



Barbara Davis

Notable – Accomplishments/Contributions

Barb Davis won the 2007 Spirit of Annie Award On Monday, September 1, 2008 at the awards banquet for the 32nd Great Pershing Balloon Derby in Brookfield, MO. The current US Chief Observer, Barb Davis, of Mexico MO, was presented by Doug Clark with ballooning's highest honor for Observers, the Spirit of Annie Award.

Following a prolonged standing ovation, Barb humbly spoke to the crowd and expressed her surprise and honor in receiving the Award.

The Spirit of Annie Award was created by the Northeast Ohio Ballooning Pilots Association (NOBPA) in the mid-1990s to honor the memory of Annie Pryne. It is awarded to an Observer who best exemplifies Annie's spirit and personality. Annie, who came to ballooning around 1980, was not only an Observer, but also a hot air and gas balloon pilot. However, this award honors her Observing.

Annie was very people-oriented and always tried to make everything work well for those around her. She was quick to help rookie Observers in learning and strengthening their skills. She always arrived at events early in order to help wherever she could. Pilots for whom she observed recall that she was always fair and that often they learned from her as she carried out her duties. Her work was always clear and well-done.

After her passing, NOBPA named the Spirit of Annie Award in her honor. The Spirit of Annie was first given out in the mid-1990s. The first recipient was Gil Pryne, Annie's husband. Other past recipients include Tom Tyler, Mike Tuten, Sally Shields, Josh Swallow, Jim Dieball, Kim Wilson, and Kathy Lester-Ross.

Barb Davis has been involved in ballooning since the early 1990s. She lives for ballooning. As the current US Chief Observer and member of the Competition Division Board, she actively participates in trying to fight for all Observers in the United States. She readily helps others without question. She is extremely enthusiastic and loves to participate in events. She has wonderful people skills. She has traveled the world to observe. Clearly, Barb has demonstrated the Spirit of Annie and was well-deserving of the Award.