

Drew Egerton, Statesville, NC - Southeast Region

HACD Members,

My name is Drew Egerton and I have accepted a nomination to run for the At-Large BFA HACD Board position. For those of you who may not know me, I was born and raised in ballooning. My first event was at the age of 1 and my first free flight at 4 years old. Both of my parents are commercial pilots who continue to fly. I received my Private LTA certificate in 2007 and Commercial in 2008 and am celebrating my 10th year as a BFA Member. In 2009, I was bit by the competition bug and began my competitive career in 2010. I typically participate in 5-7 competitive events per year and have won such honors as BFA Top Rookie 2010, 6th Place US Nationals 2014 and 2015, North Carolina State Champion 2011, 2012 and 2015 and 1st place in events such as Freedom Weekend Aloft 2011, Ohio Challenge 2015, Carolina BalloonFest 2015 and Freedom Balloon Fest 2017.

I have participated in local and national capacities including as Vice President of the Carolinas Balloon Association 2009-2011, and the Balloon Federation of America Board of Directors 2011-2015. I held the Secretary position on that board in 2012-2013, authored and edited the Quick Release newsletter monthly from November 2012-March 2015, and served as the HACD Liaison, a voting HACD Board member, 2013-2015.

In addition to regular Board duties, I served as National Eligibility List (formerly Ranking System) Manager beginning in 2014, a role I continue to hold presently.

In that capacity as NEL Manager, I have regular contact with nearly all Scoring Officers across the country, as well as Event Directors and the HACD Board. I also work closely with pilots, staff, the BFA office and Board members to ensure that results are correct, entered as timely and accurately as possible and abide by the letter and spirit of the HACD rules. I also attend HACD meetings when needed to provide input for rule changes and policies that affect the NEL system.

Although I am highly involved in many HACD activities, the NEL Manager position is not a voting member of the Board. Therefore, I would like to ask for your consideration for the upcoming election so that I may once again be involved in a higher capacity. In an At-Large role, I believe it is important to represent the entire cross-section of the membership from the world travelers to the weekend warriors. Within the HACD membership, I estimate approximately 10% of pilots would fit into the world traveler category in terms of willingness and availability to travel, world-class skills and the desire to compete internationally. While making sure the USA is well represented at the international level, it is also important for the HACD to remember the other nearly 200 members that prefer to compete domestically. I hope to keep pilots of all levels of skill and interest in mind when making decisions on rules and policy.

Another major focus and passion of mine within the last several years has been teaching new pilots. I routinely provide flight instruction for new pilots as well as help experienced pilots learn more about competing. This is where I feel the HACD has a lot of opportunity to improve. I have already held small beginner/intermediate training for interested pilots on my own and hope with the additional resources of the HACD, I can expand on that idea and bring more interest and excitement into our side of the sport.

Thank you again for your consideration for the HACD Board At-Large representative in the upcoming election. I look forward to doing my best to contribute positively.

Sincerely,

Drew Egerton, BFA# 117495

