

The Quick Release

Published Monthly

Issue No. 3

March 2016



Pilot Ken Walter gives a school presentation to 512 students as a part of February's Hudson Hot Air Affair in Hudson, WI

PHOTO SWIPE OFF OF KEN WALTER'S FACEBOOK PAGE



2016 BFA Webinar Seminar next week

The 2016 BFA Online Continuing Education Seminar Webinar will be presented live from the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association (NOBPA)'s Safety Seminar.

The BFA Seminar Webinar is designed for those balloonists that can't get to a face-to-face seminar, but still want to maintain their education, especially regarding flying safely. The user will need a computer and a stable Internet connection to access the site.

To attend "on-line", you will need to register in advance of the session. Once payment is received, you will receive a registration number by email that will be used on the day of the event to check-in. Shortly before the event, you will be provided information on how to access the site where the Seminar Webinar will be hosted. After the Seminar Webinar has completed, you will need to complete a short, on-line test to verify your attendance.

The Seminar Webinar is fully sanctioned by the BFA and should qualify for most insurance company discounts.

2016 BFA Online Continuing Education Seminar Webinar

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

*Live from the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association
Balloonknowledge 2016 seminar in Canton, Ohio*

March 12, 2016

9:30am EST (8:30am CST, 7:30am MST, 6:30am PST)

Speakers/subject schedule:

Note: All times in Eastern Standard Time (EST)(UTC-5)

9:30am - Dennis Helmuth: Substance Use and Aviation Safety

10:30am - Scott McClinton: Tethering in a 30 mph Wind

11:25am ---- Morning Break ----

11:45am - Ryan Carlton: So the Weather Forecast is not as predicted

12:45pm - Bill Cloninger: FARs

1:40pm ---- LUNCH ----

2:30pm - Henry Rosenbaum: Virginia Powerline Tragedy

3:30pm - David Conrad: The Sterile Basket Concept

4:25pm ---- Afternoon Break ----

4:40pm - Mike Emich: Gas Ballooning

5:10pm - Sam Parks: Propane Safety

5:45pm - Dean Carlton & Paul Suttle: Brewing Great Crew

You can register here:

<http://www.bfa.net/2016seminar/>

An open letter to all members of the Balloon Federation of America

I write to you as President of the Corn Palace Balloon Club, operated out of Mitchell, SD. We operate as a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation. We are dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the special shaped hot-air balloons formerly associated with the Soukup & Thomas International Balloon & Airship Museum.

I trust most of you are familiar with our balloons; "Uncle Sam," "Chick-I-Boom" (Patterned after Carmen Miranda), "Balloon Hilda" (Witch flying on a broom), and "Matrioshka" (Russian Nesting Doll).

As the economy faltered and balloon events were forced to tighten their belts or went away completely with less sponsorship dollars available, our organization also felt the effects.

Jacques Soukup and Kirk Thomas accumulated and ultimately left in our hands this unique and amazing fleet of balloons.

We are a group of dedicated, hard working volunteer pilots from South Dakota. With our collective accomplishments, I would dare to

say the abilities of our pilots are as capable as any in the world.

Unfortunately, our marketing skills do not match our flying skills. Over the past years our financial challenges have grown, as less and less events have been able to support our efforts of flying and exhibiting the balloons.

These balloons are classic icons of the amazing special shape balloons of today's world. We continue our commitment to preserving and exhibiting these balloons. Nothing better represents our great country than "Uncle Sam."

I am asking the collective ballooning community for any help, ideas you may have to offer, contacts we may make, to help us keep these special balloons available for the rest of the world to enjoy.

Jon Kolba

*BFA Life Member #106949
President, Corn Palace Balloon Club
jQuestballoon@yahoo.com
605-321-3623*

CAAP announces updated program

SUBMITTED BY KATIE GRIGGS, BFA BOARD LIASON

We are happy to announce that we have updated the CAAP program. It was time for a fresh look at what the crew does and to appreciate their achievements.

