

skydive

The Mag

April 2001

**Balloon
Record Stunt
Chicks Rock**



**Norman Kent
on LIFE**

**Canopy
Shoooooof**



The British Parachute
Association Magazine

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The Mag

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I am sorry to tell you that I have resigned from Council.

Why ?

Because I had to make a choice between the position as Editor and a position on Council. I can achieve more through the magazine.

Why can't you hold both positions ?

Because the Articles of Association, under which the BPA operates, prohibit anyone on Council from receiving money from the BPA, other than expenses. (Section 4, part 2 of the Memorandum of the Association). The aim of this rule was clearly to prevent corruption.

What are the Articles of Association ?

They set out the objectives of the BPA and the way in which it operates. They were written in 1966, updated in 1992 and make interesting reading. They define how the BPA and its Council operates.

Can the Articles be changed ?

Yes, if ten per cent of the membership vote in favour of a change. This is according to the Companies Act, 1948, which is referred to in the Articles. Council does not have the power to amend the Articles.

Can the next down the list be offered the seat on Council ?

No, not a voting seat, the Articles won't permit this. But Council is allowed to co-opt non-voting members. Ian Midgley, Chairman of Development, has co-opted Richard Tregaskes onto that committee to continue his work from last year. Nice one Ian and Richard !

Final thoughts ?

A big apology (and thank you) to those who voted for me. Please understand I wouldn't have stood for election to Council if I had been aware I couldn't take on both roles. To resign as Editor seemed pointless. As stated in my manifesto, I wanted to 'better link all areas of communications: the magazine, the website, the AGM, Council meetings, staff and members' opinions'. Leaving the Mag did not seem like a good start. First and foremost, I want to continue as your Editor, just as long as that's what you want too!



Photo: Garry Hallas

The British Parachute Association

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The Prince of Wales

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deadlines

MAG	DEADLINE	ADVERT	TO READER
Jun	6 May	23 May	16 Jun
Aug	6 Jul	18 Jul	16 Aug
Oct	6 Sep	19 Sep	16 Oct
Dec	6 Nov	21 Nov	16 Dec

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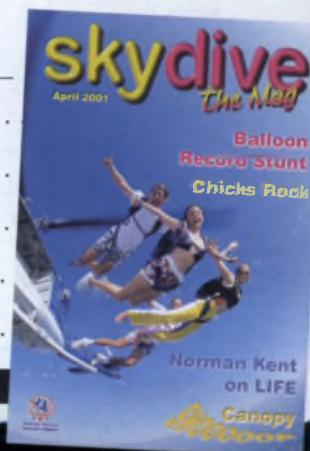
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BPA, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF

skydive
April 2001

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The Mag

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NOTE: Some of the photos contained in this magazine may show skydivers without helmets, in which case they were jumping abroad. In the UK it is mandatory to wear a helmet for obvious safety reasons.

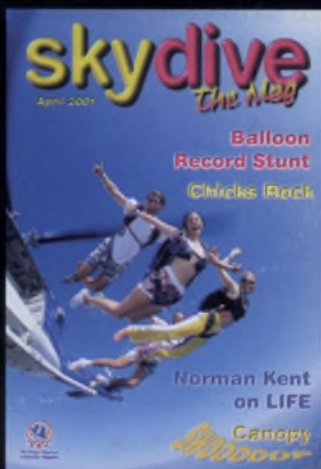
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The information in this magazine was, to the best of our ability, correct at the time of going to press. Reproduction, printing and mailing takes a total of three weeks so some information may be out of date, or superseded.

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Front Cover

Norman Kent took this shot of his friends Bobby and Tara Hubner, Nicole Angelides and Fred Brown, taken at the World Freefall Convention last summer. How do you take photos like this? Check out page 45

features . . .

This stunning photo was taken by Adrian Thornton at the Swedish Herc Boogie last year



Canopy Swoop

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Extreme canopy pilots



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Dave Morris breaks another record



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The first part in this FS series from VMax, British ladies 4-way team



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Second part of our skills series, this time on blocks and randoms

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Stormin' Norman Kent looks at skydiving photography from a different perspective





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Yes we mean

YOU!

How many sports do you get the chance to compete against the very top British athletes? You don't. We are lucky enough to be able to rub shoulders with the best. Make the most of it, get yourself down to the Nationals. Our most experienced competitors are only too happy to help people out.

- Compete and measure yourself against champions
- Meet the people at the top
- Learn new techniques
- Share in the excitement
- Make new friends, meet old ones
- Use your mental skills
- See how competition can spur you on

Formation Skydiving Target Skysports

Fri 20 - Sun 22 July 4-way
Fri 27 - Sun 29 July *8-way
* plus 4-way reserve weekend

Classics and Canopy Formation Bridlington

Fri 3 - Sun 5 Aug first weekend
Fri 10 - Sun 12 Aug reserve weekend

Freestyle, Freeflying and Skysurfing Peterborough

Fri 17 - Sun 19 Aug first weekend
Fri 24 - Sun 26 Aug reserve weekend

Draws will be done on the first Thursday night. If the meet is complete by that Sunday, prizes will be awarded. If not complete, the Meet Director will arrange to reconvene the following (reserve) weekend to finish the meet. In the case of the FS Nationals, then if the 4-way is not completed over the first weekend, then the second weekend will include the end of the 4-way event plus the whole 8-way event, with the Meet Director making the call of which event to go into, just as would traditionally be the case. The 8-way draw will not be done until the Thursday of the allocated 8-way weekend.

If any of the events carries over to the following weekend, then a new draw will be done with the formations in the pool which haven't yet been jumped, this avoids the potential problem of people practising in the mean time. But the whole plan means the worse case scenario is two days off work instead of the five which have previously been required. Plus, you can all return to civilisation inbetween weekends.

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Buy a block of 50 tickets in April for £650* (£13 each)

APRIL

13-16 EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA - Easter egg hunt Loads of FF and FS fun. Party in Birdland Bar Sunday, DJ Richie plays Carwash (70's + 80's).

MAY

26-28 MINI FREEFLY FESTIVAL

Alex Meacock & Giles Fabris coaching, and organising videos played in the bar after jumping.

JULY

28 THE SIBSON 30th ANNIVERSARY party dinner/dance. Tickets on sale £20. Live music by Grounded.

AUGUST

17-19 NEW AGE NATIONALS. If you'd like to enter but don't have a team, call Alex for intro's to people of similar experience and coaching.

SEPT

25-2 Sept FREEFLY FESTIVAL - top coaches, top skydives, what ever level you're at, this is the one not to miss.

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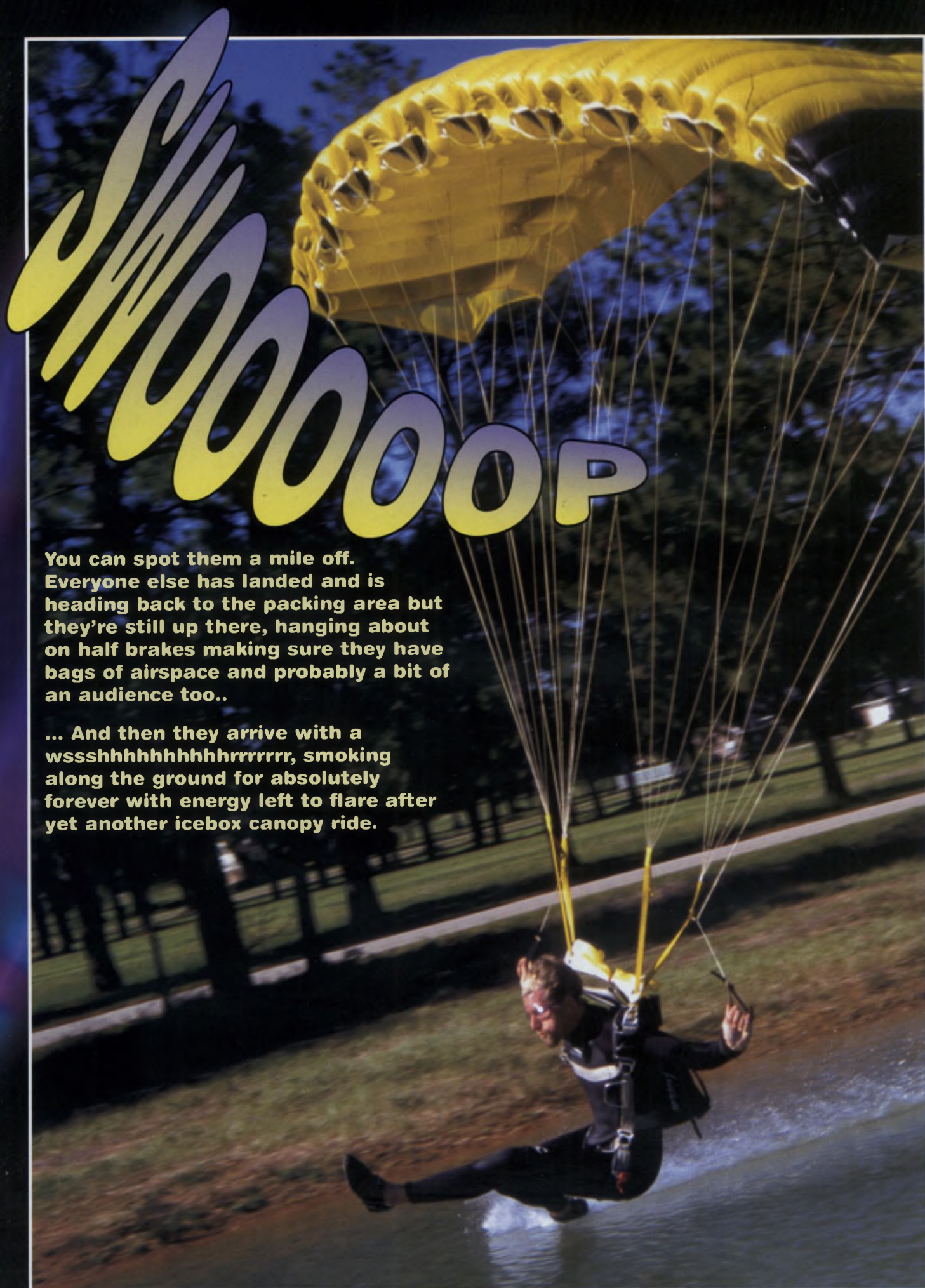
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You can spot them a mile off. Everyone else has landed and is heading back to the packing area but they're still up there, hanging about on half brakes making sure they have bags of airspace and probably a bit of an audience too..

... And then they arrive with a wssshhhhhhhhhrrrrrrr, smoking along the ground for absolutely forever with energy left to flare after yet another icebox canopy ride.

We think that's great. A cool surf is still where it's at in the UK. But there's far more out there. Jumpers in the US are not only pushing the envelope, they are exploding out of it to leave the remains in a charred, startled heap!

Heard of extreme canopy competitions? Try putting a few dozen of the world's best canopy pilots together and just see what they can produce. They're seeking the perfect run, the perfect swoop and they are pushing the limits of the ram-air canopy. It's big news in the States and the flying is already organised into a competitive format to push these pilots and their canopies to the limit.

Just look at these guys - is that vapour trailing off their heels? Are they having a blast - or what?!

SPLOOOOP



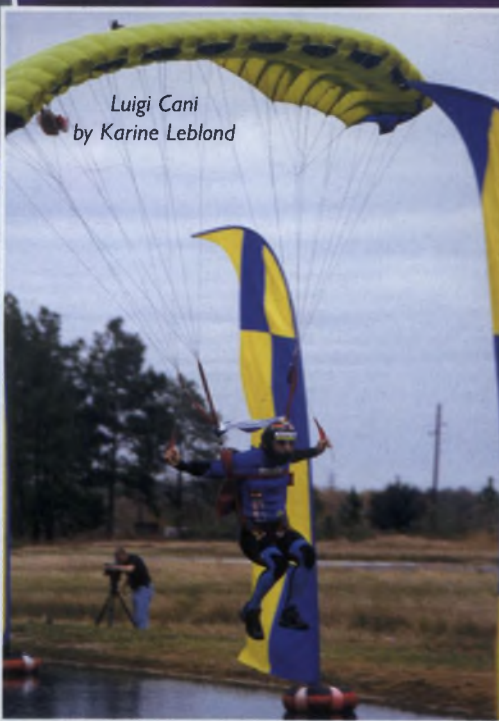
Clint Clawson swooping his way to first overall win at the Para-Performance Games, Autumn 2000. Photo by Karine Leblond.

Para-Performance Pro Tour

In the States, this whole new, exciting aspect of our sport is being pushed forward by the Para-Performance Pro-Tour. This organisation is running the canopy flying event. The Para-performance Pro-Tour guys have shaken out the bag and set up some ultra-cool, exciting and spectator-friendly competitions. These comprise three main events; speed, distance and accuracy with a course set up over a man-made swoop pond. One of the ponds used at the autumn Para-Performance Games 2000 at Skydive Houston, for example, measured 270 feet long by 45 feet wide! The Para-Performance Pro-Tour is the only organisation in the world which is currently ranking canopy pilots.



Doug Park makes the entry gates for the speed course. Photo by Karine Leblond



Luigi Cani by Karine Leblond

Speed competition

That's negotiating a 175 feet course over the swoop pond with eight airblade gates.

Just imagine 30ft wide gates at the entry point, narrowing to 13ft wide at the exit!

The idea is to negotiate the course in the fastest time without any blade strikes or penalties. The fastest at Houston was Vladi Pesa with a 1.89 seconds run.

Accuracy

Pilots have to get round a course over the sloop pond with an accuracy tuffet (target) at the end. There are five line gates on the water, each worth one point. The accuracy tuffet at the end has four rings with four point values. Pilots drag their feet on the water, through the line gate, for the greatest distance possible and then strike the accuracy pad.

Just think of Rickster trailing his toes downstream for absolutely forever and kicking out for a bank landing. That's what they're looking for and then some. The ultimate accuracy sloop at the Para-Performance Games 2000 was by Jim Slaton, a 270ft toe drag with a bull's eye target strike. Yahoo!



