



The Quick Release

Issue No. 3
March 2024

Newsletter for the Balloon Federation of America



**GET
EXCITED!**
BALLOON
CAMP
REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN!

2024 Camp Dates Announced!!

Southeastern Youth Camp
June 18-23, 2024 – Georgia

High Sierra Camp
July 13-18, 2024 – Nevada

Spirit of Boise Classic Youth Event -Day Camp
Aug 31, 2024 – Idaho

To register your teen please click on this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/5n7s9fj4>

Help needed for camps

We need your help to make our camps GREAT! Click the link to learn about volunteer and donation opportunities:

<https://tinyurl.com/HelpBFACamp>



2024 BFA Online Continuing Education Safety Seminar

BFA members wanting to take this for seminar credit will be able to register, pay, and begin watching on April 1st.

COST: Pilots \$65. Crew \$35.

BFA members wishing to watch for non-credit will be able to log in and begin watching on April 1st as well.

BFA Pilot Survey 2024



We recently asked pilots to complete a short survey so we can get a more accurate snapshot of our flying community. You can review the results here: <https://tinyurl.com/pilotsurvey2024>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Troy Bradley **BFA Board Member, NAA Representative Director**

Over the past 4+ decades, I have flown for pure pleasure, commercially, competitively, instructing, and record setting with more opportunities and adventures than I can count. During all of that flying, I have been an active member of the BFA. The support, guidance, and assistance of BFA throughout the diversity of my flying career has been immeasurable.

The BFA is our collective umbrella of ballooning in the U.S., and we need it to protect all our interests in the sport. If you're reading this, you are most likely a member of the organization and understand its importance. You are also the best advocates for reaching out to others to join, whether it is pilots, crew, or enthusiasts.

As the BFA Board, we are always striving to grow membership. One division that is of great importance, and yet lacks a high rate of participation, is the PRO Division (Professional Ride Operators). Commercial operators share our sport with the masses and are the face of ballooning to many. With several notable accidents over the past few years and regulatory changes, we are in a critical time for ballooning. If you are a ride operator, you might think why do I need to belong? You may be thinking of the BFA as a sporting organization that has little benefit to you, which is a common misconception. We want to try to clear up any misconceptions and hear your input. Please reach out to any board member to discuss the benefits of being a BFA PRO Division member. This year, we are going to be making a valiant effort to grow and support this segment of the BFA.

All ballooning operations can affect our beloved activity either in a positive or a negative way. We want to work towards a common goal of increasing the safety of our sport in all its diverse operations.

Let's grow our sport and organization together.



BFA Maintainers Award



The BFA's Maintainers Award was presented to Dave Sullivan, March 2, 2024, at the GEBA Continuing Education Seminar by Mark MacSkimming and Bruce Byburg

The BFA Maintainers Award recognizes long-standing individual contributions in the maintenance, service and repair of hot air balloons.

FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award

Pilot Philip Gray received the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award on February 23, 2024, at the Iowa Balloonists Association Safety Seminar. Philip is one of only eleven LTA (only) pilots in the US to receive the award and the first and only in the state of Iowa.



Rich Lawhorn was awarded the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" award on March 2, 2024, at the BSKO Safety Seminar in Shelbyville, Kentucky.



