

Balloon Federation of America

P.O. Box 264
Indianola, Iowa 50125
515/961-8809

A Division of the National Aeronautic Association

1986-87 Board of Directors

President Ray Johnson 310 So. Michigan Ave., Suite 1601 Chicago, IL 60604 312/793-2436	Vice President Roger Barker 276 Via Colinas Westlake Village, CA 91362 805/373-5216	Secretary Tom Davies Box 669 Vail, CO 81658 303/476-3735	Treasurer Don Cline 807 Larkwood Drive Greensboro, NC 27410 919/299-6717
Director Rob Bartholomew 287 190th Ave. Carlisle, IA 50047 515/989-3708	Director Carol R. Davis 1312 Los Arboles NW Albuquerque, NM 87107 505/262-7115	Director Tarp Head 550 Echelon Rd. Greenville, SC 29605 803/277-6200	Director Bud Newhouse 3006 Nob Hill Dr. Fl. Thomas, KY 41075 606/441-0491

January 11, 1987

Executive Director
National Aeronautic Association
Suite 430
821 15th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005



Dear Sir:

The Balloon Federation of America is pleased to submit the name of:

DR. COY FOSTER

for the 1986 Montgolfier Diplome for Hot Air Ballooning.

Dr. Foster has achieved 12 World records in the Hot-Air Balloon class. He has made significant contributions towards the advancement of the technology and sport of ballooning.

In addition to his record setting, Dr. Foster has taken an active role in promoting community goodwill, sportsmanship, and balloon safety to associate pilots and enthusiasts.

More detailed information will be forthcoming for your March 1987 meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Carroll O'Neal

Carroll O'Neal

Awards Chair

Coy Foster M.D. has set 19 US and World Record in the "smaller" category balloons. He has pushed the limits of what was thought possible using equipment, that for ballooning, is on the cutting edge of technology.

Going For It!

by Mike Rose

In the over two hundred year history of ballooning there have been many unique individuals who have made memorable contributions to the sport. No single individual, however, has ever before set 19 different United States and World Records. Dr. Coy Foster deserves to be recognized for this spectacular series of flights that have made him one of the most unique individuals in the history of ballooning.

Born in Houston, Texas in January 1941, Coy's first dedication was to medicine. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1964 and University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston in 1969. After private practice as a family physician he went on to specialize in plastic surgery. Currently he is in private practice as a plastic surgeon in Dallas, Texas.

During the period between 1965 and 1969 Coy was closely associated with the NASA Manned Space Craft Center in Houston. His responsibilities included support training for the Gemini and Apollo missions in space and he was involved in the development of hardware used by our astronauts in the highly successful series of lunar landings. Without a doubt his

association with the advanced technology required for space flight left a dedication within him to reach out for the unknown.

Coy saw his first hot air balloon in 1974. He observed the balloon from a distance while in Phoenix. However, he did not become involved in the sport until coming to Dallas in 1975. There were a number of early aeronauts in the Dallas area. One day while looking for a tire for his motorcycle he met Ronnie Long. Ronnie sold motorcycles and motorcycle parts and also operated the BalloonPort of the Southwest. Ronnie said, "Coy came in my shop to buy a motorcycle tire and saw a balloon basket in the back corner. From the very beginning, Coy was very adaptable. He had a lot of different interests, like photography and motorcycling, that fell aside when he focused his attention on ballooning. From his very first flight Coy had the 'feel' for the burner and he adapted to ballooning very quickly. He also displayed a technical interest in the equipment and from the very beginning he showed a personal drive to succeed in the sport." He obtained his private license in 1976 and his commercial license in 1977.

As part of his training as a plastic surgeon he was awarded a fellowship for surgery which resulted in a world tour that took him to Sweden at the time of the 1978 Swedish National Champion-

ship and to Switzerland for the international balloon meet "Flims." He flew as a co-pilot in both of these events.

In 1980, while in Albuquerque for the Balloon Fiesta, Coy met the late Dick Wirth who, along with Per Lindstrand, had built several one man "Cloudhopper" balloons for a movie, *Green Ice*. Dick had one of the small 14,000 cubic foot balloons with him which he planned to fly in the Fiesta. Coy was offered the chance to fly the Cloudhopper and after three flights he had more time in the balloon than Dick. Coy purchased the balloon and brought it home to Dallas where he practiced the art of flying the small AX-2.

Continued on page 10.

Top Left: February 23, 1983 lift off for AX-2 altitude record of 12,610 feet.

Top Right: Lift of the Helium Hopper for altitude record flight to 18,097 feet in 1984.

Bottom Right: Preparing to launch in Plano, Texas for the AX-4 in 1986. Landed in Temple, Texas 8 hours 39 minutes and 130.44 miles later setting AX-4 distance and duration and AX-5 duration records.

Bottom Left: Preparing to launch the AX-3 for altitude record in 1986.

While at Flims, he met Hakan Colting, one of the founders of Colt Balloons. This meeting resulted in a close working relationship with Colt Balloons and they continue to support him in his record attempts today.

