



Welcome to the newsletter for the Ballooning Society of Pikes Peak (BSOPP)! This monthly publication of the balloon club is to inform and educate club members and others about ballooning in the area. Learn more at www.BSOPP.com.

**General Meeting – Tues 03/20/2012, 6p Social Hour, 7pm Meeting –
Hatch Cover – 252 E. Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard Colorado Springs, CO 80906**

President’s Note: Stephen Blucher

BRING A FRIEND!!! That is the theme of the March BSOPP club meeting. There must be someone you have spoken to about our sport. Invite them to the meeting on the 20th. Maybe your friend will be the newest member and then they will crew and get excited and they will bring a friend. It's called snowballing...or a grand pyramid scheme?...just kidding.

The last club fly was a bit of a disappointment. No one showed up...no wait, that is not exactly true. There were people on the field who had not gotten the cancel word. I know this because a couple called me at sunrise. OK, so those two were my passengers who had turned their phone off the night before and not on again until dawn. I do not know who the others were. So how about this for a suggestion? On the days we have a club fly, let's show up at the launch site. If it is precipitating or the wind is howling, certainly common sense says stay home. However, if MAYBE it is going to rain or the wind is say less than 13 kt (15 mph)...let's party. Too little we get together. We should try and fly to the same spot too. When we do launch together, often aerostats go multiple directions, flights are of different time lengths and in some cases, by the time one team gets back to party central, another has champagned and fled the scene.

The Board meetings get busier and more exciting each month. Those of us who represent you appreciate your confidence in the abilities of the Board to do the job you voted us to do. That job is to steer the direction of the BSOPP. There has been discussion recently as to what the Board's function is. According to the by-laws, the Board makes decisions for the membership. In other words, the members do not vote on everything. Members vote for changes in the by-laws and for Board members and, of course, any club member is welcome to run for the Board and be part of the decision making process. Which reminds me, elections are only eight (8) months away. Be thinking about participating in the management of YOUR club.

Ballooning season will soon be in full swing. Pilots, are your aerostats ready? Are YOU ready? In the aviation world, pilot impairment contributes to many more accidents than failure of aircraft systems! It is true! So says the AIM.

March Program : Paul D. deBerjeois talk on the Monument Valley Balloon Rally

April Program: Lt Col Jennifer Alexander, USAFA, Director of Meteorology, Dept of Economics and Geosciences – Talking on the Weather.

Club Contact Information

| | | | |
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BFA News:

Balloon Summer Camps:

The first camp of the summer will be in Dubuque, IA at the University of Dubuque. Here is it's information:

North Central Region Camp

June 17-21, 2012

University of Dubuque (Dubuque, Iowa)

Contact Kimberly Wooge at

dubuqueballooncamp@gmail.com for more

information. Follow on facebook at

www.facebook.com/dubuqueballooncamp

The "big event" for this camp will be a tour of the Lindstrand Balloons USA factory.

The second camp of the summer will be in Albion, MI at Albion College. Here is it's information:

Great Lakes Region Camp

July 22 – 26, 2011

Albion College (Albion, MI)

Contact Thomas Jones at 269/746-1032 or

GreatLakes_Balloon_Camp@hotmail.com

The "big event" for this camp will be a tour of the Cameron Balloons US factory.

**The registration form for both camps is attached.

It is one registration form for both camps, just check the box for which camp you would like to attend. Send it into the BFA office.

**Also, if anyone wants to volunteer as a camp counselor contact either Kim or Tom. If balloon clubs would like to sponsor a camper please contact either Kim, Tom or Shelley Caraway the Youth Programs Chair of the BFA at scar1@tjc.edu

www.bfacamp.com is in the process of being updated.

Thanks,
Adam Magee



Skip & Debbie
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BFA President Letter:

Dear Members:

Many of you may have read online or heard talk of the proposed flight operation user fees the Obama Administration has in their current budget-deficit reduction plan. For those of you who have not, in short, the proposal is for a \$100 per flight user fee for those utilizing ATC services. This is really not targeted at us.

However, the definitions are ambiguous and at this time the only aircraft listed as exempt are Military aircraft, public aircraft, recreational piston aircraft, air ambulances, aircraft operating outside of controlled airspace, and Canada-to-Canada flights. It is obviously geared towards business jets and airlines, but because of the lack of excluding balloons, gliders, electric aircraft, and ultralights there is a need for concern. Remember, even Class E airspace is controlled airspace! This proposal was not written by the aviation community, rather by a group of well-meaning Washington number crunchers with limited or no knowledge of U.S. airspace and the aircraft operating within it. As one eloquent aviation enthusiast put it, "they don't know the cockpit from the tail of an airplane."

As the BFA board, we are working closely with the FAA, AOPA, and NAA to monitor the progression of this proposal. It is important to note that Congress has rejected this proposal twice previously and implementation in an election year would be unlikely.

