



Paul J. Petrehn

The youngest of eleven with three of eight brothers (Maury, Andrew & John) and both sisters (Becky & Cindy) being licensed balloon pilots. Father (John) was a commercial balloon pilot and still a World Record Holder, passed away in 1990. His 1984 AX-7 record duration flight from Huron, South Dakota to Middletown, IL still stands at 24 hours and 12 minutes.

Received student license in 1989
Privately licensed in 1993
Commercially licensed 1995

Employed by Aeronautical Adventures and Sky's the Limit Balloon Ride Companies in Kansas City 1995-1997

- Flew passenger ride balloons
- Flew commercially for
-RE/MAX

Employed by Renaissance Balloons, Inc. in Brighton, MI (1997-2003)

- FAA certified repairman
- Flew passenger ride balloons
- Flew commercially for:
 - Pontiac
 - A/C Delco
 - Chevrolet
 - Jose Cuervo Tequila (special shape)
 - Winston Cigarettes (special shape)
 - WHMI 93.5 Radio Station
 - MichCon (Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.)
 - Detroit CBS Channel 62
- GMC
- GM Goodwrench Service
- Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream (special shape)

Employed by Lindstrand Balloons US in Galena, IL (2004)

- Factory Representative
- Basket production
- Maintenance & production inspector

Employed by Cameron Balloons US in Dexter, MI (present)

- Factory Sales/Marketing Representative



-FAA Certified Repairman #2875625

Contract Pilot for Renaissance Balloons, Inc. in Brighton, MI (present)
-Ride balloon/Commercial-piloting services

Won first balloon competition at the Brandon, FL Balloon Classic (1998)

Won 1999 & 2002 US National Team Championships

Won 2004 & 2005 BFA US National Championships

Competed in the 17th World Hot Air Balloon Championships in Motegi, Japan
2006

-Finished 11th place

Qualified for the 18th World Hot Air Balloon Championships in Hofkirchen, Austria
2008

-Finish TBD

Favorite places to fly are Japan, Austria and Breckenridge, CO

GORDON SCHWONTKOWSKI

Mission in Ballooning:

To provide field-tested and proven techniques that promote crew/flight safety

Crew Background:

Crew Chief since 1982, crew member since 1978

Crewing Experience:

Led 3000+ crews on sport, commercial, competitive, and corporate operations in 36 states on standard and special shapes to 300,000 cubic feet in all weather conditions

Actively studied safety aspects of 100,000+ flights over 20-year period

Corporate Sponsors: America Online, Case-IH, IL Tourism, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, ReMax, Good Neighbor Pharmacy, Cadbury Schweppes, and others

Publications:

Books:

Author, Hot Air Balloon Crewing Essentials – 2008, 2005
Leading Contributor, Balloon Flying Handbook (FAA-H-8083-11) – 2008

Articles:

“Crew Zone,” Ballooning Magazine’s column devoted exclusively to crewing – 2005 - present
“Got Current? Preventing/Managing Power Line Strikes”
Ballooning Magazine, Sept/Oct, 2007
“On the Road with America Online” – Ballooning Magazine,
March/April, 2002

Safety Seminars:

Presentations on various aspects of crewing

2008 - Wisconsin Balloon Group,
Great Eastern Balloon Association
2007 - Great Lakes International Aviation Conference,
NorthEast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association,
Great Eastern Balloon Association
2006 - Carolinas Balloon Association,
Southeastern Michigan Balloon Association,
Southern California Balloon Association
2005 - Balloon Society of Kentucky,
Montgolfier Society of Indiana,
Iowa Balloonist Association

Minnesota Ballooning Association,

Affiliations:

Contributing Editor, Ballooning Magazine, 2005 – present
BFA member, 2005 - present

GORDON SCHWONTKOWSKI (cont'd)

Crewing Specialties:

Corporate program management, high-wind ground handling, crew training

Proudest Moments:

Summer, 2007 - sequence of 15 set-ups and flights over 4 days in winds of 8-24mph without a single injury or piece of damaged equipment

Indoor inflations for school presentations/assemblies inside the envelope

Bad Habits to Break:

Locking keys in vehicles

Wish for All Crew:

More proactive flight safety, especially on landing

Pilot Training:

Pending

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THOMAS A.F. SHEPPARD

Pilot Background:

Glider Rating 1944
Fixed Wing Rating 1947
Free Balloons-Commercial Rating 1974
Competitive Pilot during 1970's & 1980's including US Nationals
Official for Competitive Balloon Events

FAA Repair Station & Examiner:

Repairman Free Balloons 1978-Present
FAA Repair Station # QTDR293K
FAA Designated Flight Examiner 1978-1988

Officiating Experience:

