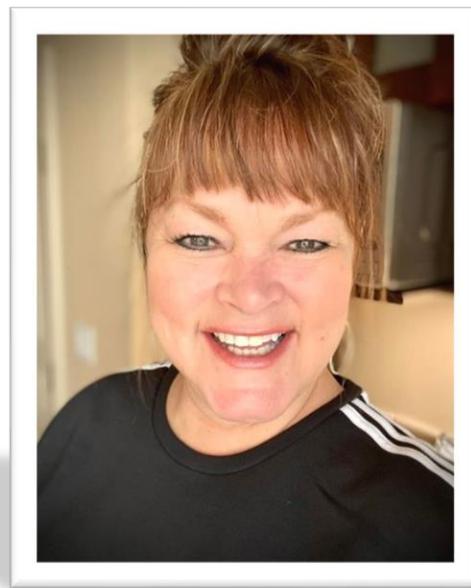


# The Quick Release



## Welcome

Please welcome Denise Day as our new Operations Manager!  
Jill Jacobson is going on to the adventure of retirement, we are happy for Jill and wish her the very best.  
We are excited to have Denise.



With the continuing war in Ukraine, the BFA has learned that at least two Ukrainian balloonists who qualified to attend the coming World Championships, have been involved in fighting for the freedom of Ukraine, with at least one of them directly involved in deterring the Russian advance by parking his vehicle, marked with balloon stickers, in the path of advancing convoys.

In addition, NAA and FAI have acted against two member countries, Russia, and Belarus, by removing them from their memberships and removing approval for events and member involvement in international sporting activities. Our US delegation is in Rome now attending their normally scheduled FAI, CIA coordination meetings and this subject will be a major part of their agenda.

*From AI Nels: This is a compassionate effort of individual balloonists to support the pilots representing Ukraine at the upcoming Worlds. The rules, FAI and organizers do not provide any options for hardship situations and as most of you know, hardships become extremely difficult to define and set thresholds. US representatives at the ongoing FAI meeting advocated for some relief for the Ukraine pilots and were told it was not possible. It was suggested a grass roots effort to provide financial support to address the entry fees. In addition, they encouraged a posting to allow others of similar mind to provide financial support. The BFA was asked if they would be the fiscal agent to collect donations and use their contacts to send it to the organizers of the Worlds, they kindly agreed.*

*If you would like to support the cause, any donation will be appreciated. In any case, please keep our fellow aeronauts in your thoughts and prayers as they fight for their freedom. <https://bfa.net/ukrainian-pilot-support>*

# BFA Symposium Draws Near



## symposium

[sim'pōzēəm]

*a drinking party or convivial discussion, especially as held in ancient Greece after a banquet.*

This definition seems to still fit the upcoming Balloon Event Symposium in Topeka, KS. While a long way from ancient Greece, it's designed to be an interactive exchange of ideas for the betterment of balloon event organizers. I've frequently said the best ideas are those stolen from others. We have two days jam-packed with presentations from very experienced hot air balloon event planners. The Wednesday evening cocktail party will also provide many networking opportunities. Special thanks goes out to the folks from Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta for providing the major sponsorship of the party. Be sure to say thanks to Paul, Sam, and Jennifer when you see them.

You can view the detailed schedule for the Symposium showing each topic and presenter by visiting the BFA web site using this link [Event Symposium - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](http://bfa.net). Here is a summary of topics to be presented.

**What Works for Us:** a discussion of what two successful events, big and small, have found to work best

**Crisis management:** a discussion of the critical elements of emergency response and the media frenzy that follows

**Canceling or Postponing an Event:** considerations and consequences

**Working with the FAA:** Certificates of Authorization and Waiver – do I need one and who prepares?

**Event Insurance:** what's needed vs recommended and how safe do I feel?

**Sponsorships and the Selling of a Title Sponsor:** how to attract sponsors at all levels and how to land the big one

**Pilot Recruitment:** a discussion of recruitment methods and screening

**Event Officials and Staffing:** review of key roles and why they are important to the organizer

**Risk Management and Mitigation:** a review of legal issues, pilot, and passenger waivers

**Finances and Budget:** sample budgets, cost per balloon and in-kind support

**Turnkey Operators:** presentations by three operators

**Event Timing, Logistics, Volunteers, and Infrastructure:** a review and discussion of major planning considerations

Two sessions for experienced and aspiring **Balloonmeisters and Safety Officers** will also be available as breakout sessions

For the convivial part, your registration includes breakfast each morning, morning and afternoon breaks with refreshments and the 'Fiesta' cocktail party with complimentary bar and hors d'oeuvres.

