



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



5601 Eagle Rock NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113  
505.379.3640

## **WAYNE SCOTT APPELMAN**

President of Rainbow Ryders, Inc. Hot Air Balloon Company providing balloon rides and corporate promotion. Rainbow Ryders is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2008 and is the largest balloon ride business in New Mexico and amongst the largest in the United States. We operate 14 balloons year round doing over 1500 flights per year. We have flown in 45 states and manage events in Chihuahua Mexico and Guadalajara, Mexico

### **Experience:**

Commercial Pilot License Lighter than Air, September 1984. 4200+ pilot in command flight hours, 700 tether hours, special shape balloon pilot

Established and manage RAINBOW RYDERS, INC. a commercial hot air balloon company offering rides, tethers, promotion, instruction and all sales aspects of hot air ballooning, 1984 to current.

Official Hot Air Balloon Ride Concession for the ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA® since 1999 and contracted through 2011.

Operate Corporate and promotional balloons for City of Albuquerque Tricentennial Balloon and "Q" Balloon- 2004-current, Santa Ana Star Casino- 2003-current, Casa Automotive Group- 2001-current, Gateway Computers, National traveling contract-1998-2001. General Mills, Inc., Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta 1990-2003, Ocean Spray Cranberries, National traveling contract-1993-current, KOBTV 1998 to current, Journal Pavilion 2001 to 2004, Isleta Gaming Palace, Regional traveling and local contract 1993-2000, New Mexico Sports and Wellness local contract 1997-2001

Pilot for GOOD MORNING AMERICA'S "Tour of the Southwest" Tourism segment on ballooning in New Mexico, May 1998.

Corporate Pilot for United New Mexico Bank Balloon Team-1990-1991

Board of Directors of the ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA (AIBF) 1986-1991

Chairman of the Board for the ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU 2001-2002

Board of Directors of the ALBUQUERQUE CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU 1993 to current, member executive committee 1999, 2000. Chairman of Marketing Committee 1996 and 1997, served on Research Task Force, Executive Search Committee, Nominating Committee, and Convention Sales.

Served as chairman of Membership, Tourism and Public Affairs Directors Council 1999 and 2000

Sponsor Recruitment for the ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA-1991

Originator and Organizer of AIBF's "BALLOON GLOW" 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991 & 1992, generate more than \$250,000.00 a year to AIBF.

Originator and one of the Organizers of AIBF's "SPECIAL SHAPE RODEO" 1989 and 1990, generate more than \$275,000.00 a year to AIBF.

Originator and organizer of AIBF's "ALBUQUERQUE ALOFT" 1991-A 20th Anniversary celebration.

President of TOP GUN, INC., a New Mexico competitive hot air balloon club, top Gun Balloonmeister, Safety Officer, 1988-1994.

## WAYNE SCOTT APPELMAN (cont'd)

Organizer of the "HANDS ACROSS AMERICA BALLOON RALLY" 1985 and headed "HANDS ACROSS NEW MEXICO" steering committee.

Competitor of the "US NATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON CHAMPIONSHIP" 1988 thru 1991.

New Mexico "TOP GUN" Hot Air Balloon Champion, 1987.

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA 3rd Place Overall, 1986.

ALBUQUERQUE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON FIESTA 4th Place Overall, 1996.

World Record Holder-altitude flight.

### **Education:**

University of New Mexico

R.O. Anderson School of Management

Bachelor of Business Administration

Financial Management and Economics

## **ANDREW BAIRD**

Andy made his first balloon flight in Albuquerque in 1977, and has been involved in aviation ever since. At age 18 he completed his private-pilot fixed wing license, before going on to college to study aeronautical engineering in England. In 1984 he completed an internship with Cameron Balloons Ltd. in Bristol England, before moving to Michigan.

He spent the next ten years flying balloons for a living. Starting out as a contract pilot he soon became chief pilot and chief flight instructor for a local operator of passenger-ride and corporate balloons. Ultimately, Andy became a Representative for Cameron Balloons, and started his own business specializing in the operation of commercial advertising contracts, gaining over 1200 hours as pilot in command of hot air balloons alone.

In 1994 Andy moved to Ann Arbor, MI to join the Cameron Factory, in a sales and technical support role. Over the next seven years his responsibilities grew, and in 2000 he became General Manager of Cameron Balloons. Andy is the FAA appointed Designated Engineering Representative, and one of the FAA certificated repairmen on staff. Amongst his responsibilities is the testing and implementation of new designs and equipment.

Andy was elected to the Board of the Balloon Federation of America in 2005, where he currently serves as Director-at-Large and President.

Still an active pilot, Andy flies locally and also competes in local, regional, and national competitions averaging about 40 to 50 hours per year.



## TROY BRADLEY

### **Pilot Background:**

Private pilot certificate at 16 years old

Commercial pilot certificate at 18 years old

Removal of "with airborne heater" at 21 years old

4,600 hours PIC

### **General Flying Experience**

Owns and operates Skyspan Adventures and World Balloon in Albuquerque.

Part 141 school Assistant Chief Instructor

Flown commercial contracts for Century 21, Labatt's Beer, Sears, Swatch Watch, Maxwell House, PSA Airlines, United New Mexico Bank, Breyer's Ice Cream, Comet Cleaners, Fox Photo, and RE/MAX.

