



**FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE
INTERNATIONALE
Ballooning Commission**

Hall of Fame Nomination

Carol Rymer-Davis



Nationality: USA

Date and place of Birth: 1944/November/28

Year and place of Death: 2010/September/29

Carol Rymer Davis is one of the world's most decorated female balloonists. Early in her ballooning life, Carol began setting records for altitude, distance and duration in hot air balloons. Her gas ballooning career resulted in wins in the America's Challenge and the Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett, the first and only win by a female pilot.

Her world records in duration, altitude and distance in balloon flights are remarkable. Her 37 year career as a hot air balloon pilot started in 1973. Well actually 1971 when she sold her car to buy the first balloon she flew with her husband.

In addition to ballooning, Carol was also active in the sports of Mountain Climbing, Skiing, Racquetball, Handball, Biathlon Triathlon, Quadrathlon, Cycling and Running. In fact, she became the youngest female to climb all 53 of Colorado's 14,000 foot plus mountains. In skiing she won first place in a number of skiing events, and placed well in many of the other sporting events in which she participated.

Rymer-Davis was born in Denver, Colorado. She graduated from Colorado College with a bachelor's degree, and from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center with a MD. She completed her residency at the Lovelace Medicine Center. She was a partner at Diversified Radiology. She served 22 years in the United States Army Reserve as a flight surgeon and retired as a colonel in 2001.

Achievements, honors and awards:

Honors:

1974-2010 Participant, US National Hot Air Balloon Championships
1975 Member, International Jury, 2nd World Championships
1975 10th Place, US National Hot Air Championships
1975 Certificated in gas balloons
1975 World Record attempt, AX-6 Distance,(Unsuccessful)
1976 Life Member of the Balloon Federation of America
1978 World Record, AX-5 Altitude, 25,000'
1979 World Record, AX-5 Altitude, 31,300'
1980 World Record, AX-5 Duration, 6 hr. 34 min
1980 World Record, AX-5 Distance, 143 miles
1980 Crew Chief, USA Team #1, World Gas Balloon Championships, Belgium
1982 - 1983 Instructor, Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association Ground Schools
1985 Member, Gas Balloon Events Committee, Balloon Federation of America
1986 Member, Hot Air Balloon Events Committee, Balloon Federation of America
1986 - 1992 Member, Board of Directors, Balloon Federation of America
1987 - 1990 Treasurer, Balloon Federation of America
1987 - 1988 Secretary, Competition Division Balloon Federation of America
1990 - 1991 Vice President, Balloon Federation of America
1990 2nd Place, 1st Ladies World Cup Saga, Japan
1990 Safety Officer, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
1991 4th Place, New Mexico State Hot Air Balloon Championships
1991 Chief Safety Officer, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
1991 5th Place, 2nd Ladies World Cup Saga, Japan
1992 8th Place, 3rd Ladies World Cup Saga, Japan
1993 2nd Place Colorado Balloon Club Championships
1995 4th Place, America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race Albuquerque, New Mexico
1995 Co-pilot, World Record Distance and Duration, AA-6 to AA-15.
1997 2nd Place, Gordon Bennett Qualifying Race, St. Louis, Missouri

1997 2nd Place, New Mexico State Championships Balloon Federation of America Colorado State Champion
1999 5th Place, New Mexico State Championships
1999 21st Place, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
2000 1st Place, REMAX National Gas Balloon Race, Denver, Colorado
2000 2nd Place, Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett, St.Hubert, Belgium
2001 2nd Place, America's Challenge Gordon Bennett Qualifying Race, Albuquerque, NM
2001 Ladies Champion, United States National Championships, Anderson, SC
2001 8th Place, Coupe Aeronautic Gordon Bennett, Warstein, Germany
2002 6th Place, 46th Coupe Aeronautic Gordon Bennett, Chatellerault, France
2002 Balloon Federation of America Colorado State Champion
2003 Safety Officer, United States Hot Air Balloon National Championship, Anderson, SC
2003 1st Place, America's Challenge Gordon Bennett Qualifying Race, Albuquerque, NM
2004 Safety Officer, United States Hot Air Balloon National Championship, Anderson, SC
2004 1st Place, 48th Coupe Aeronautic Gordon Bennett, Thionville, France
2006 3rd Place, America's Challenge Gordon Qualifying Race, Albuquerque, NM

Awards:

1981 Recipient, Diploma Montgolfier
1983 Level VII Aeronaut, Balloon Federation of America
1988 Master Crew Chief, Balloon Federation of America
1996 Level VIII Aeronaut, Balloon Federation of America
2000 Recipient, Diploma Montgolfier
2005 Recipient, FAI Sabiha Gokcen Medal given for the Most Outstanding Flight for 2004
2005 Recipient of the Harmon Aeronaut Trophy
2005 Recipient, Katherine and Marjorie Stinson Award given by the National Aviation Club for her outstanding aviation achievements.
2006 Recipient of CIA Gold Badge with three Diamonds
2010 Inducted into the Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame (Posthumously)
2011 Recipient, Colorado College Alumni Association "Spirit of Adventure Award"
2012 Inducted into the United States Ballooning Hall of Fame at the National Balloon Museum, Indianola, Iowa (Posthumously).

