

# The Quick Release



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CHERI WHITE

## Heartsill named world champion

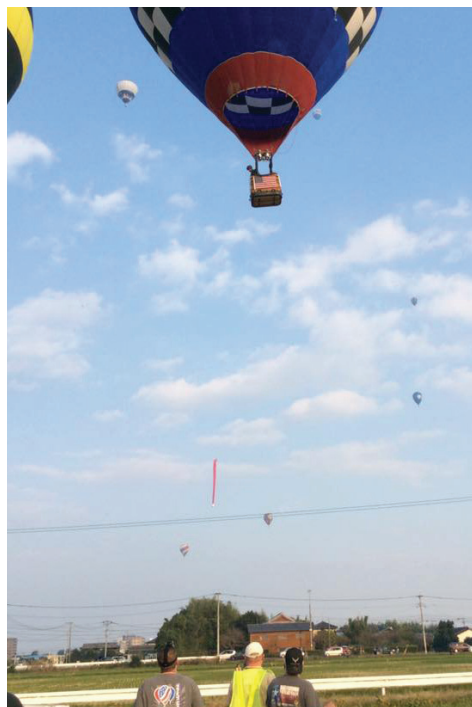
Rhett Heartsill (USA) led the field for over 20 tasks at the 22nd FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship held from Oct. 28th thru Nov. 7th in Saga, Japan. Heartsill was named champion after 31 completed tasks during 9 flights.

Japan has been host to the World Hot Air Balloon Championship four times: 1989 in Saga, 1997 in Saga, 2006 in Motegi and 2016 in Saga. Saga Prefecture is a small prefecture on the island of Kyushu.



Heartsill's win is historically notable because his father, Joe Heartsill, was world champion in 1995. A first father-son connection at the world champion level.

Overall, Team USA had one other Top 10 Finisher, John Petrehn in 9th place. Team USA had 5 pilots who placed in the Top 20 followed by Japan with 3 pilots.



### TOP 10 2016 World Hot Air Balloon Championships

- 1) Rhett Heartsill (USA)  
26,610
- 2) Rimas Kostiuskevicius (LTU)  
23,907
- 3) Stefan Zeberli (SUI)  
22,609
- 4) Nicolas Schwartz (FRA)  
22,515
- 5) Roman Hugi (SUI)  
22,366
- 6) Dominic Bareford (GBR)  
22,313
- 7) Sergey Latypov (RUS)  
22,235
- 8) Masafumi Sato (JPN)  
22,148
- 9) John Petrehn (USA)  
21,883
- 10) Rokas Kostiuskevicius (LTU)  
21,644

# US Women's Nationals a Huge Success

Fifteen ladies from seven different states arrived in Albuquerque, NM before the official start of Balloon Fiesta to vie for the title US Women's Champion. The HACD and Championship officials had three major goals with this first of a kind event.

- Offer a challenging championship in a non-stressful and nurturing environment affording the participants and crew an enjoyable competitive experience.
- Educate new and less experienced competitors on competitive concepts and understanding task sheets and specific objectives of each task
- Crown a US Women's Champion

These goals were accomplished in spades. Ladies never having competed before transitioned from nervous and apprehensive participants at the General Briefing to giggling enthusiasts with each day of competition.

It's the hope of the HACD that AIBF will again host the Women's Nationals in 2017 and there may be some interest in adding a Junior's Championship to the venue. Look for the complete story in the next issue of Ballooning magazine.



When the desert dust had settled eleven tasks were run over three days of flyable weather. The tasks included GBM, XDD, JDG, HWZ, HWZ, PDG and FON's. When final scores were tallied only 100 points out of a possible 11,000 separated first from third place.

Congratulations to our top three place finishers.

- 1. Cheri White, Texas**
- 2. Elisa Trillanes, New Mexico**
- 3. Janet Lutkus, Ohio**



## HOF announces 2017 inductees

Mark your calendars for the last weekend in July 2017 for the latest induction of honorees into the U.S. Ballooning Hall of Fame. This year's honorees are Thaddeus Lowe, Steve Fossett and David Levin. The induction ceremony will be held at The National Balloon Museum 1601 N. Jefferson Way (Highway 65/69 North) Indianola, IA 50125 from 1pm to 3pm on Sunday, July 30th 2017.

Admission is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

For information contact the National Balloon Museum at (515) 961-3714 | Email: museum@nationalballoonmuseum.com.

## BFA reps to join NTSB hearing into Texas accident

The Balloon Federation of America has been invited to participate in a hearing by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on December 9, 2016 in regards to the July 30, 2016 hot air balloon accident in Lockhart, Texas.

The BFA is sending representatives from the Professional Ride Operators division as well as BFA board members and industry experts to provide information to help determine the cause of the accident as well as to share information about the BFA's current Call to Action plan with the FAA regarding ballooning safety.

The BFA, and in particular the PRO Division, has taken a proactive approach to developing good relationships with the FAA and NTSB over the past 5 years. Both agencies have been receptive to the BFA's positive approach to improving

safety within our industry.

