

The Quick Release

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Issue 11



Current News from the President

BFA Response - FAA 2nd Class Medical Ruling

By now, you know through several sources that the FAA has released the final rule regarding the requirement for a second-class medical certificate for those that are exercising their commercial pilot certificate for the purposes of compensation or hire. We have been following some of the postings on the web and would like to take this opportunity to explain and answer some of the issues that have been brought forward.

Please note that, as stated in the first paragraph, you must be exercising your commercial privileges to be affected by this new rule. If you possess a commercial LTA certificate and are not receiving compensation for your services, you do not need to apply for the medical certificate. See my explanation below for details.

First, the date after which you will be required to have your medical certificate in hand will be 180 days after this final rule is recorded in the Federal Register.

The rule has been recorded and the effective date is May 22, 2023, by this date you will need to have your medical certificate in hand.

Full rule can be viewed here:

[Federal Register :: Medical Certification Standards for Commercial Balloon Operations](#)

Moving on to the question, who this will affect? Commercially certificated LTA pilots are affected ONLY if they use their commercial certificate for the purpose of receiving compensation for any commercial activity. This includes paid passenger rides (whether in free flight or on tether), banner and/or commercial advertising on the envelope being flown on contract or by a festival organization, and special shapes for which compensation is being received for display or flight. In other words, if you are being paid to fly, you are receiving compensation for hire.

The exceptions to this rule are simple. If you are instructing someone for any reason, including toward certification, flight review, or just because they want to pay for some instructions, you are exempt. This does not, as the notes to the rule say, include instructing someone while other paying passengers are on board. This would require the medical certificate. You are also exempt if flying a corporate balloon that contains advertising if it is commensurate with your employment with the company represented on the balloon. This simply means that if you are the owner or a direct employee of a company that has an advertising balloon and flying that balloon is one of your company duties, you are exempt. Again, you must be an employee or owner, and the balloon flying must fall under your regular duties to the company. This DOES NOT include contracts to you as a third party to operate the balloon.

There also seems to be a great deal of confusion regarding festivals and other organized ballooning events. The BFA was involved in the final wording established in the [FSIMS \(Flight Standards Information Management System\) document](#), in 2017. This is the latest version of what is and is not allowed during festivals. In short, it says that hotel, fuel, basket banners that carry an advertising logo, food, drink, or other compensation items provided by the organizer are not considered to be compensation requiring the medical. In addition, receiving prize money and/or show up money is not considered compensation. However, this does not exempt your being given an advertising banner to place on the envelope of the balloon, nor does it include payment for the display or flight of your special shape or advertising balloon.

This FSIMS document is the newest version of what is allowed and of course, this is in addition to those cost sharing items that have been long established in the rules for private pilots sharing cost with others to fly with them. These rules have been recently written about in the BFA publications and should be clear.



Current News from the President, continued

BFA Response - FAA 2nd Class Medical Ruling, continued

It is somewhat unfortunate that this rule has been published just before the holidays, which may complicate your ability to find an appointment with an AME to start the process. For those already in compliance, this new rule will have little effect on you. However, those of you that have never had a medical before will be challenged to enter this system for the first time. The BFA will soon publish a set of guidelines that will provide you with a helping hand through the process. In addition, there is a great [AOPA document](#) recently published that explains almost all the areas that you should be aware of regarding your health when making application for your medical. If you have known medical issues, you should seek out an aviation-friendly AME to seek advice on how to begin. The FAA says in the final report that it should take no longer than 150 days for special issuance medicals to be dealt with. While I might dispute that finding, it is telling you to get started now if you believe you have a medical condition that may delay issuance of the medical.

In addition, you may find that issuance could depend on a Special Medical Flight Test (SMFT). These previously were accomplished exclusively by the FAA, but recently many LTA DPE's have received the authority to provide tests for you. There is a process for this, so again, ask your AME about how to proceed.

We have known that this was coming for a long time. Because of the many years between the original recommendations made by NTSB to implement the medical rule for LTA and the publishing of this final rule, many pilots thought this might never happen. It simply takes time for these processes to move through the FAA and in my writing and seminars I have been trying to keep you informed on its progress. It takes roughly five years for any rule to get passed and this one is no different. The BFA has done its best to mitigate the affect this will have on our sport, and we have been engaged since immediately after the Lockhart accident in 2016 in looking out for your interests. Like every new rule, there will be good and bad portions, and how it affects each of you will be different depending on your medical conditions. The rule's final form did not take the path that many of us envisioned, but in the end, it may provide additional safety benefits.

The BFA will do its very best to assist you if you have questions or if you need additional help in beginning the process. Please reach out to your regional directors or feel free to call me personally for advice.

Stay safe out there.

