



# **UNITED STATES BALLOONING HALL OF FAME**

**A Partnership of the Balloon Federation of America and the National Balloon Museum**

## **Candidate Information Form**

**Date Submitted:** April 10, 2019

**CANDIDATE NAME:** Orvin Olivier

**Contact Information:**

**Address:** 3208 E 31<sup>st</sup> Street      **City:** Sioux Falls      **State:** SD      **ZIP:** 57103

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**E-mail:** [osolivier2@gmail.com](mailto:osolivier2@gmail.com)

**Briefly describe the basis for the submission:**

Please consider this as a letter of nomination for the induction of Mr. Orvin E. "Orv" Olivier into the U.S. Ballooning Hall of Fame. Orvin's tremendous dedication to the BFA and our sport of ballooning dating back to the early 1970s is worthy of his consideration. His commitment to safety in ballooning is evidenced by his many presentations at safety seminars and most importantly, his creation of The Ed Yost Award, which is awarded to balloon pilots who have safely flown balloons for forty years.

On a personal note, Orvin has always been very generous with his knowledge of Raven Industry's early history involving Ed Yost. Orvin's interest in preserving the history of ballooning extends to collecting and even creating replicas of important historical significance.

Orvin Olivier's many contributions to our sport of ballooning have added a special touch of class and professionalism that deserves his induction into the prestigious U.S. Ballooning Hall of Fame.

**Provide references:** Identify two individuals that can speak to the quality and significance of the achievement, and to the character of the candidate

**Reference Name:** Joel Blankers      **Telephone or E-mail:** hotairheaven@sio.midco.net

**Reference Name:**      **Telephone or E-mail:**

**PERSON MAKING THE SUBMISSION:**

**Name:** Dewey Reinhard

**Address:** 4408 Greenstone Circle    **City:** Colorado Springs    **State:** CO    **ZIP:** 80915

**Telephone:** 719-596-5516

**E-mail:** [deweyfly30@gmail.com](mailto:deweyfly30@gmail.com)

## **CANDIDATE HISTORY:**



**Orvin E. Olivier**

### **Notable – Accomplishments/Contributions, Ed Yost Award**

[osolivier2@gmail.com](mailto:osolivier2@gmail.com)

#### **Overview**

- I received my balloon pilot's license in 1974, age 25. Now in my 46<sup>th</sup> year flying balloons.
- Commercial balloon license, never had a 'Private' certificate.
- Had five different instructors in my eight hours of instruction, somewhat self-trained.
- Worked at Raven Industries 1973 – 1980, mostly sales and marketing in the balloon division.
- Raven's chief balloon pilot doing engineering test flights, customer flights and corporate demonstrations.
- Raven balloon distributor, 1980 until Raven ceased balloon manufacturing.

#### **Service to Balloon Federation of America**

- BFA Board of Directors 1980 – 1986.
  - Vice President
  - Treasurer
- Insurance Chair 18 years, *(only me, no committee) Completely overhauled BFA's insurance policies*
- Awards Chair 2002 to present
  - Hall of Fame – Chair *Started this award*
  - Ed Yost Master Pilot Award – Started this active award and over ninety awards presented to date
- Co-Chair Long Jump Committee
- BFA Conventions program organizer and speaker

#### **Service to Ballooning**

*It has always been my desire to give back to the sport of ballooning that I love and that has been very good to me and my family!*

- Students trained or I gave partial training to - 61 students All For FREE
- Official NAA Observer for world record attempts - 12
  - Jon Kolba
  - Andy Cayton – several
  - Rich Lawhorn
  - Bill Clonninger – 2
  - Deborah Young
  - Richard Jaworski – several
  - Greg Winker
  - *Bill Smith – pending*
- Started Sioux Falls Great Plains Balloon Race – 1978 *Still an active going event*
- Started Sioux Falls Ballooning Association – 1982 *Still an active organization*
- 2010 to Present - Donates nearly all local flights exclusively to Charity Organizations for their fundraising events
- Balloon Historian – Nationally recognized

### **Ballooning Accomplishments**

- 1800 PIC hours
- Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta – First year entered – 1975
- 1980 Winter Olympics – Lake Placid NY
- Mexico City 1982
- Kentucky Derby 1975, flew in event for about 25 years
- Numerous other events all over the United States
- International Events and Countries Flown In:
  - Netherlands – several times, special shapes
  - Belgium, St Nicolas – two times, special shapes
  - Japan, Saga – special shape
  - China – pre possible Olympic balloon event, I was the only balloon from the western hemisphere
  - Inner Mongolia – special shape
  - Canada – numerous events and cities, special shapes *I have a Canadian's pilots license*
  - Leon Mexico – three times
  - Arctic Circle Finland 2019 *flew at midnight summer solace*

**Raven Channel Champ Balloon** – First hot air balloon to fly over the English Channel. At Ed Yost's request I was able to obtain the balloon from the Malcom Forbes museum in France and arrange its restoration. Then Ed Yost and I did some public tethering. Now this balloon resides in the National Balloon Museum.

