

# The Quick Release



THE BFA WAS PARTY TO THE HEARING AND WAS WELL REPRESENTED BY (L-R) SCOTT APPELMAN, TONY SANDLIN, DEAN CARLTON, ANDREW BAIRD, AND SAM PARKS.

PHOTO BY KEVIN KNAPP

## BFA leadership attends hearing

On Friday, December 9, 2016 the National Transportation Safety Board held an inquiry regarding the July 30, 2016 balloon accident near Lockhart, Texas. BFA members Sam Parks, Andy Baird, Scott Appelman, Tony



Sandlin and Dean Carlton were called to testify during the hearing. Bert Padelt, David Rapp, and Petr Kubicek participated as representatives of Kubicek Balloons. Several members of the Federal Aviation Administration also provided testimony. The BFA was extended the opportunity to be a 'party' to the hearing, meaning the BFA had the opportunity to ask questions of the witnesses.

The hearing was broken into three sections. The first section dealt with operational issues. Witnesses were asked about standard operating procedures of a ride operation, performance differences between large and small balloons, and how weather information impacts pilot decision making.

The second section was dedicated to regulation and oversight. Questions in this panel involved FAA regulations and oversight of balloon operations, the BFA's Best Practices document, and Letters of Authorization. The work of the BFA's Professional Ride Operators was critical in being able to respond to the questioning.

The final panel related to medical factors. Questions in this panel were related to the pilot's medical conditions, the effect of certain medications, and medical certification of pilots.

The NTSB will now complete their

investigation and will determine a cause for the accident. They may additionally recommend regulatory changes to the FAA, which is usual in cases such as this. The NTSB indicated completing the investigation could take several more months.

The BFA's Call to Action committee is continuing their work regarding the report submitted to the FAA as well as the Best Practices document for balloon ride operations. We will continue to work together to enhance the safety of our sport and industry.

The NTSB has posted a video of the hearing online. It is accessed at: <http://www.capitolconnection.net/capcon/ntsb/ntsb.htm>

A number of BFA members were in the audience, and a great number more were watching the live stream. On behalf of the BFA, the members of the BFA Action Plan committee would like to thank our members for their support.



Learn the art of balloon crewing



Join the BFA Youth Programs Awards

Welcome to the BFA!



The BFA is a 501(c)3 non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of the sport and science of lighter-than-air aviation, both hot air and gas balloons. Founded in 1961, membership in the BFA is open to anyone who shares a fascination with Lighter Than Air flight.

Join Us!

Become part of the future of ballooning! Membership is easy and affordable, and comes with privileges. Our top-flight magazine "BALLOONING Journal" is produced bi-monthly and is filled with interesting and informative articles covering many aspects of the sport. Joining the Competition Division will allow you to compete for National and International Championship teams and prizes. Opportunities for training and education, a monthly eNewsletter, achievement awards, and more great things are available for members. Members can be pilots, crew, or just people who are interested in ballooning. If you would like to learn more, click here for more information, and to apply on-line for membership.

Get Involved!

The BFA has several divisions established to support the ballooning community.

Hot Air Competition Division

If you are interested in the competitive side of the sport, the HACD is for you. From establishing rules and regulations, keeping score on a National level, and supporting the qualifying USA world pilots, the HACD is a very active part of the BFA. Click here for link to the competition division.

Commercial Ride Operators

New to the BFA is the Professional Ride Operators Division (PRO). If you are looking to take a ride, or are a commercial balloon pilot looking for more exposure for your business, click here to go directly to their site. PRO members all agree to a code of ethics in regards to safety and business operations.

Gas Division

The BFA Gas Division is involved in the sport of flying balloons usually filled with helium or hydrogen. This division manages the qualification processes for national and world gas competitions. Click here for link to the gas division.

Junior Balloonists

"The Future of Ballooning" is no more apparent than getting youth involved in ballooning. The BFA's Junior Balloonist Division is dedicated to connecting kids with balloon pilots. Through education, summer camps, training, and mentorship, the division provides youth the ability to discover and grow in the sport of ballooning. Click here to go directly to their site.



Search ...

TOP NEWS

- New BFA Website is Finally LIVE!

RECENT BFA NEWS

- NTSB Hearing Update
- BFA to participate in NTSB Hearing
- New-Dec 2014 Ballooning Journal Online
- HPF for 2017 Online Sponsor available

# New website is now online

After over 3 years of work, BFA.net has a new look and a whole lot of new functionality!