Flown in 45 of the States and 12 Countries

Made 3,130 hot air and 48 gas free flights

Flown 11,400 passengers

Made the 1st ammonia flight in New Mexico 3/1/92

Built two gas balloons

### **Competitive Flying Experience:**

Participated as a competitive pilot in:

Hot Air Balloons:

14 New Mexico State Championships, winning in 1985, 1992, 2001, and 2003

12 US Hot Air Nationals

2 North American Championships, finishing 4th overall in 1990

2 US Hot Air Team Nationals, winning with Sid Cutter and Mark Sullivan in 1995

Gas Balloons:

6 America's Challenge Races, winning in 1998 with my wife, Tami

7 Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennetts

The 1994 World Gas Championships

The 1996 St. Louis National Gas Balloon Race, winning with Shane Robinson

The 1999 RE/MAX Balloon Cup

## TROY BRADLEY (cont'd)

### Record Flying Experience:

CLASS	SUB	CLASS	TYPE	RECORD	DATE
Rozier	AM8	15	Distance	3,318.23 miles	09/16-22/1992
Rozier	AM8	15	Duration	144 hr. 16 min	09/16-22/1992
Rozier	AM8 –	15	Altitude	17,998.6 feet	09/16-22/1992
Rozier	AM1		Distance	197.38 miles	02/03/1994
Rozier	AM1		Duration	10 hr. 1 min.	02/03/1994
Rozier	AM1 –	7	Altitude	18,143 feet	06/15/1994
Rozier	AM1 –	6	Distance	353.33 miles	10/20-22/1999
Rozier	AM1 –	6	Duration	27 hr. 25 min.	10/20-22/1999
Gas	AA3 –	5	Distance	1,225.23 miles	01/3-5/2002
Hot Air	AX-9		Distance	1,017.09 miles	01/20/2003
Gas	AA3		Duration	46 hr. 50 min.	02/9-11/2005
Rozier	AM3 –	6	Distance	824 miles	11/14-16/2007
Rozier	AM3 –	6	Duration	41 hr. 23 min.	11/14-16/2007

First person to set world records in the AA, AM, and AX categories

First USA to Africa balloon flight

Broke the oldest standing aviation record in 2002 (previous record set in 1922)

### Affiliations:

Lifetime Balloon Federation of America (BFA) member, currently Director At-Large and on the Gas Division Board (served 3 years as Chairman)

Lifetime Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA) member

### Awards and Recognition:

Fifty-eight (58) FAI World Record Diplomas

Balloon Federation of America's Shields-Trauger Award

The FAI's De la Vaulx Medal for an Absolute World Record

Governor of New Mexico's Certificate of Recognition

The Lighter-Than-Air Society Achievement Award

Sid Cutter Award for Outstanding Contribution to Ballooning

NAA Certificate of Honor

The FAI's Mongolfier Diploma

### Safety Seminar Participation:

Made presentations at many Safety Seminars on Aeronautical Decision Making, FARs, Gas Ballooning, and Record Setting Flights.

### Most Memorable Flights (so far):

The 1992 Chrysler Transatlantic Challenge flight with Richard Abruzzo. Absolutely amazing!

Giving Walter Cronkite a lesson at Château de Balleroy in 1993.

In 1995, dropping a skydiver (Bob Martin) from 32,000 feet, I then ascended to 34,000 feet.

The 1996 America's Challenge. Landing in the Canadian wilderness and being rescued by helicopter.

The 2001 Gordon Bennett. Crossing the Alps from Germany to Italy with Earl Miller.

2003 Flying out of the Stratobowl at night on the AX9 distance record (the only successful record flight from the Stratobowl since Stephens and Anderson's flight in 1935)



## **PATRICIA BRAKE**

### Ballooning Resume

May, 1983:

Hot Air Balloon Pilot (commercial)

October, 1999:

Helium/hydrogen Gas Balloon Pilot

1992-1993:

Chief Safety Officer, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

1994-1995:

Assistant Balloonmeister

Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Safety Officer, 8th World Gas Balloon Championships, Albuquerque, NM

1996

Balloonmeister, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Committee Member and Operations, America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

1997

Official at Nationals, Columbia, MO

Balloonmeister, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Committee Member and Operations, America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

1998

Safety Officer, New Mexico State Hot Air Championship

Official at Nationals, Rantoul, IL

Official at Team Nationals, Battlecreek, MI

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Committee Member and Operations, America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

1999

Safety Officer, New Mexico State Hot Air Championship

Balloonmeister (Fiesta Balloons) at Team Nationals, Battlecreek, MI

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Administrative Event Director to the 43rd Coupe Aeronautique Internationale Gordon Bennett

2000

PR Committee Chair, FAI/CIA

Safety Officer, New Mexico State Hot Air Championship

Balloonmeister (Fiesta Balloons) at Team Nationals, Battlecreek, MI

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 5th America's Challenge Balloon Race

2001

PR Committee Chair, FAI/CIA

Safety Officer, New Mexico State Hot Air Championship

Deputy Director, Worlds Air Games, Seville, Spain

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 6th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

