

Letter from the President

Happy Holidays!

As we are getting ready to put 2019 to bed, we have been working on our plans for 2020 and I wanted to update everyone on what we are all looking forward to accomplishing in 2020. It is an ambitious list and we need your help on accomplishing many of these goals.

BFA Top 10 Goals for 2020

1. Promote at least a 10% growth of BFA membership within the ballooning community based on the value of membership increased by the Theodolite product and the on-line database for balloon events.
2. Promote safety awareness, education and training that will contribute to the overall safety within the sport of ballooning. Historically only half of active balloon pilots attend annual safety seminars. Work throughout local communities to drive that number toward 100%.
3. Conduct two high quality Junior Balloon Camps with 20 campers each where the quality, positive experience, great exposure to ballooning and a safe and secure environment is achieved as rated both by campers and staff participants. <https://www.bfa.net/bfa-summer-camps>
4. Support the organization and growth of the new Aeronaut Program as it establishes an avenue for the BFA members of the future to contribute to and guide the BFA in promoting ballooning to today's youth.
5. Reinvigorate BFA Committees by involving more BFA members, employing survey results and a renewed purpose to deliver quality outcomes benefiting BFA members as well the entire ballooning community. https://www.bfa.net/images/committees/2019_Committees.pdf
6. Represent the BFA membership and ballooning in general to achieve the best possible outcome regarding FAA issues including the subject of 2nd Class Medicals, the Private LTA ACS, and the DPE Program. <https://www.bfa.net/88888979-news/1759-commercial-balloon-pilot-safety-act-update>
7. Promote competitive ballooning through the conduct of high-quality events for the US National Championships, the Women's US National Championships and the Junior US National Championships. This will be the first time in the BFA history all three championships have occurred in one year.
8. Strengthen the relationship with outside organizations such as EAA, CAP, AOPA, and balloon clubs across America to strengthen the future of ballooning.
9. Utilize publications and social media to share the accomplishments of the BFA and its members, inform the ballooning community on important issues and raise awareness of the great opportunities available in aviation through ballooning.
10. Place emphasis on Media Relations to be prepared for any events that might reflect poorly on the sport of ballooning to help mitigate these negative effects and promote the positive aspects of our sport.

Our best to you and your families,



Mark West
BFA President
president@bfa.net





WELCOME NEW BFA MEMBERS



Nancy Lambertson
Thomas Lawler
Philip Gilson
Dwight Barnes
Nathan Sherrill

Arvada, CO
Albuquerque, NM
Rio Rancho, NM
Canton, OH
Katy, TX

Ricky Dillbeck
Karen Converse
Lewis Meckley
Jonathan Levine

Hernando, FL
Albuquerque, NM
Lakewood, NY
Phoenixville, PA

FAR/AIM QUIZ

Question: At what altitude is supplemental oxygen required for the Pilot in Command?

Hint: 91.211

(Look for answer in January's QR)

LAST MONTHS QUIZ & ANSWER

Question: What is the concentration level (legal limit) of alcohol according to the FAR?

Answer: 91.17 No person may act or attempt to act as a crewmember of a civil aircraft--While having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater in a blood or breath specimen; under the influence of alcohol, among many others, please refresh your memory.

Last Chance to Refer A Friend!

Are you BFA?

Now through December 31 for every new member a BFA member signs up they will receive \$10.00 in BFA Balloon Bucks (\$50 maximum allowed credit)

Rewards can be redeemed for cost reduction of: BFA Membership, BFA Convention Registration, and BFA Online Safety Seminar. Members must contact Jill with referral information in order to get credit.

bfaoffice@bfa.net or 515-961-8809

#IAMBFA 



In need of a gift idea for a teenager?

Balloon Camp is a great gift that keeps giving!

Registration starts March 1, 2020.

For more details:

<https://bfa.net/bfa-summer-camps>



January 2020 Events

Havasu Balloon Festival and Fair
Arizona Balloon Classic
Mesquite Hot Air Balloon Festival

January 9-11
January 24-26
January 24-26

Lake Havasu, AZ
Goodyear, AZ
Mesquite, NV



Tis the Season for Long Jumps

The 2019-2020 Long Jump season is now open through March 31. For three decades, the Balloon Federation of America (BFA) has been sponsoring the Long Jump Challenge to encourage pilots to improve their personal best flight distance while promoting safe flight planning and execution. For the first 10 years of the event, 232 pilots participated; from 2000 to 2019, 86 pilots logged results; and in the last decade, less than 30 long jump flights were officially recorded. The distances achieved ranged from 7 to 750 miles. As we begin our fourth decade of the challenge, the goal for the BFA Long Jump Committee is to promote awareness of event and improve participation.

As a balloon club member, try encouraging your group to add a long jump flight to this winter's schedule. You just need a Saturday or Sunday with skies clear below 10,000', reasonable surface winds, and winds aloft over 25 knots to have a great flight. With most balloons having at least a two-hour duration capability in colder temperatures, it is easy to log a flight of 50 miles or more. I have found that there are few things more exciting to a pilot than improving on a personal best distance, altitude or duration record. And if your group does go more than 100 miles, they will be talking about that adventure for a long time.

