



## *NTSB Safety Recommendation*

The BFA Board of Directors, meeting in Indianola, Iowa, in consultation with its Balloon Ride Operators Division has released an official statement regarding the NTSB's recent recommendation to the FAA that balloon tour ride operators (sightseeing flights) be required to obtain and comply with a Letter of Authorization (LOA). Click [here](#) to read the official statement.

## *Spring Face to Face Meeting*

The spring face to face meeting for the BFA Board of Directors took place April 11-13<sup>th</sup> in Indianola, Iowa at the BFA Office and National Balloon Museum. Though most business is handled through emails and monthly phone calls, the Board also travels twice a year to meet face to face and accomplish a great deal of business in one weekend.

A long couple of days of meetings included topics such as the recent NTSB Safety Recommendation (see above), financials, Division reports for the HACD, Gas and BROD, the Hall of Fame, upcoming events such as elections and conventions, further website development and membership engagement and growth.

Please feel free to [contact](#) any of the Board of Directors with questions or to provide your input.

## *BFA Youth Summer Camps*

The deadline to sign up for the 2014 BFA Youth Summer Camps is quickly approaching! Sign up information can be found at <http://www.bfacamps.com/>

The Dubuque Balloon Camp returns for a third straight year, June 22-26 at the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, IA. The Dubuque Camp, which last summer had two of its campers receive their Private Pilot's license, has taken into account camper surveys from prior years to develop a brand new camp curriculum for campers with all experience levels. The 100% hands on and interactive activities will teach novice campers the basics of ballooning as well as challenge those campers that have already received their Private license and are looking to receive their Commercial rating! Of course there will also be flight instruction given by our distinguished volunteer counselors who hold a Commercial Pilot rating and are eager to see more youth receiving their license, including an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner who can answer all your licensing questions!

Also this year campers will once again return to the Lindstrand Balloons USA factory and learn about how hot air balloons are made. Phil Thompson and Lisa Kempner of Lindstrand Balloons USA have graciously allowed the campers to spend an afternoon at the factory, which has been the campers' highest rated activity over the years!

New this year is the Great Eastern Balloon Camp, July 13-17 at Millersville University in Millersville, PA. A dedicated team of balloon pilots, crews and counselors are creating a unique camp experience for teens with all levels of ballooning knowledge- from novice to student pilot. All campers need is a passion for ballooning and a desire to learn more. Along with daily ballooning activities and instruction, campers will have opportunities to make new friends.

Hands on training and interactive classroom session will include: pilot training and crew safety, how to rig, tether and pack up a hot air balloon, flight planning and decision making, weather and airspace, maintenance and repair, mapping and GPS, Federal regulations, basic first aid, and more!

If you have a teen aged 13-18 who is interested in ballooning, sign them up for this exciting camp today at [www.bfacamps.com](http://www.bfacamps.com)

## *Youth Camp Contributions!*

The BFA Youth Program would like to thank the following contributors to the 2014 BFA Youth Summer Camps. If you would like to contribute, visit <http://www.bfacamps.com/> or email the BFA Youth Chair, Mike Shrum, at [mike-shrum@att.net](mailto:mike-shrum@att.net)

- Adirondack Balloon Club
- Balloon Association of Greater Illinois
- Balloon Club of Kentucky
- Balloon Society of Pikes Peak
- ClipAway Ballooning
- Dancing on Air Balloon Voyages
- Empty Pockets Balloon Team
- Great Eastern Balloon Association
- Great Pershing Balloon Derby- Brookfield, MO
- IMC Balloon Agency – a Division of RPS Scobie Group
- In The Air
- Iowa Balloonists Association
- Kustom Kards
- Lake Havasu Rotary Club
- Lindstrand Balloons USA
- Pacific Northwest Safety Seminar
- Plano Pin Co.
- Rocky Mountain Balloon Adventures
- The Schantz Agency
- Valencia Flying and Retrieval Society

-- Wisconsin Balloon Group

-- and many other contributors that have donated through PayPal and various fundraisers!

## *Ride Operators Division News*

The Balloon Ride Operators Division is up and running! The BROD is pleased to announce the Board of Directors election for the Northeast and Western Division. The purpose of this Division is to be an active and valuable asset to ballooning relative to ride operators in day to day operations, safety, innovation and assisting the BFA with government relations issues such as recent NTSB recommendations to FAA.

The elections will be held concurrent to the BFA general elections (see below). Nominating committees will be appointed by May 1. Nominations will be gladly accepted until June 10. In order to be voting member of BROD you must have a paid membership by July 7, 2014.

Currently, membership is free until the end of June. Please visit us at [www.balloonoperators.com](http://www.balloonoperators.com) and see the membership benefits, sign up for a free newsletter, and 'like' our Facebook page.

Come join us and make your opinion and efforts count towards bettering our industry. We encourage all operators large, small, individual and 'weekend warriors' to get involved. It's time that the industry to band together to make it better and for our voice to be heard. Help BROD, help you! We need your help! Visit our website at [www.balloonoperators.com](http://www.balloonoperators.com) for more!

## *BFA Elections*

Do you have tons of great ideas on how to improve the sport? Do you sit back and think 'What is the BFA doing? Why hasn't the BFA done this?'" Here's is your chance to get involved!!!

Elections will be taking place for the general BFA Board of Directors Board, as well as the HACD, Gas and BROD Boards.

Nominating committees are being formed now and will be announced shortly. Committees will have until June 10th to report their candidates and ballots will be distributed (most likely via the same electronic system as last year) in late July.

