



# Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ecbert Eecks

**CUTTER, Sydney Dillon**      USA      (1934-      (HB)

See APPENDIX-BF/BJ/BK/BO/BR.      Professional Aeronaut.

b: 9 May 1934, Albuquerque, NM.

s: U.S. Air Force, 1955-60, Ret. Captain.

p: Professional pilot, Aviation Company owner.

f: B-License #1211033 issued 1962 (issued on request), self taught; First B-Flight (solo) 4 June 1971 (with mother); Flew balloons in Mexico, France, Canada, Sweden, & Hawaii; More than 2000 B-Hours (18,000 in all aircraft) by 1983; BFA Designated Master B-Instructor; FAA Designated pilot examiner and repairman.

l: 1972, Founded what became the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque; 1972, Became distributor of Raven Balloons; 1973, Placed second in World Hot-Air championships; 1973-75, Organizer of "Bahama to U.S. Balloon Clasic"; 1976, Built & flew light-weight "knock-down" balloon; 1978, Placed first in U.S. National B-Races; 1979, Placed second in World Hot-Air championships; 1979-81, Designed and flew hot-air airship; 1980, Made flight at the opening of Winter Olympics; 1982, Founded World Balloon Corporation; 1982, Founded "Balloon Inspection Clinic."

m: BFA-Life member, Treasurer two terms; Abq. Aerostat Ascension Assoc. ("QuadA"); Founder & Charter Member; CIA-FAI Delegate 1995.

h: Montgolfier Diploma, FAI-1976; BFA-Presidents Award 1976; Abq. Sports Hall of Fame; Established a B-Service Award. \*\*\*Epic flight 1974 (solo) from Kaneohe Hawaii. Initial ascent was on a 1600' tether line, to repair antenna cable across Horseshoe Canyon of the Pali Mountains. The tether was cut as

a maturing thunderstorm approached. An attempt was made to out-climb it, but balloon was sucked into the center. Violent wind, and heavy rain was encountered, before the balloon broke out of the storm, and landed safely.

\*\*\*Epic flight 1975 (solo) from the bottom of the Grand Canyon in "Sky Chariot." Awe-inspiring flight for a movie film, ended by landing on a ledge, and being lifted out by helicopter. \*\*\*Epic flight 1975 (w/WOESSNER) from New Jersey in "Rainbow Rider." Successful flight ended with a landing in the streets of Brooklyn. However, pilot was jailed for "not having permission to land at that specific location." \*\*\*Epic flight 1978 (w/J.Bickford) from Cat Cay, Bahamas, in "Jolly Roger." Trans Ocean attempt to Florida ended in the water when fuel was exhausted. Both aeronauts were rescued from "Devil's Triangle."

r: Bio-Data Feb.83.