”, sponsored by NASA & CT Space Grant Consortium and STEM.”



Ballooning project logo



*Everyone involved with this ballooning project.
Each launched their own balloon*

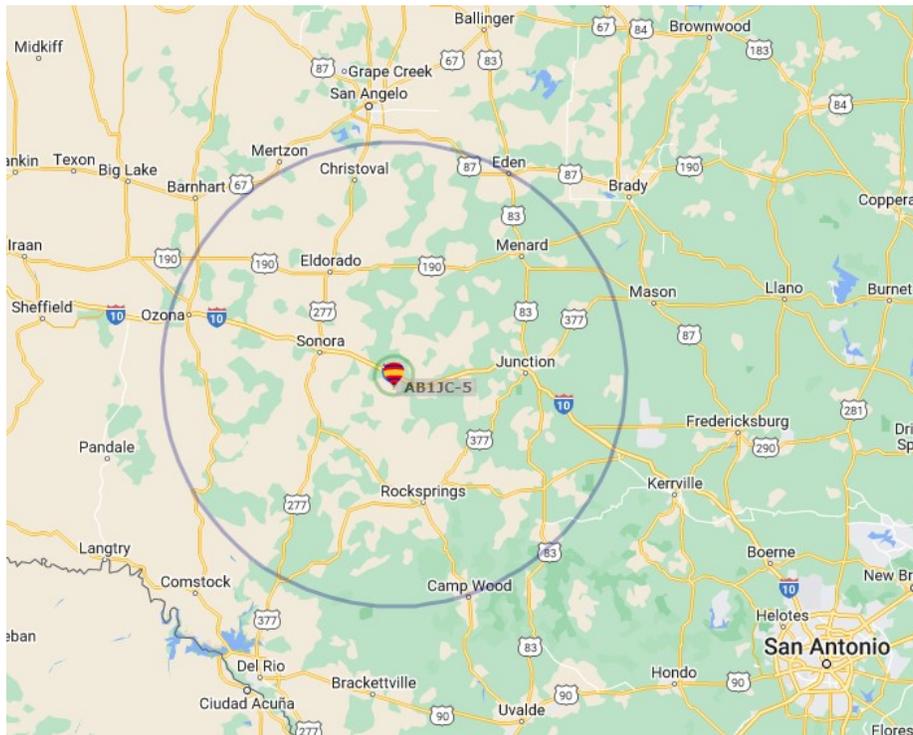


Club members Larry AB1JC (3rd from right), David KB1YYJ (center), UB & UNH Grad students leave from UB parking lot to La Guardia airport on their way to TX.



Mr. T (Texas Tarantula) in one of the proposed launch sites for the eclipse balloon.

OCTOBER ANNULAR ECLIPSE - Oct 11-15, 2023



The balloon Launch Point, west of Junction, TX and off of I-10. Junction TX will experience a full annual eclipse



Launch Point for balloon. First it had to be cleared of cacti.



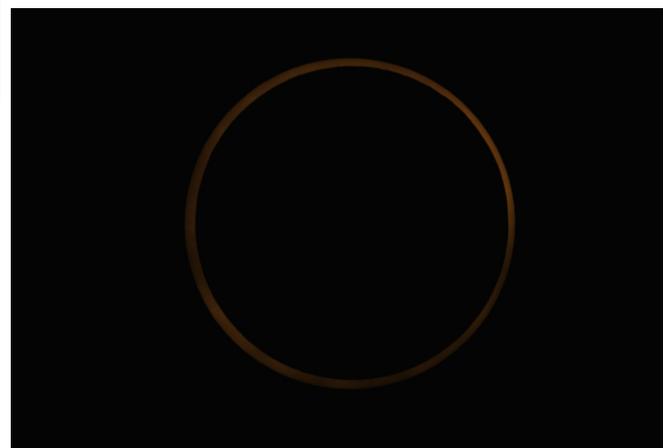
Above: Sam KC1HOD prepares the radar reflector



Above: Successful launch of the balloon and all 5 payloads



Left: The team celebrates the successful launch after years of hard work!