Joey Jones
by Karine Leblond



Heath Richardson
by Karine Leblond



Luis (Luigi) Cani
by Karine Leblond

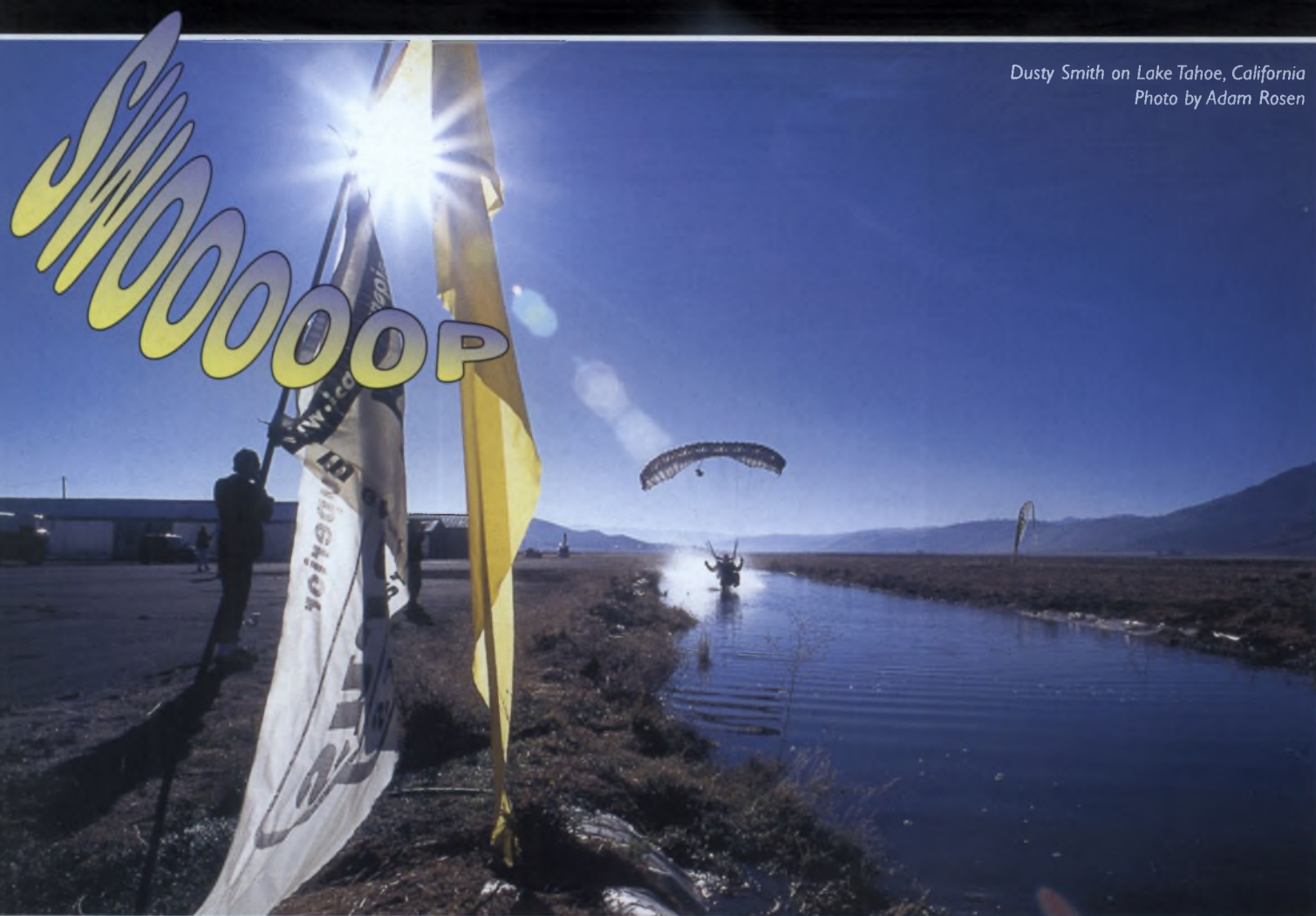
Distance competition

Eight airblade gates are set up over a 400 feet long course. Pilots have to score the entry gates and travel the furthest distance possible within the course. A distance round is measured from the entry gate of the course to the pilot's first point of contact with the surface. That's big pirates and crocodiles stuff! There are not a lot of straight bits – remember it's a 400 feet long course in a 270 feet pond!

First place in the distance competition 2000, went to Jim Slaton with a 321ft sloop! The Games are encouraging pilots to push themselves and their canopies beyond what anyone would have thought possible. One spectator of the distance event commented "I cannot imagine high performance canopy flight beyond this".

The Para-Performance Pro Tour is now based at Perris Valley skydiving, for further information contact: ParaProTour@excite.com

Dusty Smith on Lake Tahoe, California
Photo by Adam Rosen



Cut the Cloth

This is exciting, ground-breaking stuff. These aerial performers are taking this new aspect of our sport to amazing levels. But these boys and girls are not exactly flying the average canopy. Nowhere near it! They're seeking the perfect wing loading for that ultimate canopy ride. Currently, that means cutting back on the cloth over their heads...

Wing Loading

Wing loadings? Wing loading is what it sounds, how heavy the pilot is under how large (or small!) a canopy.

Wing Loading = weight / area

So, say you weigh 144 lbs and have a 120 square foot canopy, that's a wing loading of 1.2. Bear in mind that the weight is total, all-up, ie, it includes your rig, weight vest, hat etc.

Extreme Wing Loads

When they say extreme, they certainly mean it. A low wing loading is 1.2. A medium wing loading is 1.6, a high is 1.9 while an extreme loading is a mind focussing 2.0 and above.

But these extreme flyers don't simply buy a smaller square footage of a high performance canopy – Stiletto, BT or whatever. They fly specially designed extreme canopies which are made to be flown to the limits. The Icarus Extreme and the PD Velocity come to mind. These are NOT the latest 'trend' in canopy design, rather they are specifically designed just for Extreme Flying by highly experienced canopy pilots who do a mind-boggling 1,000+ jumps a year.

To relate to how radical the Pro-Tour is, the average wing loading for the professional canopy pilots on the Tour is 2.2. The highest wing loading on record is 4.7 by Luigi Cani on his Icarus Extreme VX 46!

Extreme Canopy Pilots Association

In the States, this whole new, exciting aspect of our sport is under the safe and watchful umbrella of the Extreme Canopy Pilots Association or ECPA. This is bringing canopy control information to all skydivers, for many different levels and disciplines. President Lyle Presse stated "the level of canopy advancement in this extreme sport warrants a heightened awareness".

The ECPA will focus on developing a training and education platform, and subsequently develop a qualification system, ultimately sanctioning swoop events to be run under ECPA rating systems. The ECPA endorses the Para-Performance Pro-Tour which is hence run under ECPA guidelines. ECPA's directors are highly skilled individuals including Lyle Presse, LeLand Bendel, Jim Slaton, Pete Allum, Joey Jones, Scott Miller and Vladi Pesa, among others.

Jim Slaton, Para-Pro Tour Director, said "There comes a point with aerodynamics that you start sacrificing one type of performance for another. A pilot can continue to increase his wing loading for more speed (downsizing the canopy or adding weights) but this does not mean the wing will swoop further or better. Lift and drag increase in geometric proportion to speed; twice the speed means four times the lift – but you also have four times as much drag. So high performance canopies at high loadings perform well to an extent but then the wing starts to lose efficiency. "

We all need lift for a safe and productive landing and parachutes flown at very high wing loadings don't always land well. But they can be landed safely. "Technological advancements in canopy designs have opened new doors for pilots flying at higher wing loadings with smaller wings. Future designs will make this opportunity even more epic" said Jim. He feels one of the top extreme pilots, Luigi Cani, could successfully land an Icarus Extreme down to 35 square feet, Luigi already holds the record for the world's smallest canopy jumped, at 46 square feet. But Luigi makes over 1,000 jumps each year and trains daily in high performance canopy landings.



John Shoffner
Photo by Janine Hill

Wing Loading and Canopy Choice

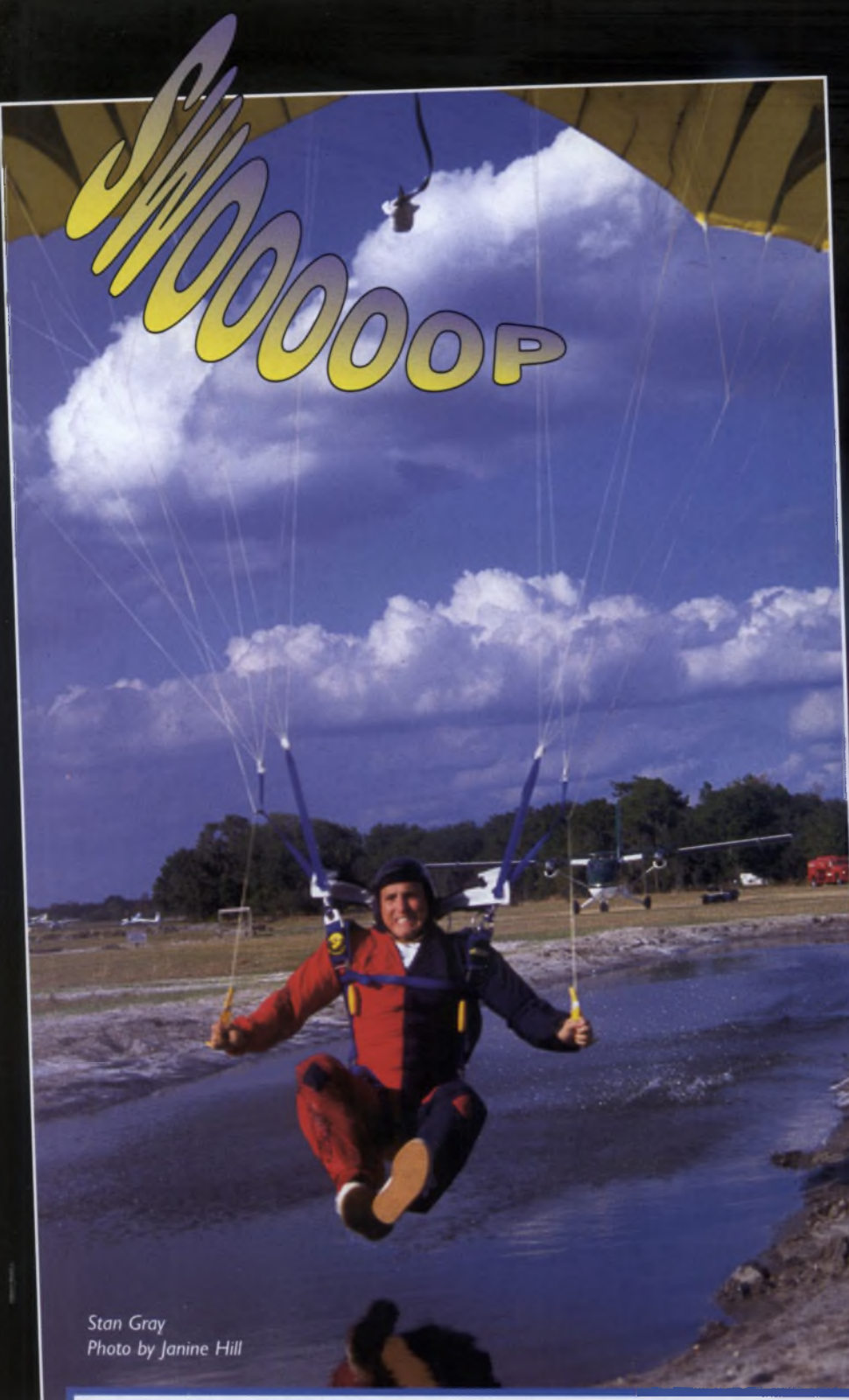
You can use wing loading to choose an appropriate canopy size. Take your all-up suspended weight (gear, wight vest and all) and divide it by a recommended wing loading **for your experience level** (such as the 1.2 mentioned) to give you a recommended canopy size. Adjust to a lower wing loading than recommended if you like a pretty chilled-out canopy ride or if you aren't always as on the ball as you would like.

Contact: lyle@skydiving.com

Lyle and the ECPA run different canopy challenge competitions, from helicopters, which is a real crowdpleaser. Their first event is May 6 in DeLand, contact Scott Miller on 001 904 738 3538



Dusty Smith by Adam Rosen



Stan Gray
Photo by Janine Hill

Want to improve your canopy skills?

1. Re-read the excellent article, *Pilot or Passenger* by Chris in December 2000's Skydive Mag. Use his suggestions to improve your skills on an existing canopy or make familiarisation jumps on a new canopy more productive.
2. Speak to British instructors such as Chris Lynch, skydiving and canopy flying coach. ChrisLynch@compuserve.com
3. Contact the Evolution Canopy Flight School located at Perris Valley skydiving, this offers beginner, intermediate and advanced canopy training from Jim Slaton, Luigi Cani and Clint Clawson.
ParaProTour@excite.com
4. Contact Lyle Presse, ECPA President who runs canopy flight courses and canopy challenge competitions.
lyle@skydiving.com

Safety is Paramount

Jim Slaton stresses the following points:

- Take advice
- Choose wisely who you listen to
- Train hard
- Stay current
- Be patient

- Make a plan
- Stick to the plan
- Explore all aspects of your current canopy before you move on
- Research and understand canopy aerodynamics
- Practice high speed approaches and new manoeuvres over water

- Wear a helmet
- Think ahead
- Make a smooth approach
- Make smooth inputs to the canopy
- Pay attention to what your canopy is doing

- Don't force it
- Don't panic!

If you're not 100% with EACH of the above guidelines, don't even think about it! Don't go experimenting, there are plenty of ways to enjoy canopy flight without taking unnecessary risks.

Mistakes can be deadly

Jim points out the importance of having an excellent understanding of basic aerodynamics. *"Pilots need to know why canopies act the way they do when they do. The wind is never constant, turbulence is always waiting and the pilot has to deal with all this during his final approach"*. The most fundamental advice he gives is:

Never, ever, ever initiate a turn you won't be able to complete before you hit the ground.

Think it looks fun?

It does look fun. It is fun. But hurting yourself isn't. And, at these speeds, it

won't be minor, it will be a close call between paralysis and death. A worryingly high and increasing amount of serious injuries and fatalities are caused by miscalculated canopy control input close to the ground. Take advice from people who know what they're doing and don't try this for yourself unless under expert and close supervision from the right people.

The BPA has looked at the whole area of swoop accuracy competitions and has run tests in the UK. The results – it will be a while before we have BPA affiliated competitions in the UK. They MAY run a swoop accuracy competition this year but is not over keen. "Safety first", says the Competitions Committee and quite rightly so. The BPA's main concern is to prevent injuries and not encourage extreme canopy flying before jumpers are capable. Canopy pilots over here tend to be not as current, so extreme swoops are inherently more dangerous. Our not-so-fantastic weather makes it impossible to do the number of jumps in the UK that are required for such extreme flying. The BPA emphasises that jumpers need to get proper and intensive tuition before attempting to surf a canopy.

Right on. Don't go there! But, if you can get to the States to watch one of these ECPA competitions, you will undoubtedly be impressed, entertained and informed. This can only improve your own canopy flying and, ultimately, make you a better canopy pilot.



Stan Gray
Photos by Janine Hill



**Para-Performance
Pro Cup
June 7-10,
at Perris Valley**

**Para-Performance
World Games
November 1-3
at Perris Valley**

ParaProTour@excite.com

Article by Jo Malone

Adapted from information from Jim Slaton and Karine Leblond

JM's Newsround

Compiled by
John Mayo

Check out JM's Newsround page on
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Updated Frequently

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Simon Ward

Desperately Seeking Sharon!

The Famous Dup is back from ten years in South Africa and is desperately seeking good friends Sharon Taylor and Maggie Pinfold. They used to jump at Cark, Sharon was based around the Blackpool area. If anyone can help, or if anyone else would like to meet up with Dup, contact Lesley at Skydive Mag in the first instance.

Under Cover

Feedback from BPA members suggest that Harrison Beaumont offers the most economical skydiving insurance package. Other companies offering adventure holiday insurance seem to have put up their premiums. Unless anyone out there knows a better deal, the news is to contact Harrison Beaumont on:

0800 9700 161

www.hbinsurance.co.uk

Missing RIG

Lost on flight between Edinburgh, Amsterdam and Larnaca. Navy Blue Javelin adjustable harness with CPC and 13 on the front. Navy blue canopy with red centre cell. If spotted, contact ssstudders@yahoo.co.uk

What's the bet it went missing in the Dam? – Ed



Simon Ward

After years of successful trade, Allan Hewitt of Sky Science is moving onto new adventures. Allan will continue with his skydiving commitments as an AFF and tandem instructor, he will also pursue his other interests in powered



Andy Bennett

SPY SCIENCE

parachutes. Allan is also involved TV and film work, his other name is Bond – James Bond.

