



Balloon Federation Of America



HACD Newsletter April 30, 2020



HACD Special Election Starting May 10

The HACD board would like to alert you to a special election dealing with possible bylaw changes for the HACD. The possible bylaw changes deal with two issues. The HACD Board supports and recommends these changes.

The goal of the first issue is to align the HACD with the BFA bylaws. This first issue would align HACD membership voter eligibility with that of the BFA bylaws.

The second issue gives the Officials Category members the right to vote for pilot at-large board members. The goal is to allow official members of the division to be a larger part of the organization.

When does the election happen? The vote will take place the week of May 10 through the 17th. You will receive an email reminder that the voting is open and after seven days votes will be tallied and you'll be notified of the decision that was made by the membership on the bylaw changes.

To vote in this special election you must have your BFA and HACD memberships renewed by May 1. To vote in the general election these memberships must be renewed by July 6.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to [your regional director](#) or feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason Jones

HACD Chairman
jnsy588@aol.com

2020 US National Championship



Even though several organizers have already cancelled their events for this year, the team in Scottsbluff County, NE is still moving forward with plans for this year's Nationals. Due to the restrictions and the many changes to everyone's lifestyle, the HACD has changed the deadlines for the applications and the registration fee. Applications are now due by June 1 and payment can be deferred until July 1. Competitors are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

All HACD members are invited to participate in the 2020 US National Hot Air Balloon Championship and International Challenge in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska. The HACD Board of Directors and the event organizer, Old West Balloon Fest, have agreed to add an exciting new element to this year's event. The USA and Canada will be running their country's National Championship simultaneously utilizing one consolidated staff. They will be scored as two separate events. An overall Champion including US, Canadian and other International pilots will be awarded a newly designed International Champion's Cup. US, Canadian and any other International guests are eligible for the International Cup.

Our Championship Director, Maury Sullivan, and HACD Board Chairman, Jason Jones, have been working with the organizer developing plans should the event's sponsorship fall on difficult times. We will keep everyone apprised in any possible changes to the prize fund. The competitive event officially starts with on-site pilot registration and the mandatory General Briefing on Sunday, August 9. The organizer and HACD are offering support for two formal training flights to familiarize all with the use of the FAI logger that will be used in this year's competition - Saturday and Sunday, August 8-9. The last competitive flight is scheduled for Saturday morning followed by a mandatory evening glow that will be the final flight operation of the Championship. The closing ceremony, awards, and brunch are scheduled for Sunday morning August 16 allowing all participants to hit the road early for the return home.

More information and registration materials are available at: https://bfa.net/images/Competition/2020_US_Nationals_Pilot_Invitation.pdf

2020 Women's US National Championship



Plans are still moving forward for the Women's Nationals in Brookfield, MO. The deadlines for this event have also been changed. Applications are now due on July 1 and registration fee due by July 15.

All female pilots are invited to participate in the 2020 US Women's National Hot Air Balloon Championship in Brookfield, Missouri. The Balloon Federation of America has licensed the Green Hills Ballooning Inc. as the organizer. The competitive event officially starts with on-site pilot registration and the mandatory General Briefing on Thursday, September 3. The last

competitive flight is scheduled for Monday morning September 7. This flight will be followed by the closing ceremonies and a brunch later that same morning.

The organizer is providing a complimentary hotel room for pilots with check in starting Thursday, September 3 and check out Monday, September 7. Pilots wishing to arrive early may do so at their own expense and may reserve space once acceptance has been confirmed and hotel information is provided. Once you have been accepted in the Championship you will be sent an acceptance confirmation along with your hotel contact information. Propane will be available on the mornings of September 1-3 for pilots arriving early and wishing to fly practice flights. Pilots will be charged a flat fee of \$40 for each fill on these dates. Arrive full; leave full.

The Championship is open to female US BFA/HACD member pilots who are in good standing. For more information and registration materials, visit: <https://www.bfa.net/womens-nationals/women-s-nationals-invitation>

In Memory



Wayne Bond



Jim Birk

Ballooning recently lost two very notable pilots: Wayne Bond and Jim Birk

Many will remember Wayne Bond for the Special Shapes he flew over the years, the Piggy Bank balloons, Little Bees, and Spider Pig. However, Wayne was also involved in competition late 80's and 1990's. Wayne served on the Board of the Competition Division in the 1990's and was active in the early years of the Team Championships.

Jim Birk was known as a competitor, Balloonmeister/Event Director, and friend to many. Jim was also well known on an international level, especially Japan. He was very instrumental in the training of several members of the Beaver Balloon Club in Saga. His events were tough but fair. He always tried to challenge pilots to think.

Our condolences to Wayne and Jim's families. They will both be missed.

Safety Minute

When the time comes for us to all get back to flying, be careful not to push the envelope.

For many of us, COVID-19 has caused a delay to the beginning of flying season. Some haven't had the opportunity to fly yet in 2019. However long of a break you've had from flying, it's important that you allow yourself the time to become proficient again in your aircraft - more than just the three take offs and landings within 90 days for



taking passengers. In analyzing hot air balloon accidents, 48% of accidents involved pilots with fewer than 15 hours in the last 90 days.

A good way to improve your flight proficiency when we get back to flying is to play the game of Balloon Golf! Haven't heard of Balloon Golf? Check it out on [the BFA HACD website](#). A re-designed scorecard will be released soon with fewer holes required per round. The re-design also includes a lapel pin reward based on achievements within the game. Be on the lookout for that!

Until then, stay safe and healthy!

Drone Technology for Weather Data

The HACD is exploring the use of drone technology to measure low level wind speed and direction for use at major competitions as well as for the benefit of our World Team during International competition. The technology is available at a reasonable price and can provide real time information to all event competitors via a phone app, AirData.

We Need Your Input

The HACD Board conducts conference calls when discussion is needed or decisions need to be made. We would like to provide you the opportunity to be a part of these calls. The Board will publish the agenda and the conference call times at least a week prior to the date of the call. Call-ins will be scheduled the first 15 minutes of each conference call. Here is how you can participate:

- Email Jason Jones (jnsy588@aol.com) to be placed on the docket of speakers.
- Each speaker will be allowed to talk for 3 minutes.
- The speaker must speak to a topic on the agenda.

At the end of the speaker's 3 minutes we will go to the next speaker. We hope that this opportunity will be one you will take advantage of and that all members feel they have a voice in the HACD. We encourage you to work with [your regional representative](#) with concerns you have as well.

Email Us!

Ideas, questions, comments, anything: hacd@bfa.net

HACD Board of Directors

Jeff Ashworth	Gary Britton	Ken Draughn	Drew Egerton	Mike Gilligan	Jason Jones
Al Nels	Patrick Nilz	Maury Sullivan	Ken Walter	Ted Watts	Rob Wise