



The Quick Release

From the President

You may have heard that the FAA is considering a proposed rule change that will allow drone aircraft flying from distribution houses all over the U.S. to have the right of way over all other categories of aircraft. If passed, this will considerably raise the risk of a midair collision between balloons and these large delivery drones. The drones themselves have no known way of detecting a balloon as they will only see ADS-B equipped aircraft in their path. This pending decision is based on the recommendations made to the FAA by the Aviation Rulemaking Committee (ARC), which was to study the risk involved in giving drones the right of way over all other aircraft below 400 feet. This is a dangerous proposal, and this commission consisted of eighty-six (86) different stakeholders giving their input to this proposed rule change. Ballooning was never considered, and both the BFA and our direct FAA contacts were never engaged in this process. Currently, there is an open opportunity for you to send you disagreement with this proposed rule change. Please send you comments to:

Address to send comments : 9-FAA-UAS-BVLOS@faa.gov with "Attention to Laura E. Gomez" in the subject line **No later than JUNE 29 The Live forum on line ends June 22. Please do not hesitate.**

When sending an email comment, please include:

- Your Name
- Your Pilot Certificate (if a pilot)
- Your flying area (city, state)
- Specific concerns about right-of-way issues / safety
- Your ability (or lack thereof) to avoid a collision with an unmanned drone
- Phone number (if desired)

The following are a few bullet points that need to be mentioned.

1. Balloons have always been given right of way over all other categories of aircraft. This is because we do not have immediate maneuverability to avoid oncoming powered aircraft.
2. Balloons operate in the under 400 AGL environment regularly, in compliance with FAR 91.119 and during takeoff and landing operations.
3. Balloons do not operate to or from known aviation centers such as airports, heliports or established airways used by powered aircraft in the low altitude environment.
4. You need to recommend that these drone aircraft should incorporate their own "see and avoid" technology.
5. Even if detected a half mile away, which is unlikely, a balloon does not have the ability to maneuver out of the way because of response times and the inability to maneuver laterally.
6. The potential for a disastrous collision between a drone and a balloon is very real and the risk that one of these large drones will cause an incident or accident by contacting either the envelope or basket, burner, fuel tank area of a balloon is substantial.

These are only a few bullet points that should be included in your letter. You do not have much time.

The BFA is sending a strong response to Ms. Gomez and the FAA regarding their complete disregard for the danger that this will impose on the ballooning industry, Ballooning was not considered or mentioned in the over 400-page proposal to the FAA that right of way be given to these drones, over all other aircraft.

Pat Cannon
President



BFA Board Election

2022 Election Timeline

- July 4:** Cut off for voter eligibility (Become a member before July 4th)
- July 10:** Nomination by petition on or before
- July 23:** Paper ballots mailed
- July 24:** Online ballot open at 6 am
- August 22:** Paper ballots postmarked no later than

August 26: Count the ballots

*Notifications of the results to the President and Division Chairs on August 26, 2022.
Notify candidates of the results by President or designated individual by Sept 2, 2022.
Announce the results of the election by email, website, and social media on approximately September 9, 2022.*

CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

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

Rio Grande Balloon Camp in Albuquerque, NM
July 9-14, 2022 ***This camp is full***

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





Photo Credit: Zerek Welz
Great Texas Balloon Race '22



Photo Credit: Black Hills Balloons
Custer, SD



Photo Credit: Dan Droegge
Great Texas Balloon Race '22



DEADLINE EXTENDED, ENTRIES DUE BY June 30, 2022

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 30th 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 fifteen (15) down to the top eight (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 sponsored by



A FAR Question

Question: What FAA aircraft documents are required to be onboard the aircraft during flight?

HINT: 91.203

2022 Hall of Fame Induction

US Ballooning Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
National Balloon Museum
1601 North Jefferson Way
Indianola, Iowa
On Sunday, July 31st from 1:00PM-3:00PM



2022 inductees:

Bob Rice (Maine)
Jim Thompson (Florida)
Tucker Comstock (Michigan)

Museum Open House all day July 31st

Free admission. Public Welcome!

Plans are to live stream the ceremony. Link will be provided ASAP.

CAN WE TALK?

How do you communicate with your chase crew? By radio, right? Are you licensed and legal to use those radios? It's a question many probably pay little attention to. Business band (VHF/UHF) radios are most commonly used in our sport, but did you know using these without a license could subject you and/or your crew to a fine of up to \$500?

If you (and your crew) are BFA members you need never worry about this, provided you've taken advantage of the national BFA Radio license. Back in 2013 the BFA was awarded a license for six radio frequencies to be used by BFA members for ballooning nationwide.

