



## *Richmond, VA Accident*

The Balloon Federation of America is saddened by the tragic loss in Virginia on May 9th. Our hearts are with the family and friends of those affected by this event.

Incidents such as this in hot air ballooning are rare, with the vast majority of flights providing much fun and enjoyment for those flying as well as those watching from below. The Balloon Federation of America is passionate about balloon safety, and it is our hope that, once the investigation into the accident is complete, we can learn from this tragedy and share that knowledge with others.

The BFA would like to express appreciation for the excellent support and coordinated efforts of law enforcement, fire, rescue, emergency management specialists, balloonists, dog teams, and volunteers from the several counties involved in the search and recovery process. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Daniel Kirk, Ginny Doyle, and Natalie Lewis.

Memorial information for donations can be found [here](#).

## *BFA's Magazine Back On-Line*

After a long delay, the BFA is happy to announce that the bi-monthly publication "BALLOONING: Journal of the Balloon Federation of America" is once again available for on-line viewing!! BFA members can log-on at <http://www.bfa.net> to access the 2014 issues. Over the next few weeks we plan to upload older issues as well. The viewer should work well with most computers, as well as mobile devices. Please bear with us as there may be a few bugs, but just let us know and we will do our best to make it even better. The site also has a "sample" issue that can be used to encourage others to check out the magazine, and perhaps join our organization. Remember we offer some lower cost family and non-voting memberships that will have access to the online magazine as well!

## *Contributors Wanted*

Do you have a great story to tell about ballooning? Learned a new technique you want to share? Taken a great ballooning photo? We can use you!

BALLOONING Editor Glen Moyer is always interested in material from our members. No need to be a professional writer to submit an article or photo. Feel free to contact Glen at [editor@bfa.net](mailto:editor@bfa.net). If it doesn't quite suit the magazine, we usually have space available here in the Quick Release as well!

## *Smile! Donate to the BFA*

If you are like many people in the US, you use Amazon on a regular basis to buy most anything you can think of. Now you can do your online shopping and donate to the BFA at the same time! Simply use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) rather than the regular website and choose Balloon Federation of America as your charity. 0.5% of all your [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) purchases will go directly back to the BFA! After a certain minimum amount is collected, those funds will be transferred into our accounts where the BFA Board will determine if programs such as the Youth Camps or other educational and safety related projects are deemed to be the most in need of the funds at the time. Just a few simple clicks and no extra work to donate! Of course, if you are interested in donating other amounts, contact the [BFA Office](#) directly!

## *BFA Youth Summer Camps*

Final preparation is underway now for both of our Youth Summer Balloon Camps! Organizers and counselors are refining lesson plans, assigning scholarships and working feverishly to make sure these camps are the best experience possible for our youth campers! These camps would not be possible without the generous support of MANY donors across the country, both privately and through balloon clubs and businesses. Though the time for camper registrations has passed, you can always continue to donate and excess funds are always rolled over into next year's budgets. Learn more at [www.bfacamps.com](http://www.bfacamps.com)

## *Youth Camp Contributions!*

The BFA Youth Program would like to thank the following contributors to the 2014 BFA Youth Summer Camps. If you would like to contribute, visit <http://www.bfacamps.com/> or email the BFA Youth Chair, Mike Shrum, at [mike-shrum@att.net](mailto:mike-shrum@att.net). This is a list of some of those added since last month's issue of the QR:

--Amarillo Balloon Association

--Heart of Dixie Balloon Club

--Rainbow Ryders

--SPAWR Industries

--Hotairballoonist.com

--Balloon Repairs of East Texas (BRET)

-- And many other contributors that have donated through PayPal and various fundraisers!

A more complete list of sponsors for the camps can be found [here](#). Thank you again!

***BFA Treasurer, Maury Sullivan, assures all contributors to the Jr. Balloonist program and camps that all funds are segregated for the sole use of the various programs to benefit Jr. Balloonists. A complete accounting of all donations and fund uses are available through the BFA office. Any excess funds from camp operations and activities are added to a segregated savings account annually.***

## *Ride Operators Division News*

In an effort to collaborate with the NTSB and FAA, the BROD (Balloon Ride Operators Division) is working on the development of Ride Operator Guidelines. It is the hopes of the BROD that this document, crafted by those most familiar with the balloon ride business, will serve as a starting point should the FAA develop new regulations affecting the balloon ride business. Once the draft document is developed it will be circulated for BFA and BROD membership comment before finalizing.

