



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Commemorating air sports and spaceflight records and achievements in 2024

Lausanne, Switzerland, 17 January 2024 – Throughout the year 2024, FAI will celebrate the anniversaries of outstanding records and achievements in air sports and spaceflight, highlighting them through a series of articles and social media messages.

Important feats to recognise for 2024 include:

- The first helicopter record ever ratified by FAI: Etienne Oehmichen's flight in 1924
- The first solo balloon crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by Joseph Kittinger in 1984 – a Distance record
- Bruce McCandless' first untethered spacewalk in 1984
- The record-breaking parachute jump by Alan Eustace from an altitude of 41 422 m in 2014

Exceptional records

Drawing up rules, and controlling and ratifying aeronautical and astronautical world and continental records are pivotal aspects of FAI activities. Since the first record-setting flights were recorded in 1906, the FAI has ratified thousands of records. In commemorating record anniversaries, the World Air Sports Federation also aims to honour the exceptional individuals behind these achievements and highlight the remarkable stories that led them towards gaining their place in the history books.

Momentous achievements and firsts

FAI will also commemorate outstanding achievements and firsts dating back to as early as the 19th century. Symbolising the triumph of human determination, bravery, and skill, they mark milestones in the history of air sports and space exploration.

Below is a full list of all the anniversaries to mark in 2024:

Sport	Date	Pilots	Achievement	Performance	Status	File
Microlights	21 January 2014	Alexis ANASTASIOU/Petros PRINTEZIS (GRE)	Altitude record in a microlight flown by two persons	7 608 m	Current	17040
Space	7 February 1984	Bruce McCANDLESS (USA)	First untethered spacewalk	-	Not a record	Not a record
Ballooning	9 February 2014	Sandra ROLFE (CAN)	Female Duration record	4h 17m 42s	Current	17055
Rotorcraft	14 April 1924	Etienne OEHMICHEN (FRA)	First helicopter record; Straight Distance record	360 m	Superseded	13093
Gliding	25 April 2023	Baptiste INNOCENT (FRA)	Free Triangle Distance record - flight above the Mediterranean Sea	1 407,06 km	Current - European record	19940
Paragliding	1 May 2014	Seiko FUKUOKA NAVILLE (FRA)	Speed over a triangular course of 150km - female record	32,68 km/h	Current	17101

Ballooning	4 June 1784	Elisabeth THIBLE (FRA)	First female onboard a balloon in free flight	-	Not a record	-
Ballooning	15 September 1984	Joseph KITTINGER (USA)	First solo balloon crossing of the Atlantic; Distance record	5 703,03 km	Current	1045
General aviation	28 September 1924	Lowell SMITH/Leslie ARNOLD; Erik NELSON/John HARDING Jr. (USA)	First flight around the world (started on 6 April 1924) - 2 planes	-	Not a record	-
Parachuting	24 October 2014	Alan EUSTACE (USA)	Exit Altitude / Maximum Vertical Speed with Drogue	41 422 m / 1 320 km/h	Current	17338 17340
Ballooning	27 October 2004	Steve FOSSETT (USA)	Speed record in a rigid airship	115 km/h	Current	9930
Parachuting	20 November 1974	Rolayne MATTSON, Patricia DAVIS, Jeannie McCOMBS, Nancy GRUTTMAN, Linda PADGETT-HEATH, Pat PITCHER, Mary HOLDREDGE, Helen TYSON-FRASER, Ruth LANIER, Donna WARDEAN, Patty WICKLIFFE, Karen COLLETT, Dianne MARSH, Debra ZWEIFEL, Charmian CLIFF, Betty HAWKINS	First Female Largest Formation Record in Skydiving	16 skydivers	Superseded	11116

Editor's note

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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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