



Balloon Federation Of America

HACD Newsletter



January 13, 2017

December Board Meeting Update

The HACD Board meets annually in December to discuss the issues concerning the sport of hot air ballooning in the United States and abroad. This year we welcomed two new Board members, Adam Magee and Jeff Giles. As many know, the Board allowed for call-in listeners this year. Our apologies that incorrect call-in numbers that were sent out prior to the meeting. Fortunately, it was noticed with in the first hour of the meeting and with the help of BFA president Dean Carlton we pushed out an email to all HACD members and those of you who wanted to call in and listen could do so with the new numbers provided.

A few highlights from the meeting were the finalization of both [the HACD Rules for 2017](#), which can now be [found on the BFA web site](#), and the US Nationals contract with Shreveport Bossier, LA. We look forward to another great National Championship!

There were several topics that brought considerable discussion. First, how much burner control, marker throwing, or other responsibilities in the gondola should a pilot be able to delegate to a co-pilot? Most American pilots fly solo. Our counterparts in Europe often fly with a co-pilot who will, at times, throw markers or manipulate the burners. Is this a competitive advantage? Does it matter if this is going on or is it pilot preference? There are definite differences of opinion on the Board. At this time the CIA AXMER's do allow for a co-pilot. The co-pilot can perform tasks assigned them by the pilot. Should the BFA/HACD rules mirror the AXMER's? Current HACD rules state in 10.9.1: "*competitors may carry other crew during a flight, and they may perform any duties he wishes to assign to them, except to act as pilot-in-command and as specified in Section II.16.2.*" This would be interpreted that a crew member may do anything the pilot assigns except pilot the balloon/manipulate the burners.



Second, gravity marker drops have been a hot topic over the last five years. The HACD rule has changed multiple times. Last year rule 12.9.1 was changed to:



"In a Gravity Marker Drop task, no horizontal motion shall be applied to the marker in relation to its release, and gravity shall be the only means for the marker to drop. The marker may be allowed to be dropped with an extended arm while maintaining both feet on the floor of the basket. Violation will be 50 meters and will be added to the competitors result in the least advantageous direction."

There was no change to this rule. The most difficult part for officials seems to be identifying horizontal motion. Is it easier to detect this motion with the pilots arm extended? The old rule made a pilot keep their hand in the basket and drop their marker sometimes leading to the marker tail snagging on wicker and failing to drop. Horizontal motion was difficult achieve from this position but many debates ensued on whether the hand was visible. This rule will continue to be debated on best practice for this type of drop.

A third issue discussed was Women's Nationals, developing a Junior Nationals, and how these Nationals will be used to establish Worlds teams. At this time the Board feels that if we can develop a Junior Nationals and the Women's Nationals continues to flourish that World's teams will be established just as they are now. Two years of Nationals results will be used with the most current National's results taking precedent.

The Board would like to hear your ideas or feelings on all these issues. If other topics on the Board meeting agenda from the face to face meeting are important to you but were not discussed in this article, please [contact your regional director](#) to get more clarification.

We Need Your Input!

The HACD Board conducts conference calls when discussion is needed or decisions need to be made. We would like to provide you the opportunity to be a part of these calls.



The Board will publish the agenda and the conference call times at least a week prior to the date of the call. Call-ins will be scheduled the first 15 minutes of each conference call. Here is how you can participate:

1. Email Jason Jones at insy588@aol.com to be placed on the docket of speakers.
2. Each speaker will be allowed to talk for 3 minutes.
3. The speaker must speak to a topic on the agenda.

At the end of the speakers 3 minutes we will go to the next speaker. We hope that you take advantage of this opportunity and that all members have a voice in the HACD. We encourage you to work with [your regional representative](#) with concerns you have as well.

This year's first conference call is January 24, 2017 at 7:00 pm CST.

The agenda will be made available by January 17, 2017.

Event Reminder

As the new competition season get under way please remember there are several things you can do to help use promote your event.



1. [Contact the HACD](#) so we can place your event [on the web site](#) as an event flying tasks for the [National Eligibility List](#).
2. The HACD needs your event to meet certain requirements for state and regional championships. The HACD is more than willing to help you make this happen.
3. Scores need to be emailed to Jason Jones at jnsy588@aol.com or Drew Egerton at slowburnballoon@gmail.com within 2 weeks of the end of the event.

Good luck and safe flying.

HACD History



Bruce Comstock

30 years ago (1987) Bruce Comstock won the National Championship in Indianola, IA

20 years ago (1997) Joe Heartsill won the National Championship in Columbia, MO

10 years ago (2007) Joe Heartsill won the National Championship in Waco, TX



Joe Heartsill

Email Us!

Ideas, questions, comments, anything: hacd@bfa.net

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