



# DOWNWIND CHASE

Official Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Aeronauts

◆ JUNE 2026 ◆

Greetings Members and fellow Aeronauts.

I hope this finds you all well and thriving, and you are getting in all the flying your heart desires.

It appears that we have gone from cold weather straight into warm to hot weather. Mother Nature is really throwing weather curveballs these days depending on where you may live.

Here in the South SF Bay Area we don't see many flights anymore. There aren't many local pilots left in the area. In fact, we now have a generation of residents that can honestly say they haven't ever seen balloons flying here. Times are a changing.

I'm going to keep this short and ask a few things of you our members. Jeanne Anson works hard on the newsletter and is always looking for material on events, flying reports, and other things of general interest. If you participated in any events or fun-flys and would like to share that with the rest of the membership, please do share. Pen an article or just provide the details and we probably can find someone that will help you write it.

If you attended any safety trainings or found articles on the topic that would be relevant to all pilots and crew, please share them, or drop us a link and we can take it from there.

We have regular every-other-month meetings that are on the PCA General Membership calendar. How many of you have looked at the calendar recently? All the zoom links for the Board and General Membership meetings are in the calendared/schedule of events for the remainder of the year. We try to keep at least a 6-month lead on the meetings on the calendar. Come join us and share your thoughts at any of our meetings. Put them on your calendar now so you don't overschedule them.

As a Board and as club members ourselves we want your participation in the committees and our meetings. We can't make it any easier for you to participate. If there is something we could change to make it better, please drop us a line or call a board member and share your thoughts.

"Click" to email PCA: [pca@pcaballoons.org](mailto:pca@pcaballoons.org)

Soft landings and gentle breezes.

Regards, Patrick Moore ([pcamoore587@gmail.com](mailto:pcamoore587@gmail.com))

Chair of the Board

## View from the Board Pat Moore, Chair of Board

### IMPORTANT INFO!

#### CLUB MEETINGS

VIA ZOOM, HELD ON THE FIRST  
WEDNESDAY OF ODD-NUMBERED  
MONTHS PLUS DECEMBER

#### 2ND MEETING

OF 2026

Wed. July 1

@ 7PM PDT

#### ZOOM BOARD MEETING

NEXT ONE IS:

Thurs July 16 @ 7PM

CHECK EMAIL 4 LINK

#### IN THIS ISSUE...

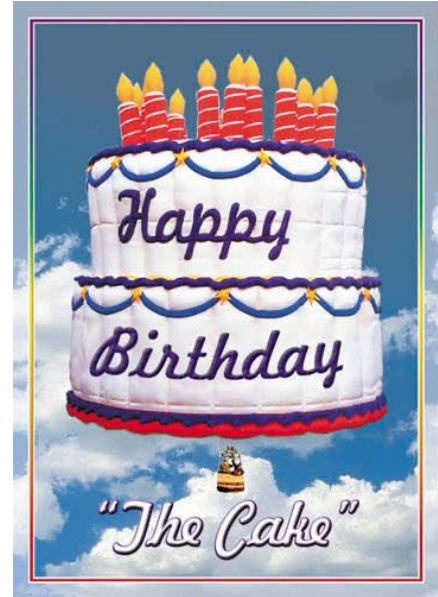
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## Ted Turner's CAKE!

*From Stephen Mroz on Facebook Balloon Talk—May 6-2026*

Today Ted Turner passed away, he was an early Supporter of Special Shaped Hot Air Balloons having commissioned the TBS anniversary Birthday Cake Hot Air Special Shape Designed in cooperation with Aerostar Balloon Inc and Turner Broadcast Systems.

Numerous Pilots from The Balloon Inc Stable of Pilots Flew and Operated this Unique Balloon for this Promotion By TBS. I believe Keith Spraul is the Current owner Care taker of this Unique Balloon. I am certain Mel Hanson is Still mad at me for Suggesting installing Strobe lights in each candle Tip.



## Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada — Rise UP HAB Festival

### Transatlantic Balloon Challenge Update

Due to several logistical issues, it is unlikely that we will be able to make another attempt to cross the Atlantic this summer. This is a great disappointment to both of us, but we want to make sure that we are fully ready to embark on this journey. We are still very determined to achieve our goal of being the first female pilot-in-command and the first registered blind crew member to make the crossing. But we may have to wait until next summer to achieve this goal.

