



BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



To vote in this election cycle you must have become a BFA member by July 9, 2023.

Voting begins on July 30, 2023, and ends on August 29, 2023

July 30, 2023: Paper ballots mailed, and electronic voting opens at 6:00 am CT

August 29, 2023: Electronic voting closes at 10:00 pm CT and Paper ballots must be postmarked by

September 5, 2023: Ballots counted (date adjusted for the Labor Day holiday)

Notification of President and Division Chairs of results by telephone

Notify candidates of the results by the President or designated individual by telephone.

Division Chairs to notify their division candidates.

September 6, 2023: Announce the results of the election by BFA email system, social media, and website.

Helpful Tips

Didn't receive the email from the Balloon Federation of America about your membership renewal or the last BFA Election?

A couple of issues might be in play with this. Your membership might have expired and/or your email server might not be passing the emails to your local email device.

Here are words from the company managing the Voting System:

Sbcglobal.com, aol.com, Verizon.net, and Hotmail.com rank as some of the worst services for blocking legitimate e-mail from reaching their users. We show all emails 'Delivered' to the remote email server. "Delivered" means accepted by the remote mail server. It is not a guarantee that the user received the message in their inbox and opened it. Try these steps if you have an issue:

1) Login to the www.bfa.net site with your Username and password (upper right corner) to confirm your membership status. Membership Renewal emails are sent 30 days and 7 days before expiration automatically to the email on file. Then at 7 days after expiration

2) Search your SPAM or JUNK folders for emails from @bfa.net or @balloteer.com

3) Set your Filter and Blocked Addresses Setting to allow emails from @bfa.net or @balloteer.com to always be delivered to your email device (one type of setting is shown below as an example)

The election uses a secret ballot system and election voting is anonymous by a 3rd Party Provider. BFA administrators do not have access to view individually submitted ballots and are not presented with information regarding how individual voters cast their ballots.

2023 BFA Youth Balloon Camps

Hot Air Balloon Event Camps

Dinah Soar Camp - Vernal, UT
Aug 24th – 26th, 2023
SPOTS AVAILABLE!

Spirit of Boise Classic Youth Camp - Boise, ID
September 1&2, 2023
SPOTS AVAILABLE!!

All dates & details are subject to change.

To inquire about how you can contribute,
Please contact Katie Griggs at youthprogram@bfa.net

Balloon Experience not required.

We have two Event camps remaining this year, offering plenty of opportunity for children 13-17 years old to learn all aspects of ballooning safely, including what is required to become a pilot!

Please go to [Junior Balloonists - Balloon](#)



2023 BFA High Sierra Balloon Camp

By: Karalyn Mumm, Camp Director

Set upon the shores of Lake Tahoe, the High Sierra Balloon Camp was a great success and left us eager to start planning for next year.

We were able to fit three flight operations into a jam-packed ground session schedule that included building airspace models “A Piece of Cake” and “Tasks, Targets and Tosses” where they learned about competition flying from a very experienced competitor. During flights, every camper was able to get in the basket and fly a significant part of the flight without hops. Our final flight day was actually a “Camp”etition in which the campers all got to fly to an X and their own pilot declared goal of a Splash and Dash. We performed a 2-hour tether where each camper (along with our camp pilots) was able to tether the 100+ 4-H campers who shared their facility with us. HSBC campers also put on a school program for the 4-H campers which included a walk-in balloon, a candlestick, crown line tug-a-war, and an equilibrium game. In the future we hope some of them join us as HSBC campers.

Being on the shores of Lake Tahoe, we all spent time playing in the lake to cool down from our 100-degree temperatures. We could not have done it without the wonderful support from the BFA, the various donors in the ballooning community and our amazing staff. We hope to see our FOBs (Future of Ballooning) on the launch field and in the sky soon.

2023
Balloon Federation of
America
High Sierra Balloon Camp



Weather Briefings or Cover Your “Atmosphere”

By: Kent Barnes, Western Region Director

BACKGROUND

FAR 91.103 requires all pilots to obtain preflight weather, airport, and NOTAM information before a flight. Specifically, it states:

§91.103 Preflight action.

