

The Quick Release

September
2023
Issue 9

Congratulations to the winners of the BFA Elections.

We are grateful for everyone that is willing to run and work to support and improve our ballooning community.

Main Board

(Pictured Left)

At Large - Pat Cannon

Northeast Region - Bruce Byberg

Western Region - Larry Simburger

HACD Board

(Pictured right)

At Large - Joe Zvada

Great Lakes Region - Paul Petrehn

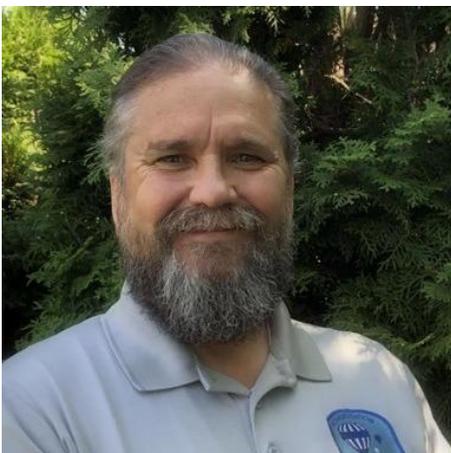
Western Region - Natasha Stanke

Gas Board

(Pictured below)

Andrew Baird

Andrew Nels



5th FAI Women's
World Hot Air
Ballooning
Championship
Northam Western Australia

5TH FAI WOMEN'S WORLD
HOT AIR BALLOONING
CHAMPIONSHIP
NORTHAM, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Competition Standings For Tasks 1 to 20

Rank	#	Competitor	Country/Team	Total Score
1	2	SCAIFE, Nicola	AUS	17240
2	12	HEMMINGS, Stephanie	GBR	13799
3	24	HAARHUIS, Sanne KINDERMANN- SCHOEN, Elisabeth	NED	13592
4	7	CROFT, Georgia	AUT	12855
5	3	SIMONAVIGLIUTE, Agne	AUS	11817
6	1	SAUNDERS, Scarlett	LTU	11562
7	5	SAUNDERS, Scarlett	AUS	11555
8	25	PEPPER, Kate	NZL	11433
9	11	HALLETT, Chloe	GBR	11422
10	8	LUMMERTZ PINHO, Lais	BRA	11233
11	14	BECZ, Rita	HUN	11203
12	29	KELLER, Kelli	USA	11195
13	18	TOMIZAWA, Suzuna	JPN	10947
14	30	PFEIFER, Holly	USA	10757
15	10	OBIEGLO, Susanna	GER	10674
16	6	WHITE, Josie	AUS	10446
17	4	KAHL, Alana	AUS	10348
18	15	EDA, Matsumi	JPN	10326
19	13	MUIR, Lindsay	GBR	10178
20	16	KURAHASHI, Tomoko	JPN	9637
21	9	KALOUSDIAN, Aline	GER	9525
22	27	BILSKA-NOWAKOWSKA, Malgorzata	POL	9398
23	21	NARBUTE, Renata	LTU	9000
24	20	VEVERE, Kristine	LAT	8926
25	26	BIEDERMANN, Joanna	POL	8342
26	31	SKELTON, Meg	USA	7986
27	23	BROEDERS-VAN HAM, Irs	NED	7782
28	22	ROMANOVSKAJA, Julija	LTU	7166
29	28	WHITEMAN, Kimberly	USA	7013
30	17	SHINGO, Rieko	JPN	4911



Congratulations to Women's World's 3-time Champion, Nicola Scaife!
Great job & Congratulations to Team USA!

12th place, Kelli Keller
14th place, Holly Pfeifer
26th place, Meg Skelton
29th place, Kimberly Whiteman

Sanne Haarhuis represents the Netherlands, but Sanne is part of the USA family.
Congratulations on a 3rd Place finish!