Our fellow Transatlantic balloonists, in the Atlantic Explorer 2026 balloon – Bert Padelt, Peter Cuneo and our very own British multi-world record-holding pilot, Alicia Hempleman-Adams are now preparing to launch from Presque Isle, Maine, USA. They are patiently waiting for their meteorologists to identify suitable launch conditions and winds that will carry them to Europe.

We wish you a wonderful flight to a safe landing wherever the winds take you in Europe.

We hope you hear the whale song over the ocean on your epic journey. After our attempt in 2023, we understand how you are feeling and thinking at this stage before launching. But this will be your year!

We will be following you on the Atlantic Explorer 2026 Flight Control page and the live tracker on your [website www.atlantic-explorer.com](http://www.atlantic-explorer.com).

You carry us all with you. Godspeed. Lots of love – Debbie & Mike xx

**HOT AIR FLYER**

**May 2026** Copied from Colorado Balloon Club with permission from Rae Todd, Editor.



# 2026 Youth Camp AMAZON WISH LIST!

## Support the Future of Ballooning!

Both the Southeastern Balloon Camp and the High Sierra Balloon Camp rely heavily on donations to keep camp tuition as low as possible for families.

Every single scholarship we provide is made possible through generous donations from supporters like YOU.

We've created Amazon Wishlists filled with items that directly support our campers' experiences—from training materials to everyday camp needs. If you're able, please consider purchasing an item (or a few!) to help us continue inspiring the next generation of balloonists.

Southeastern Balloon Camp Wishlist:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2YN6PVJWACCO2...>

**High Sierra Balloon Camp Wishlist:**

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VRWDO0T9ID3J...>

**Your support truly makes a difference and helps keep these life-changing opportunities accessible to all. Thank you for investing in the future of ballooning!**

### ...PCA General Balloon meeting

MAY 6, 2026

Minutes by Jeanne Anson

Attended by: Pat, April, Jeanne & Tom, Linda Called to order 7:10 by President April Turner

#### Happenings

- Walk balloon and tether in Sioux Falls, and flew a few flights.
- SoCal balloonist is still dealing with the FAA about his back yard landing.
- Someone tethered at a casino Elk Grove, CA... broke the Tethers.
  - And Flew to an uneventful landing.
- Hoping for May to have more flying weather
- Linda going to Sonoma, April will have some cards to Pass out.

#### Safety Seminars

- ♦ Indianola Tom and Jeanne – over 100 pilots and crew. Extremely comprehensive and thorough.
- ♦ April went to High Sierra Safety Seminar 25 Pilots
  - ♦ Discussion on technology in the basket.
  - ♦ In early 80s -Unreliable radios Pillowcase in the basket Mick F, Jeanne used a streamer to indicate she was landing.
  - ♦ Ryan knows when April is going to land, because she stands up.
  - ♦ Flying at the Seminar, paired up and one flight with discussions following and lots of tailgate.
  - ♦ April needs a ground cloth/tarp
  - ♦ Online Safety Seminars are great
- ♦ Still waiting to hear from High Sierra Balloon camp to see if Ryan can be a Camp Counselor.
- ♦ WHAMOBASS Pat will be starting to send out emails about the Event.

Adjourned by April at 7:47pm Pacific

## Soaring Ambitions

THE TEENAGE PARACHUTING PIONEER  
GEORGIA "TINY" BROADWICK SHOWED THAT  
COURAGE ISN'T COUNTED IN POUNDS

By Sonja Anderson

**I**N 1908, a 15-year-old girl named Georgia "Tiny" Broadwick leapt from a hot-air balloon and floated more than 1,000 feet down to earth under a parachute. It was the start of a prolific aerial career: The 4-foot-8, 85-pound Broadwick went on to jump from the sky some 900 times, demonstrate skydiving for the U.S. Army and inspire an invention that changed parachuting.

Born in 1893, the North Carolinian spent her youth working in a cotton mill, got married at 12 years old and was abandoned by her husband shortly thereafter. When she was 15, she watched the parachuter Charles Broadwick jump from a lofted balloon at a carnival. Hooked, Broadwick convinced him to teach her his act, after which she took his name. At a carnival in Raleigh in 1908, Broadwick performed her first public jump. Soon, spectators were lining up to see her fly.