The members asked for more photos, easier to find features, a simple membership application process,



easy to read Ballooning Journal online, and in general a fresh look. With this change, the BFA has moved to a development platform that is current (from a 1.5 version to a 3.6 version; which is a lot in webspeak) and will be easier to maintain. Membership billing will be

completed inside the system instead of having to copy information and process it manually. BFA.net utilizes an industry standard credit card management system that is very secure (no more PayPal) and doesn't require leaving the site to make payments for membership.

Lots of people worked literally thousands of hours to make this a reality. Nancy Griffin worked very hard maintaining and updating 2 (old and new) calendars. Drew Egerton and Maury Sullivan helped significantly with the HACD portion and proof-reading. Phil Bryant and Ryan Carlton did a lot of testing as well as provide valuable input for design. A large group formed as the website committee and provided survey feedback to help with the design. Dean Carlton did the content management segment, developing the new design and incorporating lots of older articles into the new system. Also, we had a couple dozen BFA member contribute stock photographs for our use.

We all need to thank Fred Dinkler for his incredible work as our website engineer. Fred developed the new database systems, created the transfer protocol, set up the credit card system, built a custom member application system, and much, much, more. Fred has volunteered thousands of hours to the BFA in maintaining the current and new websites. Without his help, we would still be struggling.

So it is live, but it is never done. Several more enhancements are in the works. Also, with anything new there will be a few bugs. We count on our members to let us know if they find issues with the new system. We will continue to work hard to make the website as functional as we can make it.

Thanks for your patience!



# Youth camps are announced

Camp registration will begin in February

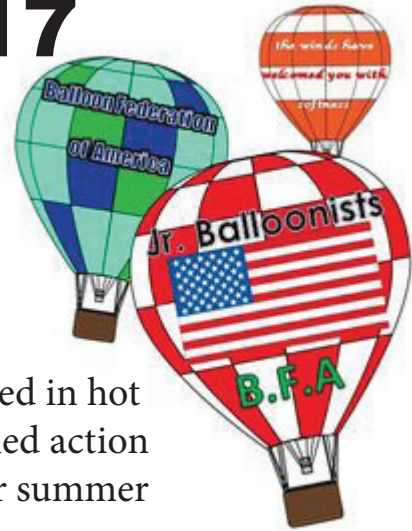
## Camps for 2017



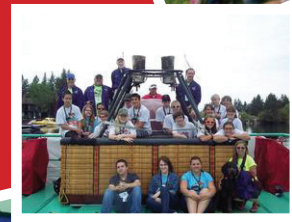
**Oshkosh, WI (June 10-14)**

**Reno, NV (June 17-22)**

**Albuquerque, NM (July 8-13)**



Are you a teen (or know of one) aged 13-18, interested in hot air ballooning and willing to join us for a few fun filled action packed days/evenings? Come and share part of your summer with up to 20 teens living and breathing 'ballooning'. PREVIOUS BALLOONING EXPERIENCE is NOT REQUIRED as our campers will be joining a volunteer staff of FAA certified pilots and experienced crew who will be acting as their mentors and counselors – making sure everyone benefits. Enjoy the company of others sharing a passion for ballooning, in this unique and different camp experience!



*The Balloon Federation of America's Youth Program benefits the youth of ballooning and ensures the future of ballooning. Through education, summer camps, training, and mentorship, we provide youth the ability to discover and grow in the sport of ballooning. Our volunteers mentor youth helping them achieve their goals.*

2016-2017

# BFA Long Jump Challenge

Started in 1990, the BFA Long Jump is an annual contest to promote the sport of hot air ballooning. Individual pilots and team members plan and conduct their own flights from launch sites of their own choosing. The basic rules are "Use 40 gallons of propane, fly as far as you can."

## Objectives

- To promote safe longer distance hot air balloon flight planning and execution
- To increase BFA membership involvement in the Challenge.
- To simplify to process required to enter the Challenge.
- To promote sharing the experience via the optional Team Challenge category.
- To have fun!

## BFA Long Jump Committee

**Orvin Olivier**  
Chair

**Tim Cloyd**

*BFA Board Liason*

**Rich Jaworski**

*World Records Holder*

## Rules Version

The rules as posted on the BFA website will remain in force until updated by the Long Jump Committee.

