

The Quick Release

November
2023



BFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024



From Left to Right: Mark West, Vice President/At Large Director, Ron Behrmann Southwest Director, Scott McClinton Treasurer/At Large Director, Jason Jones Secretary/North Central Director, Pat Cannon President/At Large Director, Penny Suttle Great Lakes Director, Dave Sullivan Southeast Director, Troy Bradley NAA Representative Director, Larry Simburger Western Director. (not pictured: Bruce Byberg Northeast Director)



BFA Annual Awards



2023 President's Award recipient, Scott Appelman

This award is presented by the BFA president from the prior year at the BFA's annual meeting in October. The president selects a person or organization that made significant contributions to the BFA. See a list of past recipients here: <https://bfa.net/president-s-award/>

BFA Annual Awards (Cont.)

Duncan Dunavent was the recipient of the 2023 Bill Murtroff Spirit of Ballooning Award and the Southeast Director Award

The Bill Murtroff Spirit of Ballooning Award is given to a BFA member who has contributed to youth programs or education in the sport of ballooning.

BFA Directors have the ability to present an award to a member that has made contributions in their region.



Great Lakes Directors Award
Presented to Dean Carlton by Penny Suttle



NAA Directors Award
Presented to Ryan Carlton by Troy Bradley



Western Directors Award
Presented to Kathy Gallager-Burton by Kent Barnes



Southwest Directors Award
Presented to Doug Gantt by Ron Behrmann

BFA Annual Awards (Cont.)



2023 Crew Person of the Year

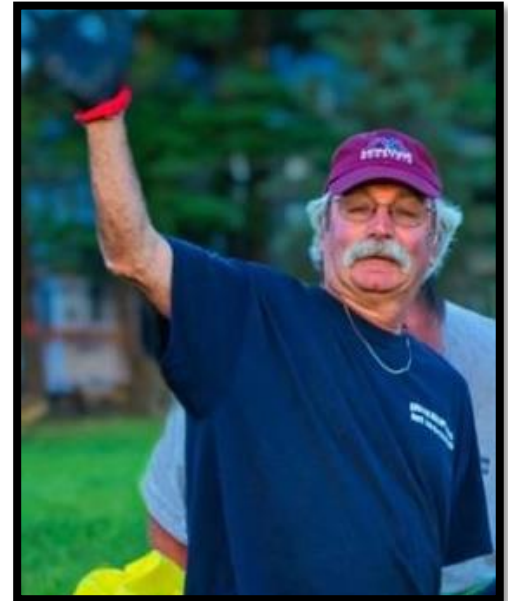
Southeast Region Crew Person of the Year
Janet Brossett



**Great Lakes Region
Crew of the Year**
Al Feustel



North Central Region Crew of the Year
Shawn & Tyler Michael



**Northeast Region
Crew of the Year**
Ken Klass



**Western Region
Crew of the Year**
Laurie Spencer's Crew





BFA Youth Camp Wrap Up 2023

Southeast Balloon Camp

Our first camp was the Southeast Balloon Camp held in Cordele GA. June 20-25. This was a 5-day traditional sleep over type of camp. There were 21 campers.

The facility was a large church camp property in the Georgia countryside. It had ample accommodations with extensive fields, a large kitchen, dining hall, command center, dorms, and a swimming pool.

Duncan Dunavent was the director. Duncan was once a camper himself in many camps. He became a pilot and then become a staff member in the Georgia camp, and now has taken the leadership role for the camp.

The weather made things difficult with heavy rains before camp, leaving the area deep with mud. Tethering and flying came late in the week, and all campers got a chance for hands on experience with the equipment.

Classroom topics included Powerline/Crew Resource Management, Charts/Airspace, Knots/tethering/ types of Ballooning, Fire Extinguishers, Flight Ops, Refueling, Regulations, and more.

Activities included Tye Dye, model balloon building, trip to the Museum, flight operations, and tethering.

