

Awards:

- 1992— Governor of New Mexico’s Certificate of Recognition
- 1992— Lighter-Than-Air Society Achievement Award
- 1992— FAI’s De la Vaulx Medal for an Absolute World Record
- 1993— 1st BFA Shields-Trauger Award
- 1993— Sid Cutter award for Outstanding Contribution to Ballooning
- 2003— FAI Montgolfier Diploma for Best Performance in Hot Air Balloons
- 2007— 2nd Montgolfier Diploma for Best Performance in Rozier Balloons
- 2015— NAA Harmon Trophy Recipient
- 2015— 2nd BFA Shields-Trauger Award
- 2015— 3rd FAI Montgolfier Diploma for Best Performance in Gas Balloons

Records:

- 1992— 1st U.S. to Africa Balloon Fight
- 1992— 1st flight with anhydrous ammonia gas (NH3) in New Mexico
- 1994— AM1 distance and duration records
- 1994— AM1-AM7 altitude record
- 1999— AM1-AM7 distance and duration records
- 2002— AA3-AA5 distance record at 1,225 miles
- 2003— AX9 distance record from South Dakota to Kentucky
- 2005— AA3 duration record from Texas to Georgia
- 2007— AM3-AM6 distance and duration records from Colorado to Wisconsin
- 2012— Greatest distance of the year for the BFA annual Long Jump at 173 miles
- 2015— AA13-AA15 distance and duration record for crossing the Pacific Ocean with Leonid Tiukhtyaev, the “Two Eagles” flight

Troy Bradley

Inducted into the U.S. Ballooning Hall of Fame on July 31, 2016

By the Balloon Federation of America at the
National Balloon Museum in Indianola, Iowa



Troy in his 200th balloon piloted.



Troy flying in Phoenix, Arizona in 2013.



Launch from Saga, Japan in 2015.



AA3 distance record attempt from Elizabeth, CO in February 2001.



Bradley and Tiukhtyaev inside the capsule of the Two Eagles.



Bradley on his AM1 distance and duration record.



Troy Bradley's balloon "Stairway to Heaven".



L to R: Troy Bradley, Tami Bradley, and Christophe Houver at Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland.



Launching in Colorado for the AM3 distance and duration records in November, 2007.



Leonid Tiukhtyaev and Bradley before their Two Eagles flight.



Bradley with crew Bob Day and Jan Stevenson for the AA3 distance record in January 2002.



Troy with wife Tami and children Bobby and Savannah.



Bradley flying over Pikes Peak, Colorado in 2013.

Troy Bradley

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Born in Denver, Colorado on August 15, 1964, Troy Bradley was destined to fly. Grandparents Jim and Helen Dutrow were two of the pioneering balloonists in the Denver area. From early on Bradley had an exceptional interest in flight. He experienced his first balloon flight at age 11 in 1976. In the years following he spent every possible weekend crewing for his grandparents.

At 13 years old, Bradley attended an event in Grand Island, Nebraska to crew for his grandparents. There he met a pilot flying for Anheuser-Busch. The pilot told Bradley of his travels around the country flying the Budweiser balloon and getting paid to do it! At that moment Troy knew what his calling was: Ballooning.

At age 14 Bradley received his Student Pilot Certificate, and at 16 Bradley earned his Private Pilot Certificate. After earning his Commercial Pilot Certificate at 18 he competed for the first time in the U.S. National Hot Air Championships. He went on to receive training in gas balloons at 21 years; this removed the airborne heater restriction on his certificate. The hard work paid off when he began flying commercially in the Denver area immediately following his certifications. He was recognized for his talent, and was hired at the young age of 19 by Sid Cutter to fly for World Balloon, a balloon ride company in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Coincidentally, Sid ran the Anheuser-Busch balloon and airship program at the time. Bradley would eventually go on to own World Balloon and was always thankful to Sid Cutter for his guidance and mentorship.

