

To All Dallas Camera Club Members,

September is upon us, however, despite today's conditions, cooler weather is not. The start of September means that we have another field trip coming up! Two weeks from today will mark the beginning of the annual Plano Balloon Festival!

This annual event takes place in Plano, Texas, usually in September. This year's festival runs from Thursday, September 17 through Sunday, September 20. It features balloon launches, displays, evening balloon glows, and tethered rides. It is a family-friendly event with festivities starting on Thursday evening. Click on the link below to go to their website where you will find the full schedule with starting times, of all events during the festival as well as directions, a location map, and more information. As you will see, there are lots of things going on each day which allows you some flexibility to fit your schedule.

[Official Site of the Plano Balloon Festival](#)

Saturday starts early, opening at 6:00 AM, so plan to get there in time to see the balloons launch! Musical performances are scheduled for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday on the Fox 4 Stage. There is also a Food Court and Merchandise Vendors available if you are interested. At the last meeting, a question came up, or maybe it was a concern, about the traffic and getting to and from the festival. Thanks to Michael Farnham, we now know that there is a shuttle to the festival that runs continuously during festival hours! Here is the information on that. Thanks Michael!!!

Yes, a free continuous shuttle bus runs between the [DART Parker Road Station](#) and the [Plano Balloon Festival](#) during event hours.

Shuttle and Transit Details

- Pickup Location: [DART Parker Road Station \(2600 Archerwood Blvd, Plano, TX 75074\)](#).
- Drop-off Location: Admission Gate 4 at Oak Point Park / Red Tail Pavilion.
- Cost: Free.

- Schedule: Runs continuously during festival operating hours (September 17–20, 2026). Most users on [Reddit](#) agree that taking the shuttle from the DART station is one of the best ways to skip severe event traffic and parking congestion.

Another question came up about meeting on Saturday, the main day. Saturday, the festival opens at 6:00 AM. If you are there that early, it will probably still be dark. A good place to meet when it gets lighter would be around the food court, but I'm not sure what time would be best. For those that are interested, maybe we could meet there later in the morning? However, I don't know if anyone will want to stop shooting to go there just to meet. Let me know what you think about that.

Lastly, September means that we're one month closer to our October out of town field trip. Have you started planning for our Route 66 Road Trip? I have already sent out some information, including a list of suggested hotels in each destination. More details will be coming out soon, and you can also look to this month's newsletter (it's on the website and you should have also received it in an email from Nancy Mack), Through The Lens, for a lot more information that will help you plan your trip. This is the 100th Anniversary of The Mother Road. You don't want to miss it!

Thanks everyone! I hope to see you at each of these events!

Robert Shafer