Top: Team USA and their crew
Far Left: Meg on launch
Middle Top: The Woman's World pilots in flight.
Middle Bottom: Sanne at launch
Bottom Right: After a canceled flight Kelli & Tom Keller enjoying a rainbow. (What a great photo!)



Southeastern Region news...

BFA President Pat Cannon has announced that Dave Sullivan, of Fayetteville, Georgia has been appointed to fill the remaining term of the Southeastern BFA Board position. Dave is a long-time member of the ballooning community, and currently owns and operates Balloonacy, Ltd, one of the last remaining certificated repair facilities in the Southeast. In conjunction with his daughter, Alyssa, he also provides parts and assemblies for the remaining Aerostar balloons worldwide. For the last five years, Dave has also been the Western Hemisphere distributor for Digitool flight instruments, used worldwide in hot air balloons.

Dave has served as a Designated Pilot Examiner for lighter than air aircraft in the Southeast for the past eighteen years. He has previously operated a 141 school for balloon flight training and has a significant background in flight training. Dave has provided flight training and maintenance support to the Southeastern Balloon Camp over the past two years.



AGM

2023 BFA Annual General Meeting
PRESENTING SPONSOR

RPS

Sunday, October 8, 2023

The BFA Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentation will be held at 11:00 am Mountain Time, Sunday, October 8, 2023, at the Sid Cutter Pilot Pavilion at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. Light refreshments will be provided...AND ICE CREAM!

All are invited to attend.

Meet the new officers and directors, and join us in honoring several outstanding balloonists for their contributions to our sport.

The poster features a large, colorful, pixelated 'AGM' at the top. Below it, the text '2023 BFA Annual General Meeting' and 'PRESENTING SPONSOR' is displayed. The RPS logo is prominently shown in green. The date 'Sunday, October 8, 2023' is in red. The event details are in black text, and the phrase 'All are invited to attend.' is in red. At the bottom, there is a line of text in black. Two small BFA logos, consisting of a red and white striped circle with a blue star below it, are positioned on either side of the bottom text.

From the President,

Update on Drones Activity



Many of you have a growing concern about the increase in drone activities in your area. The growth of the number of companies that have obtained an operations certificate, better known as an FAR 135 Certificate is something to take note of. These companies have been authorized by their certificate to operate over areas in and near many major metropolitan areas, many of which overlay areas of ballooning activity. The BFA has received copies of several regulatory waivers that are being issued to these drone operators for operations Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) by the FAA. However, there is some good news attached to these approvals. Every one of them causes the drone operators to detect and avoid (DAA) and cleverly states that the pilot and company are responsible for avoiding all manned aircraft. This includes balloons.

They are not being given right of way in any of the cases brought to our attention, so the work of not only the BFA but of all of our partners in both sport and business aviation have had the desired effect with our comments to the Aviation Rulemaking Committee that any relief by the FAA to these drone operators by allowing them any right of way would seriously increase the likelihood of a midair collision and injury to passengers and crew. In addition, pilots of these drones are required to have both a pilot certificate and an aviation medical. Visual Observers (VOs) along the flight routes are required unless they can prove that they have other means of securing the safety of all other manned aircraft or that the drone is equipped with "DAA" equipment.

One word of caution: We should not get complacent in violations of 91.119, which requires us to be at or above 500 feet AGL or not closer than 500 feet from persons, building, etc., except for takeoff and landing. Drones are in the airspace below 400 feet AGL. That is their maximum allowable altitude. The BFA is actively involved with at least one of these major drone operators to solve the problem of visibility to them while we are flying and a full article will be written about these efforts in an upcoming Ballooning Magazine article.

Sincerely,
Pat Cannon
BFA President



Congratulations Marlene!

Written by Mark West



Marlene Wall has retired from the National Balloon Museum and is on to new adventures in North Carolina. She will be greatly missed and goes with profound gratitude.

Marlene Wall was presented the BFA Director's Award by Mark West.

