



## UNITED STATES BALLOONING HALL OF FAME

### Candidate Information Form

**Date Submitted:**      **January 10, 2015**

**CANDIDATE:**    **Troy Bradley**  
10513 Espira Ct. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114

**Describe the basis for the submission:** This should include achievements or contributions in the areas of manufacturing (including homebuilt and experimental), invention, record and epic flights, competition, journalism or publication, or other noteworthy lighter than air activities.

Troy Bradley's passion for ballooning began in 1976 when his grandparents purchased their first hot air balloon in Denver, Colorado. He soloed at age 14, and went on to earn his private license at 16, commercial at 18 and gas rating at age 21. He has logged 6,000 plus hours aloft having spent his lifetime in the air. He has a love for all aspects of the sport from flying, building balloons and keeping the history alive.

Troy's experiences in ballooning cover all aspects of hot air and gas ballooning, including sport flying, competitive flying, instruction, commercial contracts, paid rides, and record-setting, with 58 world records set in hot air, gas, and Rozière balloons.

Troy's desire to share the sport and help it grow is evident in the countless numbers of students he has trained in his own businesses and as Part 141 school flight instructor, as well as in the time he devotes to public service with his volunteerism to the sport. He has served as past president of the Balloon Federation of America, including serving two terms on board of directors as director at large and Gas Division Board. He currently serves as Vice President of Albuquerque Anderson/Abruzzo International Balloon Museum Foundation.

**Provide references:** Identify two individuals that can speak to the quality and significance of the achievement, and to the character of the candidate.

**Raymond Bair**

8801 Osuna Rd NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
87111 US  
Primary phone: (505)296-3505  
Alt Phone: (505) 934-1223  
[abqbair@comcast.net](mailto:abqbair@comcast.net)

**Scott Appelman**

Rainbow Riders  
5601 Eagle Rock Ave NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
87113 US  
Primary phone: (505)823-1111  
Work: (505)823-1111  
[scott@rainbowryders.com](mailto:scott@rainbowryders.com)

**PERSON MAKING THE SUBMISSION:**

**Name:** Jim Thompson  
**Address:** 2628 Murano Mews Ct., Kissimmee, FL 34747  
**Telephone:** (515) 229-5804  
**E-mail:** [jim@thompsonaire.com](mailto:jim@thompsonaire.com)

---

**In the event the candidate is selected, the National Balloon Museum will need the following listed items to assure a meaningful display during and after the induction ceremony:**

*The items listed below are to be submitted to the National Balloon Museum on or before April 2<sup>nd</sup>, of the year of the induction.*

- 1) Several (6-7) items from the inductees ballooning history.
- 2) A full page biography depicting the inductee's life and influences on ballooning.
- 3) Several (6-7) photographs portraying the inductee at various times in their ballooning career.
- 4) An appropriate photo to be placed on the plaque.
- 5) The name to be used on the plaque.

*Two plaques will be made: one for the Hall of Fame wall and one for the inductee. If the inductee is deceased the plaque will be presented to a family member or friend of the family.*

**The induction ceremony will be at the United States Ballooning Hall of Fame, located in the National Balloon Museum in Indianola, Iowa. It will be the first Sunday during the National Balloon Classic, which is usually the last week of July or first week of August.**

**Return the Candidate Information Form to:**

US Ballooning Hall of Fame  
Balloon Federation of America  
PO Box 400  
Indianola, IA 50125

**History:** Please provide a detailed and complete ballooning biography for the potential candidate that includes the candidate's history and involvement in ballooning.

10513 Espira Ct. NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87114  
505-350-2705 Phone  
505-899-7293 Fax  
[tbradley@nmia.com](mailto:tbradley@nmia.com)

## **Troy Bradley**

### **Pilot Background**

Private pilot certificate at 16 years old  
Commercial pilot certificate at 18 years old  
Removal of "with airborne heater" at 21 years old  
6,501 hours PIC (271 days aloft)

### **General Flying Experience**

Owns and operates Star Trail, Inc. in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.  
Part 141 school Assistant Chief Instructor Albuquerque  
Chief Pilot for Rainbow Ryders  
Flown commercial contracts for Century 21, Labatt's Beer, Sears, Swatch Watch, Maxwell House, PSA Airlines, United New Mexico Bank, Breyer's Ice Cream, Comet Cleaners, Fox Photo, Disney/Pixar, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and RE/MAX.

