

NAA NEWS



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Balloonist Carol Rymer Davis wins Stinson Award & Harmon Trophy - with Richard Abruzzo

Balloonist Carol Rymer Davis won a pair of awards recently: The Harmon Aeronaut Trophy and the Katherine and Marjorie Stinson Award for Achievement.

Rymer Davis won the Harmon for teaming with Richard Abruzzo to win the Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett, the most prestigious balloon race in the world and the oldest race in all of aviation, in 2004. The trophy is given each year for the most outstanding international achievement in the art and science of ballooning.

Davis was the first woman in the history of the race, which was first flown in 1906, to win the event. The race is held annually among the top gas balloonists in the world, with the goal of flying the farthest without landing. The pair flew through Europe from the race's start line in Thionville, France and traveled 1,120 miles over more than two days before landing in Sweden to win the race.

Davis and Abruzzo attempted to defend their title in October, but they ran into misfortune. Weather forced their balloon to descend very quickly very early in the race, and Abruzzo was thrown from the gondola when the balloon struck a power line. Davis landed shortly after the accident; Abruzzo was recovering in a hospital with broken bones.

Davis also won the Stinson Award, which recognizes a living woman for an outstanding and enduring contribution to aviation or a meritorious flight. Davis actually qualified for both with her Gordon Bennett victory last year and her career in ballooning.

The awards will be presented at NAA's Annual Fall Awards Banquet on December 5 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. If you would like to attend, please contact NAA.

NAA is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering opportunities to participate fully in aviation activities and to promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States. For more information about our programs, please check our Web site www.naa.aero.

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