

# Hunterdon Review

June 17, 2016

## Running with the Balloons 5K race returns to Readington



**READINGTON TWP.** – The Advil Running with the Balloons 5K Cross-Road Challenge presented by Power Crunch, will race through the QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning in Association with PNC Bank, at 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 31, at Solberg Airport.

There are 15,000 5K races held in the United States, but this one takes runners to new heights.

Combining the elements of cross-country with a traditional road race, the flat, fast, low-impact USATF-NJ certified course features a mix of surfaces including grass, pavement, gravel and dirt road. Runners race past the balloon launch field while Sunday morning's mass hot air balloon ascension takes place, and finishes in the heart of the festival. The U.S. Army is a participating partner.

The top male finisher and female finisher will each win a free ride in a hot air balloon. The top three overall male and female finishes receive non-cash prizes. Corporate entries are permitted.

And this race promises to get off to a hot start – instead of firing a starting pistol, Brian “The Human Fuse” Miser will set himself on fire and be shot from a 24-foot-long crossbow to start the race.

“We strive to make our festival experience a memorable one and this holds true for our 5K,” said Executive Producer Howard Freeman. “From our human fuse starting gun to running while 100 balloons are in the sky above you, this is a race unlike any other.” Freeman noted that Advil is a natural partner for all of the festival’s health & wellness activities on Sunday, which include the 5K and Nature’s Path sunrise yoga and jazzercise workouts.

Propel Fitness Water, SNY, the official TV partner, and Bridgewater Nissan, the official pace car, are partners for this growing event on the areas' racing calendar.

The race was named Top 10 5K races in the United States last year by The Active Times. The race was cited for its competitive field, fast course, scenic setting, charitable support and providing the unique experience of racing during one of the festival's early morning mass hot air balloon ascensions.

All runners' entries include a full-day pass into the festival, which includes admission, free parking, lawn seating to Sunday afternoon's John Kay & Steppenwolf and Foghat concerts, a t-shirt, and access to the morning and evening scheduled balloon ascensions.

In keeping with the festival's belief in "doing well by doing good," a portion of the proceeds benefit the Center for Educational Advancement (CEA) for people with special needs and the Children's Miracle Network.

The 34th annual QuickChek New Jersey Festival of Ballooning in Association with PNC Bank, will run over the weekend of Friday, July 29, through Sunday, July 31, featuring twice a day mass ascensions of more than 100 sport and special shaped hot air balloons from around the world, live concerts, and 39 hours of family entertainment and attractions.

To register or learn more visit [www.balloonfestival.com/entertainment/5k](http://www.balloonfestival.com/entertainment/5k).