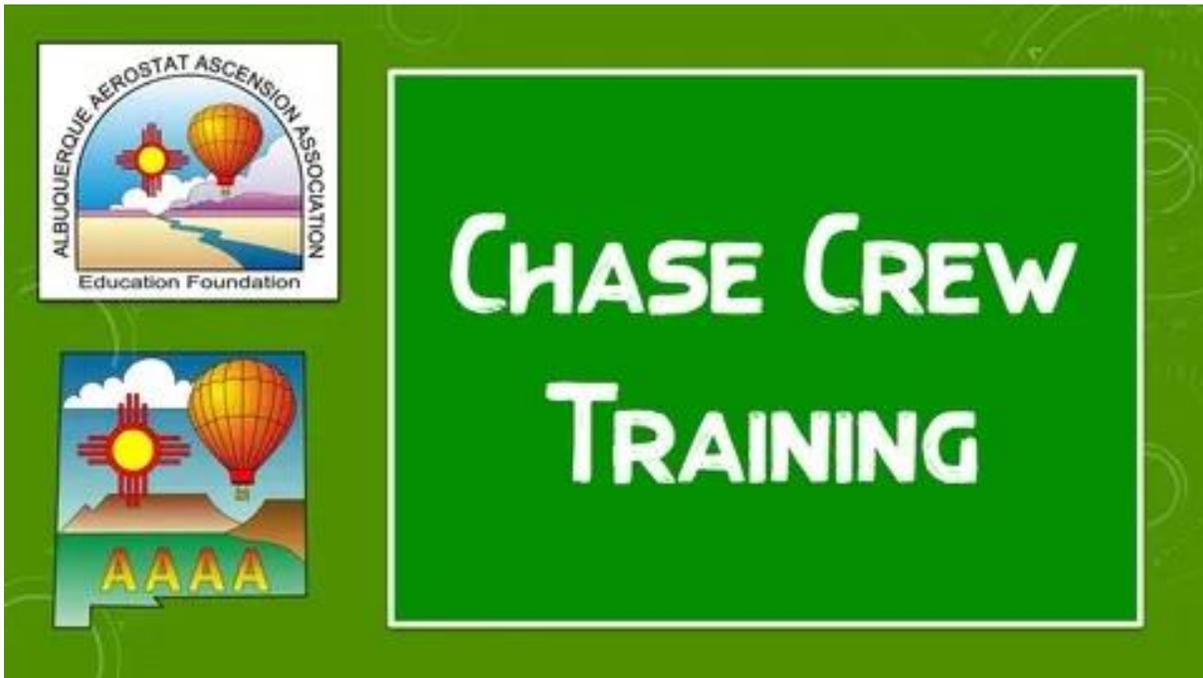
It is my great and distinct honor to be able to give my 2023 BFA Director's Award to Marlene Wall in recognition of her 53 years of contributions to the growth, development, and history of hot air ballooning in the United States. From the first ballooning event in Indianola which has evolved into the Classic, still one of the largest competitive ballooning events in the country, to the establishment of the National Balloon Museum in Indianola, your contributions are vast! This museum has served to document early ballooning and its growth and development over the past six+ decades. Your leadership and dedication to this endeavor has made it an incredibly special place to me, personally, as it houses many of the

early products and accomplishments of Raven and Aerostar. I always knew that if we sent items to the museum, they would be displayed in a very professional manor and would also serve as a testimony of where we all have developed from within this industry.

The inclusion of the Balloon Federation of America's Hall of Fame has also been a great partnership with your museum and the BFA and it is in the right place where we honor both the past in ballooning but also the past in the people who have so contributed to the growth and development of our sport. To have sheperded this special place for 44 years reflects not only your dedication to ballooning, but a very personal gift to everyone who has passed through these doors, balloonists and public alike. It is with my profound thanks that I give you this award and wish you calm winds and clear skies in your journey east.

