

# The Quick Release

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## *From the BFA Board of Directors*

The BFA's official response to the Balloon Pilot Medical NPRM, is in the link below.

We have done our best to represent you in this issue knowing that the base results had already been determined by Congress. We will continue to work with the FAA in the future in hope of minimizing the impact of the new rule.

<https://tinyurl.com/bfaNPRMresponse>



Lake Havasu, AZ  
Photo Credit:  
Alysha Lard



## Balloon Event Symposium – Should I Invite and Encourage My Local Event Organizer to Attend?

Well . . . yeah. The Event Symposium is designed specifically for balloon event organizers and planners. It's not a safety seminar but, of course, includes many safety related topics. We will present the A, B, C's of how to plan and execute a well-organized and safe hot air balloon event. It's presented in a very interactive format with leaders presenting materials in a manner to solicit feedback from participants on what works best in their local community. The Symposium is largely based on the premise that you can always learn something new; someone always has a better way of doing this, that , or the other thing.

Our presenters are all well-seasoned and experienced organizers. They'll share the good, bad, and the ugly from their experience.

The Symposium is a prelude to the BFA Convention in Topeka, KS. It's scheduled for April 6-7 and is very affordable. The cost of attending has been kept to a minimum with early registration just \$200. In addition to a fact and fun-filled event the pricing includes daily continental breakfast, refreshment breaks and a hosted happy hour with hors d' oeuvres.

If not driving, traveling to Topeka is best through Kansas City (MCI). To help with transport from the airport to the venue, the BFA has arranged for a shuttle bus service. Shuttles leave the airport on Tuesday April 5 at Noon and 4 PM and Thursday April 7 at Noon and 4 PM. Shuttles leave the hotel on Friday April 8 at 6 AM and 10 AM and Sunday April 10 at 6 AM and 10 AM. Cost is \$75 per person round trip. **Deadline to sign up for shuttle is February 28.**

As for the Symposium, here is what organizers have to look forward to:

**What Works for Us:** a discussion of what two successful events, big and small, have found to work best

**Crisis management:** a discussion of the critical elements of emergency response and the media frenzy that follows

**Canceling or Postponing an Event:** considerations and consequences

**Working with the FAA:** Certificates of Authorization and Waiver – do I need one and who prepares?

**Event Insurance:** what's needed vs recommended and how safe do I feel?

**Sponsorships and the Selling of a Title Sponsor:** how to attract sponsors at all levels and how to land the big one

**Pilot Recruitment:** a discussion of recruitment methods and screening

**Event Officials and Staffing:** review of key roles and why they are important to the organizer

**Risk Management and Mitigation:** a review of legal issues, pilot and passenger waivers

**Finances and Budget:** sample budgets, cost per balloon and in-kind support

**Turnkey Operators:** presentations by three operators

**Event Timing, Logistics, Volunteers and Infrastructure:** a review and discussion of major planning considerations

Two sessions for experienced and aspiring **Balloonmeisters and Safety Officers** will also be available as breakout sessions

Be sure to follow us on FaceBook and the BFA web site as speakers and other information will be coming in the following weeks and months. Registration link to the BFA web site is: [Event Symposium - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](http://bfa.net)



# Balloon Federation of America National Convention

By Tim Cloyd

One of the hottest topics in ballooning is Class 2 Medicals. Dr. Kozarsky a senior FAA designated aviation medical examiner, a consultant to the Federal Air Surgeon, and has a special interest in aviation and its interface with vision correction procedures will be one of the presenters at the Convention.

As a trusted surgeon for many Major League Baseball, NBA, NFL players, as well as Oscar and Grammy Award recipients, Kozarsky has had the honor of helping some of the world's best-known athletes improving on their already outstanding abilities.

Alan Kozarsky MD., is one of the leading corneal, cataract, and vision correction specialist in the country and was selected again this year by Atlanta Magazine and U.S. New and World Report as the "Best Doc." He has repeatedly received the votes of his peers to be listed in the Best Doctors in America.

Early convention registration will end January 31, 2022. The higher Regular Registration price will begin February 1, 2022. The convention is scheduled for April 7-9, 2022 in Topeka, Kansas. You can register at [Convention 2022 - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](https://www.bfa.net). A full registration will include 2 Breakfasts, entry into a Trade Show, 2 Receptions, Safety Seminar credit for attending the appropriate number of speaking sessions and a Banquet. And for those flying into the Kansas International Airport we will provide Shuttle Transportation between the airport and the host hotel for a small fee. Deadline to sign up for the Shuttle is February 28, 2022.



