



The Quick Release

August
2024

Newsletter for the Balloon Federation of America

Scott Appelman



It is with great sadness that we learned of the untimely passing of our friend Scott Appelman. Scott was a respected and valuable ally of the Balloon Federation of America. Most recently he served his fellow balloonists as a member of the BFA's Call to Action Committee. There he worked on a variety of projects including safety recommendations in the aftermath of the tragic ballooning accident in Lockhart, Texas. He was also instrumental in working with the FAA to initiate a program whereby, through a Letter of Authorization, balloons are allowed to fly in controlled Class C airspace without ADS-B. Some years earlier, Scott urged the BFA to organize a Professional Ride Operators division and then became its first director. That division today still uses the document he developed, the Envelope of Safety, as PRO's guide to operating a ride business. Scott's passion for safety and professionalism, best exhibited through his company, Rainbow Ryders, is an example that balloonists nationwide would do well to adopt.

We will miss Scott and his determined leadership. He will always be remembered by the BFA as an inspiration and a driving force in our effort to better the sport of ballooning.

We would like to extend our condolences to Heather and their entire family for their loss.





There is still time to cast your vote!

Voting will end on August 26, 2024, at 10:00pm Central time.

Candidate information can be found here:

<https://www.bfa.net/index.php?view=article&id=1928:election-2024-candidates&catid=88888979>

To vote members must have been a member in good standing as of July 8th, 2024.

If you did not receive the election email please contact Denise at bfaoffice@office.bfa.net or Scott Wooge at scott.wooge@gmail.com

From the President...

The elections of new board members are about complete, and we will soon announce the results. The BFA board, along with its committee members are the backbone of our ongoing efforts to make ballooning better and safer. Our future depends on our communication and iteration with not only our members, but with all balloonists. For that reason, we will make an effort through our new website, to make more educational activities available, not only to pilots, but to crew and we will include informational access to anyone that wishes to join as a guest. The BFA should be about providing ballooning education on numerous levels and not only to our pilots and members. Of course, there will still be sections of the site that will be reserved for members, but our intent is to expand the information base to all that are interested. Stay tuned for more information as we develop the new site.

Pat Cannon
BFA President



Photo Credit: Kelli Grantham
Hot Springs, South Dakota



News from the BFA Membership Committee

Some of you may have noticed the BFA website was off-line for a short period of time for a bit for maintenance, hopefully you were not inconvenienced. While our team was performing required maintenance, we received upgraded tools for the BFA.net Website. One of the upgrades is the tools in which we manage Membership Subscriptions and the "Add On" options. We are currently reviewing the upgraded website tools to determine how we might provide a more streamlined and efficient Membership Subscription process for our BFA members. Our goal is to have the enhancements defined and a plan to implement them before the end of the year, please stay tuned for updates on this activity!

The BFA Membership Committee has been exploring strategies to include more of the people who contribute to our Ballooning Community. Our objective is to better serve our community and increase membership participation. The folks we critically rely upon, our balloon crew, will be receiving some attention with the following changes:

The BFA Balloon Magazine will begin publishing articles spotlighting Balloon Crew members. A questionnaire will be provided to the Balloon Crew candidate so Glen Moyer, our BFA Magazine Chief Editor, can review, select and publish some wonderful articles spotlighting the amazing contributions and stories from our Balloon Crew. I am truly excited about reading some of the stories these interesting and amazing folks have to tell!

Our BFA Website has been extremely focused on providing information and content for Pilots. We are looking to expand our focus to include content specifically for Balloon Crew. It is a necessary improvement if we are to better include and serve the people who make up our Ballooning community.

If you have ideas about promoting Balloon Crew Membership and products and services the BFA may provide, please feel free to contact your BFA Director, or you can reach out to the BFA Membership Committee Director, [Jason Jones](#), or myself [Larry Simburger](#).

Blue Skies and Soft Landings,
Larry Simburger
BFA Director Western Region

The 2024 Balloon Camps were a huge success! Their success cannot be accomplished without all of the volunteers, sponsors and donors. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those that contribute to the camp program. Supporting the camps supports the future of the sport of ballooning.

Thank you for your support!



To Donate:



2024 BFA Online Continuing Education Safety Seminar

BFA members interested in watching for credit can login and watch now.

COST: Pilots \$60. Crew \$35.

[2024 Online Seminar - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](#)

BFA members wishing to watch for non-credit can log in and watch for free.