## Incentive to compete

Improve your duration piloting capability and flight planning skills while establishing your new "personal best" result, even if your

improvement is only 10 miles. Pilots and crew members will be entitled to boast, "I have flown my balloon "X" miles." Become familiar with weather web sites and information as you use the Long Jump program each year to challenge yourself and crew to achieve an increased distance goal and make the 'GO!' or 'NO GO!' decision. Checking the weather forecasts this winter could become a daily routine to be enjoyed as you start your day.

Do it for the crew by giving them an opportunity to be involved in a high adventure, marking the high point of a winter with otherwise few flights. Enhance crew skills in long distance chasing and recovery.

## To Enter

All current BFA pilot members may enter. Entry prior to making the flight is not required. Just download and print the rules and flight report forms. Plan and complete your flight; then return the completed forms and entry fee(s). For each Long Jump season, a one-time entrance fee of \$10 for each entered BFA pilot and/or a \$20 fee each team is required. The contest runs December 1 to March 31 of the current season.

### MORE INFORMATION:

<https://bfa.net/index.php/information/long-jump-competition>

Balloon Size	Seven Long Jump Categories	
	Team	Solo
AX-6 and Smaller	AX-6 Team	AX-6 Solo
AX-7	AX-7 Team	AX-7 Solo
AX-8	AX-8 Team	AX-8 Solo
AX-9 and Larger	AX-9 Team	<b>Not Allowed</b> <sup>1</sup>

## 2014 Hudson Hot Air Affair



PHOTO BY ANGELINA PEACE

# FAVIA 225

First Air Voyage  
in America  
and the  
2018 BFA Convention



**MARCH 22-25, 2018**

Visit:  
[www.FAVIA225.com](http://www.FAVIA225.com)

for the latest information  
about this can't miss event for  
every balloon enthusiast!

## Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing on the Delaware River



# Great Gift Ideas for your pilot or crew



**HOT AIR BALLOON CREWING ESSENTIALS** –The how-to standard on crewing takes readers from safety basics to advanced techniques and commercial crewing. Crew like a pro in no time – a must-read for both pilots and crew. 30 chapters, 220 pages.

**CREW SAFETY Tri-Fold Card** – Safety at your fingertips! Quick reference for local emergency contacts, power line safety, and 300 tips from layout to landowner relations. Glossy cardstock and airline-style to fit perfectly in your truck's visor, console, or door.

## Convenient shopping on our website store at [www.bfa.net](http://www.bfa.net)

Support our sport and our BFA family  
by giving your crew and student pilots  
a BFA membership for Christmas.  
Only \$35 for a digital membership  
is a great deal!



# BFA Sanctioned 2017 Continuing Education Seminars

Find More Seminars listed on the website:

<https://www.bfa.net/index.php/events5/continuing-education-seminars>



**Balloon Society of Kentucky**  
02/11/2017 • 7:30 - 5:00  
Scott McClinton  
Scott@skycab-balloons.com

**Central Texas Ballooning Association & Lone Star Hot Air Balloon Association**  
02/11/2017 • 7:30 - 6:00  
ctba84@gmail.com

**Iowa Balloonist Association Continuing Education Seminar**  
02/25/2017 • 7:00 - 6:00  
Benji Clemons  
cuatdx@gmail.com

**Carolinas Balloon Association Safety Seminar**  
02/25/2017 • 7:00 - 5:30  
Marc Klinger  
mklinger@bellsouth.net

**Gateway Aerostatic Association /GAA Education Seminar**  
02/25/2017 • 7:30 - 5:00  
Roy Caton  
roycaton49@gmail.com

**Great Eastern Balloon Association Continuing Education Seminar**  
03/4/2017 • 7:15- 5:15  
Tony Saxton  
info@weflyhotair.com

**Midwest Annual Continuing Education Seminar**  
03/25/2017 • 7:30 - 5:30  
Ken Walter  
winddancerballoons@gmail.com

**Illinois-Indiana Continuing Education Seminar**  
04/1/2017 • 8:30 - 6:30  
Dean Carlton  
dean@cazooee.com

**If your balloon club's seminar information is not on this list, please send it to John at:**  
[jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com](mailto:jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com)  
**by 2/1/17 for publication in the 2/4/17 issue of The Quick Release.**



**Send your Continuing Education Seminar dates to us and we'll also put them on the BFA website.**

# New Year, new competitive you!

SUBMITTED BY ADAM MAGEE

The BFA HACD wants you to sharpen your competition ballooning skills and join the HACD this year! We are proud of what our members accomplished in 2016 including:

- Team USA's performance at the 2016 World Championship in Japan, including Rhett Heartsill the 2016 World Champion.
  - Team USA's performance at the 2016 Women's World Championships in Lithuania, including Cheri White a bronze medalist.
  - Team USA's performance at the 2016 Junior World Championship in Lithuania.
- If flying on the World Stage is your goal, the HACD welcomes you to join and sharpen your skills.

