Albert ‘Bert’ Padelt

2007 Montgolfier Diploma Nomination

Contributions To The Sport of Ballooning

Citation

For designing and building gas and hot air balloons which have advanced the performance capability of the sport of ballooning and which have been used to set Distance, Duration and Altitude world records. For participating in all major aspects of the sport including distance pilot, competition pilot, support crew of the First Solo Round the World Balloon Flight, and leadership in the Balloon Federation of America. *Written by Steve Fossett August 11, 2007*

Bert Padelt is a balloon system designer and builder who has developed a modern light weight, affordable gas balloon system that is widely used by gas balloonist both in the United States and internationally. His designs and systems have advanced the science of gas ballooning and his endless promotion of the sport has been instrumental in generating a revival of interest in gas ballooning and Gordon Bennett type distance competition in the United States.

Steve Fossett Recommendation of Bert Padelt: Bert Padelt is an independent balloon builder whose balloons are intended for expanding the envelope of balloon performance. He has built 20 gas balloons and 20 hot air balloons, many of which have been used in national and international competitions and world record attempts. Padelt has designed and built a majority of the balloons flown in recent America’s Challenge Balloon Races. He should be recognized with the Montgolfier Diploma for that contribution to the development of the sport of ballooning.

Padelt played a major role in the First Solo Round the World Balloon Flight and has been exemplary in his participation in major gas balloon competitions and as a leader in the Balloon Federation of America.

I highly recommend Bert Padelt for the Montgolfier Dipolma.

Round The World Team of Steve Fossett
Launch Team, St. Louis (USA) to Krasnador (Russia), 1998
Launch Systems Director, Northam (Australia) to Bage (Brazil), 2001
Launch Systems Director, First Solo Round the World Balloon Flight, 2002
Steve Fossett August 11, 2007

Systems Manager: As systems manager, Padelt is responsible for building, repairing and organizing much of the equipment used in the Fossett balloon, including the pre-launch assembly process. A championship balloonist and launch expert, Padelt assisted in Fossett's around-the-world attempt in 1997, and again in January 1998. Involved in ballooning since age 12, he is one of the very few persons in the United States who builds high-tech gas racing balloons, and his balloons have claimed world records. Padelt is also a member of the board of directors of the Gas Balloon Division of the Balloon Federation of America. His company, "Best" Aviation Services, in Bally, Pa. builds, repairs and inspects both hot-air and gas balloons. *John Klugler September 14, 2007*

I can not think of anyone else who is more deserving to receive this Montgolfier Diploma than Bert Padelt. *David Hemmpleman-Adams September 25, 2007*

For these reasons, the Balloon Federation of American is pleased to nominate
Bert Padelt for the prestigious Montgolfier Diploma.

Andrew Baird – President
Balloon Federation of America

Orvin E. Olivier – Awards Chair
Balloon Federation of America