Spotlight

on the Crew:



With a desire to shed more light on and bring recognition to the hardworking balloon crew members across the country, Ballooning Journal had launched a new regular series report called "Spotlight on the Crew." In each issue of the magazine one and sometimes two persons who enjoy crewing for hot air and/or gas balloons will be profiled in this new series. You will learn what attracted them to the sport of ballooning, favorite events/places to crew, most challenging aspects of crewing, how they keep motivated, why they would encourage others to join the sport and more. The first of this series can be seen in the current (July/August 2024) issue of the magazine.

Any crew person with an interest in sharing their profile can reach out to Ballooning's Editor, Glen Moyer (editor@bfa.net) or Western Region Director Larry Simburger (lsimburger@gmail.com) for consideration . You will be asked to complete and return a simple questionnaire and a couple of photos. Profiles are selected for publication at random by the editor. As the magazine is bi-monthly there may be some passage of time between submission and publication. Not all submissions may see publications.

Questions? Contact Glen Moyer, Editor via email – editor@bfa.net.



The FAA has published new Practical Test Standards/PTS to be used for both Private and Commercial LTA Checkrides. The old Private and Commercial PTS with effective dates of 1996 and 1997 are no longer current.

Summary of changes: Updated References to current documents and practices, mainly in the Introduction Sections. There are very few changes in Lighter-Than-Air Balloon Sections. But you need to be using these for your checkrides NOW!

If you want more details or a list of all the changes/enhancements (Page 3 on each new PTS), use the links below:

----- Effective May 31, 2024 -----

Private Pilot LTA PTS: November 2023

Document #: FAA-S-8081-17A

https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acs/private_lta_pts_17.pdf

LTA Balloon: Only pages 1-33 are needed

----- Effective May 31, 2024 -----

Commercial Pilot LTA PTS: November 2023

Document #: FAA-S-8081-18A

https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/acs/commercial_lta_pts_18.pdf

LTA Balloon: Only pages 1-38 are needed



Be an International Ballooning Ambassador Cheer on the Teams at World HABC in Hungary

Debbie Spaeth (USA), Chair CIA Public & Media Relations SubComm

The 25th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Szeged, Hungary September 8th -14th, 2024

Follow the excitement via the FAI Ballooning (CIA) social media links to this gathering of the World's Top Competitors.

Visit the event website to learn more about Szeged and the Championship locale:

[25th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship \(worlds2024.eu\)](https://worlds2024.eu)

Defending his title will be Stefan Zeberli (Switz), winner of the 24th World HAB Championship in Slovenia. Stefan will be facing six former World Hot Air Balloon Champions including David Bareford (UK), Yudai Fujita (Japan), Nick Donner (USA), Rhett Heartsill (USA), Joe Heartsill (USA) and Johnny Petrehn (USA).

It will be a challenging event with pilots from +30 countries vying to be the next World Champion. Rounding out the USA Team will be top USA Pilots including Chase Donner, Lucas Heartsill, Jeremy Rubin, Cameron Wall, Bruce Wood and Joe Zvada.

Keep up with the competition 24/7 to see task information, competition results and standings via WatchMeFly: [WatchMeFly | Event](#)

The FAI Ballooning Commission (CIA) has partnered with the Hungarian Videographer for the Worlds and will be sharing daily videos and news via social media and the CIA news page: <https://fai.org/page/cia-news>.

Be an International Ballooning Ambassador by joining in:

- Follow, Like & Share posts from the FAI Ballooning Facebook page. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/FAIBallooning/about>
- If you are posting something related to the Worlds in Szeged, use the hashtags: #WHABC2024, #WorldsOnAir, #FAIBallooning, #airsports, #Szeged, #Hungary
- FAI YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@FAIBallooning>

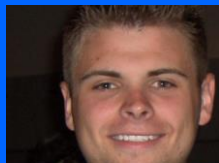
To learn more about Hungary and Ballooning, check out these stories already on the FAI Ballooning News page:

- **The world's best balloonists to compete in Hungary this September.**
<https://fai.org/news/25th-fai-world-hot-air-balloon-championships-Hungary-2024?type=node&id=24299>
- **Hungarian Balloon Museum: Exploring the Legacy of Hot Air Ballooning: The Hungarian Experience**
<https://fai.org/news/exploring-legacy-hot-air-ballooning-hungarian-experience?type=node&id=24299>

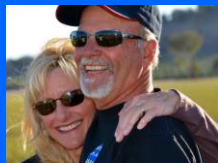
The 25th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship Team USA



