



Meet With Us in Albuquerque

One of the major cornerstones of the ballooning season is upon us once again. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta runs October 4th through the 12th this year. As always, the event promises massive group ascensions, a plethora of special shapes, glows, dawn patrols, competitions and more. In addition to all the ballooning and tailgating fun, the BFA will be holding a meeting for the Board as well as our Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Directors will meet upstairs in the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum on Thursday, October 2nd at 8:00 am and the meeting will run most of the day. The agenda covers a wide variety of topics from financials and committee reports to current issues and new ideas. At the end of the day, the new Board will be officially welcomed and the year's officers will be selected.

On Saturday, October 4th at 1:00 pm, please come join us at The Landing on Fiesta field for the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Directors will be present to provide a short recap of some of the most pressing issues in the organization, present the newly elected officers and present some very special awards. Look for more details coming soon. Everyone is welcome so please join us!

The Balloon Ride Operators Division Board will meet Tuesday, October 7th at 4:00 p.m. at Claim Jumper Restaurant and will host a general membership meeting on Thursday, October 9th at Noon at The Landing on Fiesta field.

Can't Make It? Stream It!

The Board recognizes that not everyone can attend Fiesta that might like to attend the Annual General Meeting. To accommodate for those not able to attend, we will be broadcasting the meeting LIVE for the first time ever!

To view the AGM, click [HERE](#) starting at 1:00 p.m. MST on Saturday, 10/4. In addition to some brief updates from the Board and announcement of officers for the next year, a number of special awards will be presented by the Board. We hope you can join us and enjoy this additional member service.

America's Challenge!

The 19th America's Challenge is set to take to the skies on Saturday, October 4th from Balloon Fiesta Park in Albuquerque.

This year looks to see 7 hydrogen gas balloons launch including last year's winning locals Peter Cuneo and Barbara Fricke. Last year's winning flight took the team 1,426 miles across the country, Lake Superior and eventually into Ontario, Canada. Fresh off of their appearances in the Gordon Bennett race from Vichy, France, the teams of Mark Sullivan and Cheri White and Phil Bryant and Andy Cayton will look to claim the title and earn another entry to the Gordon Bennett.

International teams flying this year include Anulfo Gonzalez and Angel Aguirre from Spain, Dr. Heinz-Otto Lausch and Dr. Marion Lausch of Germany, Krzysztof Zapart and Mateusz Rekas of Poland.

In addition, Bert Padelt and Mike Emich will launch in the smaller Aero Club of America balloon built by Bert.

Tracking, rules, history and more can be found via the Balloon Fiesta website [here](#). Good luck and safe flights to all.

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!

John Daniels, NC

David Bradley, IL

Steve Strine, IN

Todd Baumgartner, OH

Jeff Spear, CA

Ed York, FL

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!](#)

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.

September's featured Corporate Member of the Month is **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta!**

Since in 1972, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has grown to be known as a mecca for balloonists from around the world. Featuring hundreds of balloons, the America's Challenge Gas balloon race, dawn patrols, competition, tons of social events and more, Fiesta offers something for everyone and promises a great time. For more information on Fiesta, you can visit their website [here](#).

Thanks to Balloon Fiesta for their continued support of the BFA!

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

New Achievements

Bill Buchar, IL – Commercial LTA Certificate

Keith Knefelkamp, MN – Commercial LTA Certificate

Glen O'Brien, NC – Commercial LTA Certificate

Ben Smith, IA – Private LTA Certificate

Bryce Boehler, ID – Private LTA Certificate

Jared Scutt, NM – Private LTA Certificate

Bruce Cable Morris, CT – Private LTA Certificate

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.

Team USA, Women's Worlds

The Women's World Championship took place in Leszno, Poland September 8-13th. Five ladies from the BFA HACD represented the US. They were asked to fly in some very challenging conditions, including quite questionable weather. Although the results were not as good as they had hoped, the entire team represented us well and comes away with excellent experiences to learn from. Congratulations to Nicola Scaife of Australia for an excellent performance in claiming the title of Women's World Champion. The full results from the event can be found [here](#).

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.