Pictures of the annular eclipse (Ring of Fire) captured from the launch point ground cameras and telescopes.

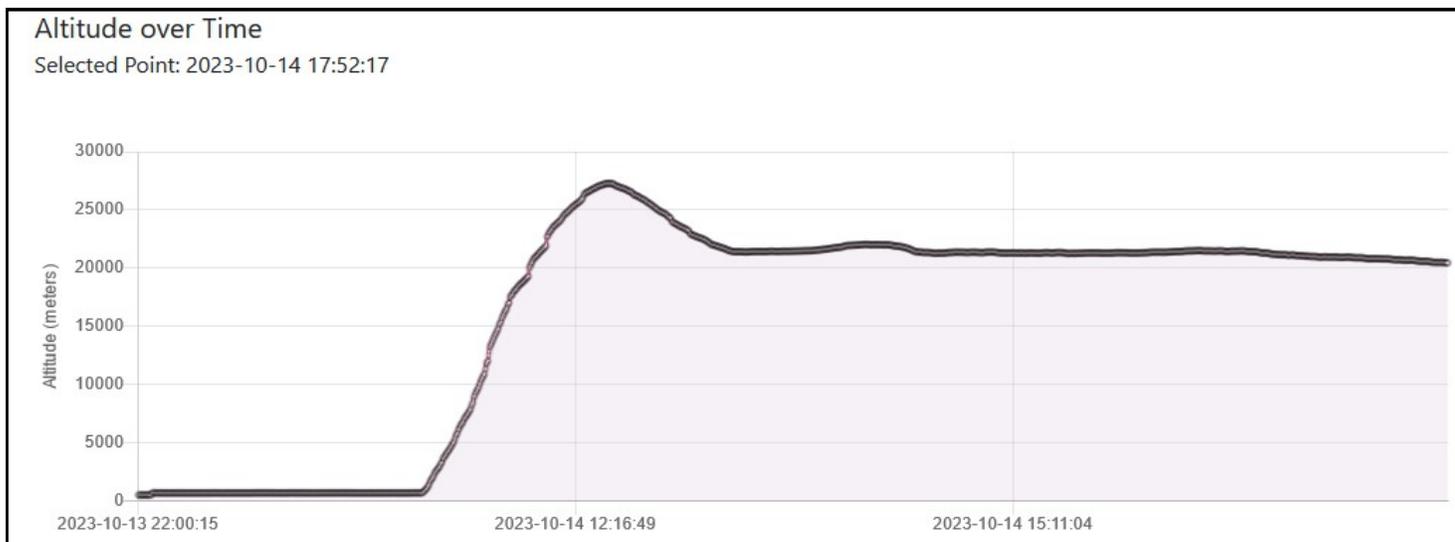
The balloon's research involved taking measurements at altitude and pictures to the sides at altitude, prior, during and after the eclipse.



Pictures from the two on-board cameras.

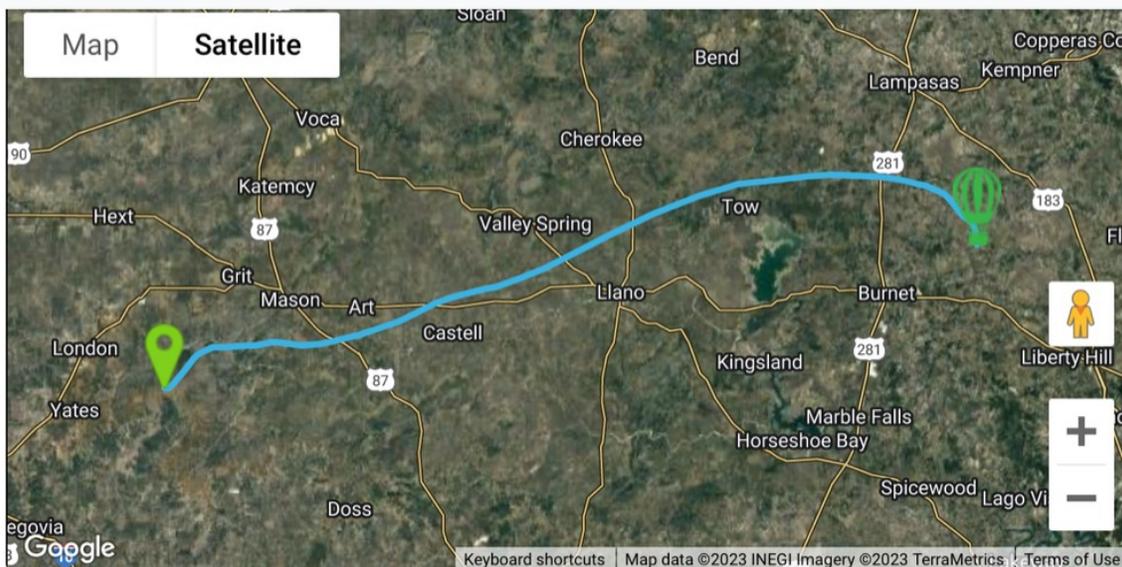
The cameras were 180 degrees apart and pointed horizontally





