



## ***BFA Youth Program Logo Contest***

Thank you to the number of balloonists aged 18 and younger who submitted designs for the next BFA Youth Program logo! The Youth Committee received many great designs!

The Committee narrowed the designs down to two, now they need your help! Visit [www.bfacamps.com](http://www.bfacamps.com) and vote for your favorite design. The winning design will be used on all Youth Program promotional material and the creator of the winning design will receive a gift card to the BFA Store.

Voting ends April 4th! Everyone can visit [www.bfacamps.com](http://www.bfacamps.com) to vote today!

## ***BFA Youth Summer Camps***

There will be two BFA Youth Summer Camps this year for teens aged 13-18! Sign up information can be found at [www.bfacamps.com](http://www.bfacamps.com)

The Dubuque Balloon Camp returns for a third straight year, June 22-26 at the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, IA. The Dubuque Camp which last summer had two of its campers receive their Private Pilot's license, has taken into account camper surveys from prior years to develop a brand new camp curriculum for campers with all experience levels. The 100% hands on and interactive activities will teach novice campers the basics of ballooning as well as challenge those campers that have already received their Private license and are looking to receive their Commercial rating! Of course there will also be flight instruction given by our distinguished volunteer counselors who hold a Commercial Pilot rating and are eager to see more youth receiving their license, including an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner who can answer all your licensing questions!

Also this year, campers will once again return to the Lindstrand Balloons USA factory and learn about how hot air balloons are made. Phil Thompson and Lisa Kempner of Lindstrand Balloons USA have graciously allowed the campers to spend an afternoon at the factory, which has been the campers' highest rated activity over the years!

New this year is the Great Eastern Balloon Camp, July 13-17 at Millersville University in Millersville, PA. A dedicated team of balloon pilots, crews and counselors are creating a unique camp experience for teens

with all levels of ballooning knowledge from novice to student pilot. All campers need is a passion for ballooning and a desire to learn more. Along with daily ballooning activities and instruction, campers will have opportunities to make new friends.

Hands on training and interactive classroom session will include: pilot training and crew safety, how to rig, tether and pack up a hot air balloon, flight planning and decision making, weather and airspace, maintenance and repair, mapping and GPS, Federal regulations, basic first aid, and more!

If you have a teen aged 13-18 who is interested in ballooning, sign them up for these exciting camps today at [www.bfacamps.com](http://www.bfacamps.com)

## ***BFA Seminar Webinar Recap***

The BFA Seminar Webinar was held on March 8, 2014. The live event has hosted by LTA Colorado, Inc. from Aurora, Colorado and streamed across the country by Aero-News Network. Over 280 people viewed the event on-line. Several groups watched the seminar together, allowing them to add some group interaction and discussion to the presentations. Viewers had the opportunity to email questions to the event, keeping it more interactive with the on-line audience.

Speakers included Stephen Blucher, Dave Callear, Don Day, Chris Mattes, Sam Parks, Andy Richardson, and Scott Spencer. Event host Dave Bair keep everything rolling and on time and was key in organizing many aspects of the seminar. Reviews for the event were good and we have many ideas for making improvements for next year.

## ***Face to Face Meeting***

The BFA Board of Directors will conduct its Spring Face to Face meeting in Indianola, Iowa April 12-13th. Topics covered will range from general operations and finances to pressing issues in the community and focus on improving growth in our organization and sport. A detailed agenda will be posted on our website prior to the meeting.

The meeting will be open for input from the community so if you are interested in stopping by please contact the office for more details.

If you have some ideas for topics or suggestions you would like the Board to consider, please contact your Board representatives!

# ***New Members***

The BFA is excited to welcome these new members. *Welcome!*

Scott Bates, MI

Andrew Strang, MI

Joseph Young, MD

Allen Johnson, MN

Seth Rauch, WY

Andrea Schramek, NV

Michael McGrath, IL

Robin Rowe, TX

Jordan Warner, VA

Patrick Daley, OH

Reo Reidhead, VA

Joseph Stafford, CT

Bruce Cable, CT

If you are not currently a member, please consider joining today! We would also ask that all members take the time to share the benefits of their membership with their ballooning communities and encourage any non-members or lapsed members to become a part of the organization. The BFA is your one and only national representation of the ballooning community and we need member support!

\*Reminder, the **Quick Release** can be signed up for by non-members as well so please [SHARE!](#)

# ***Corporate Member of the Month***

The BFA is proud to promote its Corporate Members. We showcase a member each month as the Corporate Member of the Month.