2002

PR Committee Chair, FAI/CIA

Safety Officer, New Mexico State Hot Air Championship

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 7th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race, Category 1

## **PATRICIA BRAKE (cont'd)**

2003

PR Committee Chair, FAI/CIA

Safety Officer, New Mexico Hot Air Championship

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 8th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

2004

PR Committee Chair, FAI/CIA

Safety Officer, New Mexico Hot Air Championship

Jury Member, NABA Nationals, Baton Rouge, LA

Jury Member, 48th Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, Thionville, FRANCE

Jury Member, 2004 Motegi Hot Air Balloon International Championship, JAPAN

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 9th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

2005 PR Committee Chair, FAI/CIA

Safety Officer, New Mexico Hot Air Championship

Jury Member, NABA Nationals, Baton Rouge, LA

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 10th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

Competition Director 43rd Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race

2006

Public and Media Relations, Chairperson, FAI/CIA

Safety Officer, New Mexico Hot Air Championship

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 11th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

2007

Public and Media Relations, Chairperson, FAI/CIA

Event Director, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

Event Director, 12th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

Awards:

March, 2006: Recipient of FAI Montgolfier Award for Contribution to the Sport

March, 2000: FAI Airsport Medal

## DON CAMERON

Don Cameron was leader of the small team that built the first modern hot-air balloon in Europe. The date was 1966 - 183 years after a balloon constructed by the Montgolfier brothers in France gave man his first taste of genuine controlled flight. Of course, Cameron's balloon was built from modern synthetic materials and used a burner powered by bottled gas instead of the line-paper fabric and open brazier employed by the first aeronauts. In 1971 the hobby became a business and he founded Cameron Balloons Ltd. Today his Bristol, UK, based company is the world's largest manufacturer of hot-air balloons and airships and Bristol has become the undisputed ballooning capital of the world.

A vastly experienced pilot, he studied aeronautical engineering at Glasgow University and Cornell, USA. He has received the gold, silver and bronze medals of the British Royal Aero Club for his ballooning achievements and among his other awards is the Harmon Trophy, which was previously held by Charles Lindbergh and Neil Armstrong amongst many other notable aeronauts.

Don was the first man to cross the Sahara by hot-air balloon, also the Alps, and in 1990 made the first balloon flight between the UK and what was then the USSR. However in 1978 his attempt to make the premier Atlantic crossing by balloon ended when bad weather forced his craft down after a 2,000 mile journey and in sight of the French coast. However his dream came true in 1992 when he flew a balloon of his own design from Bangor, Maine, USA, to Portugal and took second place in the first ever transatlantic balloon race.

One Cameron balloon that the world has - literally - seen a great deal of is the Roziere. This is a heated/helium balloon that offers great duration, and in 1999 a Cameron R-650 became the first balloon in history to fly around the world non-stop. Breitling Orbiter 3, as the balloon was known, was a larger, jet-stream capable, version of the Roziere that Don used to make his successful Atlantic crossing. It is now displayed in the Smithsonian in Washington. Another Cameron Roziere was later used by Steve Fossett to make the first solo balloon flight around the world.

As well as conventional "round" balloons Don Cameron has earned a reputation for designing special shapes. These now total nearly 400 - 80% of all the special shape balloons flying in the world - and include the Fantasia Castle for Disney; busts of Beethoven and Van Gogh, a train, truck, shoes, telephone, motorcycle, car, fruit, bottles, cans, golf balls and numerous animals such as a dinosaur, a dog, a parrot, bears, rabbits plus Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Action Man.

Cameron also pioneered the hot-air airship, a dirigible shaped hot-air balloon that can be maneuvered by use of a small engine and fabric rudder.

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**Cameron Balloons Ltd., St. John's Street, Bristol BS3 4NH, UK. Tel: +44 (0)117 9637216.**

**[www.cameronballoons.co.uk](http://www.cameronballoons.co.uk). E-mail: [enquiries@cameronballoons.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cameronballoons.co.uk).**



## ANDY CAYTON

### **Pilot Background:**

Instrument Helicopter: UH-1H, OH-58A&C, UH/MH-60A, CH/MH-47B, C, & D  
Lighter-Than-Air Free Balloon with no restrictions

### **Flying Experience:**

US Special Operations Helicopter Pilot with 3,000 plus hours  
US team member 2005 Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (1,219 miles - 1,962.1 Km)  
US team member 2006 Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett  
2006 America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race winner (1,478 miles – 2,378.6 Km)  
2007 America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race winner (1,054 miles – 1698 Km)  
US team member 2008 Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett

### **Officiating Experience:**

Owner of Feather Air Hot Air Balloons, Savannah Georgia 1997 to present.  
Aviation Safety Officer / Pilot for Special Operations US Army 1987-1995.  
Aviation Safety Officer / Pilot US Army: 1984-1987

### **Event Organization:**

Balloonmeister, 2000-2006 Pembroke Balloon Festivals - Pembroke, Georgia

### **Affiliations:**

V.F.W. (life time member),  
Army Aviation Heritage Foundation (life time member),  
Balloon Federation of America, Gas Division board member 2006-2008,  
National Aeronautic Association,  
Chamber of Commerce, Savannah, Georgia.

