

The Quick Release

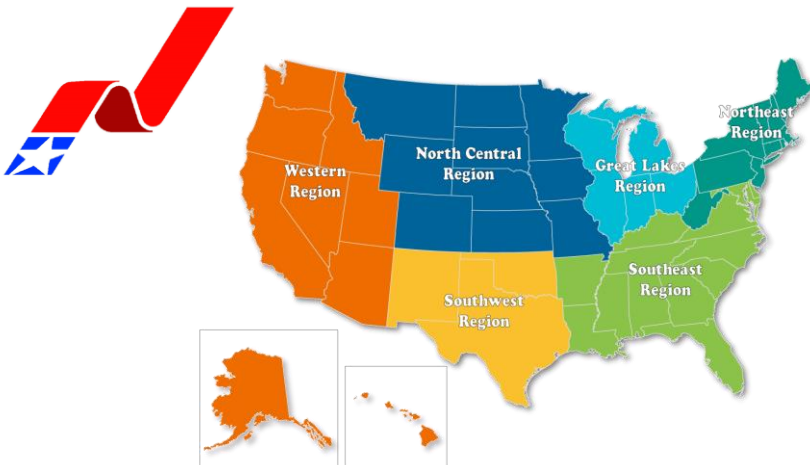


BFA Board Positions Up for Election

The BFA Election season is upon us. We need volunteers that are interested in creating change and being more involved in the balloon community to run for a Board of Directors position. The only requirement to run is to be a BFA member.

If you reside in the Great Lakes or Southwest regions, or if you want to run for an At-Large seat, there are positions available on the Main board, PRO Division, and HACD. The Gas Division also has 2 board positions open. If you are interested, please contact Denise in the BFA office for more details on how to get on the ballot!

(515) 961-8809 or bfaoffice@bfa.net



FAAST Blast

Biweekly FAA Safety Briefing News Update



Track Your Medical in Real-Time

The FAA has added a new feature to [MedXPress](#) that allows pilots to track the status of their medical certificates online throughout the application and review process. Prior to adding this new feature, pilots had to call the Office of Aerospace Medicine to check their application status.

“If you can track where your ridesharing car is or the status of a company delivering your package, pilots should be able to see online the real-time status of their application,” said Federal Air Surgeon Dr. Susan Northrup. “We will continue to explore how we can be more transparent with the aviation community.”

As soon as an application is submitted, it will appear in the pilot’s MedXPress profile. Status updates will change as the application moves through the FAA’s review process. If an application is deferred or denied, the applicant will receive detailed information through the mail. The certification process itself does not change. You can learn more about FAA’s medical certification process at https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/medical_certification/.

FlySafe – Understanding Angle of Attack

How well do you understand the aerodynamic effects of angle of attack (AOA)? In this month’s FlySafe topic, we look at how having a better understanding of this “critical” angle and available AOA technology can help reduce loss of control accidents. Read more on AOA safety here <https://medium.com/faa/angle-of-attack-awareness-cb6dd739c10c>, and be sure to check out our 57 Seconds to Safer Flying video [here](#).

Owner-Performed Preventive Maintenance

Pilots who perform preventive maintenance on their aircraft can learn a great deal about the inner workings of engines and airframes, as well as all their associated systems and components. But if it’s your first foray into aviation maintenance, it’s a good idea to review some of the basics of what’s required before you get started. Learn more by reading the article “Understanding Owner-Performed Preventive Maintenance” at <https://medium.com/faa/understanding-owner-performed-preventive-maintenance-4c855f2cfa76>.

A FAR Question

Last Month’s Question & Answer:

Question: Where do you find the list of prohibited medications/pharmaceuticals?

Answer: https://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/medical_certification/medications/

https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/avs/offices/aam/ame/guide/pharm/dni_dnf/

YOUR BIGGEST FAN

By: Bill Broker

The inflator fans have long been the topic of discussion at Pilot briefings with regards to “the most dangerous piece of equipment on the field”, and it is. We use a 9-horsepower fan with a 30-inch propeller at ground level with only a wire mesh grill to protect us. You go through all the preflight briefing with the crew member assigned to the position. No long hair. No lanyards. No drawstrings on coats. Truth is that the inflator fan can cause a lot of damage in a millisecond even when you are using it properly, so the utmost care, concern and common sense needs to be exercised at all times.

With all of that said, the real question is how many people actual perform routine maintenance such as changing the oil and or spark plug. It is probably a good idea to do that in the spring before you start with the balloon season. Yes, it is a little messy and may be time consuming but to keep the engine clean and running well is recommended.

Another thing that is overlooked is actually doing a periodic check on the fan’s complete integrity. How many times have you been at an event a walked by a fan raised your eyebrow wondering how the fan even works? Or worse yet how many fan cages are held on with plastic zip ties. The zip tie is a great invention. Next to duct tape and WD-40 every truck, van or trailer should have them. The zip tie is plastic, it will dry up and break over time. Also, depending on the size (thickness) they may be the wrong size to handle the weight or the very high intense vibration of the fan itself. These need to be checked regularly in an atmosphere that is not on a field pull the cord to start the inflation. If you find these broken and decide to fix them at that moment you have created a link in the error chain. This may be harsh and extreme, but you have now put your normal flow of preflight and inflation on a different path that is not normal. Take a minute and look those zip ties over and replace them on a regular basis. In addition, if you do not use zip ties and opt to use twisted wire, those ends can vibrate loose and the ends could potentially damage the prop.

