

FAI CIA Ballooning Commission

Hall of Fame



ABOUT THE HALL OF FAME

Relocated to the Albuquerque Balloon Museum in 2011 by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale, the FAI Ballooning Commission International Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame) recognizes those who have made significant contributions to Aerostation, including those who have excelled in business, history, design and engineering, in addition to those better known for their contributions in flying balloons or airships of any category, in competition or records. It features more than 40 inductees.

INDUCTEES

2012

Thomas A. F. Sheppard (USA)

Sport Balloonist

Born September 3, 1929, Watership Down, Sydmonton, England

Thomas Albert Francis Sheppard began ballooning in 1973 when he and three partners purchased a balloon together and learned to fly. From 1975 to 2005, Sheppard served as event director at some 110 ballooning events. He has organized and/or officiated regional events in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa; has served as Event Director and Chairman of Jury at North American championships; and has been Event Director, Steward, and President International Jury in international sport and commercial competitions. Largely due to his role in organizing North American and international competitions Sheppard is considered the father of modern balloon competition in the U.S. He is also recognized for his work in rules and competition task setting

Sheppard represented the USA at the International Ballooning Commission (CIA) from 1981 to 1995. While serving on the CIA Jury Board, he developed and wrote the CIA Jury Level Qualifications, the CIA Jury Exams for Jury Members and the CIA Jury Handbook. Tom is the only two-time recipient of the BFA Shields-Trauger Award, the USA's Highest Award for ballooning.

