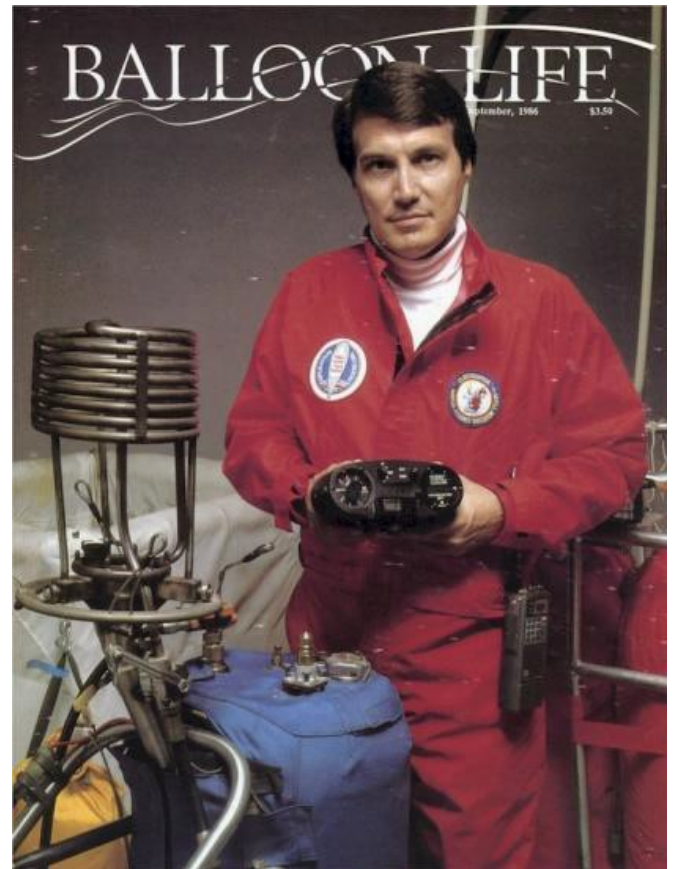


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**U. S.  
BALLOONING  
HALL OF FAME  
INDUCTION  
CEREMONY**



## **Dr. Coy Foster**

Dr. Coy Foster is one of the world's pre-eminent balloonists. As of- March 1994- his world record tally totaled 49, achieved over a period of less than 10 years in both hot air and gas balloons and airships. In a twenty-three year period from 1980 to 2003,, he set over 60 World Records in hot air, gas balloons and airships.

From 1982 through 1989, he amassed a series of records ranging from high altitude (in one of the world's smallest hot air balloons - 29,500 ft in a 32,000 cu ft one-man balloon over Dallas); to distance and duration records in the smallest gas balloons ever built (Dallas to Kansas City, 435 miles in 8 hours 12 mins). On this one flight alone he set no fewer than five world records, adding to the other four world records he set during 1983.

The altitude records he established in the 1980's in small one-man hot air and gas balloons still stand to this day- one of the advantages, says Foster, of weighing in at less than 160 lb.! "That and a lifelong friendship with the world's premier balloon designer and manufacturer, Per Lindstrand, who has not only conceived all my balloons, but built every one of them but one."

Foster's symbiotic relationship with Lindstrand has worked well for both of them: he developed his medical skills working with NASA during the Gemini and Apollo space programs during the 1960's, and has served as Flight Surgeon on all Lindstrand's world record ballooning projects - among them the 1987 trans-Atlantic, 1988 world altitude record (to 65,000 ft), 1991 trans-Pacific flights, and currently the around the world flight from Marrakech Morocco.

Foster also holds the world speed and distance records for airships, set in October 1989 with fellow American aeronaut Paul Woessner in a Lindstrand designed GA-42 helium craft.

His contribution to the sport of ballooning has brought him numerous accolades and a clutch of international awards. Among those which he treasures the most are the coveted Montgolfier Diplome twice. As of that date he was one of only 2 people to receive two. The citation for which acknowledges his "significant contribution to ballooning"; the W. Randolph Lovelace Award, presented to him by the Society of NASA Flight Surgeon; the Dick Wirth Memorial Cup, awarded to him in Barneveld, Holland, for services to ballooning.

