



## **BFA Online Seminar Webinar**

Thanks to many of you for signing up for the March 8, 2014 BFA Seminar Webinar!!!

If you can't get to a Face-to-Face seminar this year, you can still attend the BFA seminar.

Simply go to:

[http://bfa\\_seminar\\_webinar.bagiballoon.org/](http://bfa_seminar_webinar.bagiballoon.org/)

or

<http://tinyurl.com/bfaseminar>

or follow the link at [www.bfa.net](http://www.bfa.net)

The 2014 BFA Online Continuing Education Seminar Webinar will be presented on Saturday, March 8, 2014 in cooperation with the [LTA Colorado Safety Seminar](#). The event will be streamed live with production services presented by [Aero-News Network](#). The BFA Seminar Webinar is designed for those balloonists that can't get to a face-to-face seminar, but still want to maintain their education, especially regarding flying safely. The user will need a computer and a stable Internet connection to access the site.

To attend "on-line", you will need to register in advance of the session. Once payment is received, you will receive a registration number by email that will be used on the day of the event to check-in. You will be provided information on how to access the site where the Seminar Webinar will be hosted. After the Seminar Webinar has completed, you will need to complete a short, on-line test to verify your attendance.

The seminar will be broadcast from the Aurora Public Schools Professional Learning and Conference Center in Aurora, CO. from approximately 7:45 am to 6:00 pm Mountain Time. The Seminar Webinar is fully sanctioned by the BFA and should qualify for most insurance company discounts.

If you would like to save some money on your registration and gain all the benefits of being a BFA member (great magazine, opportunity to compete for National and International championship teams and prizes, access to lots of ballooning information, etc.) and be a part of the future of ballooning, go to [www.bfa.net](http://www.bfa.net) to sign up online. Remember, you can add a family member to your existing membership for just \$20.

Speakers/subjects include:

Stephen Blucher – FARs  
Don Day - Weather  
Chris Mattes - Pilot and Crew Safety  
Sam Parks - Balloon Accidents  
Andy Richardson - Maintenance & Repair  
Scott Spencer - Pilot Decision Making

# ***Junior Balloonists Logo Contest***

Calling all balloonists age 18 and younger!!

We are looking for your help to design the next logo for the Junior Balloonists program!

The winning design will be featured on all of the camp and program materials and the winner receives a gift certificate to the BFA [online store](#)!

For more details, check out the Junior Balloonists [website](#). Deadline for entry is March 14!

## ***BFA Board Meeting***

The BFA Board of Directors will conduct its Spring Face to Face meeting in Indianola, Iowa April 12-13<sup>th</sup>. Topics covered will range from general operations and finances to pressing issues in the community and focus on improving growth in our organization and sport. A detailed agenda will be posted on our website prior to the meeting.

The meeting will be open for input from the community so if you are interested in stopping by please contact the [office](#) for more details.

If you have some ideas for topics or suggestions you would like the Board to consider, please contact your [Board](#) representatives!

## ***Tweet All About It!***

The official Balloon Federation of America Twitter account has been launched. You can follow [@BFAballooning](#) now for the latest news and quick info on all things BFA!

Also, don't forget to 'Like' us on [Facebook](#)!

## ***2013-2014 BFA Long Jump***

We were pleased to receive an excellent flight report from Bill Smith of Kentucky. Bill made a 226 mile flight on February 24 in his Aerostar 90,000 cubic foot balloon. Flying for just over 4 hours at about 8 gallons per hour propane consumption, Bill achieved a maximum speed of 92 mph. His launch was at Effingham Memorial Airport, Effingham, IL and landing was in Georgetown, KY. This flight puts Bill into first place for the 2013-2014 Long Jump Season. Congratulations Bill!

Tim Cloyd of Iowa completed his second annual "Extreme Flight to Find a Cure" on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. He launched from Chillicothe, MO and landed near Mt. Sterling, IL. The flight lasted 6 hours in duration and covered 167 miles. The top altitude was 11,146 feet and a max speed of 59 mph. As of launch, Tim had raised over \$5,200 for the American Cancer Society. He will continue to accept donations through March 31<sup>st</sup> at his website [here](#).