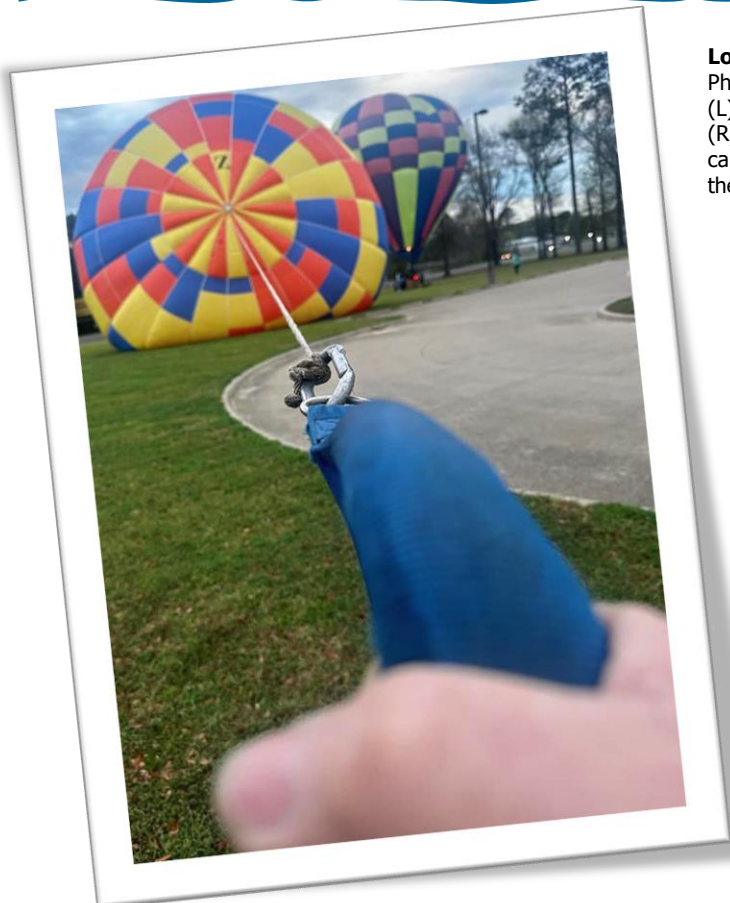
Women in Ballooning

BFA Media Relations manager, Dawn Chase has been working on a project she debuted on International Women's Day, a video featuring more than 250 past and present hot air balloon woman pilots. While it is not all the woman pilots in the world it is a great deal of them. Dawn is interested in adding to the video, if you or a female pilot you know is not featured, please reach out to Dawn for more information.

Dawnchase5683@gmail.com

Please enjoy uplifting the women in our community by clicking on the link below to view the video.

[Women in Ballooning - YouTube](#)



Longview, Texas

Photo Credit:
(L): Kevin Green
(R): Eric Wiggins (pilot)
captured Kim Fredrick on
the envelope.





Crew Achievement

Level I – Apprentice Crew
Jaykob Ingram

Level II – Senior Crew
Monica Henao

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

WELCOME new members



- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| ● Jeff Abel | ● Haslet, TX | ● Levi Johnson | ● Wellington, FL |
| ● Monica Cretu | ● Redmond, WA | ● Peter Schulz | ● Fort Walton Beach, FL |
| ● Jason Tronetti | ● Harrisburg, NC | ● Natasha Stanke | ● Albuquerque, NM |
| ● Andrew Blackburn | ● University Heights, OH | ● Brian Sanders | ● Powder Springs, GA |
| ● Dynnetta Sanders | ● Powder Springs, GA | ● Amy Gneiting | ● St. George, UT |
| ● Willy Taillon | ● Medicine Hat, Alberta CA | ● Susan Dearth | ● Sterling, AK |
| ● Arthur Palmer | ● Middletown, NY | ● Dave Gardner | ● Tampa, FL |
| ● Justin Anderson | ● Walla Walla, WA | ● Donna McMyne | ● Lincoln Park, NJ |
| ● Ian Lynch | ● Ohio | ● David Max | |
| ● Fred LaRossa | ● Tewksbury, MA | ● Robert Ward | ● Quakertown, PA |
| ● David Disney | ● Milford, NJ | ● Michael Barr | ● Bristol, CT |
| ● Steve Cobane | ● Wyoming, MI | ● Holly Ledger | ● Keithville, LA |
| ● Sara Yoder | ● Omaha, NE | ● John Wilczynski | ● Lake Village, IN |
| ● Todd Ness | ● Thorton, CO | ● Lori Anderson | ● Minden, NV |
| ● Evan Ellsworth | ● Crestwood, KY | ● Eleanor Davis | ● Reno, NV |
| ● Jaykob Ingram | ● Yamhill, OR | ● Melissa Ung | ● Reno, NV |

Welcome New Corporate



ACRISURE[®]
AEROSPACE



Balloon Federation Of America



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