



**FÉDÉRATION AÉRONAUTIQUE
INTERNATIONALE
Ballooning Commission**

Hall of Fame

Maes, Jojo (Franz Josef) Inducted 2018



1000 gas balloon flights. 1992-12-29

Date of Birth: (Year/Month/Day): 1933-12-11

Year of Death (Year/Month/Day): 2010

Biography:

In the history of ballooning, only a handful of persons have made over 1000 gas balloon flights. The most prominent of those is Jojo Maes, who made about 1400 flights during his career. In addition he also made thousands of flights in hot air balloons.

Not only did he make many flights but a large part of those were high performance flights. He made 38 flights over 500 km including one over 1000 km. He made 22 flights over 24 hours including one over 50 hours.

Jojo's most active period was the 1980ies when he, during 10 years, annually made an average of 50 flights in gas balloons.

He represented Germany in the 1976 European Hot Air Balloon Championship and 1981 in the World Hot Air Balloon Championship. He flew in the 1986 and 1990 World Gas Balloon Championship and 1983, 1985 and 1986 Gordon Bennett races.

Jojo was a very active balloon instructor. Hundreds of pilots from many nations got their licenses with his help. Many others made their first balloon flight with him. He was also the organizer of balloon events in Germany and abroad. One of these events was a hot air balloon race in Cuba, where he instructed a pilot from the Albanian Air Force who had not flown a balloon before but claimed that “if you can fly a MIG fighter, you can also fly a balloon”.

In the 1950ies, Jojo studied in Copenhagen, Denmark and became an architect. He then set up a business in Düsseldorf. He then engaged in motor racing, first with motor cycles and later as a driver for Porsche, competing in rally and speed events. He was very successful and won several races.

Jojo made his first gas balloon flight in 1963 with Werner Lohmann, also an architect. Lohmann had flown in the Gordon Bennett race 1935, 1936 and 1937. In 1965 Jojo got his balloon license. He later started flying hot air balloons and became an instructor for both types.

Jojo is remembered as a very good and generous friend. He was very focused on safe flying.

Achievements, honours and awards:

1984 Montgolfier Diploma for performance, Gas Balloons



After 10 000 hours in Gas Balloons. Jojo's flight 1379. 2004-08-22.

With Gustav Samsel. Montgolfier diploma 1996, Hans Åkerstedt, Montgolfier Diploma 1996, Aloys Friedrich and Karl-Heinz Funke. Total experience of all was 1931 gas balloon flights.