



DOWNWIND CHASE

Official Newsletter of the Pacific Coast Aeronauts

♦ MARCH 2023 ♦

View from the Board

by April Turner

Evolving the Safety Seminar into Something New!

Is it spring yet? Spring usually marks the start of flying season. Back when wet years were the norm, a typical early season ballooning opportunity was to attend a safety seminar. I remember a couple where we would go outside for propane safety exhibits and it was cold, cold, cold.

Safety seminars were put on hold during the pandemic, and when we surveyed PCA members, those who responded were not overall interested in attending an in-person seminar in 2023 either. Of the respondents showing interest in a seminar, 25% were primarily interested in virtual training, (like the Magee's [Balloon Training Academy](#)), 25% have committed to another seminar already, and 20% weren't planning to attend any safety seminars at all.

As noted in last month's newsletter, we went back to the data and looked at the question on the main reason members are interested in safety seminars at all. While a quarter of the responses prioritized insurance discounts, nearly 60% of the answers indicated that **peer learning** was the main reason for attendance. Thinking about peer learning in our hot air ballooning community, the opportunities for this are increasingly rare. Where we used to have weekends of eight to ten balloons fun flying, and tailgating together, now there may be only one or two balloons flying at a time. A summer and fall filled with rally's requires much more travel than in previous years, and there is less time to share stories. While our community is small, we have always learned a vast amount directly from each other. We can continue to do this by incorporating the technologies we have all become familiar with over the course of the pandemic.

Introducing Specialist-Led Learning Sessions!

In the spirit of sharing information, we are developing a method to deliver thirty to sixty minute presentations led by experts. Some of the experts you know and some may be new. We are starting with the topics outlined by the BFA as important for continuing education, including weather, decision-making, maintenance etc. We are also interested in developing crew-focused topics particularly to help orient new crew members. We have reached out to a couple experts already who are excited to give it a try! We want to make this as useful and informative as possible. If there are topics you are interested in learning about, please let us know. If there are topics you would like to share, we are happy to help develop materials or assist with the technology. This will be a repository of knowledge for now and the future – so we welcome any members to be a part of this new endeavor.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

View from the Board / Meeting Schedules / Contact Us	1
PCA Club Opportunities & Goals / Membership News	2
Lincoln Airport Event Opportunity	3
Sunrise Calendar for March 2023 / Helpful Links	3
PCA Award Categories and Criteria	4
2023 Youth Camp Details (Registration, Timelines, Scholarships)	5
Club Officers & Committees / Balloons & Equipment For Sale	6

Please join us at the club meeting to discuss the change from safety seminar to specialist sessions. We would love to prioritize ideas and speakers and get a schedule started for you. If you have an idea you would like to discuss, drop me a line at pca.april@gmail.com

Soft Landings!

April Turner
Board Member

IMPORTANT INFO

CLUB MEETINGS

HELD ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF ODD-NUMBERED MONTHS PLUS DECEMBER.

NEXT CLUB MEETINGS:

3/1 & 5/3 @ 7PM PST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

HELD QUARTERLY, 3RD THURSDAY FOR 2023 @ 7:30PM (AND AS NEEDED)

1/19; 4/20; 7/18; 10/19; 12/21

MEMBERS ARE INVITED

TO ATTEND ALL VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Current club members receive an email with a link to attend meetings for free. Dates are subject to change; in such rare cases, members are notified via email.

Please see last page for officers, committee chairs, contact and additional club information.

Email newsletter contributions to:

PCA: pca@pcaballoons.org
OR pca.suzseiler@gmail.com

PCA Mailing Address:

14938 Camden Ave., Suite 76
San Jose, CA 95124

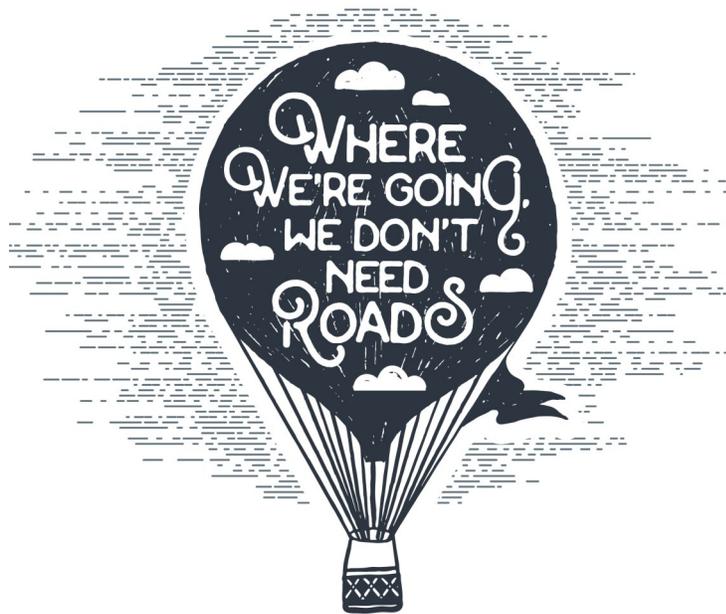


Image: Shutterstock
Used with Standard License



IT'S YOUR CLUB!