Each pilot in command shall, before beginning a flight, become familiar with all available information concerning that flight. This information must include—

(a) For a flight under IFR or a flight not in the vicinity of an airport, weather reports and forecasts, fuel requirements, alternatives available if the planned flight cannot be completed, and any known traffic delays of which the pilot in command has been advised by ATC.

The FAA provides the Flight Service program, which serves the weather needs of pilots through its flight service stations (FSS) and via the internet at www.1800wxbrief.com.

When calling 1-800-WX-BRIEF (800-992-7433) will attempt to connect you to the FSS facility that is close to the geographical location of the area code of the phone you are calling from. If those facilities are busy you will be connected to a facility that currently has greater availability of briefers.

All Flight Service Specialists are qualified and certificated by the NWS as Pilot Weather Briefers. They are authorized to translate and interpret available forecasts and reports describing the weather conditions you can expect along your flight route and at your destination.

Four basic types of preflight briefings are available:

Standard Briefing

For a Standard Briefing, the briefer will automatically provide the following information.

- Adverse Conditions – Significant meteorological and/or aeronautical information that might influence the pilot to alter or cancel the proposed flight, for example, hazardous weather conditions, airport closures, air traffic delays, etc.
- VFR Flight Not Recommended – When VFR flight is proposed and sky conditions or visibilities are present or forecast, surface or aloft, that, in the briefer’s judgment, would make flight under VFR doubtful, the briefer will describe the conditions, describe the affected locations, and use the phrase “VFR flight not recommended.” This recommendation is advisory in nature. Synopsis – A brief statement describing the type, location, and movement of weather systems and/or air masses that might affect the proposed flight.
- Current Conditions – Reported weather conditions applicable to the flight will be summarized from all available sources, e.g., METARs/ SPECIs, PIREPs, RAREPs.
- Destination Forecast – The destination forecast for the planned ETA. Any significant changes within 1 hour before and after the planned arrival are included.
- Winds Aloft – Forecast winds aloft will be provided using compass degrees. The briefer will interpolate wind directions and speeds between levels and stations as necessary to provide expected conditions at planned altitudes. (Heights are MSL.) Temperature information can be provided on request.
- Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) –
- Pilots may obtain additional information from the briefer upon request.

Abbreviated Briefing

Request an Abbreviated Briefing when you need the information to:

- supplement mass disseminated data,
- update a previous briefing, or
- when you need only one or two specific items.

To the extent possible, the briefer will provide the information in the sequence shown for a Standard Briefing. If you request only one or two specific items, the briefer will advise if adverse conditions are present or forecast. (Adverse conditions contain both meteorological and/or aeronautical information.)

Outlook Briefing

Request an Outlook Briefing whenever your proposed time of departure is six or more hours from the time of the briefing. The briefer will provide available forecast data applicable to the proposed flight. This type of briefing is provided for planning purposes only.

Inflight Briefing

In those cases where you need to obtain a preflight briefing or an update to a previous briefing by radio, you should contact the nearest FSS to obtain this information. This type of briefing is rarely useful for balloon flights.

SOMETHING WENT WRONG DURING THE FLIGHT; HOW CAN I PROVE I MET THE REQUIREMENT?

AOPA’s Air Safety Institute has analyzed an increasing number of National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) aviation accidents where the NTSB was unable to determine whether the pilot obtained a weather briefing for the flight. Overall, from 2010 through 2013, the NTSB could find no known source of a weather briefing in 1,748 of 5,437 accidents, or 32 percent.

Continued on the next page.

Weather Briefings or Cover Your “Atmosphere”

(continued)

HERE ARE SOME GENERAL RULES OF THUMB TO KEEP IN MIND

- Any call to an FSS briefer is recorded.
- Any briefing that you obtain through your individual www.1800wxbrief.com account is recorded.
- Briefings from websites or apps that require you to log in with a unique username and password to obtain a full briefing for a flight will likely be recorded. i.e., Foreflight
- Briefings from websites or apps that do not require you to log in with a unique username and password will not be recorded.
- If you’re just looking up local weather and NOTAM information on the Internet, take screenshots of that information to keep in your records—it might be helpful to prove that you looked up the information and the date and time you did.

