

## **Ike Cancels RE/MAX Ballunar Liftoff Festival**

Houston (NASA), Texas-Sept 23, 2008-After much serious deliberation and analysis of resources, it has been decided to cancel the 16<sup>th</sup> annual edition of the RE/MAX Ballunar Liftoff Festival, originally scheduled for this coming Oct 31-Nov 2 at the NASA/Johnson Space Center.

Extensive damage locally, the hurricane recovery effort, a long-term regional scarcity of industrial generators, light-towers and other resources, plus a legion of volunteers now pressed into service with their own household and business recovery, combine to severely undermine the feasibility and logistics of conducting the event this year.

Organizers stress that by no means does this signal an end to this great Gulf Coast family tradition, and that plans and dates for the 2009 Festival will be posted at [www.ballunarfestival.com](http://www.ballunarfestival.com) shortly following an October meeting of the Ballunar Board of Directors.

“Our profound thanks and appreciation to the City of Nassau Bay, our sponsors, local municipalities, thousands of dedicated volunteers, and the NASA/Johnson Space Center for their commitment to this wholesome community tradition,” said Richard Filip, CEO, RE/MAX of Texas.

“While we regret this announcement on behalf of all our loyal patrons, participating pilots and sponsors, we’re confident that next year’s festival will be the best yet, building further on the traditions established here over the past two decades.”

The RE/MAX Ballunar Liftoff Festival is a not-for-profit organization managed by a Board of Directors whose mission is to encourage young people’s interest in science and math through the discovery of aeronautics. Produced annually by thousands of volunteers, the festival is a weekend-long tribute to mankind’s fascination with flight featuring scores of hot air balloons in navigational competitions, a variety of powered-flight vehicles, and a behind-the-scenes NASA mini-tour all set in a carnival atmosphere with children’s midway and entertainment for the entire family.

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