Set aside time to tune in to Club meetings the first Wednesdays of January, March, May, July, September, November (those are the odd-numbered months), and also December.

Enjoy and contribute to conversations about who's been flying and where, humorous anecdotes, what the latest developments are in the sport and industry, upcoming and previous events, and more.

Your ideas about club activities for 2023 are invited!



Proposed 2023 PCA Club Goals

1. Events
2. Communication & Outreach
3. Membership Growth



MEMBERSHIP NEWS UPDATES

A new Membership Development Committee has been formed with goals to help build new membership and give our current members the most out of their membership. If you are interested in joining this new committee please send an email to pcamelanee@gmail.com expressing your interest. All are welcome!

You're also invited to take a look at the various opportunities to share your great ideas with committees listed on the last page herein. Please contact the respective Chair/Co-Chairs to discover how your talents can serve PCA's membership.

Upcoming Event News

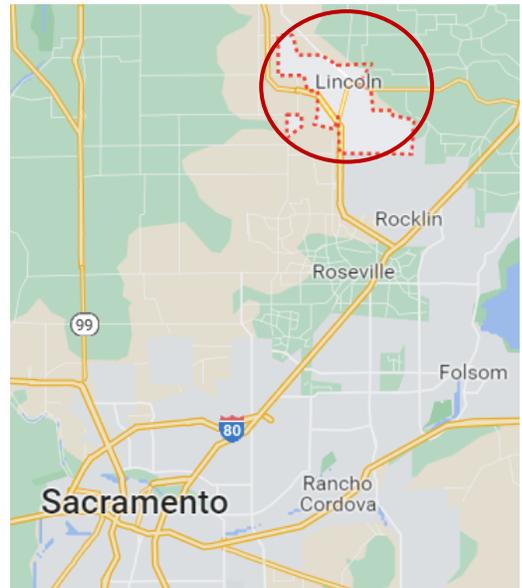
Lincoln Regional Airport Annual Open House -- Saturday, August 26

**Mark Your Calendars and
Contact Dave Wakefield Soon!**

This enjoyable event northeast of Sacramento is looking for a total of 5 balloons to start off the day of their Open House. Last year, four balloons participated including Dana Thornton, Chuck Weiscopf/Eileen Jones, Joe Lamberti, and Dave Wakefield, who all put on a great show for the community.

They will pay \$125 cash show-up money per balloon.

Hurry to contact Dave Wakefield directly at cheerspilot@comcast.net if you are interested in one of the five spots!



Sunrise Calendar for February and March 2023

Feb 2023	5	7:07	Mar 2023	5	6:33
	12	7:00		12	7:22
	19	6:51		19	7:12
	26	6:42		26	7:01

Upcoming Events

Quick links to many events in the months ahead are available on our website. Check them out at:

[PCA Event\(s\) Calendar](http://pcaballoons.org)
(pcaballoons.org)

**FLIGHT PLANNING RESOURCES
& UPDATED
SUNRISE TIMES CHART**

Click on the Sun!



PCA Award Categories and Criteria

Awards are to be advertised throughout the year and awarded as scheduled by the Awards Committee. Not every award will be issued every year unless there are nominations.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

As you go about your typical ballooning activities, are there aeronauts who deserve your nomination for any award(s)?

Pilot Award

- a) **Purpose:** to acknowledge outstanding accomplishments or extraordinary contribution to the sport of ballooning by a pilot.
- b) **Award Type:** Trophy award.
- c) **Criteria:** Outstanding personal or national best, such as a long flight or high altitude, etc. Help with organization or bringing in new crew or enthusiasts to the sport. Sharing the love of the sport with the community.

Crew of the Year Award

- a) **Purpose:** To acknowledge a crew member who either is or is not a current member and has been an outstanding crew for area pilots, and to expose them to the broader world of ballooning.
- b) **Award:** PCA Membership and BFA membership.
- c) **Criteria:** Person is selected by each pilot submitting a name of a crew person that has shown to be outstanding crew for them at rallies and flying in their local area.
- d) Name may be drawn from a hat at the Safety Seminar or other event.

PCA Membership Award

- a) **Purpose:** Awarded to someone (crew, pilot or balloon enthusiast) to introduce them to the PCA.
- b) **Award:** 1-year PCA membership.
- c) **Criteria:** Each PCA member can submit the name of someone who deserves this award.
- d) Name is drawn from a hat.

Life-Time Award

- a) **Purpose:** To acknowledge a longtime contributor to the sport of Ballooning and the PCA.
- b) **Award:** Lifetime membership to the PCA and a trophy award.
- c) **Criteria:** Given to a member who has supported the sport of ballooning by spreading the word about ballooning by promoting an event, organizing an event and contributing to the sport of ballooning.

Above and Beyond Award

- a) **Purpose:** To acknowledge someone who has given outstanding effort to promote ballooning or the PCA in the last year.
- b) **Award:** Trophy Award.
- c) **Criteria:** To be given to a member of the PCA who has contributed to the growth of the PCA and/or has contributed to the sport of ballooning.

