

Justin Elkins

I was raised in a ballooning family, my Grandfather (who has passed), Father, and Brother are commercial balloon pilots my first flight was in Billings Montana when I was 5. I spent my childhood barnstorming all over the world with my father who was a full time commercial pilot, I logged my first hour in 1989 at the age of 14.

When I was 17 I took the written for the first time early in the 1990's. After taken the written I graduated high school got married had kids and stepped out of active ballooning without taking the flight test. Move forward about 17 years. Got divorced and my money finally became mine and I had a little time on my hands so with the help of my Father I was able to purchase an older Aerostar 77 from an old Friend Aaron Brody and began training again. My first (new) training flights where 3 years ago at the Australian Nationals in Canowindra Australia, getting instruction from the likes of Phil Kavanagh, Ruth Wilson, Kay Turnbull and others. Travel to St Jean Festival de Mongolfers 2 years ago where I was able to get a few more hours flying (instruction) in the crowded sky's with 120 balloons. In October 2014 I took my Private pilot test with Kay West and Mark West.