The choice is up to you, if you want to be on record as having been “familiar with all available information concerning the flight,” get a weather briefing (including NOTAMs) that logs the event—even if the weather is VFR and you’re just planning a fun flight.

Simply put, get a “legal briefing” before each flight.

Medicals not just a ballooning issue



The American Bonanza Society hosted a great learning session with Dr. Keith Roxo (former Navy Top Gun Pilot) using the FAASafety.gov SPANS system.

It is worth the 45 minutes of your time to learn more on FAA medical exam, use of MedXpress, Importance of medical documentation and preparing for the exam. Originally broadcast on July 11, 2023

[ABSWeb LIVE](#)

https://www.faasafety.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=122984



WELCOME
new members

Andrea Dearden
John Bagwell
Rodney Williams
Monica Henao
Mark Donahue
Terry Lee Benzer
Victoria Brindley

Boise, ID
Tempe, AZ
Branson, MO
Battle Mountain, NV
Glens Falls, NY
Blountville, TN
Indianapolis, IN

Paul Cross
Brandon Lovato
Wendy Pelletier
Daniel Nachbar
Tommy Rachel
Mary Ann Fournier
Monteagle, TN
Marietta, GA
Mountain Home, ID
Amherst, MA
Magnolia Springs, AL
New Market, TN



BFA CORPORATE MEMBERS

We appreciate our corporate members, included you will find their name and link. If you are interested in becoming a corporate member, please visit <https://bfa.net>

Adirondack Balloon Festival	https://www.adirondackballoonfest.org/
Adventures Out West	https://advoutwest.com/
Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta	https://balloonfiesta.com/
Allianz	https://www.agcs.allianz.com/solutions/aviation-insurance.html
Aviation Insurance Resources	https://air-pros.com/
Battle Creek Air Show & Festival	https://fielddofflight.com/
Collierville Balloon Festival	https://www.colliervilleballoonfestival.com/
Cameron Balloons US	https://cameronballoons.com/
Carolina Balloon Fest	http://www.carolinaballoonfest.com/
Cox USA	http://www.coxusa.us/
Hot Springs SD Chamber of Commerce	https://hotsprings-sd.com/
JetMed	https://jetmedsantafe.com/
Kubicek Balloons USA	https://www.kubicekballoons.us/
Lindstrand Balloons USA	https://www.lindstrand.com/
Napa Valley Aloft Balloon Rides	https://nvaloft.com/
National Balloon Classic	https://nationalballoonclassic.com/
Plano Balloon Festival Inc.	https://www.planoballoonfest.org/
RPS Balloon	https://www.rpsins.com/industries/aviation-insurance/hot-air-balloon-insurance/
Sonoma County Hot Air Balloon Classic	https://www.schabc.org/
T.H.E Insurance Company	https://mcgowanallied.com/t-h-e-insurance-company-t-h-e-is-now-rated-a-superior-by-am-best/
Ventry Solutions, Inc.	https://ventry.com/
Vista Balloon Adventures LLC	https://vistaballoon.com/



BFA **US Women's National Balloon** **Championship**

Center: Amanda Brodbeck, First place
Right: Natasha Stanke, Second place
Left: Cheri White, Third place



Congratulations to all the competitors at the **BFA US Women's National Balloon Championship** **Hot Air Jubilee, Jackson, Michigan**

Final Standings

1. Amanda Brodbeck
2. Natasha Stanke
3. Cheri White
4. Sanne Haarhuis
5. Meg Skelton
6. Carolanne Walter
7. Elisa Talbert
8. Kimberly Whiteman
9. Kelli Keller
10. Kellie Rocha
11. Dawn McKenzie
12. Janet Lutkus
13. Angelica Haus
14. Kelly Hilberth
15. Shannon Rote





2023 BFA US National Champions

Bruce Wood, 2023 BFA US National Champion and
Amanda Brodbeck, 2023 BFA US Women's National
Champion spending a rainy day at the Balloon
Museum in Indianola, IA



AGM

2023 BFA Annual General Meeting

PRESENTING SPONSOR

RPS

Sunday, October 8, 2023

The BFA Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentation will be held at
11:00 am Mountain Time, Sunday, October 8, 2023, at the Sid Cutter Pilot Pavilion
at the

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Light refreshments will be
provided...AND ICE CREAM!