Point Zero, owned by Andy Bennett and Phil Nash, is taking over the Sky Science name, contact details, website and dealerships. Andy says "Skydivers will continue to receive the same high level of service and advice". He should know, Andy's been working at Sky Science as a freelance rigger for the past three years. Phil has over fifteen years in the sport and is already a successful company director. Contact Andy or Phil on Sky Science's old number:

01980 844 130

Flock of Birdmen



Leo Dickinson

On March 3, nineteen BirdMen did a successful wingsuit formation jump in Sebastian from 15,000 feet. Jari Kuosma (pictured), Mr BirdMan himself, organised the jump for his birthday. The suits were, he said, "All BirdMan, naturally".



Brian Vacher

Not Velly Solly

Solly Williams (pictured) and Gary Smith, who gained a World Championship 4-way bronze together in *Equanimity 5*, have teamed up with Joey Jones and Doug Park, from one time World Cup winners, *FX*. The new 4-way team plans around 1,500 jumps before the US Nationals in 2002.

sollaston@aol.com

WANTED - Video Footage

skydivecircus.com is a bimonthly video package reviewed last issue. Producer Kevin Hughes is looking for video contributions. Interesting bits and pieces are welcome from all types of jump. Kevin requested "Put all relevant information in a covering letter, such as who was the camera jumper, what club it was taken at, who's in the video, anything that you particularly want in the title sequence and, of course, who sent the tape in."

skydivecircus.com

**SKYDIVE
CIRCUS**
video magazine



SUMMER 2000
www.skydivecircus.com

Royal Aero Club Trust

Prizewinning entry, by
Lady Ines Roberts

Winners of the Royal Aero Club Trust photographic competition have been announced and given prizes. Judges included HRH the Duke of York, Simon Ward, adventure photographer and David Wootton, who runs an airports library. The second place winner is shown here.

Others can be viewed at

www.royalaeroclubtrust.org.uk

Derro's Fantasy Island

Malaysian maritime police rescued skydivers who were feared to have had washed ashore, they were found on a deserted beach.

Derek Thomas, 44 (pictured), of Zephyr Hills, Florida, and Karina Willerup of Denmark, sang to each other for five

hours before help arrived! Derek said he miscalculated his landing because of thick clouds. He and Karina were doing a tandem and landed nearly three miles from the intended place. See:

www.dropzone.com



Simon Ward

The Need for AirSPEED



Arizona Airspeed's Mark Kirkby (pictured) and Craig Girard will be hosting a skills camp at Royan (France) from 9-15 July, open to individuals and teams. Contact:

Airwaves 07802 472566
skydive@air-waves.co.uk

What A Spektakel!

Canopy Formation Seminar 7-15 July Teuge

The fifth edition of the successful canopy formation seminar, with an international group of enthusiasts is happening. Help on all levels is available, in the form of technical advice, safety knowledge and suitable CF equipment. The week will cater for all levels. Beginners will jump with coaches, only paying half of their slot. Experienced jumpers will be organised into groups and their dives briefed and debriefed, without the coach necessarily coming along. There is a healthy crop of CF jumpers who have learned skills at previous Spektakel events and will be turning up for more. Jumps will be from 9,000 feet at an 'unchanged' 14 Euros but beware the DZ does not take credit cards! They do take cash, bank cards, cheques. There is a small registration fee for the week, camping is available on the DZ plus a bunkhouse with 18 beds, warm showers and breakfast included.

CF_Spektakel@yahoo.com

Roel Roeloffzen 0031 23 531 11 17

and their catchy website address:

www.geocities.com/Pipeline/Slope/6750

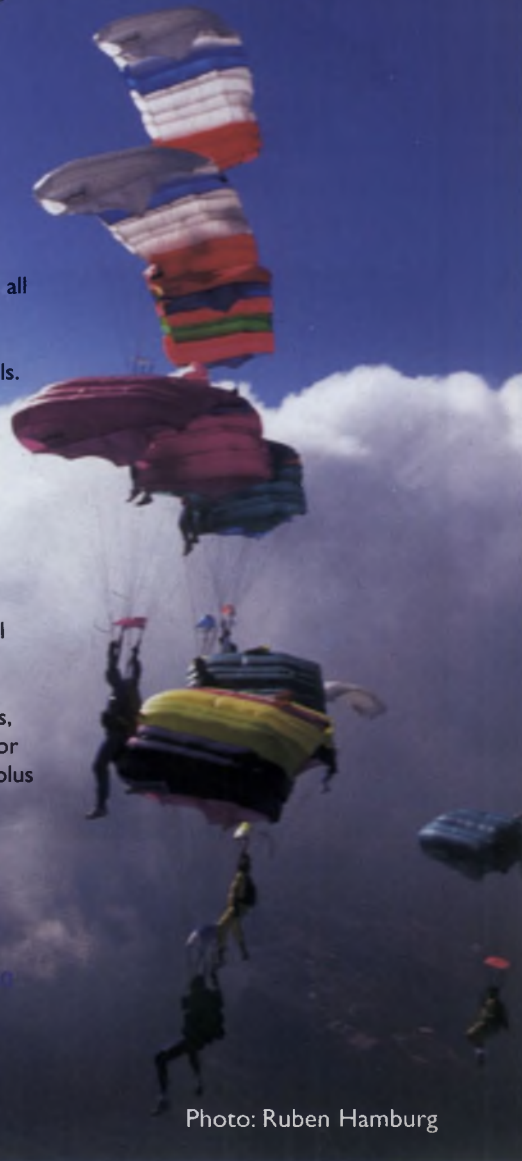


Photo: Ruben Hamburg

The Need for SPEED

The latest craze in skydiving is to see how fast you can go. There are a bunch of meets lined up, the first at Netheravon on 19-20 May and the second at Hibble over the August Bank Holiday. Chappy and Craig Poxon will be on hand to offer top tips and use of ProTracks and PC's.

www.netheravon.com
chappy@original-lizard.com

The FISS (Federation Internationale of Speed Skydiving) has been formed. This means that this exciting new discipline now has official status, can be competed for at world level, recognised by national governing bodies and record speeds ratified. Check it out:

www.speedskydiving.net

This year is to see the first World Cup of Speed Skydiving, to be held over five events at separate places. Competitors will have to attend a minimum of three to qualify for the overall final positions. The idea behind holding these events at different venues is to raise the profile of speed racing and enable more people to give it a go without undue travel. The events planned are in the diary, the UK event being at Target Skysports in August.
www.skydiving.co.uk

'Safety First' should go without saying but we'll say it anyway: If you're going to race at the ground, remember you're a potential Darwin Award so it makes sense to be super mindful of altitude.



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Photo by
Matt (Matt Dogg) McDevitt

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**"the entire
drop zone
held its
collective
breath"**

A Cunning Stunt

Dave Morris, Langar and the Ordnance Survey Balloon shot into the record books in February – with a stunt which just proves there is always something new... Their daring feat was featured on over 400 programmes in 160 countries

Mark Lockwood, General Manager of the Balloon Advertising Company tells the story...

At 4am on a 'vino-mucho-collapso' session in Northern Spain, Dave Morris and I cooked up what seemed to be a great idea at the time:- Land on top of a hot air balloon, change parachutes and skydive back to earth. The embryo of an idea, which took over two years to grow into a fully-fledged reality.

Parachutists had landed on balloons before, but always onto a traditionally shaped, round envelope. A net of some sort, draped over the balloon, provides a large potential landing area and plenty of handholds without affecting the pilot's safety. But the traditional balloon shape restricts a skydiver's options for a secondary clean exit. A landing on top of the balloon would allow someone to hang around for a while and change rigs, catch their breath, roll a fag one-handed etc. But reaching a point with a clean drop involves a clumsy, potential kit-snagging scramble across the top and slightly down the side of the balloon...

Photo: Milko



"The landing platform was 4 feet wide and 60 feet long, an area that would be very easy to land on if it was marked out on the ground. But once the balloon inflated, the platform curved over the apex of the balloon, disappearing out of sight in both directions, cutting the landing area down to a much more interesting 35 feet."

DAVE MORRIS

skydive
April 2001



"The pilots were outstanding, especially Steve Kinsey, who, using winds at different altitudes, managed to land less than 100 yards away from where he took off, standing the balloon up as gently as can be"

DAVE MORRIS

"whoops and shouts as the adrenaline exploded"

"The plan was to inflate the balloon with me attached, to allow me to check out the area whilst standing on top. Speaking as someone who, believe it or not, gets vertigo, I found this experience a little nerve-racking to say the least"

DAVE MORRIS

Planning

"I have a cunning plan M'Lord!" said Baldrick (Lockers) to Blackadder (Morris)... *"So cunning you could put a basket on it and call it a headcase!"* The Ordnance Survey Landranger balloon has two unique properties, firstly, it has a flat(ish) top and secondly, because it is the shape of a folded map, the sides slope sharply inward towards the basket, giving a totally clean exit profile. Ideal. All that remained was to design a platform for Dave to land on and give him enough support to get to the edge. Remember, the internal pressure that gives the balloon its shape is only 12 psi above normal air pressure. This is not a solid object! Without a rigid platform, Dave would not be able to stand up and certainly would not be able to manoeuvre himself to the edge without excessive deflection, making the exit procedure tricky and potentially ring-puckering.

Preparation

The hunt was on to find a system and materials suitable for the platform. It had to be light (no more than 50 kg) and strong enough to survive Dave's landing and subsequent shell-shocked wanderings. Together with the technical department at Cameron Balloons, we designed a cordura bag, 4ft wide and 60 ft long, and tied it on to the balloon with 4 tonne breaking-strain climbing rope.

A test flight with this in place proved that the operation of the balloon would not be affected. Having established viability, we needed to clear the whole project with the necessary authorities. A full risk assessment was carried out. A big 'Up' goes out to many people in important places.

We had one more hurdle to jump, the platform needed a rigid walkway and we did not have a viable light material for this. Sometimes it is

surprising where inspiration comes from. In this case it was the renovation of our new offices that provided the solution. Whilst browsing in a local building supply company, I literally tripped over a roof insulation material made of a foam core laminated with sliver foil each side. It was tough, rigid and very light. Just the Jewson job!

Testing time

The final stage required Dave to test the finished platform and, as a special Valentines Day treat, we strapped him to the top of the balloon and inflated it. Once upright, Dave confirmed that it was absolutely perfect by walking up and down and waving at us mortals 100 feet below.

The first attempt

The team assembled at Langar the next morning with slightly more surface wind than forecast but within limitations. The high level flow was light and variable. This meant that Steve Kinsey, intrepid balloon pilot, would need to find a suitable launch site away from the airfield to get him over the drop zone at 5,000ft. The balloon team with skydiving photographer Tony Danbury disappeared to a school playing field in Cropwell Bishop and busied themselves with the complicated inflation procedure. As soon as they were ready, Dave and Milko (brave cameraflyer) boarded the chopper and started the climb to 10,000ft. Dave would use a 252 sqft main, deploy his reserve for the second jump and was equipped with a tertiary parachute, which fortunately was not needed.

A good spot from Dave gave him plenty of time to get down to the Ordnance Survey map balloon, which looked awfully small at that height. On the ground, we watched with bated breath as he drew closer and closer. When he shot out from behind the map, it was obvious that there had been a problem of some kind and a collective sigh passed around. We had to wait until Dave had landed to find out what had gone wrong.

Looking back, it seemed such a simple thing that caused the miss. Hot air, the very property that was lifting the balloon, caused Dave's canopy to rise as he passed over the top of the envelope.

Another try

The rest of the day was taken up with preparation to go again. By 3.30pm, the wind had dropped and the balloon was able to inflate directly next to the airfield. This time the helicopter took off first and radioed back when they reached 5,000 feet, which was the cue for the Ordnance Survey balloon to launch. Steve Kinsey, with Tony Danbury on board, climbed at approximately 1,100ft per minute and levelled out at 5,000ft with the chopper above him at 10,000ft. The wind had died almost completely and he hovered directly over the centre of the airfield.

Once more this day, the entire drop zone held its collective breath. This attempt felt different. There was a positive air about everyone and a total confidence in Dave's ability to hit what was a tiny target. From the ground, the aerial ballet as





"The second attempt worked perfectly and, after disposing of the PD252R, I stood up and waved at the chopper. I could have stayed there for ages... but it was time to go. I very easily stood up again and ran along the platform, down the hill and into freefall again"

DAVE MORRIS

Dave and Milko made their approach seemed more convincing.

The Ordnance Survey balloon hung, resplendent in the late afternoon sunlight, awaiting its imminently arriving passenger. As the clean, white canopy made a final hook turn, we knew this was it. A silence descended on the normally raucous mob hanging around the check area as Dave vanished from sight behind the big, pink, OS balloon.

Success!

The balloon gave a sort of shimmy, like a jelly being gently smacked! There was suddenly no white parachute in the sky. Over the radio came a little voice: "Chopper to Ordnance Survey balloon, you have a parachutist on your roof!" At this point the drop zone erupted into whoops and shouts as the collective adrenaline exploded into relief. There were people jumping up and down. Did I see Dave Hickling dancing?

After what felt like eternity, we heard Steve Kinsey announce that Dave was safely on top of the balloon and was ready to make his second exit of the jump. With Dave's additional weight on top of the balloon, it had dropped 200ft so Steve applied heat to climb back to 5,000ft. Two small dots dropped from the balloon, followed by two full canopies. Dave Morris and the team had done it!



NICE ONE !

Dave Hickling and everyone at BPS Langar
 Sean Harbourne, Rob Marsh, Steve Kinsey and the balloon team
 Pete Flood – Ordnance Survey
 Milko and Tony Danbury – Lensmen Extraordinaire
 Mark Lockwood – Balloon Advertising Company
 Dave Morris – Cunning Stuntman

Photos: Milko



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CHICKS ROCK

Photo: Simon Ward

Where is the biggest void in skydiving?

Most people agree that, once you get your Category 8, you can then be at a bit of a loss. It's great to have qualified but you miss the structure of the category system. Cat 10 seems to be your next goal but you don't know the best way to get there, who to jump with and advice seems to be a mass of contradictions.

Well, help is at hand... VMax have written a fantastic series of articles that will take you from Category 8 through FS to 4-way FS. Save yourself time and frustration by harnessing all the skills that are available. The journey is endless learning and a lot of fun... enjoy!

Whether you choose the route to Cat 10 down a freely or FS road, make your goal learning to fly well rather than only getting your Cat 10. Doing a four point 4-way (Cat 10 qualifying dive) will happen in good time. The better your flying skills, the more fun you will have, whether your goal is to become a serious competitor or a fun club jumper.

What you need to learn

A good body position is really important. If you don't hold the tennis racquet properly, you will never reach your full potential as a tennis player. Skydiving is the same. Spend some time with a coach getting this right. Don't limit yourself by having a bad body position. You need to be able to stay still and fall straight 'down the tube'. This is a little more difficult than it sounds! You need to be able to move three dimensionally in all directions and turn in place – or thereabouts!