Rio Grande Balloon Camp

Our Second camp was the Rio Grande Balloon Camp held in Albuquerque, NM July 8-13. This was another 5-day traditional sleep over type of camp. There were 15 campers.

The facility was a combination of the University of New Mexico for dorm rooms and some meals, the National Balloon Museum for classroom activities, and the Albuquerque Balloon Park for flight and tether activities.

Neida Courtney Bueno is the director. Neida has directed multiple camps and is a long-time pilot and staff member for AIBF.

Campers gained hands-on experience with two morning flights. They could inflate, deflate, and they got tether experience. They built and flew tissue paper balloons. Then also rode the tram and hiked the crest trail of the Sandia Mountains. They discovered they could stuff 11 campers into an old-fashioned phone booth.

Classroom topics included weather, aeronautical decision making, balloon safety and first aid, knot tying, propane safety, commercial operations, balloon repairs, wildfire prevention and much more.



High Sierra Balloon Camp

Our Third camp was the High Sierra Balloon Camp held at Lake Tahoe, near Reno, NV July 16-21. This was also a 5-day traditional sleepover type of camp.

The facility was a 4-H camp on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Flying operations were a 45-minute drive down the mountain in the Carson Valley. They got in 3 flight operations where all campers gained hands on experience. The campers participated in tethered flight operations that involved the 4-H campers from a separate camp at the same facility. Activities included, building airspace models, competition flying discussion, walk in balloon, candlestick operation, crown line tug-a-was, and an equilibrium game.



BFA Youth Camp Wrap Up 2023 (continued)

DinahSoar Youth Camp

This event camp was in Vernal Utah during the DinahSoar Balloon Event.

There were 9 campers at this event.

Kent Barnes has directed this camp for the last three years. Kent also serves on the BFA Youth Program committee.

Subjects covered in the classroom session were weather, ballooning safety, special shape flying, airport operations, basket dive/system comparisons, knots and rope handling, crew roles and responsibilities, and ballooning history.

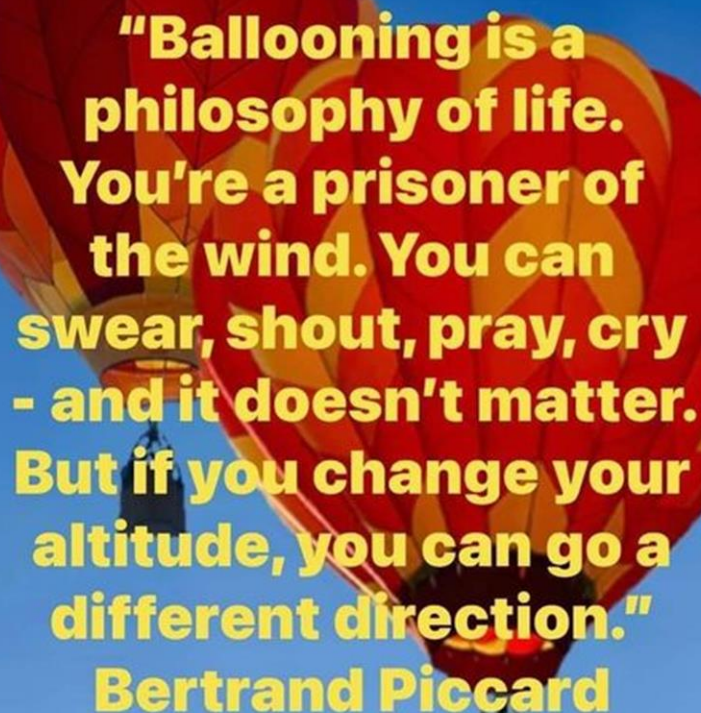
We selected 3 commercially rated pilots to provide the flights for the campers. The pilots taught their three campers about all aspects of flying, including weather, balloon setup, launching, maneuvers, landings, and post flight procedures.

