



## *BFA Elections Results*

The votes are in! Elections for the BFA Board, Gas Division, HACD and BROD concluded on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and the results have been tallied. Thank you to those who took the time and interest to vote in this year's elections, we hope you will consider running again in the future. Special thanks to all of the candidates who volunteered to serve the organization in an active role.

The winners are:

### BFA Board

At Large – Drew Egerton

Western Region – Katie Griggs

Northeast Region – David Tanzer

### Hot Air Competition Division

At Large – Maury Sullivan

Great Lakes Region – Gary Britton

Southwest Region – Mark Trillanes

### Gas Division

Andy Baird

Troy Bradley

## Balloon Ride Operators Division

Jeff Snyder

Congratulations to the winners! We look forward to their active contributions across the organization. Don't forget though, this is YOUR organization! Always feel free to contact any Board member with your questions, comments, concerns and ideas at any time.

## *Thanks for Completing the Survey!*

From BFA President Sam Parks

"I wanted to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey that the BFA recently conducted. Over 1,000 people, Members and Non-Members, provided us with their opinions and ideas on how we can improve this Federation. Thanks to Dawn Chase, Dean Carlton and the entire Membership Committee for the hard work that went into this survey that has provided the BFA Board with a great deal of information and ideas that we can build on. Very soon you will be able to read the highlights of the survey as they will be outlined in a magazine article. The Board is already at work on some of the ideas provided within the survey and at our Albuquerque meeting the Board will develop new strategies for the coming new year with the survey results at the forefront of these plans."

## *58<sup>th</sup> Gordon Bennett*

The 58<sup>th</sup> Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Championship is getting under way now! Live tracking of the race can be done from the official website [HERE](#). If you are new to the race, you can find the rules [here](#).

The USA is well represented once again by the teams of Philip Bryant/Andy Cayton and Mark Sullivan/Cheri White.

You can learn more about the GB race on the official site [here](#). Good luck to Team USA-1 and USA-2! You can also follow Mark and Cheri's [FLY GAS](#) Facebook page!

## *Team USA, Women's Worlds*

The Women's World Championship will take place in Leszno, Poland starting September 8-13<sup>th</sup>. Five ladies from the BFA HACD will attend representing the US. You can follow along with the Women's team on their blog [HERE](#). There are some nicely written bios of each of the ladies and the blog will be updated throughout the championship by the team. You

can also get updates from their Facebook page [here](#). The ladies and their team are beginning to travel now in preparation for the event. Wish them luck, go Team USA!

## *US National Championships*

The 2014 US National Championships is in the books! Once again hosted by the [Great Texas Balloon Race](#) in Longview, TX, competitors and crew from across the country enjoyed excellent hospitality and challenging flying. Despite some mid-week weather issues, a great time was had by all! After three official flights and ten tasks, Johnny Petrehn was crowned the US National Champion for the second time, the first being in 1998. Joe and Rhett Heartsill also claimed podium spots with Chase Donner and Joe Zvada rounding out the top 5. This year the BFA HACD website hosted the [Official Notice Board](#) for the event. There you can still find all of the official scores for overall and each flight and task sheets from throughout the week. Thanks again to Longview and the GTBR for hosting a top-notch National Championship. We very much look forward to another trip there in 2015!

Click [HERE](#) for a nice video edit of the week from BalloonPong!

## *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!

John Schaumburg, MO

Duncan Dunavent , NC

Robb Child, ID

David Stillwell, CA

Noelani Diemicke, NJ

Ellyn Smith, ME

Dawn Wiedow, NJ

Katelyn Salazar, AZ

Meghan Povich, NJ

David Marconi, NJ

Ashley Brune, NV

Elliott Eaton, VA

Maggie Turoff, NY

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!](#)

## *Featured Corporate Member*

The BFA is proud to promote its Corporate Members. We are currently experimenting with some different ideas on how to do that better than simply highlighting one per month. We hope to increase the value of our corporate membership and welcome input from any current or potential members on how to best go about that.

Augusts' featured Corporate Member of the Month is **Tempest Technology Corporation!**

Established in 1987, Tempest offers a wide range of products for industrial and firefighting needs as well as ballooning. Tempest Technology Corporation has established a reputation as a leader and innovator in the air movement industry and continues in that role today. For more information, please visit their website [here](#).

Thanks to Tempest for their continued support of the BFA!

