

# **Balloon Federation of America**

## **Nomination for Montgolfier Diploma**

### **‘Best Performance in a Hot Air Balloon’**

Alvin Hansen and Chris Podell achieved a significant performance in a hot air balloon in 2004. This nomination is for their distance flight in the Balloon Federation of America Long Jump Team Challenge. The BFA Long Jump Challenge began in 1990. The BFA Long Jump was created to give pilots an opportunity in the winter months to plan long distance flights, having only 40 gallons of propane on board. In 2003, the BFA Long Jump added another category by having a Team Challenge; this allows pilots to share the experience of a distance flight with another person.

Alvin and Chris’s flight was a distance of 730.9Km (454.2 miles) in 5 hours and 38 minutes. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> longest flight ever since the beginning of the BFA Long Jump and the longest in the team competition. The team drove over 2,000 miles (3,200 KM), 600 miles of that was just getting to Watertown, SD for the launch. They launched from Watertown, South Dakota U.S.A. and landed near Augusta, Illinois. Alvin and Chris’s flight took place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2004, in a Cameron AX-8 (105,000 cu ft.) balloon. Top speed: 109 KTS or 110 mph, Highest altitude: 16,450 ft., (5,013 meters) (oxygen on board and being used).