

# The Quick Release

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JOHN TRIONE / THE QUICK RELEASE



## 2015 NEL System Finalized

WRITTEN BY DREW EGERTON

The 2015 BFA HACD National Eligibility List system is now final. As of 1/28/16 all queries have been received and answered. The HACD is pleased to announce the winners of the \$5,000 ranking list prize purse.

Congratulations to Joe Heartsill of Texas on an excellent year in achieving both the Top Senior award and the top overall ranking among the 164 pilots that obtained an average (5 task minimum). Joe averaged 965.4 points over 21 tasks flown. Joe's year also included a win in the Southwest Regional Championships and a top 5 at the Nationals. Congratulations on a great year Joe!

The Top Rookie award this year goes to Matthew Hurst of Arizona, finishing an impressive 14th overall. Matthew narrowly defeated Paul Dale of Ohio by less than 20 points. Another rookie, Tyler Thompson, finished 25th overall. An impressive year for these rookies.

The Most Improved pilot for 2015 was Alan (Wayne) Warren of Michigan, who improved his average a staggering 119

## 2016 BFA Online Continuing Education Seminar Webinar

*Live from the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association  
Balloonknowledge 2016 seminar in Canton, Ohio*

**March 12, 2016**

**9:30am EST (8:30am CST, 7:30am MST, 6:30am PST)**

The 2016 BFA Online Continuing Education Seminar Webinar will be presented live on March 12, 2016. The seminar will start at 9:30am EST.

The BFA Seminar Webinar is designed for those balloonists that can't get to a face-to-face seminar, but still want to maintain their education, especially regarding flying safely. The user will need a computer and a stable Internet connection to access the site.

To attend "on-line", you will need to register in advance of the session. Once payment is received, you will receive a registration number by email that will be used on the day of the event to check-in. After the Seminar Webinar has completed, you will need to complete a short, on-line test to verify your attendance

**You can register here:**

<http://www.bfa.net/2016seminar/>

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positions. The Top Female pilot was Susan Stamats of Iowa, finishing 42nd overall. Susan only bested Myia Danley of Colorado by 0.1 points after both ladies flew over 20 tasks! 16 women achieved an average this year.

The BFA/HACD congratulates these and the remaining pilots of the Top 21 and wishes everyone good luck and safe flights in 2016!

**Rank - Name**  
Award / Money

- #1 - Joe Heartsill**  
Top Pilot and Top Senior / \$500
- #14 - Matthew Hurst**  
Top Rookie / \$300
- #39 - Alan W. Warren**  
Most Improved / \$300
- #42 - Susan Stamats**  
Top Female / \$300
- #2 - Drew Egerton**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #3 - Rhett Heartsill**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #4 - Bradley R. Craig**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #5 - Steve Mitchell**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #6 - Johnny Petrehn**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #7 - Aaron J. Foelsk**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #8 - Shawn Raya**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #9 - Paul J. Petrehn**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #10 - Todd Isley**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #11 - Adam T. Magee**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #12 - Jason Jones**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #13 - Benjamin J. Clemons**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #15 - Chase Donner**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #16 - Joe Zvada**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #17 - Jeff Johnson**  
Top 21 / \$175

- #18 - Nicholas A. Donner**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #19 - Paul Dale**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #20 - Bruce L. Wood**  
Top 21 / \$175
- #21 - Guy G. Gauthier**  
Top 21 / \$175

**Two Eagles Team  
nominated for Robert  
J. Collier Trophy**

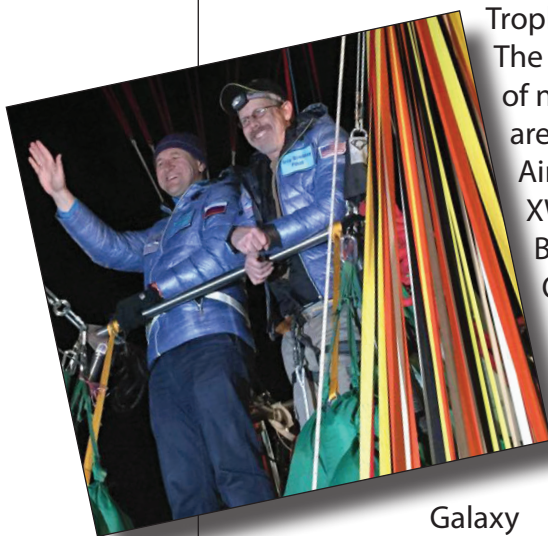


The Two Eagles Team and Troy Bradley, BFA Past President and current NAA Liaison have been nominated to receive the prestigious

Robert J Collier Trophy!

