

The Quick Release

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**"Yoda"
2015
Havasu
Balloon Fest**

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JILLIAN DANIELSON/RIVERSCENE



Extreme Flight to Find a Cure

BFA Member Tim Cloyd will conduct a solo long distance high altitude flight between December 2015 and March 2016. There will be one flight on one day launching from somewhere in the Midwest. When the conditions are right, Tim will cruise at altitudes up to 17,000 feet at speeds reaching 100 mph. He hopes to make the flight between 100-400 miles. This is a high risk flight and Tim will be required to use portable oxygen and special clothing to survive the extreme altitudes and cold temperatures. Tim is flying for all the cancer patients who fight for their lives ... flying the "Extreme Flight to Find a CURE".

Tim will notify everyone through email and facebook up to four days before and up to the "Go/No-Go" decision. If you want to receive these notifications, become Tim's friend on Facebook, like Tecvisions Balloon Rides on Facebook, or send him an email (tecvisions@hotmail.com). The public will be able to follow Tim live on this journey by clicking here: [**TRACK TIM'S FLIGHT**](#). The live tracking device helped people from in the United States and around the world follow the flight as it happened.

BFA Hot Air Competition Division

2015 Points Leaders

National Points Leader • Chase Donner

Highest Ranking Rookie • Christopher Cliver

Highest Ranking Female • Meg Skelton

Most Improved Pilot • Bruce Bussey

The BFA HACD is looking for great sites for competitions

The Hot Air Competition Division of the Balloon Federation of America (BFA/HACD) is the sanctioning organization for national hot air balloon championship events. The US National Hot Air Balloon Championship is an annual week-long event featuring 50-70 of the top balloonists in the US. It will be held in



Shreveport, LA during 2016-2018.

The BFA is seeking bids from communities to host the event for 2019-2021. Other available national events for 5-7 days include, US Women's National Championship, US Junior National Championship, and the US Hot Air Balloon National Team Championship.

If your area has an active local balloon group, the area is probably conducive to hosting a US National Championship. While some congested areas are acceptable, generally we are looking for areas containing large open areas, rolling hills and farm fields providing appropriate launch and landing areas for a total field of about seventy hot air balloons.

To download a brochure that provides more details about The Balloon Federation of America

National Championship, please click on:

HOSTING U.S. NATIONALS

To download complete details for submitting a bid to host the 2019-2021 US National Hot Air Balloon Championship click on:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2016 Gordon Bennett

The 60th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett will be held September 15-24, 2016 at Gladbeck, Germany. There is a five day launch window with Saturday and Sunday, September 17 & 18, as the main launch days. Trajectories from Gladbeck for September 17 for the past five years shows winds going in different directions each year. Gladbeck is 30 minutes from the Düsseldorf International Airport.

SPECIAL NOTE

For American pilots, the 2015 America's Challenge was to be the qualifier for the 2016 Gordon Bennett. Since no flights occurred, the Gas Division Board will apply appropriate rules to decide the U.S. qualifiers. The Board plans to meet later this month



New Repair Stations Open in NM and AZ

Andy Richardson of Adams Balloons has announced that he's opened a brand new repair station that will operate in conjunction with Adams balloons new manufacturing facility, North American Balloon company LLC. The repair station is located at 3412 Vista Alameda NE Albuquerque, NM 87113. (505) 433-2094.

Morgan Braden has opened the Havasu Balloon Hospital in Lake Havasu City, AZ. Morgan will be available on short notice to do small repairs and annuals or major stuff by appointment only. Morgan is still working full time, so Havasu Balloon Hospital is a part-time endeavor. Morgan's telephone number 928-302-9013.



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In Memoriam ...

*Honoring those in
our ballooning family
lost in 2015.*

Jean Asp, WI

Crew Member / Family

Walter Bevridge, NY

Ben Broussard

Joann Cline, NC

Crew Member / Family

Mary Conklin, IA

Crew Member

Brian Counts, MI

Crew Member / Family

Carson Eliff, MO

Crew Member / Family

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Pilot/Founding Member of

Wisconsin Balloon Group

Kinnie Gibson, TX

Pilot

Ray Liggett, IL

Pilot

Norman Luper, NM

Pilot

**Amogene Norwood
Gray, NC**

Pilot

Lucy Stefan, CO

Pilot/Ballooning Hall of Fame
Inductee

Charles Sundquist, ID

Pilot/Past President of BFA

Gary Tarter, IN

Pilot

Ken Walter Sr., WI

Crew Member / Family

Chuck Welch, NY

Pilot

John Weathersby, MS

Editor's Note:

Thanks to everyone who took time to send in names and information. In some cases, I received a lot of information and in others, not so much. I'd like to gather more information and include those who we missed into a PDF booklet. That can be updated every year. Eventually I'd like to gather a paragraph or two from balloonists who've died in years past. Let me know what you think. Thanks again.

- John C. Trione, Editor