In 1992, Foster incurred near-fatal injuries when the one-man special shape balloon he was piloting at a fun fiesta at Tyler, Texas, hit obscured 69,000 volt powerlines. He suffered burns over 80 per cent of his body, and lay for two months in a coma before regaining consciousness. But despite his terrible injuries, and a painful year-long series of skin grafts covering

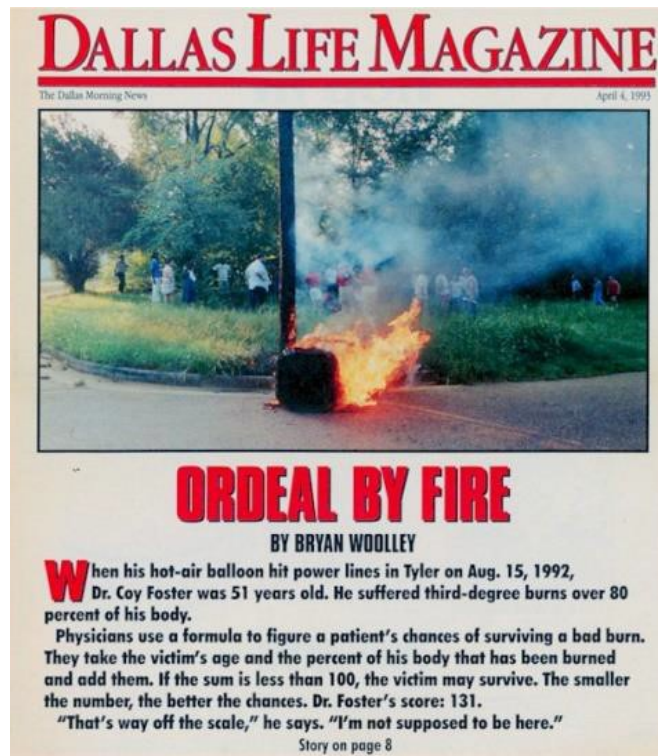
most of his body, and the use of his severely never gave up hope of skies at the controls of In 1994, he took deliv- balloon serial number 001, skies. His quest for ever-world record flights may the sky will always be

## BIOGRAPHY

NASA experience: 1964-  
Craft Center -Houston

During this period asso-  
ciate and Crew System  
included medical sup-

Apollo missions, and Involved in development of hardware for Apollo 11 lunar landing.  
(Testing and develop of the Astronaut gloves that were worn on the EVA (space walk)



operations to restore damaged left hand, he once again taking to the his own hot air balloon. ery of Lindstrand bal- and reached for the higher and ever-longer be over, but to Foster his second office.

69 NASA Manned Space

ciated with Flight Medi-  
Division Responsibility  
port for the Gemini and

## Flying:

- Airplane pilot since 1970.
- Balloons: Obtained Lighter than air (LTA) rating in 1976

- During the 1980's set 49 World Records for distance, duration, and altitude in hot air and gas balloons, and airships. This is more World Records in LTA than any other individual has set in the 200+ years of flying.
- Founding member and Board of Directors of several ballooning organizations.
- Flown in balloon events worldwide.
- Flight Surgeon for First Atlantic & Pacific Hot-air Balloon Crossings, Stratoquest (Flight to 65,000'), Virgin Global Challenge, and ICOGlobal nonstop balloon flights around the world. Per Lindstrand/Richard Branson

#### Awards:

- Balloon Federation of America - Distinguished Aeronaut - 1983

Most prestigious award of the BFA

- North Texas Ballooning Association. - Aerostation Award 1985
- Mesquite Balloon Festival Balloonmeister -1987
- Montgolfier Diplome by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale -1987
- Most prestigious award of FAI - Paris, France
- 1st Atlantic Hot-Air Balloon Crossing Flight Surgeon -1987
- Stratoquest balloon flight to 65,000' Flight Surgeon 1988

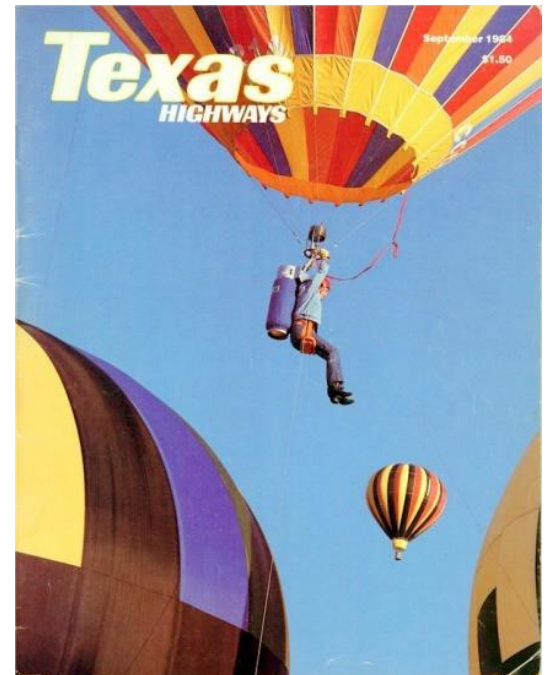
- Randolph L. Lovelace Award 1988

Presented by Society of NASA Flight Surgeons & awarded for significant contribution to the practice and advancement of Aerospace Medicine.