The BROD is also pleased to announce the Board of Directors election for the Northeast and Western Division. The purpose of this Division is to be an active and valuable asset to ballooning relative to ride operators in day to day operations, safety, innovation and assisting the BFA with government relations issues such as recent NTSB recommendations to FAA. Nominations will be gladly accepted until June 10. In order to be voting member of BROD you must have a paid membership by July 7, 2014.

Currently, membership is free until the end of June. Please visit us at [www.balloonoperators.com](http://www.balloonoperators.com) and see the membership benefits, sign up for a free newsletter, and 'like' our [Facebook](#) page.

Come join us and make your opinion and efforts count towards bettering our industry. We encourage all operators large, small, and individual and 'weekend warriors' to get involved. It's time that the industry to band together to make it better and for our voice to be heard.

Help BROD, help you! We need your help! Visit our website at [www.balloonoperators.com](http://www.balloonoperators.com) for more!

## *Gas Division's Logo Revamp*

The Gas Division Board members are pleased to introduce the [new logo](#) for the BFA Gas Division!

The inspiration for the logo was to capture the fact that gas has a long history, symbolized by the netted balloon and a new bright future symbolized by the new quick-fill Padelts design. The new Gas design echoes the BFA logo style and takes the blue theme signifying blue skies and fair weather. The red of the netted balloon is taken from the first Gas logo of years gone by.

## *BFA Elections*

Do you have tons of great ideas on how to improve the sport? Do you sit back and think 'What is the BFA doing? Why hasn't the BFA done this?' Here's is your chance to get involved!!!

Elections will be taking place for the general BFA Board of Directors Board, as well as the HACD, Gas and BROD Boards.

Nominating committees will have until June 10th to report their candidates and ballots will be distributed (via the same electronic system as last year) in late July.

PLEASE make sure you have a current email address on file with the BFA office to receive your pertinent election information! If you are not a member yet, you can still vote if you join prior to July 7th.

The following positions are up for election:

BFA Board – Northeast, Western, 1 At-Large

HACD – Great Lakes, Southwest, 1 At-Large

BROD – Northeast, Western

Gas – 2 Director Positions

Contact your [BFA Board](#), [HACD](#), [BROD](#) or [Gas](#) representatives for more information or to express interest in a position!

## *Crewing Quips*

Hello CREW! Though sometimes overlooked, everyone knows that pilots cannot do much without the crew (some can't even find their keys, glasses or radios much less their way to a target)! The Balloon Federation of America is also not just for pilots. We have several memberships aimed at crew including Family memberships if you already have a full member in the family, or a non-voting crew membership at a reduced cost. Both of those have access to BALLOONING online!

The BFA Board recognizes the importance of crew in our sport, and in our organization. In an effort to provide more crew-focused content, we will be providing some "Crew Quips" for tips, advice and fun stories. If you'd like to submit something, [please let us know!](#)

We'll continue part 2 this month with more Quips from Great Lakes Region Board member Dean Carlton!

### *Crewing Quip – Stop & Park Plan*

Especially if you have several cars with your team, be sure to advise everyone to park along the same side of the road if possible. Sometimes we need to stop and wait on the balloon, or perhaps several balloons are landing on your road. If everyone parks on the same side, vehicles can still get through to retrieve their balloons and traffic can still flow.

## *Crewing Quip – The Department of Redundancy Department*

Before you go flying, check to see if you have a few back up items available; an extra radio in the basket, extra batteries, extra tie-offs, extra gloves, and extra water in the cooler. Perhaps add a small first aid kit (bandages, tape, bug spray, burn relief) in the basket for those long waits in the waterway. A multi-tool in a pouch can be handy in the basket as well as chase vehicle.

## *Less Than One Year Away, Reno 2015!*

The 2015 BFA Convention in Reno, NV is just under one year away! The committees are hard at work and plan to provide a plethora of interesting and educational activities to suit all balloonists. The location of course calls back to our very first convention held there in 1977. If you enjoyed the conventions in Louisville and Des Moines, you know to expect a great time of education and safety as well as social and professional networking.

Plan some extra vacation time around the convention. With room rates as low as \$49, the convention hotel is a real bargain. There is a lot to do and programming will involve unique programs and presentations starting on Thursday, so mark your calendars now!

## *New Members*

The BFA is only as strong as its members and volunteers. We would like to welcome the following new members! Please contact these folks if they are in your area and welcome them into the club!

David Connell, NV

Michael Hebda, OR

Christopher Cliver, TX

Jeff Jacobs, MN

Frederick Niles, MD

Jessica Coleman, CA

Richard Moors, NM

If you are not currently a member, please consider joining today. We would also ask that all members take the time to share the benefits of their membership with their ballooning communities and encourage any non-members or lapsed members to become a part of the organization. The BFA is your one and only national representation of the ballooning community and we need member support!