### **Awards and Recognition:**

3 World and 9 National Records in Hot Air Balloons:  
Duration AX-6 @ 23 hrs.55 min.51 sec.  
Distance AX-8, AX-9 @ 1,066 miles – 1,716 Km  
2005 Montgolfier Diploma for hot air balloons (longest solo hot-air flight in history)  
Bronze Star,  
Meritorious Service Medal (x2),  
Air Medal with Valor,  
Air Medal,  
Army Accommodation Medal (x2),  
Army Achievement Medal (x2),  
Senior Aviator Badge,  
Parachutist Badge,  
Air Assault Badge,  
Boeing Defense and Space Rescue Citation (x2).

### **Safety Seminar Participation:**

Carolina Balloon Association Safety Seminars participant 1996- 2003.  
Speaker at Georgia, Carolina and Texas Safety Seminars on various topics from 2004 – 2006

## ANDY CAYTON (cont'd)

### **Most Memorable Flights:**

February 2007 gas balloon record attempt for distance in AA-6 from Southern California to the East Coast.

Spending 8 hours the first night circle navigating "Area 51" in Nevada while Air Force ATC explaining why we would be "forced" down if we entered the restricted area.

Every record flight.

Every gas balloon flight in excess of 1,000 miles.

16 Wildlife Trail  
Edgewood, New Mexico 87015  
505-307-4142  
Kevin@WickerClan.com

## **KEVIN CLONEY**

Kevin Cloney enjoyed his first hot air balloon ride in Del Mar, California as a first prize award for a sales contest he won in 1989. Later in 1993, Kevin and his wife Eileen, a.k.a. "Sunshine", started attending the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta® crewing for a balloon that her father's company had sponsored for over 12 years. In 1999 Kevin got his private pilot's certificate and he and Sunshine bought a used Balloon Works system and named her "Sunshine's Ride".

In May of 2002 he earned his Commercial rating and in April of 2005 his gas endorsement. In 2003 he received the Allen Jones Volunteer Award from the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (Quad A), a club that he later became President for from 2004 through 2006. In 2005 he received Balloon Federation of America's Director's Award for the At-large Region. Currently he is has been awarded Level III of the FAA's Wings program.

In addition to his full time computer work he flies an average of 110 hours per year as a fun flyer, instructor and contract ride pilot. He teaches part time for Albuquerque's oldest 141 flight school, World Balloon Flight School, as well as under part 61. He is a part of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta's Official Dawn Patrol show and enjoys flying rallies in the southwest and Mexico. Annually he is asked to speak for various safety seminars throughout the southwest and Seminar's a Sea. An International speaker and a former member of Toastmasters International he received his Distinguished Toastmaster Award in 1999.

Currently he and his wife Eileen live in Edgewood, New Mexico, approximately 25 miles East of Albuquerque, New Mexico. They enjoy promoting the sport of hot air ballooning and give live demonstrations to over 1500 students a year.





7780 Bainbridge Road  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023  
(440) 543-7139

## **BILL CLONINGER**

### **Basic Data:**

Pilot since June 1990  
Ratings Held:  
Lighter-Than-Air Free Balloon  
Commercial Pilot  
Pilot in Command Hours: 1,280

### **Awards & Recognition:**

1995 NOBPA Club Champion  
1997 BFA Director's Award  
2001 World and US Records-      AX5      General Category Duration      12 hours 21 minutes  
Montgolfier Diploma Nominee

### **Club Affiliations:**

Northeast Ohio Balloon Pilot's Association, President, Treasurer  
Pacific Coast Aeronauts, member  
NABA, member  
BFA, Chairman Crew Achievement Program, Finance Committee Member  
NAA, member

### **Most Memorable Flights:**

World Record Flight Feb. 9-10, 2001, launched at 8:20pm on a full moonlight night and flew through the night into the next morning in sub-zero temperatures in South Dakota. A spectacularly beautiful flight, setting new US and World Records.  
August 1993, flight over Niagara Falls.  
Annual Winter 'Longjump' flights – in 2002, 2003 and 2004 has flown over 100 miles each flight over the winter landscape.

### **Commercial Activities:**

Owns LTA Aviation, Inc. Great Lakes Distributor for Aerostar Hot Air Balloons,  
Operates a traveling ground school which prepares students for the FAA written examinations.  
Operates Amish Country Balloon Tours, a balloon ride operation in Chagrin Falls, OH  
Trains several new balloon pilots each year.



Aviation Safety Inspector, Staff Specialist  
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## **LARRY CULVER**

Larry joined the FAA at AFS-630 in September 2003. He has an ATP Airplane Multiengine Land pilot certificate with Commercial Airplane Single Engine Land privileges. He has a Flight Instructor Certificate with Airplane Single Engine, Multiengine, and Instrument ratings. Military experience includes approximately 22 years as a Marine fixed-wing pilot. Education includes graduation from Tahlequah, Oklahoma high school in 1963, the U.S. Naval Academy in 1967, and the University of Central Oklahoma MBA program in 2000. Additional flight experience includes flight instructor (14 CFR 61), corporate pilot (14 CFR 91), and charter pilot (14 CFR 135) work. Responsibilities at AFS-630 include work on handbooks, knowledge (written) tests, and practical test standards (PTSS) for Recreational, Private, and Commercial pilot certification.