Thank you, Marlene, from myself, the BFA Board of Director's and members of the Federation as well as Raven Industries and Aerostar International.

Mark L. West
BFA Director as Large and Past President
Retired President of Aerostar International, Inc



There are ground schools for pilots, so why not crew members? That's the question the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA) asked recently and then set about to create one. Following on the heels of AAAA's recent success with built-for-online private and commercial pilot ground schools, there is now an online course for Crew.

In this course, you'll get an in-depth look at what it takes to be a great crew member of a balloon team. You'll also get a brief introduction to the BFA's Crew Achievement Program which could be easily completed with the skills learned through this course.

Designed for newbies and experienced crew of all levels, our team of instructors will walk you through every aspect you might encounter when participating on a crew. Some activities you'll experience every day. Others you may never experience, but if you do, you'll be ready for them.

As you proceed through the 16 modules, you'll be introduced to the fundamentals, experience a typical balloon flight, learn how to tie what knots when, learn about the different types of balloons systems, experience a chase, learn what needs to be in the chase truck as well as what the crew should be doing in the truck. You'll also learn what it takes to be the crew chief, how to use the radio properly, and deal with landowners when the pilot isn't available. You'll be exposed to weather fundamentals that will help you understand what your pilot is looking at when deciding whether to fly and to predict where they might land. You'll learn about the proper handling of propane and explore those special operations like tethers and static displays. While you may never need it, you'll learn basic first aid and firefighting skills. It all wraps up with a final exam so you can be assured you have learned and understand the material.

The instructors are long-time pilots and crew chiefs and each session is beautifully illustrated with pictures, videos, and captivating animations.

You can complete the entire course in about 4 hours or spread your learning out for up to two months.

The online AAAA Chase Crew Course is now available for purchase directly from the AAAA website at <https://tinyurl.com/3etmak2u> The cost of the program for AAAA members is \$15.00 and \$30.00 for nonmembers.

Balloon Community News



Balloonists from all over the northeast and beyond are extremely excited that the Adirondack Balloon Festival will be celebrating its 50th anniversary September 21-25, 2023. The Adirondack Balloon Festival was founded in 1972 by Walter Grishkot and his wife Joan. They spent the rest of their lives organizing this great balloon festival. Mark Donahue now serves as the event President.

To celebrate this milestone the festival will hold a pre-festival Cocktail Reception and Moonglow on Wednesday evening the 20th. On Thursday, a parade begins in downtown Glens Falls, NY and ends at Crandall Park just before the festival's first launch. The festival will then move to the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport in Queensbury, NY for the rest of the weekend. This year the festival will also host a record number of special shapes. Saturday and Sunday mornings will feature for the first time a Dawn Patrol flight prior to the mass ascension. On Thursday at noon the Pioneers of Ballooning Luncheon will take place at the festival's original location at the Adirondack Community College.

The Adirondack Balloon Festival hopes to have up to 99 balloons this year. This festival has become the third largest festival in the United States following Albuquerque and Reno. In addition to the balloons there will be a large craft show, food trucks, other vendors and live music throughout the festival weekend.

On behalf of the Balloon Federation of America I would like to wish the Adirondack Balloon Festival a happy 50th anniversary and toast to a successful and memorable event.

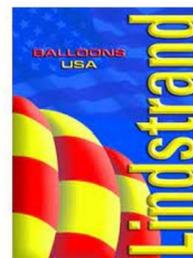
Tony Saxton
BFA, Northeast Region Director

Fuel Consumption Calculator

The BFA has received a new performance tool for our members to use.

It is a Fuel Consumption Calculator which has been developed by Mark West and Dave Christensen.

Please take an extra look at an article that will be in the September October issue of Ballooning Journal for an in-depth look at how it works. One feature is it will give you a better understanding of what things affect fuel consumption. The calculator will be available through the BFA Website.



