

## Andre DeBerdt Honored (Posthumously)

*Jim Price - (MI)* The following was presented at the 90th Annual Federation Aeronautique Internationale General Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on October 23<sup>rd</sup> (quoted verbatim from the FAI program).

### LINDBERGH DIPLOMA

This Diploma was created by the FAI in 1983 on a proposal by the FAI General Aviation Commission. It is awarded annually to individuals or organizations that have contributed significantly over a period of not less

than ten years to the progress and success of General Aviation in either its sporting or transportation manifestations or in the work of international bodies. Not more than one diploma may be awarded annually. For 1996, it is awarded to: André Joseph DEBERDT (Brazil) (Posthumously)

André J. Deberdt was born in France in October 1934 and lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil since 1954. An electronic engineer in radio and telecommunications, he obtained his private pilot license in 1974 and accumulated some 1600 hours of flight on small airplanes. He had an IFR rating and some basic aerobatic experience.

An experimental aviation enthusiast,

he built his own airplane, a "LONG-EZ" made entirely out of fiber glass and epoxy resin from plans of Burt Rutan of "Voyager" fame.

Co-founder and first president of "ABRA" - Brazilian Air Rally Association-, he organized and participated in several rallies in Brazil and abroad. He participated with his own airplane in the 9th World Precision Flying Championship held in Argentina in 1990.

With his experimental Long-EZ, André J. Deberdt crossed the Andes mountains in 1993, reproducing the South Atlantic flight performed by Joao Ribeiro de Barros in his Savoia Marchetti named "Jahu" on 28/4/1927. He flew from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to Santiago, Chile, for the 8th World Precision Flying Championship in 1993. He also flew from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to Dakar, Senegal, and back in April 1994 and Sao Paulo, Brazil, to Oshkosh, USA, and back in July 1994.

He finally flew from Sao Paulo, Brazil, around Europe to Denmark for the 10<sup>th</sup> World Precision Flying Championship and back to Brazil through the USA in 1995, thus establishing 8 FAI World "Speed Over Recognized Course" Records.

He was a true sportsman, always flying alone for his pleasure and to break old records, show that flying was always safer and easier than it seemed to be, if properly planned and prepared. He unfortunately died when his experimental Long-EZ crashed in 1996 during an air display.

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Rex Rexin	Michigan	Lynn Butters	Missouri
313-349-8877		314-837-2607	
Ken Pickel	Ohio	Fred Warden	Texas
440-235-1242		713-492-2078	
Jim Evans	Virginia	Mike Bem	Pennsylvania
757-898-1231		215-647-5137	
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918-245-7458		407-744-1309	
Alfred Coha	Arizona	Dave & Ali Nelson	Minnesota
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Bob Sudderth	Washington	Bob Iuliano	New York
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Richard Crapse	North Carolina	Ed Lovrien	Montana
919-851-1557		406-728-5428	
Howard Caulk	Maryland		
410-385-2042			

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Al Coha (AZ) recently wrote it might be a good idea to have a spare or alternate state representative in case the primary one is not available or needs help in the larger states. I am requesting all state representatives to consider nomination of an alternate in case they are not available and a safety issue needs to be distributed. If you wish to help out please contact your state rep and volunteer.



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