**DONALD DAY, JR.**

Meteorologist – Balloon Pilot

Donald is a professional meteorologist, and owner of DayWeather, Inc. a professional weather forecasting and consulting firm. Don is also a private rated hot air balloon pilot. Don has been forecasting for balloon races, record setting attempts, national and international competitions such as the Gordon Bennett and America's Challenge races. Donald has consulted on several balloon and fixed wing record attempts across the Atlantic and special balloon related projects in North and South America.



## NICK DONNER

Nick Donner started flying when he was 13 and soloed on his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. He has been flying balloons for almost 10 years and has nearly 900 hours of piloting experience in balloons and another 1000 hours flying fixed-wing aircraft. Nick won his first competition he was flew in 1998 and went on to win 3 national championships by the age of 22. He is on the 2008 World Team for USA and this will be his 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive time attending World Championships. Nick has won several events on the International level and has finished 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> at the past 3 World Championships. Nick is currently flying for ExpressJet Airlines based out of Los Angeles International Airport and lives in Stillwater, OK where he is a college professor in the college of education teaching aviation ground classes.





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## **GARY BRUCE EATON**

### **PERSONAL DATA:**

Date of Birth: December 5, 1932  
Place of Birth: Las Vegas, Nevada

### **EDUCATION:**

University of Redlands – BA – 1954  
University of Southern California – MBA – 1963  
University of California, Los Angeles – Professional Certificate – 1965  
University of Loyola, School of Law – JD – 1971

### **MILITARY:**

U.S. Army, Quartermaster Corps. – Seoul, Korea 1954 to 1956

### **EMPLOYMENT:**

1958 to 1971: Aerospace Industry – Personnel; Contract Administration  
1971 to Present: Attorney – General Practice – Family Law

### **HOT AIR BALLOONING:**

1981: Spectator – Gordon Bennett Race – Fountain Valley, CA  
October 1986: First Balloon Ride – Albuquerque, NM  
1988 to 1992: Ground Crewmember for Commercial Ride Operator  
April 1991: Student Pilot  
August 1992: Private Pilot  
1992 to 1993: BFA/SCBA Chief Scoring Officer  
November 1995 Purchased SANDPIPER  
1996 to Present: Instructor, Ground Crew Training Course  
December 1997: Purchased ANASAZI  
June 1999: Commercial Pilot  
October 2000: Movie: RAT RACE  
2002 to Present: Wathen Air Academy – Presenter: Hot Air Ballooning  
March 2003: BFA Long Jump – 5th Place  
September 2003: FAI / CIA Silver Sporting Badge



## MICHAEL C. EMICH

### Pilot Background:

Commercial Pilot Certificate 1974 (18 years old)  
Removal of 'with airborne heater' 1983  
Commercial SEL, MEL and Instrument

### Flying Experience:

First balloon flight at Lakehurst NAS June 1971.  
Owned and operated commercial ride business and commercial contracts.  
Participated as competitive pilot US Nationals 1993-1995  
Participated as competitive pilot US Team Nationals 1998-1999  
Participated as competitive pilot Hidden Manor Gas Race 1987  
Gas flight saluting the 75th Anniversary of Naval Aviation 1986  
Gas flight saluting the 40th Anniversary of the US Air Force 1987

### Balloon Building Experience:

First homebuilt balloon 1974  
Designed and constructed 14 homebuilt balloons  
Restored to flying status 2 US Navy WWII Gas Balloons

### Record Flying Experience:

US National Record	Class AA-4	Distance	10/26-27/1985	515.34 miles
World Record	Class AX-5	Distance	01/10/1998	270.11 miles
World Record	Class AX-4	Distance	02/13/1999	183.83 miles

### Affiliations:

Honorary Life Member The Lighter-Than-Air Society  
Member Balloon Flyers of Akron (formerly National Lighter Than Air) and past president.  
Founding Board Member Northern Ohio Balloon Pilots Association

### Awards and Recognition:

Three US National Records  
Two World Records  
Balloon Federation of America's Shields-Trauger Award  
The Lighter-Than-Air Society Achievement Award  
Safety Seminar Participation Made presentations at many Safety Seminars on Pilot Decision Making,  
Experimental Balloon Building, Gas Ballooning and Record Setting

### Most Memorable Flights:

1985 night crossing of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario in a WWII US Navy Gas Balloon with Bill Armstrong Jr.  
1993 flight across Horseshoe Falls at Niagara Falls, Canada with Carol and Kenny Weiner in the special shape 'Mr. Winter'.  
1986 Gas flight from the lawn of the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the US Air Force.



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## **JOHN M. GRIFFIN, CPCU**

### **EXPERIENCE:**

THE SCHANTZ AGENCY, Roswell, GA.

Joined forces in 2006 to more effectively market and underwrite the Hot Air Balloon Program.

NATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, INC. Suwanee, GA. 2001 to 2006.

Senior Vice President & Owner

Joined in early 2001 to add marketing expertise to this growing MGA. Specialized in Hot Air Balloon and related insurance in the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Sold interest in late 2006

AMERICAN CUSTOM INSURANCE SERVICES, INC., Atlanta, GA 1995-2001

Senior Vice President

Underwrote the HAB program with this division of Great American Insurance Co.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP, Atlanta, GA 1993-1995

Landmark Insurance Company(Subsidiary of American International Group)

President

Generated approximately \$68 million written premium in first full year of operation.

