

The Quick Release

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Letter from the President....

Summer is slipping away, and we are still in the throws of the pandemic. Our sport is not alone. I was recently on a Zoom meeting with the other member organizations of the NAA and every segment of aviation has struggled just as we. That doesn't make it better, just that we are not alone. Less hard-hit areas are flying while harder hit regions have had little opportunity. All but a few smaller events have been cancelled or postponed including all of our National Championship events.

I want to let you know that the business of the BFA is still pushing ahead on your behalf, adapting, and working to support ballooning into the future. I want to share with you some of what is happening.

In July, we replaced our youth camps with a virtual, online camp. We had 75 campers and adults participate over the week-long event and it was met with great reviews by those who joined in the event. Videos of all the presentations are available on our website. A huge thanks to both the organizers as well as attendees for making this first of a kind event successful. Building on the success of our camps, plans are under way to expand on the camp programs for our youth. We are planning for our weeklong camps to return in 2021 with potentially 3 camps. In addition, we will be also working to organize smaller local day camps as well as camps associated with balloon events. If you are interested in giving this a try in your local area or with your event, please stay tuned for more information. We are also hoping to transition the virtual camp into a format similar to the Fireside Chats that have taken place this year but directed for our youth. We all understand that they are the future of ballooning.

We had balloons involved in a weather-related mishap last week and while it was unfortunate that anyone was injured, it could have been much worse. We were monitoring the situation, talking to those involved and assisting in keeping the media narrative on the national level from being overplayed. There are two things that we should take away from this mishap; 1) With the best weather information that we have ever had available in the sport of ballooning, there remains the potential for something to happen that could have potentially catastrophic results. Be ever vigilant when flying and keep your skills up to be able to handle difficult situations when they occur. 2) Work to protect ballooning from the ravages of sensational media. We have all seen what effect it can have on not only our sport. We are here to help with both two issues. Our annual safety seminars need to focus on keeping us tuned up for such occurrences. Our online seminars are there for you to review any time you want via our website. I went back to review an excellent presentation on Skew T charts after this mishap. We also have a Media Relations program within the BFA for events such as this. Please reach out if you need assistance. I encourage event organizers to reach out prior to your events to be prepared just in case.

Our annual election is under way. Please take the time to vote. We have put a lot of work into our Bylaws revision to bring it more current and we have a good group of folks running for Board positions that deserve your vote. This is a volunteer run organization and we are only as good as our volunteers make it.

Lastly, in this strange time, we find ourselves needing to adapt in ways we had never anticipated. With Albuquerque cancelled, our Annual General Meeting will be held online in a Zoom format this year. We are still shooting for the same day as it would have been, October 4. Please stay tuned to additional information as we get closer. We hope you all take the time to join into the meeting.

Please continue to stay safe both in flying as well as from the pandemic. Help us to keep our sport strong through these trying times.

All the best to you and your families,



Mark West, BFA President



The deadline is approaching quickly, if you haven't voted yet you have until **August 24, 2020**. Qualified voters who were current members as of July 6th will have the opportunity to vote for our leadership team.

This year we are voting on By-Law changes for both the BFA general organization as well as the Gas Division. These are important changes that will define how we operate as we progress into the future.

The BFA Board By-Laws changes are detailed at this link:

https://www.bfa.net/images/By_Laws/2020_Bylaw_Revisions.pdf

You should have received an email from our voting service provider on July 26th that will provide the information you will need to vote. If you did not see it, check your Spam filters. If you still do not see it, contact Jill at the BFA office (515) 961-8809.

