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**U. S.
BALLOONING
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION
CEREMONY**



Ruth Ludwig Lind:

1991 BFA Presidents Award; Shields-Trauger 2000 Award; BFA Director's Award

Ruth Lind has been flying balloons since 1979, and has flown hot air balloons, gas balloons, rozier balloons and hot air airships in numerous places around the world.

In 1988, Ruth became General Manager of the Post Mills Airport in Post Mills, Vermont. In addition to running this grass strip airport for small airplanes and gliders, she conducted passenger balloon flights and worked in the airport's balloon repair station and balloon construction shop. She left that post in 1997 upon moving to Pennsylvania shortly after her marriage.

From 1988 to 2000, Ruth served as Editor of *Ballooning*, the Journal of the Balloon Federation of America, and *Skylines*, the BFA's monthly newsletter. She later continued to contribute articles about ballooning to various books and magazines.

In 2002, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the BFA for the Northeast Region, and served for three years as Secretary of that board. In addition, she headed up a number of volunteer efforts within the BFA, including the Minimum Safe Altitude Study, and the organization's participation in the Experimental Aircraft Association's giant AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



Her corporate experience includes flying for American Heritage Magazine at the Forbes Château de Balleroy in Northern France, and at King Hussein's birthday celebration in Wadi Rum, Jordan, as well as a number of corporate contracts at U.S. events.

In addition, she has served as balloonmeister for dozens of balloon events across the country, most notably the Stoweflake Hot Air Balloon Festival in Stowe, Vermont, for which she organized the pilots, passengers and flight operations for twenty years.

She and her gas balloon flying partner, Marsha Neal Treacy, competed in the eighth World Gas Balloon Championships in 1994. The two women, competing as the first all-female team to represent the United States, placed fifth. Ruth flew as co-pilot during the first World Rozier Championship in 1990 (third place) and the first World Hot Air Airship Championship in 1988 (11th place). She also competed as pilot in eight America's Challenge Gas Balloon Races, placing as high as fourth.

Ruth has flown press at nine U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships, and served as Media Coordinator at the 1998-2000 Nationals. She has been fortunate to work with world-renown meteorologist Lou Billones as his assistant at the Nationals and for several of the circumnavigation attempts of Steve Fossett and Kevin Uliassi.

After retiring from gas ballooning in 2006, Ruth was named to the America's Challenge Gas Balloon Command Center, and in 2014, was appointed Director of that Center, in charge of a staff that provides inflight regulatory, weather, search and rescue, recovery, customs and immigration and crew support to all the gas balloon teams preparing for and during America's Challenge and Gordon Bennett gas balloon races.



Celebrating 25 years of the StoweFlake Hot Air Balloon Festival (Ruth's favorite event) and 20 Years as Balloonmeister.



1994. 8th World gas Balloon Championships. With Marsha Lambertson (Neal Tracey).



Ruth with Lou Billones

Ruth has received the Shields Trauger Award for service to ballooning, the highest special award given by the Balloon Federation of America, the citation reads: **“In Recognition of your Worthwhile Contribution to the Science of Aviation and the Balloon Federation of America, 2000.”** the BFA President’s Award, and BFA Director’s Award.

Ruth began her career as a broadcast journalist, after earning a BA in Modern Languages from the University of Maine. Before becoming BFA Editor, she held positions in journalism and corporate public and investor relations in New England and New York. She moved back to Maine in 2000 to begin working for herself as a real estate developer, and in 2013 shifted her focus to benefit and quilt auctions.

When not helping Maine non-profits raise funds through the auction gala method, she enjoys spending time with her husband, pets and grandchildren, and hand-stitching quilts for all of them! She and David are avid motorcyclists, and in winter months, you can find Ruth skijoring the Maine woods with her Chinook dogs.

Ruth became involved with the Victory Junction Camp in Randleman, NC. early in its development. Victory Junction Gang Camp is a camp for children with serious medical conditions and chronic illnesses. *“Victory Junction was the dream of Adam Petty, a fourth generation race car driver from the famous Petty family and a rising star in the sport. Adam’s passion for racing was equaled only by his compassion for others, especially children. Between races, he often visited children in pediatric hospitals. After his tragic death in a racing accident, Adam’s family and friends came together to realize his dream of a camp to serve children with serious medical conditions. Adam’s vision sprung to life when Victory Junction opened its gates in 2004”.*

Part of her involvement, with Marsha Lambertson, was to develop a balloon tether program to fly the children at the Camp. The Carolinas Balloon Association has taken over and continues that program.



Ruth helped the Camp administration to design a way to decorate the Camp’s water tower as a hot air balloon.



ACF Fair– Hot Air Tether



Forbes Magazine Balloon Ascension Division



Ruth strapping one of her "Lucky Zucchini's" to an upright.



Ruth's homebuilt Experimental Balloon. Built to fold up to become carry on baggage (pre 911)



As Ruth cut back on active flying she decided to take up something more subdued, like international motorcycling. Ruth taking a break between Horner and Whitter, Alaska.



Ruth with cousin Maureen Bradley. Thanks for the memories!!



Ruth and David's wedding. Big Island, Hawaii. 1997.



Ruth in South Africa considering the utility of elephants as chase vehicles.



November 22, 2024.

Congratulations to Ruth Lind, our newest US Balloon Hall of Fame inductee! Ruth was inducted this week in a special ceremony in her home in Maine. Ruth's love of ballooning has been evident in so many ways over the years. Congratulations Ruth!

We would like to thank David Lind and John Davis for their assistance.