The Crew Achievement Award Program was in part designed to increase recognition of the often-unsung heroes of our sport - the dedicated crew.

Formally recognizing crew members and involving them in this program will mean crews will be more knowledgeable and enthused about ballooning - which will ultimately mean safer flights.

With this new program we have a challenging and fun way for the crew to chart their progress. It will not only make ballooning safer for all of us, but a way for crew to get more involved.

Let's give our crew the recognition they deserve.

Please check out the new improved CAAP on the website at:

BFA Crew Achievement Award Program



The Quick Release

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2016 LSHABA/CTBA Safety Seminar in Richmond, Texas

PHOTO SUBMITTED TO THE BFA FACEBOOK PAGE BY CHERI WHITE

“Spirit of Annie” Nominations Sought

SUBMITTED BY BETH DAVIDSON, NOBPA AWARDS CHAIR

Nominations are now being accepted for “The Spirit of Annie Award”. This prestigious award was established by the Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilots Association in memory of a very special observer, Annie Pryne. It will be awarded when an observer, organizer, official or event volunteer most typifies the



dedication, hard work and love of ballooning that set Annie apart. Some of the past recipients include Patty Cramer, Jim Diebel, Kim Wilson, Bev Zanella, Maury Sullivan, Bob and Dottie Humbert, Mike Gilligan, Gary Britton and last year’s recipient, Debbie Spaeth. Annie’s spirit was indomitable and nothing, not even age or terrain, stood in her way when she accepted the responsibility to make sure all competitive pilots

were treated equally and fairly. The vision of Annie, spray paint can in one hand and tape measure in the other, standing in the middle of an intersection protecting a baggie or the memory of Annie wading through a wet cornfield measuring back to an intersection, personifies not only Annie’s spirit but the spirit of observing.

CRITERIA

1. To be awarded only when a nominee meets all the qualifications, it is not necessary that the award be given on an annual basis.
2. To be awarded to an observer, organizer, official or event volunteer who best personifies the “Spirit of Annie”.
3. A nominee will have observed or been an event worker for no less than 5 years.
4. A nominee will hold a credible presence in the sport of ballooning, respected by observers, officials, and pilots.
5. A nominee will show a willingness to share experience and knowledge.

6. A nominee will have a positive attitude.
7. A nominee will have a commitment to the sport and the improvement of all aspects of competitive ballooning and will be strong enough to speak out when needed.
8. Most importantly, the nominee must have the ability to enjoy and interact with people from all aspects of the sport.

Nominations will be reviewed by the NOBPA Board, HACD Board and the past 5 living recipients of “The Spirit of Annie Award”. The winner will be announced and honored at a national competition in the summer of 2016.

Nominations should be submitted to Beth Davidson, NOBPA Awards Committee, at bdskyangel@aol.com.

Deadline for nominations is March 31, 2016.





PHOTO SUBMITTED BY MARK RUSSELL

HACD Announces 2016 Simplified Rules

SUBMITTED BY HACD BOARD

The HACD Board has approved a simplified set of competition rules for use in events submitting scores for the NEL. These simplified competition rules are used by events desiring to submit scores to be included in the HACD National Eligibility List System.

Download a PDF file of the BFA Simplified Competition Rules here:

[2016 BFA Simplified Competition Rules](#)

2016 Balloon Camps are filled to capacity

BFA Youth Program Chair, Mike Shrum, reports that the 2016 BFA Youth Balloon Camps are filled! This year's camps are scheduled in Albuquerque, NM from July 9th to July 14th and in Kutztown, PA



from July 10th to July 14th. The camps provide hands-on work with various balloon systems (including rigging, tethering and

pack-up), and interactive class sessions so the campers will learn quickly. Campers also learn what is important to pilots and crew, all while in a fun and safety-oriented environment.

Topics may include Crew Safety, Pilot Training, Weather, Airspace, Balloon Systems, Repair & Maintenance, Mapping & GPS, Career Exploration, and MORE!