- 1st Pacific Hot-Air Balloon Crossing Flight Surgeon 1991
- Dick Wirth Memorial Cup 1993

#### Presented to Most Outstanding Balloonist in year

- Albuquerque International Balloon Festival- Honorary Special Shapes Rodeo Balloonmeister 1993
- One Tuff Dude - Awarded by Mississippi International Balloon Classic 1995
- Inducted into the National Ballooning Museum Hall of Fame 2019



### Flying Experience:

- NASA Manned Space Craft Center -Houston  
Associated with Flight Medicine and Crew System Divisions. Responsibilities included medical support for the Gemini and Apollo missions. Also involved in development of hardware used on 1st lunar landing.
- Single Engine Land Private #2110688
- LTA-Free Balloon (gas & hot air) Commercial #2110688
- Ballooning for 40+ years. 1000+ hours

### International Events:

- Swedish National Championships 1978
- Films, Switzerland 1978
- Chateau-d'Oex, Switzerland -1981
- World Hot Air Balloon Championship -1981
- 10th Annual Icicle Balloon Meet, England -1982
- Breda Balloon Meet, Holland -1983
- Dutch National Championships -1984
- Chateau Balleroy, France -1984
- Chateau-d'Oex, Switzerland -1985
- Barneveld Invitational Balloon Meet, Holland -1985
- Chateau-d'Oex, Switzerland -1990  
Leeds Castle, England
- Barneveld , Holland -1993



### Memberships:

- Balloon Federation of America
- North Texas Balloon Pilot Association Founding Member
- Plano Balloon Association Board of Directors
- The British Balloon and Airship Club
- Balloon Club of Stockholm

## Education:

- University of Texas BS 1964
- UTMB - Galveston MD 1969
- Family Practice - California. 1970-72
- General Surgery & Plastic Surgery - California, Arizona, and Texas.

Completed 1978

- Since that time, private practice in Plastic Surgery – Dallas (until powerline accident 1993) 5 years later in 1997
- Since 2003 working in Occupational Medicine / Urgent Care

### UNITED STATES AND WORLD BALLOON

RECORDS BY COY FOSTER, MD

#### CLASS SUB-CLASS TYPE RECORD DATE

Hot-Air AX-2 Distance 22.8 mi. 01/06/82	Hot-Air AX-4 Altitude 29,500' 02/23/86
Hot-Air AX-2 Altitude 12,610' 01/23/83	Hot-Air AX-4 Distance 130.45 mi. 03/20/86
Hot-Air AX-2 Distance 36.17 mi. 03/22/83	Hot-Air AX-4 Duration 8:39 03/20/86
Hot-Air AX-2 Duration 2:44:20 03/22/83	Hot-Air AX-5 Duration 8:39 03/20/86
Hot-Air AX-3 Distance 115.91 mi. 02/03/83	Hot-Air AX-1 Distance 10.1 mi. 01/04/87
Hot-Air AX-3 Duration 4:55:28 02/03/93	Hot-Air AX-1 Duration 1:26 01/04/87
Gas AA-1 Distance 170.48 mi. 05/30/83	Hot-Air AX-1 Altitude 2714' 01/09/88
Gas AA-1 Duration 8:12 05/30/83	Hot-Air AX-1 Altitude 5371' 01/10/88
Gas AA-2 Distance 170.48 05/30/83	Hot-Air AX-1 Distance 28.1 mi. 02/07/88
Gas AA-2 Duration 8:12 05/30/83	Hot-Air AX-1 Duration 1:37:20 02/07/88
Gas AA-1 Altitude 18,100' 07/14/84	<b>Airship</b>
Gas AA-1 Distance 375 mi. 09/07/84	Gas BA-3 through 10 Altitude 6750' 10/24/90
Gas AA-2 Distance 375 mi. 09/07/84	Gas BA-3 through 10 Speed 48.21 mph 10/24/90
Hot-Air AX-3 Altitude 16,952' 01/05/86	Gas BA-3 through 10 Distance 235 mi. 10/25/90
Hot-Air AX-3 Altitude 21,200' 02/15/86	Gas airship records total 24.



Dr. Coy Foster at  
the Mississippi  
Dixie Plantation

Cloudhopper doing a walkover