Don't forget, the competition window for Long Jumps is open through the end of March!

The rules for 2013-2014 are unchanged from last year. The complete rules are posted on the BFA website [here](#). For more information, please [contact](#) Mark Caviezel, BFA Long Jump Manager.

## **HACD News**

The Hot Air Competition Division has finalized the 2013 National Ranking System. Thanks to the generous support of Gary Heavin and Curves International, we were able to once again distribute a \$5,000 prize purse to the award winners. The list of winners can be found [here](#).

The HACD is also excited to announce that the 2014 US National Championship application is now available on our website. The Great Texas Balloon Race once again welcomes us to Longview, Texas for an exciting Texas-style championship event. All HACD members are encouraged to apply by the May 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline! Click [here](#) for more information.

Not an HACD member? Don't forget that all current BFA members are eligible for a FREE HACD membership for 2014!!! To be eligible, you must be a current member of the BFA who has not held a HACD task card in any of the previous 5 years. This program encourages new membership and invites those who may be new to competition and/or the BFA to give it a try. [Contact](#) your HACD Board for more info!

## **New BFA Members!**

The BFA is excited to welcome these new members. *Welcome!*

Tim Riorden, NY  
Brian Wiest, CA  
Joe Chapman, MN  
Petra Wilson, SD  
Craig Buzzard, NM  
Ben Humphreys, MO  
Stephen Scheer, CO  
Amanda Basley, CO  
Brian Foster, MI  
Wally Brook, NM  
Charles Reynolds, NV  
Jerry Vogt, PA  
Aleta Guthrey, CA  
Cameron Wagner, WY  
Matthew Haase, MI  
Suzan Smiley, KS  
Grant Smiley, KS  
Karalyn Vavra, NV

If you are not currently a member, please consider [joining](#) today! We would also ask that all members take the time to share the benefits of their membership with their ballooning communities and encourage any non-members or lapsed members to become a part of the organization. The BFA is your one and only national representation of the ballooning community and we need member support!

\*Reminder, the Quick Release can be signed up for by non-members as well so please [SHARE!](#)

## **Corporate Member of the Month**

The BFA is proud to promote its Corporate Members. We showcase a member each month as the Corporate Member of the Month.

February's featured Corporate Member of the Month is the **Plano Balloon Festival!**

This year marks 35 years of ballooning in Plano, Texas and the Plano Balloon Festival runs September 19-21<sup>st</sup>. In addition to the balloons, the event hosts arts & crafts, skydiving, kids zones, inflatables and more!

For more info on the Plano Balloon Festival, please visit their website [here](#). Thank you for your continued support of the BFA! For a complete list and more information on all of our Corporate Members, [click here!](#)

## ***New Achievements!***

The BFA congratulates the following crew and pilots on their recent accomplishments!

Mike Hance, TX - Commercial LTA Certificate  
Dave Runge, IL – Commercial LTA Certificate  
Daryl Hickman, FL - Commercial LTA Certificate  
Anthony Seeger, SC - Commercial LTA Certificate  
Daniel Sasser, SC – First solo flight  
Elisa Trillanes, NM – First solo flight  
Tyler Ayers, NC – Student Pilot Certificate (and Balloon Camp scholarship!)  
Madison Sharpe, NC – Passed Private Pilot written exam

If you know of other new ratings or achievements, please [let us know!](#) We rely on notices from examiners, Facebook and emails.

## ***“Spirit of Annie” Nominations Sought***

***By Beth Davidson***

Nominations are now being accepted for “**The Spirit of Annie Award**”. This prestigious award was established by the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association in memory of a very special observer, Annie Pryne. It will be awarded when an observer, organizer, official or event volunteer most typifies the dedication, hard work and love of ballooning that set Annie apart. Some of the past recipients include Patty Cramer, Josh Swallow, Jim Diebel, Kim Wilson, Jim McKenney, Bev Zanella, Bob and Dottie Humbert, Linda Gavigan and last years’recipient, Mike Gilligan.

