

The Quick Release



2015 U.S. National Championships - Longview, TX

PHOTO SUBMITTED TO BFA FACEBOOK PAGE



Membership Brochure now available through office

Under the the direction of the Board of Directors of the BFA, a new membership brochure has been created to help recruit new members to the organization. The new brochure was designed by BFA member and volunteer Lynee Bixler.

BFA Board Elections Deadline is August 22nd

To vote, you will need your BFA number and the email on file for you at the BFA. If you do not have your BFA Member number handy, contact the BFA Office at (515) 961-8809 and Sharon at the office can help you.

Online voting at www.bfa.net

It is election time for the BFA Board and the Hot Air Competition Division Board. The following are the nominees for each of the open positions:

North Central Region

- Dave Bair
- Tim Cloyd

Southeast Region:

- Jeff Sweet
- Sam Parks

At Large:

- Scott Wooge
- John Trione

HACD North Central Region:

- Jason Jones
- Meg Skelton

HACD Southeast Region:

There was only one nominee from the Southeast, Henry Rosenbaum, therefore no election in this Region.

HACD Officials:

There was only one nominee for this board position, Mike Gilligan, therefore no election for this position.

Gas Division:

- Bert Padelt
- Louis Vitanza
- John Kugler



2015 Great Eastern Balloon Camp was Terrific!

**SUBMITTED BY GENE BURNSTEIN,
PROUD CAMP DIRECTOR**

Thanks to everyone (individuals, groups, and companies) who have supported, donated, and volunteered for the BFA's Great Eastern Balloon Camp, which ended July 16, 2015.

The 25 teens who attended our camp in Millersville, PA. would not have learned so much in such a short period of time without you. Of those 25 kids, an amazing 17 of them came to camp on full scholarships thanks to the generosity of the ballooning community.

Campers arrived Sunday from a variety of places representing 10 different states- New York, Illinois, Rhode Island, Kentucky, North Carolina, Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. We even had our first BFA international camper from St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, QC, Canada. Arrival included pilot packs which had all kinds of goodies and camp supplies.

A true festival feel to the room surrounded the group as the ice breaker session began with campers and staff. Onto a few presentations, dinner, and the basket search. Our evening rounded out with a look at the weather (it's how all our nights end before lights out). Each day begins with weather all over again.

While the weather was less than cooperative, we as balloonists adapted. For the outdoor activities: Sunday was the walkabout balloon & 4 different baskets to review; Monday started

with a fantastic mini balloon festival type environment with 5 resident pilot balloons & 2 visiting balloons.

All the balloons stayed within a large field over by Lancaster Airport- either tethering, on a dropline, or even short 'flights'. Campers were on the burners - all crew, campers, equipment, and pilots returned to earth unharmed, and at the same height they began; Wednesday afternoon was "what's wrong with this picture" using one balloon system laid out with over 30 safety issues, along with only a basket with another 10+ safety issues. The teens did great on finding almost all the issues; Thursday morning was the last time balloons were seen, as the campers worked with three balloon systems on campus at Millersville. What Mother Nature did not interfere with: weather session, crew safety, fire safety hands-on, first aid, transitioning from crew to pilot, discussions & role playing on landing/landowner relations, and pilot decision making. FARS/Weather were further covered via a jeopardy game. Knot tying instruction included a daisy chain contest. Maps and charts were covered and we had a Two Eagles presentation (by Bert Padelt) which was a hit with the kids and adults alike.

Another highlight of the camp was a visit to the Lancaster Balloonport / Repair station and the working airport tower tour. A visit from the DPE brought about seven kids who have taken the initiative and shown dedication to sign up

for their student pilot certificates. Most of them completed the process, with a couple hoping to finish it up this week.

Additional items were covered during camp, but I think you get the idea --- a lot of good hands-on learning sessions mixed with support and training to expose and develop our youth into growing balloonists.

The five days came to an end much how it began, with campers and parents gathered together in a festive room for the closing ceremony. Certificates went to the campers along with pilot packs to go. The staff was thanked and given pilot packs as an appreciation. The campers said aloud the balloonist's prayer in a toast to the campers, parents, staff and director for a successful 2015 camp. Many of the kids expressed a strong desire to return again next year and several stated they will miss their balloon camp family. The bond between 37 balloon passionate people on a campus for 5 days of intensive ballooning is an incredible experience and a lifetime memory for campers and staff.

