

2019 America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

Team Bio

Team number: 8

Crew Nationality: Austria

Balloon Name: *Skyline GMBH*

Balloon Registration: D-OZZI

Pilots:

Name	Christian Wagner	Name	Thomas Lewetz
Hometown	Born in Vienna, Austria	Hometown	Born in Graz, Austria
Occupation		Occupation	
Aircraft ratings/flight hours	500 hours in hot air, 60 + in gas balloons, is a gas and hot air balloon instructor	Aircraft ratings/flight hours	Started ballooning in 1984, holds gas and hot air balloon ratings.
America's Challenge race history	First America's Challenge	America's Challenge history	1 (1995)
Gordon Bennett history	3 (2017-2019)	Gordon Bennett history	6 (1990-96, 2017-19)
Other notable flights/records		Other notable flights/records	
Awards:		Awards:	

Comments: Thomas Lewetz, with his longtime flying partner Silvia Wagner, competed in the very first America's Challenge in 1995. He's returning to Albuquerque for the first time in nearly 25 years, and we're delighted to welcome him back. As is the case for so many balloonists, he says flying in long-distance gas balloon races is an escape from the office – from normal life.

Christian Wagner comes from a ballooning, flying, and skydiving family, and says the fascination of ballooning to him is the peacefulness. Of participating in the Gordon Bennett, he wrote that it means to him, "spending some special time with his father."