

Henry D. Rosenbaum

4175 Doolittle Drive Mechanicsville, Virginia, 23111 USA
(804) 971-0704 – hdrosenbaum@gmail.com

History

Henry Rosenbaum began flying hot air balloons in 1988 and has held an FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate for lighter-than-air, free balloon since 1990. He has more than 1,700 hours as Pilot in Command, with experience in BFA competition, commercial and corporate balloon programs, tourism balloon management and special-shape operations. His senior balloon-event assignments include regional event Safety Officer and Balloonmeister. At the U.S. Nationals include Safety Officer, Deputy Director, competition Steward. And at Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta includes Safety Officer, Chief Safety Officer and Balloonmeister.

His aviation-safety experience is reinforced by a 40-year career with Henrico County Division of Fire, concluding in 2024, with command, training, EMS, Fire Marshal, regulatory-enforcement, hazardous-materials, investigative responsibilities with law enforcement powers. Earlier service included Virginia State Police EMS 1 Med-Flight as a Flight Paramedic. This combined background provides experience in operational risk management, incident investigation, time-critical decision-making, regulatory compliance and interagency coordination.

Education and Training

- FAA Commercial Pilot Certificate - Lighter-Than-Air, Free Balloon; commercial certificate held since 1990.
- 1,700+ hours as Pilot in Command; flying career began in 1988.
- Fire/EMS instructor and senior training leader; approximately 20 years in administrative and training assignments.
- Advanced EMS and aeromedical operational experience as a Virginia State Police Med-Flight Flight Paramedic.
- Hazardous Materials Team and SRT/Dive Rescue Team experience.
- BFA / FAA safety presenter: balloon powerline hazards, operational decision-making, emergency response, propane and fire safety, and Stop the Bleed and CPR.
- BFA Event Symposium & Convention safety presenter - 2019 and 2022.
- Yearly Safety Seminar presenter at the local hot air club levels.

Competition Pilot Experience

- BFA competition flying experience over a ballooning career spanning more than three decades.
- Past Board Member, Balloon Federation of America Competition Division - Southeast Region.
- Commercial, corporate/banner and special-shape balloon experience in the United States and Mexico.

Competition Official Experience

- 2016-2018 Safety Officer - U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship, Shreveport-Bossier, LA; three consecutive Nationals.
- 2019 Deputy Director - U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship / Old West Balloon Fest, Scotts Bluff County, NE.
- 2023-2024 Steward - U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship / Great Texas Balloon Race, Longview, TX.
- 2014-2016 Safety Officer - Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2017-2018 Chief Safety Officer - Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.
- 2019-present Balloonmeister - Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta; six actual Fiestas served in the role through 2025.
- 2015 Safety Officer / Safety Staff - Carolina BalloonFest, Statesville, NC.
- 2018, 2023 and 2025 Balloonmeister - Carolina BalloonFest; 2024 Assistant Balloonmeister.

Professional Ballooning Experience

- 1997-2000 Part Owner / Program Manager, Balloons Over Virginia, Inc.; managed Virginia Tourism's 'Virginia is for Lovers' hot air balloon program.
- Corporate/promotional balloon and banner flying throughout the United States and Mexico, including Pontiac, GMC, AC-Delco and Cargolifter.
- Special-shape experience includes a golf ball, Smokey Bear, Oggy, American Football and TINY the Fire Dog.
- Creator/pilot of TINY the Fire Dog since 2023, a special-shape public-safety education program promoting fire/life safety and the Move Over message.

Competition Safety Officer Qualifications

- Competition safety leadership - three consecutive U.S. Nationals as Safety Officer, plus Albuquerque Safety Officer and Chief Safety Officer assignments.
- Launch and weather risk decisions - Balloonmeister experience includes pilot briefings, operational-condition evaluation, go/no-go and field-use recommendations, working with weather, launch and safety personnel.
- Accident / incident investigation - 40 years of fire/EMS service and sworn Fire Marshal/law-enforcement experience involving investigations, enforcement and interagency case work.
- Aircraft damage / equipment concerns - U.S. Nationals Safety Officer responsibilities included participation in evaluation of damaged or potentially unairworthy balloons and related pilot notifications.
- Near-miss / dangerous-flight review - national championship Steward and Safety Officer experience supporting rules, procedures, operational standards and safety review.
- FAA / airspace coordination - documented Air Traffic Coordination role at the 2018 U.S. Nationals and experience working with appropriate FAA personnel.

Henry D. Rosenbaum – CV page 3

- Regulatory / waiver compliance - extensive Fire Code Official and law-enforcement background combined with aviation regulatory coordination.
- Site, spectator and public safety - major-event flight operations combined with fire marshal, emergency-management and public-safety leadership (Crowd Management).
- Propane and refueling safety - event safety authority plus FAA Safety Team propane/fire-safety instruction.
- Senior-official coordination - experience across Safety Officer, Chief Safety Officer, Deputy Director, Steward, Assistant Balloonmeister and Balloonmeister positions.

Public Safety Leadership

- 1984-2024 Henrico County Division of Fire - 40 years; retired from Fire Administration / Fire Marshal leadership.
- Assignments included Lieutenant, Training Captain, EMS Supervisor, Captain/Resource Manager, station Captain, battalion assignment and Fire Marshal responsibilities.
- Sworn Fire Marshal/law-enforcement experience in fire investigations, arson, hazardous-materials violations, inspections, enforcement and code interpretation.
- Worked with regional Fire Marshal offices, ATF and the U.S. Attorney's Office on a long-running arson-for-profit investigation.
- Virginia State Police EMS 1 Med-Flight - Flight Paramedic, 1987-1998.
- Former President, Central Virginia Fire and Arson Association
- Chairman, Henrico Federal Credit Union Board of Directors.

Skills

- National / international-level competition safety management and senior-official coordination.
- Weather and operational risk assessment; launch-safety and go/no-go decision support.
- Accident, incident, near-miss, collision and aircraft-damage investigation/review.
- FAA / air-traffic coordination and regulatory compliance.
- Propane, refueling, fire and hazardous-materials safety.
- Emergency services, security and public-safety liaison.
- Pilot briefings, operational communication and time-critical decision-making.
- Competition rules, stewardship and safe event operations.
- Training, incident command and interagency coordination.

Accomplishments

- 2017 Elizabeth J. Domont Safety Award - BFA / U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship.
- Three consecutive U.S. National Championships as Safety Officer - 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- U.S. Nationals Deputy Director - 2019; U.S. Nationals Steward - 2023 and 2024.
- Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Balloonmeister - beginning in 2019.
- Carolina BalloonFest Balloonmeister - 2018, 2023 and 2025; Assistant Balloonmeister - 2024.
- Past Board Member, BFA Competition Division - Southeast Region.