



Balloon Federation Of America

HACD Newsletter December 28, 2020

The HACD Board met on December 12 via Zoom for their annual day-long meeting. The following newsletter outlines many of the topics that were discussed. Please look for the minutes of this meeting to be posted on the BFA web site to see the full meeting topics and decisions.

US National Hot Air Balloon Championship Scottsbluff, NE

We are excited to return to Scottsbluff for the 2021 National Hot Air Balloon Championship! This year will have a new director as Paul Petrehn has been selected to run the event. Petrehn is putting the finishing touches on a tremendous staff. Colleen Johnson and her staff are once again developing a great week of events for the National Championship. Event dates are August 8-15, 2021. This will be an exciting competition that all should attend. Stand by for more information on the BFA web site.

US Women's National Hot Air Balloon Championship Brookfield, MO

The HACD is excited to announce that the US Women's Nationals will once again be held in Brookfield, MO! As usual, Green Hills Ballooning Inc. will be putting on a great event. The event will start with a mandatory meeting Thursday September 2 and conclude with a brunch Monday September 6. Competitors please look for important information coming out on the BFA website and the Women's Nationals Facebook page.

US Junior National Hot Air Balloon Championship Longview, TX

The HACD is excited to announce this year the Great Texas Balloon Race will be hosting the first ever US Junior National Hot Air Balloon Championship! Sam Parks will be directing the event this year, which is scheduled for June 17-20. It will be a fun and challenging weekend in Texas.

US Team National Hot Air Balloon Championship Shreveport, LA

With about two weeks to go for A-ranked pilots to register a team for the US Team Nationals we have seven registered teams. Registrations will open to any interested teams starting January 1, 2021.

Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission organizer, Kelly Wells, is feeling confident that the outdoor event will take place as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic. Kelly indicates there are other large outdoor events scheduled prior to the Team Nationals so we should have plenty of advance information regarding COVID-19 safety protocols for the event.

Maury Sullivan, Team's Director, indicates that staffing will begin in earnest after the pilot registration process is complete. Maury wants to ensure the ability to add new faces to the team of officials and offer plenty of opportunities for all staff to become familiar with the new logger sensor and use of the Balloon Live App.

Mike Gilligan has agreed to serve as Scoring Officer and has begun the process of updating the BFA Team Scoring software. The event will be the first competition to use the new technology and has committed to offering two full practice sessions to allow ample opportunity for staff and pilots to polish their skills with the new technology.

New Competition Logger

The FAI logger Membership Presale was a huge success! HACD membership took full advantage of the opportunity to save money with the presale. Here is a run-down on the sale:

- Total US sales: 98 loggers
- Total Canadian Sales: 2 loggers
- World Wide sales outside of North America: 450 loggers

This is tremendous. The HACD has purchased a dozen loggers. These loggers will be available for rent at national events. The hope is our US competitors will be able to use these loggers at events here in the states and this will better prepare them for events abroad. The US Nationals and the US Women's Nationals both plan on using these loggers in this year's events. Please [reach out to your HACD regional director](#) or US Nationals Director Paul Petrehn (paulpetrehn@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Rules Changes for 2021

One focus of the December HACD Board meeting was to approve the *Policies and Procedures Manual* for the 2021 flying season. Rules updates will be coming out in April. The update will be discussed during the monthly Board meetings in March and April and then approved.

The Next Generation of Officials

The HACD is always looking for the next generation of officials. Please consider becoming part of an event staff if you have interest. The HACD Board has set up a working committee to try and develop a plan to encourage, promote and train people interested in officials jobs. The

working committee contacts are Patty Cramer (patty.cramer@gmail.com) and Rob Wise (wiseres1@gmail.com).

Membership Drive

The HACD would like to thank all of its members who signed up and bought a competition card this year. We know many events were cancelled. It was hard to find tasks to fly. So we thank you for continuing to support the HACD. Sometimes you participate for the good of the cause and not for oneself. With that said we also understand with events being cancelled why a person might not renew their membership during such a trying year.

We want you back! Please consider renewing your membership for the 2021 season. If you are a pilot that has never been a HACD and you would like to try it or you have not had a HACD card in the last five seasons [contact your regional director](#) and they can help you with a free card for the 2021 season. Each regional director has the ability to give away a limited number of HACD cards for the upcoming season.

We Need Your Input

The HACD Board meets when discussion or decisions are required. You have the opportunity to be a part of these events.

When possible, the agenda will be published at least a week in advance. Call-ins will be scheduled the first 15 minutes of each meeting. Here is how you can participate:

- Email Jason Jones (insy588@aol.com) to be placed on the docket of speakers.
- Each speaker will be allowed to talk for 3 minutes.
- The speaker must speak to a topic on the agenda.

At the end of the speaker's 3 minutes we will go to the next participant. We hope that this opportunity will be one you will take advantage of and that all members have a voice in the HACD. We encourage you to work with your regional representative as well.

Events in 2021

As the new competition season gets under way please remember there are several things you can do to help us promote your event. This is even more important this year since so many events were postponed last season.

- [Contact the HACD](#) so we can place your event on the web site as an event flying tasks for the NEL.
 - The HACD needs your event to meet certain requirements for state and regional championships. The HACD is more than willing to help you make this happen.
 - Scores need to be emailed to Jason Jones (insy588@aol.com) or Drew Egerton (slowburnballoon@gmail.com) within 2 weeks of the end of the event.
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The HACD Board would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and a safe flying season. Please [contact your representative](#) with any questions you have. We look forward to seeing you at events around the country!

Email Us!

Ideas, questions, comments, anything: hacd@bfa.net

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