Event Director
World HONDA Grand Prix –Round 1-(USA) 1998-2005
Gas Balloon World Championship 1990
First Rozier World Championship 1990
World Hot Air Balloon Championships 1981 & 1985
Canadian National HAB Championship 1980-1984, 1986-1987
North American HAB Championships 1983, 1984, 1986 & 1988
US National HAB Championship 1978 & 1979.
Festival du Montgolfieres-St. Jean Quebec Canada 1992-1995
Battle Creek Intl. HAB Championship 1987-1990
Kodak Great American Balloonfest (3 Cities-2 Weeks) 1988
Winter Olympics Balloon Event – Calgary – 1988
Winter Olympics Balloon Event- Lake Placid -1980
Great Wis. Dells Balloon Rally 1976-1999
Deputy Event Director
Canadian National HAB Championship 2002 & 2004
President/Chairman International Jury
World HAB Championship 1987, 1989, 2006
Pacific HAB Championship 1990, 1994
Gordon Bennett Cup 1994
US National HAB Championship 1989-1990

Event Organization Experience:

Initiated (1976), co- organized and was Event Director the Great Wisconsin Dells Balloon Rally (90+ Balloons) for 24 years.
Worked as organizer and/or senior official at World, National and Local balloon events since 1975.

Affiliations:

Balloon Federation of America (BFA) Life Member Since 1974
Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Member Since 1957
North American Balloon Assoc. (NABA) Founder & Vice-Chairman

THOMAS A.F. SHEPPARD (cont'd)

Awards and Recognition:

BFA Shields-Trauger Award for Exemplary Service to BFA – Twice Honored 1979 & 1996.
BFA Presidents Awards – 1978, 1982, 1983, 1998
AI Desmond Award for Contribution to Competition 1994
FAI Montgolfier Diploma for Contribution to Ballooning 1990
Joan Martin Award (Canada) for Contribution to Ballooning 1984
Japan Balloon Federation Medal of Appreciation 1993
Wisconsin Balloon Group “Golden Whistle Award” 2002

Participation Committees, Seminars & Technical:

Lecturer at Aviation Safety Seminars in USA, Canada & Europe 1983 – 2006
BFA Events Committee Scoring Manager/Chair 1974-1983
BFA Technical Committee Chair 1983-1987
CIA Alternate Delegate USA – 1985-1989
CIA Delegate USA 1990-1995
BFA Director 1983-1986
BFA President 1985-1986
BFA/CD Rules Committee Chair 1988-1998
Member Team of Editors of FAA Private & Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards (Section 9 Free Balloons) 1984 (Oklahoma City).
Member BFA Team that worked with FAA to formulate a Balloon Events Waiver Policy (GAOIH 8700 Ch. 49) 1985 (Phoenix).
Introduced Observers for Competitive Events in the USA in 1978 at Wis. Dells & US Nationals.
Co-Author of Observer Handbook for HAB in USA 1978.
Co-Author of Observer Handbook for Gas & Rosier World Championships 1990
Author BFA Jury Handbook
Developed & Maintained (with national & international rules updates) Scoring Software for BFA Event Scoring, BFA Team Scoring, NABA Event Scoring and NABA Team Scoring.

Most Memorable Flight:

Flew Christie Hefner, Chairman, Playboy, in the Forbes Chateau Balloon in Balleroy, France in 1985

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DEBBRA A. SPAETH

Pilot Ratings

Private Pilot Hot Air Balloon 1978
Commercial Pilot Hot Air Balloon 1979

Seminar Organization & Participation

Speaker @ Safety Seminars around the USA on balloon competition topics including competition, observer's training, safety in mass ascensions.

Organizer & Speaker at "Officials Seminar", a how-to-do-it seminar for balloon competition officials 1990 & 1991.

Organizing & Officiating Experience

Event Director

Rocvale Balloon Rally, Rockford IL 1991
Monroe (WI) Balloon Rally 1989
Lake Geneva (WI) Balloon Rally 1985

Deputy Event Director

World HAB Championships 1981, 1985, 1989, 1997, 2006
World HAB HONDA Grand Prix-Final Round (Japan) 1998-2006
Saga (Japan) International Balloon Fiesta 1990-1998
Battle Creek Intl. HAB Championship 1987-1990
North American HAB Championship 1983, 1986
US National HAB Championship 1979
2nd European Airship Championship 1991

Event Organizer/Operations Director

Monroe Balloon Rally 1986-2006
World HAB HONDA Grand Prix-Round 1-1998-2006
Great Wis. Dells Balloon Rally (90+Balloons) 1976-1999
Great Kodak Balloonfest (3 Cities in 2 Weeks) 1988