The 'Mantis' is the name that people refer to the modern flying position. To achieve this, lie on the floor on your stomach like a young kid would watching the TV. They

have their elbows resting on the floor with their

hands under their chin and their head high. Their knees are on the floor with their legs crossed. Simply uncross your legs and lower your forearms and that's pretty much the Mantis position. Some things to notice:

- Your head is high
You need to be able

to see across formations over your team mates' backpacks

- Your arms are lower than your shoulders

This makes it easy to take grips. If you have your arms high in a traditional 'box' position you will have to bring your arms down to take a grip, and this will affect your fall rate.

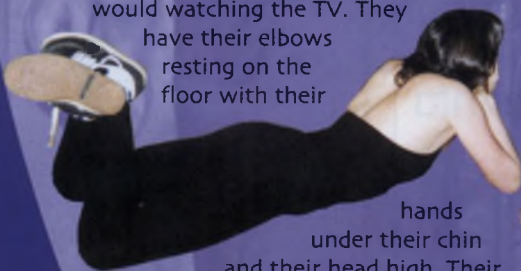
- You have a slight arch from your hip

This gives you a low centre of gravity which gives you stability and makes you solid in the air

- Your knees should be on or slightly above the level of your hips

This is where you use the least input to achieve the maximum effect when you learn to fly engaging your knees – which you will.

The top teams use this body position, because it allows them to move fast and dynamically with the least input. The body position should be learned straight off Category 8. Learn to fly with it from day one. It is not more difficult to achieve than older style body positions and will avoid you spending time later on re-learning when you can not move around the sky as you would like. It is more difficult to break old habits than to learn correctly in the first place.



The top teams all use the mantis position (above) because it allows them to move with the least input

“Spend some time with a coach getting a good body position... it is more difficult to break old habits than to learn correctly in the first place”



JUMPSUIT

Your jumpsuit must fit well with room to move. Getting a suit made to measure is the best option. Get someone who knows what they're doing with the tape measure. Remember, the jumpsuit is for the size that you are, not the size that you would like to be – that's for us ladies! You'll perform (and look!) far better if your suit fits well. Get good size booties, the front of them should be taut from toe to knee when in the mantis position. Your legs are important flying tools, booties will help to make them more dynamic. Inside leg grips are a must and nice, fat, chunky grips will make life easier.

WEIGHT

You should be able to fall in the mantis position comfortably and be able to easily move both up and down relative to others. Put another way, you should be in the middle of your fall rate range. You will only need to wear lead to put you in the middle of your fall rate range. On level video will be useful to indicate if you are struggling in either direction. Be patient whilst you get this body position right.

When jumping with people who do not fly in the mantis, you may notice that they fall faster as they are creating less air pressure, particularly on their upper body. You do not need to wear more lead. They need to learn to fly more efficiently.

Put lead in one of three places or a mixture:

● In your rig

You can add a panel on the back of your container, it's worth asking the question. If you are light, you are likely to be wearing lead for most of your FS jumping, so this is probably a good idea. You may want to alter the amount of lead you wear when fun jumping with different size





“If your approach on the ground is calm, you’re more likely to have this mindset in the skydive”

people so make it adjustable. Lise Aune of *DeLand Norgies* wears lead in her rig

● **Around your shoulders**

There are a number of different style waistcoat weight vests available, choose the most comfortable. If one is being sold second hand, it is normally because it’s not very comfortable!

● **Around your waist**

Either inside or outside your jumpsuit, these have become more popular relatively recently. Dawn English of *Generation FX* wears one.

A lot is talked about weight and where to wear it... I don’t think it makes a huge difference, go for the most comfortable. Think of safety issues such as making sure the lead cannot fall out if you are upside down and that it doesn’t hinder access to your cutaway and reserve handles. If you’re going to ask advice, choose someone who has some experience of wearing lead.

HOW MANY JUMPS?

Initially plan to do about 20 coached jumps to gain a grasp of the basic flying skills and a good solid platform.

WARP and Skydive U are two systems designed to teach basic freefall skills through one-on-one coaching. Choice of coach is

more important than the system. Try to keep the same coach for all your jumps. Continuity is important.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A COACH

Take some time to pick a coach. Ask people whose opinion you trust. Find a coach who’s company you enjoy. If you’re having fun and are relaxed you are more likely to skydive well and reach your full potential.

Find out what their freefall skills are like. This is about currency and has very little to do with jump numbers or time in the sport. Make sure they can teach as well as skydive. Ask your potential coach about something, see what you think of their explanation, if it resembles an astrophysics lesson, you’re probably better looking elsewhere. Ask someone who’s been taught by him or her. How much time can they give you? Ideally you want to have a concentrated learning phase with continuity.

Size does matter! Try to find someone who is likely to have a similar fall rate.

LOCATION

If you can’t find a suitable coach at your home DZ, maybe go elsewhere, returning to your home DZ with a bunch of new skills. The choice of where to go is endless. Get advice. Look

Kate Stephens

PROFILE

for skills camps, a good place to meet like-minded people, be coached by top skydivers in the world and are relatively economical.

Talk to your CCI beforehand, as the BPA only recognises WARP and Skydive U systems as Cat 10 qualifiers in FS. But remember your goal should be learning to fly, not getting a sticker!

WIND TUNNEL

This is a great training tool and well worth a go. It is not a magic trick, you won't start instantly skydiving like *Airspeed!* Use a tunnel where you wear your regular jumpsuit as opposed to one where you must wear a baggy suit. We use Skyventure in Orlando.

HELP YOURSELF

Give 100% of your attention and effort to your coach. Trust the information they are giving you is right and be receptive to it. If you hear someone else saying something contradictory, ask your coach.

Give yourself plenty of time to prepare on the ground, including your gear. If your approach is calm, you're more likely to have this mindset in the skydive.

BE PATIENT

You will not get everything right first time. Don't whip yourself into submission if you do not do a perfect in-place turn (unless you're into that kind of thing of course!). To learn, we need to make mistakes. Don't get hung up on them.

Understand there are different schools of thought on things and try to buy into the most recent. Competitive skydivers are always looking for ways to move faster, stop harder and being more efficient. So flying techniques are constantly modified. We need to keep watching those at the top and learning from them. We're in a rapidly evolving discipline – that's what makes it so much fun. Enjoy!

Kate Stephens

kate.stephens@smith-nephew.com

Age: 25

Slot on team: inside centre

Time in sport: 4 years

Number of jumps: 1,100, 300 in last year

Favourite DZ: DeLand. You feel like a valued customer and it's a great environment for training with loads of top teams for inspiration and advice.

Most memorable: my first one – being totally petrified and having the biggest adrenaline rush ever was amazing.

What strengths do you bring to the team? Can take the initiative, mostly organised, pretty chilled out. (I hated that question so I asked Liz!)

What about your weaknesses? I can be stubborn, I'm always cold, I take too long in the shower and my arms are weak.

What do you like about being in an all-female team? There's no bullshit. Everyone is always happy to say how they feel.

Skydiving tip: Don't think too much. Keep your head up and look to where you need to be. Smile and have fun – people jump better when they are relaxed.

Beauty tip: Use sunscreen so you don't get wrinkly too young.

Don't take make-up advice from Dame Barbara Cartland

Favourite position: Variety is the spice of life.

Favourite underwear: Real silk french knickers and camisole.

Every woman should have some beautiful, elegant underwear.

To what do you find it hardest to say no? My boyfriend naked and Walkers cheese and onion crisps (in that order!). Both are divine.

Favourite film: One that doesn't make me cry.

Being sentimental, there aren't many.

Ideal way to relax: Hot bath, candles, chill music and a glass of Rioja.

What's your perfect day out? Lunch lasting all afternoon and evening consisting of a gazillion courses of really tasty French food with lots of great wine and fab company.

What are your other interests? Travelling – been through Mexico, Central America and Vietnam, I'd love to spend some time in South America. I liked scuba diving too.

What winds you up? People who talk about how great they are.

What's your philosophy? There's lots of fun to be had, make sure you get your fair share.

Favourite quote: "They know how to like, like few people do." I read it in a French poetry cafe in North Vietnam. It described the people there who have a thousand hardships in their lives, yet manage to keep life in perspective. We have a lot to learn from them.

Describe yourself in three words:

Determined, round-bottomed, happy.

Anything to add? To everyone who's given us support, a big thank-you. To those who haven't, I show my rather large naked bottom to you!





Main Photo: Alex Lewis

The International Parachuting Commission or IPC meets once a year to discuss the future of our sport. The convention lasts five days, the first three being for in-depth discussion of all suggested changes and the last two days where proposals are made and voted on.

What went down of importance?

Thirty-three nations attended this IPC meeting, held in San Diego, USA, at the end of January. IPC's President, B J Worth, informed delegates that 2000 had been a busy, challenging and productive year and included formulating a 'Mission Plan', the blueprint for future development of IPC. The mission statement is as follows:

"The IPC's goal is to develop its sporting disciplines into events which are attractive to the athletes, to the event organisers, to the public, to the media, and to sponsors – thereby increasing participation at IPC events, increasing public viewing of IPC events, and increasing income within the sport".

For many years, IPC has stated that parachuting competition format must change to become shorter, more exciting, competitive and attractive to the public. This message has been put to competitors during the previous year. Feedback was that some are resistant to any radical changes at the expense of the competitor and that IPC must not lose sight of the sporting values.

Style and Accuracy

The Style and Accuracy committee, in line with IPC suggestions, had introduced the Match Play system in 2000. Accuracy competitors jump head to head with each other, the loser disappearing in a knock-out type system. Although this does make for an exciting meet, many competitors believed it was unfair to be knocked out on one jump by someone with a worse cumulative score. After much debate, it was voted to discontinue this competition format and return to traditional, cumulative scoring with the lowest overall score being the winner.

New rules have been formulated towards IPC's mission statement, to shorten the competition to eight rounds and eliminate more people earlier on. All jump to round 5, then the top ten male and eight female

teams

continue into Round 6.

Round 7 is the top six teams and the 8th and final round has just the top four teams. A major change is that all five scores will now count in the team event, previously the highest score was discounted. In the individual event, only the top forty male and twenty female competitors qualify for Round 6. Twenty and ten for round seven, then ten and five for round eight.

The style event remains unchanged. For the future, the committee intends to look at the way it is presented to the public. Moving towards air-to-air is an exciting idea but this would involve completely revising the scoring system.

Formation Skydiving Pool to be reduced

In the future, competitions will be shorter with 7 round competitions over a maximum of five days with an unlimited number of jumps per day. The dive pool will be reduced to 20 blocks and 14 random formations. The new pool will be available on the FAI web site from 1 September 2001 to enable teams to train – but not before that, to avoid confusion. Eight teams will move forward to the semi-finals (Round 5) and four teams to the final round of competition. These changes are all for the future, the only immediate rule amendments of any sort were clarification of existing rules.

Female 4-way FS

The decision of the future of this event will be determined on the interest at the forthcoming World Championships, June 2001. A great

FLY ON THE WALL

"I attended the IPC meeting, for the first time ever, as an observer, to learn what IPC was all about. For the last eight years, while serving on Council and many years before that when competing, I had always listened to people talking about this IPC and how it governed our sport. But no-one ever seemed to really understand what went on.

"So, what did I learn? My lasting impression is one of complete admiration for most of the delegates from around the world. The number of hours that were put into meetings, whether formal or informal, was just incredible. Some delegates started at 7am and finished at midnight every day for five days. It was also very obvious to me how important 'networking' was to achieving results. Prior to the two days when all the decisions are voted on there are three days of numerous open meetings and closed meetings plus informal discussions over meals or in the bar. Most delegates appeared to be dedicated, tireless and committed to our sport.

"IPC is an evolving, young and vibrant democratic organisation wanting to change for the better. What impressed me was how ready and willing other key players at IPC were to listen to my views. Style and Accuracy subcommittee Chairman Srecko Medven listened carefully to what was said both in open session and during the informal meetings, on the Match Play system. I was seriously impressed by his willingness to listen to all views. Plus, of course I was pleased that the issue of Match Play was resolved.

"There are many projects in the pipeline that are both exciting and radical, most governed by IPC's unrelenting drive to get skydiving into the Olympics. John Hitchen is a key player in this strategy and the BPA should be proud of his work. John is Chairman of the Style & Accuracy committee and a member of the Sporting Code and World Air Games Committee working group. In addition both Roger Flinn and Tony Butler have been invited as expert advisors onto many of the IPC's subcommittees. This is a great compliment to the BPA. Roger Flinn is Chief Judge for Canopy Formation and Bob King will be a member of the Style and Accuracy judging panel at the forthcoming World Air Games"

"One final thing I learned is that the effective IPC Delegates had an intricate knowledge of the current status of **all** the disciplines. Our IPC Delegates must be current and understand the issues affecting our disciplines in 2001 and over the next decade."

John Smyth

Chairman of Competition

(all credit to John for paying his own way out to the US to attend IPC above and beyond the call of duty – Ed)



Photo: Simon Ward

deal more than four teams will need to enter if the event is to be continued. The committee is concerned that the a female category may automatically lead to a change to a male event. If so, the committee is likely to suggest the female category is not continued, as this would make it even more difficult for females in several countries to compete or be selected for national teams.

No air-to-ground

Problems with live air-to-ground transmission at the World Cup in Eloy, November 2000, meant that the committee has decided that this method of judging will not be used at the forthcoming World Air Games in Spain. The organiser's report makes interesting reading, they suffered huge financial losses and warn of possible increases of over \$1,000 per person if IPC sanction fees are raised and the burden of judging is not reduced. The report is available from John Hitchen at the BPA office.

World Cup and European Championships

Portugal will host the next World Cup and European Championships during 5-13 October 2002, although the 16-way event will be cancelled if the response is poor. A test event will be conducted in 2001 during the period 4-7 October, this is free for up to four teams per National Aero Club and the package will include competition jumps, accommodation and meals.

Canopy Formation (CF)

The last CF World Championships were held in Finland in July 2000 and saw three new World Records. Rule changes increase the number of possible competition jumps per day from six to eight. Clarification is given on the definition of a Stairstep. Working time starts when the first competitor (as distinct from the team's videographer) leaves the aircraft. Malfunctions are not grounds for a re-jump. Video standards and use of multiple cameras are also clarified.

Freestyle, Skysurfing and Freeflying

A bid was accepted from Portugal to host a World Cup in 2002. A test event will be conducted during 4-7 October 2001, free for up to four teams per National Aero Club.

Technical and Safety

At the moment FAI certificates differ greatly from one country to another. So, the Committee has devised an FAI International Parachuting Certificate of Competence, which will be issued by national parachuting organisations like the BPA, hopefully by next year. This certificate will be similar to an international driving licence and will be the same standard for each country. This will enable parachutists travelling abroad to show DZs what standard they are at. They will be in addition to current FAI licences, not replacing them.



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How are us Brits represented on IPC?