The proposal is embedded in the White House document, "Living Within Our Means and Investing in the Future. The President's Plan for Economic Growth and Deficit Reduction." dtd September 19, 2011. Here is the proposal:

More equitably share payments for air traffic services. Roughly two-thirds of the air traffic control system's current costs are financed by aviation excise taxes. Most of the tax revenue is collected through ticket taxes, segment fees, international head taxes, and fuel taxes. General aviation users currently pay a fuel tax, but this revenue does not cover their fair-share-use of air traffic services. All flights that use controlled air space require a similar level of air traffic services. However, commercial and general aviation can pay very different aviation fees for those same air traffic services. For example, a large commercial aircraft would pay between \$1,300 to \$2,000 in taxes for a flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco while a corporate jet flying the same route and using the same Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic services would pay about \$60 in taxes. To reduce the deficit and more equitably share the cost of air traffic services across the aviation user community, the Administration proposes to establish new mandatory surcharge for air traffic services. This proposal would create a \$100 per flight fee, payable to the FAA, by aviation operators who fly in controlled airspace. Military aircraft, public aircraft, recreational piston aircraft, air ambulances, aircraft operating outside of controlled airspace, and Canada-to-Canada flights would be exempted. The revenues generated by the surcharge would be deposited into the Airport And Airway Trust Fund. This fee would generate an estimated \$11 billion over 10 years. Assuming the enactment of the fee, total charges collected from aviation users would finance roughly three fourths of airport investments and air traffic control system costs.

While the BFA is working with other aviation agencies, we encourage balloonists to educate themselves on the issue. In the mean time, a petition has been posted to the White House asking the Obama Administration to specifically exempt gliders, balloons, electric aircraft, and ultralights from the \$100 per flight user fee at <http://wh.gov/K4Q>.

We encourage those inclined to visit the website and sign the petition.

The BFA board is actively looking at and working on this subject. Rather than separating ourselves as an organization from General Aviation, it is important to stand with the other General Aviation organizations including AOPA, EAA, NAA and others in support of NO USERS FEES FOR GENERAL AVIATION. We invite you to continue to research this subject and work with members of the General Aviation caucus to bring this to successful closure.

Your BFA board will continue to communicate with you, our members, as we progress.

Thank you for your support.

Troy Bradley
BFA President

Sunrise / Sunset Location: W104 48, N38 51 (Colorado Springs CO) All times Mountain Time

| March 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|
| Day | Rise | Set | Day | Rise | Set | Day | Rise | Set | Day | Rise | Set |
| 1 | 0631 | 1753 | 8 | 0620 | 1800 | 15 | 0710 | 1907 | 22 | 0659 | 1914 |
| 2 | 0629 | 1754 | 9 | 0619 | 1801 | 16 | 0708 | 1908 | 23 | 0657 | 1915 |
| 3 | 0628 | 1755 | 10 | 0617 | 1802 | 17 | 0707 | 1909 | 24 | 0656 | 1916 |
| 4 | 0626 | 1756 | 11 | 0716 | 1903 | 18 | 0705 | 1910 | 25 | 0654 | 1917 |
| 5 | 0625 | 1757 | 12 | 0714 | 1904 | 19 | 0703 | 1911 | 26 | 0652 | 1918 |
| 6 | 0623 | 1758 | 13 | 0713 | 1905 | 20 | 0702 | 1912 | 27 | 0651 | 1918 |
| 7 | 0622 | 1759 | 14 | 0711 | 1906 | 21 | 0700 | 1913 | 28 | 0649 | 1919 |

| April 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|
| Day | Rise | Set | Day | Rise | Set | Day | Rise | Set | Day | Rise | Set |
| 1 | 0643 | 1923 | 8 | 0632 | 1930 | 15 | 0622 | 1937 | 22 | 0612 | 1944 |
| 2 | 0642 | 1924 | 9 | 0631 | 1931 | 16 | 0621 | 1938 | 23 | 0611 | 1945 |
| 3 | 0640 | 1925 | 10 | 0629 | 1932 | 17 | 0619 | 1939 | 24 | 0610 | 1945 |
| 4 | 0638 | 1926 | 11 | 0628 | 1933 | 18 | 0618 | 1940 | 25 | 0608 | 1946 |
| 5 | 0637 | 1927 | 12 | 0626 | 1934 | 19 | 0616 | 1941 | 26 | 0607 | 1947 |
| 6 | 0635 | 1928 | 13 | 0625 | 1935 | 20 | 0615 | 1942 | 27 | 0606 | 1948 |
| 7 | 0634 | 1929 | 14 | 0623 | 1936 | 21 | 0614 | 1943 | 28 | 0604 | 1949 |

