



Coming Soon....

As work continues on the new Balloon Federation of America website, even more changes are in the works for BFA members. Based on feedback from our recent survey, we know that many members find great value in receiving a printed copy of BALLOONING magazine. While we want to continue to provide this option for those that want it, we also recognize that some potential members are looking for a lower cost membership option.

The Board of Directors discussed recommendations made by the Membership committee and has approved a new, simpler membership structure. In addition to simplifying the available options for new and renewing members, the structure will feature a lower cost alternative for those balloonists who prefer to view BALLOONING Journal online.

Look for more details to be announced soon as the details are finalized by the Board.

The BFA is only as strong as its members and volunteers and this would be a great time to encourage your fellow pilots and crew to join and get involved in supporting ballooning in the USA!

2014-2015 Board Officers

The first meeting of the 2014-2015 elected Board of Directors was held immediately following the conclusion of the final 2013-2014 Board meeting at the Anderson-Abruzzo Balloon Museum in Albuquerque, NM.

The Board again thanked exiting Northeast Region Director and past president Mick Murphy for his years of service on the Board and welcome newly elected member David Tanzer while the other positions on the Board remained the same. A motion was made and unanimously approved for the reelection of the officers from the previous year. Continuing in their positions for another year are:

-Sam Parks, President

-Scott Wooge, Vice President

-Maury Sullivan, Treasurer

-Dean Carlton, Secretary

Annual General Meeting and Awards

The BFA Annual General Meeting was held Saturday October 4th at Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque, NM.

For the first time ever, the AGM was broadcast live online thanks to the help of Paul deBergeois. The following year's officials were announced, an example of the new website was presented and changed to the membership structure were discussed. In addition to Board business, a very important aspect of the AGM is the presentation of several awards.

The President's Award was presented by Sam Parks to David Levin for over 15 years of service to the BFA as the Alternate Delegate to the CIA.

The following Director's Awards were also presented:

- Dean Carlton, Great Lakes Region – Lindstrand Balloons, USA
- Cheri White, Southwest Region – Fred Dinkler
- Scott Wooge, At-Large – John Craparo
- Drew Egerton, At-Large – Andrew Baird
- Maury Sullivan, At-Large – Dawn Chase
- Katie Griggs, Western Region – Rick Wallace
- Mick Murphy, Northeast Region – AOPA
- Sam Parks, Southeast Region – Greater Atlantic Rescue Dogs and K9 Alert
- David Rapp, North Central Region – Becky Wigeland
- Troy Bradley, NAA – Gary Heavin

A Special Recognition Award to the Sport of Ballooning was presented by Maury Sullivan for Robert Zanella.

Editor's Awards, a newly created award for recognition of contributions to publications were presented by BFA Editor Glen Moyer to Jim Isler and Jack Fehlandt.

The following pilots have been awarded the prestigious Ed Yost Master Pilot Award in 2014:

- David Robinson
- Rocky Bailey
- Harold Graves
- Gary Ruble
- Rob Bartholomew
- Ted Staley
- John Marlow

-John Schaumburg

-Daniel Schettler

-Orvin Olivier

-Ronald Grove

-Charles W. Book

-Frank Bacon

-Michael Emich

-Bobby Sparks

BROD Meets in ABQ

The Balloon Ride Operators Division of the BFA held a face to face Board meeting and its third general membership meeting during Balloon Fiesta. Minutes from the meetings are available on the BROD website [here](#).

The Division introduced a draft of guidelines as well that can be reviewed [here](#). Members are welcomed to submit their thoughts and suggestions to guidelines@balloonoperators.com. The BROD welcomes input from all operators so don't miss your opportunity to help.

BFA Hosts Manufacturers Forum

On October 7th the BFA Board met with representatives of balloon manufacturers from around the world. The purpose of this meeting was to work together as a group to generate ideas for the growth and sustainability of our sport. A healthy discussion was held with a number of ideas discussed on how our groups can work together to help grow the sport of ballooning. Look for more details about this group over the coming months.

Long Jump 2014-2015

Hello Balloonists! We're now in that time of year which is 'Long Jump' season for hot air balloons. For those that are new to this sport, a BFA Long Jump balloon flight is a long distance flight made with 40 gallons or less fuel consumption. Last season's top performers were Bill Smith with an impressive flight of 226 miles which just edged out Matthew McClinton's solid 225 mile flight. Both pilots flew 90,000 cubic foot balloons, each flew for over 4 hours on 32 gallons or less fuel consumed. Long Jump season runs from now through the end of March. Rules can be found by clicking [here](#).

New Members

The BFA is only as strong as its members and volunteers. We would like to welcome the following new members! Please contact these folks if they are in your area and welcome them into the club. A special note for this group as they bring us up to a milestone 100 new members for 2014!

James Dolan, AZ

Hanne Dolan, AZ

David Sals, MI

Luke Russell, OH

Kevin Heide, MT

Joe Borondy, IN

Dean Ford, IN

Brian Pierce, CO

William Geeson, CA

Vista Balloon Adventures, OR

If you are not currently a member, please consider joining today. We would also ask that all members take the time to share the benefits of their membership with their ballooning communities and encourage any non-members or lapsed members to become a part of the organization. The BFA is your one and only national representation of the ballooning community and we need member support!