Balloon Federation of America
National Convention
April 8-10th, 2021

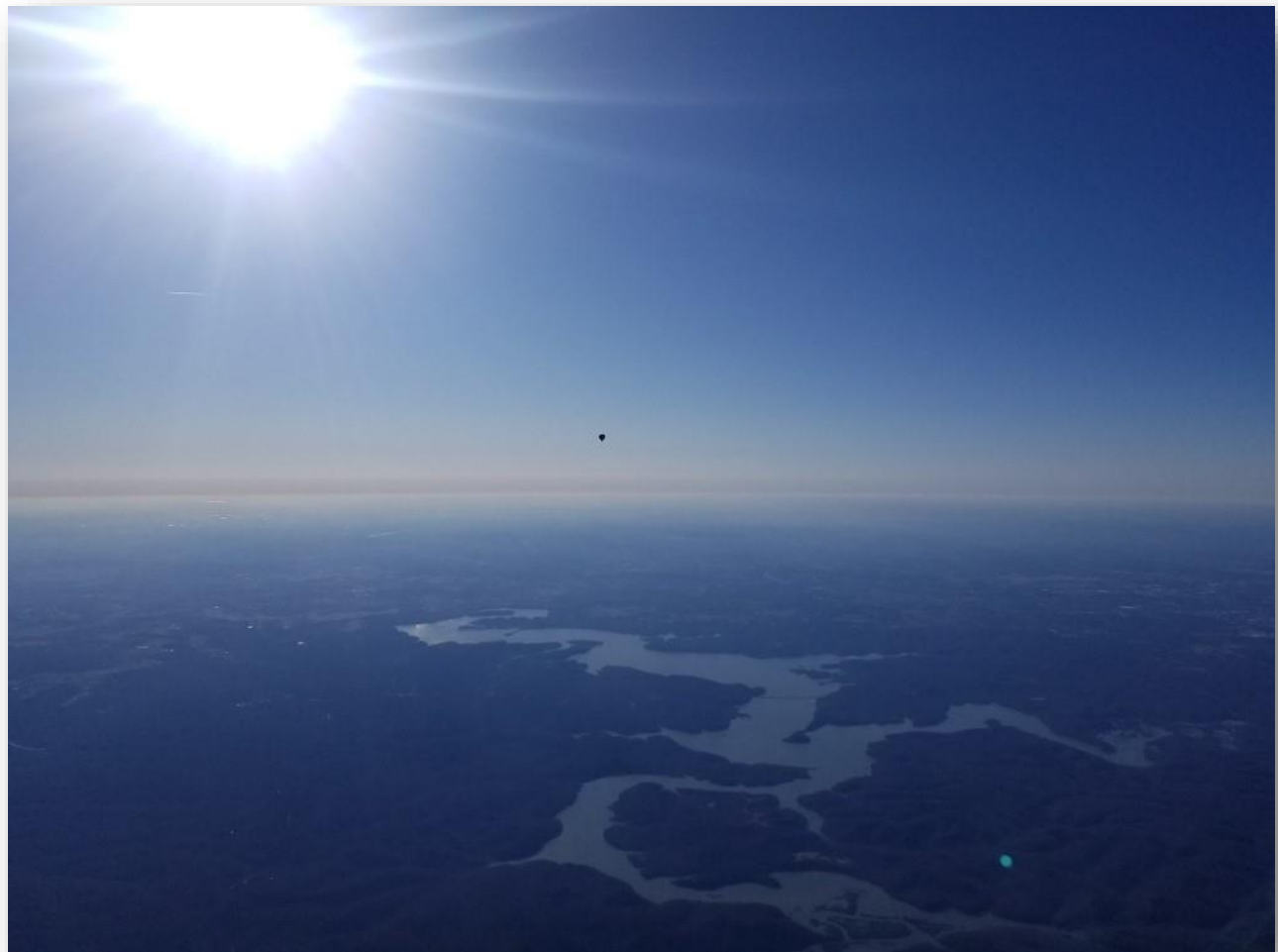
Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas
60 Years of Ballooning Excellence
Join us in Kansas

- * Continuing Education
- * Presentations by Industry Leaders
- * Fun & Fellowship

<https://www.bfa.net/convention-2021>
Register August 1st

Long Jump Across America

The BFA Long Jump Committee is pleased to announce the Long Jump Across America Challenge to mark the 30th anniversary of the sport in the United States. Instead of a national competition, each of the six BFA regions will hold a group flying event to encourage pilots to improve on their personal best distance records while flying over an iconic landmark unique to their area. From the Northeast to the Southwest, each region will have a coordinator to maintain a contact list of pilots who may be interested in flying a long jump and to decide when and where to fly based on local conditions. While still in the planning stage, there are already ideas being floated in several of the regions for their events. The Southeast Region is planning a 60-70-mile flight over the Smoky Mountains from Tennessee into North Carolina. In the North Central Region, there is discussion of a Mount Rushmore long jump. In the West, a California to Nevada flight over the mountains has been suggested, and maybe a Grand Canyon crossing in the Southwest. Every area of the United States has some incredible geography to fly over that would make for a once-in-a-lifetime ballooning experience. A coordinated group long jump is a great way to make it happen. To facilitate participation and training, the committee will publish a series of articles in Ballooning as well as hold one or more online "fireside chats." Helpful information about weather, equipment preparation, flight planning, and airspace operations will be made available to meet the needs of first-time long jump pilots. If you are interested in taking part in the Long Jump Across America as either a pilot or a regional coordinator, contact Bill Smith at aeroforce1@bellsouth.net and your name will be added to the contact list for your regional event. We hope to get flying in your area before the end of the year, but this long jump season will include the entire 2021 calendar year as well. For detailed instructions and the latest rules for a long jump, go to the BFA website at <https://www.bfa.net/information/long-jump-competition>.





Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Photo Credit: Alysha Lard



WELCOME NEW BFA MEMBERS



Ronald Wyatt
Daniel Dropps
Sarah Traut
Alyssa Sullivan
Terry Metzger
Jeffrey Bell
Jesse Sherwood
Aidan Kendall
Ines Jarki

Cornville, AZ
Cottonwood, AZ
Savannah, GA
Fayetteville, GA
Louisville, KY
Pittstown, NJ
Albuquerque, NM
Austin, TX
Toronto, Ontario

A FAR Question

Question: How long must a flight instructor retain their student records, according to this section?

Hint: 61.189

(Look for answer in September's QR)

LAST MONTHS QUIZ & ANSWER

Question: Where do you find your damage limitations for your balloon system?

Answer: Your Balloon Flight Manual

Pilot Achievement Award Program 2020



Congratulations!

Dawn Chase

Levels 1-4

Bryan Kelly

Levels 1 & 2

Tony Saxton

Levels 1-6

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



Scottsbluff, Nebraska
Photo Credit: Kathy Rickard Parker



Balloon Federation
Of America

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