Boise Youth Camp

This was a first-time event camp at a long-standing event. This camp was during the Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic.

There were 5 campers in attendance.

This camp was a one-day camp at Ann Morrison Park. Campers came the night before for an orientation, and then Saturday morning they had hands on experience crewing and flying hot air balloons. After the flights, the campers got additional classroom time with experienced crew and pilots. The topics covered were weather, radio communications, accident response, landowner relations, refueling, and other related topics on hot air ballooning, including a roundtable discussion on Careers in Aviation.



**"Ballooning is a philosophy of life. You're a prisoner of the wind. You can swear, shout, pray, cry - and it doesn't matter. But if you change your altitude, you can go a different direction."
Bertrand Piccard**

BFA

Safety Challenge Coin



The Balloon Federation of America is launching a new BFA member recognition initiative designed to recognize those who have made significant contributions or demonstrated a long-term commitment toward the BFA's mission of promoting safety in the sport of ballooning. Those so honored will receive a newly designed and minted BFA safety Challenge Coin.

The Challenge Coin has been established to recognize contributions to safety by individuals or organizations. It is not limited to pilots and may be presented to anyone within the ballooning community who promotes safety above and beyond the normal. The overall purpose and spirit of this award should be selective of occurrences or conditions involving decisions or actions measured above and beyond the normal, or everyday attention to safety activities. This is a validation that recognizes safety cultural activities, whether they involve long standing and recognized participation in safety culture activities, or an individual act of safety and a conscious involvement that mitigates or prevents an unsafe condition that otherwise might have evolved beyond safe operations or actions.

Some examples of the types of activities by pilots, crew, or others that may be considered for awarding this safety coin are:

1. Impact on safety, which may include affecting culture changes involving safety.
2. Developing and implementing safety protocols previously lacking
3. Public campaigns that affect safety awareness and individual behavior.
4. Making an individual, significant and outstanding contribution to safety

Unlike other traditional BFA awards there will be no formal criteria for qualification, no official nomination process. Any BFA member is eligible, and each potential honoree will be judged on a case-by-case basis with an eye to their actions or performance that exemplifies a "safety first" attitude in their approach to the sport of ballooning. The BFA Board plans to entrust these coins to a handful of representatives who will be empowered to present the award at a time and location they deem appropriate. While there is no formal nomination process, any BFA member may recommend a person for consideration through their regional or at-large director.



Congratulations to Emelia Bernava, recipient of the BFA's Safety Challenge Coin!

Emelia has spent numerous years on the FFAST Team, has put together a seminar on Flying in the Wires Environment, was instrumental in the production of the recent educational video on powerlines, has presented at safety seminars and more. Emelia works behind the scenes to improve and promote safety in ballooning. Congratulations to her! The award was presented to Emelia by past board member Tony Saxton along with current board member Bruce Byberg.

