



The Quick Release

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Newsletter for the Balloon Federation of America



Update on Class II Medicals

There is now a medical application option for "Balloon Only." It was instituted late in 2023. While this balloon only medical exists, the Aeromedical management is still working on the guidance that AMEs will use to determine whether the medical may be issued immediately or if items will still need to be deferred to Aeromedical for review and issuance.

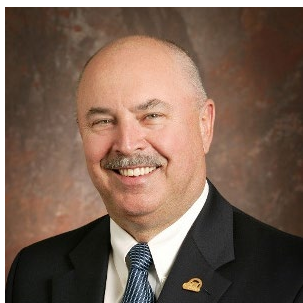
What this means for pilots wanting to obtain their second class medical for commercial operations in lighter than air aircraft, is that more tolerance will be made available to the AME when LTA pilots apply for their second class medical. Certain medical item currently deferred for review or more medical information, may be added to the CACI list of items allowing immediate issuance of the medical by the AME.

In a recent conversation with the aeromedical board has established that there will be ongoing development in the area of determining which physical or other medical items may be allowed for immediate issuance by the AME directly, without need for deferral to a review panel.

The BFA is involved almost daily in this process with the Federal Air Surgeon and her staff to ensure that LTA pilots have every opportunity to obtain a second class medical, enabling them to use their commercial privileges.

More information on the guidance will be forthcoming when available.

Pat
BFA President



2024 Camp Dates Announced!!

Southeastern Youth Camp June 18-23, 2024 – Georgia

High Sierra Camp – July 13-18, 2024 – Nevada

Spirit of Boise Classic Youth Day Camp
Aug 31, 2024 – Idaho

Watch for the registration to open later this
spring!

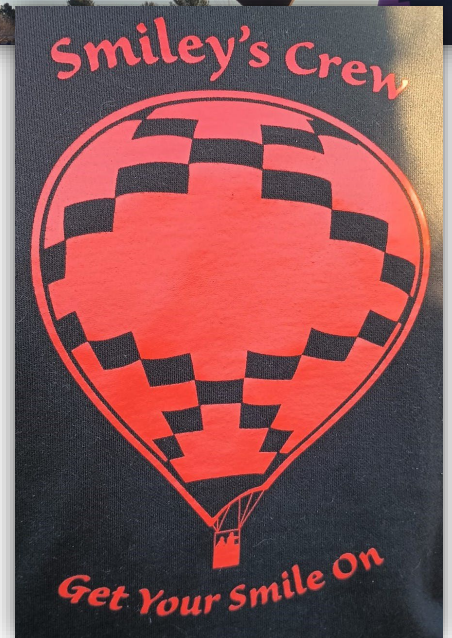


Photo Credit: Top Left & Bottom Left: Wanda Helms
Center: Stephen Harris
Top Right: Cyri Dixon
Bottom Right: Kathie Franklin

Upcoming Events

Find a list of events or do not forget to send your event information to appear on the list. To list your event please email details to bfaoffice@bfa.net

[Festivals - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](http://Festivals-Balloon-Federation-of-America-bfa.net)



Photo Credit:

Top Left & Bottom Right: The grandkids helping... Paul Olguin

Top Right: Getting ready for the Havasu event to begin, Diana Moore

Bottom left: Happy New Year! Shane Shipman





Train a student

**By Scott McClinton
BFA At-Large Director and Treasurer**

Over the years I have been asked to train students, and I looked for excuse not to and tried to politely decline. Last year I said yes, and I am glad I did, and was rewarded with my first student receiving their certificate last month.

I resisted the notion of training because I was hesitant to take the time to put together lesson plans, look for resources, etc. but most of all, I didn't want to learn the FARs and how to read a sectional without a guide! On top of that I thought "now I actually have to be able to demonstrate level flight" ahhhh!! Due to a delay in receiving my 2nd Class Medical I had a gap in my commercial flying, so what better way to continue to log hours and stay in the air. This is a great way for pilots, especially older pilots, to give back to our sport and help to transfer their knowledge to the next generation of our sport.

Where do you start? I started by talking to other pilots who are known to train students. I also highly recommend having your students try to attend a ground school to prepare for their written exam, this has proven to be more effective and efficient than pushing the student to do it on their own. Albuquerque's AAAA and Bill Smith (the Balloon Society of Kentucky (BSOK)) usually offer one each year, and I have seen one offered by the Carolinas Balloon Association (CBA) recently as well. After this I used the guidance from the other instructors and developed a flight plan for each lesson not only to keep the student on track, but also to keep me on track. I had a written plan for each lesson and at the end of each flight I took notes reflecting how the student performed the task and any need for future training on any of the topics during the lesson.

BFA President Pat Cannon has hosted an Instructor Education weekend class and is currently planning more of the classes in the future based on demand, and this is a great tool to get an instructor started. After the initial lesson, I had the student perform all of the flight preparation, flight planning, and have them watch pibals and confirm the launch locations, flight paths, and anticipated landing areas. This allows the student to learn about PZs in the flight area, topographical features in the flight path, and it starts to teach them how to realize and react, in the event the flight does not progress as planned. After the first couple of lessons, I have the students begin to watch the weather on their own for future flight windows, recruit their own crew, and then prepare their equipment and ready everything needed to fly and eventually I just showed up!