Chief Scorer

Canadian National HAB Championships 1984, 1986, 1987, 2002, 2004
8th World Gas Balloon Championship 1990, 1994
Pacific HAB Championship 1992
Asst. Chief Observer
US National HAB Championship 1978

Jury Member/President

LuxGSM Trophy, Luxembourg 2002, 2004-2007
Battle Creek Intl. Championship 1997-1999 & 2001-2004
Pre-World Air Games, Spain, 2000
World HAB Airship Championship, Canada 1998
America's Challenge Race Albuquerque 1995
North American HAB Championship 1984 & 1994
Saga (Japan) International Balloon Championship 1986

Organization Affiliations & Activities

Wisconsin Balloon Group (WBG) Activities
Charter Member 1974
Original Member – Board Advisor 2003-Present
Executive Director 1989-1993

DEBBRA A SPAETH (cont'd)

Balloon Federation of America (BFA) Activities

Member since 1974

Member National Balloon Museum Hall of Fame Committee 2006-2007

Chair-2004 Great Lakes Nominating Committee

Gas Balloon Division Scoring Manager 1989-1993

Member BFA Hot Air Events Committee 1977-1986

Founding Member BFA Competition Division 1986

Chair-BFA Operations Committee 1983-1986

Co-Author of First BFA Observer Handbook 1978

Organized First Balloon Race under "new" BFA Sanctioned Competition System in West Bend WI in sub-zero February weekend in 1975.

North American Balloon Assoc (NABA) Charter Member 1999

International Ballooning Commission (CIA) Activities

Secretary General of CIA 1988-1995

CIA Jury Board Listed since 1992 Current Level -Senior Juror for Hot Air, Gas and Airship events.

CIA Education & Safety Sub-Committee Member 1989-1996

CIA Observer Committee Member 1992-1995

Co-Author Observer Handbook for World Gas Balloon Champ 1990

Awards and Recognition

Al Desmond Memorial Award for Contributions to HAB Competition 2003

FAI Montgolfier Diploma for Contribution to Sport of Ballooning 1986

BFA Shields Trauger Memorial Award for Exemplary Service to BFA 1984

Japan Balloon Federation Medal of Appreciation 1993

BFA Presidents Awards – 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987

BFA Directors Award 1995

Most Memorable Flights

Fiesta Pilot at Balloon 2001 in Sint-Niklaas, Belgium

Guest Pilot at Chateau de Balleroy International Event (France) 1986.

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KEITH SPROUL

Keith Sproul and his wife have been involved with ballooning since 1998. He has been crew chief on the Energizer Bunny for several years and is now the back-up pilot on this huge special shape balloon. He has made four balloons, including two special shape Tetrahedron balloons. He also owns three other special shape balloons including an 80 foot tall Birthday Cake Balloon. He likes to fly in canyons, gaps, gorges, and other places, where you end up looking up at the ground. Keith and his wife attend many balloon festivals through out the year. He also likes flying in the winter when it is cold. In addition to flying the large special shape balloons, he enjoys flying small one-man chariot type balloons. You can see pictures of his many balloons at his website: <http://www.skychariot.com> Keith has been doing a lot of flying and has over 700 hours PIC.

Keith and his brother write GPS tracking software for Ham Radio. This system is called APRS, Automatic Position Reporting System and is used by many of the gas balloon races for tracking the balloons in real time. This software is at <http://www.winaprs.com>.

Keith gives presentations at safety seminars every year. The topics vary from GPS, to flying in canyons, gorges, and gaps to talks about making and flying home built balloons. His most recent accomplishment was flying into Meteor Crater in northern Arizona.

Keith works as a computer manager at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Hot Air Balloon Pilot, Special Shapes Pilot
Member BFA AOPA EAA GEBA
Ham Radio WU2Z

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PAUL S. STUMPF

At the “ripe old age” of 51, Paul may be considered an “old timer” among balloonists. He was drawn into ballooning through an interest in photography in 1973, while still in high school. His enthusiasm quickly led him to build a balloon at the age of 17, with the help of his high school art teacher, Brian Boland.

Paul continued designing and building hot air balloons and cold air inflatables as an extra curricular activity during his college years. He graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography in 1979. Shortly after graduation Paul focused on all aspects of commercial ballooning. It was at this time too, that he designed and built a few accessories for his own balloon; and as friends began asking for similar items for their balloons, Paul decided to make his custom products available to balloonists throughout the nation via a mail order catalog. This, along with the commercial flying business, became the foundation for Stumpf Balloons.

The scope of Stumpf Balloons expanded considerably over the years to include, a Certified Repair Station opened in 1982, cold air promotional balloon manufacturing, banner fabrication, and balloon festival organization. Paul was appointed as the Northeastern US Distributor for Aerostar International in 1995, and continues to serve Aerostar as a Factory Authorized Service Center and parts distributor.