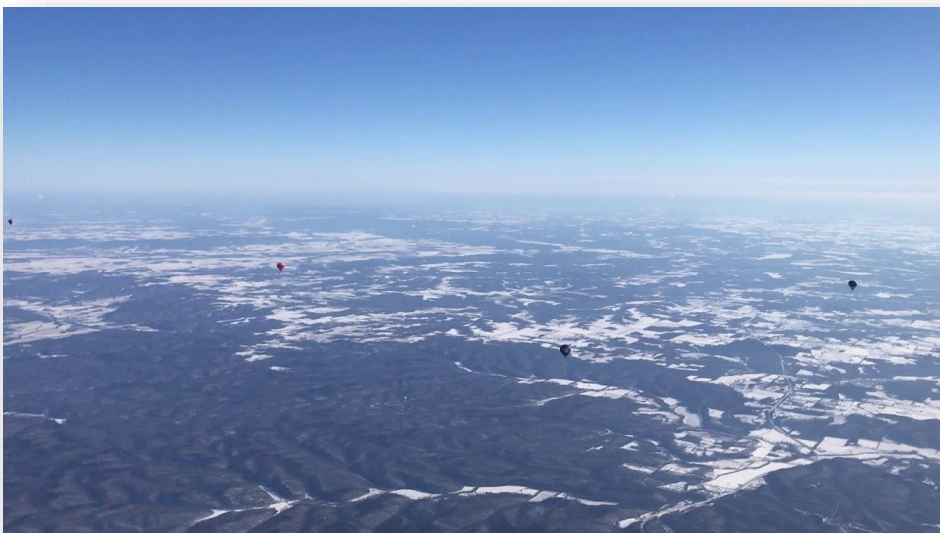
Most less-experienced pilots are a little nervous about flying at altitudes of 10,000' MSL or at speeds of more than 20 knots. However, it is human nature to have strength in numbers, so a group flight will reduce the apprehension for those who are stepping out of their comfort zone. It is also a lot more fun to make a long jump with a bunch of friends. For new pilots who would like to fly with someone with a little more experience, we have a team category with two pilots or a pilot and crewmember.

The military instilled in me the "Six Ps for Mission Success": Proper Planning Prevents P---- Poor Performance. To help you properly plan and equip yourself for a flight, I can email you a copy of my personal long jump checklist and an article written on flight preparation. While both documents are aimed at more serious distance endeavors, they will give you some things to consider during your planning phase regardless of your goals. There are also detailed administrative instructions on the BFA website at <https://www.bfa.net/information/long-jump-competition>.

This year, I will be writing an article for the May issue of Ballooning telling about all the long jump activities of the 2019-2020 season. I would like to include your flight in my report, so take a few notes and pictures and send them to me before April 1. Also, all participants will receive a certificate from BFA.

A long-distance flight can be a real morale-boosting activity for your club, as well as an educational experience for you. Please join in on the fun with us this year and fly a BFA long jump.

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BFA Long Jump Chairman
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Record Year for Crew Achievement

Looking to increase participation in an aging sport, introduce youth to ballooning and improving ballooning safety? A well-trained balloon crew is a great start. The crew achievement award program (CAAP) was developed to recognize crew members as they progress through training at the Apprentice, Senior Crew, Crew Chief, and Master Crew Chief levels. 2019 has been a record year for crew member training achievements and saw five new Master Chiefs awards in the past year and a half.

2019

Kelly Sasser, Phenix City, AL
Ed Devore, Danville, IL
Michael Depew, Nashua, NH

2018

Denise Rucker, Twin Lakes, WI
Gary Brossett, Midland, GA



CAAP PARTICIPANTS 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Randy Sipe	II Senior Crew	Indiana	Keirn Gawthrop	I Crew Level	Indiana
Kimberly Keating	I Crew Level	Illinois	Therese Brown	I Crew Level	Illinois
Bret Wiley	I Crew Level	Illinois	Robin Dodson	I Crew Level	Illinois
Carrie Koster	I Crew Level	Illinois	David Wrycza	I Crew Level	Wisconsin
Carol Winder	II Senior Crew	Wisconsin	Janna Ingram	II Senior Crew	Oregon
Janet Brossett	II Senior Crew	Georgia	Grace Ingram	II Senior Crew	Oregon
Bryan Kelly	I Crew Level	Alabama	Sallie Loffin	III Crew Chief	Oregon
Joy Sibayan	II Senior Crew	Oregon	Audra Pedersen	II Senior Crew	Wisconsin
Ivey East	II Senior Crew	Alabama	Alecia Detka	I Crew Level	New Hampshire
Forrest Griggs	III Crew Chief	Nevada	Emilie Brossett	II Senior Crew	Georgia

If you or a crew member is interested in participating in CAAP you can find additional information at:

<https://bfa.net/education-training/crew-achievement>



Balloon Federation
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