

# The Quick Release

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**July 13-16, 2020**  
**8 am – 12 pm MDT**

We will not be holding in-person camps this year. Our two camp directors, Roger Clark and Neida Bueno have been working with their teams to come up with a unique experience for our balloon kids. We are happy to announce the first ever virtual balloon camp, or as we have been calling it, a Campinar.

For more information and to register please follow this link:

[www.bfa.net/campinar](http://www.bfa.net/campinar)

## Support for Event Organizers

We are reaching out to balloon event planners and Executive Directors to offer resources, information, and assistance to help you navigate through these unprecedented times. If you are a BFA member, BFA sanctioned event or not, we are here to help you.

We encourage you to join the **Hot Air Balloon Event Planners** Facebook page and connect with others who are facing many of the same challenges and decisions regarding their local ballooning events. To ensure the page remains true to its intended purpose, and benefits everyone, this is a closed group and you must be invited to join. Please contact Jason Jones [jnsy588@aol.com](mailto:jnsy588@aol.com) to be invited to the group.



Please follow one of our many Facebook pages to get the most current information.

Balloon Federation of America  
FLY GAS  
Balloon Federation of America Youth Program  
Rio Grande Balloon Camp  
Southeast Balloon Camp  
BFA Convention  
BFA Hot Air Competition Division  
US Woman Balloon Championship  
Professional Ride Operators

# FAA Special Federal Aviation Regulations Update

Dated May 4, 2020

We have finally received the requested interpretation of the Special FAA regulations as they relate to ballooning. Chris Roth, General Aviation and Commercial Division, Airman Training and Certification Branch, provided the following information:

Commercial pilots may take advantage of the relief provided where their Flight Review would expire between March and June of 2020 for the purpose of exercising their privileges of their Commercial rating for commercial flights conducted under FAR Part 91. What Commercial pilots cannot do while exercising this relief is anything that is not considered "commercial", i.e. sport and pleasure.

The portion regarding Private ratings remains as outlined previously for the specific purposes listed in the SFAR. The language for both appears below. As a reminder, to take advantage of this relief, you must complete 3 units under the Wings program.

One remaining question that has surfaced is the issue of getting current if you are not and your Flight Review has lapsed during this period. There is no relief currently. The FAA is considering that issue and is also planning to issue an amendment to this SFAR for several issues.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/04/2020-09472/relief-for-certain-persons-and-operations-during-the-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-outbreak>

The Relief regarding the Flight review is limited in scope to the following:

*Relief granted in this section to certain eligible pilots and crewmembers applies only to persons conducting specific operations for which the FAA has determined relief is appropriate.*

*The relief applies to any operation that requires the pilot to hold at least a commercial pilot certificate. This provision will support the continuity of essential commercial operations, which include aerial observation of critical infrastructure, aerial applications (e.g., crops), and private carriage of medical supplies and equipment, which are conducted under part 91, subpart K, and parts 125, 133, and 137.<sup>[25]</sup>*

*Additionally, this relief applies to some operations conducted by pilots exercising private pilot privileges, provided the pilot has at least 500 hours of total time as a pilot of which 400 hours is as PIC and 50 of the PIC hours were accrued in the last 12 calendar months. The kinds of operations permitted are those that are:*

- *Incidental to business or employment,*
- *in support of family medical needs or to transport essential goods for personal use,*
- *necessary to fly an aircraft to a location in order to meet a requirement of this chapter, or*
- *a flight to transport essential goods and/or medical supplies to support public health needs.*

Pilots whose Flight Reviews are current may fly for any purpose, unless limited by local or state restriction due to the coronavirus. Also, Flight Reviews can be conducted for anyone at this time, again unless there are local or state restrictions.

I am sorry that it took this long to get down to that answer, but a huge thanks to Pat Cannon for his persistence in this endeavor.

Please stay safe,  
**Mark West**  
President  
[president@bfa.net](mailto:president@bfa.net)

## *Let's Show We Care*

As states and communities across American begin to re-open in the continuing face of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the BFA wants to assure that ballooning and balloonists are welcomed back in a positive way. To accomplish this, we are urging our member pilots to "Show We Care."

A number of our members, some significant ride operations in the USA, along with other individual pilots across the country have already begun doing so. We would like to take this effort nationwide. We would like to put in place programs to give back to the many workers who have put themselves on the frontline in our defense against Covid-19 by awarding balloon rides, as a way to say thank you. The BFA is encouraging all member pilots to consider this idea when you decide to return to flying.