Director's Corner

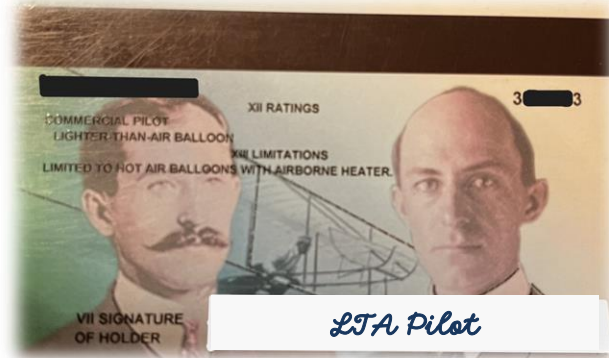
Penny Suttle
Great Lakes Region



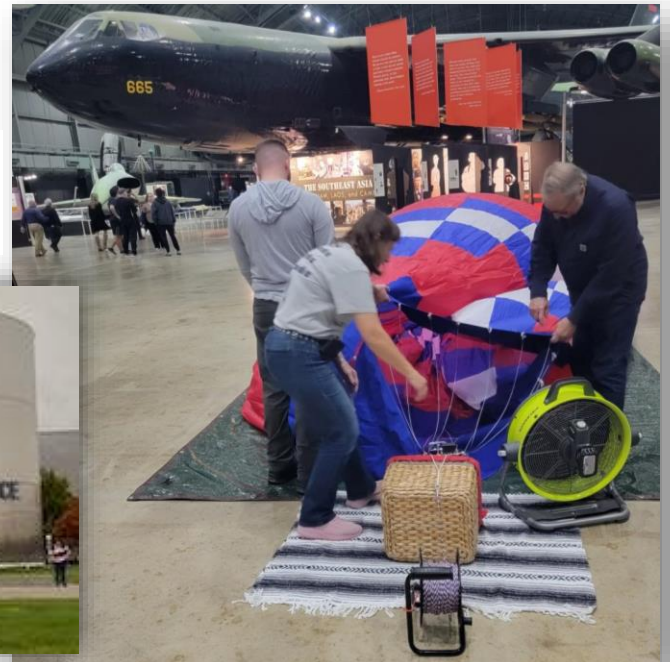
Certificate Mistake!

Have you ever really looked at your pilot certificate? Do you know what it says on the front and on the back? I was at a rally this summer, and a relatively new pilot (within a year) was not allowed to fly at the rally. His pilot certificate did not have a "Free Hot Air Balloon with on board heater" rating listed on it. It listed a "fixed wing" rating, (he had never flown an airplane.) He had registered and flown at other rallies prior to this one but no one had caught the error on his certificate.

We take for granted that when we receive our certificate, it is correct. We are all human and we all make mistakes. Be sure to remind all new pilots to look at both the front and the back of their certificate, before it may become an issue.



Museum of the United States Air Force Dayton, OH



Thirty-five years ago, I said yes. Fast forward and I'm still saying yes. BFA President, Pat Cannon, asked me if I would take the lead on a project, Air Sports Day, on Saturday Oct 28 in conjunction with the 117th FAI General Conference at the National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF).

Initially we thought they wanted 1-2 balloons to do a static display in front of the museum. About six weeks prior to the event, I was on a Zoom meeting with the other air sports groups that were also going to be participating. When we got to balloons, it was mentioned that it would be great to have 6-8 hot air balloons. Gulp! Short notice, three hours from home, how will I ever get eight pilots willing to take time to show up for this event at their own expense?

Within days, I had eight pilots, Chris Christopher, Mike Emich, Mark Fraser, Mike Lorentz, Janet Lutkus, Ben Miller, Lori Nowak, and Paul Suttle that said, "Absolutely, I would love to be part of this historic event."

I also had one RC hot air balloon pilot, Melissa Midura, who was willing to help with the inside display. Seven of the eight pilots are members of the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association, and all the pilots are BFA members.

The day of the event the weather was less than ideal, rain was eminent, winds were above 10mph, but we had a small window of opportunity to do something outside. Six pilots and crew set up their baskets and did a candle stick twinkle just after 8am while the other pilots and crew were setting up an inside display with a door basket, hopper set up and the RC balloon to share with the general public and members of the NAA/FAI. Melissa is the first person to do a cold inflation of a RC balloon in the museum. The day was amazing. Pilots and crew took turns at the display. We talked with many people from all over the world.



Balloon Federation Of America

Donate

The BFA relies on membership fees and donations to provide services, advocacy, and support to our members. We appreciate your support by renewing your membership to the BFA when it comes due.

A new feature on our web site is a "Donate" button in the upper right-hand corner of each page. The "Donate to the BFA" page allows you to donate to Support Youth Operations (youth camps), make Memorial Contributions, setup a Planned Giving Program, or make a cash donation of any size to support the BFA.

