



# Who's Who of Ballooning

By Ecbert Eecks

FOSTER, Coy Z.      USA      (1941-      (HB)  
 See APPENDIX-AA/AB/AC/BA/BB/BC.      Sport balloonist.  
 b: 4 Jan.1941 Houston, TX.  
 e: Univ.of Texas, BS-1964; Univ.of Galveston, MD-1969.  
 p: Doctor (Plastic surgery); Aerospace Medicine w/emphasis on Astronaut support and development for Gemini & Apollo Programs.  
 f: First B-Flight 1975; First B-Solo 1976 from Dallas, TX; FAA B-License 1977: Airplane license since 1970.  
 l: 1978, Participated in Swedish Nat. B-Championships; 1978, Participated in Flims (Switzerland) In'tl B-Festival; 1981, Participated in World Hot-Air B-Championships; 1981, Participated in Chateau-D'Oex (Swiss) Alpine B-Meet; 1982, Participated in Icicle (England) B-Meet; 1983, Established nine FAI World Balloon Records; 1984, Established three FAI World Balloon Records; 1984, Participated in Chateau Ballory (France) Festival; 1986, Established five FAI World Balloon Records; 1987, Established two FAI World Balloon Records; BFA; N.Texas B-Pilot Assoc. (FM); Plano Ballooning Assoc.; BBAC.  
 h: Distinguished Aeronaut, BFA-1983. \*\*\*Epic Flight 3 Jan.1982 from Stauby Sweden on an AX-2 altitude record attempt. Contacted powerlines and was on the way to the hospital with 2 broken legs, within 2 minutes after launch. \*\*\*Epic flight 8 Oct.1984 (solo) from Albuquerque, NM. Launch during Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta was perfect. Landing was ignominious, as he hung the envelope over a light pole, having to be rescued with his basket suspended 30' above the ground. \*\*\*Epic flight 15 Aug.1992 (solo) from Tyler, TX. Flight in the Cadillac B-Race was marred by contact with 69,000 volt powerlines, 20 feet off the ground. He was pulled from the burning basket by his ground crew, conscious. He suffered severe burns to 80% of his body, and was not expected to live. NOTE: Was expected to lose dominant left hand, but was sufficiently recovered by early 1994 to fly again.  
 r: Bio-Data 1983; Los Angeles Times 9 Oct.1984; Balloon & Airships, Aut.1990p24; Pers. Interview; Dallas Morning News 16 Aug.1992.