CRUM & FORSTER, INC. 1976-1993

The London Agency, Inc., Atlanta, GA (then a division of Crum & Forster, later known as Westchester Specialty and now as ACE USA, Ltd.)

CEO and President, 1988-1992

Responsible for all operations of this major writer of Specialty Property and Excess business writing over \$400 million in premium..

### **EDUCATION**

Niagara University, 1964-1968 English Major

IBM/Wharton School Institute of Quality, 1991

AMA School of Management, 1984

Earned CPCU Designation, 1975

### **HONORS**

Speaker at the Russell Miller Symposium, 1992

Speaker at the Western Surplus Lines Association Annual Meeting, 1991

Company Manager of the Year, Philadelphia, 1987



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## **RICH JAWORSKI**

### **Objective:**

To share the joys of ballooning with others through activities which promote and advance our sport and continually change my ballooning involvement.

### **Experience:**

1972 – Present

FAA Licensed Hot Air Balloon Pilot

2,200 hours of flight experience.

Responsible for over \$200,000 in donations for charities and community organizations through ballooning activities.

World Record Holder, AX-4 & AX-5 Duration, 23 hours 11 minutes.

Captain of the 2001 National Balloon Team Championship team.

BFA Long Jump Winner, AX-7, 1997 & Greatest distance achieved in an AX-7, 333 miles.

Winner of the National Balloon Classic, 1989 & 1991.

BFA Distinguished Aeronaut.

1977–Present

Nebraska Balloon Club Omaha, NE

President/Board Member/ Newsletter Editor

Promotes and encourages ballooning through active leadership of the local ballooning organization.

Balloonmeister for several Midwest ballooning events.

Charter Member.

2003–Present

Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

Records Review Committee Member

Evaluates ballooning related record claims.

Participates in Committee discussions/rule interpretations.

1969–2007

Omaha Public Power District Omaha, NE

Nuclear Engineer/Licensing Engineer/Technical Manager

Lead the resolution of technical and licensing issues associated with the operation of the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station.

Responsible for improvements in station generation capability.

Author of numerous national and international technical papers and articles pertaining to nuclear power operation.

Company representative to numerous national committees steering the technical development and regulation of nuclear power.

### **Education/Licenses:**

1962–1969 Iowa State University B.S., Engineering Science, M.S. and Ph.D., Nuclear Engineering.

Registered Professional Engineer, State of Nebraska

NRC Senior Reactor Operators License, Fort Calhoun Station

### **Interests:**

Barbershop Harmony Society,

Church choir,

Youth mentoring,

Personal fitness and healthy life style.





P.O. Box 527  
Stockton Springs, ME 04981  
207-567-3274

## RUTH LIND

Ruth Lind has been flying balloons since 1979, and has flown hot air balloons, gas balloons, rozier balloons and hot air airships in numerous places around the world.

From 1988 to 2000, Ruth served as Editor of *Ballooning*, the Journal of the Balloon Federation of America, and *Skylines*, the BFA's monthly newsletter. She still contributes articles about ballooning to various books and magazines.

In 2002, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the BFA for the Northeast Region, and served for three years as Secretary of that board. In addition, she headed up a number of volunteer efforts within the BFA, including the Minimum Safe Altitude Study, and the organization's participation in the Experimental Aircraft Association's giant AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Her corporate experience includes flying for American Heritage Magazine at the Forbes Château de Balleroy in Northern France, and at King Hussein's birthday celebration in Wadi Rum, Jordan, as well as a number of corporate contracts at U.S. events.

She and her flying partner, Marsha Neal Treacy, competed in the eighth World Gas Balloon Championships in 1994. The two women, competing as the first all-female team to represent the United States, placed fifth. Ruth flew as co-pilot during the first World Rozier Championship in 1990 (third place) and the first World Hot Air Airship Championship in 1988 (11th place). She has flown press at nine U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships, and served as Media Coordinator at the 1998-2000 Nationals. Ruth has been fortunate to work with world-renown meteorologist Lou Billones as his assistant at the Nationals and for several of the circumnavigation attempts of Steve Fossett and Kevin Uliassi.

Ruth has received the Shields Trauger Award for service to ballooning, the BFA President's Award, and BFA Director's Award.

Ruth began her career as a broadcast journalist, after earning a BA in Modern Languages from the University of Maine. Before becoming BFA Editor, she held positions in journalism and corporate public and investor relations in New England and New York. She moved back to Maine in 2000 to begin working for herself as a real estate developer. When not renovating historical buildings on the Coast of Maine, she enjoys spending time with her husband, pets and grandchildren, and hand-stitching quilts for all of them! She and David are avid motorcyclists, and in winter months, you can find Ruth skjoring the Maine woods with her Chinook, Rastro.



POB 24  
Glens Falls, NY  
12801  
518 793 8262

## CHRIS LYNCH

Co Proprietor of Valhalla Booksellers, specializing in ballooning and Ita books, art and ephemera now for just under 20 years,

### **Pilot Background:**

Commercial pilot certificate 1984.