For a complete list and more information on all of our Corporate Members, [click here!](#)

## *New Achievements*

Brian Lynch, CA – Commercial LTA Certificate

Ryan Gantt, FL – Commercial LTA Certificate

Maria Guzzo, CO – Private LTA Certificate

Matt Boussetot, IA – Private LTA Certificate

Rorique Toye, ID – Private LTA Certificate

Ralph Donald Dumke Jr, WI – Private LTA Certificate

Michael Warner, CO – Crew Achievement Awards Program, Level II and III

Mary Warner, CO – Crew Achievement Awards Program, Level I

Congratulations on your achievements from the BFA! If you see any of these folks around, congratulate them for taking another step in their ballooning endeavors! If you want to find out more, see our website about the [Pilot](#) and [Crew](#) Achievement Awards Programs.

## *Meet With Us in Albuquerque*

One of the major cornerstones of the ballooning season is upon us once again. The Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta runs October 4th through the 12th this year. As always, the event promises massive group ascensions, a plethora of special shapes, glows, dawn patrols, competitions and more. In addition to all the ballooning and tailgating fun, the BFA will be holding a meeting for the Board as well as our Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Directors will meet upstairs in the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum on Thursday, October 2nd at 8:00 am and the meeting will run most of the day. The agenda covers a wide variety of topics from financials and committee reports to current issues and new ideas. At the end of the day, the new Board members will be officially welcomed and the year's officers will be selected.

On Saturday, October 4th at 1:00 pm, please come join us at The Landing on Fiesta field for the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Directors will be present to provide a short recap of some of the most pressing issues in the organization, present the newly elected officers and present some very special awards. Look for more details coming soon. Everyone is welcome so please join us!

## *Convention, Reno 2015*

We are busy making plans for the 2015 BFA National Convention, April 16-19, 2015.

We have a great list of speakers lined up for you. During the 2015 convention educational sessions will feature BFA core safety seminar subjects, as well as special topics. i.e. concerns for ride operators, competition, gas ballooning, homebuilding, junior balloonist, and some fun and informational topics just for fun too. We will also hold a one day safety seminar during the convention that will satisfy all your insurance needs and give you the tools you need to be a safer balloonist.

The Trade Show is a fantastic place to make new business contacts, display new products and even meet up with old friends. Every three years balloonists from around the country gather at the BFA national convention to learn about the latest products and services you have to offer. The 2015 Spirit of the West BFA Convention is your opportunity to make new friends and garner new business relationships. Reserve a spot in the Trade Show today.

For the 2015 BFA Convention, there are Sponsorship Packages available as well. Each of these sponsorships is tailored to provide your company with the most exposure during the convention, and give you the flexibility of providing access to various Conference events/activities to some of your customers and staff.

To find out more please visit the convention website at: [www.bfaconvention.com](http://www.bfaconvention.com)

Or Contact us at: [info@bfaconvention.com](mailto:info@bfaconvention.com)

## *Crewing Quips*

Hello CREW! This segment of the QR is just for you! We'd like to encourage any of you some tips or tricks to share to please [send them in](#).

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. This month's Crew Quips are once again submitted by BFA Board Secretary Dean Carton!

### *CQ #1 - What not to wear*

It's hot out there, which changes our ballooning apparel. However, safety must trump fashion. That retrieve through the tall grass with the poison ivy while wearing your shorts will remind you to wear long pants next time. Nylon shirts can melt if too close to the flame and cause serious burns. Open toed shoes or sandals are not a good idea either. If you have long hair, tie it back - especially around the fan. Sunblock and bug spray (keep them in your truck) and a hat can be very helpful. Dress for success (and safety)!

## *CQ #2 - Stock the truck*

A rainy day is a good time to check what you carry in your vehicle. A moderate non-expired first aid kit (with Band-Aids), flashlight, tow strap, bug spray, maps, sunscreen, lots of gloves, and helium (with pibals) should be in there. Also a tank full of fuel is a good idea BEFORE the flight. A notebook showing where everything is located, important phone numbers, and other paper-based information is also a good idea.

## *Safety Seminar Online*

Did you miss out on our Online Seminar in the winter? Now you can catch all of those archived presentations thanks to BFA.net! For those who need to complete their seminars for insurance discounts, or for those members who would just like to expand their knowledge, the videos are available for you to watch on YOUR schedule.

To make it easier to use, the seminar is broken into segments that can be watched by any BFA member for FREE! You MUST log-on before accessing the 'Education and Training' tab, or go directly to the [video page](#). However in order to be submitted to insurance, you must register at Seminar Registration in order to register and pay the registration fee.

Click here to go to the [Seminar Webinar Page](#) once you are logged in!

## *Coming Soon....*

Be on the lookout for the long awaited rollout of the new BFA website! The website development committee has been hard at work for quite some time and is committed to improving the overall user experience. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work out the details. Look for more information about the release in an upcoming issue...