Aviation was still in its infancy, and Americans were thrilled about "leaving the earth and being in an apparatus that allows you to get closer to the heavens," says Lieutenant Colonel Jessica Brown, a historian at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Parachutists could fall like angels and alight without injury. (Not to say Broadwick always landed smoothly, as she went where the wind took her: Once, that was through the window of a train's caboose; another time, into a cactus patch.)

Soon, Broadwick became the first woman to para-



A parachute belonging to Broadwick is on display in the Early Flight gallery at the Smithsonian's newly updated National Air and Space Museum.



chute from an airplane. In one early jump, on January 9, 1914, she sat in a swing that hung from a plane 2,000 feet above Los Angeles, pulled a lever and dropped. She floated safely into Griffith Park.

Later that year, Broadwick was demonstrating parachuting for soldiers in San Diego when she encountered a pivotal snag: Her parachute's static line was catching on the aircraft—so she cut it. Free-falling, Broadwick maneuvered her lines to open the parachute. Her snip is often credited as the first use of a "rip cord," later patented by Floyd Smith.

Growing up in poverty, Broadwick showed working people that the wonders of aviation weren't only for wealthy men. Her skill and courage, Brown says, proved that "aviation is classless." ♦

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## FAA Part 141 Pilot Training Modernization Update

<https://www.facebook.com/ganews/posts/pfbid0E8jtM3X35mYYwRPN4rZ83ZrTWUaJFan74zuyp4NbSK7AwBhqK6k2Q3iC4tZANww5l>

The FAA has released a massive 471-page proposal to modernize Part 141 pilot training, but the initially brief 10-day comment window sparked industry concerns over the pace of review. In response, the deadline has been extended to May 11, 2026, giving pilots and flight schools more time to digest the 20 major recommendations. To help navigate the dense report, Skyfarer built an interactive hub to make these critical aviation updates easier to understand.

General Aviation News

See the hub here: <https://part141-report.skyfareracademy.com/>

*From Colorado Balloon Club Newsletter with permission from Editor Rae Todd.*



# PACIFIC COAST AERONAUTS CLUB CONTACTS

## 2026 PCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CLUB OFFICERS

Names & Email Addresses	Board Term Expires at End of Year	2026 Officers
Patrick Moore <a href="mailto:pcamoore587@gmail.com">pcamoore587@gmail.com</a>	2026	Chair of BOD
April Turner <a href="mailto:pca.april@gmail.com">pca.april@gmail.com</a>	2026	President & Co-Secretary
Dave Wakefield <a href="mailto:pca.dwake@gmail.com">pca.dwake@gmail.com</a>	Volunteer	Vice President
Linda Walton <a href="mailto:pca.lindaw@gmail.com">pca.lindaw@gmail.com</a>	2026	Treasurer
Jeanne Anson <a href="mailto:ansonlta2@gmail.com">ansonlta2@gmail.com</a>	2027	Co-Secretary
Tom Sharpee <a href="mailto:tomsharpee@gmail.com">tomsharpee@gmail.com</a>	2027	Member

## 2026 PCA COMMITTEES

Committee	Chairperson	Members
Newsletter	Jeanne Anson	<i>And All Members!</i>
Membership Dev. Outreach	TBD	TBD
Membership Dev. Communications	Dave Wakefield	TBD
Education & Training	Pat Moore April Turner	Jeanne Anson Tom Sharpee
<b>Calendar Based Events</b>	<b>Not Committees</b>	<b>Start Dates</b>
<b>BFA Youth Program</b>	Jeanne Anson	<b>On Going</b>
<b>Awards</b>	Linda W & April	<b>Later in the year</b>
<b>WHAMOBASS</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Planning starts 3/26</b>
<b>Christmas Party</b>	Jana Couch	<b>Oct 2026 planning starts</b>



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FOR SALE

## Balloon and Equipment

Right-click on picture captions for more details




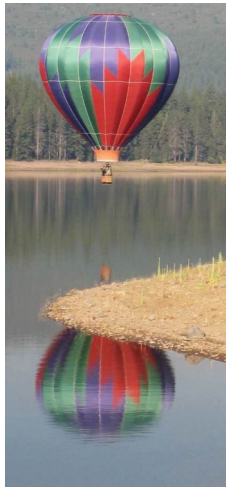
Raven S-55A



2001 Cameron 'Shoe 90



TBW AX-8B—Racer

Aerostar S49A