Upcoming Events Calendar

BSOPP Membership Meetings/Events

| Date | Event | Location/Details |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 3/20 | Club General Meeting | 6pm - Social hour, 7pm - Meeting/Program Hatch Cover - 252 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd |
| 3/24 | Club Fly | Field by Holiday Inn's - Pilot Brief – Approx. 700am |
| 4/2 | Board Meeting – All Members Invited | 6:30 PM – TGI Friday's – I-25 & Woodmen |
| 4/17 | Club General Meeting | 6pm - Social hour, 7pm - Meeting/Program Location: TBD |
| 4/21 | Club Fly | Field by Holiday Inn's - Pilot Brief – Approx. 615am |

Flights, Rallies and Related Events (Tell them you saw it in BSOPP's Tetherlines!)

| Date | Event | Location / Details |
|------------|---|--|
| 5/4 – 5/6 | Balloons & Varooms Festival Balloons | Ridgway, CO – Ridgway Chamber of Commerce 970-626-5181 |
| 5/18- 5/20 | Erie Town Fair Balloon Festival | Erie, CO - Steve Hunter shunter40@msn.com |

Look for more events at <http://www.BFA.net>



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FAR out – Stephen Blucher

As mentioned in columns past, the FARs can be somewhat daunting, even overwhelming. One reads a rule and thinks they know what it means. Then someone else comes up with a new interpretation...so who IS right? If this has ever happened and you REALLY DO know what the rule means, you may be in violation of the “proposed” regulation.

PROPOSED FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATION

No pilot or pilots, person or persons acting on the direction or suggestion or supervision of the pilot or pilots may try, or attempt to try to comprehend or understand any or all, in whole or in part of the herein mentioned Federal Air Regulations, except as authorized by the Administrator or an agent appointed by the Administrator.

If a pilot or group of associated pilots becomes aware of, or realizes, detects, discovers or finds he, she or they are, or have been, beginning to understand the Federal Aviation Regulations, they must within three days notify the Administrator in writing.

Upon receipt of the above mentioned notice of impending comprehension, the Administrator will immediately rewrite the Regulations in such a manner as to eliminate any further comprehension hazards.

The Administrator may, at his or her option, require the offending pilot, or pilots, to attend remedial instruction in Federal Aviation Regulations until such time the pilot is too confused to be capable of understanding anything.

Now you have read it. If you have any questions, do not ask. Sometimes life is not so serious. We all need to take time to laugh at it and that which affects the way we see things.
Thanks to the unknown author and the Internet for this.

BSOPP February Board Meeting

Balloon Society of Pikes Peak - Board of Directors Meeting
03/05/12

The meeting was held at IHop and called to order by Stephen Blucher at 6:45 PM.

Board Members and Club Members attending:

Dave Bair, Stephen Blucher, Kimberly Barnett, Paul D. deBerjeois, Paul deBerjeois Sr., Frank Hunter
Connie Moreland, Peggy Sansom

1. The next Board Meeting will be held at TGI Friday's Woodmen & I-25 on Monday April 2, 2012.
2. Dave Bair stated that the Club has the following amounts in the treasury:

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Checking | \$ 521.50 |
| Savings | \$2,254.36 |
| Petty Cash | -0- |

The club has added one new member from the April meeting.

3. Paul D. mentioned to the board that only one pilot has submitted information pertaining to their balloon to be put on the BSOPP web site. Hopefully, more will submit the needed information.
4. It was brought up at the meeting that the reason for a board is decision making. Therefore, we would like to hear your ideas about a meeting location and then the board will decide where we will it will be held. Dave Bair is going to check out locations for relocating the meetings.
5. It was decided that the BSOPP Operating Guidelines needed to be updated.
6. Paul D. suggested that the March Club Meeting be “Bring a Friend. This would be a way to let people know what the club is about and possibly bring in new club members. Sounds like fun. The deBerjeois' family will present a slide show taken at Monument Valley Rally.
7. It was brought up that members of the club need to be more aware of newcomers and take the time to make them feel welcomed. We also need to encourage members to show up for club flights. The more pilots and their balloons the more people will be attracted.
8. Stephen Blucher is setting up the program for the April meeting.
9. The club fly will be Saturday, March 24th at 7:00 a.m. on the corner of Powers and Fountain. Everyone is invited to attend.
10. Meeting adjourned approximately 8:00 pm.

Peggy Sansom
BSOPP Secretary

Tetherlines Ad Rates

Per Issue:

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Full Page | \$10 |
| Half Page | \$6 |
| Quarter Page | \$3 |
| Bus. Card | \$1 |

Article Submission Guidelines

- Please limit articles to 750 words
- Deadline is first Tuesday of each month
- Publication by second Tuesday of each month
- 12 Months for the price of 10 if paid in advance
- 12 Mo ads include ad & link on BSOPP.com

**Next General Meeting is Tuesday,
March 20th
6p Dinner, 7p Program**

**Club Website – www.bsopp.com
Facebook – Ballooning Society of Pikes Peak**



Tetherlines

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