For more information please click on the link: [www.bfa.net/ShowWeCare](http://www.bfa.net/ShowWeCare)

### *How did this get started?*

In early March with no ballooning activity going on Chip Fisher, Matthew and Scott McClinton with SkyCab Balloon Promotions wanted to have a way to give back to the front line medical workers and first responders working long hours during the COVID-19 pandemic. They decided to have a Facebook and social media campaign asking for names of these workers, their title and facility where they work, submitted for a weekly drawing for a balloon ride in the future. They did not have to like the SkyCab page or register, just a quick email or message and the person was registered.

SkyCab drew the names of winners for five weeks in a row from over 500 submissions, with nurses winning four weeks and a police officer winning the fifth. Two of the winners were submitted by relatives so it was a complete surprise to them. SkyCab started the thought process and numerous other balloon companies have followed the example and started programs of their own, demonstrating the gratitude we all have for those on the frontlines.

It is important that we not only thank these extremely valuable members of our community for their efforts during the pandemic but remember when COVID-19 is gone those same heroes will be back at work facing the next crisis.

***Thanks to all our frontline medical workers and first responders for keeping America safe.***



# WELCOME NEW BFA MEMBERS



Dave Norris  
Angela McGraw  
William Grubb  
Todd Burk  
Grant Gillian  
Linda Nelson  
Joseph Pluck  
Mary Holtschneider  
Josh Saiz  
Jodi Johnson  
Ronald Grose

New Zealand  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Iowa  
Iowa  
Iowa  
Iowa  
New Jersey  
North Carolina  
New Mexico  
Oregon  
Oregon

Andrew Brindley  
Matt Forss  
Lawrence Sadowski  
Kendall Arkema  
Randall Ottinger  
Rich Olstad  
Robert Thomas  
David Holtschneider  
Sharki Kontra  
Demi Boysen

Indiana  
Wisconsin  
Iowa  
Iowa  
Iowa  
Iowa  
South Dakota  
North Carolina  
North Carolina  
Idaho  
Oregon



Update

The next step in the new list format update is *Balloon Schools & Training*. To view examples, see the BFA Roster listing, Repair Station lists, PAAP Participants or Past President list. This is all made possible because of the new and improved web site infrastructure we have.

If you represent a Part 141 School, Ground School Provider or other companies and organizations that offer balloon training on a regular basis you can be included in the new *Balloon School & Training list*, please email Scott Wooge at [scott.wooge@gmail.com](mailto:scott.wooge@gmail.com) with the following information:

Company Name  
Contact Name  
BFA Member ?  
Address  
Phone #'s  
email address  
web site address  
Part 141?  
Ground School?  
Online Ground School?  
Flight Instruction?



If you see any other sections which need updating, please let us know. This is an all-Volunteer Organization. You get out of it what you put in. Please contact Scott Wooge or any BFA Director to help make things better!



Fireside Chats are a weekly video live chats about interesting balloon topics where balloonists ask questions, hear applicable and interesting stories, with fascinating balloon folks. Get connected to your balloon community and learn some things you would not otherwise. Each segment will feature different balloonists from around the world.

View past Fireside Chats here: [www.bfa.net/fireside](http://www.bfa.net/fireside)

Look forward to more chats coming weekly!

## A New Normal for Ballooning



# Pilot Achievement Award Program 2020

*Congratulations!!*



Cheri White  
Dean Carlton  
Ryan Carlton

Completed Level 8 PAAP  
Completed Levels 1-8 PAAP  
Completed Levels 1-5 PAAP



For more information in participating in the PAAP or the CAAP please go to: [www.bfa.net](http://www.bfa.net) under the education tab.



We are pleased to announce that our office manager Jill married her best friend & love. Introducing:  
Jake and Jill Jacobsen!



## FAR/AIM QUIZ

**Question:** Where does it say a pilot is required to hand over their pilot certificate to a law enforcement agent, if requested to do so?

**Hint:** 14 CFR 61.3(I)(3)  
(Look for answer in June's QR)

## LAST MONTHS QUIZ & ANSWER

**Question:** How long must a flight instructor keep records for a person they instructed?

**Answer:** FAR 61.189

**Must retain records required in this section for at least 3 years.**



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Of America

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