



Elizabeth (Beth) Wright-Smith

Elizabeth has been involved in ballooning since a child in the 1960's.

She has been a balloon pilot for over 40 years. In total she has more than 4700+ hours total time in balloons as a sport pilot, competition pilot and

commercial/corporate pilot.

She became a full-time commercial pilot in mid-1980's and since has flown almost every make/model of balloon. She has flown large ride balloons, special shape balloons, gas balloon rated.

She has served more than 3 terms on the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association board, including 5 years VP. Two terms were on the Balloon Federation of America board. Three terms as well as 3 years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum.

Beth was Chief Flight and Ground Instructor for one of only four FAA approved Part 141 pilot training schools in the US. She began giving pilot training in 1985. Since then 400+ students have been trained and 2000+ hours of flight instruction given.

Also speaks at safety seminars, other ground schools and civic/school groups.

30 + years as FAA certified repairman and 10 years as Chief Inspector for a balloon repair station.

Serves as FAA FFAST Team representative, previously called Aviation Safety Counselor (since 1992)

Serves as FAA Designated Pilot Examiner to give practical tests for balloon pilot ratings of which she is one of less than 20 in the USA.



Beth is current owner of Airborne Heat, LLC since 2006 providing pilot instruction, Cameron Balloon sales and pilot services for passenger rides and corporate programs.

Most recently Beth served as a Senior Pilot/administrator for Wells Fargo Bank Balloon Team from Nov 2006- Feb 2020.

She also worked with World Balloon, an internationally known balloon services company, for 15 years as Director of Operations, then as part owner.