Paul has done most of his flying in the coastal New England area, but does enjoy “getting away” when time allows. He has flown balloons in Switzerland, Venezuela, and at the 1983 balloon Ballooning Bicentennial celebration in Annonay, France where he flew a one-man harness balloon which he built especially for that occasion. Paul has also been recognized for designing and building various “art inflatables” as well as for building and flying the World’s first “glass bottom balloon basket in 1982.

Paul currently works and plays in Andover, VT where he enjoys the outdoors, especially mountain biking, XC skiing, and snowshoeing. Paul is married and has a son and daughter.

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Canton, OH 44718

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MAURY SULLIVAN

Pilot Background

Private pilot certificate 1982
Commercial pilot certificate 1984
700 hours PIC

Flying Experience

Owned and operated commercial ride business and commercial contracts
Participated as competitive pilot in US Team Nationals 1995 – 2002
Participated as competitive pilot in US NABA Nationals 2000 and 2005

Officiating Experience

Event Director
Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Balloon Classic 1986–1988 and 1993–2007
The Great Wadsworth Balloon Festival 2001 – 2002
Ohio Challenge 2003 – 2007
Honda World Grand Prix and Monroe Balloon Rally 2006
Urbana Balloon Race 2006

Balloonmeister
New York State Festival of Balloons 2006 - 2007

Assistant Director
Battle Creek's Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival 2003 - 2004

Weather Officer
Blossom Time Balloon Festival 1987 – 2005
Thurston Balloon Classic 1989 – 2005
Coshocton Hot Air Balloon Races 2001 – 2007
New York State Festival of Balloons 2001 – 2005

Safety Officer
Battle Creek's Field of Flight Air Show and Balloon Festival 2005

TSO
US NABA Nationals, Waco, Texas 2003

Event Organization Experience

Organized and initiated the Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Balloon Classic in 1986 and served as its chairman 1986-1989. Have served in an advisory capacity to the Canton Chamber of Commerce on this event since inception

MAURY SULLIVAN (cont'd)

Affiliations

BFA member since 1980, served on Internal Analysis Committee 2004

NABA member since 1999

NOBPA: served as Treasurer 1997-1998; President 2000; Safety Seminar Chairman 2001-2004

Awards and Recognition

NOBPA Club competition champion 1994, 1996, 2001-2002, 2005

NABA US Nationals Rookie of the Year 2000

BFA Director's Award 2005

Safety Seminar Participation

Spoke at NOBPA Safety Seminar on various topics from 1998 – 2006

Served as chairman of Balloonowledge '02, '03, and '04

Authored text On Target – A Competitor's Guide and presented topic at Balloonowledge '04 and Indianapolis 2005

Most Memorable Flights

Flew hot air balloon at 300' AGL over Soviet MIG air force base during May, 1990 first Russian balloon Festival in Leningrad.

In August 1993, flew over the horseshoe falls at Niagara Falls, Canada

KATHY THOMPSON

Objective

To share the delight of the sport and to recognize and encourage the many facets of ballooning

Experience

Kathy and her husband Bill have always shared the sport from alternating training sessions to rotating turns at competitive events. Each acts as the other's crew chief and most ardent supporter. Bill and Kathy have logged similar hours throughout their 25 years of flying.

1993 - Present Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association (NOBPA)
President - 2006
Challenged the status quo by engaging new members and altering programs
Board of Directors – 1994, 1995 and 2005

1982 - Present Balloon Society of Kentucky (BSOK)
President – 1990 – 1991
In February 1990, a landowner dispute between a visiting balloonist and an eastern Kentucky farmer led to the introduction of House Bill 694 in the Kentucky Legislature. It contained changes in the law that, if passed, would have ultimately meant an end of ballooning in the state. By the time resident balloonists were apprised of the matter, the bill had progressed at a frightening rate and was well on its way to becoming law. Under the direction of then B.S.O.K. president Kathy Thompson, a concerted effort was made by the unified group to make the legislators aware of the opposition to the bill. With only days to spare, B.S.O.K. members went into action making phone calls, writing letters, and contracting influential friends. In the face of all the opposition, the bill thankfully died in committee. This effort helped to further strengthen the bonds among club members and reminded us of the importance of a strong society.

1983 - Present Balloon Federation of America (BFA)
Member/Competitor
Volunteer - Albuquerque BFA booth 2005 & 2006, BFA Convention 2008

199X – 200X North American Balloon Association (NABA)
Competitor

Education/Business Experience

MBA - University of Louisville
Marketing executive with over 20 years of management and planning experience in the financial and food service industries.