

NATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

AIRWAYS



Indianola, Iowa Vol. 25, No. 2

Staff: Linda Nicholson, Bev Koehlmoos, Dennis Nicholson

Fall/Winter 2014

CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR 2014

The museum will have a **Christmas Open House Saturday December 13 from 10a.m. to 4p.m.** Volunteers will welcome the public for refreshments. **\$5 OFF on gift shop purchases totaling \$15 and over** will be offered on books for children and adults, jewelry, blown glass and other kinds of ornaments, clothing items including polo and T-shirts, socks and mittens. You will also find balloon jig saw puzzles, sun catchers, photo magnets, post cards and other balloon related items. **Free admission all day** for exhibits, theatre, and kid's room activities.



NEW HALL OF FAME MEMBERS HONORED

Three persons were honored at the US Ballooning Hall of Fame Induction on July 27 at the Museum. Pictured below left is **Don Piccard** and wife, Willie. Holding the Plaque for **Chauncey M. Dunn**, (deceased), is son-in-law, Eric Luck. The bottom picture includes family members of **Natalie J. "Nikki" Caplan**, (also deceased). Presenter was BFA representative, Ken Walter. The overflow crowd enjoyed the afternoon of reminiscences. A DVD of the event is available for viewing or purchase at the Museum.



BALLOONSCAPE PROJECT COMPLETE!

"The Sky's the Limit" **BalloonScape** project sponsored by the Indianola Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee (ITC) is now complete. The miniature metal balloons about 3 feet high are now in place at the National Balloon Museum. The landscaping was done by Busy Bee.



Each balloon was sponsored by a local business with the name cut into the base, and each balloon carries the images chosen by the sponsor. Sponsors include: Crouse Café, Hy-Vee, Downing Construction, Indianola Community Youth Foundation, Gib's A&W, Central Iowa Credit Union, Iowa Realty, Rotary Club International, Community Bank, Weinman Insurance, Simpson College, Indianola Tourism and Rasko Construction. The National Balloon Classic, and the National Balloon Museum shared a balloon which was painted by Joe Jones. Local artists painted the designs on each balloon. Museum volunteer, Susan Olson, painted the Crouse Café Balloon.

Most of the balloons were placed at the National Balloon Museum. Rasko Construction and Crouse Café chose to have their balloon placed by their place of business.

The balloon sculptures were designed by Troy Williams and built by Williams Machine Shop in Lacona.

BalloonScape at north end of museum parking lot ►

BalloonScape at south end of museum parking lot ▼



VOLUNTEER MATTERS . . . BECAUSE VOLUNTEERS MATTER

NEW VOLUNTEERS ENCOURAGED

We would really love to feature you in this column! Have you considered a new project for 2015? This could involve you in contributing to the community by helping to keep this volunteer institution functioning. Plus it can be fun and satisfying! Ballooning history is important to Indianola as a sport and tourist attraction, but it also reminds us that ballooning contributed to humanity's road to flight and the marvels of the space age by providing human kind's first flight in 1783 and the many more which have followed.

Interest has been expressed by several who have begun some training so it would be a good time to get involved. See further information at the bottom of this page.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Special thanks to **Bev Wilson** who worked to schedule and coordinate museum workers during the 2014 Classic. To all of those who worked then, during the summer, or regularly, the Museum appreciates all of you heartily!

IN MEMORIAM: Volunteer **Paula Arand** passed away unexpectedly November 18. A widow, Paula lived in an apartment at Wesley the Village retirement facility since 2008. She helped manage the gift shop at both the museum and the field and worked shifts in the museum. An inspirational Celebration of Life Service was held Saturday, November 22 at The Village.

Marlene Wall and **Paula Arand** did the ordering, recruited persons to help at the gift shop at the field, and worked there themselves. The work was challenging, but income was rewarding! To them and all who worked at the field shop, Thank you so very much! We will miss having Paula in the shop and museum.

MUSEUM AUXILIARY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Museum Auxiliary was held June 25, in the Library. President Linda Nicholson welcomed members of the volunteer's group, using the theme, "The Sky's the Limit." Featured was the National Balloon Museum president, Nancy Griffin of Ft. Collins, Colorado who thanked volunteers and spoke of achievements and challenges to the Museum in the future. Nancy has now resigned due to travel and other challenges. Thanks for your work, time and efforts, Nancy!