The hearing is public and will also be broadcast live. The BFA hopes to be able to send email notice to members in advance of the meeting. The NTSB indicated that such notice may not be available until the day of the hearing.

## Call to preserve biographies

The BFA Hall of Fame Committee has initiated the process to collect biographies or biographical information on historically-significant balloonist to preserve the history of our sport. We are asking for your help.

At the 2011 Balloon Federation of America National Convention in Des Moines, a list of notable balloonist was developed and about 80 in attendance were recognized as part of ballooning history. This list included balloonists who were identified in about 18 different areas. The BFA Hall

of Fame Committee, in their search for biographies have consolidated the list into the following categories:

- Ballooning Accomplishments/Contributions
- Montgolfier Diploma Recipients
- Ballooning Development
- BFA Past Presidents
- Ed Yost Master Pilot Award Recipients
- National and World Records Holders
- CIA Hall of Fame Inductees
- Shields Trauger Award Recipients

We would encourage all balloonists to submit biographical information on present or past balloonists, pilots, crews and other participants, so that our history can be improved and preserved. Please send ballooning biographies, including balloon adventures, accomplishments, etc, so they are recorded for history. If possible, include photos of the person and other photos to add more detail to the bio. All information should be sent to jim@thompsonaire.com who is coordinating this initiative for Hall of Fame Committee.



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MIKE HEFFRON

## Bright Idea over Angel Fire, NM

## Event guidelines need updating; volunteers sought

SUBMITTED BY MAURY SULLIVAN  
BFA TREASURER

If you enjoy being overworked and underappreciated, I have the perfect job for you. The BFA's publication, Balloon Event Guidelines, was first published in 2011. I can't believe it will soon be six years since then BFA President, Don Edwards, asked me to tackle the project of producing a document to serve as a reference for event organizers, officials and pilots aimed at improving safety at balloon events.

Our sport has changed a lot since 2011; accidents and incidents at balloon events are down from the experience of the early 2000's but the recent Texas tragedy has focused Federal regulators on the balloon community.

I'm looking for volunteers with extensive experience in the following disciplines:

- Event organization, large and small events
- Event officiating: Directors/ Balloonmeisters, safety and weather officials
- Professional meteorologists
- FAA and regulatory relations
- Balloonmeisters with ride-oriented events
- Legal, aviation in particular
- Insurance and risk management

The winter season is a great time to devote to this project. The project will take several months to complete and will involve periodic phone conference calls. I need volunteers with the passion to make a difference in the safety of balloon events.

If you are interested, send me an email and I'll begin to put a team together. Thanks for considering the challenge.

# Great Gift Ideas for your pilot or crew



**HOT AIR BALLOON CREWING ESSENTIALS** –The how-to standard on crewing takes readers from safety basics to advanced techniques and commercial crewing. Crew like a pro in no time – a must-read for both pilots and crew. 30 chapters, 220 pages.

**CREW SAFETY Tri-Fold Card** – Safety at your fingertips! Quick reference for local emergency contacts, power line safety, and 300 tips from layout to landowner relations. Glossy cardstock and airline-style to fit perfectly in your truck's visor, console, or door.

## Convenient shopping on our website store at [www.bfa.net](http://www.bfa.net)

*Support our sport and our BFA family by giving your crew and student pilots a BFA membership for Christmas. Only \$35 for a digital membership is a great deal!*





## BFA Membership Application for Mailing



WRITTEN BY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2013 13:21

Join or renew your membership here or online at: [BFA Online Shop](#)

New Membership ( ) Renew My Membership ( )

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### Flying Status (choose one for all personal memberships)

( ) Commerical Pilot ( ) Private Pilot ( ) Student Pilot ( ) Crew ( ) Observer

### Personal Memberships (all voting except Juniors)

- ( ) With US delivered magazine (\$55/yr) ( ) With Int'l delivered magazine (\$65/yr)
- ( ) With Digital Magazine (\$35/yr) ( ) Life membership with magazine (\$1000 once)
- ( ) Family membership for two or more memberships in one family (Digital) (\$20/yr)
- ( ) Junior Balloonist (aged 5-18 with Digital Magazine) (\$15/yr)

### Non-Personal Memberships

( ) Corporate (\$250/yr) -Send business name/address/contact person/email logo to: [bfaoffice@bfa.net](mailto:bfaoffice@bfa.net)

Associate Member (non-voting, for balloon clubs, libraries, balloon event organizations)

- ( ) US delivered magazine (\$55/yr) ( ) Int'l with magazine (\$65/yr)
- ( ) With Digital Magazine (\$35/yr)

Professional Ride Operator Companies

- ( ) Large Operator (4 pilots-\$250/yr) ( ) Small Operator (2 pilots-\$125/yr)

**PAYMENT INFORMATION - All International memberships & subscriptions must be in US funds.**

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check - Master Card - VISA - Discover - AMEX

CC Account# \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVC Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please print application, complete and mail with payment to this address:

Balloon Federation of America

P.O. Box 400, Indianola, IA. 50125

e-mail [bfaoffice@bfa.net](mailto:bfaoffice@bfa.net)

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