

Covid-19 Message from the BFA Board of Directors

Spring has sprung! This is the time of year when many of us are eager to get outdoors, to jump into our balloons and take to the skies to enjoy the freedom and exhilaration that only our sport can deliver. But this Spring is different...

The Coronavirus/Covid-19 crisis has changed the world we live in, sparking national lockdowns around the world. Like each of you, the BFA continues to monitor the progress of this disease and its impact on our members and our sport. Now, with the arrival of better weather, some of you may be asking, "Am I okay to go fly?"

There is no clear and absolute answer. It should be noted that there has been no federally mandated "no fly" policy, either by the White House or the FAA. Likewise, the BFA is not a regulatory body. We cannot mandate our member's behavior. However, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued National Guidelines for ALL Americans to follow in this national emergency. You can read those guidelines here <https://www.coronavirus.gov>

Additionally, across the USA, the Governors of most (but still not all) 50 states have issued various "Stay At Home" orders to their citizens. While not universal, these orders do follow these general conditions:

Stay At Home

No gathering of people in groups larger than (2) (10) (50) people at a time.

- All shops closed except those selling essential supplies

Limit travel/outdoor activity to essential needs only including: for food and essential supplies, for medical needs, exercise, and to care for a vulnerable person.

- Do not go to work unless deemed an essential business

So in making a decision whether or not to go for a balloon flight, while there is no current regulatory restriction against doing so, consider the social and ethical restrictions, notably:

- Can you/your crew/passengers maintain proper social distancing in the course of the launch, flight, chase, and recovery?

Is your "travel" essential?

And what about landowners? Imagine the reaction of a landowner who has been shut in for days (maybe weeks), possibly with their children home as well, when you and a gang of people (passengers & crew) show up unexpected and uninvited on their property, acting for all the world as if it's just another day. Or perhaps you'll land in a schoolyard or at a church, or a park or other public property, closed to its normal activities specifically for the purpose of keeping people from gathering in close proximity.

Now consider the news media – keen to report any story suggesting some people see the guidelines as something only others should follow. How will your flight be perceived by them and their millions of viewers, most of whom have also been struggling with this pandemic and may already have had a friend or loved one succumb to the disease?

Remember it is possible to carry and spread the disease without yet showing symptoms. What will you say to the family who possibly loses a loved one after being infected by yourself, one of your crew, or even a passenger or family member who was along for the social outing? What will your family say if it's YOU who becomes infected?

There is currently no regulation saying you cannot fly. However the BFA strongly advises that as a responsible pilot you should make yourself aware of all the available information, Federal, State and local, guidelines, and/or restrictions applicable to your flying area and then use your best judgment to make a go/no go decision.

We love our sport and our ballooning family and care deeply about all of you. Like you, we are looking forward to the day when we can color the sky with beautiful colors and share the magic of

ballooning.

For the present, we suggest, Stay at Home and follow all Federal, State and local guidelines and restrictions.

Stay safe,

Your BFA Board of Directors





AVAILABLE NOW!!!

The Balloon Federation of America's Annual Online Safety Seminar

The seminar is offered in Video format, you can access the videos from the seminar and can take the sessions at your own pace. Look for viewing link at www.bfa.net

Any BFA member may watch the videos at no charge. The fee is only required if taken for insurance credit. Pilots: \$60 Crew: \$35

To Register and more information please click here: <https://www.bfa.net/education-training/online-seminar-2020>



BFA National Convention April 8-10, 2021 Capitol Plaza Hotel Topeka, Kansas

Continuing Education and Presentations by Industry Leaders
Open to Pilots and Balloon Enthusiasts of all skill levels

Registration Opens *July 1, 2020
**New Registration Opening date!!*

More details coming!
www.bfa.net

WELCOME NEW BFA MEMBERS



Laura Cusick
Jack Walter
Nihad Daidzic
Rick Hoffman
Joseph DeLucia
David Calvasina
Laura Johnston
Fredrick Johnson
Douglas Riddle
Jeremy Edwards
Darren Blue
Joseph Bodie
Norma Ashley

Marysville, OH
Waukesha, WI
St. Peter, MN
Wyoming
Hopewell, NJ
Endicott, NY
Largo, FL
Bel Air, MD
Albuquerque, NM
Coppell, TX
Gilbert, AZ
Temecula, CA
Newberg, OR

Michael Miller
Phillip Gray
Barbara Goraczkowski
Douglas Hase
David Radloff
Robert Cox
Robert Carlton
Robert Keys
Bill Dickey
Stephen Luce
Colby Barsketis
Mike Stone

Grafton, OH
Indianola, IA
Hot Springs, SD
Hingham, MA
Queensbury, NY
Fayetteville, AR
Polk City, FL
Albuquerque, NM
Corrales, NM
Plano, TX
Napa, CA
Boise, ID





As our world faces these difficult and changing times, a great deal of events are canceling or are rescheduling. While the decision to cancel any event is difficult and sad, health and wellbeing of all is the priority. If you have an event that you are rescheduling and would like to have it updated on the BFA event page please email Jill at bfaoffice@bfa.net

BFA BALLOON CAMPS



The Albuquerque and South Carolina 2020 BFA Balloon Camps have been cancelled. The Youth Program Committee is working on a virtual option for campers, details to come soon. Work on the 2021 BFA Camps will begin soon!



The Young Gun National Championship and the Balloon Federation of America Junior Nationals in conjunction with the Great Texas Balloon Race have been cancelled, please watch for details about the 2021 event. <http://www.gtbr.net/race-information/young-guns/>

In Memory

We are sad to report Raymond J. Johnson died last week at his home in Prescott, AZ. Ray was 94 and had some age-related health issues, which contributed to his cause of death.

Ray was a Past President of the BFA (1986-1988). But his contributions were across many aviation disciplines during his 35+ years in aviation.

Ray's contributions included participation on committees for BFA, NAA & FAI:

- Member BFA Events Committee (Predecessor HACD) - 1979-1983
- Principal Designer of BFA Pilot Achievement Award Program (PAAP)
- Chair NAA Aviation Education Committee
- President of FAI Education Commission & Designated as "President of Honor"
- Awarded Paul Tissandier Diploma for his work in Aviation Education - 1987
- Ray organized the first CAP (Civil Air Patrol) Cadet Flight Encampment which has been continued annually and was re-named in his honor. He organized participation of balloon pilots when he earned his balloon rating in 1975.



Pilot Achievement Award Program 2020

Congratulations!!

Katie Griggs

Completed Level 7 and 8 PAAP

For more information in participating in the PAAP or the CAAP please go to: www.bfa.net under the education tab.



Crew Achievement Award Program (CAAP)

Pilots and Crew, a great way to increase safety in our balloon community is by Crew participating in the [Crew Achievement Award Program](#)! Crew logbooks are available in the BFA Store. Follow the link for more information!!

Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE)

Looking for a DPE? There have been a lot of new DPE's appointed in the last year, do you know that the BFA maintains a list of DPE's and their contact information? Follow this link to view all the information <https://www.bfa.net/information/pilot-resources/designated-examiners/>



FAR/AIM QUIZ

Question: How long must a flight instructor keep records for a person they instructed?

Hint: 61.189

(Look for answer in May's QR)

LAST MONTHS QUIZ & ANSWER

Question: If you are issued a temporary certificate, how long is it good for?

Answer: FAR 61.17

Is issued for up to 120 days and expires on the date shown on certificate or upon receipt of the permanent certificate or upon notice that the certificate or rating sought is denied or revoked.



Balloon Federation
Of America

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