

# The Quick Release

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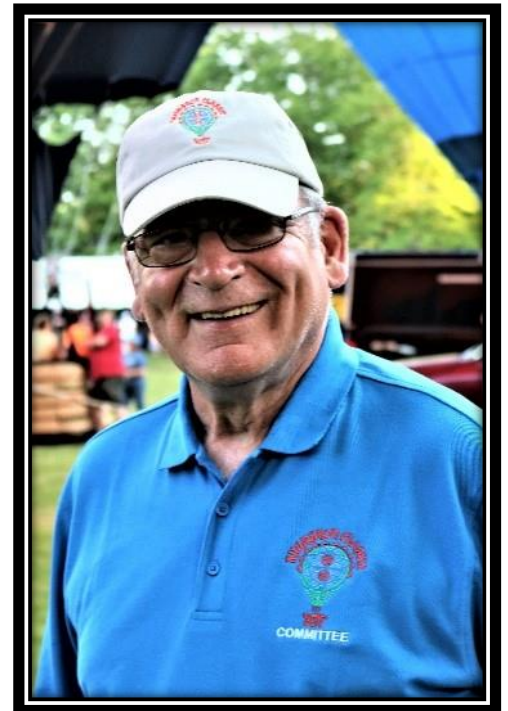
November 2020

## Remembering Ted Watts

At-Large Board Director Ted Watts died October 31, 2020. He will be greatly missed by family, friends, and the balloon community. To view Ted's obituary please click here: <https://obituaries.meadvilletribune.com/obituary/theodore-watts-1080683400>

From the start, Ted played an important role on the Board as our Attorney. All legal questions went to Ted. During my tenure as President Ted reviewed every contract I signed. He was always available to talk on various issues in front of the Board. I specifically remember his call back one year from the Macy's Day Parade where he was so excited to be walking with a balloon. I was always greeted with a beautiful smile and a big hug when we saw each other in person. I feel so fortunate to have had our paths in life cross. The BFA benefited from Ted's calming presence, wonderful advice, and rock-solid personality. He will be missed by all. RIP

*Cheri White*



### ***For What It's Worth***

Title of Ted's written memoirs

I first met Ted Watts at his inaugural balloon event in Meadville, PA in 1988. I never had a brother but if I could create the perfect sibling it would be Ted. In his early involvement with ballooning he was like a sponge absorbing every bit of sage advice his balloon mentor, Bob Zanella, threw his way. Ted was unique in so many ways but what I enjoyed most was our ability to always speak frankly without any fear of judgement. I could always count on several phone calls every week, especially after Board meetings, when we shared what was wrong with the world although we viewed it from opposite sides of the isle. No one was safe from our mutual sarcastic sense of humor. We both grew up street wise and developed a sharp and colorful vocabulary. Ted was the best attorney I have ever worked with; he understood and mastered the often-uncommon use of common sense in analyzing any legal question. I'll miss Ted and so will the sport of ballooning. He always said he was really upset (actual language was more colorful) with me for convincing him to run for the BFA Board. While I promised him if he ran I would also. Little did he know at the time I reached my two-term limit long before his. While Ted could have walked away from the BFA Board after serving his five years ending in 2020, he ran and was again elected for a final 3-year term. Ted's counsel influenced so many BFA and HACD actions over the past five years it's impossible to recount them all. He always said his only wish was that his legacy would be that he made a difference. Mission accomplished Ted; indeed, mission accomplished . . .

*Maury Sullivan*

## Win a convention registration!

Like the BFA Facebook page, like the BFA Convention Facebook page, like and share the original post and comment on the post what you are looking forward to at the convention and just like that you are entered to win!

The winner will be drawn and announced on Montgolfiere Day, November 21, 2020!!



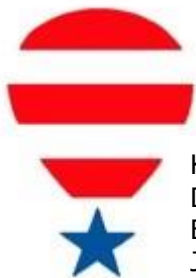
**Balloon Federation of America**  
**National Convention**  
**April 8-10th, 2021**

Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kansas  
60 Years of Ballooning Excellence  
**Join us in Kansas**

- \* Continuing Education
- \* Presentations by Industry Leaders
- \* Fun & Fellowship

<https://www.bfa.net/convention-2021>  
**Registration Now Open!**

## WELCOME NEW BFA MEMBERS



Kirke Rose  
Danita Capps  
Benjamin Wagoner  
Jessica Long  
Tai Quoc Hoang  
Claudio Facchinetti

Phoenix, AZ  
Centennial, CO  
Bristol, CT  
Phillipsburg, NJ  
Houston, TX  
St-Blaise, Switzerland

Robert Grogan  
Linda Drummond  
Reid Conklen  
Phil Garver  
J.R. Wingfield IV  
Nabil Hafsia

