



**FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE
INTERNATIONALE
Ballooning Commission**

Hall of Fame

**Thomas A.F. Sheppard
Inducted 2012**



Thomas A. F. Sheppard
USA
Inducted 2012
Sport Balloonist
3 Sept. 1929, Watership Down, Sydmonton, England

Thomas Albert Francis Sheppard began ballooning in 1973 when he and three partners purchased a balloon together and learned to fly. His pilot rating in free balloons dates from 1974. In 1975 the group organized a balloon competition in West Bend, WI. Sheppard was the Balloonmeister for the event. He later volunteered on the Balloon Federation of America's Events Committee.

From 1975 to 2005, Tom served as event director at approximately 110 events. He has organized and/or officiated regional events in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa; has served as Event Director and Chairman of Jury at North American championships; and has been Event Director, Steward, and President International Jury in international sport and commercial competitions. Largely due to his role in organizing North American and international competitions Sheppard is considered the father of modern balloon competition in the U.S. He is also recognized for his work in rules and competition task setting

Tom represented the USA at the International Ballooning Commission (CIA) from 1981 to 1995. While serving on the CIA Jury Board he developed and wrote the CIA Jury Level Qualifications, the CIA Jury Exams for Jury Members, and the CIA Jury Handbook. He was also the principle author of Organising A Safe Balloon Event, written while serving on the CIA Safety Sub-Committee.

Among his numerous honors and awards, Sheppard holds the FAI/CIA Montgolfier Diploma for Service to the Sport of Ballooning (1990), The National Aeronautic Association Certificate of Honor for substantial contributions to the advancement of the art, science and safety of ballooning (1989) the Canadian Balloon Association Joan Martin Award (1984 & 1994). He is the only 2-time recipient of the BFA Shields-Trauger Award, the USA's Highest National Award for Ballooning (1979 and 1996).

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Resume of Ballooning Activities

Hot Air Balloon Pilot License 1974

Competitor at local, national & international balloon events including US Nationals.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Repairman for Free Balloon since 1978

FAA Designated Flight Examiner for (10) Years

Member of Balloon Federation of America (BFA) since 1974

Committee Work for BFA included:

President of the BFA (2) years
Member of BFA Board of Directors (6) years
BFA Presidential Advisor (2) years

Member BFA Events Committee (10) years
Chairman BFA Events Committee (7) years
BFA Events Committee Scoring Manager (5) years
Chairman, BFA Competition Division Rules Committee (11) years

CIA Delegate for USA (6) years
Alternate CIA Delegate for USA (5) years

Organizer and/or Official at international and national balloon championship events including:

Championship Director – US National HAB Championship – 1978 & 1979
Championship Director – Canadian National HAB Championship - (7) years

Event Director – World Hot Air Balloon Championship – 1981 & 1985
Event Director – North American HAB Championship – (4) years
Event Director – Gas Balloon World Championship - 1990
Event Director – 1st Rozier World Championship – 1990

Event Director for Commercial Balloon Competitions Including:

Winter Olympics – Lake Placid USA 1980
Winter Olympics – Calgary Canada 1988
Kodak Great American Balloonfest 1988
Battle Creek International Championships (4) years
Festival du Montgolfieres, St. Jean Canada (3) years

Official at International Competitions including:

Steward @ 2nd European Hot Air Airship Championship, Luxembourg 1991
@ Gas Balloon World Championship, Obertraun, Austria 1992
@ North American HAB Championship, Brockville, Canada 1994
@ Gas Balloon World Championship, Albuquerque USA 1994

Jury President @ World HAB Championship – Austria 1987
@ World HAB Championship – Japan 1989
@ World Ladies Cup – Japan, - 1990-1994
@ 1st Pacific HAB Championship – Japan 1990
@ 2nd Pacific HAB Championship – Australia 1994
@ Gordon Bennett Cup – Austria 1994

Lecturer at Aviation Safety Seminars in United States & Canada.
Author of Technical Material for Balloon Pilot Training used in USA, Europe & Japan.

One of the team of editors for the FAA Private & Commercial Pilot Practical Test Standards (Section 9 Free Balloons) published by the FAA in 1984 and still the standard today.

One of the team from the BFA who met with the FAA Federal & Regional Representatives in 1985 to formulate a standard Balloon Event Waiver Policy. The format of this wavier, with minor updates, continues to be used by the FAA for Balloon Event Waivers.

Provides analysis of balloon accident reports for safety seminar presentations.

Speaker & Co-Organizer of “Officials Competition Seminar” – 1990 & 1991

Speaker & Co-Organizer of “Balloon Competition Seminar” – 1990 & 1991

Co-Author of Observer Handbook for Gas Balloon & Rozier Balloon World Championship, 1990.

Awards:

Shields-Trauger Award for Exemplary Service to the BFA 1979

(Highest USA Award for Ballooning)

Joan Martin Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Sport of HAB in Canada 1984

(Canada’s Highest National Award for Ballooning)

Japan Balloon Federation Medal of Appreciation 1993

W.K. Kellogg Co. (USA) Award of Excellence 1985 – For establishing a tradition of excellence in World Hot Air Balloon Competition

National Aeronautic Association (USA) Certificate of Honor 1989 – For substantial contributions to the advancement of the art, science and safety of ballooning

Federation Aeronautique International Diplome Montgolifer 1990 – For Service to the sport of ballooning



Additional photos and information can be found on the Balloon Federation of America’s National Balloon Museum Website:

<http://www.nationalballoonmuseum.com/HallofFame>