Altitude profile from the University of Montana. Info gathered by the balloon was sent via satellite link to the University in real time. After opening the vent at altitude, the balloon hovered and loitered at about 72,000 ft for the eclipse.

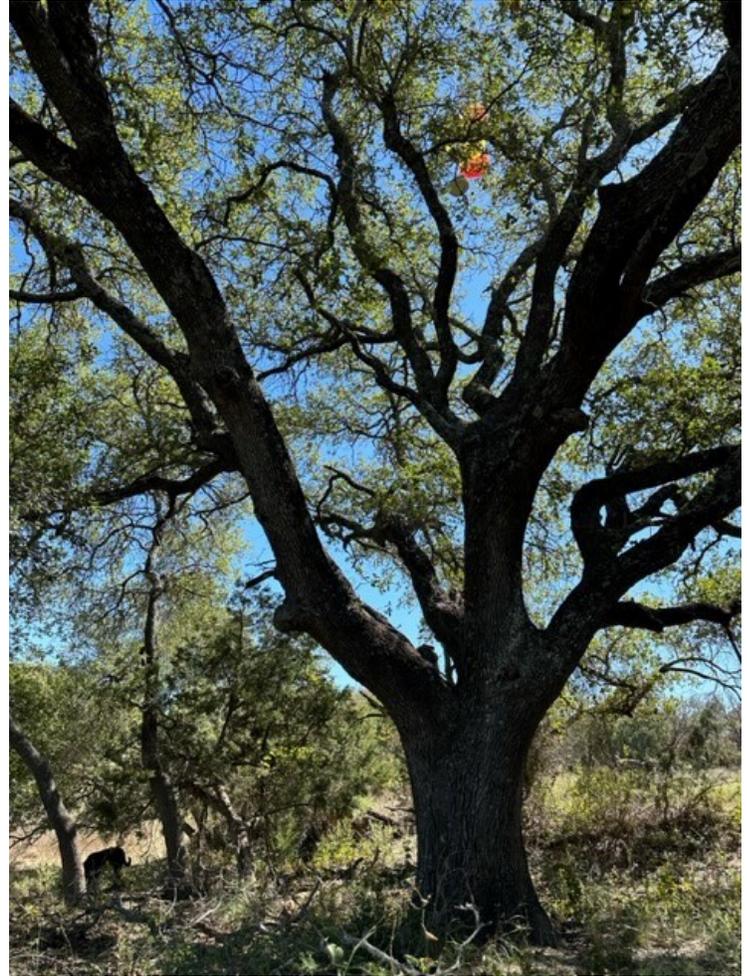
MSU Borealis



Flight path from the University of Montana. Note: The cut-down mechanism failed in flight so the balloon loitered for many hours. The balloon eventually came to rest north east of Burnet, TX. It is unknown at this time if the payload was recovered. (and of course, it landed in one of the only trees in the area)

The Team will now return home and prepare for the April 2024 full solar eclipse. It is planned to have two teams, one fly back to Texas for a launch and another to upstate NY or VT to launch a second balloon, possibly with an updated robotic monkey.





The Landowner found the balloon