In 1981 Coy offered his services to Hakan Colting at the World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Battle Creek, Michigan. Hakan stated, "Coy kindly offered to be my Crew Captain and brought, all the way from Texas to Battle Creek, Michigan, several devoted friends to crew. Their respect for Coy made them the best crew I have ever had. He has the personality to command any situation and not only balanced the seriousness of the competition with the pleasure and excitement of the occasion, for the crew, but also allowed me the distance I required and encouragement badly needed. Coy's enthusiasm is catchy and his sense of humor is one of his greatest attractions. Because of these special traits, I will forever be in his debt."

"I have always admired Coy for his professionalism. Once devoted to a project, Coy meets the challenge before him with the confidence earned only by someone who has thoroughly investigated and adequately prepared for it. The Absolute World Records are not the only ones worthy of recognition. Smaller classes in each category, of gas and hot air ballooning, today take a tremendous amount of determination, knowledge, and planning to set. Coy is a unique pilot in a class all his own. His outstanding record speaks for itself. Many pilots enjoy bragging about all the records they plan to set. Only a handful, like Coy, actually take the personal risks and reach their destination."

Planning for the record attempts originated in 1981 with Dr. Ralph Holmes and Per Lindstrand. This led to the first attempt on January 6, 1982 with Hans Akerstadt acting as Steward and Connie Karlsson as crew chief. The feeling at that time was that they needed the frigid temperatures of a Swedish winter to accomplish their task. The first world record flight took place in northern Sweden, near the Arctic Circle, where the temperature was 20 degrees below zero and resulted in a distance record of 22.8 miles. It was later determined, through a computer

simulation developed by Raph Holmes, that the frigid temperatures of northern Sweden were not necessary to reach their goals and thus all future record attempts were flown from Plano, Texas.

Thunder & Colt Ltd. continues to support Coy's assault on the small balloon record flights. Per Lindstrand related, "Coy has concentrated his efforts on the smaller balloons where the margin for improvement is often very slight and much depending on pilot weight and outside circumstances like weather. It must be noted particularly that some of the previous record holders were very lightweight pilots and that their records were considered unbreakable due to that fact. Nevertheless Coy just went ahead and broke them and he has certainly pushed many of these records to a new height. They will remain unbroken for quite a few years."

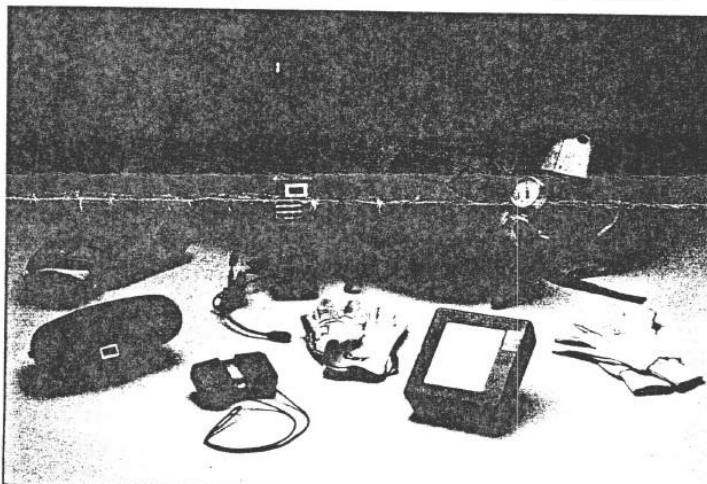
Crew Chief Connie Karlsson has been associated with Coy from the beginning. He said, "sometimes I feel fine about the flight, but at other times it is scary. The worst time for me is just before take-off. I worry about the equipment and mostly the heavy fuel load necessary. The most exciting flight for me was the high altitude flight in the AX4 when he reached 29,500 feet. No one had ever flown so high in an AX4 and it was a breakthrough in the technology involving fabric,

temperature and weight."

Col. Milton M. Brown, Secretary of the National Aeronautic Association, stated, "Dr. Coy Foster is a man of many accomplishments, Doctor, Surgeon, Scientist, Inventor, Engineer, to name a few. We in the National Aeronautic Association have watched his systematic approach to setting World Records for over five years and have been continually impressed with his desire for perfection and his ability to push himself and his equipment to the maximum of human endurance and design limits while maintaining the iron discipline to stop at those limits.

"At the present time Dr. Foster holds 15 World Balloon records and I am confident that if he and his team continue their efforts and continue to improve their computer model of balloon performance, many, many more world records will fall to him. It is my hope that Dr. Foster will be a candidate for the Montgolfier and Harmon trophies this year."

