

# Troy Bradley

## Montgolfier Diploma Nomination

### 2007 Best Performance – Rozier

#### Citation

##### AM-3 through AM-6 World Records

On November 14 to November 16, 2007 Troy Bradley flew his small AM-3 Rozier balloon for over 41 hours, covering over 1,300 km. This set eight (8) new world records for duration and distance, shattering the previous record AM-3 records of 27 hours 25 minutes and 921 km.



**The Pilot:** Troy Bradley is the most prolific balloon world record holder in the United States and very possibly the world. When these current world records are ratified, Troy will have set a total of 58 world records during his lifetime. He is the first person to have set records in gas, hot air, and Rozier balloons. These accomplishments are especially remarkable considering Troy is only 43 years old.

Troy has spent his lifetime in the air. Soloing at age 14, he has logged more than 4,600 hours aloft. In 1992, he made the first US to Africa balloon flight and set the absolute duration record (6 days) for all types of balloons. In 2002, Troy broke the oldest standing aviation record flying a very tiny gas balloon over 1,200 miles. The previous record of 500 miles stood for 80 years.

**The Flight:** This flight was launched from Greeley, Colorado, USA on November 14, 2007 and terminated near Pleasant Springs, Wisconsin, USA after being aloft solo for 41 hours 23 minutes and traveling a distance of 1,326 km.

The first part of the flight was slower than Troy was expecting, traveling only 160 km in his first 13 hours aloft. Later in the flight it became apparent that Troy had an equipment problem; his gas valve was stuck closed – he could not open it. Now Troy was required to alter his flight strategy to work around this problem; the flight would continue. With the balloon now being less maneuverable because of this valve problem, the next concern was becoming Chicago and the very large body of water, Lake Michigan, looming in the distance. When the balloon would start to cool and then descend, could a water landing be necessary? The U.S. Coast Guard was alerted. Fortunately this did not become an issue and Troy was able to control the balloon in a gentle descent and a successful landing was accomplished.

For these reasons, the Balloon Federation of America is pleased to nominate Troy Bradley for the prestigious Montgolfier Diploma.

Respectfully Submitted

Andrew Baird - President  
Balloon Federation of America

Orvin E. Olivier - Awards Chair  
Balloon Federation of America