



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Aviation and air sports: Diary notifications and anniversaries for 2020

Lausanne, Switzerland, 4 February 2020 – Throughout the year, FAI will celebrate the anniversaries of its the most interesting and impressive records, along with milestone firsts and notable achievements in the field of aviation and air sports.

Since records were first ratified by FAI in 1906, more than 7000 women and men have pushed the boundaries of what is possible. Of course, technological evolution played a huge role in helping pilots improve their performances, but it was their ingenuity, determination and courage which ultimately made them surpass themselves.

In 2010, Swiss pilot André Borschberg and the solar-powered aircraft Solar Impulse flew to the incredible altitude of 9235m, thus establishing the first absolute world record in this solar category. Further back, in 1930, the Hunter brothers broke the world record for duration in an airplane by spending no less than 23 days (553h 41m 30s) in the air without landing, thanks to air-to-air refuelling. And in 1890, Clément Ader flew his Avion Eole, a steam-powered aircraft modelled on the wings of bats, for the first time.

These are just a sample of the pilots and performances about which FAI will publish articles and social media posts during the year. The full list is below:

Date	Name	Country	Category	Description	Record(s)
17 February 2010	DUVOISIN Pierrick	SUI	Ballooning	Eco-balloon concept, duration record (27h 41m 20s)	2 records, incl. 15834 - current
8 March 1910	DE LAROCHE Raymonde	FRA	Powered airplanes	1st female pilot to obtain a pilot licence	-
28 March 1910	FABRE Henri	FRA	Powered airplanes	1st successful powered seaplane flight	-
2 July 1900	VON SIGSFELD Hans Bartsch	GER	Ballooning	1st flight of the first Zeppelin	-
11 June - 4 July 1930	HUNTER brothers: John and Kenneth; refuel plane: Walter and Albert*	USA	Powered airplanes	Duration record - 23 days in flight (553h 41m 30s)	9559
8 July 2010	BORSCHBERG André*	SUI	Experimental / New Technologies	Absolute altitude record in the solar-powered aircraft Solar Impulse (9235m)	3 records, incl. 16042 - current
11 July 1930	ALEXANDER Ruth	USA	Powered airplanes	Altitude – early female world record (6583m)	12231
6 September 1970	HILL Maynard	USA	Aeromodelling	Altitude record with a model aircraft (8205m)	2430
9 October 1890	ADER Clément*	FRA	Powered airplanes	First take-off of the Avion Eole	-
13 October 1930	NELLI Marinello	ITA	Rotorcraft	Early rotorcraft altitude record (18m)	13087
24 November 2000	FOSSETT Steve*	USA	Powered airplanes	Speed around the world Westbound	6766 - current

* Press releases will be sent out ahead of these anniversaries.

Notes for editors

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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, Ballooning, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying, Skydiving and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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For more details, please contact the FAI:

Faustine Carrera
Communication Manager
0041 21 345 10 70
communication@fai.org

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