HEMPLEMAN-ADAMS AWARDED 2007 HARMON TROPHY

The National Aeronautic Association and The Balloon Federation of America are proud to announce that David Hempleman-Adams has been selected to receive the 2007 Harmon Aeronaut (Ballooning) Trophy.

The Harmon Trophy was created in 1926 by Clifford B. Harmon, a philanthropist who used aviation as a means to promote international understanding and harmony. Originally, the trophy was awarded annually to the world's outstanding aviator, aviatrix and aeronaut (balloon or dirigible pilot); in 1969, a fourth category, astronauts, was added. Today, NAA administers the program and continues the tradition of naming winners in the ballooning category.

The Trophy is presented annually for “the most outstanding international achievement in the art and/or science of aeronautics (ballooning), with the art of flying receiving first consideration”. The flight period for the 2007 trophy was July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

This is not the first and probably not the last Harmon trophy that David has been awarded – given his love and sense of adventure for the sport of ballooning.

His flight started on January 14, 2007 at Red Deer in Alberta, Canada – he took off with a AX-5 Hot Air Balloon. This was not the first attempt at this flight, over a period of 4 years he made at least 4 attempts and 42 amendments to equipment for this final record breaking flight. He took off in -26C weather, this was done in an open basket with a final temperature of -65 degrees at altitude, exposing him to the elements.

He reached a height of 32,480 feet beating the old record of 31,291 feet set by Dr. Carol Rymer Davis back in 1979 (she is also a past recipient of the Harmon Trophy). This was not an easy record to set or break – as Hempleman-Adams wrote “…this was one of the oldest records on the books. Like a dummy, it didn’t occur to me why it had been on the books for so long”.

NAA will present the 2007 Harmon Ballooning trophy to Hempleman-Adams in early spring – please visit our Web site for more information.

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 on NAA and its award and recognition programs, visit www.naa.aero.

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