*Reminder, the Quick Release can be signed up for by non-members as well so please [SHARE!](#)

New Achievements

Ken Bender, FL – Commercial LTA Certificate

Tyler Thompson, IA – Private LTA Certificate

Madison Sharpe, NC – Private LTA Certificate

Jay McCormack, VT – Private LTA Certificate

Adam McClinton, KY – First solo flight

Congratulations on your achievements from the BFA! If you see any of these folks around, congratulate them for taking another step in their ballooning endeavors! If you want to find out more, see our website about the [Pilot](#) and [Crew](#) Achievement Awards Programs.

Convention, Reno 2015

We are busy making plans for the 2015 BFA National Convention, April 16-19, 2015.

Now, you can follow our new Facebook page dedicated to all things about the Reno Convention [HERE!](#)

We have a great list of speakers lined up for you. During the 2015 convention educational sessions will feature BFA core safety seminar subjects, as well as special topics. i.e. concerns for ride operators, competition, gas ballooning, homebuilding, junior balloonist, and some fun and informational topics just for fun too. We will also hold a one day safety seminar during the convention that will satisfy all your insurance needs and give you the tools you need to be a safer balloonist.

The Trade Show is a fantastic place to make new business contacts, display new products and even meet up with old friends. Every three years balloonists from around the country gather at the BFA national convention to learn about the latest products and services you have to offer. The 2015 Spirit of the West BFA Convention is your opportunity to make new friends and garner new business relationships. Reserve a spot in the Trade Show today.

For the 2015 BFA Convention, there are Sponsorship Packages available as well. Each of these sponsorships is tailored to provide your company with the most exposure during the convention, and give you the flexibility of providing access to various Conference events/activities to some of your customers and staff.

Register now for the 2015 BFA Convention, taking place in Reno, Nevada April 16-19, and save with early bird pricing. The BFA Convention is offering a Sunrise registration price of \$195 per person if post-marked on or before Oct. 31st. Early Registration (Nov. 1 - Dec 31, 2014) will be \$215 per person. To find out more about the BFA Convention or to register, visit www.bfaconvention.com or contact us at: info@bfaconvention.com

Featured Corporate Member

The BFA is proud to promote its Corporate Members. We are currently experimenting with some different ideas on how to do that better than simply highlighting one per month. We hope to increase the value of our corporate membership and welcome input from any current or potential members on how to best go about that.

October's featured Corporate Member of the Month is **Vegas Balloon Rides!**

For more information on Vegas Balloon Rides, you can visit their website [here](#).

Thanks for your continued support of the BFA!

For a complete list and more information on all of our Corporate Members, [click here!](#)

Crewing Quips

Hello CREW! This segment of the QR is just for you! We'd like to encourage any of you some tips or tricks to share to please [send them in](#).

The BFA Board recognizes the importance of crew in our sport, and in our organization. In an effort to provide more crew-focused content, we will be providing some “Crew Quips” for tips, advice and fun stories. This month’s Crew Quip highlights a change to our Crew Achievement Awards Program.

CQ #1 – CAAP

The Crew Achievement Awards Program was designed to provide recognition to skilled crew with a series levels reflecting increased challenges and demonstrated abilities.

At the suggestion of a BFA member, the Board has made a change to the endorsement requirement for level applications. Persons eligible to endorse applications are:

- Person with BFA Master Crew Chief rating
- BFA Appointed Crew Award Designee
- FAA Designated Examiner
- BFA Board member, past or present
- Commercial Pilot (this was previously a pilot with 300+ hours)

We hope that this change makes the CAAP more accessible to all crew who are interested in participating and encourages growth and education in our sport.

CQ #2 – Achieving Level I CAAP

While we’re on the topic of the CAAP, let’s look at just how you can achieve Level I and get started. Crew Level I is the entry point of the program and requires understanding of the fundamentals of ballooning. Crew at this level has at least 10 crews and requires little instruction to perform assignments and should have experience in:

- inflation of pibal
- operation of inflation fan
- working mouth during inflation
- spreading envelope
- assist in securing deflation panel
- laying out crown line
- steadying basket
- holding envelope bag when packing up
- helping load equipment on vehicle
- working knowledge of drop line technique

-be a current member of the local balloon club

The application fee is \$5 and membership is encouraged but not required for this level.

Next month we'll take a look at what it takes to advance to Level II, Senior Crew. If you can't wait to read ahead, simply visit the website [here](#) for more information.

America's Challenge Results

The 19th America's Challenge was delayed by high winds and teams were finally able to launch in the early morning hours of 10/7 from Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque.

This year, 7 hydrogen gas balloons participated including last year's winning locals Peter Cuneo and Barbara Fricke. A number of different strategies were employed as teams looked to maximize their flight distance while avoiding the weather ahead.

In the end, the Spanish team of Anulfo Gonzalez and Angel Aguirre claimed the farthest flight with a distance of 1,189 miles and nearly 53.5 hours aloft. They landed near Cambellsville, KY. Second place was claimed by the Polish team of Krzysztof Zapart and Mateusz Rekas with a distance of 941 miles and 46.5 hours of flight. Peter Cuneo and Barbara Fricke claimed the best finish from the USA in third place with 825 miles flown and a duration of over 40 hours.

You can find more details on the America's Challenge by visiting the official Balloon Fiesta website [here](#).

Congratulations to all of the teams for their efforts.

Fiesta Competition Results

The BFA would like to congratulate the following members on their top 10 finish in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta this year (285 competitors):

-Harold Cliver, 1st place

-Chris Liberti, 2nd place

-Lewin Williams, 3rd place

-Sandra Graf, 4th place

-Nick Donner, 5th place

-John Petrehn, 7th place

-Mike Bauwens, 8th place

-Bruce Wood, 10th place