



Membership Survey Ends Today 7/27

Life is changing, technology is changing, and ballooning is changing too.

The Balloon Federation of America wants to be a positive part of that change. With that in mind, we have put together a survey of questions to find out what we are doing well, what we can do better, and how we can provide better services to our members and the ballooning community as a whole.

So, we are asking for your opinions. We invite all folks that are interested in ballooning to take part in our survey. We are asking BFA members, former members, and non-members to complete the survey. The surveys are completed anonymously and we will review every single one. We have hundreds of responses so far and are looking for more!

So, can you take 5 minutes and share your opinions and ideas? It's your organization, OWN IT!

[Take the survey here.](#)

BFA Elections Underway

The BFA Office and Board of Directors are again this year utilizing a method to cast your votes electronically. A third party provider called Balloteer is being used to assist in the BFA elections. Balloteer provides a safe and secure election that guarantees voter privacy.

You will need your BFA listed email address (the one that you use to log on to www.BFA.net web site) and your BFA number. Once you are logged in, you will be able to see each of the candidates' names and statements. Everyone will be allowed to vote for an At-Large candidate and if you are in the Northeast or Western region, you are also eligible to vote for one candidate in your region. If you are a member of the HACD, Gas or Balloon Ride Operators Division/BROD you will be allowed to vote for those division candidates. The system does check your membership number and if you are not permitted to vote for that region or division you will be asked to resubmit your ballot.

If you click on a name that you are not eligible to vote for, you will be asked to retry the voting.

[VOTE HERE!](#)

A traditional paper ballot will be mailed to any members that do not have an e-mail address on file at the BFA office as of July 7, 2014. If you have any questions on the election process, please contact the BFA Office.

All ballots printed and electronic must be completed on-line and or returned to the BFA Office by August 22, 2014.

Youth Camps a Huge Success!

Within the last month or so, two very successful Youth Balloon Camps have been held with 40 campers participating. This month, the Great Eastern Balloon Camp was held in Millersville, PA and featured a full 20 teens. For 5 days, campers enjoyed everything from tether operations, pibal reading, weather, fire training, GPS, maps and MUCH more! One camper even purchased his very own balloon system that he had been saving up for years for!

For a lot of fantastic pictures of the camp, check out their Facebook page [here](#).

Look for a much more detailed write up on the Great Eastern and Dubuque Balloon Camps in future publications.

Safety Seminar Online

Did you miss out on our Online Seminar in the winter? Now you can catch all of those archived presentations thanks to BFA.net! For those who need to complete their seminars for insurance discounts, or for those members who would just like to expand their knowledge, the videos are available for you to watch on YOUR schedule.

To make it easier to use, the seminar is broken into segments that can be watched by any BFA member for FREE! You MUST log-on before accessing the 'Education and Training' tab, or go directly to the [video page](#). However in order to be submitted to insurance, you must register at Seminar Registration in order to register and pay the registration fee.

Click here to go to the [Seminar Webinar Page](#) once you are logged in!

United States Ballooning Hall of Fame

On Sunday July 27, 2014, starting at 1PM, the National Balloon Museum, 1601 North Jefferson Way (Highway 65/69), in Indianola, Iowa will hold the annual United States Ballooning Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. This annual event honors the pioneers of ballooning that have been selected based on "exemplary contribution to the history, development or growth of ballooning in the United States". The 2014 inductees are Nikki Caplan (Missouri), Chauncey Dunn (Colorado) and Don Piccard (Minnesota).

Nikki Caplan was an Analytical Drug Chemist, chemistry professor, radio broadcaster, and ultimately became known as a professional balloonist for both hot air and gas balloons. She obtained her first balloon in 1968 and was the first balloon pilot in the state of Missouri, flew in many places around the world, trained many people to fly, did much to promote ballooning and develop safe ballooning practices.

Chauncey Dunn first had a career in Real Estate but at age 40 retired from that and devoted most of his time to ballooning. He had his solo flight in 1970. Chauncey was responsible for bringing hot air ballooning to Colorado and in 1970 became president of American Balloon Adventures Ltd. He flew balloons all around America and set a number of record flights.

Don Piccard, son of famous balloonists, Jean Felix Piccard and Jeanette Piccard, had his first balloon ride with his mother at age 7 and received his gas balloon pilot certification in 1947. He grew up to become a salesman, professional balloonist, commercial balloon pilot and balloon manufacturer. He did much to promote the sport of ballooning and is referred to by many as the father of modern hot air ballooning. He also developed many safety features for balloons.

Prior to the Hall of Fame ceremony, there will be a presentation of the Ed Yost Master Pilot Award to 3 pilots. The BFA Ed Yost Master Pilot Award "recognizes lighter than air (LTA) pilots who have demonstrated professionalism, skill and aviation expertise by maintaining safe operations for 40 or more consecutive years as active pilots". The pilots who will be presented their awards in Indianola include Rob Bartholomew and Gary Ruble both of Iowa, and Harold Graves, Wisconsin.

The event is free and open to the public. Join the event. It is an incredibly fun afternoon of reminiscing, honoring recipients, learning about early ballooning across the country, and catching up with other ballooning friends.

For more information, visit the [Museum website](#), and [their newsletter](#).

Team USA!