The BPA is represented on IPC through our Delegate, John Hitchen and Alternate Delegate, Bob Card. Bob had to pull out of IPC work last year through extreme personal circumstances and, for the moment, has given up his position on IPC as Chair of the CF subcommittee. The work that Bob did in the past was widely respected and, in the words of John Smyth, "If Bob can return to the IPC fold and become a main player again then this should be encouraged, the door is open". Of course it is Bob's choice whether he wants to do this. Bob Card stated "Your BPA Delegate and Alternate Delegate must be prepared to work hard, not just at the IPC meeting but throughout the year, for it never stops." Fair comment. Who would want to work so hard for no gain other than serving your organisation? The BPA hopes that Bob will wish to continue as IPC delegate and, also, that some new blood will emerge, keen to be trained up. It is important the BPA continues to be well represented at world level and has influence on international decisions through the quality of our delegates. This means planning ahead to educate and groom potential replacements for the future.

World Meets

At each World Meet we need to send a Head of Delegation with our squad of National Champions. This is a separate role to that of IPC Delegate, although these have sometimes been fulfilled by the same person in the past. Ideally, the duties of a Head of Delegation are to do everything in their power to keep the hassle of a World Meet off the shoulders of the teams so they can concentrate on doing their best performance. But, if the Head of Delegation is also our IPC Delegate, they will be expected to perform IPC duties as a priority. It is impossible to fulfil both responsibilities, especially with a large delegation. Hence there is a need for an additional role – of delegation administration. This role will be fulfilled by John Smyth at the next WAG, where our delegation consists of over fifty British athletes. John will have the unenviable task of administration, representing the teams, diplomatic relations, putting in any protests, even going late-night shopping for next day provisions if needed ... in summary, looking after all people in the British Delegation, including our judges and IPC Delegate, so they can put their all into the job for which they have trained so hard.

WANTED: AMBASSADOR FOR THE SPORT TRAINEE TO LEARN THE ROLE OF ALTERNATE IPC DELEGATE AND HEAD OF DELEGATION

Must be knowledgeable, open, honest, prepared to work hard and able to command respect as a sporting diplomat at world level.

Previous experience an advantage but not essential. Good awareness of current Council affairs is important together with an interest in all disciplines and areas of skydiving. Knowledge of competitions, judging and our National Champions is also vital. Must be prepared to fund themselves while learning the role. If interested in the position, find out more about IPC and the FAI through the web, then contact John Hitchen or the Competitions Committee at the BPA Office.



Forthcoming World Events

World Air Games

23 June - 1 July 2001

Granada, Spain

4 and 8-way FS, CF, Style and Accuracy, Freestyle and Skysurfing

Notes: Parachuting World Championships are held alongside those for other aerial sports. A women's 4-way event will be included and interest evaluated for future plans in this area.

World Cup test event

4-7 October 2001

Portugal

4, 8 and 16-way FS, Freestyle, Skysurfing

Notes: Free for up to four teams per National Aero club

World Games

14-22 August 2001

Akita, Japan

Accuracy, Formation Skydiving and Freestyle

Notes: Sebastian XL, who placed fourth at the last FS World Championships (1999), will represent the UK in 4-way. In the accuracy event, a competition format based on the Match System will be used.

World Cup

9-13 October 2002

Portugal

4, 8 and 16-way FS, Freestyle, Skysurfing

Notes: also European Championships

World Championships

7-14 September 2003

Gap, France

FS, CF, Style & Accuracy, Freestyle, Skysurfing

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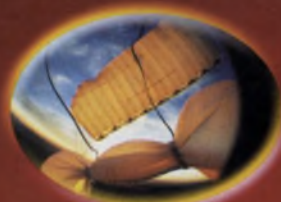
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Next Year's AGM

Feedback on this January's AGM, has been good. But one thing that took many of us by surprise in the cold light of Sunday morning – and it was cold that Sunday! – was the £1 car park charge that appeared on the accommodation invoice of those with wheels. The BPA office didn't know about this charge either, or we'd have told you. £1 is a small price for peace of mind, but it was not knowing about the charge in advance that was the problem. The BPA has taken this up with the Hotel Manager – result, the rooms for next year (Sat 19 January 2002) include the car park charge too and are held at the same price, whereas initially they were going to go up. Sorry about this year – but next year's sorted!

Action Plan

An Action Plan has been agreed in principle for each of the BPA's main areas of activity; Safety and Training, Competitions, Development, Communications and Administration. The plan sets out a number of targets for the year from July 2001 to June 2002, including performance measures and a draft budget. Its purpose is two fold:

- as the application document for a contribution to funding by the UK Sports Council (which last year awarded £20,000 for Safety and Training and £25,000 for Competitions).
- as the focus for the BPA's committees and staff.

Details of the plan will be published once the decision on funding by UK Sport is known, which is expected to be during early summer.

Drop Zone Defence Fund

At the request of the Drop Zone Defence Fund (DZDF), Council agreed to provide a grant of £1,000. This matches a donation given by the Fund to the General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC), a successful pressure group that helps lobby to keep airfields open when they are threatened with closure. Aviation continues to be under threat in our increasingly crowded airspace as authorities and local Councils bear down on small local airfields and drop zones. DZDF continues to amass a fighting fund to support legal and other action in defence of BPA clubs that come under threat. This year's donation has led to DZDF being offered a seat on GAAC, direct representation on this strong ally. DZDF is independent of the BPA and relies on donations from the skydiving community. The fund is grateful to everyone who has given donations, these are needed, welcome and can be sent via the BPA.

Foot & Mouth

The Council held a special briefing meeting to consider the foot and mouth epidemic. You probably have to be over 40 to remember anything much about the last time foot and mouth disease struck in the 1960s, although people living in rural areas – and especially those in the farming community – will no doubt remember it only too well. Measures being taken to restrict movements in the countryside, to help to halt the spread of the disease, affect most outdoor pursuits and skydiving is no exception. The decision on whether Drop Zones stayed open or closed was entirely theirs, based on local conditions. Some clubs and centres, especially those with livestock nearby, decided as good neighbours to close, and the BPA monitored the situation so it could provide up-to-date information on the national picture.

Drop Zones have continued to liaise with their local farming communities and appropriate authorities. During March, about half had closed or significantly reduced their level of activity, with a few being able to re-open once they had devised suitable precautions to reduce the risk of spread of the disease. In some cases, this has involved a temporary change of location to move outside an affected area. Because of the epidemic the first BPA Coaching Roadshow, in CF was postponed to a later date – it had been planned for Headcorn (on 1 April!) It is not yet clear what the long term effects may be on sport parachuting. An improvement in the weather should help, as the virus thrives in the cold damp of winter and will be killed by dry weather.

Renewal reminder!

To all those Members who have renewed – thank you! To those who haven't yet got around to it, a reminder that subscriptions expired on 31 March 2001 and need to be renewed for this year. A renewal form was inserted in the February issue of the Mag. If you haven't got the form to hand you can download a copy from the BPA website or phone the office. Please don't leave it until the Friday afternoon before a sunny weekend! We'll be sending the June Mag only to those on the BPA membership database as current, paid-up members when we run the mailing early in June. Help us to help you and renew **NOW**.

Renewal form – www.bpa.org.uk

01162 278 5271

Martin Shuttleworth

COMPETITIONS

Our priority has been identifying reps for the different skydiving disciplines and ensuring all the rules for the Nationals and Grand Prix plus any other roadshow events are arranged. To this end the discipline reps will also be responsible for co-ordinating the roadshows for their disciplines. Any membership queries should in the first instance be directed at the discipline reps, shown to the right.

John Smyth

Chairman Competitions Committee

Congratulations to Lofty Thomas who has been awarded a medal by the Regional Sports Council for Yorkshire for his contribution to sport parachuting.



New Age – Paul Applegate



FS – Dana Crum



Classics – Chris Clements



CF – Ian Marshall



Judges – Kate Charters

Above are the Competitions Committee's representatives for different disciplines.

Contact the relevant person in the first instance, with specific queries.

Well done, Lofty!



Chris, Lofty and Derek Thomas

Photos: Simon Ward



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Sebastian XL

Random work sounds like a funky new way of being on the dole?...

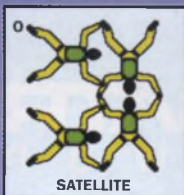
Blocks are surely something to do with roads?...

Not unless you're into FS that is, when it all makes sense. Sebastian XL pass on more tips in the second part in our Skills Series for 2001.

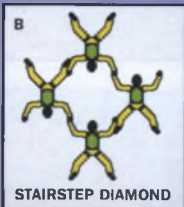
We're looking at the spin, stop, grip, spin, stop, grip, nip-over-there, stop, grip-and-nip-back, stop, grip... ooh, track-off... stuff today.

So, what's that little-picture, big-picture, secret-stuff the teams are always muttering about as they lock legs and scrape elbows on the creepers?...

It's a mysterious world to those of us skydivers who wouldn't know an Open Stairstep from a Spinner (Ed!) as they spy those folk with holdy-on bits on their jumpsuits, hand-jiving their way to altitude. They talk about pools which have nothing to do with water, a Dive Pool', which has 16 randoms and 24 blocks...



Randoms – well that means stuff which is one shape only and that's it, such as a Satellite, random 'O', which is what the guys are just breaking out of in the photo below. Or a Stairstep Diamond, random 'B', which is what Sebastian XL are building in the photo top right.



Blocks are things which start off with a shape, get moved about in a particular way and then finish with a second shape – which is sometimes the same as the first shape and sometimes different. See overleaf for an example. Jumps are drawn from the pool and contain five or six formations. All formations count as a point if completed in working time, in the right order. The team has to find the most efficient way of doing the jump and then do as many formations as possible in 35 seconds. There are over 1600 possible jump permutations from the pool.





Photos: Ian Brown

Randoms

Pete Allum says: "Doing fast efficient randoms is a lot of fun and also an easy way to score a lot of points." He tells us that all the 4-way world record skydives have been made on a complete random dive. In training the top teams in the world can score 50 points in time on an easy, small move random dive. To build the randoms, Pete says, is "90% about moving from point to point, the formations are just the brief period in time when we meet together, only to then immediately let go and start moving to the next point." The guys don't fly from grip to grip but rather to their point in the sky, which has been worked out to split the move as far as possible between all four people.

"In all 4-way dives there are more random moves than block moves so it is useful to focus on your random flying... All the randoms should build between Point and

Point and Tail...

Something to do with tossing a coin?

Point is a reference to the plan used for 4-way, easiest to relate to by looking back at last issue's article on exits: Point will be the highest person on the launch, Tail the lowest, this kind of makes sense! The point person faces out in many formations, thus being the head or point, the tail person docks on the back of many formations, hence 'Tail'.

Outside Centre is a centre person who usually sets up outside the plane whereas Inside Centre is the other middle person who will start off inside the plane.

Each of these people will have specific slots in each formation.

Tail... keep looking through the centre of the formation.... As Point I tend to have a lot of out-facing moves so I remind myself to keep my body neutral and trust my moves."

Toby Stafford (Inside Centre, Mr Purple) suggests "Learn the move on the creepers to the point you can do it literally with your eyes closed. While on the creepers and while in the air, think Move - Stop - Grips. This discipline will ensure that you never carry momentum into the formation... If, after you have picked up the grips, the formation is not the shape you planned in the dirt dive, 'box it out' before moving. This will help keep the skydive under control and the moves consistent..."

Through a skydive I focus on the centre point and cross-reference with my opposite (Outside Centre - Steve), this

helps to give me the 'big picture' on fall rates and moves while also helping to keep communication high - a big secret to awesome skydiving".

Steve also emphasises communication, saying to look across at your opposite and work the position, don't chase the grip. He adds "Keep the formations as small as possible and make everyone's move as efficient as you can... Fast is good but fast and furious probably isn't. A sensible pace with everyone staying calm will almost certainly score you more points..."

... Showing separation is important in competition, make 'flashing' a priority." That means a clear hands-off moment - a hand not actually touching but hovering over a grip can appear, once on camera, to have a hold.

Turns

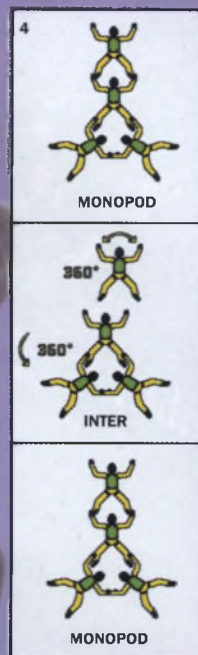
The boys have a few **tips** on that most basic manoeuvre – the in-place turn. It's a relief to hear that Pete Allum, 50 squillion jump man, has his off days just like everyone else. "Sometimes I turn really well, other times I feel hopeless!" Maybe there is hope for the rest of us after all! Pete says "I sense my centre point and then just allow the turn to happen" and adds "This is backed up by lots of physical practice on the ground, working the actual movement of the limbs. Plus masses of tunnel practice."

Toby is analytical and points out the importance of starting and stopping in a neutral body position. That means applying equal upper and lower body input, relaxing to neutral and applying opposite equal input to stop. "The input should feel the smallest stage with a longer stop stage and the coast or neutral should feel the longest." He says to forget eye contact here as it gives you misleading information, concentrate on rotating around a

centre point and then correct any errors.

John qualifies the eye contact idea by saying start with good eye contact in the pause stage, then trust yourself on input and only pick up the eye contact on the stopping part. "Keep your back straight and your head up," he adds.

Steve's mantra is 'balance' with a good body position and a balance of upper and lower body input. "Everyone seems to want to turn aggressively with their knees these days. Your legs are efficient in starting and stopping turns but if you don't use the same relative input with your upper body it won't be an in-place turn." He advises to only turn as fast as you can stop as, if you can't stop on heading, turning fast is just a waste of time. "Don't sacrifice precision for speed, that'll come later."



The pictures below show Block 4 out of the dive pool, Monopod – Monopod. Notice how all team members are looking to the close of the block. In the beginning there is a plan of the physics of the move. Start with this plan but don't forget the vital end part – to finish the block by creating the end formation.

XL Profile:

The new-ish camera boy on Sebastian XL

Age: 29

Time in sport: 13 years

Jumps: 4,000 +

Jumps last year: 1,000+

Slot: Camera

Favourite DZ: Sebastian

Most memorable jump: Lots. A tandem seeing the sunset at the close of 1999

Strengths: Desire for jumping lots and to always be better

Weaknesses: Lack of self confidence

What do you like about the team? The help and support we give each other and the friendship we all share.

Skydiving tip: Jump when the weather is good – if the weather is bad, go somewhere where the weather is good!

Life tip: Live somewhere where the weather is good

Favourite position: Can't tell you, my mum might read this

Favourite underwear: The first ten pages of the Victoria's Secrets catalogue

Do you watch your weight and fitness? I find the daily routine of 10 plus skydives and running around the DZ enough

To what do you find it hardest to say no? A skydive

Favorite movie: True Romance – it's just a fat flick.

Favorite music: Faithless and Moby (I love the variation of the tunes)

Way to relax: A long slow walk on the beach here in Sebastian

Perfect night out: Going to a club with a bunch of friends

Other interests: I love to listen to new music. I am amazed by the abundance of wild life here in Florida (parties or animals? – Ed)

What winds you up? Pilots with an inability to listen to voices of experience

Do you have a philosophy: Not yet, that would require me to think

Favourite quote: Keep it real!

Rob Stevenson



Photo: Toby Stafford



Main Photos: Ian Brown

Blocks

Looking at a list of 24 different blocks can be daunting! There are so many to learn that where do you start? But the boys stress that many are similar and the technique for turning them remains the same.

Pete says "It's important to work out how the turn happens, walk it through, work the synchronicity with your piece partner, then and go and do lots of reps in freefall".