At the end of a lesson, I give the students homework to prepare for the next lesson and keep them on track. When we leave the shop to start the lesson, I have short practical topics to review on the drive to the launch site, such as required documents, required instruments, weight and balance calculations and other short practical topics to focus them on the flight. This is also a good point to help the student develop their own pre-flight and flight checklist. Then comes the big moment that I decided to solo my student, the moment of truth if you will. On a summer evening we planned the flight, looked at the weather, he had everything prepared and then we launched. Once in the air the winds were faster than planned, got a little faster during the flight, didn't have the planned flight path, and in the end, we flew 13 miles in 55 minutes. This evening I learned something too. To bring this topic full circle why did I take on a student, and more importantly why should you?? Standing here today my answer is easy, it made me a better pilot and it helped me to sharpen my planning skills. And it is very rewarding to see someone join the sport we all love!



Crew Achievement

2023 was a great year for the CAAP Awards

Level I – Apprentice Crew

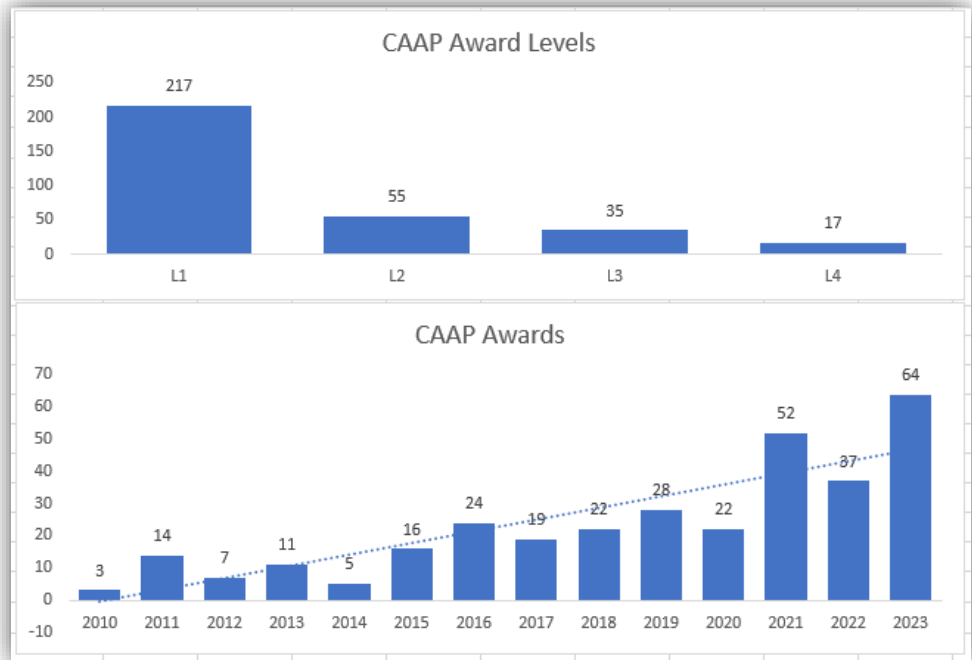
Jo Lin Gowing	Texas
Karen Detka	New Hampshire
Robert Detka	New Hampshire
Carol Cook	Washington
Dave Cook	Washington
Wayne Denman	Washington
Drew Rogers	Washington
Glyn Gowning	Texas
Debi Hergert	Washington
Greg Knowles	Washington
Tammy Locati	Washington
Ethan Locati	Washington
Gary Southern	Washington
Russ White	Washington

Level III – Crew Chief

Thomas Rumph	Florida
Anthony Petitti	Ohio

Level IV – Master Crew Chief

Sean Eakin	Wisconsin
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For more information in participating in the PAAP or the CAAP

Go to: www.bfa.net under the education tab.

Ed Yost Master Pilot 2023 Recipients

Allen Anderson	Neveda
John Bagwell	Arizona
Joe Calabrette	Texas
Roger Clark	South Carolina
Bob Dicks	Pennsylvania
Albert B Hicks	Georgia
Alan Jones	Pennsylvania
Dave Koenig	Wisconsin
Terry Metzger	Kentucky
Koh Murai	Oregon
Bert Padelt	Pennsylvania
Bob Pulski	Louisiana
Kathy Reineke	Illinois
Mark Shilling	Vermont
Mark Sullivan	New Mexico
William "Bill" Whidden	Florida
Jim Wolters	Missouri





WELCOME new members

Daryl Tatum	Canton, GA	Napa Valley Balloons	Yountville, CA
Andrew Austin	Kalamazoo, MI	Balloons Above the Valley	Yountville, CA
Danielle DePrimo	Atlanta, GA	Julie Keinath	Millington, MI
Christopher Mitzak	Easton, PA	Bob Waddell	Gelenm, NH
Julie Mullen	Reno, NV	Josh Dalbey	Littleton, CO
Robert Rench	Lowell, IN	Micah Ernest	Farmington, NM
David Odom	Gainseville, GA	Trevor Matejowsky	Dallas, TX
Craig Elliott	Holly, MI	Tristin Jameson	Las Cruces, NM
Patti Schwontkowski	Fox River Grove, IL	Jeff Rogers	Cochester, VT
Baxton Young	Collierville, TN	Brent Baird	GA
Marshall Gower	Town Creek, AL	William Wadsworth	Albuquerque, NM
Caleb Sokovich	Madison, WI	Ken Nead	Rio Rancho, NM
Landon Kohtz	Michigan	Sean Richardson	North Carolina
Patrick Routier	Massachusetts	Kevin Rench	Indiana
David Frackman	New York	Robert Olmstead	Vermont
Greg Tracek		Colin Wright	Greater London
Joe Ritchie	Arkansas	Jo Gowling	Texas
Eric Martens	Iowa		

New Corporate Members



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