2023 Youth Balloon Camp Dates Announced



Share your love of ballooning with the next generation!

Promote the BFA's YOUTH (Junior Balloonists) PROGRAMS. Learn more at <https://www.bfa.net/divisions/junior-balloonists>. Be sure to read camp

information thoroughly for important dates, prerequisites, and program policies (see below).

Did you know? You can also contribute your time, materials and yes, money, to support the camps.

Questions? Contact Katie Griggs, BFA Youth Program

Chairperson: youthprograms@bfa.net (775) 771-4175.

Traditional Overnight Summer Camps:

- Southeast Camp @ Cordele, GA — June 20-25
- Rio Grande Camp @ Albuquerque, NM — July 8-13
- High Sierra Camp @ Reno, NV — July 16 - 21

Hot Air Balloon Event Camps:

- DinahSoar Camp @ Vernal, UT — August 24-25
- Boise Camp @ Boise, ID — Dates TBA

2023 Youth Balloon Camp Guidelines

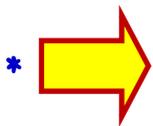
Important Dates

- March 1** Online Camp Registration opens.
Camp Registration requires a \$100 Camp Registration fee to hold your spot in camp. This fee is nonrefundable unless selected camp has reached capacity.
- March 1-14** Youth who have not attended a BFA Youth Camp have priority acceptance.
- March 15-21** Campers who have attended BFA Youth Camp in previous years but are registering for a different camp location will be given priority acceptance at that location.
- March 22** All campers will be considered for camp acceptance at any camp location given space and payment of registration fee.
- March 22** Beginning on March 22, campers will be informed of their registration status. Any campers that register after this date will be informed of status as space is verified.
- April 1** All scholarship essays and letters of recommendation are due to YouthPrograms@BFA.net
- April 15** Beginning on April 15, campers will be informed of scholarship status. All campers who have camp tuition balance due, will be invoiced.
- May 15** Full camp tuition due or spot in camp may be forfeited.

Scholarships

The Balloon Federation of America grants a limited number of scholarships for youth attending BFA Youth camps. In addition, many local balloon clubs and service organizations provide varying levels of scholarships for campers. Contact balloonists in your area to see if local scholarships are available.

Go to the BFA Website (<https://www.bfa.net/divisions/juniorballoonists>) to read full scholarship information.



* Be sure to visit <https://www.bfa.net/divisions/junior-balloonists> for thorough Camp information

Junior Balloonists ROCK !!



PACIFIC COAST AERONAUTS CLUB CONTACTS

2023 PCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CLUB OFFICERS

Names & Email Addresses	Board Term Expires Year End	2023 Officers
Patrick Moore pcamoore587@gmail.com	2024	Chair of BoD
David Wakefield pca.dwake@gmail.com	2023	President
Tom Sharpee tomsharpee@gmail.com		Vice President
Linda Walton pca.lindaw@gmail.com	2024	Treasurer
Suzanne Seiler pca.suzseiler@gmail.com	2023	Asst. Treasurer
Melanee Scarborough pcamelanee@gmail.com	2024	Secretary
April Turner pca.april@gmail.com	2024	
Jana Couch Pcajana1@gmail.com	2023	

2023 PCA COMMITTEES

Committee	Chairperson	Members
Awards	Linda Walton April Turner	
Christmas Party	Jana Couch	April Turner Suzanne & Larry Seiler
Balloon Camps (Junior Balloonists)	Jeanne Anson	Dave Wakefield Melanee Scarborough Joe Lamberti
Newsletter	Suzanne Seiler	Linda Walton & Jana Couch And All Members!
Member Communications/ Outreach	David Wakefield	April Turner
Membership Development	Melanee Scarborough	Linda Walton, Jana Couch, April Turner & Pat Moore
WHAMOBASS	Melanee Scarborough	Linda Walton, Jana Couch & April Turner
Events	Melanee Scarborough	Dave Wakefield, April Turner & Jana Couch
Educational Seminars	Linda Walton April Turner	Jana Couch, Pat Moore, Dave Wakefield, Suzanne & Larry Seiler



DISCLAIMER: The PCA is a non-profit incorporated organization. Information contained within this issue of the *DOWNWIND CHASE* is the most up-to-date and correct information available at the time of publication. The PCA, its Officers and Directors are not responsible for the accuracy of the material enclosed herein. Opinions expressed in the *DOWNWIND CHASE* are solely those of the individual authors and should not be perceived to be those of the PCA, the Editor, Publisher, or its leadership.



Balloon Aircraft and Equipment

Right-click on picture captions for more details



[GEFA FLUG ASI05 GD-4 Thermal Airship](#)



[2001 Cameron 'Shoe 90](#)



[1998 Head AX8-88 Complete System](#)



<https://www.pcaballoons.org/sale-Racer.htm>



[Raven.htmhttps://www.pcaballoons.org/sale-](#)