



**Jim Thompson**  
**Balloon Federation of America Biography**  
**December 21, 2006**

- Became a member of BFA in 1980
- First flew at the US National Hot Air Balloon Championships in 1980
- 1985-1986 – Served as President of Indianola Balloons, Inc. – The host organization for the BFA Nationals in Indianola, IA
- 1985 National Hot Air Balloon Championship – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- 1987 National Hot Air Balloon Championship – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Elected to a three-year term on the BFA Board of Directors in 1987
- 1987 – Served as BFA Board Secretary
- 1988 National Hot Air Balloon Championship – 9<sup>th</sup> Place
- Elected by the BFA Board of Directors as President in 1988
- BFA National Points Leader in 1988
- 1988 – Served as member of the BFA Committee that selected a new editor of *Ballooning and Skylines*
- 1989 National Hot Air Balloon Championship – 6<sup>th</sup> Place
- 1989 – Represented BFA and the United States in the World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Saga, Japan
- 1990 National Hot Air Balloon Championship – 5<sup>th</sup> Place
- 1990 – Re-elected to a three-year term on the BFA Board of Directors
- 1991 – Represented BFA and the United States in the World Hot Air Balloon Championship in St. Jean, Sur Richelieu, Canada
- 1991 – 1992 – Served as the BFA Board Liaison to the Gas Division
- Organized the BFA Safety Seminar for the Iowa Balloonist Association in 1995, 1996 and 1997
- Presented topics at BFA Approved Safety Seminars
  - 1987 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Map Reading and Compass
  - 1988 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Aviation Organizations
  - 1989 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Balloon Federation of America
  - 1990 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Map Reading and Compass
  - 1992 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Using a Map for Competitive Flying

- 1993 – Iowa Balloonist Association – How a Mid Air Collision Occurred
- 1994 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Balloon Passenger Management
- 1996 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Accident/Incident Reporting – FAA/NASA
- 1997 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Fuel Pressurization Using Heat Tapes
- 1998 – Colorado Balloon Seminar – Balloon Passenger Management
- 1998 – Gateway Aerostatic Association – BFA Issues
- 1998 – Gateway Aerostatic Association – Balloon Passenger Management
- 1999 – Gateway Aerostatic Association – Accident/Incident Reporting – FAA/NASA
- 1999 – Iowa Balloonist Association – BFA Observer Achievement Program
- 2001 – Gateway Aerostatic Association – Use of GPS in Ballooning
- 2003 – Gateway Aerostatic Association – Competitive Ballooning
- 2006 – Iowa Balloonist Association – Crewing for Gas Balloons
- 2006 – Minnesota Ballooning Association – Balloon Passenger Management
- 2008 – FAA Safety Seminar, Lakeland, Florida – Competitive Ballooning
- 2011 – BFA National Convention – BFA History According to the Presidents – Forum discussion
- **1995 – Was instrumental in obtaining BFA sanctioning for the National Balloon Classic in Indianola. The Classic had not run BFA sanctioned tasks since the Nationals were moved to Baton Rouge in 1989**
- **Re-elected to a three-year term on the BFA Board of Directors in 1997**
- **Served as BFA Board Secretary in 1997**
- **1997 – 1999 – Served as BFA Board liaison to the BFA Editor**
- **1997 – 1999 – Served as Board Liaison to the Awards Committee and as Past President on the Committee recommending the recipient of the Shields Trauger Award**
- **Has served as an observer and official for many BFA hot air and International gas balloon races, including six Coupe de Gordon Bennett races and two World Gas Balloon Championships**
- **Served as the Assistant Balloonmeister in 1995, Balloonmeister in 1996 and 1997 and Safety Officer in 2000, 2001 and 2002 for the BFA sanctioned National Balloon Classic in Indianola, Iowa**
- **Served as the Balloonmeister in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2015 for the longest running BFA sanctioned event, the Great Pershing Balloon Derby in Brookfield, Missouri**
- **1990 – 1996 – Served as a Director on the National Balloon Museum Board representing the BFA**
- **Was Chief Observer for the 1999 Albuquerque Coupe de Gordon Bennett race**
- **2000 – Served as Chair of the BFA Committee that selected a new editor of Ballooning and Skylines**
- **2000 – Received the BFA Presidents Award from Charlie Sundquist**

- 2000 – 2006 and 2007 – Present – Served on the Past Presidents Committee for the Shields Trauger Award
- 2002 National Hot Air Balloon Championship – 4<sup>th</sup> Place
- 2002 – 2013 – Served on the BFA Board of Directors as the National Aeronautic Association Representative
- 2002 – 2013 – Chair of the BFA Bylaws Committee
- 2002 to April 2007 – Chair of the Balloon Federation of America Competition Committee. Served as the North Central Region member on the Board of the Hot Air Competition Division from 2007 to 2011
- 2004 to Present – Member of the BFA Hall of Fame Committee
- 2007 – Instrumental in developing the By-laws for the Hot Air Competition Division which were approved by the Competition Committee and by the BFA Board of Directors on April 14, 2007
- 2005 – 2006 – Member of BFA/AAAA FAR 91.119 Committee
- 2007 – Received the Domont Safety Award at the National Hot Air Balloon Championships
- 2007 – Was presented the Balloon Federation of America Shields Trauger award for his outstanding service to the BFA
- 2009 – Developed the policy for the National Ballooning Hall of Fame that was approved by the Board of Directors on May 13, 2009
- 2009 – Developed the proposal for the Iowa Balloonist Association to host the Balloon Federation of America 2011 National Convention in Des Moines, Iowa which was ultimately approved by the Board of Directors
- 2009 – 2010 – Served as BFA Treasurer
- 2010 – Served on the 2011 National Convention Committee and was responsible for developing the program for the very successful convention
- 2011 – 2012 – As chair of the BFA Bylaws Committee, rewrote and updated the BFA bylaws which were approved by the membership and approved by the Board of Directors on October 4, 2012.
- 2012 – Assisted in developing the Bylaws for the newly formed Balloon Ride Operators Division which were approved by the Board of Directors on June 12, 2012
- 2012 – Assisted in Developing the policy for the Ed Yost Master Pilot Award approved by the Board of Directors on July 17, 2012
- 2012 – Served as a measuring team leader for the World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Battle Creek, Michigan
- 2012 – 2013 – Served as BFA Board liaison to the BFA Editor
- 2013 – Received the BFA Presidents Award from Mick Murphy
- 2015 – Along with son Jeff, developed a web site for use by the BFA Hall of Fame Committee
- 2016 – Initiated the process of developing and obtaining biographical information on Notable Balloonist for the BFA Hall of Fame Committee

- **2017 Received BFA Directors Award from Scott Wooge**
- **Authored yet to be published book *Flying in Iowa and Wherever the Winds Took Me*. The book includes over 150 articles published in *Skylines* and *Ballooning* as well as Balloon Club newsletters and other magazines**