Lunch is available at the hotel restaurant, and we have arranged for a food truck each day to provide plenty of variety at a good price. Hope to see you in Topeka next month.



With only weeks until the Balloon Federation of America's National Convention we have a list of top-notch speakers and topics. For a complete schedule of Speakers and the topics please follow this link: <https://bfa.net/images/Convention/2022%20Convention%20Schedule.pdf>

If you have not made your reservations at the host hotel please contact, Hotel Topeka at City Center, the special room rate will not be available after March 18. A Shuttle is available between the Kansas City International Airport and the host hotel.

The following link allows you to register for the convention and view details.

[Convention 2022 - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](https://bfa.net)

Full registration receives Safety Seminar Credit for attending the appropriate Speaking Sessions, Receptions Thursday and Friday evenings, Breakfast Friday and Saturday, Trade Show and Saturday evening Banquet.

Hope to see you in Topeka

Tim Cloyd

Chairman

### A FAR (OFF) Question

**Question:** When planning a flight, using the graphical forecast for aviation (GFA) website, how many "tabs" are available to gather information for flight planning?

[www.aviationweather.gov/gfa](http://www.aviationweather.gov/gfa)

**HINT:** AIM Chapter 7, Section 1, Part 4 (b)(1)

### Last Month's Question & Answer: AIM Chapter 8, Section 1, Part i

**Q:** In the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM)  
What does the acronym "IM SAFE" mean?

**Answer:** **I:** Illness  
**M:** Medication  
**S:** Stress  
**A:** Alcohol  
**F:** Fatigue  
**E:** Emotion

**See the AIM for more details on each.**

**REGISTER NOW**



## CAMP DATES ANNOUNCED

**Southeastern Balloon Camp in Cordele, GA**

June 21-26, 2022

**Rio Grande Balloon Camp in Albuquerque, NM**

July 9-14, 2022

**DinahSOAR BFA Youth Camp in Vernal, UT**

August 26-28, 2022

Are you interested in donating to the Youth Program? In Memorial of someone or in general please follow this link below. All donations qualify as a tax-deduction as the BFA is a 501c3 Not for profit organization. [Memorial Contributions - Balloons Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](https://www.bfa.net)

If you have any questions, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p84yey7> or Email: [youthprograms@bfa.net](mailto:youthprograms@bfa.net)

## US Team Championship

The US Team Championship is returning to Shreveport, LA and the schedule has been modified for the convenience of the competitors. Many team competitors will be joining us from GTBR in Longview, TX so we have moved the annual Guns & Grub event hosted by the Harwell's at Blue Bird Airport to Sunday evening, June 19. We'll also have staff available at the party to register pilots desiring to participate in the practice flight scheduled for Monday morning.

Another change we've implemented is concluding on Saturday morning June 25 allowing more time to finalize scoring and tabulate final results. It also allows pilots to leave early Sunday morning reducing their time away from work or family.

During the HACD open member meeting at Fiesta several pilots indicated they were looking for mentorship. The desire to work with more experienced pilots and learn from their years of experience. The Team Championship provides just that opportunity. The field has been expanded this year and more emphasis has been placed on the spirit of team competition. The team concept provides an incredibly unique opportunity to learn in a much less stressful environment. In addition to the benefits of working as a team each flight is debriefed with insights from some of the very best US competitors. It's time to call your flying buddies and submit your application. The complete online invitation and pilot application are available using this link [2022 US Team National Hot Air Balloon Championship Application \(cognitofirms.com\)](https://cognitofirms.com).