Toby says that usually the centre people move first then the outside (ie, Tail or Point). "Most of the 2-person pieces require an 'I go, then you go' approach. This makes transitions efficient."

John says "Keep good eye contact and have a good, strong grip on your partner. Work on keeping the pieces level." He also

says to make all piece moves with small controlled movements and you'll be surprised how easy it is to create separation.

Steve agrees: "I'm finding that the effort you need to make a piece move is probably much less than you think. You have input from at least two bodies so trying less but getting the timing right is much more effective than using muscle."

Rotations are achieved by the individuals in the piece moving in straight lines in different directions. So when Sebastian XL debriefs a block move, they focus on the timing and direction of the inputs. The team aims to take off input power, perfect the timing and make the block effortless. They make it sound so simple!



Photo: Craig Vanderwesthuizen

The team has started KFC (the Knee Flying Club), this name bears no resemblance to the fast food company and they are contemplating legal action in the fight for product branding

So now you know. Next time Sebastian XL will be helping us with our mental and physical preparation. Yahoo.

Article compiled by Jo Malone from Sebastian XL's tips

UPDATE...UPDA

Training

In the months of January and February, XL made 175 jumps. Their training jumps were 40% competition-style dives with the rest being 'fix-its' or drill dives, with up to 18 jumps a day at weekends and about 6-10 a day during the week. XL trains for four days and then takes one or two days off, this enables them to stay fresh and focused. XL flew in the SkyVenture wind tunnel for several hours.

Coaching Successes

During January Pete coached a team from New Zealand that went on to win their Nationals in February. Toby got the news that an Australian team that he had coached surpassed their goals and achieved a 16-point average at their Nationals.

Dr John

In February, XL trained for 2 weeks taking advantage of John DeRosalia's skills as a peak performance coach. With John's help (and lots of training!) they averaged 20.8 on a six round training draw. John's coaching is helping XL to prepare mentally and stay focused on performance (check out his book, pg 43)

FSL

The team attended the season opener of the Florida Skydiving League in Deland and also meet two in Sebastian. Meet one was the team's first competition since UK nationals and the team averaged a respectable 18.8. Meet two was another matter! Two of the XL had a 'virus from hell!' John and Steve bravely competed and went straight back to bed for two days. The final average was 16.7.

During February the team coached Brits at Skydive University's The Search 2. The week after, they held a very successful skills camp at Skydive Sebastian.

UPDATE...UPDA



January 2001 saw the launch of the Polaroid JoyCam Smile High Tour during an 'amazing' nine days in the Alps, Chateau d' Oex, Switzerland. Using the JoyCam special shape hot air balloon, a Pilatus Porter and a single Squirrel helicopter, the guys undertook a range of skydiving antics, pictured here.

The guys were jumping PDF Atoms with Spectre 170 mains and a 10 metre bungee cord! They achieved a world record for the highest bungee jump, performed at 12,650 ft from the JoyCam balloon. The jump was done with a standard 10 metre bungee cord, attached to the basket via two specially-made, steel cables.

The bungee was then attached to the jumper's ankles with a normal bungee harness, with a quick release mechanism so that after the jump and the bounce the jumper could release and skydive to safety...!

The balloon will spend the rest of the year touring Europe with various media people undertaking tandem skydives from it. Jumping for joy!



Gary Southam skysurfing over the Alps

Photo: Bob Spratley

Smile High Team

Bungee jumper: Ian Ashpole
 Skysurfer: Gary Southam
 Tandem Masters: Andreas Knabe & Geoff Wood
 Camera: Bob Spratley & Dave Emerson
 Balloon Pilot: David Fish
 Main Sponsor: Polaroid JoyCam
 Technical Aspects: Flying Pictures

Photo: Dave Emerson

Geoff Wood and Helen Ewing having fun



Photo Bob Spratley



Ian Ashpole - World's highest bungee jump.

Photo by Dave Emerson



Ian Ashpole in freefall
with the well-named JoyCam

Photo: Bob Spratley

SMILE



HIGH

Photo: Bob Spratley



Geoff Wood and Helen
Ewing in tandem from
the JoyCam balloon



Ian Ashpole with
funky hands (the
blow-up doll pictures
are X-rated!)

KIT FOR SALE

1-PIN TEARDROP navy/jade rings. Large harness, new collapsible pilot chute, Boc. Sabre 150, 350 jumps navy/jade. Techno 155 Reserve. Cypres just serviced £1,900. Call quick, Dave Eardley 0191 232 5896.

COMPLETE SYSTEM, 1 Pin Teardrop, small harness (blue), pull-out. Sabre 135 (800 jumps). Tempo 120 Reserve. Cypres (requires service) plus Frappe hat, Protec gloves, jumpsuits. Kit £1,000 plus offers for remainder. Call Andy 01274 883244.

SABRE 120 RAINBOW, 130 jumps, Tempo 120 Reserve, unused. Super Fly (TSE) container black, fitted with Cypres. All new Jan 98. 3 suits, factory diver, gath, time out, alti and a DZ bag full of goodies. £1,900. Contact Mike 01257 473378 or email: michael.mokinson@virgin.net

COMPLETE KIT, 1 Pin Teardrop, Jonathon 150, Phantom 145 square reserve. Kit bag, Frappe hat, alti, jump suit, hook knife, goggles. Call David 0191 483 2598. Email: mountain@man65.fsnet.co.uk

TANDEM VECTOR complete. Cypress, 421 Main, less than 300 jumps. Reduced to sell quickly 01980 625877. Jeff Chandler.

mobile: 07951 086225. Email: jacd858.lsa@virgin.net Retired from tandems and need to fund World Air Games entry and training.

COMPLETE RIG. Atom Millennium. Black. Mini risers. Articulated harness. Collapsible pilot chute. Vengeance 150 silver/orange. Techno 155 reserve. Brand new kit, zero jumps. £2,300 or £3,000 with Cypres. Call Rob on 01622 890967.

COMPLETE RIG Racer Elite blue/purple Boc, Falcon 150 (approx 300 jumps), Microraven Reserve (unused), Cypres installed £1,200 ono. Altri III, Time-Out, weight vest also available. Call 01525 757573 or Email: k.wood@icraft.net.uk

COMPLETE RIG Javelin NJ Stiletto 135 with PD126 Reserve. Med/Lge harness, navy container, Boc, excellent condition, sold with reserve repack, freely suit and Gath helmet. Phone for details: Brett 01460 242002 £1100.

TINY ONE-PIN TEARDROP
jade/purple/white small harness. Jonathon
105 elliptical novy, Tempo 120, not used, rig
bag, fridge, Time-Out, Packmat container.

only done 25 jumps. No reasonable offer
refused. Beautiful rig. Tel: 01282
606366/07811 560123.

JOB LOT bargain, Racer Elite, PD135, Microraven reserve, Sabre 150, kit bag, packing mat, 2 jumpsuits, spare poptops/reserve handle/cutaway pad, total package £1,000. More detail via fullkit@hotmail.com, inspection via Curtis Rigging, Langar.

GOLDEN TEARDROP (one pin), mainly gold with white, purple and neon blue flash. Comfort leg straps, Boc deployment with hackysac. Reserve tray Cypres ready. Will fit 120-135 main canopy. Plus Tempo 120 square reserve (a virgin!) £250 each or £400 the pair. Matching fantastic Symbi suit also available for peanuts if buyer is similar size and shape to me. Tel: Lesley Gale 01733 380 568 or email: lesley@skvdivemaa.com

COMPLETE RIGS 1996 1-pin Teardrop/Sabre 170/ Tempo 170/ Cypress 1994/check 1996/battery 2000, Good condition £1,600. Complete rig 1997 Atom 00/BT Pro 120/ Techno 115/Like new £1.100. Contact Mike: 00 32 584 11468.

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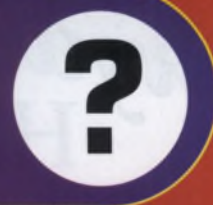
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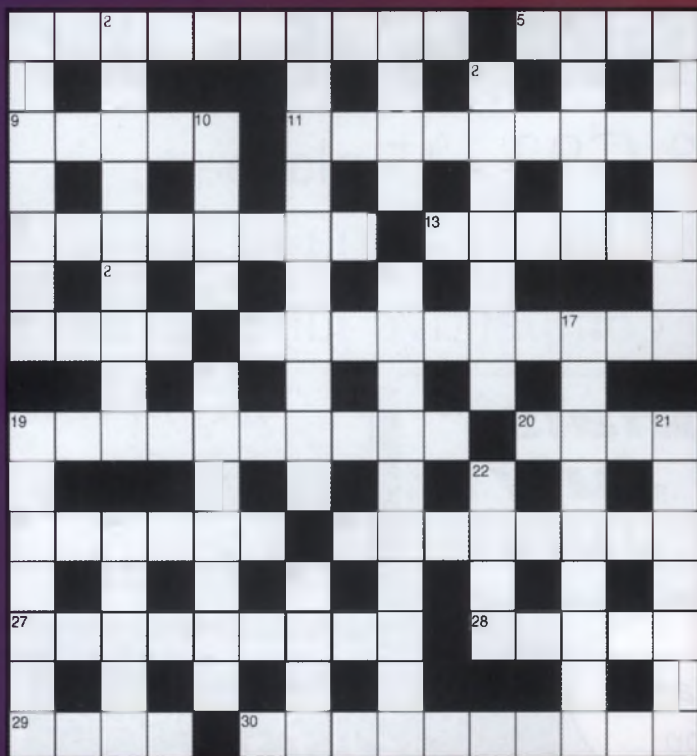
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CUTAWAY CROSSWORD



Two sets of clues with the same solutions



Reserve clues

Across:

- 1 Unflappable.
- 5 Plummet.
- 9 Personal instructor.
- 11 Aerodyne canopy.
- 12 Last possible moment.
- 13 Aeroplane manufacturer.
- 15 Holds fast.
- 16 Air.
- 19 U.S. state.
- 20 Potato.
- 23 Flyers.
- 25 Skylines.
- 27 Tempestuous.
- 28 Urge.
- 29 Muck.
- 30 Activation.

Down:

- 1 Draw level.
- 2 Eight sided.
- 3 Height gauges.
- 4 Egress.
- 6 Book of maps.
- 7 Connection.
- 8 Try.
- 10 Hold in esteem.
- 14 Flat.
- 17 Volatile.
- 18 Sacrifice.
- 19 Freewheeled.
- 21 Plunge.
- 22 Air current.
- 24 More unusual.
- 26 At this place.

The main clues

the reserve clues are much more controllable.

ARE ELLIPTICAL AND TWISTED

Make a decision – stay with the main – or cut away and use the reserve

Main clues

Across:

- 1 Calm when leaning out the door (4,6)
- 5 A seasonal trip (4)
- 9 Our teetotal WARP coach? (5)
- 11 Chute for swimming, cycling and running (9)
- 12 When to deploy? Before it's too late (4,4)
- 13 Princess Naomi held the elevator (6)
- 15 Cut backs and closures (4)
- 16 Feel the pressure of 1013 1/4 millibars (10)
- 19 The Golden State of Perris Valley (10)
- 20 King Edward commonly had floating puds (4)
- 23 Pilots are fair mental at heart (6)
- 25 Views that are more distant at altitude (8)
- 27 Rough type of priest that Henry II wanted rid of (9)
- 28 Zip right into dive (5)
- 29 Initially, dive is rehearsed there! (4)
- 30 Manoeuvre employed by new testament battle formation (10)

Down:

- 1 Divers first aim is to 'drop down' inverted (5-2)
- 2 Eight pointed as two squares entangled (9)
- 3 Crazy Tamil reset the instruments (10)
- 4 Way-out extraterrestrial swallowed cricket team (4)
- 6 Mountain range that helps very, very bad spotter (5)
- 7 Badly leaking joint (7)
- 8 Have a go at, to entice (7)
- 10 Assess your speed (4)
- 14 Prone, yet not inclined (10)
- 17 Dynamite fifty four in expose (9) (note to Ed. expose with an acute accent)
- 18 Awake after tender present (5,2)
- 19 Freeform ode "Cats took it easy" (7)
- 21 Spray scented drop (7)
- 22 Respiration, an embarrassing altitude problem (4)
- 24 Less common king rear floated (5)
- 26 This place is in another environment (4)

By Paul Boorer

answers – inside back cover

Quote of
the
Month:

"All I want for my birthday
is another birthday"
Ian Dury

Skydive Hibaldstow



FASTEST TURBINES in the UK

- Dornier DO28 G92 - 15 place
- SMG-92 "Turbo Finist" - 10 place
- Up to 15,000 feet - very competitive jump prices

2001 FS Nationals

- 4-way 20-22 July
- 8-way 27-29 July

BCPA
Nationals
2-6 July

EXPERIENCED...

- great plane line up • huge packing hangar
- creeper pad • camera facilities • kit shop
- load organiser

2001 Grand Prix
(FS Regionals)
16/17 June

STUDENT...

- 3 large lecture rooms
- plenty of student kit
- many instructors for advice
- can jump G92 or CH6
- cameramen available

Bargain Week Boogie 23 June-1 July

- 15,000 feet for only £13
- organisers and coaches available for all disciplines
 - Student progression
- warbird available to jump
(subject to clearances)
- Fun and parties all round

Speed Freaks & International Comp	25-27 August
POPS Meet	1-2 September
Halloween Meet	27-28 October
Annual Christmas Dinner & Party	15 December

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SKYSPORTS

Reviews

Mental Training for Skydiving and Life

by John De Rosalia

For many years I have been ploughing through libraries, second hand bookshops and, more recently the web, with the goal of finding literature on mental preparation, in order to become a more focused and better prepared competitor. In my search I have found a number of inspirational and excellently written books. None of them, however, have been written by a skydiver and therefore none of them have made that connection with this sport that we are so obsessive about. The quote below opens John's book and sets the scene for its content.:

"Anyone compelled into the competitive arena will encounter the greatest challenge a human being can face: the current of our own thought. Although we possess an awesome power to create our reality, few ever learn the simple mental techniques that accomplish outrageous results. If we can perfectly envision our mastery, then it becomes our domain."

Ellen Reed

John DeRosalia is a peak performance coach and consultant as well as a psychotherapist, hypnotherapist, author and motivational speaker. He has already worked with Sebastian XL, Generation FX, Golden Knights and also with Skydive University. John explains the steps that can take us from an average skydiver to a master in our chosen field. Over the last two decades, enormous leaps have been taken in the field of mental training and, in this book, John leads you through exercises, hands out some tools and gives examples of how these techniques can work for you. As a very keen skydiver himself, John uses words and text that we can relate to our sport, whether we are National Champion 4-way team members, in a freefly team, taking part in our first regional competition or just starting our level one AFF. I'll end with a quote from the back cover:



Pete Allum

(pictured with Michael Allum, photo by Inger Allum)

pete_allum@compuserve.com

"This book gripped me. I found myself grunting approval at every turn of the page. Dr John does a wonderful job of describing the psychological aspects of learning to skydive well. The mental world of skydiving is not only key to high performance but, for me, is its most rewarding element."