To find our more please visit the convention website at: www.bfaconvention.com

Or Contact us at: info@bfaconvention.com

Remember, early participant registration is open October 1st!

Other Fun Things to Look Forward to in Reno

By Pat Irwin

The BFA convention in Reno will be an excellent opportunity to learn, to network and to grow as a pilot no matter where you are from. The cost is a real deal and the rooms are located at the best hotel casino in Nevada. While you are training or if you want to just take a breather, we have some fun activities planned as well. The biggest treasure in Nevada is said by many to be "Lake Tahoe" and how better to see Lake Tahoe but via a dinner cruise to see the sunset and to enjoy several stories by staff about this great jewel of the Sierra in a paddle boat. The Pilots-Captain Dinner Cruise will have chartered buses transport you to Lake Tahoe and return so you can enjoy the trip with no distractions. The views are spectacular so bring a camera for the trip up to the Lake and during the cruise which will focus some of its journey around Emerald Bay. Don't be the one asking "How was the trip" be one of those people that are telling the story of sharing great moment and great stories about balloon flights past during the best dinner cruise ever. I will be your host and will dance to a great local band and share several stories about balloon flights around and over the Lake area. We are living the dream here in Nevada and we love sharing our experiences. One of those is Lake Tahoe-Don't miss it!

We also have a trip planned to another location known from the days of gold and silver discovery and the Bonanza television series; Virginia City! Come enjoy a day on the true western sidewalks of bars and stores that have not changed in 150 years. The Storey County Chamber has created a bag for each guest that will have coupons and store deals as well as museum discounts and values galore. Join us for another great day in Nevada amongst the cowboys, saloon girls and miners of the past. You might even see the famous Nevada wild horses and wildlife only seen in the great Comstock of Nevada.

If you know of others that missed the event or family that have never seen Nevada then the mall trip is for you. The bus will take you on a shopping tour of the area and just like the Virginia City tour, provide you with discounts, coupons and values unavailable on your own. Giving you the ability to leverage your money and afford more gifts for friends and family and even a couple great items for yourself. Pilots are known for having propane and champagne for breakfast, on this trip you will be known as shopping with champagne and no need for the propane. Come join us for a great day at the Mall.

When you register for the BFA conference, remember to sign up for one or all of the fun trips scheduled during the conference. We have only a few busses scheduled for each event so they may not be available on site!!! See you in Reno!

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 Quips are once again submitted by BFA Board Secretary Dean Carton!

CQ #1 – Don't Get Burned

Many balloon systems can be inflated to the point where the throat will stay open without help. With proper pressure from the crown line operator(s), some balloons do not require people at the throat during hot inflate. If crew don't need to be there, they can drop off and put weight on the basket instead when instructed by the pilot just before going hot. Check with your pilot to see if this method will work with your system.

CQ #2 – It Takes 2 to Tango

A way to gain more control of the balloon during inflation is to use 2 crown lines. The lines are positioned at 90 degrees from each other, so that the crown lines and the balloon form a "Y" shape, with the basket at the bottom of the "Y". With 2 people, the rolling effect is significantly reduced. For glows, keep the 2 crown line persons out, but after inflating position them upwind at 90 degrees from each other.

Read it Before it Arrives!

Did you know the online reader for BALLOONING magazine is once again up and running?

Simply log in to the www.bfa.net and click the "Ballooning Magazine" tab from the top.

Safety Seminar Online

Did you miss out on our Online Seminar in the winter? Now you can catch all of those archived presentations thanks to BFA.net! For those who need to complete their seminars for insurance discounts, or for those members who would just like to expand their knowledge, the videos are available for you to watch on YOUR schedule.

To make it easier to use, the seminar is broken into segments that can be watched by any BFA member for FREE! You MUST log-on before accessing the 'Education and Training' tab, or go directly to the [video page](#). However in order to be submitted to insurance, you must register at Seminar Registration in order to register and pay the registration fee.

Click here to go to the [Seminar Webinar Page](#) once you are logged in!

Coming Soon....

Be on the lookout for the long awaited rollout of the new BFA website! The website development committee has been hard at work for quite some time and is committed to improving the overall user experience. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work out the details. Look for more information about the release in an upcoming issue...