Carol Rymer Davis

BALLOON BIOGRAPHY

- 1972 Began flying hot air balloons
- 1974 - Present Participant, US National Championships
- 1975 Member, International Jury, 2nd World
 Championships
 10th Place, US National Championships
 Certificated in gas balloons
 World Record attempt, AX-6 Distance,
 unsuccessful
- 1976 Life Member of the Balloon Federation of
 America
- 1978 World Record, AX-5 Altitude, 25,000'
- 1979 World Record, AX-5 Altitude, 31,300'
- 1980 World Record, AX-5 Duration,
 6 hr. 34 min.
 World Record, AX-5 Distance, 143 miles
 Crew Chief, USA Team #1, World Gas
 Balloon Championships, Belgium
- 1981 Recipient, Diplome Montgolfier (World
 award for achievement in ballooning),
 Tokyo, Japan
- 1982 - 1983 Instructor, Albuquerque Aerostat
 Ascension Association Ground Schools
- 1983 Level VII Aeronaut, Balloon Federation
 of America
- 1985 Member, Gas Balloon Events Committee,
 Balloon Federation of America
- 1986 Member, Hot Air Balloon Events
 Committee, Balloon Federation of
 America

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| 1986 - 1992 | Member, Board of Directors, Balloon Federation of America |
| 1987 - 1990 | Treasurer, Balloon Federation of America |
| 1987 - 1988 | Secretary, Competition Division Balloon Federation Of America |
| 1988 | Master Crew Chief, Balloon Federation of America |
| 1990 - 1991 | Vice President, Balloon Federation of America |
| 1990 | 2nd Place, 1st Ladies World Cup Saga, Japan Safety Officer, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta |
| 1991 | 4th Place, New Mexico State Hot Air Balloon Championships Chief Safety Officer, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta 5th Place, 2nd Ladies World Cup Saga, Japan |
| 1992 | 8th Place, 3rd Ladies World Cup Saga, Japan |
| 1993 | 2nd Place Colorado Balloon Club Championships |
| 1995 | 4th Place, America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race Albuquerque, New Mexico World Record, AA-6 to AA-15 Distance and Duration, Albuquerque, New Mexico to Lisbon, Ohio, Co-pilot with Leslie Davies |
| 1996 | Level VIII Aeronaut, Balloon Federation of America 2 nd Place, Gordon Bennett Qualifier, St. Louis, Missouri to Old Trap, North Carolina, Co-pilot with Richard Abruzzo |

1997 2nd Place, New Mexico State Championships

Balloon Federation of America Colorado State
Champion

1999 5th Place, New Mexico State Championships

21st Place, Albuquerque International Balloon
Fiesta

1st Place, REMAX National Gas Balloon Race,
Denver, Colorado to East Wales, Maine, 1782
miles, 66:20 Hours, Co-pilot with Richard Abruzzo

2000 Recipient, Diplome Montgolfier (World
award for achievement in gas ballooning),

2nd Place, 44th Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett,
St. Hubert, Belgium to Capoli, Italy, 745 km,
49:06 Hours, Co-pilot with Richard Abruzzo

2nd Place, America's Challenge Gordon Bennett
Qualifying Race, Albuquerque, NM to Scranton, PA,
Co-pilot with Richard Abruzzo

2001 Ladies Champion, United States Hot Air Balloon
National Championship, Anderson, SC

8th Place, Coupe Aeronautic Gordon Bennett,
Warstein, Germany to Razke, Hungary, 1032
km, 41:55 Hours, Co-pilot with Richard Abruzzo

2002 6th Place, Coupe Aeronautic Gordon Bennett,
Chatellerault, France to Poo, Spain, 561.11 km,
31:42 Hours, Co-pilot with Richard Abruzzo

Balloon Federation of America Colorado State
Champion

2003 Safety Officer, United States Hot Air Balloon
National Championship, Anderson, SC

1st Place, America's Challenge Gordon Bennett
Qualifying Race, Albuquerque, NM to Iron River,

- WI, 1112 miles, 56:13 hours, Co-pilot With
Richard Abruzzo
- 2004 Safety Officer, United States Hot Air Balloon
National Championship, Anderson, SC
- 1st Place, 48th Coupe Aeronautic Gordon Bennett,
Thionville, France to Vannas, Sweden, 1802 km,
52:52 hours, Co-pilot with Richard Abruzzo
- 2005 Recipient, Sabiha Gokcen Medal given by the FAI
for the Most Outstanding Flight for 2004
- Recipient, Katherine and Marjorie Stinson Award
given by the National Aviation Club for her
outstanding aviation achievements
- Recipient, with Richard Abruzzo, The Harmon
Aeronaut Trophy given by the National Aeronautic
Association for their 2004 Coupe Aeronautic
Gordon Bennett Victory
- Elected to the Albuquerque International Balloon
Fiesta Hall of Fame
- 2006 Recipient CIA Gold Badge with 3 Diamonds (Only
Woman and one of only 12 in the world)
- 3rd Place, America's Challenge Gordon Bennett
Qualifying Race, Albuquerque, NM to Holt, FL,
1189 miles, 44:38 hours, Co-pilot With
Richard Abruzzo
- 2007 Colorado Women's Sports Hall of Fame Recipient
for Ballooning
- 2010 Colorado Aviation Hall of Fame

Additional photos and information can be found on the Balloon Federation of America's National
Balloon Museum Website: <http://www.nationalballoonmuseum.com/HallofFame>