



## **J. STEPHEN MROZ**

### **Notable – Ed Yost Master Pilot Award**

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A/C 314-578-0851 Steve's Cell  
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Balloon Federation of America Member # 100900  
Continuous since 1976

### **Ballooning Beginning 09-1978 and Background to Present 06-21-2021**

Started Crewing for the Don & Nikki Caplan Family in the Fall of 1978 at The Great Forest Park Balloon Race St. Louis, Missouri. After Almost Two Years crewing and Maintaining Hot Air Balloon equipment for the Balloon Port Of St. Louis under the Direct Supervision of Natalie J. Nikki Caplan. I was sent for Repairman Training to Both The Balloon Works Statesville NC and to Sky Power in Tea South Dakota under the supervision of the Legendary Ed Yost.

After Numerous Ground schools with The Caplans and with Mr. Bob Esch of Edwardsville, Illinois I was Kicked from the nest at Balloon Port and Began my Training under Donald J. Caplan -Nikki Caplan and Mike Ledbetter & Russell Pickthall along with C. Jane Buckles and Lyndell Buckles.

After several False starts with Logbook and Student Licenses and Informal Training when Balloon Flight(s) were canceled due to it being too windy for Passengers, I was trained by one of the best at the Time, Mr. Don Caplan.

- **1<sup>st</sup> Student Certificate** 07-01-1979- 07-31-1981 Paper Logbook & Training documents Lost on file @ Balloon Port of St. Louis due to moving from their previous location
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Student Pilot Certificate** was #ZZ-1234 07-01-1981 Officially the start of my FAA Documentation Natalie J. Caplan CE-62-45 Examiner Issued.07-01-11981
- 1<sup>st</sup> Documented **SOLO ON** 09-24-1981 Barnes AX-7 or Ax-6 Donald J. Caplan
- 496-28-51173 Approved to solo
- **Repairman Certificate** #2343317 07-07-1983 after Three Year apprenticeship for Hot Air & Gas Balloons Certificate.
- **Private Pilot Certificate** #486-48-5074 Issued 12-05-1981 By Designated Examiner Natalie J. Caplan CE-62-45
- **Commercial Pilot Certificate** #486-48-5074 Issued 07-111-1982 By Designated Examiner Natalie J. Caplan CE-62-45
- **Gas Balloon Rating** Certificate #486-48-5075 Issued on 09-27-1984 By Designated Examiner Natalie J. Caplan CE-62-45

- **Pilot Examiner Certificate** CE-62-140 Issued 10-24-1986 thru 06-08-1996 - Issued by H. G. White Director of the St. Louis ACE-FSDO-62
- **Appointed Aviation Safety Counselor** 12-09-1994 By Fred P. Harms St. Louis ACE-FSDO-62 Program Safety Manager.
- **Remote Pilot Certificate** # 4070771 Issued 11-15-2017 - Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Certificate issued by Kyle D. Kraus Examiner 2636465 CE-FSDO-03
- Balloon Federation Of America **Flight instructor Certificate** #486-48-5074 - Issued 12-16-1986
- Balloon Federation of American **Master Instructor Certificate** # 486-48-50-74 - Issued 03-31-1989
- Balloon Federation of American **Pilot Achievement Level VI**
- Past President of the St. Louis **Gateway Aerostatic Association** (St. Louis Balloon Club)

#### **Notable Flights:**

- McDonnell Douglas Aero Classic Gas Balloon Flight from St. Louis Forest Park 07-03-1982
- McDonnell Douglas Aero Classic Gas Balloon Flight from St. Louis to Ellington 07-06-1983
- First Missouri Long Jump Flight St. Louis to Paducah, Kentucky
- Hot Air Altitude Flight to 31,500 Feet Mount Vernon Ill, to Mount Vernon In. 03-03-1984
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch) Through the Arch Legs 06-30-1984
- Gas Balloon Training Flight's Amarillo TX to Kingman Kansas
- Gas Balloon Flight with Regula Hug Messner St. Louis Six Flags to Missouri /Arkansas Border 06-28-1984
- Busch Stadium X 2 With St. Louis Cardinals Mascot Fred Bird 06-24-1996 – 07-19-1996

#### **Balloon Manufacturers Flown - Sizes from 31,000 Cu Ft up to 210,000 Cu Ft**

- Aerostar Balloons Parachute Top- Spring Top
- Adams Balloons Para Vent-Pop Top
- Balloon Works Parachute Tops
- Cameron Balloons Parachute Top
- Piccard Balloons Parachute Top
- Semco Balloons Para Rip Top
- The Balloon Works Balloons Parachute Tops
- Raven Balloons Velcro Rip Tops with Side Vents
- Special Shape Balloons Aerostar – Cameron Spring Top & Velcro tops

#### **Currently 4080 Plus Hours of Lighter Than air Experience**

Still Very Active flying as a Commercial Pilot doing Aerial Advertising Balloons Primarily for RE/MAX® International. Steve has Flown Many Corporate Branded Hot Air Balloons Over the Last 40 Years with St. Louis Being the Corporate Headquarters of Many International Corporations. The Growth of Aerial Advertising presented itself in Steve's early days of Ballooning with opportunities from the Corporate Contacts of Both Don & Nikki Caplan @

Balloon Port of St. Louis - Mel Hanson @ The Balloon Inc.  
- Don Sarno @ KMOX -Ron & Steve Lohr & Dave Wells &  
David Leonard @ LOHR Distributing - Bill Uhl @  
Panterra's Pizza – Matt & Bobbie Wiederkehr of  
Wiederkehr Balloons International & Especially Bob &  
Becky Behrens of RE/MAX® International who stole me  
away from a Life on the Road with Hot Air Balloons. I  
Have Proudly Served the St. Louis RE/MAX Region since  
1988.

Additional Thanks to the Many Others who have  
helped me along the way. Thank You! to The Many  
Pilot(s) and the Dedicated & Loyal Crew Members who  
have Helped to keep me and My Loved Ones safe  
throughout All of these Wonderful Years, What a Ride it has been to be Blessed with the Gift of  
Aviation, It changed my Life and the Lives of Others around me.

Important Contributors to my Success and Career were Don & Nikki Caplan - Ed & Susie  
Yost -Mel Hanson- Matt & Bobbie Wiederkehr & My Loving wife, Janine Fabick Mroz

Thank You! Paul Edward Yost for the Re-Invention of the Modern-Day Hot Air Balloon.

