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NAA Announces John Petrehn to Receive 2011 Harmon Trophy for Ballooning

Arlington, Virginia, September 20, 2011 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) will honor John Petrehn with the Harmon Trophy for outstanding achievement in hot air ballooning, including winning the 2010 World Balloon Championships and for being the number one ranked hot air balloon pilot in the world.

The Harmon Trophy is awarded for “...the most outstanding international achievement in the art and/or science of aeronautics (ballooning) for the previous year.”

Petrehn won the 2010 FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Debrecen, Hungary. Competing in 19 tasks with an average of 812 points per task, this was John's second World Hot Air Balloon Championship win. His first gold medal performance was in Motegi Japan in 2006. John has also finished in the top five at the World Hot Air Championship event in Bad Waltersdorf, Austria and Mildura, Australia.

As a result of winning the 2010 World Championship, John Petrehn is currently the #1 ranked pilot in the world per the FAI World Ranking List. Also, John is only one of two pilots to have ever sat atop the FAI World Hot Air Balloon Ranking List since its inception in approximately 1996.

John also finished 2nd at the 2010 United States National Hot Air Balloon Championship and was also our National Champion in 1998. John has also finished in the top five places at the United States Nationals 11 times.

The award will be presented at the NAA Fall Awards Banquet on Monday, November 7 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. For more information, please visit www.naa.aero.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering America's aerospace leadership and promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.

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