

The Quick Release

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From Mark West, BFA President...

I would like to announce, Pat Cannon has been selected by the BFA Board of Directors to fill the remaining 2 1/2 years of Ted Watts term after his passing due to Covid-19. We had 22 members of the BFA step forward to have their name placed in consideration. It was an incredibly difficult process to make this selection, but we feel that Pat will be a tremendous addition to the board. Pat has a long history in ballooning as well as with the BFA. He has been active in competition - winning the National Championship in 1995 and 2006, serves as a Designated Pilot Examiner for both fixed wing as well as LTA, as well as being an avid instructor in both. Pat has been extremely involved with the FAA in many areas and served as the BFA Liaison to the FAA during the Lockhart investigations. Last year, he spearheaded BFA training on how to handle emergency situations and coordinating with the press as appropriate. I am probably leaving out many other things, but I think that you get the idea why he was a great choice.

I was incredibly impressed with the group of people that we had to choose from, and I wanted to share with you the other 21 folks to both thank them as well as let you all know this great list of folks. Please thank them as well when you run into them at ballooning events.

Ron Behrmann, Morgan Braden, Russell Buesing, Bruce Byberg, Eliav Cohen, Barbara Demaree, Seve Derebey, Fred Dinkler, Nancy Griffin, Bob Grimes, Karen Haynie, Derrick Jones, Anthony Lard, Al Lowenstein, Debbie Spaeth, Kerry Speicher, Susan Stamats, Maury Sullivan, Alan Warren, Robert Wise, and Scott Wooge.





Facing the likelihood of continued Covid-19 public gathering and travel restrictions extending into the Spring of 2021, the BFA Board of Directors has taken the difficult decision to postpone the upcoming BFA National Convention set for April 8-10, 2021 in Topeka, Kansas. Included in the move was postponement of the 2nd BFA Events Symposium also in Topeka on April 7-8, 2021.

The Board noted that early registrations had been slow in arriving, likely a reflection of uncertainty over present Covid-19 concerns. Additionally, some convention and symposium speakers had indicated their commitments were also contingent on Covid-19 restrictions having been lifted by the convention dates.

While recent news of vaccines against the virus have been positive the Board discussed recent news reports that their availability might not be widespread until after the convention dates. Also worrying was the uncertainty of what restrictions on travel and social gathering size would be in Kansas at the time and the possibility that state to state across the country restrictions could vary widely.

After discussion, a clear majority of the Board agreed postponement was the best option. For those who have registered for the Convention and or Symposium, your registration will be rolled over to the 2022 National Convention and Symposium.

New dates for the Convention are now April 7-9, 2022 and the new dates for the Symposium are April 6-7, 2022. If you have reserved a hotel reservation, the hotel will be canceling your reservation and should be sending you confirmation of your cancellation.

Currently registration is closed and will reopen August 1, 2021.

WELCOME NEW BFA MEMBERS



Rachel Metzgar
Betty Martin
Joseph Olah
Amie Cato

Bellvue, CO
Gallup, NM
Nazareth, PA
Commerce, TX

Michael Lynch
Will Evans
Josh Cato

Charleston, IL
Wadsworth, OH
Commerce, TX



A FAR Question

Question: What does a steady green light from the ATC mean, with respect to the aircraft on the surface?

Hint: 91.125

(Look for answer in January 2021's QR)

LAST MONTHS QUIZ & ANSWER

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

Answer: 31.85 Altimeter, rate of climb indicator, a fuel quantity gauge and envelope temperature indicator.

FAA Standing on COVID-19 Vaccines

As the FDA approves each Covid-19 vaccine, the FAA announces their stance on the vaccines and FAA Medicals. Currently, as of this publication (12/16/2020) the FAA has determined that pilots can receive the Pfizer vaccine under the conditions of the FAA-issued airman medical certification. For continued updates from the FAA please follow this link, <https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=96258>



"1 Down 8 2 Go" Albuquerque, NM
Photo Credit: Jennifer Garcia



"Wild Child" Albuquerque, NM
Photo Credit: Eric Hodges



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Always start your shopping at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases, at no cost to you, to your choice of charity.

You can donate to the **Balloon Federation of America** through AmazonSmile! Register today to start your donations!