March's featured Corporate Member of the Month is the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association!

Celebrating 75 years this year, the AOPA is the largest general aviation association in the world. Providing member services that range from representation at the federal, state, and local levels to legal services, advice, and other assistance, AOPA has built an excellent service organization for the aviation community.

For more info on AOPA, please visit their website [here](#). Thank you for your continued support of the BFA! For a complete list and more information on all of our Corporate Members, [click here](#)!

## ***Reno Just One Year Away***

The 2015 BFA Convention in Reno, NV is just over one year away! The committees are hard at work and plan to provide a plethora of interesting and educational activities to suit all balloonists. The location of course calls back to our very first convention held there in 1977. If you enjoyed the conventions in Louisville and Des Moines, you know to expect a great time of education as well as social and professional networking. More details upcoming in the following months, stay tuned!

## ***New Achievements!***

The BFA congratulates the following crew and pilots on their recent accomplishments!

Ted Hunt, MO – Commercial LTA Certificate

Brian Foster, MI – Private LTA Certificate

Harmony Lambert, CA – Private LTA Certificate

Petra Wilson, SD – Private LTA Certificate

Jayne H. Nelson – Passed Private written exam

Paul Dale – Passed Private written exam

If you know of other new ratings or achievements, please [let us know!](#) We rely on notices from examiners, Facebook and emails.

## ***Last chance for Spirit of Annie Award***

***By Beth Davidson***

Nominations are now being accepted for “**The Spirit of Annie Award**”. This prestigious award was established by the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association in memory of a very special observer, Annie Pryne. It will be awarded when an observer, organizer, official or event volunteer most typifies the dedication, hard work and love of ballooning that set Annie apart. Some of the past recipients include Patty Cramer, Josh Swallow, Jim Diebel, Kim Wilson, Jim McKenney, Bev Zanella, Bob and Dottie Humbert, Linda Gavigan and last years’recipient, Mike Gilligan.

Annie’s spirit was indomitable and nothing, not even age or terrain, stood in her way when she accepted the responsibility to make sure all competitive pilots were treated equally and fairly. The vision of Annie, spray paint can in one hand and tape measure in the other, standing in the middle of an intersection protecting a baggie or the memory of Annie wading through a wet cornfield measuring back to an intersection, personifies not only Annie’s spirit but the spirit of observing.

### **CRITERIA**

1. To be awarded only when a nominee meets all the qualifications, it is not necessary that the award be given on an annual basis.
2. To be awarded to an observer, organizer, official or event volunteer who best personifies the “Spirit of Annie”.
3. A nominee will have observed or been an event worker for no less than 5 years.
4. A nominee will hold a credible presence in the sport of ballooning, respected by observers, officials, and pilots.
5. A nominee will show a willingness to share experience and knowledge.
6. A nominee will have a positive attitude.
7. A nominee will have a commitment to the sport and the improvement of all aspects of competitive ballooning and will be strong enough to speak out when needed.
8. Most importantly, the nominee must have the ability to enjoy and interact with people from all aspects of the sport.

Nominations will be reviewed by the NOBPA Board, HACD Board and the past 5 living recipients of “**The Spirit of Annie Award**”. The winner will be announced and honored at a national competition in the summer of 2014.

Nominations should be submitted to Beth Davidson, NOBPA Awards Committee, at [bdskyangel@aol.com](mailto:bdskyangel@aol.com). Deadline for nominations is March 30, 2014.

## ***Japan wins bid for 2016 Worlds***

The USA will have to wait a little longer to host another World Championship event. Despite an excellent bid package put together by Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, delegates from around the world voted to accept the bid of Saga, Japan to host the World Hot Air Balloon Championships in 2016. Saga has previously hosted the Worlds in 1989 and 1997 and will no doubt produce an excellent event. The first opportunity for US pilots to qualify will be the BFA National Championships held once again in Longview, Texas July 28th-August 3rd, 2014.

## ***Hall of Fame Process***

Thanks to some member inquiries and further research by the BFA Board and Awards committee, there will be some slight changes forthcoming to the processes for nominating candidates for the Hall of Fame at the National Balloon Museum in Indianola, IA. We'll have more details on this process in next month's issue so stay tuned here and to the BFA website for more information soon! In the meantime, feel free to contact any of your [Board of Directors](#) if you'd like to discuss.

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