

Glen Moyer

Balloon Federation of America Nomination for Shields-Trauger Award Contribution to the Sport of Ballooning

Education of pilots, crew, and the public is a service to ballooning that is necessary to grow the sport and keep it safe. I can only think of one person who has single handedly educated tens, probably hundreds of thousands of people on everything from the basics to the finer points of ballooning. Because of that, and his many other contributions to the sport and the organizations that support it, Glen Moyer is hereby nominated for the Shields Trauger Award.

Glen Moyer is a wordsmith by trade. His writing skill has earned him numerous bylines in publications across the nation and around the world. Glen's first published balloon item appeared in the January-February 1984 issue of the BFA's Ballooning Journal. His first cover photo also was on Ballooning Journal, Spring 1986. At this same time he began to write for the new US balloon publication, Balloon Life. He would eventually serve it as a freelance writer, section editor and finally its Editor from 1989-1993. In 2000 he succeeded Ruth Ludwig as editor of the BFA's Ballooning Journal making him the only person to serve as editor of both major US ballooning publications. With Balloon Life, Ballooning Journal, and other titles, Glen has written hundreds of articles about all aspects of the sport of ballooning, including personality reviews, event coverage, weather and most importantly safety, pilot skills, and decision making. Reprints of his articles are in demand as handouts at safety seminars across the country every year.

Speaking of safety seminars, Glen has instructed at numerous BFA safety seminars. With his professional speaking voice and his vast knowledge of the sport, Glen brings his subjects to life and is always a welcome addition to any roster of seminar speakers. His subjects mirror those of his important writings: safety, pilot skills, and decision making.

Besides his journalistic contributions, Glen has almost single-handedly created the role of the professional balloon event announcer. While he was not the first, Glen has elevated the role of the announcer to a premier position at any balloon event. Far more than just announcing the name of a balloon, its pilot, and sponsor, Glen has molded the role of announcer into one as an educator and entertainer. His vast knowledge of ballooning brings factual information to the audience, keeps them entertained during weather holds and other quiet times, and gives them more basic knowledge of balloon operations than they probably want to know. No one has announced as many events as Glen Moyer. Since he began in 1985, he has announced well over 250 events including the world's largest, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and most prestigious, the Coupe de Gordon Bennett (when held in the US).

Glen's first exposure to ballooning was in his capacity as a television announcer during a media flight in 1976. One flight and he was hooked! Because of his fascination with the sport of ballooning, Glen joined the Plano Ballooning Association in 1982. To increase his knowledge and exposure to the sport, in 1983 Glen joined the BFA.

In 1990, Glen was promoted from Special Reports Editor to the position of Editor

of Balloon Life magazine and it was time to put his years of “hanger flying” to a practical test. Glen earned his private balloon pilot's certificate, and his commercial certificate followed a year later.

His flying talents continued to improve, as did his interest in balloons. In 1993 he joined Thunder & Colt Balloons US as Director of Marketing, a position he held until the company folded following the failure of the parent company in England. During this period he competed in the National Championships in Columbia, Missouri, continued his announcing, and wrote articles for both major USA ballooning magazines.

In 1995, Glen was a contributing editor of Balloon Digest Revised, a BFA publication. Seeing change and troubled waters ahead for the BFA, Glen decided it was time to once again give back to the sport and he ran for a seat on the BFA Board. Elected by the membership as an at-large director, Glen served as secretary, vice president, and treasurer of the BFA while on the Board of Directors, during one of the most tumultuous periods in the organization's history.

In 2000, Glen was selected to succeed Ruth Ludwig as the Editor of Ballooning. His pledge was simple: better quality for less money. His proposal immediately saved BFA \$5,000. The transition was smooth, and Glen pushed his timetable forward. Within 6 months of taking over he consolidated the printing of Skylines and Ballooning under the same print house, saving another estimated \$9,000 annually in expenses as well as streamlining the communication flow. Glen worked with the BFA office to revamp the advertising billing process whereby all ad income goes directly to the BFA office instead of being held by the Editor, resulting in an improved daily cash flow for the BFA. Working with the printer, Glen was able to completely revamp and revitalize the look and contents of Ballooning with a new style, new banner, new cover and a variety of new contributing writers dealing with issues such as weather, pilot training, competition, commercial ballooning, etc. At the same time he dramatically increased the newsworthy content of Skylines to enhance its value to the BFA membership.

As Editor, Glen spearheaded the design of the BFA's 40th Anniversary logo and supported the many planned activities for this year. On a smaller scale, he helped acquire prizes for the BFA's “Join and Win” membership drive as well as a \$1,000 contribution in prizes for the US Nationals at a time when there was no prize money available.

Today, with over five hundred hours of flight time logged, Glen's logbook shows flights in twenty-six states and five foreign countries, including the Forbes event in Balleroy, France. Wherever he goes, Glen remains an ambassador of the sport as well as a spokesman for it. Tens of thousands of people hear him speak each year, thousands read his words in print media, and hundreds of pilots learn from him at seminars.

Clubs, magazines, events, a manufacturer, I doubt there is another person who has done so much through so many venues to promote and educate about balloons and balloonists. 2006 marks Glen's 21st year as a balloon journalist and a balloon announcer.

His service to the sport, to the organizations that support the sport, and to the public that gives us an audience has certainly raised Glen Moyer to stature deserving of the Shields-Trauger Award. His service should be recognized by bestowing the award upon him.