Oak Park, CA  
Monument, CO  
Kirkwood, IL  
Lebanon, OH  
Charlottesville, VA  
Tansia, Africa



### A FAR Question

**Question: What is the required basic equipment for a hot air balloon?**

**Hint: 31.85**

(Look for answer in December's QR)

### LAST MONTHS QUIZ & ANSWER

**Question: What is the required content of a Pre-solo Flight Test?**

**Answer: 61.87 Satisfactorily passes a knowledge test containing the following, applicable sections of part 61 and 91, Airspace rules and procedures for airport where solo flight will be performed, flight characteristic and operational limitations for make and model aircraft to be flown.**

# Honoring History

The Aero Force One Balloon Team traveled from Kentucky to Bruning, Nebraska, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Ed Yost's first flight in a modern hot air balloon on October 22. High winds kept the balloon on the ground, but they inflated anyway for town officials, the press and the local first grade class. On their way home they stopped at the National Balloon Museum in Indianola, Iowa



# 2020 Ed Yost Master Pilot Award



The Balloon Federation of America's **Ed Yost Master Pilot Award** recognizes lighter than air (LTA) pilots who have demonstrated professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise by maintaining safe operations for 40 or more consecutive years as active pilots. For more information about this award please visit <https://www.bfa.net/ed-yost-master-pilot-award/>

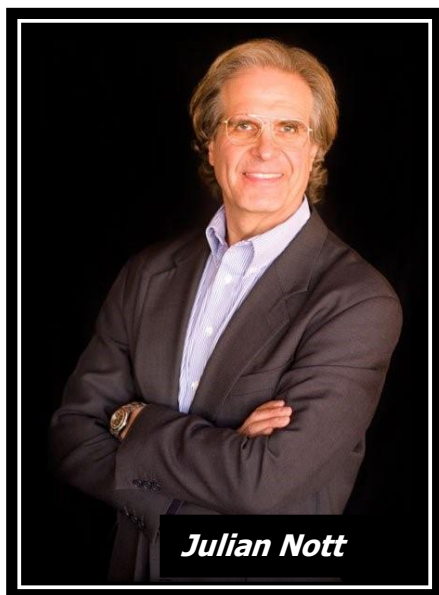
## 2020 Recipients

Greg Ashton	1978
Peter H. Asp	1979
Pat Cannon	1980
Roald L Centers	1976
Tim M Gale	1980
David W Johnson	1980
Janine Fabick Mroz	1979
James L Pontrich	1979
Dave Sullivan	1974



## 2020 U.S. Ballooning Hall of Fame

To read the biographies of the recipients <https://tinyurl.com/y2hosoj6>



# Drop Line Do's and Don'ts

By Gordon Schwontkowski

Do not be fooled – a simple line that can get a pilot out of trouble can get crew in deep trouble when used improperly. Consider it a lifeline rather than a braking system or a landing tool by following these simple guidelines to keep everyone safe:

## DO's

- Use only in light winds, preferably less than 5mph.
- Grab it quickly and apply firm pressure.
- Stay on the ground – let go immediately if your feet leave the ground.
- Angle yourself to pull near horizontally for best results.
- Multiple crew – stand close together and pull as a team.
- Let go if any balloon part will or does contact power lines.
- For best steering, 2 lines often work better than one.

## DON'Ts

- Never catch a drop line – let it hit the ground first.
- Never wrap it around any part of your body you want to keep.
- Never leave the ground on a line or outside the basket.
- Never tie it to a vehicle, tree, or other object.
- Use in steady wind or pulling too hard will pull your balloon downward!
- Avoid your pilot's blind spot beneath the basket.

A pilot drops a line to get out of trouble – make sure you know how to handle and when to drop it to stay safe and out of trouble.



# BFA LONG JUMP PAGE

The BFA Long Jump page now has a searchable database for all long jump flights thanks to Dean Carlton and Bill Smith. You can sort the records by name, date, distance, duration, or state. For instance, if you sort the information by duration, you will find that Dennis Helmuth flew an incredible 13 hours and 41 minutes using less than 40 gallons of fuel. The database is also exportable. You can view this information here <https://www.bfa.net/information/long-jump-competition>

If you see something missing or incorrect in the data, contact Bill Smith at [aeroforce1@bellsouth.net](mailto:aeroforce1@bellsouth.net)



## 2021 BFA Youth Camps

**High Sierra Balloon Camp** – Reno, NV - June 20-25, 2021

**Southeastern Balloon Camp** - Gaffney, SC - June 22-27, 2021

**Rio Grande Balloon Camp** - Albuquerque, NM July 10-15, 2021

For more information: <https://bfa.net/bfa-summer-camps>



Stratobowl, SD  
The fawn was not injured in the process and was reunited with its mother quickly.



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