The \$425 camp tuition covers meals and housing in the secure campus dormitories, and all the fun! When camp ends, campers leave as a more valuable crew members who are better prepared for becoming a safe pilot. Campers also develop lasting friendships with their peers in ballooning.

Donations are needed for the 2016 Camps

Help grow the sport and welcome the next generation of balloonists by donating to the BFA Youth Program. Mike reports that they still need to fund 4 scholarships for this year's camps.

Please contact Shrum at youthprograms@bfa.net for more information.

The Balloon Federation of America's Youth Program benefits the youth of ballooning. Through education, summer camps, training, and mentorship, we provide youth the ability to discover and grow in the sport of ballooning. Our volunteers mentor youth helping them achieve their goals.

PRO to Get New Website

PRO is getting ready to roll out a brand new website in early March 2016 which offer more tools for our membership and our customers. Here are the updates:

- A Member Listing page
- Educational Customer FAQ's page (This is to educate customers about what to ask an operator when researching for a ride operator to fly with.)
- A members section/forum for



operators, pilots and crew (This page is designed to exchange ideas, get references

on potential employees or sub contractors. As well for those companies that are members to have a link from the PRO website, which will be directly linked to BFA website, to the members company site. And to be a resource to operators in all geographical areas if a problem arises with either landowners, local law enforcement or city ordinances. The PRO Board members are reaching out to areas across the U.S. at safety seminars and continuing education events to answer questions and recruit operators and pilots to join the Division.

2016 Red River Balloon Rally seeks pilots

SUBMITTED BY MAURY SULLIVAN, EVENT DIRECTOR
2016 US NATIONALS

The Rally Division of the 2016 U.S. Nationals Hot Air Balloon Championship is inviting pilots to participate in this year's event in Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana. The Red River Balloon Rally is open to experienced pilots comfortable with flying in congested areas. The



2016
Red River Balloon Rally

U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship

Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana

event will be flying under an FAA Waiver. Fun competitive tasks that can be run in conjunction with the ring toss will be planned. The Rally Division Balloonmeister is Mr. Sean Askren.

A prize fund of \$2,000 is guaranteed along with a pole ring toss of \$5000. Nationals' competitors will also be eligible for the ring toss. The Red River Balloon Rally on-site pilot registration and the mandatory General Briefing is on Thursday July 14, 2016. Flying concludes Sunday morning, July 17. There will be a Rally Awards breakfast at 11 AM Sunday to conclude the event.

The organizer is providing a complimentary hotel room for pilots with check in on Thursday, July 14 and check out Sunday, July 17. Arrive full; leave full. Participation in this year's event



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DON HELSIG

Pilot Don Helsing, Holt CA, flying "Mariposa II" is greeted by a sky diver at January's Havasu Balloon Fest held in Lake Havasu City, AZ.

is limited to a maximum of fifteen pilots. We encourage you to submit your application early although that will not be the sole selection criteria. You will be notified by email of your acceptance no later than May 6 – **all applications must be received in the BFA Office on or before May 2, 2016.**

If you have any questions concerning the application as it relates to the Red River Rally, please contact Maury Sullivan, Event Director, at (330) 323-4455 or Sean Askren at (513) 594-9070. Any questions regarding the hotel, volunteer crew, propane sources, etc. should be directed to Sheila Norman, Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission at (318) 429-0651 or feel free to email at snorman@sbsports.org.



[Click here for pilot information](#)



2016 HACD Women's International Eligibility List

SUBMITTED BY HACD BOARD

The HACD Board has prepared the Women's IEL for 2016.