\*Reminder, the Quick Release can be signed up for by non-members as well so please [SHARE!](#)

## *Corporate Member of the Month*

The BFA is proud to promote its Corporate Members. We showcase a member each month as the Corporate Member of the Month.

May's featured Corporate Member of the Month is **IMC!**

IMC is one of the major suppliers of ballooning insurance and has been a long time supporter of the BFA, offering discounts to members for participating in Sanctioned BFA Safety Seminars. Thank you for your continued support of the BFA! For more information on IMC, visit their website [here](#).

Thank you for your continued support of the BFA! For a complete list and more information on all of our Corporate Members, [click here!](#)

## *New Achievements*

Tim Cloyd, IA – BFA Pilot Achievement Program, Level 6

Gary Brossett, GA – BFA Pilot Achievement Program, Level 1

Tom Mullinax, SC – Commercial LTA Certificate

Christopher Cliver, TX – Private LTA Certificate

Don Dumke, WI – Private LTA Certificate

Daniel Sasser, NC – Private LTA Certificate (Proud Editor's student!!)

## *News from the FAA and FAAST*

### *36th Annual General Aviation Survey*

Hot air balloon owners! Please help us provide accurate information on aviation activity and aviation safety. The 36<sup>th</sup> annual General Aviation and Part 135 Activity Survey (GA Survey) for reporting on calendar year 2013 is underway! The FAA's annual GA Survey is the only source of information on the size and makeup of the general aviation and Part 135 fleets, the number of hours flown, and the reasons people fly. *Hot air balloons are important to these findings to help the FAA understand their activity level among the GA population.*

This data helps to determine funding for infrastructure and service needs, assess the impact of regulatory changes, and measure aviation safety. The GA Survey is also used to prepare safety statistics and calculate the rate of accidents among general aviation aircraft.

Why is your participation important?

*We need your help so that we can prepare accurate estimates of aviation safety.* Data from this survey are used to calculate fatal accident rates for general aviation and Part 135 aircraft.

*We need to hear from everyone!* Please respond, even if you did not fly your aircraft during 2013, you sold it, or the aircraft was damaged.

*Your responses are completely confidential.* Tetra Tech is an independent research firm that conducts the GA Survey on behalf of the FAA. The information provided will be used only for statistical purposes and will not be published or released in any form that would reveal specific information reported by an individually identifiable respondent.

*An abbreviated survey form is available for owners of multiple aircraft.* We know your time is valuable. If you own three or more aircraft and receive several survey forms, please contact us.

Take the survey [here!](#)

## *FAA Announces Second UAS Test Site Operational*

This week, the FAA announced that the second of six unmanned aircraft system (UAS) test sites is now operational. The FAA has granted the University of Alaska Fairbanks a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA) authorizing flights by an Aeryon Scout small UAS for animal surveys at its Pan-Pacific UAS Test Range Complex in Fairbanks. The COA is effective for two years. The team began the wildlife flight operations May 5.

The main purpose of the Alaskan wildlife operation is to demonstrate how a UAS can accurately locate, identify, and count large wild animals, such as caribou, reindeer, musk ox and bear for survey operations requested by the state of Alaska. Flights are taking place at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Large Animal Research Station (LARS).

For more information, visit [FAA.gov](http://FAA.gov) [here](#).

## *How an STC Works*

Thinking about modifying your aircraft but don't know a great deal about the supplemental type certificate (STC) process? Then check out Barry Ballenger's article, "If Clyde and Walter Had Only Known - How STCs are Handling the Growing Changes in Aviation Design," in the May/June 2014 edition of [FAA Safety Briefing](#) (page 16), to learn more and get you started on the path to an upgraded aircraft.

## *FAA Administrator Huerta Launches Personal Appeal to GA*

"The 2014 flying season is here! Are you prepared for the weather this flying season?" asked FAA Administrator Michael Huerta in a message to GA pilots in the kickoff of the FAA's new Got Weather (#GotWx) campaign. The 8 month campaign works with numerous stakeholder groups to drive GA pilots to any resources that might help them deal with weather.

"Weather is the most lethal of all major causes of GA accidents. According to the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), nearly 75% of weather-related accidents are fatal." Huerta explains. The FAA and stakeholder groups are inviting you to get involved via social media by using the #GotWx tag on twitter and helping get the word out. For more information on #GotWx please visit the website [here](#).

**Don't forget the BFA on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@BFABallooning](#)**

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