CHASE DONNER
UNITED STATES



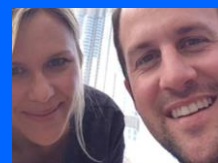
NICK DONNER
UNITED STATES



JOE HEARTSILL
UNITED STATES



LUCAS HEARTSILL
UNITED STATES



RHETT HEARTSILL
UNITED STATES



JOHNNY PETREHN
UNITED STATES



JEREMY RUBIN
UNITED STATES



CAMERON WALL
UNITED STATES



BRUCE WOOD
UNITED STATES



JOE ZVADA
UNITED STATES



The BFA National Convention will be held in Dayton, OH on March 28-29, 2025, at the Dayton Convention Center. Penny Suttle, BFA Director Great Lakes Region states that planning is moving along, and the committee is working towards booking speakers and trade show vendors.

Dayton, Ohio is easily accessible from I75 or I70. The Dayton Convention Center is very convenient with a parking garage and walkway to the center itself. The University Marriott is only about a mile from the convention center with ample parking available.

Dayton International Airport (DAY) is only 15 miles to the north and is served by nine airlines including American, United, Allegiant and Delta. Major car rental companies are also located at DAY. The Cincinnati Airport (CVG) also services the area and is about an hour south of Dayton.

The BFA has blocked rooms at a rate of \$155/night starting Thurs March 25th thru Sat. March 29th. A Welcome Reception will be held at the National Museum of the US Air Force Thursday evening.

More information and pricing will be available as details and speakers are confirmed. Plan to join us in Dayton, OH March 28-29, 2025, for the BFA National Convention.

Both the Convention and the Symposium are on Facebook please visit their pages for more details.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/3QERfkXdSXyYGG8a/?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

<https://www.facebook.com/ballooneventsymposium?mibextid=LQQJ4d>



Photo credit: Dan Grant
Letchworth State Park in New York



Photo credit: Brock Boehm
Findlay, OH

Achievements



2024 Women's U.S. Nationals

1st Place Amanda Brodbeck
2nd Place Sanne Haarhuis
3rd Place Amy Gneiting



2024 U.S. Nationals

1st Place Joe Zvada
2nd Place Corey Bloom
3rd Place Nick Donner



Dr. Bill Bussey was presented with the Balloon Federation of America's Ambassador Award by BFA President, Pat Cannon



Please visit [Awards - Balloon Federation of America \(bfa.net\)](https://bfa.net) for a list of all awards and how to make a nomination.





Crew Achievement

Level II – Senior Crew

**Bailey Hammett
Kim Fredrick
Monica Henao**

*For more information in participating in the PAAP or the CAAP
Go to: www.bfa.net under the education tab.*

WELCOME
new members



• Amy Spowart	District of Columbia	Andromeda McClenahan	New Mexico
• Bennett Schwontkowski	Illinois	Carl Wilson	Florida
• Christine Ratcliffe	Arizona	Christopher Sparks	Florida
• David Empey	Colorado	Dawn Foiles	South Dakota
• Derek Heagerty	New Mexico	Elijah Roper	Utah
• Eric Greenwood	New Mexico	Francis Carroll	Mississippi
• Jack Lewis	Ohio	James Jordan	New Mexico
• Jamey Cearley	New Hampshire	Jodi Maguire	Wisconsin
• Joe Clark	Ohio	Joseph Hernandez	Washington
• Kelly Allred	Colorado	Kim Frederick	Texas
• Kristine Darland	Iowa	Kyle Thompson	Iowa
• Linda Gabel	Montana	LouAnn Darling	Texas
• Marcia Lombardi	Connecticut	Mary Anne Stevens	California
• Michael Oberman	Missouri	Michael Teis	North Carolina
• Miranda Gebhart	Iowa	Nathan Kollasch	South Dakota
• Nicholas Kelley	Ohio	Nickolas Guenther	Oregon
• Paul Horgash	Indiana	Preston Compton	Tennessee
• Rachel Clements	New Mexico	Kay Gaines	Missouri
• Robin Ericson	Colorado	Sanjay Gupta	Arizona
• Scott Binzer	Kentucky	Steven Milton	Florida
• Timothy Breeden	Washington	Tristan Toncray	Colorado
• Valerie Hughes	Kentucky	Vaughan Turner	New York
• Vojtech Veverka		Wendy Breeden	Washington
• Wolfgang Schwarz			
	Santa Fe Balloons	New Mexico	



Balloon Federation Of America

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