



PRESS RELEASE
For 06 October 2021

70 years since Monique Laroche set the first ever FAI parachuting record

Lausanne, Switzerland, 01 October 2021 – **The first ever FAI parachuting record was set 70 years ago on 6 October 1951, by Monique Laroche, of France.**

Laroche, aged 22, exited the Morane-Saulnier MS 230 aircraft at 4235m, freefalling for a total of 3622m, and opening her parachute 400m above the ground, thus setting the first FAI world record in parachuting: for an altitude jump with delayed opening.

Laroche followed up her new record by competing in the first World Parachuting Championships in Bled, Yugoslavia (now Slovenia) where she became the first world champion in parachuting accuracy. Going on to win further medals, including champion of France at St. Yan in 1953 and world champion in 1954, she funded her jumps by appearing at air shows, pulling her cord at the last possible moment – without using an altimeter – to wow audiences.

A true pioneering spirit, Laroche's achievements contributed to the gathering momentum of parachuting as a sport, which in turn led to the development of skydiving and other associated sports such as canopy piloting, speed skydiving and wingsuit flying.

Gillian Rayner, President of the International Skydiving Commission (an FAI commission) commented on her friend's achievements:

"Monique Laroche was an inspiration to all women. Not only did she achieve this incredible record, but she was also the first female world champion at the 1st FAI World Championships of Accuracy Landing in 1951. In 1953, she even beat all the men to become the overall French national champion. She became a personal friend and it was an honour to jump with her occasionally."

Editor's notes

- Record: <https://www.fai.org/record/12520>
- Full article: <https://bit.ly/MLaroche>
- Athlete Profile: <https://www.fai.org/athlete/monique-laroche>
- FAI Skydiving Commission: <https://www.fai.org/commission/isc>
- FAI media corner: www.fai.org/media
- FAI logo: [bit.ly/FAI logo](http://bit.ly/FAI_logo)

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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