Elected members of the Auxiliary Board were Mike and Carol Polson. Bev Wilson was elected to fill a one year open spot.

Others continuing were Barb Van Sickle, Bev Koehlmoos, Barb Baldwin, Mary Lou Staubus, and Linda Nicholson. Each member accepts particular tasks for their term. One position is not filled. Can you help? Becky Wigeland and Marlene Wall are advisors.

BALLOON MUSEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAMES OFFICERS

Officers elected at the September Board of Directors meeting are Marlene Wall, President, Dennis (Denny) Anderson, Vice-president, Bev Koehlmoos, secretary. Additional members include Christine Bertsch, Dan Bertsch, Dick Drake, Ken Walter, Kelly Shaw, Linda Nicholson, Auxiliary Pres., Scott Wooge, BFA representative, Tim Brady, Treasurer (from California) will be retiring and moving to Hawaii but will help with year-end items. Directors are responsible for financial affairs and development, setting policy, property management and upkeep. For questions and further information, write or e-mail the Museum or contact nominating committee member, Dan Bertsch.

INDIANOLA'S "BALLOON WOMEN" TAKE IN BALLOON FIESTA IN ALBUQUERQUE

Balloon Federation of America's office manager, Sharon Ripperger, goes off to Albuquerque every year for its' Fiesta and to work on BFA activities. This year three others enjoyed the event: Becky Wigeland, Museum Curator, as well as Staci Scheurenbrand, Executive Director of the National Balloon Classic, and Becky Kakac NBC Office Manager. All reported a great time and conversations were lively around their offices in the Balloon Museum after they returned with renewed enthusiasm for their responsibilities and perhaps some new ideas! Photos on the GO PRO camera will hopefully be arranged soon by Becky Wigeland to share the event.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL BALLOON CLASSIC 2014



JIM AND CONNIE THOMPSON were announced as winners of the yearly **Jon Russell Award** which recognizes outstanding qualities of the "model" pilot with regard for all and lives to fly. Jim and Connie have been sharing memorabilia with the Balloon Museum as they are soon to retire to Florida after a long and outstanding life in ballooning. Fond farewells and best wishes to them in their new home.

- **2014 Classic Queen** was Anna Gleason, 17, of Indianola
- **Crew of the Year** Tim Cloyd's crew from Des Moines and Indianola. Tim flies the "Glorious Drifter" balloon.
- **Farmer of the Year** Dean Ball of Ackworth, Iowa

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE AT THE MUSEUM: Join as a member, give donations of money, materials or your time on a one-time specific project or on a regular basis. You are invited to visit with the Curator, Becky Wigeland, or the Assistant to the Curator, Dennis Nicholson, to consider possible areas where you can help and learn of training that is available. Perhaps you would like to ask a friend to join you as a team. In-Kind Gifts are also welcomed and recognized. Ask for further information at (515) 961-3714.

THROUGH THE BLUE DOORS

By Beverley Wilson, Tour Coordinator



During the vacation months and the Classic's happenings, visitors at the Museum are more frequent. The usual kid's fun clubs, the family reunions, the cross-country travelers and the tours spark up the halls that are now returning to the cold month conditions. Let's look back to summer!

During July the traffic was brisk. One day 49 Fun Club Kids roved the museum while a more sedate senior group from Vintage Hills successfully skirted the action (with curator Becky's skillful piloting). Pilot Randy Stone came to educate the young ones on the fine art of launching a balloon. (He tells us we owe him one hour of weeding in return!)

Always there are visitors who come to our town for other events and include the museum as a stopover. Des Moines Metro Opera patrons, performers, and families are no exception. One day the wife of the set designer for an opera came by for a movie and popcorn. Later three folks from Texas appeared; David Adam Moore (Joseph De Rocker in "Dead Man Walking") and his parents. His father had some stories about ballooning. "Bubba" was a personal friend of ballooning pioneer, Joe Kittinger, and on one occasion while flying with Brooks and Dunn he offered to introduce the pilot to Joe. A phone hook-up with Joe gave the pilot an unforgettable interlude of flying time in the conversation that followed.

Volunteer Jim Summitt entertained guests from Salisbury, England, who were in Indianola visiting friends. She was a pianist at the Salisbury Castle in England. She and her husband, an English "bobbie", toured Salisbury House in Des Moines where tiles from the castle had been used in its building. Can that be topped?

