

Getting a Sky-Shot From the Ground? What a Remote Idea!

by Pat Kelly

Used to be the only way to show off fairways and greens as the birds view them was to get a helicopter or a lift-crane. Both are expensive and time consuming. A helicopter buzzing at 300 feet is not only too high for some shots, but noisy and distracting to guests. A crane goes low, damages grasses and takes a lot of time just moving a few feet. What's a superintendent to do?

Well, the 90's age of high-tech video, miniature electronics and light-weight materials has combined with 19th century aviation to provide the answer — a **BALLOON**? Not just any balloon, but rather a helium filled dirigible 17 feet long carrying a sophisticated remote-controlled camera and video system. All this controlled by the operator safely on the ground! Now you can get great images of the course with the mobility of a golf cart, the silence of a shutter, from the unique view of a birds' eye, all while your guests are playing through!

Sky-Shots, based in Kennesaw, Georgia, provides custom aerial photography from zero to 250 feet and everywhere in-between. This system, the first of its kind in the U.S., allows the operator to control altitude by letting out more or less cable, motor drives for tilting and turning, all while viewing the TV monitor for perfect composition safely from the ground. We can literally steady the camera anywhere above the course and get exactly what you want to highlight.

If the next shot includes a lower angle with golfers, we just pull down the balloon and move closer, there is no noise or damage to the course because the photographer walks with system harness around their neck. Even greens from 20 feet look better.

Trees seldom are a problem; we simply go around or above. Winds over 15 MPH can be fun, so we avoid them whenever possible. Whenever power lines have been a factor, we simply move further back and up, obviously not a factor here.

The possibilities are endless as to how this can be utilized. Advertising, design, tournament photos or a historical record are just some. Sky-Shots can certainly help get you more shots in less time from better angles than ever before.

The only danger could be a duffer driving into the dirigible, and that would indeed be a sky-shot to beat all!

Credit: "Through the Green", Sept./Oct. 1990



JOHN DEERE

**DEBRIS PICKUP,
It's a big time
consuming part of
grounds care.
That's why
JOHN DEERE
offers big,
Time saving
machines like the
142, 152, 162 vacuums
Units that help
knock this big job
down to size.**



152 VACUUM



J.W. Turf, Inc.
Your John Deere Golf/Turf Distributor
14N937 Rt. 20 & 47
Hampshire, IL 60140
708-683-4653



**Nothing Runs
Like a Deere®**

Ask about John Deere Finance Plans...
Flexible financing
for the equipment you need



CONFIDENCE IN OUR EQUIPMENT
CONFIDENCE IN YOU.