

JEFF PESTUN

RESIDENCE: Holland, MI USA

EDUCATION: BS in computer science & mathematics, Hope College (Holland, MI USA)

OCCUPATION: Director of Information Technology, Hope College (Holland, MI USA)

BALLOONING BACKGROUND:

- Started ballooning in 1983 in Battle Creek, MI at age 9
- Previously employed as a full-time corporate crew chief for several national programs
- US hot air balloon pilot certificate in 1999
- Member of the Balloon Federation of America (BFA) since 2000
- Various roles at hundreds of balloon events in 30+ US states, Canada, Europe and Asia over 40+ years
- Member of USA support team at 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2016 World Hot Air Balloon Championships
- Presented at ballooning safety seminars on ensuring safer competition flying through the appropriate use of technology
- First aid, CPR and AED certification through the American Heart Association

BALLOON COMPETITION PILOT:

- Competitor at numerous BFA US National Championships with several top-10 finishes
- 2009 BFA Rookie of the Year
- 2010 BFA Great Lakes Regional Champion
- Has continually competed at numerous sanctioned regional and national events since 2000

BALLOON COMPETITION OFFICIAL:

- Chief Safety Officer at 2021 and 2022 BFA US National Hot Air Balloon Championships
- Chief Safety Officer at 2025 BFA Women's US National Hot Air Balloon Championship
- Assistant Competition Director at 2025 Battle Creek Field of Flight Balloon Festival
- Weather Officer at numerous local and regional competitive events
- WatchMeFly certified scorer