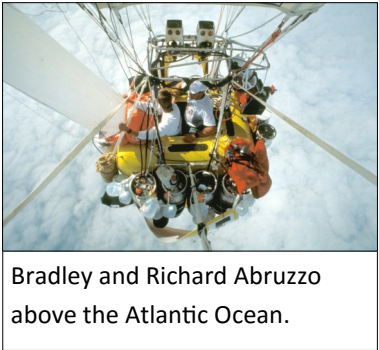
From the beginning of his piloting career, Bradley had record setting on his mind. After competing in numerous championships and challenges, in 1992 Bradley made the first balloon flight with anhydrous ammonia gas (NH3) in the state of New Mexico. Later that year Bradley succeeded at making the first United States to Africa balloon flight during the Chrysler Transatlantic Challenge with his co-pilot Richard Abruzzo. Bradley and Abruzzo stayed aloft longer than any of the others that participated in the Chrysler Transatlantic Challenge. Their six-day flight set an absolute record for all types of balloons and stood for five years. Bradley also won the FAI's De la Vaulx Medal for an Absolute World Record in 1992.

Bradley has established or broken 64 Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) World Records in Ballooning. In 1994 Bradley established the AM1 distance and duration records, as well as the AM1-AM7 altitude records. He was the first person in history to break records in the AA (straight gas), AX (hot air), and AM (hot air/helium hybrid) classes of balloons. Bradley broke the oldest standing aviation record in the books, achieving the record-setting distance of 1,225 miles in an AA3.

Bradley competed in both hot air and gas balloons. He participated in 14 New Mexico State Hot Air Balloon Championships and won the championship four times.

Competitions:

- 1983— First year in U.S. National Hot Air Championships
- 1985— First win in New Mexico State Hot Air Championship
- 1987— 31st Gordon Bennett from Austria with Dewey Reinhard
- 1990— 4th place North American Hot Air Championship
- 1990— 1st BFA Long Jump Challenge, flew 198 miles in 65,000 ft³ balloon
- 1992— 2nd Win in New Mexico's State Hot Air Championship
- 1993—37th Gordon Bennett from Albuquerque with David Levin
- 1994— World Gas Balloon Championships with Tami Bradley
- 1995— Won U.S. Team National Hot Air Championships with Sid Cutter and Mark Sullivan
- 1995— 3rd place in the 1st America's Challenge Gas Race with Tami Bradley
- 1996— Won National Gas Balloon Race with Shane Robinson with 814 miles
- 1996— 2nd America's Challenge Gas Race with Tami Bradley
- 1996— 40th Gordon Bennett from Warstein, Germany with Tami Bradley
- 1997— 41st Gordon Bennett from Warstein, Germany with Tami Bradley
- 1997— 3rd America's Challenge Gas Race with Tami Bradley
- 1998— Won 4th America's Challenge Gas Race with Tami Bradley
- 1998— 42nd Gordon Bennett from Paris, France with Richard Abruzzo (weathered out)
- 1999— 43rd Gordon Bennett from Albuquerque with Bruce Hale
- 1999— RE/MAX Cup Gas Race with Bruce Hale
- 2000— 5th America's Challenge Gas Race with Earl Miller
- 2001— 45th Gordon Bennett from Warstein, Germany with Earl Miller
- 2001— 3rd Win in New Mexico State Hot Air Championship
- 2001— 6th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race with Russ Buessing
- 2002— 7th America's Challenge Gas Race with Tami Bradley
- 2003— 4th Win in New Mexico State Hot Air Championship
- 2008—13th America's Challenge Gas Race with Jonathan Trappe
- 2010— 15th America's Challenge Gas Race with Shane Robinson



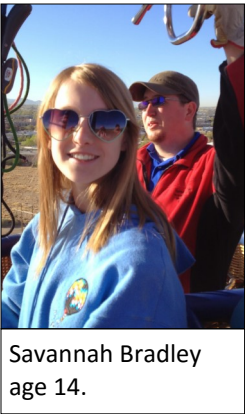
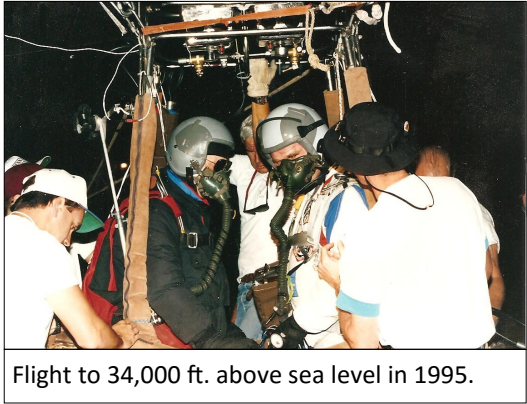
Timeline of Life