Jack Jefferies

(quoted on the cover)

Available from:

John DeRosalia, PO Box 283, West Hurley, NY 12491, USA.
Phone / Fax: 845 331 8384 Email: skymind@pobox.com

CROSSWIND

by Patrick Passe

As expected, Patrick Passe's latest movie is superb. After watching it three times back to back, I still had the feeling that skydiving has never been seen like this. A project of this level obviously takes a long time to perfect and I believe some of the filming was done two years go – but it is just so fresh and future state. It's not only the cast's performance, that is outstanding, but the film work is incredible. The use of smoke gives such a realistic feeling of speed and at other times tricks the mind into thinking you're not watching people at all. There's no way to do the movie justice in writing so you'll just have to get a copy. Thoroughly recommended.

Chris Lynch

chrislynchxl@compuserve.com

Available from:

The Kit Store on 01622 860 872



WILD BLUE

Wild Blue is a selection of unbelievable-but-true survival stories from aviators. It is fascinating. There is only one skydiving story, of William Rankin who ejected at 47,000ft straight into a thunderstorm, an outrageous tale where you cannot believe he came through. And there is no skydiver who would not be interested in these first hand accounts. It is unbelievably hard to put the book down in mid-story. Enlightening, absorbing and an insight into other aspects of aviation.

From bookshops

ISBN 1- 84018- 403-5

Hans Du Plessis



skydive

Whenever you step
out for
some air,
take us
with
you!



para-gear **equipment co. inc.**

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Photo by Robbie Culver

LEVEL headed

Norman Kent, father of skydiving imagery, in action with Deanna, mother of freestyle. Photo by Gus Wing for Norman Kent Productions. How is she so trusting of being close to that sharp, pointy camera?

Through a lifetime of working together, look how intimate they are, as at one with each other's moves and thoughts as a top level 4-way team. Because they have worked so closely together, Norm knows what Deanna is going to do and can anticipate her moves, hence move with her and shoot the perfect angle. Whereas, if you wait to see what happens, you are too late to get the shot. Norman and Deanna are operating here at the highest level of creativity.

Another 'lucky' cover shot from Norman Kent ?

It takes an instant to shoot but years to build up to the level of mastery where photography becomes second nature and creativity can flourish



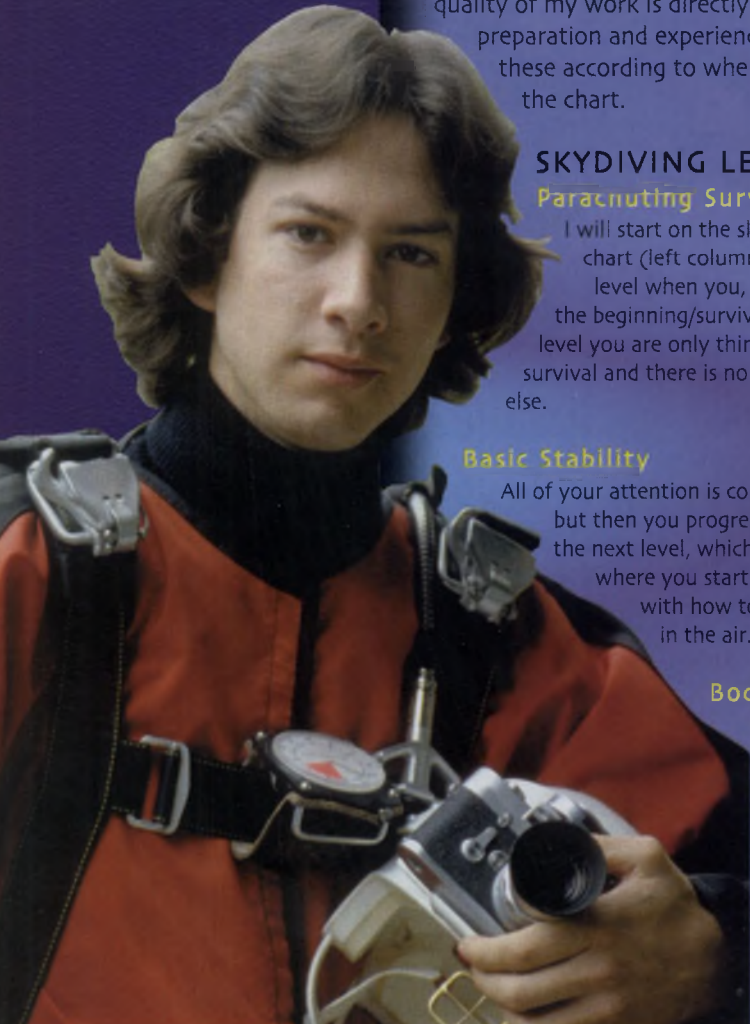
One of the most common questions people ask me is "What camera settings and film do you use?" My answer is that I use all the settings and lots of different types of film. This answer is usually frustrating to the person asking the question but, if people admire my work, they need to know that the film and settings are not what makes my work good. Hence, I am purposely not going to talk about the technical parts of photography. To understand and master skydiving photography you have to understand the two areas as they stand alone and as they relate to each other...

Norman Kent at Kassel, photo by Christa Panick

“First, let’s explore the levels a skydiving photographer must go through before they can fully step into the creative realm.

“For example, at a basic level, if a jumper is overwhelmed with the safety aspects of the sport, there is no room in their mind for creativity.

“Identifying these different levels allows the photographer to see where they are limited, which is the first step in advancing to the next level”



EXPLORING SOME LEVELS WITHIN SKYDIVING PHOTOGRAPHY

SKYDIVING	PHOTOGRAPHY
Parachuting <i>Survival mode</i>	Familiarisation with the equipment and imaging <i>Basic aspects of photography</i>
Basic stability <i>Familiarisation with your body</i>	Basic photography <i>Exploration of photography as an intentional form of expression</i>
Body flight control <i>Learning to trust your body as a vehicle</i>	Camera control as an extension of yourself <i>Beginning of creativity, the camera operation and choices of settings become second nature</i>
Body flight style selection. <i>Deciding what discipline to specialise in. (Formation Skydiving, Freestyle, Freefly, etc)</i>	Photography type selection <i>Deciding what type of photography, for example Video, stills. Artistic or non-artistic</i>
Mastery of discipline selected <i>The selected discipline becomes second nature</i>	Mastery of photography type selected <i>Photography becomes second nature leaving more room for creativity</i>
Cross reference training between existing disciplines <i>Training in other disciplines in order to photograph them</i>	Cross reference training between other types of photography <i>Exploring with different equipment, film types, settings, etc</i>
Mastery of the cross reference between existing styles <i>Becoming comfortable with different disciplines and flying techniques</i>	Mastery of overall photography <i>Reaching a comfort level in any form of photography and with any photographic piece of equipment</i>
Hunger for more challenges <i>Total awareness</i>	Hunger and passion for subjects <i>Total creative awareness</i>

I have been compiling the information in the above chart over my whole career as a photographer. What I have found is that the quality of my work is directly related to my preparation and experience and I measure these according to where they fit into the chart.

SKYDIVING LEVELS

Paracnuting Survival

I will start on the skydiving side of the chart (left column) with the first level when you, the skydiver, are in the beginning/survival mode. At this level you are only thinking about survival and there is no time for anything else.

Basic Stability

All of your attention is completely occupied, but then you progress past survival to the next level, which is basic stability, where you start becoming familiar with how to control your body in the air.

Body Flight Control

Once you are stable, you progress to body flight control,

where you can trust your body to perform as a vehicle, taking you where they want to go. When you start being able to trust your body as a vehicle then you start thinking about what type of flying you are going to concentrate on, where you will spend your effort.

Mastery of discipline

As you progress though the levels your awareness opens up and you have room for more input because the lower levels become more second nature. Then you get to a point where you have mastery of the discipline you have selected. Mastery for me is about a comfort level, not necessarily about being a world champion. It is about being able to share your ability with others.

Just as you travel up the levels you can also travel down. An example of this is a formation skydiving jump where, in the middle of the skydive, the jumpers pass through a big cloud. Instead of having all of their attention on the mastery of turning points, they are now thinking "I can't see, is there anyone below us, are there any planes?" and they drop down to survival mode.

There is no problem with dropping down a level; the only problem is in not acknowledging you are dropping down a level. The group did not stop turning points because it is impossible to skydive in a cloud; they stopped skydiving because their minds were filled with survival thoughts, not mastery thoughts.

Photo by Deanna Kent shows Norman with his second camera helmet

Cross-reference training

When you face limitations to your mastery that usually leads to the level of cross-reference training between existing disciplines. An example of this level for me was learning how to freefly. I was comfortable with three-dimensional flight but did not know how to go head-down. As a photographer I wanted to be able to capture all of what was happening in the sport, so I had to learn how to freefly with my 32 lb camera helmet. When I started learning, I went back to being on student status again, even with all the mastery I had in different areas. I dropped back down to the level of basic stability.



Basic photography

You start with a desire to learn and progress up to the level of basic photography where you explore photography as an intentional form of expression. This does not mean that you have 'accidentally' captured a great image with your camera; rather you are intentionally going after the image even though the outcome may be unexpected.

Camera as an extension of yourself

As you learn, eventually the camera operation and choice of settings becomes second nature, which is the beginning level of creativity. You actually know what the camera settings do. If you don't progress to this level then you will never get past the basic level of photography because you do not know how your images are created. An example of this is when I was doing a still photo shoot for Performance Designs. For the shot I envisioned I needed the best canopy flyer but he was not the most knowledgeable in photography. He was nervous but excited about doing the shot and he asked how he should set his camera. As I told him which setting to use he said "No, you don't understand, I don't know how to change the settings on my camera, I leave my camera on automatic". The tricky thing about cameras today is that the automatic settings work so well, sometimes they are better than manual, because the camera is more efficient than the photographer. There is nothing wrong with using automatic features but use them intentionally, because the automatic settings don't work for every picture and then you are stuck. Camera manufacturers are trying to make using a camera so easy anyone can take a good photo, because people will not keep buying cameras if every photo they take is lousy. The other side of that is people are getting good shots but they don't know why.

Photography type selection

With creativity opening up, you now choose what type of photography you would like to do like video or stills or artistic or non-artistic. You are now comfortable with the basics and are playing more with your shooting until you reach a level of mastery with the type of photography you selected. Again, this does not mean you are the best, it just means you have more knowledge than your peers and you can share the information with them. Just because there is someone in the world that knows more than you about photography does not mean you have not achieved mastery.

Mastery of photography

Additionally, an important thing to know about mastery is that if you are aware of mastery, you don't waste anytime talking to yourself about how you're not a master. The step of acknowledging yourself as a master is important because that is what gives you the confidence to try something new, to go to the next level.

Cross-reference training

This may be where you start playing with different lens to get different perspectives like compressing the background, which makes people look closer to the ground than they are. When you start playing with different lenses other than wide-angle then you need a ring sight to be able to clearly define what is inside the picture field. At this level you find you need more equipment because you are experimenting with different photographic effects.

Mastery of cross-reference

When you take on different disciplines and master them, you achieve the level of mastery of cross-reference between existing styles. You now have mastery of many different types of flying. This cross training is an exercise in awareness and in being comfortable. This not only relates to skydiving, but to your whole life. When you are always trying new things, then you are more comfortable with different situations, but it is very powerful knowledge to recognise when you are not comfortable and to know it is because you are overloaded. This article is not about how to avoid dropping down in levels but rather, how to gain an awareness of what happens when you drop down levels. If you are on an FS jump and the exit funnels but you know how to freefly, you are familiar with how to fly in other positions than belly to the relative wind so, as the funnel is happening, you can fly through the funnel instead of holding on and 'seeing what happens'!

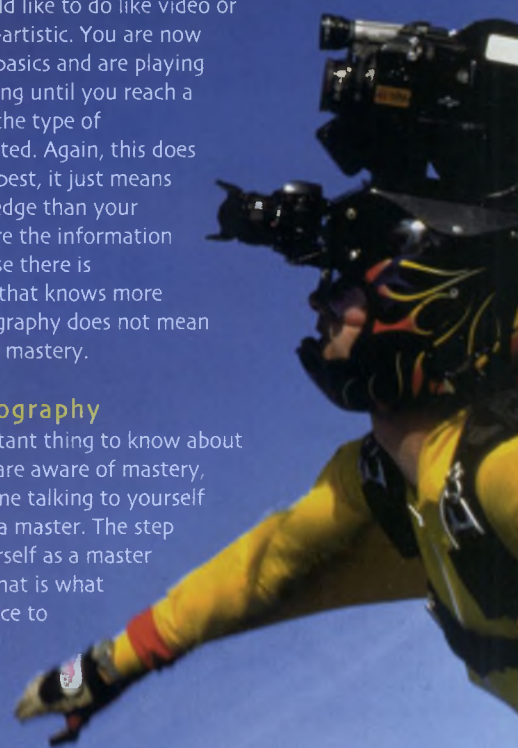
Hunger for more challenges

The final level on the chart is a hunger for more challenges. You are comfortable in the air, and everything you know starts becoming easy, so you need to pick up another challenge, another ball to juggle.

PHOTOGRAPHY LEVELS

Familiarisation with equipment

There is a similar progression in photography. The first level is familiarisation with photographic equipment and imaging. You could be interested in photography to make a living or just because you are want to share what happens for you during a skydive. This is common in skydiving, as photography is the only access to our sport for a non-jumper, until the parachutist lands.



“I was in love with photography before I even started skydiving...

... when I fell in love with skydiving, I wanted to share the peaceful images”

Norman deploying, taken by Gus Wing for Norman Kent Productions, during the shooting of Willing to Fly

Mastery of photography type

From cross-reference training comes mastery of general photography which, in turn, leads to hunger and passion for subjects to shoot.

Hunger and passion for subjects

You start

looking for subjects because you have a specific image in mind or you start organising your own jumps or camps to explore those points you are interested in, so people are performing for you and you are not an intrusion.

Using the levels

When I separate the columns it does not mean

that you have to go through all of the levels of the skydiving column in order to put a camera on your helmet. Please note that as I speak about the levels, I am only doing so for a reference and this chart is in no way complete, there are many levels in between, above and below, it continues to infinity. In my case, I was in love with photography before I even started skydiving. When I fell in love with skydiving it became something that I wanted to shoot as soon as

possible. I wanted to share the peaceful images; it was like being in a candy store.

However I had no mastery of skydiving, but now I can look at the chart columns and see how these two extremes combined.

I took a camera helmet up on my twenty-seventh jump

and it was a disaster. A flimsy strap held the helmet and the camera was on a big mount over my forehead. When I exited, it felt like the strap was strangling me because the helmet was too loose and the camera platform was catching so much wind. The purpose of the columns is to

make you aware of this that happens so you can then see where you are when you combine the two columns, though there is no formula between the columns

and how they combine. You can travel up and down the different levels of both sides of the chart in one skydive. If you are in skydiving survival mode and you don't know very much about cameras then you are going to be totally overloaded and you probably won't perform very well in safety or with taking a picture. However if you are comfortable in one area, you can take on a bigger challenge in another area. This is where the hunger for challenge comes in.