**ULTRAMAGIC Balloons and Lindstrand Balloons USA Announce
ALLIANCE AND HIRING OF JOHN PETREHN
TO LEAD ULTRAMAGIC USA OPERATIONS**

Click for more information: <https://tinyurl.com/4fc9v37u>



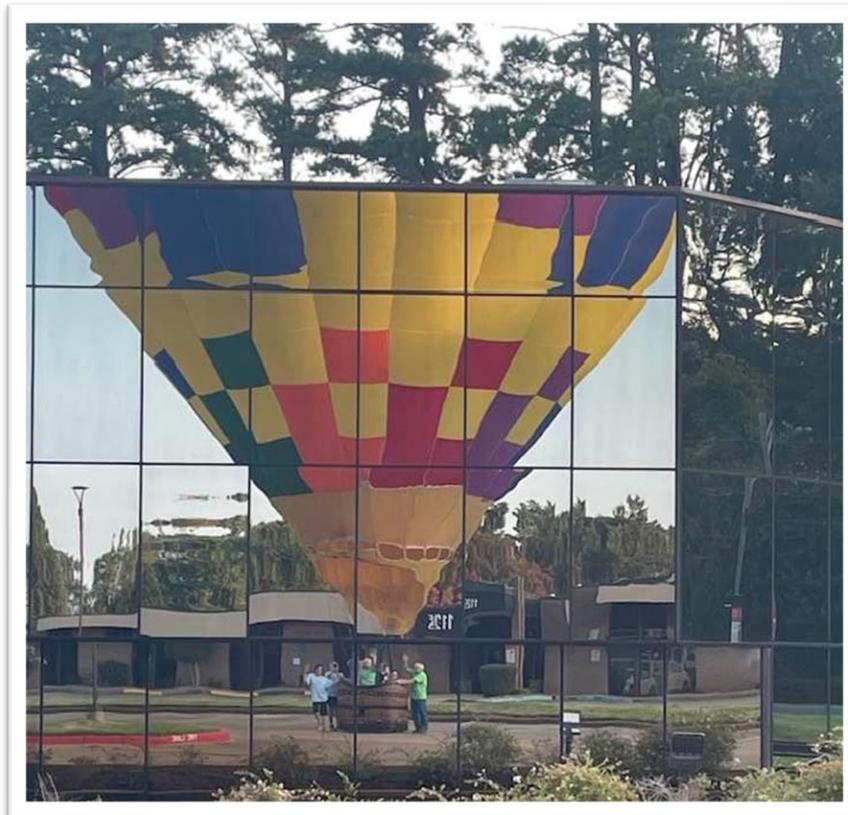
WELCOME new members

- Benjamin Weisner
- Alexander Wong
- Tammy Lenze
- Maggie Hitron
- John Brese
- Elliott Crabtree
- Micheal Lavoie
- Nicholas Nurre
- Jeff Turner

- Auburn, ME
- Belmont, MA
- Haines, FL
- Lexington, KY
- Edmond, OK
- Seneca, KS
- Siler City, NC
- Annandale, VA
- Salt Lake City, UT

- Monica Baker Swarts
- Christine Perry
- Carolyn Deschaine
- Tyler Adams
- Gary Godfrey
- Melanie Hayes
- Kerry Keker
- Elizabeth Drennan
- Isaac Drennan

- Pratt, KS
- Phoenix, AZ
- Waitsburg, WA
- Kennewick, WA
- Page, AZ
- Salt Lake City , UT
- Hillsborough, NJ
- Cordele, GA
- Cordele, GA



What an Optical illusion the photo of Dr. Bill Bussey's balloon is, pictured below.
Photo taken in Longview, TX on August 27, 2023, by Kathy Aldrich, crew member for Dr. Bill Bussey.

Do you have a story or want to recognize a BFA Member?
Please send story and photos to tamieshrum5@gmail.com for consideration to be featured in the BFA Quick Release.



Balloon Federation Of America

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