All are invited to attend.

Meet the new officers and directors, and join us in honoring several outstanding
balloonists for their contributions to our sport.

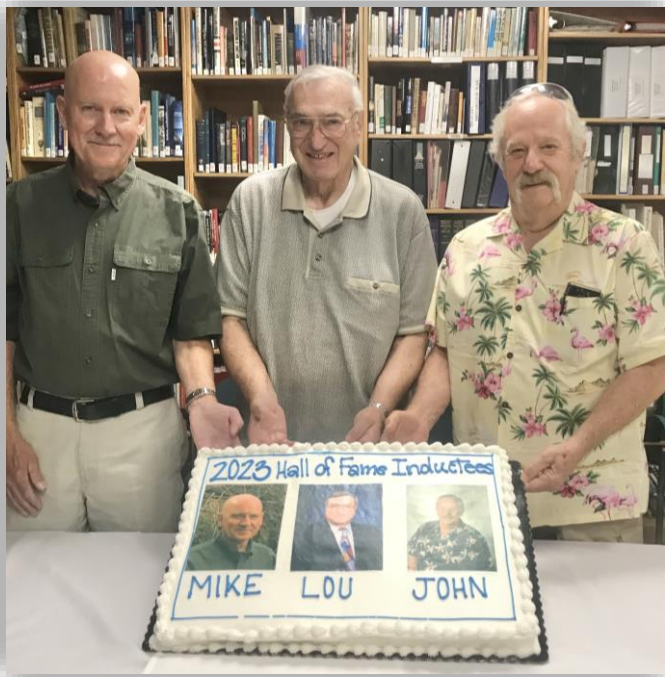


Awards

The BFA Award program has many awards that are open for nominations with deadlines approaching quickly. Including information on **NEW** and **UPDATED** awards. You can find details on all the awards here:

[Awards - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](https://www.bfa.net/awards)

2023 BFA Hall of Fame Inductees



Ballooning Hall of Fame inducted three new members for 2023. Ken Walter, former BFA Board of Director presented Mike Emich, Lou Billons and John Davis IV the awards at the National Balloon Museum in Indianola, Iowa

Congratulations gentlemen, thank you for your contributions to hot air ballooning.



Pictured to the right:
John Davis IV, Mike Emich, Lou Billons and Ken Walter



Crew Achievement

BFA Rio Grande Campers

Jacob Denlinger	Level 1	Katelyn Ragsdale	Level 1	Hayleen Eldridge	Level 1
Elly Ferchoff	Level 1	Ava Ferchoff	Level 1	Bella Ferchoff	Level 1
Ashlyn Welz	Level 1	Lillian Bickers	Level 1	Christian Speicher	Level 1
Rebecca Smith	Level 1	Stephen Osborn	Level 1	Kayla Mauroyenis	Level 1
Bianna Scott	Level 1				

BFA High Sierra Campers

Bryce Terhune	Level 1	Miles Taylor	Level 1	Echo Begin	Level 1
Thomas Vavra	Level 1	Rowan Braik	Level 1	Riese Faust	Level 1
Wyatt Smith	Level 1	Parker Smith	Level 1	Austin Smith	Level 1
Owen Marales	Level 1	Bailyn Bell	Level 1	Jackson Hoch	Level 1

The campers attending the BFA Camps all achieve Level I Apprentice Crew while attending camp, we hope that the campers continue in the CAAP program as well as working towards their LTA certification.

For more information in participating in the PAAP or the CAAP Go to: www.bfa.net under the education tab.



**Do you have a story or want to recognize a BFA Member?
Please send story and photos to tamieshrum5@gmail.com for consideration to be featured in the BFA Quick Release.**



Balloon Federation Of America

BFA HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS, See below for new address!!

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