This International Eligibility List has been prepared using the last two years' US National Championship and the National Eligibility List as dictated by the 2016 HACD Rules, Regulations, Policies & Procedures, Appendix D, Section VII. The competitors are listed in order below and the qualification method is shown in paranthesis:

1. **Susan Stamats** (47th 2015 Nationals)
2. **Christine Bertsch** (33rd 2014 Nationals)
3. **Meg Skelton** (50th 2015 Nationals)
4. **Kelli Cook** (51st 2015 Nationals)
5. **Elisa Trillanes** (52nd 2015 Nationals)
6. **Karen Kent** (54th 2014 Nationals)
7. **Myia Danley** (43rd 2015 NEL)
8. **Debby Young** (70th 2014 NEL)
9. **Janet Lutkus** (79th 2014 NEL)
10. **Shannon Rote** (80th 2014 NEL)
11. **Kim Neil** (85th 2015 NEL)
12. **Holly Pfeifer** (93rd 2014 NEL)
13. **Kim Magee** (95th 2015 NEL)
14. **Louise Egerton** (148th 2014 NEL)
15. **Meredith Bennett** (103rd 2015 NEL)
15. **Susan Older** (149th 2014 NEL)
17. **Cheri White** (119th 2015 NEL)
18. **Clare Wade** (121st 2015 NEL)
19. **Beth Davidson** (123rd 2015 NEL)
20. **Jeanne Anson** (145th 2015 NEL)
21. **Elizabeth Johnson** (160th 2015 NEL)



Congratulations!