**First Hot Air Balloon Replica** – Conceived and organized the building of the near exact replica of the first modern hot air balloon that Ed Yost first flew October 22, 1960. I have this balloon.

**First Thermal Airship built by Raven 1977** – Jim Winker and myself each received the very first ever FAA special authorization to pilot this airship, as the FAA had no aircraft classification or license for this type of aircraft.

**First Very Large Hot Air Balloon, Great Adventure, 400,000 cu ft.** – Flew this balloon approximately 1976. This was back when most balloons were AX-6 or AX-7; an AX-8 was considered very large and very few existed.

**Commercial Balloons** – Flew numerous different corporate balloons all over the United States.

**I have been very fortunate to have become involved in this wonderful sport!**







## **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

3/29/2020

Dear BFA Hall of Fame Committee,

It comes with great joy, to write a recommendation for Dewey Rinehart's nomination of Orvin Olivier for the US Ballooning Hall of Fame.

As I review the BFA statement of purpose for this award, "to recognize individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the history, development or growth of ballooning, in the United States", it becomes evident how appropriate this award is for the acknowledge of Orvin's commitment to this organization and the sport of ballooning.



I have known Orvin since 1985 (35 years). Before getting to know Orv, I had no knowledge of ballooning or any of the aspects of the sport. Even though I grew up in an aviation family, ballooning was completely off the “radar”. Orvin has introduced me to the world of ballooning, and every aspect of it; not a day goes by that ballooning doesn’t touch my family in one way or another. I am personally indebted to Orv for introducing me to balloons.

This is just my example of the approach the Orv has taken time and time again. Over the past 35 years, I have witnessed a constant approach from Orvin of introducing ballooning to ANYONE, who is interested. There is a place for anyone in ballooning and Orv is willing to introduce EVERYONE to the sport. A lifetime commitment to the development and growth of ballooning.

Balloons have been part of Orvin’s life since his time spent with Raven Industries back in the 1970’s. When the time came to move on from Raven, Orv kept ballooning the focal point of his family. He constantly found ways to contribute to the sport in his community and beyond. In his community, Orv establish a local balloon event that has entertain and created joy for the general public of the Sioux Falls region, since the 1970’s. A few years later, he established the Sioux Falls Ballooning Association, to promote ballooning in the area. This organization has introduced hundreds of interested people to the sport of hot air ballooning. To places like the 1980 winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY, to 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations with President Bush at Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota, to celebration events in Mexico, Japan, Europe and China (just to name some). Even though Orv may have received some compensation for some of his activities, profit has never been the purpose of Orv’s activities. Orv’s actions have always been motivated by the benefit and enjoyment for others, and the ability to introduce his love of ballooning to anyone.

While all of this fits into the statement of purpose for the award of consideration, it is the past two decades of Orvin’s activities that I feel truly qualify him for the ballooning Hall of Fame. Orv has always been fascinated with history, and at some point, it has become very evident to him, that the history of modern ballooning needed to be captured. He realized that he was fortunate enough to be a part of some of these historical events, and for those items that he was not a part of he personally knew the people who were. Stories have been shared and shared over time, but actual documentation of events had never been captured.

Orv has made it his mission to talk to those that were aging, who may not be with us forever. Even if they still were with us, could they remember the facts. Orv has spent countless hours tracking down individuals and gathering information, setting up the foundation, and documentation of data for preservation of our history. There are far more people than I could begin to know. Some of the major players that I have personally witnessed include, Ed Yost, Tracy Barns and Jim Winker. It seems that for many of these early settlers this process has also given them (in some cases) a chance to heal from old battle wounds, or even just a chance to tell their story to someone who really wants to hear and record.

Maybe one of the most significant aspects to Orvin's vision of history involved the implementation of the Ed Yost award. This award has created pride, honor and anticipation to pilots who have dedicated their lives to ballooning. It has become an award that has created perspective to the past, pride in their accomplishments and celebration for their commitment. Pilots look forward to the day that they can receive this recognition.

In conclusion, while there are others that also qualify for the acknowledgement and prestige of this award, I think the timing is appropriate for the recognition of Orvin Olivier.

Thanks for allowing me to express my personal knowledge and opinion. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectively submitted,

Joel Blankers (pilot)

**ONE ADDITIONAL LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION IS BEING PREPARED**