Please take the time to check out our FB page (no need to sign-in or be a member) and 'see' what was happening <http://www.facebook.com/EasternBalloonCamp>



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Campers and Staff
from the 2015 HighSierra Balloon Camp
Reno, NV

2015 High Sierra Camp a success

SUBMITTED BY KARALYN VAVRA

The High Sierra Balloon Camp is over and was a great week of learning, flying, friendship and most of all FUN! 25 kids ages 13-18 from 7 states converged on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno for 5 packed days of balloon activities. Reno pilot Jeff Haliczar organized a camp that kept those junior balloonists busy. They called flight service twice a day, flew/tethered from the Truckee, CA airport 3 mornings and got to see the new thermal airship owned by Dave Wakefield of Cheers over California.

During flight operations, each of the volunteer pilots explained their individual balloon systems, gave campers time on the burners and showed them how to refuel. Resident pilot Myia Danley discussed competition flying and ground based operations. Resident pilot Ron Sanchez covered Atmospheric effects and first aid using items in the balloon trailer. Gene Love, local Reno pilot, discussed crew safety. Resident Pilot Don Boyer covered weather and balloon systems. Local pilot Chuck Reynolds shared his many years of experience with the campers. Bill Wells and Sandy Bryant visited to teach the campers about Pibal

and compass readings, aeronautical charts and aeronautical decision making. Local Reno pilot, Ramon Seelbach shared his retired balloon Up Early as a walk in balloon and showed campers Knots they should Know. The campers enjoyed a session on accident investigation where they studied a balloon accident/incident in depth using data they could find on balloon systems and weather and presented their findings to the group. They also played a pilot decision making game where they drew cards with the many variables that exist in balloon flight and made a fly/no fly decision. On Wednesday they traveled to local pilot Katie Griggs balloon repair shop to learn about balloon repair and propane safety from a local propane supplier. They also practiced using fire extinguishers. It wasn't all work, they also got old time western pictures taken in Virginia City, made balloon pens out of clay and practiced throwing baggies from the top of the parking garage.

In addition to the volunteer pilots, there were 5 crew chiefs/counselors in charge of keeping them on time and out of trouble. Barb Stinson, Robin Boyer, Alexander Lopez, Crystal Manning and Jessica Coville were up to the task and went

over and above all expectations. Local pilot Vince Casey, his wife pilot Chris and his crew provided balloon rides 2 of the mornings to local donors and supporters. Randy and Ryan Lucky, Kathryn Keever and Maurice Holmes, members of Jeff's local crew came out to help morning flight operations. Lujean Holmes and Karalyn Vavra provided breakfast and organizational support throughout the week. Other members of the team were Gene Bernstein, Mike Shrum, Dawn Chase, and the BFA Board of Directors.

At the end of 5 days, 10 campers received their student certificates. Pilots, counselors and staff left exhausted but energized by these great junior balloonists. Thank you so much to all of you in the ballooning community for supporting the BFA Youth program and specifically the High Sierra Balloon Camp. The kids loved all of the cards, pins, shirts and balloon information in their pilot packs. Financial support in the form of scholarships and donations to the running of the camp were invaluable to make this camp a reality to everyone. We had campers who have been on the launch field since birth and some who won their first balloon ride 6 months ago and wanted to learn more.





Tim Cloyd floating over southeast Wisconsin

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY BRUCE WOOD

Long jump has new manager and rule changes

The BFA Board has selected Iowa balloonist Tim Cloyd as the new Long Jump Manager. Many know of Tim's charitable work using long distance flights as a fundraising tool.

In addition to a new manager, the annual long jump competition has a new rule in place. A pilot can launch with 45 gallons but only use 40 gallons on the flight.

A long jump only has to be 25 miles to qualify for a jump. Challenge all pilots to fly at least 5-10 miles farther than their longest flight thus giving them a personal record. The long jump is not about flying hundreds of miles, for many it is about flying a little farther than they have before.



Airship Committee Chair Selected

The BFA Board has announced Phil Whittington as the Chair of the BFA Airship Committee.

New BFA website to be introduced at Fiesta

The committee working on the new BFA website hopes to complete the project for an introduction at The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta in October.