January & February 2016

NEW MEMBERS

Todd L. Swaim
Colorado

Lonnie Carreathers
New Mexico

Russell Wells
Ohio

Raymond Griest
Illinois

David Klein
Illinois

Peggy Fair
Michigan

Terry Kitson
Michigan

Tom Koller
Michigan

Jason Gabriel
New Mexico

Jay McCormack
Vermont

Dennis Kohlman
Kansas

Daniel Wenderoth
New York

Neil Logan
Indiana

Michael Heffron
New Mexico

Katie Heffron
New Mexico

Kelly Wells
Louisiana

Janice Wrhel
New Mexico

Jerry Shreve
New Mexico

Christopher Gehrke
Iowa

Niki Byrd-Dickey
New Mexico

Steven Rauseo
Alabama

Cody Robinson
Missouri

Chuck McElwee
Maryland

Khoa Dang
California

Jami Hodges
Illinois

Laura Meaders
Nevada

Victoria Vertrees
California

CAAP PROMOTIONS

Bryce Boehler - 1 Crew Level
Idaho

New pilots with balloon rating as of 2/3/16

William Ryan Fitzpatrick
Albuquerque, NM

Chad Rick Laughlin
Clyde, OH

Dean Michael Clodfelder
Marysville, OH

Carolanne Elizabeth Walter
Davenport, IA

Joseph Edward Macguire
Casper, WY

Thomas Leonard Spanier
Rogers, MN

Rogelio Emmanuel Reyes
Napa, CA

Benjamin Richard Sprague
Leslie, MI

Casey John Heupel
West Glacier, MT

David Timothy Burr
Bountiful, UT

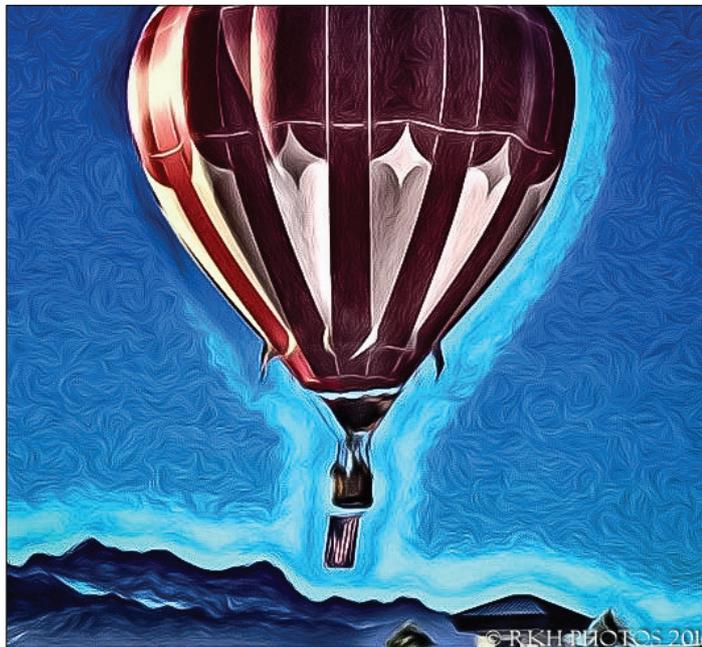
Jason Michael Burns
Rio Rancho, NM

Brian Thomas Heap
Albuquerque, NM

Russell Lewis Wells
Seville, OH



2016 Havasu Balloon Fest • Lake Havasu City, AZ



2016 Mesquite Balloon Fest

Photo taken at the very beginning of the Mesquite Balloon Fest on January 23, 2016 in Mesquite NV. This balloon was the pibal balloon with the US Flag draped beneath. As it soared into the air, the national anthem was playing and all pilots, crew, and spectators watching with hands on hearts.

The photo was enhanced using an app called SuperPhoto.
Photo submitted by Kathy Haire

Newsletter of the Balloon Federation of America

The Quick Release

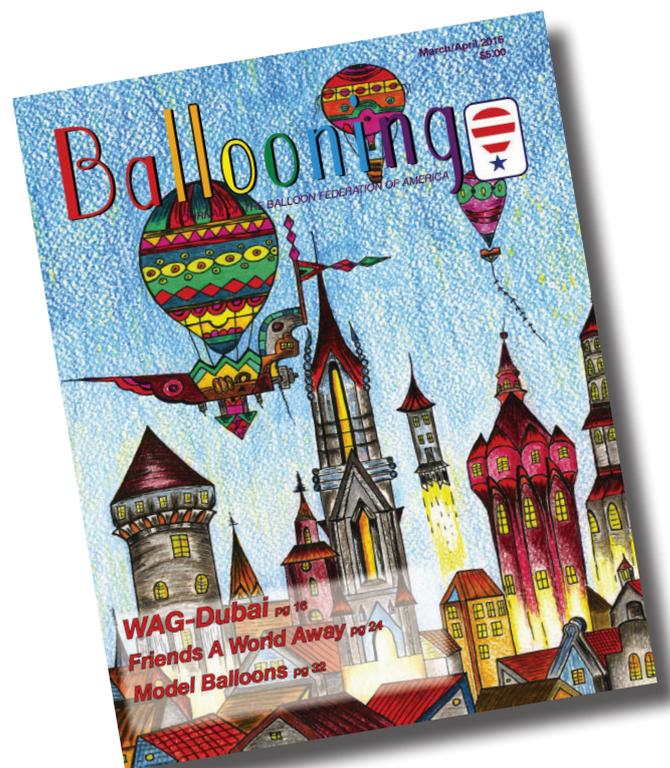
DEADLINE 3/31/16

Next issue of
“The Quick Release”
will be published on
4/4/16

We want your photos, club news, crew news and pilot news. Special recognitions, ballooning anniversaries and any thing else that is balloon-related and happening within the BFA membership.

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO JOHN C. TRIONE:
jtrione@lakegenevaballoon.com

COMING SOON! March / April issue of “Ballooning”



- The World Air Games in Dubai were an international hit!
- The ballooning art of Svetlana Gugnina of the Ukraine
- Model ballooning is a growing segment of our sport all across Europe
- “Crew Corner” - a new regular feature in every issue

**These stories plus our usual beautiful
photography and more!**

Monthly gallery of BFA Member submitted photos
In the Spotlight



1. February 2016 in Palm Springs, CA

-Photo by Victor Banta / Submitted by Bubba Cliver

2. "Firenze" flown by Koh Murai at the Tulip Festival at the Wooden Shoe Bulb Company, Woodburn, Oregon.

3. "Outer Limits" flown by Dale Justice at the Tulip Festival at the Wooden Shoe Bulb Company, Woodburn, Oregon.

-Photos by Shari Gale / Willamette AeroStat Society