The 21st World Hot Air Balloon Championships are just wrapping up this weekend in Rio Claro SP, Brazil. Congratulations to Yudai Fujita of Japan for his first Worlds victory and second podium finish in a row. Leading the

charge for Team USA were past World Champion Joe Heartsill in 8th place and son Rhett Heartsill in 10th. Andy Baird, Paul Petrehn and Tod Isley also finished well at 12th, 13th and 16th respectively. All of Team USA did a great job with difficult weather conditions and using the FAI loggers that we do not use in the US. Check with the [official website](#) for more information and read HACD member [Matt Fenster's blog](#) for updates. Thanks for keeping us all in the loop Matt!

Also on the World stage, the Women's World Championship will take place in Leszno, Poland September 8-13th. Five ladies from the BFA HACD will attend representing the US. Starting in Longview this weekend, the Women's team will be selling t-shirts to help offset some of the high travel costs associated with this event. You can pick up a shirt for \$20 from any of the [ladies on the team](#), or send a check to the following address:

Women's Team USA

c/ o Debby Young

PO Box 91134

Albuquerque, NM 87199

US National Championships

The 2014 US National Championships begin Monday, July 28th and are once again hosted by the [Great Texas Balloon Race](#) in Longview, TX. This year the BFA HACD website will host the [Official Notice Board](#) for the event. There you will find rules, results, protests, etc. to stay up to do date with all the happenings in Longview. We look forward to another great competitive event to crown the National Champion and establish the first members of Team USA for the 2016 Worlds in Saga, Japan.

New Members

The BFA is only as strong as its members and volunteers. We would like to welcome the following new members! Please contact these folks if they are in your area and welcome them into the club!

Angie Maji, NE

Keren McGrath, CA

Shelly Cannaday, NM

Alan Cannaday, NM

Zachary Brandon, TX

Cameron Jones, GA

Rick Piendel, PA

Michael O'Brien, MI

Elizabeth Silva, NV

Andrea Meyer, AZ

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.

July's featured Corporate Member of the Month is **Balloon Repairs of East Texas!**

Located in Longview, Texas, BRET is a full service repair station offering annuals and parts to fabric replacements and full homebuilt balloons. To learn more about BRET, visit their website [here](#).

Thanks to BRET for their continued support of the BFA!

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

Kent Barnes, UT – Pilot Achievement Program, Level 6 Master Aeronaut

Tamie Folley, CO – Commercial LTA Certificate

Stacy Adelsberger, CA – Commercial LTA Certificate

Mark Wiesmann, OH – Commercial LTA Certificate

Madison Sharpe, NC – First solo flight

Congratulations on your achievements from the BFA! If you see any of these folks around, congratulate them for taking another step in their ballooning endeavors!

Speakers and Sponsors Wanted – Convention, Reno 2015

Save the date, the 2015 BFA Convention is being held in Reno, NV from April 16 to 19, 2015. The primary purpose of the Convention is to gather the ballooning community to exchange ideas, network, rekindle enthusiasm for the sport, and most importantly, educate. The committee is currently seeking key speakers and sponsors for the event. As fellow balloonists, you have the experience and background to lead one of these educational sessions. If you're interested in presenting, please submit a session education proposal online at www.bfaconvention.com. Additionally, the Convention will open its sponsor registration on July 1st of this year. This is the premier event to reach the ballooning community. For more information, visit www.bfaconvention.com

Crewing Quip

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!](#) This month's Crew Quips are once again submitted by BFA Board Secretary Dean Carton!

Crewing Quip – Glove Clips

For those crewing with a trailer, Take a piece of 1x2 wood and attach over-sized paper-binding clips (black spring-steel, the kind that can hold 50 pages or more) with screws. Use a drill to create a hole for the screw as the spring steel is really tough. Place the front of the clip at the edge of the wood (makes it easier to get the gloves in). Attach with screws to your trailer door. Use a Sharpie marker to label the clips (if your crew always wants the same gloves). You can also try repurposing clips from old clipboards.

Crewing Quip – Balloon Cards

Are you always looking for balloon cards when lots of kids just show up at a landing? Use a good quality plastic food storage container, the kind with lock-down sides (Rubbermaid Lock-its brand is great). There is a small one that will fit 30 cards or so. Put industrial-grade Velcro on the back and attach it to your trailer door. Easy to find, easy to get to, and the cards stay nice and dry.

Another great card storage idea is a hard plastic, 16-count Crayola box. This works great to store balloon cards and will fit well in a pocket. It stays closed and keeps the cards dry and organized. You can donate the crayons to your local day-care, or your kids/grandkids.

Gas Ballooning News

The rules for the 58th Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Championship have been released. You can check them out [here](#).

The USA will be well represented once again by the teams of Philip Bryant/Andy Cayton and Mark Sullivan/Cheri White.

You can learn more about the GB race [here](#). The race starts Saturday, August 30th so be ready to cheer the USA Teams on!

The other World-famous gas balloon race coming up is of course the America's Challenge. Launching from the field at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, this year's AC race will feature 7 teams. In addition to the 4 teams from the USA, there will be teams from Germany, Spain and Poland. Check the Fiesta [website](#) for more updates soon.

Contributors Wanted

Do you have a great story to tell about ballooning? Learned a new technique you want to share? Taken a great ballooning photo? We can use you!

Editor Glen Moyer is always interested in material from our members. No need to be a professional writer to submit an article or photo. Feel free to contact Glen at editor@bfa.net. If it's not fit for magazine material, we may run it right here next month!

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