

United States of America

Nomination

FAI Montgolfier Diploma  
For  
Best Performance in a Hot Air Balloon for 2003

The Balloon Federation of America is pleased to nominate Troy Bradley for the best performance in a hot air balloon for 2003. This nomination is for his distance record flight in an AX-9 balloon. Troy's flight took place on January 20, 2003. He lifted off from the Stratobowl in Rockerville, South Dakota, and landed in Shelbyville, Kentucky, for a distance of 1,017.09 miles (1,636.8 kilometers). The 14 hour flight was made with an off-the-shelf 1996 Aerostar S-66A balloon. This was the longest distance ever flown solo in a hot air balloon and the fourth greatest distance for any hot air flight. Troy also became the first person to have set records in the AA, AM, and AX categories.

Troy has set 46 other world records:

September 16-22, 1992	AM-8 to AM-15 Distance, Duration and Altitude
February 15, 1994	AM-1 Distance and Duration
June 15, 1994	AM-1 to AM-7 Altitude
October 20-22, 1999	AM-1 to AM-6 Distance and Duration
January 3-5, 2002	AA-3 to AA-5 Distance

# AX-9 Distance Record



# **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

## **Nomination FOR FAI Montgolfier Diploma**

### **Best Performance Gas Balloons**

The Balloon Federation of America is pleased to nominate Dr. Coy Foster of Dallas, Texas for best performance in a gas balloon for 2003. This nomination recognizes his March 7/8, 2003 flight in a 14,000 cu ft super pressure gas balloon.

The flight of Super 2 launched in the late night hours from Plano, Texas and ended just over 12 hours later with a high wind landing in Clinton, Missouri. During the flight and right up to landing, airspeeds were as high as 60 mph as measured by GPS. The flight established 6 new world records for Distance (AS2) of 647.21 km (402.15 statute miles), Duration for AS2 of 12h 25m and Altitude for AS2-3-4-5 at 2,111 m. This brought Dr. Foster's World Record total to 55.

Dr. Foster has been a pilot for almost 35 years and an aeronaut for 28 of those years. During most of that time he concentrated on exploring and expanding the capabilities of man's smallest balloons. He has established world records in Gas in AA 1 & 2, in Hot Air in AX 1-2-3-4-5 and now in the AS2-5.

In 1992 Dr. Foster was nearly killed in a powerline accident, again while flying a tiny, one-man special shape balloon. Burned over 80 percent of his body he spent 2 months in a coma. Eventually he learned to walk, to eat and to fly again. Those steps alone were considered small miracles. That he should go on to explore the largely unknown capabilities of the super pressure balloon speaks volumes about his courage, tenacity and dedication to the science of lighter than air aviation. The knowledge that aeronauts Tom Gatch and Fumio Niwa flew to their deaths in super pressure systems could only have made the challenge that much more difficult.

More than 3 years in the planning and supported by two test flights, the flight of Super 2 proved to be an outstanding accomplishment by both man and balloon.

OTHER WORLD BALLOON  
RECORDS BY COY FOSTER, MD

CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TYPE	RECORD	DATE
Hot-Air	AX-2	Distance	22.8 mi.	01/06/82
Hot-Air	AX-2	Altitude	12,610'	01/23/83
Hot-Air	AX-2	Distance	36.17 mi.	03/22/83
Hot-Air	AX-2	Duration	2:44:20	03/22/83
Hot-Air	AX-3	Distance	115.91 mi.	02/03/83
Hot-Air	AX-3	Duration	4:55:28	02/03/93
Gas	AA-1/2	Distance	170.48 mi.	05/30/83
Gas	AA-1/2	Duration	8:12	05/30/83
Gas	AA-1	Altitude	18,100'	07/14/84
Gas	AA-1/2	Distance	375 mi.	09/07/84
Hot-Air	AX-3	Altitude	16,952'	01/05/86
Hot-Air	AX-3	Altitude	21,200'	02/15/86
Hot-Air	AX-4	Altitude	29,500'	02/23/86
Hot-Air	AX-4	Distance	130.45 mi.	03/20/86
Hot-Air	AX-4/5	Duration	8:39	03/20/86
Hot-Air	AX-1	Distance	10.1 mi.	01/04/87
Hot-Air	AX-1	Duration	1:26	01/04/87
Hot-Air	AX-1	Altitude	2714'	01/09/88
Hot-Air	AX-1	Altitude	5371'	01/10/88
Hot-Air	AX-1	Distance	28.1 mi.	02/07/88
Hot-Air	AX-1	Duration	1:37:20	02/07/88



Map depicting the Super Pressure Balloon flight for Dr. Coy Foster March 7/8, 2003



# **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

## **Nomination FOR FAI Montgolfier Diploma**

### **Contribution to the Development of the Sport of Ballooning**

The Balloon Federation of America is pleased to nominate Mr. Mark West for the Montgolfier Diploma in the category of 'Contribution to the Development of the Sport of Ballooning'.

Mark West is the President and chief engineer of Aerostar International, Inc. In this capacity, he has been instrumental in furthering the science of ballooning, been an avid promoter of ballooning, an active instructor, and an important safety instructor and investigator.

Because of his leadership, in 2001 the Balloon Federation of America awarded Aerostar International its highest award; the Shields Trauger Award.

#### **For Advancements in the Sport of Ballooning**

Mark West and Aerostar have always been an important strong corporate sponsor and supporter of the BFA. They have donated five hot air balloon systems to the BFA for our membership campaigns, as well as being very involved in committees and in advisory capacities.

Mark West is a tireless champion of the next generation of balloonist. He has the ability to make the most complex scientific theories regarding the principles of flight understandable to children of all ages. Mark has actively supported our youth and the BFA's Junior Balloonist program, including hosting several national youth camps at the Aerostar factory.

In past years, when the BFA could not afford a display at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, Mark West would donate space at the Aerostar display tent to the BFA.

Under the leadership of Mark West, Aerostar has consistently supported the BFA and its programs to a greater extent than any other balloon manufacturer.

Mark West is one of the most dynamic and informative speakers on the safety seminar circuit. Through his many years of accident investigations, Mark has been able to take information learned from each of these unfortunate incidents and turn them into learning experiences for others.

## For Furthering the Science of Ballooning

Mark West is also the chief engineer for hot air balloons at Aerostar. All of the product changes and improvements that have come about in the last 15 years have had his strong input. Mark is a Managing Director for all of the engineering and design work from the many special shape balloons to the smallest manufacturing detail.

Mark is self educated in fabric construction and design becoming a fabric expert. He has participated in pioneering fabric research resulting in balloon fabrics which have extended their life to almost double of what they were ten years ago.

Mark designed, engineered and perfected the double walled, higher efficiency hot air balloon envelope which has been used very successfully in several world record balloon attempts. This same technology has potential to benefit other areas of hot air ballooning, such as large ride operators.

He has also engineered the Aerostar burners including the current generation, Zone Five Turbo, high output and yet quieter burner.

Through engineering excellence and innovations for all aspects of ballooning, Mark West has benefited balloonist all over the world. For this reason, the BFA nominates him for the Montgolfier Diploma.