PLEASE make sure you have a current email address on file with the BFA office to receive your pertinent election information! If you are not a member yet, you can still vote if you join prior to July 7th.

The following positions are up for election:

BFA Board – Northeast, Western, At-Large

HACD – Great Lakes, Southwest, At-Large

BROD – Northeast, Western

Gas – 2 Director positions

Contact your BFA Board, HACD, BROD or Gas representatives for more information or to express interest in a position!

## *Crewing Quips*

Hello CREW! Though sometimes overlooked, everyone knows that pilots cannot do much without the crew (some can't even find their keys, glasses or radios much less their way to a target)! The Balloon Federation of America is also not just for pilots. We have several memberships aimed at crew including Family memberships if you already have a full member in the family, or a non-voting crew membership at a reduced cost.

The BFA Board recognizes the importance of crew in our sport, and in our organization. In an effort to provide more crew-focused content, we will be providing some "Crew Quips" for tips, advice and fun stories. If you'd like to submit something, [please let us know!](#)

We'll start with 2 a month and adjust depending on how much content is submitted. Board member Dean Carlton provides this month's "Quips" to help shake off the winter rust and prepare for the new season!

### *Crewing Quip – Tight tie-offs*

After laying the basket over and before turning on the fan, take a moment to back up (or pull forward) the tie-off vehicle until you have removed most of the slack from the tie-off rope. That way if the wind increases, you reduce possibility of the basket and balloon accelerating until it reaches the end of the rope, and standing the basket up prematurely. Or worse, breaking the line and/or injuring someone. 60 seconds of prep time can save lots of time with the insurance company!

### *Crewing Quip – Check the checklist*

We all want to think that we can remember everything, but sometime we need some help. Checklists showing critical points at various portions of the flight are key to helping us verify the important stuff while there is time to do something about it. A preflight checklist, a pre-cold inflate checklist, a pre-hot inflate checklist, and an approach to landing checklist are all good examples. Crew can use checklists too, such as vehicle loading, landing site prep, etc. Checklists don't make you a weaker balloonist, but rather a safer one.

### *One Year Away, Reno 2015!*

The 2015 BFA Convention in Reno, NV is just over one year away! The committees are hard at work and plan to provide a plethora of interesting and educational activities to suit all balloonists. The location of course calls back to our very first convention held there in 1977. If you enjoyed the conventions in Louisville and Des Moines, you know to expect a great time of

education as well as social and professional networking. More details upcoming in the following months, stay tuned!

## *New Members*

Dale Axtell, SD

Eric Brown, FL

John Forrest, CA

Pam Sullivan, IL

Brock Gale, IL

Todd Daniels, IA

Justin Cox, IN

Ian Whitling, NM

Kevin Ford, TX

Debbie Lebanik, CA

Caleb Melton, TX

Mike Hoover, TX

## *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.

April's featured Corporate Member of the Month is **Lindstrand Balloons USA!**

Beginning in 1994, Lindstrand has been manufacturing high quality balloons in Galena, IL and has been a regular advertiser and supporter with the BFA for many years in addition to hosting campers from the Iowa Youth Camp each summer.

For more info on Lindstrand Balloons USA, 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*

Tedd Hunt, MO – Commercial LTA Certificate

Dustin Howell, LA – Commercial LTA Certificate

Karimula Syed, India – Commercial LTA Certificate

Matthew Haase, MI – Private LTA Certificate

Jayne H. Nelson, SC – Private LTA Certificate

Kevin Ford, TX – Private LTA Certificate

Ian Whitling, NM – Private LTA Certificate

Harold Graves, SD – Gas LTA Rating

Ed Chapman, MN – Gas LTA Rating

Elisa Trillanes, NM – Passed Commercial written exam

## *36th Annual General Aviation Survey*

**Hot air balloon owners! Please help us provide accurate information on aviation activity and aviation safety.** The 36<sup>th</sup> annual General Aviation and Part 135 Activity Survey (GA Survey) for reporting on calendar year 2013 will begin soon! The FAA's annual GA Survey is the only source of information on the size and makeup of the general aviation and Part 135 fleets, the number of hours flown, and the reasons people fly. ***Hot air balloons are important to these findings to help the FAA understand their activity level among the GA population.*** These data help to determine funding for infrastructure and service needs, assess the impact of regulatory changes, and measure aviation safety. The GA Survey is also used to prepare safety statistics and calculate the rate of accidents among general aviation aircraft.

You will have the option of completing this survey online, or if you would prefer to respond by mail, a survey form will be mailed to you along with a postage-paid envelope. We appreciate your help.

### **Why is your participation important?**

- *We need your help so that we can prepare accurate estimates of aviation safety.* Data from this survey are used to calculate fatal accident rates for general aviation and Part 135 aircraft.
- *We need to hear from everyone!* Please respond, even if you did not fly your aircraft during 2013, you sold it, or the aircraft was damaged.
- *Your responses are completely confidential.* Tetra Tech is an independent research firm that conducts the GA Survey on behalf of the FAA. The information provided will be used only for statistical purposes and will not be published or released in any form that would reveal specific information reported by an individually identifiable respondent.
- *An abbreviated survey form is available for owners of multiple aircraft.* We know your time is valuable. If you own three or more aircraft and receive several survey forms, please contact us.

**Questions? Own three or more aircraft?** Please contact Tetra Tech toll-free at 1-800-826-1797 or email [infoaviationsurvey@tetratech.com](mailto:infoaviationsurvey@tetratech.com). Thank you!

***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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