We are also proud to have had two successful US National Championships in 2016 – one in Shreveport, LA and the other, the first standalone US Women's National Championships in Albuquerque, NM. In 2017 the HACD looks forward to another successful US Nationals in Shreveport, LA and will continue to search for organizers of US National Championships – Women's, Jr's and Team Nationals to promote the sport and allow members to sharpen skills.

We continue to be thankful for all the balloon events that support competitive ballooning in the USA and use our rules/regulations and allow their pilots to compete for points in our National Eligibility List. Though not final, as of this writing 39 different events had scores submitted into the National Eligibility List.

Many more events had intentions to submit scores, but were weathered out. It is these events, ranging from small balloon club events, to large competitive events which are the lifeblood of our division. We attempt to add value to organizers by having a published rule book, scoring software, safety standards, etc. available to organizers with very little extra work needed to have scores submitted to our National Eligibility List.

Help us grow competitive ballooning and consider having your event submit scores to the National Eligibility List. Although the name of the list is a bit deceiving, pilots don't have to have an interest in flying at Nationals to be listed and have points submitted. The HACD recognizes the top pilot on the National Eligibility List as well as the top senior pilot, top woman pilot, top rookie pilot, top Jr. pilot, and the most improved pilot from the previous year list. Any organizers who wish to have their scores submitted for the 2017 National Eligibility List should visit the BFA website to learn how.

The HACD Board of Directors held their annual face to face meeting in December 2016 to discuss the year that was in 2016 as well as plan and approve rule changes for 2017. There are many new and exciting things in the works that will debut in 2017, join us and see!

Newsletter of the Balloon Federation of America

*The*  
**Quick Release**

**DEADLINE**  
**2/1/17**

Next issue of  
"The Quick Release"  
will be published on

**2/4/17**

We want your photos, club news, crew news and pilot news. Special recognitions, ballooning anniversaries and anything else that is balloon-related and happening within the BFA membership.

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO JOHN C. TRIONE:  
[jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com](mailto:jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com)



**JOIN US TODAY!**

**BFA Membership Application for Mailing**



WRITTEN BY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2013 13:21

Join or renew your membership here or online at: [BFA Online Shop](#)

New Membership ( ) Renew My Membership ( )

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Flying Status (choose one for all personal memberships)**

- ( ) Commerical Pilot ( ) Private Pilot ( ) Student Pilot ( ) Crew ( ) Observer

**Personal Memberships (all voting except Juniors)**

- ( ) With US delivered magazine (\$55/yr) ( ) With Int'l delivered magazine (\$65/yr)
- ( ) With Digital Magazine (\$35/yr) ( ) Life membership with magazine (\$1000 once)
- ( ) Family membership for two or more memberships in one family (Digital) (\$20/yr)
- ( ) Junior Balloonist (aged 5-18 with Digital Magazine) (\$15/yr)

**Non-Personal Memberships**

- ( ) Corporate (\$250/yr) -Send business name/address/contact person/email logo to: [bfaoffice@bfa.net](mailto:bfaoffice@bfa.net)
- Associate Member (non-voting, for balloon clubs, libraries, balloon event organizations)
- ( ) US delivered magazine (\$55/yr) ( ) Int'l with magazine (\$65/yr)
- ( ) With Digital Magazine (\$35/yr)
- Professional Ride Operator Companies
- ( ) Large Operator (4 pilots-\$250/yr) ( ) Small Operator (2 pilots-\$125/yr)

*PAYMENT INFORMATION - All International memberships & subscriptions must be in US funds.*

Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Check - Master Card - VISA - Discover - AMEX  
CC Account# \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_/\_\_\_ CVC Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please print application, complete and mail with payment to this address:

Balloon Federation of America  
P.O. Box 400, Indianola, IA. 50125 e-mail [bfaoffice@bfa.net](mailto:bfaoffice@bfa.net)

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**The Quick Release**

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**BFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT	- Dean Carlton
VICE-PRESIDENT	- Cheri White
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TREASURER	- Maury Sullivan
NAA REPRESENTATIVE	- Troy Bradley
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	- Katie Griggs
	- Scott Woogie
	- Ted Watts
	- Sam Parks

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