Another small item on the check list is the fan tires. Have you ever tried to move a 100-pound fan on flat tires? Make sure you check the air pressure in the tires. To help eliminate this issue on our fans we have changed to airless tires. Yes, they cost a little more up front, but it is also solving a problem before it becomes one.

Next on the list of things to check is something so simple we all often overlook it, how easy is your fan to secured in the chase vehicle. We as pilots think we can come up with great ways to tie the \$1000-\$3000 piece of equipment down to make sure nothing happens to it. Often it is over-engineered and never tie down right by the crew and during the chase it may fall over, and we may never know. Make the tie down easy to understand. Lastly, how many fans are stored in the back of a truck bed or open trailer exposed to rain. Most fans have a lot of stainless-steel bolts and such but there are some that are not built so well. The bolts holding on the cage, the motor onto the mounting plate, the bolts holding the blade to the shroud on the shaft. These should all be looked at for rust or even tightness. Surface rust will always be present, you will want to check everything for any corrosive rust. That would need to be addressed immediately. The shaft from the motor to the blade is another area that may have a rust issue.

I know this all may seem excessive but in the amount of time it took you to read this article you could have performed a quick safety check of your inflator fan.



Limited Availability!



CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

Southeastern Balloon Camp in Cordele, GA

June 21-26, 2022

Rio Grande Balloon Camp in Albuquerque, NM

July 9-14, 2022

UPDATE: Due to circumstances beyond our control this camp is now a day camp.

DinahSOAR BFA Youth Camp in Vernal, UT

August 26-28, 2022

Spots still available for campers ages 13-17. No balloon experience necessary, all campers will get firsthand experience with balloons, make new friends and learn about future opportunities in ballooning. Scholarships still available. Please follow link below for details, email for questions.

If you have any questions, please visit

<https://tinyurl.com/2p84yey7> or

Email: youthprograms@bfa.net

Pilot Achievement Award Program

Tony Condon of Kansas

Level 1 Basic Aeronaut

Crew Achievement Award Program

Amelia-Ann Dickey, NM

Level 1

Alyssa Sullivan, GA

Level 1-4



For more information in participating in the PAAP or the CAAP please go to: www.bfa.net under the education tab.



Students we want your balloon art!

The BFA is having an art contest! Create an original art piece on the theme of Hot Air Balloons. Over the summer we will have voting and the winners will be featured on our social media in August! Read on for the details.

Who: Students from Pre-K to 12th grade, Divisions are Pre-K-2nd grade, 3rd-6th grades, 7th-9th grades, and 10th-12th grades

What: An original art piece on hot air balloons - can be a drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, diorama, craft, collage, or combination of these

When: Submissions are due by June 15th at midnight

Where: Send a high-quality photograph of your art piece to bfaballooning@gmail.com, include the student's name, grade, and hometown as well as contact information.

Voting: The BFA Board will choose the top 15 pieces from each division. From there the ballooning community will help us find the winners! Stage 1 will narrow the top 15 down to the top 8, Stage 2 of voting will determine the final winner of each division. 1st place winner will get a \$25 Amazon gift card, 2nd place a \$15 Amazon gift card and 3rd place a \$10 Amazon gift card.

We look forward to seeing all the creative art projects!

Prizes are sponsored by



Luke Russell, Russell Wells, & Mike Lorentz announce the Falcon's Nest Repair Station is now fully operational and ready to assist Hot Air Balloonists.

Falcon's Nest Repair Station
CRS# HQ5R918M
3615 Blake Rd
Seville, Oh 44273

Contact info:

www.facebook.com/falconsnestrepairstation

falconsnestrepair@gmail.com

Mike L (330) 212-5848

See a current list of all Repair Stations/IA's at [Repair Stations \(bfa.net\)](http://Repair Stations (bfa.net))





WELCOME
new members

Ken Shaver
Michael Lucht
Candice Balobek
Orval Choate
Sean Penton
Harry Palmer
Jeff Bridgewater
Theo Hartman
Neil Anderson
Kevin Cloyd
David Homyak
John Schettler
Christopher Jones
Lin Brown III
Martha Shepherd
Alan Postelnek
Richard Powell
Kenneth Brown
Bill Howes
Steve Neumann

Glendale, AZ
Tucson, AZ
San Ramon, CA
Nevada City, CA
Pagosa Springs, CO
Perdido Key, FL
Blairstown, IA
Ames, IA
Palatine, IL
Fortville, IN
Ann Arbor, MI
St. Louis, MO
Billings, MT
Wilmington, NC
Albuquerque, NM
Corrales, NM
Scranton, PA
Brookshire, TX
St George, UT
Sagamihara, Japan

Doug Denlinger
Robert De Young
Emily Eckerman
Emerson Lamm
Lynn Foltz
Miranda Gebhart
Jim Hansen
John McDaniel
Brian Serge
Raymond Hunt
Mark Enholm,
Stephanie Maughan
Gary Forney
Patrick Chando
Colin Degattis
Paul Dale
Susan Hyre
David Evans
James Chudy

Tempe, AZ
Napa, CA
Napa, CA
Bloomfield, CO
Sarasota, FL
Milford, IA
Waterloo, IA
Champaign, IL
Indianapolis, IN
Bossier City, LA
Omaha, MO
Wentzville, MO
Ennis, MT
Albuquerque, NM
Sandia Park, NM
Canton, OH
Aliquippa, PA
San Antonio, TX
Hayward, WI

****Members please log into bfa.net and verify your contact information**



Foley, AL Photo Credit: Jessica Warren



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Of America**

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