Gas Rating

### **Flying Experience:**

First flew in 1949, soloed 1964, found balloons in 1971

Have ballooned in Jamaica, Canada, Belgium, India, Qatar...sort of.....and back and forth around America.

### **Productions and Publications:**

Miscellaneous balloon credits in TV work, 2007 on PBS and History Channel, also writing for Journals, newspapers and magazines; field of expertise is in history of ballooning, and the philately of ballooning.

### **Safety Seminar Participation:**

Have spoken at the Stone Barn and John Wise Seminars, Gas opns, History/Enrichment, accident analysis

### **Most Memorable Flights**

First American Balloon to t/o and Ind in India,

Participated in first, and only, Jamaican International Invitational Balloon Competition,

Flew St Niklass Bel Gas Competition



IMC BALLOON AGENCY 5001  
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Ste 770  
Bloomington, MN 55437

Phone (800) 783-5963  
E-mail: bmill@imcins.com

## BETH M. MILLER

### Insurance Background:

1971-1973 Central Mutual Insurance Company (Atlanta, GA)  
1987-Present IMC Agency/IMC Balloon Agency

### Hot Air Balloon Insurance Experience:

Quotes Binders  
1993 Hot Air Balloon Claims Specialist  
1994 Manager of Hot Air Balloon Division  
1996 Originated 'Advertiser' Policy coverage, Managed Fixed Wing Ultralights/Powered Parachutes, Remote Controlled Blimps, Event Policies  
2002 Vice President of IMC Balloon Agency

### Speaking Experience:

Safety Seminar & Group Speaking MN, WI, IA, MI, MA, NH, CA, NM, AZ, NV, OH, KY, CT, MO, FL, PA

### Company Affiliations:

Empire Indemity (Zurick), Jefferson Insurance Co., Interstate/Fireman's Fund. American Modern, Lloyds of London, AIG (Atl & Chicago), Tudor/Western World.

### Parent Company Bio:

#### R. W. Scobie:

R.W. Scobie Inc was founded in 1932. Currently, in it's third generation of family ownership and operation, it is headed by Peter Scobie and Robert Giles. R.W. Scobie, Inc. corporate headquarters are located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. They also have branches in Minneapolis & New Hope (MN), Des Moines (IA), Waukesha (WI), Covington, (KY) & Omaha, (NE). As a proud and active member of the AAMGA (American Association of Managing General Agents), R.W. Scobie, Inc. earned the prestigious Certified Managing General Agency (CMGA) designation from AAMGA for its commitment to excellence, professionalism and continuing education. Additionally, both Peter Scobie and Robert Giles are past-presidents of AAMGA. Company-wide, R.W. Scobie, Inc is a multi-line managing general agency and its 120 + employees underwrite a broad range of Property & Casualty, Transportation, Aviation & Personal Lines risks.

### Personal Bio:

Beth has been in the insurance industry for over 20+ years. She started in insurance when she was still in college and a newlywed. Beth took a 'hiatus' from the insurance industry to raise her family of three children. With her husband and children's support, she returned to her insurance background as a receptionist for IMC in 1987. Beth quickly progressed from receptionist to hot air balloon apprentice underwriter, eventually promoted to Underwriter and then to 'Manager' of the Hot Air Balloon Department.

Tom Reusse, the founder and President of IMC, an expert balloonist and insurance entrepreneur in excess of 25 years (in hot air balloon insurance alone) was her mentor. Tom instructed Beth in not only the business aspect of Hot Air Balloon Insurance, but in the art, techniques and technical aspects of the sport of Ballooning.

Beth was promoted Vice-President of IMC Agency, Inc. in February 2002.

In May of 2004, IMC Balloon Agency was acquired by RW Scobie/Mid-West General Agency, due to Tom's retirement. Beth was a major component of the acquisition, maintaining her job title and position of Vice President of IMC Balloon Agency.

### Most Memorable Balloon Moment:

The "First" Hot Air Balloon flight, most recent Hot Air Balloon flight...and ALL the flights in between! Beth admits to being a hopeless "Balloon-a-tic"



897 Winesap Dr.  
Beavercreek, OH 45434  
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## AL NELSON

It all started at age 13 when Al and his father made a dry-cleaning bag float over the top of the stove burners. Later that week, Al had a dry-cleaning bag in free flight powered by eight birthday candles. That was the start and the teenage boy from rural Ohio has continued his love of ballooning and aviation into his adult life.

Designated Examiner for the FAA for 10 years  
Repairman certification for 31 years  
Commercial Pilot with airplane and balloon ratings  
World Hot Air Balloon Champion 1987 (Austria) and 1991 (Canada)  
US National Champion 1984, 1985  
US Team Manager for the World Team 2006





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Fax 605-332-5761

## **ORVIN E. OLIVIER**

### **Business:**

Orvin is the owner of an insurance agency in Sioux Falls, SD specializing in the property casualty markets; he has dealt extensively with hot air balloon insurance issues, and is the chair of the Insurance Committee for the Balloon Federation of America.

### **Ballooning:**

Orvin has been involved with flying hot air balloons for the past 34 years.

He was on the board of directors of the Balloon Federation of America for six years and currently is the Chair of the Awards Committee and also the Insurance Committee. In 1999 he received the Directors Award from the Balloon Federation of America.