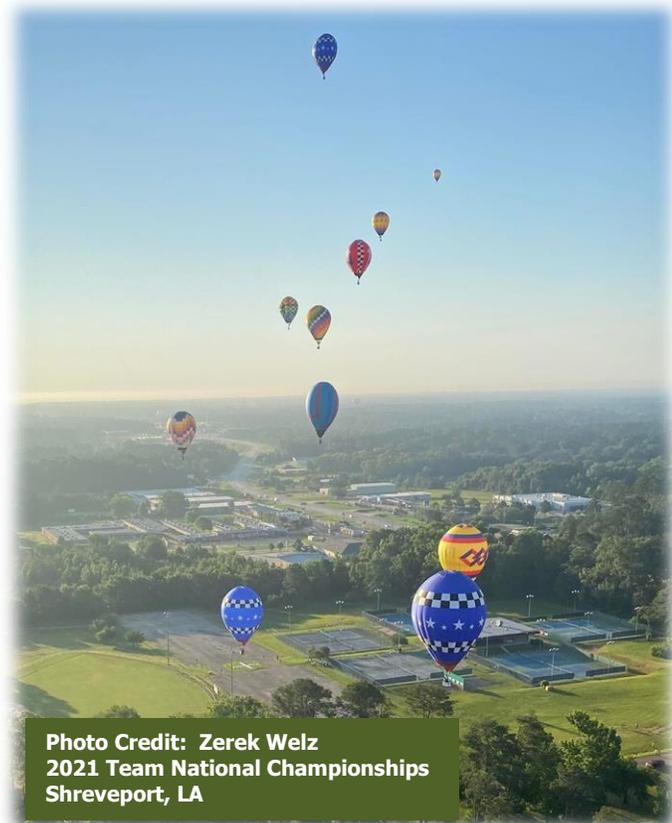
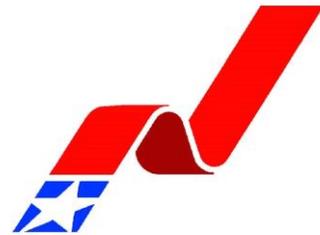


Photo Credit: Zerek Welz  
2021 Team National Championships  
Shreveport, LA

# BFA Director's Corner



**From:**  
**Kent Barnes**  
**Western Region Director**

Greetings from the Western Region, I want to take a few moments and remind all of us, who the BFA is and what we do for our members. The BFA and our members represent everyone with an interest or a stake in hot air and gas ballooning. This includes pilots, crewmembers, and all enthusiasts of ballooning.

The BFA communicates with our members with Ballooning Magazine, Quick Release monthly newsletter, social media postings on Facebook and Instagram as well as direct e-mail. This keeps the BFA, and its membership informed regarding regulatory issues, airspace rights, safety concerns and many more items that are a benefit to all involved in our sport or business

In addition to ongoing communication to the membership the BFA has working efforts in the following areas:

- The BFA represents the US on the international Fédération Aéronautique Internationale World Air Sports Federation.
- Liaison with FAA and other federal agencies on regulations and actions that affect ballooning.
- Organizing, promoting, and conducting Hot Air Competitions across the US.
- Professional Ride Operator's Division (PRO) supporting commercial balloon ride operators.
- Pilot and Crew achievement programs to advance and recognize skill development.
- Safety Seminars to educate and provide ongoing training.

Of course, one of our most important programs is the BFA's Youth programs and our Junior Balloonists Camps. This year we are offering the traditional week-long sleep over camps and an event camp.

- Southeastern Balloon Camp  
Cordele, Georgia  
June 21-26, 2022
- Rio Grande Balloon Camp  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
July 9-14, 2022
- DinahSOAR BFA Youth Event Camp  
Vernal, Utah  
August 26-28, 2022

For more information about the Youth Camps and how to sign up please go to the BFA web page at <https://bfa.net/divisions/junior-balloonists>

Lastly, we have several great balloon festivals in the Western Region. If you find yourself out here, please reach out to one of the festival organizers or give me a call and I would be happy to make comments and suggestions.

# Don't Forget.....



**Spring is upon us and flying season will soon begin in most of the country, balloon events will become part of our weekly plans. Maintenance is not just for the balloon equipment.**

## Trailer Maintenance

Our trailers are just as important as the balloon to make sure they are ready for flying season. Trailers are often overlooked because they are fairly maintenance-free however are one of the most difficult repairs on the side of the road. A few simple tasks can help prevent issues; annually packing the bearings on the trailer, this can be done at home or your local trailer sales and repair shop can do it for you, checking tire pressure and lug nuts are torqued properly, a quick stop at a local tire shop to check tire pressure and torque if you aren't comfortable doing it yourself. Taking time to do these tasks saves time and damage an issue will cost you later. Not to mention keeping you safe on the road.

Trailer tires need to be a radial, at least a "C" range. An easy way to tell the load range for "C" is 50 psi and load range "D" is 65 psi. Proper tire pressure is key, and tires should be less than three (3) years old. (See photo for example to know tire age).

Remember all the BFA Board Members have other jobs, and we try to bring that knowledge to the members to always be there to help. Please reach out if you need assistance.

By: Tom Warren, Southeast Region Director  
ASE Master Truck Technician  
ASE Master School Bus Tech  
ASE Master Equipment Tech  
ASE Master Parts  
T and A Truck Specialist Owner  
LTA Commercial Pilot



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