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# Troy Bradley

## Pilot Background

Private pilot certificate at 16 years old  
Commercial pilot certificate at 18 years old  
Removal of "with airborne heater" at 21 years old  
7,732 hours PIC (322 days aloft)

## General Flying Experience

Owens and operates Star Trail, Inc. in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Former Part 141 school Assistant Chief Instructor (15+ years)

Albuquerque Chief Pilot for Rainbow Ryders

Flown commercial contracts for Century 21, Labatt's Beer, Sears, Swatch Watch, Maxwell House, PSA Airlines, United New Mexico Bank, Breyer's Ice Cream, Comet Cleaners, Fox Photo, Disney/Pixar, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI), and RE/MAX.

Flown in 45 of the States, 5 Continents, 16 Countries, across the Atlantic and Pacific  
Made 5,838 free flights (5,781 hot air and 57 LTA gases)  
Logged flight time in 235 different balloons  
Flown 34,772 passengers (Flying up to 500,000 cubic foot ride balloons)  
Made the 1<sup>st</sup> anhydrous ammonia balloon flight in New Mexico 3/1/92  
Built two gas balloons and one hot air balloon

## Competitive Flying Experience

Participated as a competitive pilot in:

### Hot Air Balloons:

14 New Mexico State Championships, winning in 1985, 1992, 2001, and 2003  
12 US Hot Air Nationals  
2 North American Championships, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall in 1990  
2 US Hot Air Team Nationals, winning with Sid Cutter and Mark Sullivan in 1995

### Gas Balloons:

9 America's Challenge Races, winning in 1998 with my wife, Tami  
7 Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennetts  
The 1994 World Gas Championships  
The 1996 St. Louis National Gas Balloon Race, winning with Shane Robinson  
The 1999 RE/MAX Balloon Cup

## World Record Flying Experience

CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TYPE	RECORD	DATE
Rozier	AM8 – 15	Distance	3,318.23 miles	9/16-22/92
Rozier	AM8 – 15	Duration	144 hr. 16 min	9/16-22/92
Rozier	AM8 – 15	Altitude	17,998.6 feet	9/16-22/92
Rozier	AM1	Distance	197.38 miles	2/3/94
Rozier	AM1	Duration	10 hr. 1 min.	2/3/94
Rozier	AM1 – 7	Altitude	18,143 feet	6/15/94
Rozier	AM1 – 6	Distance	353.33 miles	10/20-22/99
Rozier	AM1 – 6	Duration	27 hr. 25 min.	10/20-22/99
Gas	AA3 – 5	Distance	1,225.23 miles	1/3-5/02
Hot Air	AX9	Distance	1,017.09 miles	1/20/03
Gas	AA3	Duration	46 hr. 50 min.	2/9-11/05
Rozier	AM3 – 6	Distance	824 miles	11/14-16/07
Rozier	AM3 – 6	Duration	41 hr. 23 min.	11/14-16/07
Gas	AA13 – 15	Distance	6,655.9 miles	1/24-31/15
Gas	AA13 – 15	Duration	160 hr. 34 min.	1/24-31/15

First person to set world records in the AA, AM, and AX categories

First USA to Africa balloon flight

Broke the oldest standing aviation record in 2002 (previous record set in 1922)

495 hours aloft in World record breaking flights and attempts

## Affiliations

Lifetime member of the Balloon Federation of America (BFA), past President, current NAA Representative, and on the Gas Division Board (served 3 years as Chairman)

Lifetime member of the Albuquerque Aerostat Ascension Association (AAAA)

Past President of the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum Foundation

Served as Head of Delegation for the US Team at the 2015 World Air Games (the Olympics of Aviation) in Dubai

Currently serving on 3 committees for the FAI Ballooning Commission – Chairman of the Records Subcommittee, Member of the AA Working Group, Expert Advisor to the Hall of Fame Committee

## Awards and Recognition

Sixty-four (64) Federation Aeronautique International (FAI) World Record Diplomas

Balloon Federation of America's Shields-Trauger Award (1993 and 2015)

The FAI's De la Vaulx Medal for an Absolute World Record

Governor of New Mexico's Certificate of Recognition

The Lighter-Than-Air Society Achievement Award (1993 and 2015)

Sid Cutter Award for Outstanding Contribution to Ballooning

National Aeronautic Association (NAA) Certificate of Honor

Balloon Federation of America Level 8 Distinguished Aeronaut

The **only three time recipient** of the FAI's Montgolfier Diploma (the highest international award in ballooning): 2003 Hot Air Balloons, 2007 Rozier Balloons, 2015 Gas Balloons

Executive Order from the Albuquerque Mayor that February 1, 2015 is "Two Eagles Day"

NM Governor Proclamation that February 16, 2015 is "Two Eagles Balloon Day"

NAA Harmon Trophy

2015 Nominee and Finalist for the Robert J. Collier Trophy

2016 Inductee into the United States Ballooning Hall of Fame

2016 Inductee into the FAI Ballooning Commission Hall of Fame

**Safety Seminar  
Participation**

Made presentations at many Safety Seminars on Aeronautical Decision Making, FARs, Accidents, Preflight Planning, Flight Operations, Flight Reviews, Gas Ballooning, and Record Setting Flights.

**Most Memorable  
Flights (so far)**

Record shattering gas balloon flight across the Pacific from Saga, Japan to off the coast of La Poza Grande, Mexico. Breaking the long standing distance and duration records for straight gas balloons with Leonid Tiukhtyaev. We flew for nearly seven days and had a great circle distance of 6,656 miles, increasing the distance record by 28% and the duration record by 17%.

The 1992 Chrysler Transatlantic Challenge; achieving the first USA to Africa balloon flight and setting an absolute duration record of 6 days for balloons. An absolutely amazing flight!

Giving Walter Cronkite a lesson at Château de Balleroy in 1993.

In 1995, dropping a skydiver (Bob Martin) from 32,000 feet, I then ascended to 34,000 feet.

The 1998 America's Challenge. Landing in the Canadian wilderness and being rescued by helicopter.

The 2001 Gordon Bennett. Crossing the Alps from Germany to Italy with Earl Miller.

2003 Flying out of the Stratobowl at night on the AX9 distance record (the only successful record flight from the Stratobowl since Stephens and Anderson's flight in 1935)

Cluster flight for Disney/Pixar's movie UP. Flying over 4,000 feet MSL sitting on a carbon fiber La-Z-Boy chair with 70 helium balloons. The next flight For National Geographic took the concept further! Jonathan Trappe and I flew a 1,600 lb. house with 300 8' balloons to 10,500 feet MSL.

Spending ten months flying over the unique rock formations, stunning valleys, and ancient cliff dwellings of Cappadocia, Turkey.

Crossing the equator by balloon at the Mitad del Mundo (Middle of the World) monument in Ecuador.

Flying over, Colorado's iconic mountain, Pikes Peak.

Crossing one of the most spectacular features on earth: the Grand Canyon.

My son Bobby's solo. On June 4, 2011, at age 9, he became the youngest trained pilot to solo in a hot air balloon. My daughter Savannah being issued her Student Pilot Certificate and soloing on her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. On both occasions I became the proudest flight instructor in history!

**Updated September 30, 2019**  
[www.ballooningbradleys.com](http://www.ballooningbradleys.com)