



Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ecbert Eecks

SPARKS, Bobby USA (1934- (GB/HB)

See APPENDIX-I/BA/BB/BC. Professional balloonist.

b: 2 Feb.1934 Martinsville, VA.

p: Musician/Entertainer, Balloon & Airship builder.

f: First B-Flight 1967 w/Charlie McARTHUR; FAA B-License 1970; More than 3200 B-Hours (28 Gas flights) by 1986; Established B-Training schools in Eastern Europe.

l: FIRST to fly a balloon in the Dominican Republic (date unverified); Built an airship 1986-88 (unverified); Established a B-Museum in New Zealand (unverified); Accumulated considerable amount of ballooning memorabilia.

***Epic series of flights crossing all of the Great Lakes of the USA: 3 May 1975, (Superior) Silver Bay (MN) to Upson (WI):

28 May 1975, (Michigan) Milwaukee (WI) to
Whitehall (MI).

1 June 1975, (Huron) Harbor Bay (MI) to Port
Albert, (ONT).

4 June 1975, (Erie) Port Huron (ONT) to
Ripley (NY).

9 June 1975, (Ontario) Ajax (ONT) to Youngstown (NY).

***Epic flight 21 Aug.1975 (solo) from Bar Harbor, ME in "Odyssey."

TransAtlantic attempt unsuccessful, due to bad weather. ***Epic flight 21 Aug.1975 (w/Wood) from Mashpee, MA in "Yankee Clipper." TransAtlantic attempt unsuccessful, due to weight of "stow-away" passenger.

r: BM-Su.1975/22; Personal interviews.