

Shields Trauger Nomination for Maury Sullivan

Note from Awards Chair: Orvin Olivier - This Shields Trauger nomination is time sensitive! Normally this award would be given at the AGM in October; however the intent is for this award, if approved, to be given in August at the Worlds in Battle Creek.

The nomination was written by David Levin. A past presidents committee consisting of Ray Bair, Jim Thompson and Tom Sheppard have reviewed this nomination and have recommended it to you, the BFA Board of Directors.

Nomination

I would like to nominate Maury Sullivan for the Shields Trauger Memorial Award for his many years of service to the Balloon Federation of America. His nomination is based on two categories. First, for "Important contribution to balloon safety" and second, for "exemplary service to BFA"

Maury headed up the committee which wrote the Balloon Events Guidelines. This document enables "Event Organizers and Officials to properly organize, plan and execute a balloon event with the safety of pilots, sponsors and the general public as the top priority." I'm sure you are well aware of the huge effort that went into producing this valuable document.

After the split between BFA and NABA, Maury worked as an event official with NABA. He had a reputation as a good Director and didn't carry all the NABA baggage. While I was directing the U.S. National Championship in Waco, Texas along with Mathijs deBruijn, I invited Maury to join our staff as safety officer in the hopes of his eventually taking over as Event Director.

We worked well together and he became Event Director in 2010. He will be Assistant Director at the Nationals in Longview, Texas, thus maintaining the connection between various groups of competition officials. I expect that he will again be Event Director after the Longview contract runs out in three years.

Maury will be my Deputy Director for the World Championship in Battle Creek this year and he is Chairman of the Worlds Planning Committee. His leadership in this endeavor is invaluable. Without his dedication we would not be as prepared for hosting the Championship in Battle Creek. The committee meets by conference call monthly and Maury's leadership has kept us focused and on track. I would not have enjoyed this process without his leadership.

Maury has been a member of the HACD for several years. He is the man behind the scenes for advising the Chairman and other members of the committee. He works tirelessly for the Division and is key to our future success.

Finally, Maury has been instrumental in developing safety seminars including Balloonowledge 2012 which was just held in Canton and I believe the BFA Board was in attendance.

I know that this award is normally given at the BFA Annual General Membership Meeting in Albuquerque. However, if the Board should vote to give this award to Maury, it would be wonderful to present it to him at the World Championship in Battle Creek with numerous BFA members in attendance and an audience of competitors, crew, observers and officials from around the world.

Thanks for considering Maury for this great honor. He certainly deserves the recognition.

Best regards,
David

Additional Notes

Orvin: I can support this nomination without reservation. I have had the pleasure of working with Maury on the Events Guidelines and his leadership and organizational skills are great.

One thing not mentioned in David's nomination; when I was BFA president our Board struggled mightily with our first convention efforts in Louisville. Maury stepped up to the challenge of leading our technical program development. This had a major impact on the success of the convention and set the standard for future efforts.

This is an excellent opportunity to recognize one of our true contributors.

Ray (Bair)

Orvin: I too support this nomination. His effort on the Events Guidelines is sufficient in my mind to approve Maury as a recipient of the Shields Trauger Award. His many other accomplishments simply embellish his resume. I would suggest that we proceed to submit the nomination to the BFA Board for their consideration at the earliest possible time so the award can be ready for presentation at the World Championships.

Jim (Thompson)

Note: The Balloon Federation of America Board of Directors approved the recommendation and the award was presented to Maury at the Awards Banquet at the 2012 National Hot Air Balloon Championships in Longview, TX.