Attempt at the Distance Record

By Bill Smith

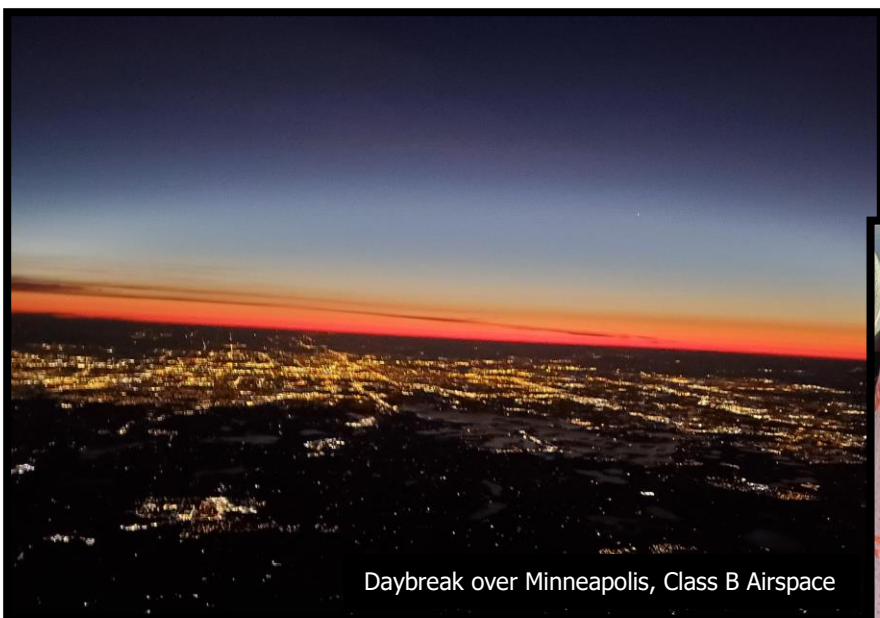
A surprisingly early arctic weather system perfect for long distance balloon flights roared through the Midwest on November 17 and prompted Bill Smith's balloon team to scramble into action for a long-planned attempt to break Andy Cayton's 1066-mile AX-8 world distance record.

The plan was to take off from Fargo, North Dakota, at 4:00 a.m. EST Tuesday and ascend to an altitude of 15,500' and cruise at a speed of 60-80 mph for 4-5 hours to conserve fuel until sunrise. Once solar heating started warming the envelope, Bill would climb to 17,500' to take advantage of the 110+ mph winds and speed toward a landing in North Carolina at sunset when surface winds would be diminishing. With 140 gallons of fuel onboard and a gross weight of 1,600 lbs., he had calculated that he would cross the Appalachian Mountains with about 15 gallons of remaining fuel and reach his goal of 1,100 miles over favorable landing areas near Winston-Salem. But things did not go quite as planned.

A combination of cold fuel, low fuel pressure and icy burners made it difficult to maintain level flight at high altitude and caused a greater than anticipated fuel consumption through the five hours of darkness. By daybreak near Minneapolis, he was nearly on schedule going 85 mph, but had already gone through four of his seven 20-gallon tanks of fuel. With the warmth of the sun providing auxiliary heat to the balloon, he climbed to 17,700' and sped along at 112 mph. While fuel consumption decreased from the overnight rate of 20 gallons per hour to about 8 gallons per hour in the daylight, it became apparent to Bill that he did not have enough propane to fly another 7 hours to safely cross the treacherous Appalachian Mountain range in eastern Kentucky. Conversely, landing short of the mountains with blustery midday winds forecasted to be 12 gusting to over 20 knots from Iowa through Kentucky was just as daunting. So, he decided to terminate the flight in the plains of western Indiana where wide-open farmland was plentiful. After flying 8 hours and 45 minutes over a distance of 692 miles, he touched down smoothly at about 10 mph in a mile-long soybean field in a valley near Catlin, Indiana, with 24 gallons of fuel remaining.

Bill said, "I don't look at this flight as a failure, but as another step towards a goal." With valuable lessons learned and additional advice offered by industry experts, he is adjusting his equipment and procedures for another attempt this winter at the 1,100-mile goal. The record still stands set by Andy Cayton.

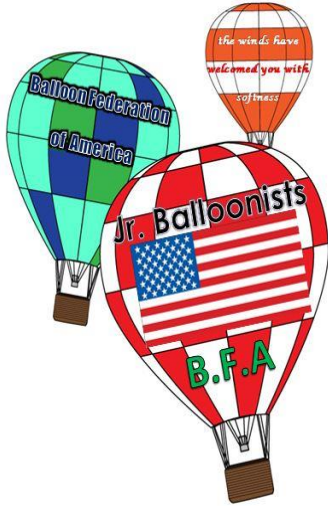
For a more details please read the January/February Issue of the Ballooning Magazine.



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



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>

Crew Achievement Award Program

New 2020 Participants

Kent Barnes	I Crew Level	Utah
Dianna Nelson	I Crew Level	Utah
John Puppò	II Senior Crew	Nevada

CAAP Level 1 does not require one to be a BFA member to achieve.

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



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