The full list of nominees are:

- Airbus A350
- XWB
- Blue
- Origin
- New
- Shepard
- Team
- C-5M
- Super



Galaxy

Dawn Project Team  
HA-420 HondaJet  
ICON A5  
New Horizons Project Team  
Two Eagles Balloon Team  
UCAS-D Autonomous Aerial Refueling Demonstration.  
For 104 years, the Collier Trophy has been the benchmark of aerospace achievement. Awarded annually "... for the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in America", it has been bestowed upon

some of the most important projects, programs, individuals, and accomplishments in history. Past winners include the crews of Apollo 11 and Apollo 8, the Mercury 7, and Howard Hughes. Projects and programs which have been the recipient of the Collier include the B-52, the Polaris Missile, the Surveyor Moon Landing Program, the Boeing 747, the Cessna Citation, the F-22, and the International Space Station.

"The Collier is the Super Bowl of the world's aerospace industry, and this list of nominees certainly reflects it," said Jim Albaugh, Chairman of the National Aeronautic Association and Chairman of the Selection Committee. "These are all extremely worthy nominations, and they each demonstrate the vitality of our industry."

The Selection Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 8th in Arlington, Virginia, and the winner will be announced that evening at the NAA Spring Awards Dinner held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

More information can be found at [www.naa.aero](http://www.naa.aero).

*The Quick Release*

**CONTACT INFO**

EDITOR  
**JOHN C. TRIONE**

P.O. Box 484, Lake Geneva, WI • 53147 USA  
(262) 206-3975

EMAIL: [jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com](mailto:jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com)

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Hudson Hot Air Affair • Hudson, WI

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## PRO Division update on Soaring Adventures concerns

SUBMITTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL RIDE OPERATORS DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Professional Ride Operators Division (PRO) Board has been monitoring the ongoing situation of those doing business with, and owed money by, the Soaring Adventures Network. Previously, PRO had issued a notice to our members regarding concerns we had with the Soaring Adventures Network.



Given the above, the PRO Board wishes to make the following clear:

- 1) The PRO Division is a formal division of the BFA.
- 2) The PRO Division has never accepted Soaring Adventures

as a member.

3) The PRO Division has never encouraged or supported participation by our members in the Soaring Adventures Network.

4) The BFA stopped accepting advertising from the Soaring Adventures Network over a year ago.

As much as we'd like to support our members in this unfortunate situation, the PRO Division is not in a position to assist balloon ride companies or their passengers that have done business with the Soaring Adventures Network other than to provide information that has been made available to us.

The integrity of our industry is of paramount importance to all of us, and the PRO Division is attempting to grow and unify our members across the country. As such, the PRO Division desires to minimize negative marketing practices in the hot air balloon ride industry.

In the future, this type of situation can be avoided by encouraging customers to purchase certificates directly from a PRO-approved balloon ride operator with an established business history. Customers should also be encouraged to check with their local Better Business Bureau or Chamber

of Commerce to help ensure a ride operator is reputable. Those operators directly affected by this matter might consider contacting an attorney.

If there is anything we can do to assist any PRO member, please contact a member of the PRO or BFA Board of Directors.



SUBMITTED BY TIM CLOYD

The 4th annual Extreme Flight to Find a Cure is now complete. On Saturday January 30, 2016, I flew 105 miles on this 2 hour 24 minute flight. Launch was at the Ashton Observatory near Baxter, Iowa with nearly calm winds and a passenger Aimee Wetzel Luhrs.

I climbed to a top altitude of 17,604 feet reaching a top speed of 68 MPH. My landing was a smooth 4 MPH near West Liberty, Iowa. This flight was my 7th hot air balloon flight of 100 miles or more. The flight is to raise money and awareness for cancer. I fly the flight for those who have dealt with cancer.



## Anne Boussetot creates afghan featuring Cedar Rapids area pilots

Anne Boussetot created this beautiful afghan for her husband, pilot Matt Boussetot. The afghan features pilots who've been flying in the Cedar Rapids area.

The two small balloons on the top are Autumn Harvest and High Spirits (Balloon Travels Unlimited, Kevin Kamp, Pilot); Cropduster (Balloon Travels Unlimited), Cost Cutters (Buzzards Glory, Susan Stamats, Pilot), and Alley Cat (Susan Stamats); Guaranty Bank (Buzzards Glory), Point After (Matt Boussetot, Pilot), and Linn Area (Balloon Travels Unlimited); Buzzards Glory III (Buzzards Glory), Sundog X (Adam Magee, Pilot), and Puff Proud Papa (Joan Nichol, Pilot, retired 2013), and the two small balloons on the bottom, Swamp Fox & Buzzards Glory (Buzzards Glory).

Except for Puff Proud Papa, all 9 of the big balloons flew or glowed in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area in 2015.

Newsletter of the Balloon Federation of America

# *The Quick Release*

**DEADLINE 2/29/16**

Next issue of  
"The Quick Release" to be released on  
**3/4/16**

We want your photos, club news, crew news and pilot news. Special recognitions, ballooning anniversaries and any thing else that is balloon-related and happening within the BFA membership.

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO JOHN C. TRIONE:  
[jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com](mailto:jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com)