<https://bfa.net/information/donations>

Another fundraiser for the BFA is private and corporate grants. If you have any contacts for grants to non-profit organizations like the BFA, please contact Ron Behrmann the Grants Chair at rbbnphoto@aol.com.



Class II Medical Information from the AOPA.

Former Western Region Director, Kent Barnes thought this would be of interest to some of you.

<https://pilot-protection-services.aopa.org/news/2023/september/01/just-be-patient>



Corrales Trick or Trunk Balloon Glow
Corrales, NM on Halloween

Long Jump!

By: Bill Smith

Long jump season is upon us. Accomplishing a flight of a lifetime can come true this winter, but before that can happen you must start your quest now by preparing your equipment, your plans and yourself for this challenging journey. Whether you want to simply improve on your personal best flight or make an epic distance for the record books, thorough preparation is critical for success. Since the Long Jump Challenge was first held in 1990, over 350 flights have been registered into the BFA record books. All the pilots succeeded through a combination of knowledge, perseverance, teamwork, and good circumstance. The advice I have received from several of the most successful of those pilots forms ten long jump principles:

- Lighter is better. Put your system and yourself on a diet to get as light as possible.
- Go where the weather is. Don't wait for the weather to come to you.
- Higher is faster. Maximize your distance by flying at the altitude that produces best results.
- Earlier is longer. Take off at daybreak rather than launching midday for an evening landing.
- Darker is warmer. Black clothing, black basket wrap, and black envelope fabric all absorb solar heating for more comfort and better fuel economy.
- Communication is essential. Have a plan for texting, radio frequencies, and a list of transponder codes (your assigned squawk, radio out and emergency) before your launch.
- Electronics are precarious. Have a battery recharging system and backups for every critical device exposed to the cold temperatures.
- Proper planning prevents poor performance. Check all airspace in your flight path before you determine your launch location.
- Checklists are smart. Have one for each phase of the process and use them religiously.
- Experience is priceless. Seek out advice from people who have been there rather than reinventing the process, and then build a team around it.

So far this year, Tony Condon of Wichita, Kansas, has logged a 160.5-mile long jump last January. If you would like to find out how he did it, email him at abcondon@gmail.com.



BFA Long Jump Certificate for the 2022/2023 season.

Kasey Schwemmer (L) and Gary Gardner (R) crewed while Tony Condon was the pilot.



WELCOME new members

David Bradley	Indiana	Stephanie Williams	New York
Becky Wegner	Virginia	Tabatha Rainwater	Tennessee
Brent Nichols	Georgia	Craig Foust	Texas
Jamies Ballard	Missouri	Robert Rhodes	Florida
Chris Smith	Tennessee	Betsy Kleiss	Illinois
Rolo Cuadrado	Florida	Edwin Reich	Idaho
Michal Clifton	North Carolina	Jonathan Murray	Florida
Michael Shane	Utah	Diana Gilson	New Mexico
Pavel Titov	Russia	Robert Thomas	Texas
Garrett Gerwig	Ohio	Michael Stout	California
Anthony Rainwater	Florida	Ronald Fincham	Colorado
Michelle Nickerson	New York	Albert Hicks	Georgia
Glyn Gowing	Texas	Rodney Thrasher	Pennsylvania
Sean Gerity	California	Johnson Tsang	Alaska
Samuel Szobody	Illinois	Dan Strutz	South Dakota
James Dawson	Virginia	Paul Burrows	United Kingdom
Sophia Eakin	Wisconsin	Ken Anderson	Pennsylvania
Chad Frame	Pennsylvania	Zane Bullock	Wisconsin
Gal Bennett	Texas		

Members Request for Assistancess

- Looking for a US Nationals pewter mug 1987 & 1988 designed by Beymer's Jewelry, Indianola, IN to complete the collection.
Contact: Becky Wigeland flamingbecky127@gmail.com
- Looking for a Pandora AIBF 2014 Charm
Contact: Tamie Shrum tamieshrum5@gmail.com



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