Well, Marv Van Sickle will try with his story of visitors, also from England. Wvone Forvrargue, a Labor Party member of the House of Commons, and her husband visit the U.S. every year and Iowa was on this year's itinerary. Marv encouraged them to visit the Classic's field while in town. Having secured their e-mail, he contacted them and received thanks and a photo of her and information about her position. Ask Marv about his "new friends".

BECKY WIGELAND RECEIVES DIRECTOR'S AWARD FROM BALLOON FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Becky Wigeland, National Balloon Museum Curator, received the BFA Director's Award in Albuquerque, New Mexico during the International Balloon Fiesta this past October. Shown here is David Rapp, the North Central Region Director of the BFA Board presenting the award for her outstanding service to the Museum and the BFA.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF BALLOONISTS ANNOUNCED

Three BFA Ed Yost Master Pilot Awards were presented at the National Balloon Museum during the 2014 Hall of Fame ceremonies to three pilots: Rob Bartholomew and Gary Ruble, from Iowa, and Harold Graves from South Dakota. The award is given to balloonists with outstanding flying records with no accidents for 40 or more years of service. Other people have been given the award this year at other BFA Regions in other parts of the country. We welcome these men to this select group!



There is a special exhibit in the National Balloon Museum listing those distinguished pilots who have received this award.

U. S. NATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON CHAMPIONS

The first place winner in the 2014 U. S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship in Texas was Johnny Petrehn. Second place went to Joe Heartsill, and third place went to Rhett Heartsill.

BERTSCH IS US NATIONALS WOMEN'S CHAMPION; NAMED TO U.S. TEAM FOR WORLD'S COMPETITION

Christine Bertsch, Local teacher and National Balloon Museum Board member, won the US Women's Nationals Championship in Texas. She then was named to the 5-member U.S.A. Team for the very first Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship which was held in Leszno, Poland September 8-13, 2014. Susan Stamats of Cedar Rapids was also a team member. Susan placed 29th and Chris 30th. (For more information see Nov/Dec. Ballooning). Curator Becky Wigeland plans to prepare a new exhibit soon on the World's for Women.

2014 NATIONAL BALLOON CLASSIC TOP 3 WINNERS



Matt Fenster, 1st, Ken Walter, 2nd and Anna Gleason, Classic Queen, who is shown "sitting in" for Maury Petrehn, 3rd place.

National Balloon Museum
P.O. Box 149
Indianola, IA 50125-0149

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MUSEUM SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule May Thru September

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Fall/Winter Schedule Hours: Oct., - April.

Daily - 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Closed All of January & major holidays and
Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day & Dec. 24 & 26

Tours by appointment in a.m. or p.m. hours

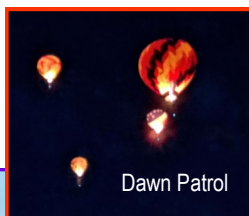
Admission : adults \$3.00, children under 12, free

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2014 NATIONAL BALLOON CLASSIC



A new and popular event was "Dawn Patrol", which sent balloonists up before sunrise. **Night Glows** were again very popular, and "**Special Shapes**" are as well, such as **Peg Leg Pete** and **Max** (the dog). The last evening brought great views, but challenged most of the baggie-tossers! Note new NBC logo above, top right.

Special Shapes ▶



HAVE YOU READ THIS ONE?

By Beverley Wilson, Museum Librarian

Bruce Comstock has transformed ballooning into a fine art. In his recent writing, [A Life in the Air](#), Bruce and his editorial crew describe several of his memorable flights in this collection which is a very good read. The author describes ballooning as an aesthetic experience. "To go up in a balloon is to leave the earth, not unlike going into outer space."

From his first encounter with a hot air balloon at his Ann Arbor, Michigan home, to his long distance 519 mile 61 hour Aspen to Altoona flight, Bruce leads the reader through his competition at Indianola in the National Hot Air Balloon Championships, his association with BFA, breaking the record of the time in high altitude flight to compete at the FAO Gold Badge requirements and crewing for Steve Fossett on his long distance flights.

Near the end, Bruce writes about living in two parallel limitless worlds. One of these is the sky, where one can float above and through vast natural beauty. The other is the mind where anything is possible. Perhaps Bruce will find new challenges in the literary arena.

Bruce has generously donated several copies of his book to the National Balloon Museum's gift shop. Thank you, Bruce, for this incredible journal of a lifetime of astounding accomplishments.