Annie's spirit was indomitable and nothing, not even age or terrain, stood in her way when she accepted the responsibility to make sure all competitive pilots were treated equally and fairly. The vision of Annie, spray paint can in one hand and tape measure in the other, standing in the middle of an intersection protecting a baggie or the memory of Annie wading through a wet cornfield measuring back to an intersection, personifies not only Annie's spirit but the spirit of observing.

### **CRITERIA**

1. To be awarded only when a nominee meets all the qualifications, it is not necessary that the award be given on an annual basis.
2. To be awarded to an observer, organizer, official or event volunteer who best personifies the “Spirit of Annie”.

3. A nominee will have observed or been an event worker for no less than 5 years.
4. A nominee will hold a credible presence in the sport of ballooning, respected by observers, officials, and pilots.
5. A nominee will show a willingness to share experience and knowledge.
6. A nominee will have a positive attitude.
7. A nominee will have a commitment to the sport and the improvement of all aspects of competitive ballooning and will be strong enough to speak out when needed.
8. Most importantly, the nominee must have the ability to enjoy and interact with people from all aspects of the sport.

Nominations will be reviewed by the NOBPA Board, HACD Board and the past 5 living recipients of "**The Spirit of Annie Award**". The winner will be announced and honored at a national competition in the summer of 2014.

Nominations should be submitted to Beth Davidson, NOBPA Awards Committee, at [bdskyangel@aol.com](mailto:bdskyangel@aol.com). Deadline for nominations is March 30, 2014.

## ***Aeronautical Chart Guide***

The FAA has released a digital copy of the 12<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Aeronautical Chart User's Guide. This is an excellent resource for those studying for practical tests, or pilots simply needing a great resource for airspace information. The publication includes symbology, route charts, procedures, etc. and can be downloaded for free [here](#) in PDF format.

## ***FAA Letters to Airmen***

The FAA recently gave notice of a change to the policy for dissemination of Letters to Airmen via a web client application. This became effective February 18<sup>th</sup>. Letters to Airmen will no longer be sent via prior means such as USPS, email or bulletin boards.

Letters to Airmen will now be available [here](#) where you can search for all NOTAMs applying to your flying area.

## ***Anderson Abruzzo Museum***

The Board of Directors of the AAI Balloon Museum Foundation made requests of State Legislators and Governor Susana Martinez for Capital Outlay funds for this session. The Board wishes to support the Museum's continued efforts to maintain and protect the unique and unparalleled collection of artifacts and documents pertaining to the history of Ballooning in New Mexico and throughout the world.

The requests come now, as the Museum faces building improvements and modifications necessary to protect the collection. The short term work needs will benefit the preservation efforts for many years to

come. We are asking the Museum friends to lend your voice to our effort by letting Governor Martinez know that you feel preservation of such an important part of New Mexico history is necessary.

You can assist by email: [http://www.governor.state.nm.us/contact\\_the\\_governor.aspx](http://www.governor.state.nm.us/contact_the_governor.aspx) or by sending a letter to Office of the Governor, 490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Room 400, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Please keep the letter brief and mention that you support our request for funds to repair the HVAC system in the Museum Annex and for light modifications in the Museum.

Thank you for your continued support of the Anderson Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

Sincerely,  
Holly Lowe  
Administrative & Operations Manager  
Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum Foundation

***The BFA is a 501c3 non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of the sport and science of lighter-than-air aviation; both hot air and gas balloons. Founded in 1961, membership in the BFA is open to anyone who shares a fascination with Lighter Than Air flight. For more information on the BFA or how to join/renew please visit our website [www.bfa.net](http://www.bfa.net)***

***If we have overlooked a name or story, please let us know and we will be happy to include you in the next issue! If you have something you would like us to include next month, please email the Quick Release at [eblast@bfa.net](mailto:eblast@bfa.net) or [degerton@bfa.net](mailto:degerton@bfa.net). In addition to news directly from the BFA, we encourage readers to share content with the ballooning community and we welcome non-members to receive the QR! Each issue will be released shortly after the monthly Board meeting, so please submit content prior to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.***

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### **Quick Release**

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