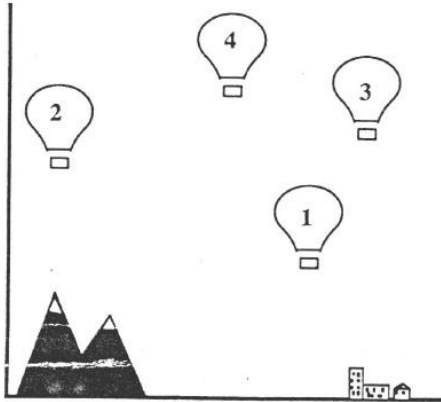
Flying both gas and hot air balloons containing the latest technology developed by the Colt organization, Coy continues his assault on the world records. Never before, in the sport of ballooning, has an individual shown repeated, consistent performance against world records, many of which will stand for years to come.



Phillip Brauner

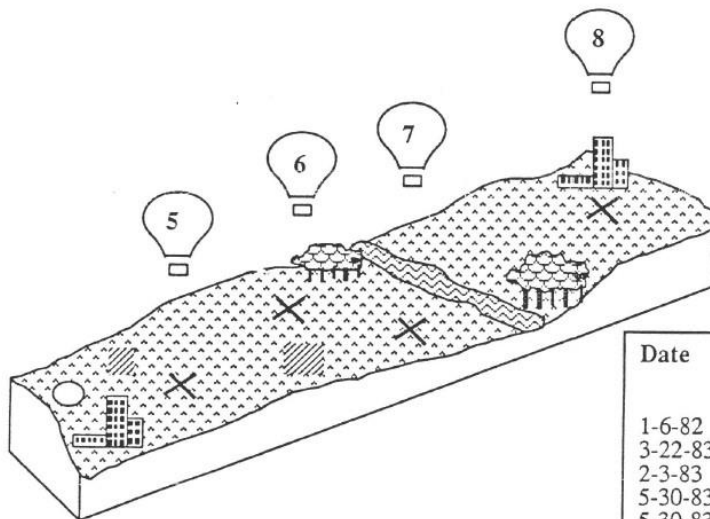
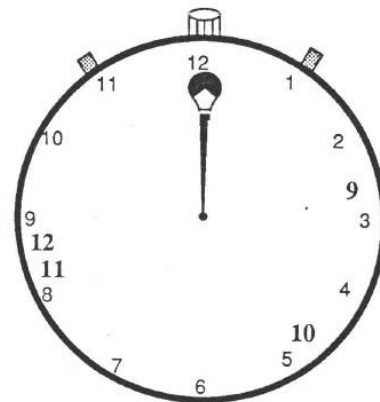
Several pieces of special high altitude equipment used in record flights.

The Records



Date	Duration (hr:min:sec)	Balloon Class
3-22-83	2:44:20 9	AX-2 Hot Air
2-3-83	4:55:28 10	AX-3 Hot Air
5-30-83	8:12 11	AA-1 Gas
5-30-83	8:12 11	AA-2 Gas
3-20-86	8:39 12	AX-4 Hot Air
3-20-86	8:39 12	AX-5 Hot Air

Date	Altitude (feet)	Balloon Class
2-23-83	12,610 1	AX-2 Hot Air
7-24-84	18,097 2	AA-1 Gas
1-5-86	16,952	AX-3 Hot Air
2-15-86	21,200 3	AX-3 Hot Air
2-23-86	29,500 4	AX-4 Hot Air



Date	Distance (miles)	Balloon Class
1-6-82	22.8	AX-2 Hot Air
3-22-83	36.17 5	AX-2 Hot Air
2-3-83	115.91 6	AX-3 Hot Air
5-30-83	170.48	AA-1 Gas
5-30-83	170.48	AA-2 Gas
9-7-84	375 7	AA-1 Gas
9-7-84	375 7	AA-2 Gas
3-20-86	130.44 8	AX-4 Hot Air

Bold numbers on balloons and charts indicate existing records

Balloon Life Graphics

Balloon Life, September, 1986



NORTH TEXAS BALLOONING ASSOCIATION
PROMOTING THE SPORT AND SAFETY OF BALLOONING THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS

Rt. 10, Box 653J
Fort Worth, Texas
September 27, 1986

Ms. Carroll O'Neal
Awards Committee Chairperson
Balloon Federation of America
4339 Roanoke Pkwy #204
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

Dear Carroll,

On behalf of the North Texas Ballooning Association and in concurrence with our other local ballooning organization, the Plano Ballooning Association, we would like to nominate Dr. Coy Foster for the Montgolfier Deploma.

Dr. Foster has made several significant contributions towards the advancement of the technology and sport of ballooning. Through these advancements, Dr. Foster has achieved 12 World records in the Hot-Air Balloon class and 7 World records in the Gas Balloon class. Many of these achievements are summarized in a most recent article in the September 1986, Balloon Life. I have included a copy of the article with this letter.

Additionally, Dr. Foster has been a charter member of our two organizations and has taken a very active role in promoting community goodwill, sportsmanship, and the safety of ballooning to associate pilots and enthusiasts. Coy is also recognized and respected internationally in the ballooning society.

It is with great pleasure and respect that we nominate Dr. Coy Foster for this distinguished honor. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Moon, President
North Texas Ballooning Association

mlm
cc BFA Board of Directors
Enclosure

NTBA, 704 Tumbleweed, Plano, Texas 75023