



Paul S. Stumpf

Notable – Accomplishments/Contributions

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At the “ripe old age” of 63, Paul is considered an “old timer” in the hot air balloon industry. His company, Stumpf Balloons, has been in business since 1980. Paul was drawn into ballooning through an interest in photography in 1973, while still in high school. His enthusiasm quickly led him to build a balloon at the age of 17, with the help of his high school art teacher and mentor, Brian Boland.

In college, Paul continued designing and building hot air balloons and fabricated cold air “art” inflatables as an extra curricular activity. He graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography in 1979. Shortly after graduation Paul focused on growing his hot air balloon business. It was at this time too, that he designed and built a few accessories for his own balloon; and as friends began asking for similar items for their balloons, Paul decided to make his custom products available to balloonists throughout the world via a mail order business, which is still in operation today.

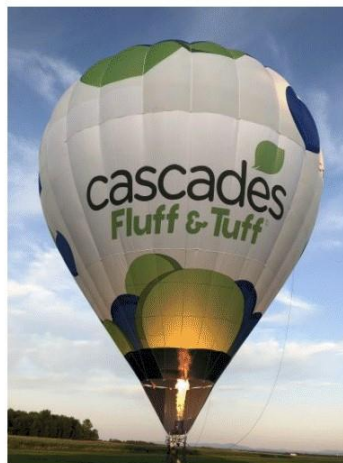
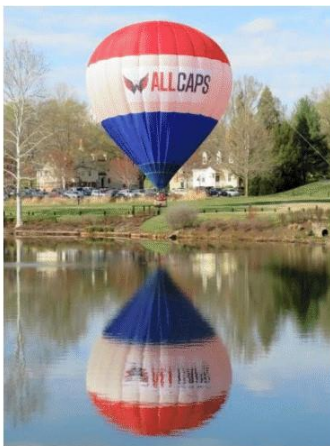
Timeline of achievements:

- 1974-75, Built first Experimental hot air balloon.
- 1975, Private Pilot license, hot air balloon.
- 1978, Commercial Pilot license, hot air balloon
- 1979, Bachelor of Fine Arts degree Rhode Island School of Design
- 1979 to present. Hot air balloon banner design & fabrication
- 1979 to 1999, Hot air balloon ride operations in coastal Rhode Island
- 1979-80 Geodesic hot air balloon development
- 1980 to present, Worldwide balloon equipment mail order business
- 1980, Designed and built World’s first glass bottom hot air balloon basket
- 1980 to 2011, Dealer and Distributor for Aerostar International
- 1980-2010, Stumpf cold air promotional balloons, design & manufacturing
- 1982-92, Organized The Montgolfier Hot Air Balloon Regatta in Providence, RI
- 1982 to present, FAA certified balloon repair and inspection station
- 1985-present, Custom Interior balloon displays, design & manufacturing
- 1990-95 Manufactured Radio Controlled hot air balloons
- 2010-present, Designed & manufacture Stumpf super lightweight hot air balloon systems

- 2013-present, Manufacturing digitally printed hot air balloon banners for individuals and balloon events throughout the US.
- 2012-present, Mentoring numerous “build your own balloon” apprentices
- 2018 Presented the Ed Yost Master Pilot Award for 40 years of safe flying



Montgolfier Regatta, Providence, RI 1998



Stumpf digitally printed
hot air balloon banner
samples 2019



Glass Bottom Balloon Basket 1980



Glass Bottom Balloon 1980



Super Lightweight Duo Balloon 2018



Super Lightweight One Person Balloon 2010



Super Lightweight Duo Balloon Lower End



Cold Air Balloons 1990