Ballooning:

- 1976— First Balloon Flight
- 1978— Student Pilot Certificate
- 1980— Private Pilot Certificate
- 1981— First Year to fly as PIC in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- 1982— Commercial Pilot Certificate
- 1984— First night flight in a balloon
- 1986— Removal of airborne heater restriction
- 1986— Organized 20 hot air balloon ascents to 24,000 ft. with Whit Landvater
- 1993— Gave Walter Cronkite a ballooning lesson at Château de Balleroy
- 1995— Flight to 34,000 ft. above sea level in a hot air balloon
- 2009— Flew a cluster balloon with chair for the Disney premiere of “UP”
- 2011— Flew a 2nd cluster balloon with a house for National Geographic with Jonathan Trappe
- 2013— Flew over Pikes Peak in Colorado

Achievements/Family:

- 1996— Married Tami Stevenson
- 2011— Son Bobby Bradley’s first solo flight at age 9
- 2014— Daughter Savannah Bradley’s first solo flight at age 14
- 2015— Proclamations from Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico for “Two Eagles Day”
- 2015— Nominee and Finalist for the NAA Robert J. Collier Trophy
- 2016— Induction into the U.S. Ballooning Hall of Fame
- 2016— Induction into the FAI Ballooning Commission Hall of Fame



Bradley also competed in two North American Hot Air Championships finishing fourth in 1990, and two U.S. Hot Air Team National Championships winning the title in 1995 with Mark Sullivan and Sid Cutter as teammates.

In gas ballooning he competed in nine America’s Challenge Gas Races, winning in 1998 with co-pilot Tami Bradley. Bradley then competed in seven Coup Aeronautique Gordon Bennetts, the World Gas Balloon Championships, and many National Gas Balloon Races, winning in 1996 with co-pilot Shane Robinson.

Outside of competition Bradley has spent many years in the service of ballooning. He is a lifetime member of the Balloon Federation of America (BFA), and spent many years on the Board of Directors for the organization, including two and a half years as President. Bradley is currently the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) representative for the BFA Board of Directors.

Bradley is a lifetime member of the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA). He is the past President of the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum Foundation. He serves on several working groups and subcommittees with the FAI Ballooning Commission. Bradley served as the Head of Delegation for the U.S. Team at the 2015 FAI World Air Games in Dubai (The Olympics of Aviation).

With 6,800 hours piloting a balloon, Troy Bradley has spent 1 out of every 67 hours that he has been alive in a balloon. He has logged flight time in 218 different balloons of various sizes, and carried over 27,000 passengers for flights. Bradley’s top speed in a balloon is 103 miles per hour. He has made eight flights covering over 1,000 miles and fifteen flight exceeding 24 hours in duration. Bradley has also flown in 45 of the United States, five continents, 16 countries, and across two separate oceans. He has built two gas balloons and one hot air balloon.

Troy Bradley’s career as a professional pilot has covered all aspects of ballooning. His influence in corporate ballooning programs, ballooning instruction, paid rides, and balloon sales has made a huge impact on ballooning and will for years to come. Forty years later and Bradley still loves every flight as much as his 11-year old self loved his very first flight.

Bradley married his flying partner and soul mate Tami Stevenson in 1996. Their children Savannah and Bobby, have continued the tradition of flight. Savannah is a private balloon pilot, and their son Bobby was the youngest to solo in an ultralight balloon at age nine. Savannah and Bobby are the fourth generation of pilots in the family.

Bradley’s greatest flying accomplishment to date was the Two Eagles flight in 2015 with Russian co-pilot Leonid Tiukhtyaev. Bradley and Tiukhtyaev broke the distance and duration records for AA balloons in a flight from Japan to Mexico. By flying 160.6 hours and 6,656 miles, they resoundingly pushed the boundaries of gas ballooning.

Bradley has become one of the most prolific record setters in ballooning history.