Those frequencies are:

Freq1 151.5050000 MHz

Freq2 151.6250000 MHz

Freq3 158.4000000 MHz

Freq4 451.8000000 MHz

Freq5 456.8000000 MHz

Freq6 456.8125000 MHz



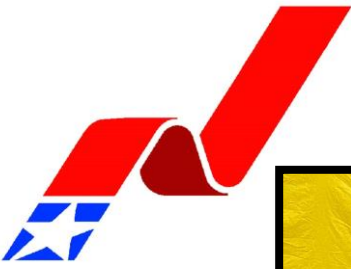
The license carries the call sign - WQRG549 - and while no legal opinion has been obtained, it is thought that as our operations do not constitute "continuous broadcasts" we would not be required to use this identifier as part of our usual communications. Still, you may - at least once per flight - wish to identify yourself as Hot Air Balloon N-xxxx call sign WQRG549." So long as the pilot is a BFA member, the crew can use the radio under this license provided they are under the direct supervision of the pilot. Crew are not required to be BFA members but of course we suggest that!

You must follow ALL applicable FCC rules regarding radio etiquette (no profanity, etc.) and your transmitter power cannot exceed 45 watts – highly unlikely in the case of handheld radios. You must also have the license in your possession and be able to present it should any FCC official request you do so. For this you need only go to our website, bfa.net, and download the license form, complete the relevant sections (your name and BFA membership number) and keep a copy in your balloon and/or chase vehicle.

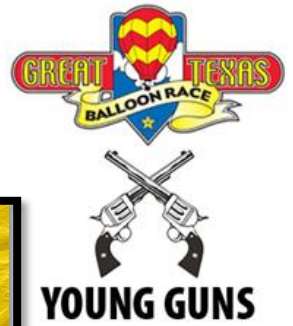
If your BFA membership lapses the radio license is no longer valid.

The original license was granted in 2013 and is valid for ten years so the BFA will be renewing this license in the coming months for the benefit of all our members. This nationwide radio license is just another example of the value members receive from their annual dues.





BFA Junior National Championship



Above are the **BFA Junior National Championship competitors** and the GTBR Young Guns! Good luck to each of them!

Back row L-R: Patrick Nilz, Colton Krause, Eric Wiggins, Joey Strutz, Ben Blake Aldridge, Cameron Wall

Front Row L-R: Ben Alford, Duncan Hernandez, Maddie Jones, Lillian Speicher, Joe Seymour

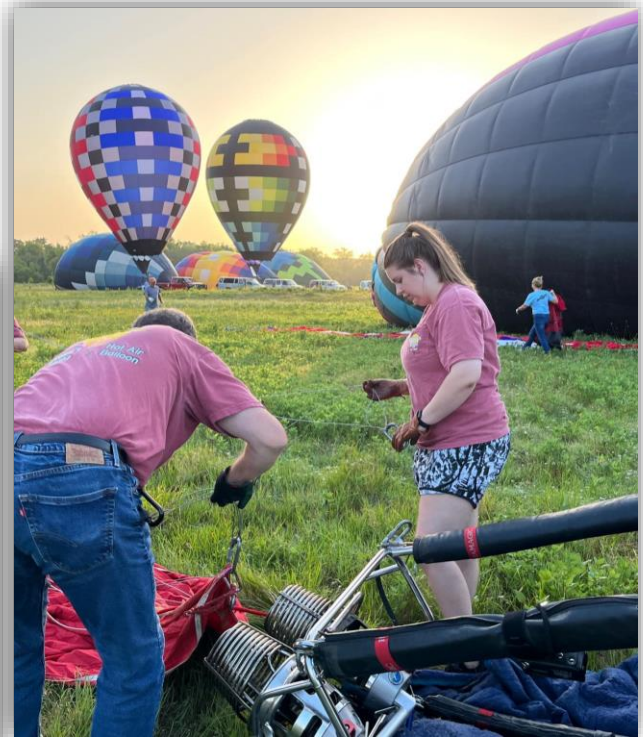


Photo Credit: Lillian Speicher Family
BFA Junior National Championship and
GTBR Young Guns Competition



Photo Credit: Joey Strutz
BFA Junior National Championship and
GTBR Young Guns Competition

Be part of the future in the BFA! Become an



Are you or do you know someone under 30? Contact Erin Bair and become part of a group of peers wanting to be influential in the future of ballooning! Erin may be reached at erinnbair@gmail.com





WELCOME

new members

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Calvin Arter
Mike Lynch
James Jordan
JB Akin
Ben Walter

Lakeland, FL
Charleston, IL
Albuquerque, NM
Edmond, OK
Waukesha, WI

Quinn Jordan
Cody McLain
Matthew Fitch
Douglas Fifield

Pensacola, FL
Hiddentie, NC
Albuquerque, NM
Auburn, WA

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



Photo Credit: Kay West
Custer, SD



Balloon Federation Of America

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