Sincerely,
Pat Cannon, BFA President



president@bfa.net

LINKS:

FAA Med Express: <https://medexpress.faa.gov/medexpress/>

FAA Allowed Medications: <https://www.aviationmedicine.com/medication-database/>

AOPA Guide to Medical Certification: <https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/students/presolo/special/pilots-guide-to-medical-certification>

FSIMS - Balloon Section Only: [FSIMS Balloon Section](#)

FSIMS - Full Version: [FSIMS Full](#)



New Aircraft Registration Renewal

New ruling from Aircraft Registrations extends Aircraft Registration requirements from 3 to 7 years

A notice has just been sent, with the attachment below, extending aircraft registration times to 7 years. This is in answer to the long lead times being experienced in renewing the registration for your aircraft and some aircraft being delayed in the arrival of their new registration. Please read the attached document from the FAA to see the provisions of this new rule. This rule does not change your current registration's expiration date.

https://www.faa.gov/.../ARM-221027-001_2120-AL45_Aircraft...

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

A note from Penny Suttle, Director Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes Region consists of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. My term as the Director of this region began in October.

I have been active in the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association since 1989. I have served on the Board of Directors as secretary, board member and president several times. I helped revise our constitution when the club decided it needed it. I am involved with Balloonowledge Safety Seminar and have been since the beginning and have been chairing the committee with the help of my husband, Paul for the past eight years. Continuing education is an integral part of every balloonist. We have tried many variations for the seminar and have found that shorter sessions and more interactive sessions keep everyone more engaged. 2020 gave us a curve ball as the day before we were shut down, I had ordered our speakers gifts for the seminar happening later that month.

I was determined that we would not cancel but only delay. The shutdown continued and we had to look for a creative way to hold our seminar. We were the first balloon club in the country to have a Zoom Safety Seminar.

This year we had a hybrid format with both Zoom and in person. Our plan is to continue this format to encourage more remote people who can't travel to a seminar the ability to be part of one.

I look forward to meeting a lot of you during my term as the Great Lakes Director and would love to hear from the BFA members within my region to hear your ideas, suggestions and learn what you feel our current needs are. I can be contacted at Suttlep@roadrunner.com.



Happy Holidays!!



HO HO HO!



Need a last minute stocking stuffer?
A Secret Santa Gift?

- Give the gift of a year long membership in the BFA!
- Perfect for Pilot, Crew, or Enthusiast.
- PLUS: Buy now for Christmas and Save before membership dues increase in 2023.

Merry Christmas!

Contact Denise at the BFA Office via email: bfaoffice@bfa.net or by phone: 515-961-8809

Membership Notes

The meeting in Albuquerque, NM prior to the 50th AIBF, the BFA Board of Directors, after lengthy discussion, approved a motion to increase membership dues by \$10 effective January 1, 2023. The new rates will be \$45 for e-members and \$65 for those who receive the printed magazine. A careful analysis of the BFA's operating cost revealed the cost to service each member was greater than individual dues revenues (\$59 out vs \$55 in based on 2020 figures). It was also noted that it had been over a decade since the last increase. While the Board acknowledged the current difficult economic climate, it was decided that the time to act was now. In an effort to provide some relief, the Board agreed that any BFA member, regardless of their scheduled renewal date, can renew their current membership for one year before December 31st at the current \$35/\$55 rates. The one-year renewal will not change your renewal date but will tag on to your current membership. **RENEW NOW TO SAVE!!**

Members, please log into your account and review your contact information. Double check your email address is correct for up-to-date information. You are also able to choose that your information is not viewable to all members and only used for in-house communication.

Announcing 2023 BFA Youth Balloon Camp Dates & Locations



Preparation for the 2023 BFA Youth Camps has begun! We would like to thank all that have contributed to the program.

The future of ballooning lies with the new young balloonist we bring into the sport. The camps play a vital role in introducing and enticing our youth into this wonderful sport.

We hope the ballooning community will continue to be generous with their time, money, and other donations to support the Youth Camps.

To inquire about how you can contribute to the camp program, please contact Katie Griggs at youthprograms@bfa.net

Hot Air Balloon Traditional Overnight Summer Camps

Southeast Camp - Cordele, GA
June 20th – 25th, 2023

Rio Grande Camp - Albuquerque, NM
July 8th – 13th, 2023

High Sierra Camp - Reno, NV
Dates TBA

Hot Air Balloon Event Camps

DinahSoar Camp - Vernal, UT
Aug 24th – 25th, 2023

Boise Camp - Boise, ID
Dates TBA

All dates & details are subject to change



Organizers & Balloonmeisters,

It is time to submit your event information to the BFA for publication on the website.

Go to www.bfa.net click on Event then to Submit Calendar Event. Once we receive the information, we will update your information and update you once it is complete. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Denise (515) 961-8809 or via email at bfaoffice@bfa.net

Pilot Achievement Award Program

**Gary Brossett, Georgia
Pilot Level 4**

**Tony Condon, Kansas
Pilot Level 2**



Crew Achievement Award Program

**Alicia Green
Level II – Senior Crew**

**Alyssa Sullivan
Level IV – Master Crew Chief**

**Amelia-Ann Dickey
Level II - Senior Crew**

**Isabelle Cooke
Level I – Apprentice Crew**

**Jayna Stogner
Level I – Apprentice Crew**

**Deborah O’Conner
Level 1 – Apprentice Crew**

**Vivian Andersen
Level 1 – Apprentice Crew**

**Trina Cooke
Level II – Senior Crew**

**Joy Sibayan
Level IV – Master Crew Chief**

**Stacy Yeager
Level II – Crew Chief**

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



Balloon Federation Of America

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