Flown in 45 of the States and 15 Countries  
Made 4,675 free flights (4,618 hot air and 57 LTA gases)  
Logged flight time in 211 different balloons  
Flown 24,288 passengers (Flying up to 500,000 cubic foot ride balloons)  
Made the 1st anhydrous ammonia balloon flight in New Mexico 3/1/92  
Built two gas balloons and one hot air balloon

### **Competitive Flying Experience**

Participated as a competitive pilot in:

#### **Hot Air Balloons:**

14 New Mexico State Championships, winning in 1985, 1992, 2001, and 2003  
12 US Hot Air Nationals  
2 North American Championships, finishing 4th overall in 1990

2 US Hot Air Team Nationals, winning with Sid Cutter and Mark Sullivan in 1995

**Gas Balloons:**

8 America's Challenge Races, winning in 1998 with my wife, Tami 7 Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennetts

The 1994 World Gas Championships

The 1996 St. Louis National Gas Balloon Race, winning with Shane Robinson

The 1999 RE/MAX Balloon Cup

**World Record Flying Experience**

CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TYPE	RECORD	DATE
Rozier	AM8 – 15	Distance	3,318.23 miles	9/16-22/92
Rozier	AM8 – 15	Duration	144 hr. 16 min	9/16-22/92
Rozier	AM8 – 15	Altitude 1	7,998.6 feet	9/16-22/92
Rozier	AM1	Distance	197.38 miles	2/3/94
Rozier	AM1	Duration	10 hr. 1 min.	2/3/94
Rozier	AM1 – 7	Altitude	18,143 feet	6/15/94
Rozier	AM1 – 6	Distance	353.33 miles	10/20-22/99
Rozier	AM1 – 6	Duration	27 hr. 25 min.	10/20-22/99
Gas	AA3 – 5	Distance	1,225.23 miles	1/3-5/02
Hot Air	AX9	Distance	1,017.09 miles	1/20/03
Gas	AA3	Duration	46 hr. 50 min.	2/9-11/05
Rozier	AM3 – 6	Distance	824 miles	11/14-16/07
Rozier	AM3 – 6	Duration 4	1 hr. 23 min.	11/14-16/07
Gas	AA13 – 15	Distance	6,657 miles	1/24-31/15
Gas	AA13 – 15	Duration	160 hr. 38 min.	1/24-31/15

First person to set world records in the AA, AM, and AX categories First USA to Africa balloon flight  
Broke the oldest standing aviation record in 2002 (previous record set in 1922)

**Affiliations**

Lifetime member of the Balloon Federation of America (BFA), past President, current NAA Representative, and on the Gas Division Board (served 3 years as Chairman)

Lifetime member of the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA) President of the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum Foundation

**Awards and Recognition**

Fifty-eight (58) Federation Aeronautique International (FAI) World Record Diplomas

Balloon Federation of America's Shields-Trauger Award (1993 and 2015)

The FAI's De la Vaulx Medal for an Absolute World Record

Governor of New Mexico's Certificate of Recognition

The Lighter-Than-Air Society Achievement Award

Sid Cutter Award for Outstanding Contribution to Ballooning

National Aeronautic Association (NAA) Certificate of Honor

Balloon Federation of America Level 8 Distinguished Aeronaut

Two time recipient of the FAI's Montgolfier Diploma (the highest international award in ballooning)

Executive Order from the Albuquerque Mayor that February 1, 2015 is "Two Eagles Day"

NM

Governor Proclamation that February 16, 2015 is "Two Eagles Balloon Day"

**Safety Seminar Participation**

Made presentations at many Safety Seminars on Aeronautical Decision Making, FARs, Accidents, Flight Reviews, Gas Ballooning, and Record Setting Flights.

**Most Memorable Flights (so far)**

Record shattering gas balloon flight from Saga, Japan to off the coast of La Poza Grande, Mexico. Breaking the long standing distance and duration records for straight gas balloons with Leonid Tiukhtyaev. They flew for nearly seven days and had a great circle distance of 6,657 miles.

The 1992 Chrysler Transatlantic Challenge; achieving the first USA to Africa balloon flight and setting an absolute duration record of 6 days for balloons. An absolutely amazing flight!

Giving Walter Cronkite a lesson at Château de Balleroy in 1993.

In 1995, dropping a skydiver (Bob Martin) from 32,000 feet, I then ascended to 34,000 feet.

The 1998 America's Challenge. Landing in the Canadian wilderness and being rescued by helicopter.

The 2001 Gordon Bennett. Crossing the Alps from Germany to Italy with Earl Miller.

2003 Flying out of the Stratobowl at night on the AX9 distance record (the only successful record flight from the Stratobowl since Stephens and Anderson's flight in 1935)

Cluster flight for Disney/Pixar's movie UP. Flying over 4,000 feet MSL sitting on a carbon fiber La-Z-Boy chair with 70 helium balloons. The next flight For National Geographic took the concept further! Jonathan Trappe and I flew a 1,600 lb. house with 300 8' balloons to 10,500 feet MSL.

Spending ten months flying over the unique rock formations, stunning valleys, and ancient cliff dwellings of Cappadocia, Turkey.

Crossing the equator by balloon at the Mitad del Mundo (Middle of the World) monument in Ecuador.

Troy's son Bobby's solo. On June 4, 2011, at age 9, he became the youngest trained pilot to solo in a hot air balloon. Troy's daughter Savannah being issued her Student Pilot Certificate and soloing on her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. On both occasions he became the proudest flight instructor in history!

**Updated Aug 3, 2015**

[www.ballooningbradleys.com](http://www.ballooningbradleys.com)