



FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE Ballooning Commission

Hall of Fame

Jan Balkedal Inducted 2014



Nationality: Swedish

Date of Birth: 1945-09-21

Jan Balkedal has had a very long and successful career in ballooning. He has won 5 medals at World Hot Air Balloon Championships, more than anyone else. He has competed in 19 of the 20 World Hot Air Balloon Championships so far. 1979 in Sweden he was an official.

Since 1971 when he got his balloon license, Jan Balkedal has flown AA, AX, AM and BX aerostats and is still very active.

Jan Balkedal has participated 7 times in Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett 1984-2003. Best place 4th in 2000. Also in AA World Championship 1996.

In 1977 he constructed a hot air airship with better performance than other existing BX airships.

In 1980 he constructed a 4800 m³ hot air replica of the gas balloon used by S. A. Andrée for a polar expedition 1897. The replica was used in a movie about the 1897 polar flight.

He has participated in more than 20 other movie productions that included balloon flights. Five of those have been full length cinema movies. In 1984 Jan Balkedal produced the award-winning "Balloon Ballet"

He has also many times shared his competition experience with younger pilots in numerous seminars for the Swedish national teams.

Achievements, honours and awards:

- 1973 Bronze medal World Hot Air Balloon Championship
- 1975 Silver medal World Hot Air Balloon Championship
- 1981 Bronze medal World Hot Air Balloon Championship
- 1997 Silver medal World Hot Air Balloon Championship
- 2002 Bronze medal World Hot Air Balloon Championship
- 1983-1999 5 times top ten World Hot Air Balloon Championship
- 1981 Montgolfier Diploma
- 8 times Swedish Champion
- 8 Swedish records
- 1975 Swedish Airsport Federation performance award no 1.