# BFA Director's Corner

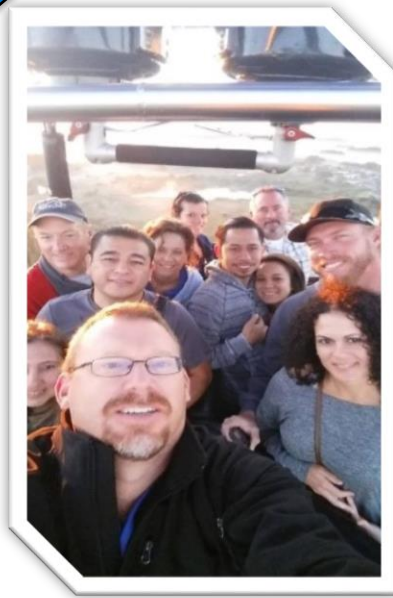
## Southeast Region Director Tom Warren

Hello from the deep south of Florida. As most of the country's flying season has slowed down, we still get to fly a little, but we change our focus toward training. With that we need to try and do a few things this winter, take time to look at ourselves and our own level of up-to-date training. With so many new rules and regulations coming at us it is not a bad idea to take a refresher course / ground school. There are plenty of ground schools and online seminars we should be very sharp come this flying season.

The number one question I get asked is, "What does the BFA do for me?" My response is, "What do you want and need us to do?" Tell us what you would like to see us do and help with.

In December 2021, I was denied a launch at an airport here in Lakeland, FL (based on ADS-B regulation misunderstanding). My call the next day was to Pat Cannon, BFA President to voice my concerns about airports not allowing balloons to launch or land from there. He took my concerns to the FAA during a monthly call and this is getting fixed, not only for my airport but we are making sure this information will be available for all members and sent to all airports. If you have an issue, let your BFA representative or a board member know, and we will help you.

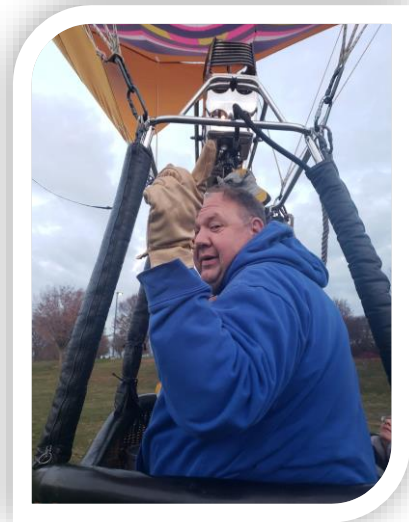
Let me leave you with this: This sport is about the love of ballooning, this group that we are apart of is a giant family and just like any family we will all never get along but, in the end, if we all focus on keeping our sport together and moving forward, we can see this sport live to pass down to the next generation.



## Northeast Region Director Tony Saxton

I want to provide everyone with an update since the last issue of the Quick Release.

The Great Eastern Balloon Association has transitioned their annual continuing education seminar from in-person to a virtual environment. The date stays the same, March 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information you can contact Dawn Chase at [gebaseminar@gebaballoon.org](mailto:gebaseminar@gebaballoon.org) or to GEBA's website at [gebaballoon.org](http://gebaballoon.org) to register. Everyone is always welcome.



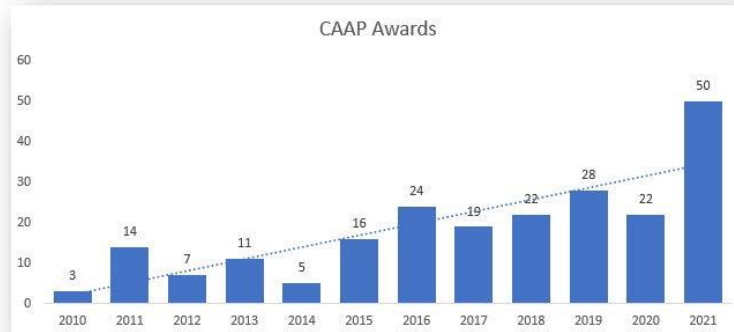
## Pilot Achievement Award Program

Gary Brossett    Level 4    Columbus, GA



## Crew Achievement Award Program

We had a record number of participants in the CAAP in 2021!  
Thank you. Let's make 2022 even better.



*For more information in participating in the PAAP or the CAAP please go to:  
[www.bfa.net](http://www.bfa.net) under the education tab.*



### CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

**Southeastern Balloon Camp in Cordele, GA**  
June 21-26, 2022

**Rio Grande Balloon Camp in Albuquerque, NM**  
July 9-14, 2022

**DinahSOAR BFA Youth Camp in Vernal, UT**  
August 26-28, 2022

Are you interested in donating to the Youth Program? In Memorial of someone or in general please follow this link below. All donations qualify as a tax-deduction as the BFA is a 501c3 Not for profit organization. [Memorial Contributions - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](http://www.bfa.net)

If you have any questions, please visit  
<https://tinyurl.com/2p84yey7> or  
Email: [youthprograms@bfa.net](mailto:youthprograms@bfa.net)



Lake Havasu, AZ  
Photo Credit:  
Kim Lynch

## A FAR Question

**Question:** When logging training time, what must be included in the description?

**HINT:** 61.51(h)(2)(ii)

**Last Month's Question & Answer:** No Question last month.



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Of America

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