When Orvin was younger, he worked at Raven Industries in the sales and marketing department of the hot air balloon division and also acted as their balloon pilot.

Orvin is a commercial hot air balloon pilot and has been an active instructor, having brought a number of new pilots into ballooning. Orvin feels this is one of his greatest ballooning accomplishments. He has flown regular and special shape balloons in Belgium, Netherlands, Japan, China, Canada and Mexico as well as all over United States.

During the last several years, he has been involved in a number World Record attempts as a team member and also as the official observer for the NAA.



## SAM PARKS

Owner-President, Parks Quality Air, Inc. (17 years)  
Owner-President, Parks Balloon Aviation, Inc.(19 years)

Obtained LTA private pilots license 1988  
Advanced to commercial rating 1989  
Advanced to gas balloon rating 2000

Founding member and past President, Iredell Aeronauts Society  
Past President, Carolinas Balloon Association  
Member, Lighter than Air Society  
Member, Balloon Federation of America  
Member, North American Balloon Association  
Member, Gas balloon Division for the BFA  
Member, National aeronautic Association  
Past Board member, National balloon Rally Charities, Inc.  
Chairman, Balloon Federation of America Hot Air Competition Division

Balloonmeister, 1989 Low hour pilots rally, Statesville, NC  
Balloonmeister, 1990 National Balloon Rally, Statesville, NC  
Balloonmeister, 1991-1996 Lowe's Balloons over the Blue Ridge, N. Wilkesboro, NC  
Balloonmeister, 1993-1998 Alamance Balloon Fest, Burlington, NC  
Balloonmeister, 2006 Carolina Balloonfest, BFA Southeast Regional Championship Statesville, NC  
Competition Director, 2007 Southeast Regional Championship, Baton Rouge LA  
Competition Director, 2007 Louisiana State Championship, Baton Rouge LA  
Safety Officer, 1998-2005 National Balloon Rally, Statesville, NC

North Carolina State Champion, 1994,1995,1996,1997,2003,2004,2005  
Champion, 1994 Fools and Ghouls Balloon Race, Wilson, NC  
Champion, 2000 National Balloon Rally, Statesville, NC  
Champion, 2005 Pontiac Freedom Weekend Aloft, Anderson, SC  
Champion, 2006 Pontiac Freedom Weekend Aloft, Anderson, SC  
Runner-up, 2003 Balloon Federation of America Hot Air Balloon National Championship, Anderson, SC  
Runner-up, 2007 Kentucky Derby Balloon Race, Louisville, KY  
Member, 2004 United States team competing in the World Championships in Australia

Balloon Federation of America Award of excellence, 1995  
Balloon Federation of America, Distinguished Aeronaut award 2003 (highest award in the Pilot achievement Award Program)

Sales representative for Lindstrand Hot Air Balloons, US dealer of the year 1997  
Safety Seminar speaker  
Balloon Rally consultant  
Member Savannah Six world record balloon flight team 2005

Managed corporate balloon programs for such companies as: CargoLifter, Husqvarna outdoor equipment, Sagebrush Steakhouse and Saloon, First Union Bank, Lake Norman Magazine, City of Statesville, Stiles and Company/SEP Construction Company  
In addition, flown corporate balloon for the following: Pontiac, Burger King, Cadillac, Oldsmobile, Ball Park Franks, Archway Cookies, BFI Industries, Jeep Eagle, WJZY TV, WFMX Radio, Foxcroft Temporaries, Lowe's Hardware, US Postal Service, GMC.  
Flown balloons in Canada, England, Japan, Australia

### **Personal:**

Born in 1960  
Native of Statesville, NC  
Married 25 years Winna C. Parks  
Member, Monticello Methodist Church (Finance committee, Board of Trustees, member of the choir, assistant Sunday school teacher, Chairman of the Church Administration Board.  
Board of director, Ramsey Oaks Condo Association  
Member, Iredell County Home Builders Association  
Chairman, Dale Beatty home project. A project to build a Handicap home for a local National Guardsman who lost both legs in Iraq.  
Member, Iredell County heating and cooling association



Cindy Petrehn Photography  
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**CINDY L. PETREHN**, Balloon Photographer

Cindy Petrehn has been photographing hot air balloons since her family began flying in the 1970's. She is one of six balloon pilots of the eleven Petrehn siblings. Active in both hot air and gas ballooning – photographing, flying and crewing. In March of 2000, Cindy finally set her camera down long enough to get her pilot license. You can find her at events around the world in pursuit of the ultimate balloon photograph.

Working with corporate balloon programs such as IMTS, Curves, CargoLifter, Pepsi Bayer, Yellow Freight and GMC, she has had photographs featured in calendars, magazines and newspapers through out the US. As staff photographer for the BFA publication, Ballooning and an official photographer for the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta for the last 8 years, she has a vast collection of balloon photographs plus thousands of images in her collection.

For over 25 years, she has owned and operates a photography business in Colorado. She is available for corporate, stock, commercial, wedding and family photography and custom video production. She also designs and prints a line of Balloon Photo Cards for the ballooning community.

To see more of her photographs, feel free to check out her web site at [www.cphotovail.com](http://www.cphotovail.com)