Understanding when levels change

Taking a camera along on a skydive does not mean you are a photographer. This is not a bad thing, rather you are just interested in the camera as a point of view. The columns are also interesting because you think you know where you are but then something happens and you drop down in levels. A good example of this is when I started trying to photograph Birdman jumps in a Birdman suit. I was late for the plane and my packer was rushing to close my rig as the plane was loading. I ran as well as I could in the confining Birdman suit and jumped on the plane. At this point I had dropped down to survival mode with no room at all for photography. I was hot and tired and I was thinking about whether my rig had been closed properly, etc. Because I am familiar with the different levels, I knew I had dropped down to survival mode. So, I took a short rest in the plane and then I had two people give me complete gear checks and I checked my



Norman in the middle of 10-way team XTZ during the shooting of Willing to Fly, photo by Richard Powell for Norman Kent Productions

Photo taken by Gus Wing, during a photo shoot for Performance Designs, Norman was Director of Photography. Norm has done a lot of work with Gus, who is one of the photographers he most admires. Gus is very aware of how the levels work and it shows in his work. You could not get this shot if you were operating on a basic survival level.



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**“As I leave
the plane I
am in the
magic zone
or dream
state”**

camera and got in touch with what the jump was about again. If I had not respected where I was I could not have had a successful or safe jump. The problem is not dropping in levels rather, it is an awareness of how you dance up and down the levels of mastery.

You are constantly changing levels and what is important in this is that, when you catch yourself changing, that you are actually aware of what is going on. So, instead of abandoning your plan or not doing your job, you can actually manage it to the point where you are still accomplishing your mission, rather than being taken over by panic and trying to act like it is not happening.

Managing stress

You actually can reach the point where you are not stressed because you see that you are stressed and seeing it somehow dissolves it so you can manage the stress. It is all about how you are going to be once you get out of the plane.

Achieving excellence

Excellent photography, just like excellence in any other field, has a lot to do with becoming excellent with all different circumstances. It is no longer a surprise to dance through the different levels. People put so much emphasis on what camera techniques I use for taking photos but, for me, excellence has to do with the awareness of levels that I am speaking about. Through familiarisation of these levels I can surrender to the fact that changes in levels will occur. So, as I leave the plane, I am in the magic zone or dream state where all my best work is accomplished. When I land I am not sure what I have captured and often times it is not what I had planned because the plan was just a vehicle to take me where I wanted to go. Creativity lies behind the plan!

Norman Kent

Norman shooting Nicole Angelides during the making of *Willing to Fly*, photo by Keith Larrett. Norman can reach this level of total focus in his creative work because he has mastered the other levels.

Norman has sometimes been criticised for filming the women in his life – but, through shooting people he loves, both performer and creator can achieve a unique level of excellence.



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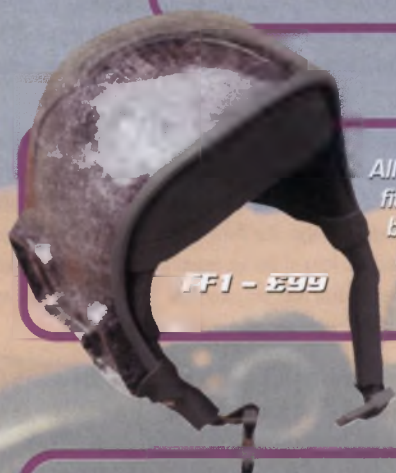
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Whatever discipline of skydiving you enjoy, these new skydiving helmets from 2K Composites are built with comfort in mind. From the fun jumper to the student and tandem camera flyers, our helmets have been designed to accommodate all.

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FF1 - £99

All helmets have dual altimeter ports which fit all makes of audible altimeter. They have been designed with deflators so there is little chance of losing them through knocks whilst skydiving.

The **FF2** and **FF3** camera helmets have been designed so that should the jumper fail to close the housing properly, thus allowing it to open during freefall, it will open fully into clean air space. The camera housing will not stick out at an angle therefore minimising the risk to the jumper from snags and spinning, as well as reducing the need to cut away.



FF2 - £189

A spring loaded retaining clip folds away flush on the interior of the helmet, eliminating any external element which may cause line snags.



The **FF3** comes with built-in video camera housing and a flat top to mount a stills camera.

The exterior of all **FF** helmets are smooth, so there is little worry of line snags thus dramatically reducing the need to cut the helmet away. The camera housing has been moulded into the shell and not bolted onto the exterior of the helmet, making this the narrowest helmet on the market. All camera angles have been lined up true to line of sight, so there is little compromise to body position or angle.



FF3 - £199

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composites

For more information or to place an order contact Steve or Heath on +44 (0)1296 688536, fax. +44 (0)1582 583690 or email steveswain@freely2k.fsnet.co.uk

Alternatively, why not visit the freely school at Hinton Skydiving Centre to see the product being used by professionals and call in to DZ Sports for an order form and sample!

LETTERS

POMMIES' PRIVILEGE

Waiver to parachute equipment standards for foreign parachutists visiting Australia

December's BPA Mag carried a letter from me advising of our equipment standards down here. We have now succeeded in gaining a waiver for foreign visitors, thanks to our aviation authority (CASA) for moving quickly on this. I can now advise that

Visiting overseas jumpers are now allowed to use their own equipment in Australia even if it does not comply with Australian Standard CAO 103.18, provided that:

- It is approved for use in their own country
- The equipment is solely for their own use
- They take the equipment with them when they leave Australia.

This waiver applies to visiting jumpers on a short-term APF membership (around 3-4 months). Please note that foreign jumpers still need to comply with the other APF Operational Regulations that require an RSL or AAD to be fitted in some circumstances. More details can be found on our website.

John Chapman, Technical Officer
Australian Parachute Association (APF) www.apf.asn.au

TIM BETTIN

This wasn't sent in for the letters page, it was just a quick note to us but we thought others would be interested:

Did you know that at New Addington (where Tim died) the local community has honoured his death with a garden of remembrance and a wrought iron mega seat with a plaque to honour him? Heartwarming to see the members of the public acknowledging a parachute display tragedy.

Jonathon Dyer

VMAX BARE ALL

I am a female skydiver still relatively intermediate in the sport, and look upon VMax as role models. I am very interested in how they structure their training camps and admire their commitment, and enthusiasm for the sport as a team. I am also encouraged in the sport by VMax, as they have won the highest accolade of a gold medal at world level. I feel the sport of skydiving is still very much male dominated, and British skydiving has benefited from VMax bringing media coverage to the sport in general not just to females.

I attended the seminar at the AGM by VMax and was extremely impressed. I felt the seminar was informative and well structured. Opening up the forum to the audience for a general debate was courageous, professional and productive. The main topic raised was that by entering an all-female competition it brings about the segregation of males and females in the sport.

I personally feel skydiving is a sport which both men and women can compete together at the same level, be it junior, intermediate or going up as high as world level. For example, the *Deland Norgies*, the Norwegian team have a female member, Lise Aune. They enter international competition and achieve medals. Most of the top teams in the world do not have females on their teams but that does not mean that, in the future, females should not feature in the likes of *Airspeed* and *XL*.

With the discussion regarding VMax entering an all women's competition, I feel is superb. It allows a non-professional British team to be seen out among the top teams making a determined and constructed effort for winning. I do not feel that VMax entering women-only events could possibly be seen as a bad thing, I feel only good can come of it. A non-professional team of all females (including Brian!) can now go to international competitions and pick up medals, and bring a higher profile to the sport of British Skydiving. It is good for the sport now to have two teams (VMax and XL) out there pushing for medals at two top competitions. Segregation should not be an issue.

I am also pleased to see the BPA funding VMax as well as XL. British Skydiving can be improved at this very high level, and more medals to be won. Money is a major factor at this level and professional training is imperative.

Good Luck to VMax in Spain 2001!

Kate Cornell
katecornell@aol.com

Thanks Kate for your letter, check out the IPC article on page 26 for the latest on the women's event, which is a confirmed World Championship this year. Also see the first in a series of articles from VMax on page 22.

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BPA ACCOUNTS

Further to the October mag, can you tell me why the BPA are having an Extraordinary General Meeting when it appears to me that none of the three items on the agenda are extraordinary and, in fact, these matters should be discussed by the membership in the AGM. Why are the BPA accounts not going to be approved or discussed at the AGM?

Why, on page 19 of the October magazine, is only *Income and Expenditure* discussed under the title *BPA Annual Accounts* when most people are aware that a set of accounts is comprised of an income and expenditure statement AND a *Balance Sheet*?

Turning to page 1 of the Accounts it states that "*The principal activity of the Association continues to be the promotion and encouragement of sport parachuting and maintenance of safety standards*". If we look at page IV & V of the accounts we can see that out of income of £520,567 (excluding the insurance contra) only £24,848 (5%) has been spent on public relations or promoting the sport. In fact, in Note 4, to the Accounts, public relations is only considered to be 8% of the associations activities.

I grant you that without safety and training fewer of the public are likely to try skydiving as they may decide the sport is too risky for them and these safety and training costs need to be maintained. It surprises me that, as the main income of the Association is from the membership, that the Association has not done more to enlarge the membership and ignite the upward spiral of growth from more promotion, more members, more promotion, etc.

Which leads me to the Balance Sheet. Can you tell me why the Association feel it is necessary to sit on a cash balance of close to one million pounds? Do members pay subscriptions so the Association can amass a large cash balance? Shouldn't this money be spent on the prime purpose of the Association of promoting the sport? If there is good reason for retaining a large amount of capital should it not be better invested than sitting in the bank receiving some 4-5% pa? I feel sure these are the sort of discussions that should be aired at the AGM and not dispensed with at an unnecessary EGM which few people may attend and will effectively sidestep such discussion.

Ashley Nicholas
ashley_nicholas@hotmail.com

HOW SAD

Some new friend of mine suggested that I might want to take a weekend off from skydiving and join them in their hobby. They are medieval role players. This sounded distinctly like a game for anoraks – definitely not my kind of thing, I thought. Thinking quickly, I said that preferred sport with a strong competitive angle. "*Oh it's very competitive, you score points for the authenticity of your costume and use of dialogue,*" they explained. I made excuses about liking things with an edge and a practical skill "*We have sword fights (with imitation swords) with rehearsed moves, that are very skillful,*" they said "*you fight, scoring points for correct hits.*"

Driving home I thought how sad to spend your weekends living in a tent, wearing strange brightly coloured clothes, speaking a jargon-filled version of the English language and scoring points by correct touches as part of a rehearsed routine. You wouldn't catch me doing that.

Stuart Williams
Stuart@stuart.enta.net

We forwarded this letter to the BPA Treasurer, who responded:

The BPA doesn't consider these matters to be extraordinary either. However, our Articles of Association, which lay down basic legal rules under which the BPA operates as an organisation, states that all general meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings. It also states that the BPA should hold an EGM to "consider and adopt, if approved, the accounts and balance sheet for the year past, to fix the subscriptions payable by provisional members and to appoint auditors for the ensuing year and fix their remuneration" and that is what happened.

The piece on page 19 of the October mag was merely a small item to draw peoples' attention to the fact that the Accounts were in that issue. It was not intended to be a summary of the accounts, which were reproduced in full.

Public relations spend was only £24k in the year to March 2000. However, it was £46k in 1999 and £32k for each of the two years before that. In the past, much has been spent on public relations including employing specialist consultants, but it was generally felt that more could be gained by reinforcing the efforts of drop zones. In the current period the major effort on increasing membership numbers is shown in "access participation and retention" in the accounts. This involved the production of a free Starter magazine for first time jumpers to encourage them to continue in the sport. It is being handed out by nearly all BPA drop zones and has been very well received.

The cash balance in June is always high as most membership subscriptions are received in the period March to June. The BPA has sought advice from investment advisors and, subsequent to the financial year-end funds have been invested. Ian Midgley has highlighted this on page 22 of the December Mag.

Debbie Carter
BPA Treasurer



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Photo: Jo Malone



Ashley Crick

is one of those skydivers who won't tell you just what he's done unless you specifically ask. When you do, you discover he has an increasing clutch of medals including freestyle golds at world level.

Like many at the top he's always happy to pass on what he knows. Unlike many at the top, he can never quite believe he's being asked!

He's got a gorgeous wife, a cute baby, a top job, those clean cut good looks your mum would love you to bring home one day and he's not even 30.

Is this boy too good to be true?

People in the SPORT

Ashley Crick

How old are you and how long have you been in the sport?

I am 29 and will have been jumping for five years this July.

How many jumps do you have and how current are you?

I have 2,100 jumps in total, 400 in the last year.

Where were you born and where do you live now?

I was born in Melbourne, Australia and now live in London.

Do you have a sporting background?

I started gymnastics when I was about thirteen. A few of my mates were doing it, gymnastics was the thing to do at lunchtime. They were going crazy and it looked like fun and I thought I would join in. I competed at state level. I loved it. Then I got into coaching as I didn't want to give it all up when I left school. I coached for about five years for ages four and five to 17 years old. Coaching was unreal. The smile on their faces was just incredible. It also meant I got free access to the gym and I could do a lot of trampolining.

So, why did you do your first skydive?

It was something I have wanted to do since I was a little kid. I was playing in a band at a hotel and got talking with an old friend who said he had 70 skydives and I should try it. I thought I would do just the one but I was totally hooked!

What did you do next?

When I had 40 jumps I was sick of trying to find someone to jump with! So when I got my first rig I thought I would try something new and try to go from the top (altitude) to the bottom (ground) as quickly as possible. I hadn't seen any freefly or anything at this point and another guy asked if he could come along and we started trying head-down. When I had 180 jumps I was playing at a jazz festival on the coast of LA and decided to go from there to Perris to see the Fly Boyz and did some jumps with them. That was just fantastic. I worked out that all the stuff I

had learned until then was relative. I

got the biggest buzz

out of that.

I went back

to

Australia and Omar (Alhegelan) came out to Sydney, Australia. I had seen him on video and decided to go up there, hoping I might have the chance to jump with him. I did about seven jumps with him, 2-ways and 4 and 5-ways. We were turning six points with the 2-ways, that was taking it to another level again. I caught up with Omar, in Arizona, many times since and each time I saw him he could not have made me feel more at home. I saw a lot of his freestyle stuff and that was amazing. I learned a lot from watching him. Hence I got inspired to look at freestyle and in New Zealand jumped with Jon King (cameraman) and we went to the Arizona Freefly Festival. Omar saw my video and he said if I did some work, I had the potential to win a medal at a world competition. That was so motivating!

What happened after that inspiration from Omar?

We went to the Australian Nationals and won them – that was a bit of a surprise! In Queensland, during 1999, I did a training camp with Jon and another one just before the World Championships in Australia. We did eight or nine weeks training that year. We went out there and won.

Freefall photos: Dave Donnelly



Ashley was talking
to Jo Malone



What have you been up to in the past year?

Last June, I won the World Cup of Speed Skydiving event in Lapalisse, France with a speed of 491km/h. This remained the fastest speed in an international speed skydiving competition for the 2000. In November 2000, Jonathan (my cameraman) and I won the gold at the World Cup in Arizona in Men's Freestyle. Our training included a few days in Australia whilst we were freely coaching and load organising at the Equinox boogie in Queensland and three weeks in Eloy, Arizona prior to the competition. We didn't have the preparation we would have liked but we had to balance the task of working for the money to pay for skydiving in 1999, 2000 and 2001 with the time and expenditure required to train accordingly. We expect to be far more prepared for the World Air Games in Spain and the World Games in Japan this year.

So how do you fund all this?

I'm Tour Manager and play keyboards with jazz artist Tommy Emmanuel, Australian's best known instrumentalist. I'm also the Technology Director for a London based IT company, building e-commerce systems.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Retiring from work. Hopefully I will make enough to do that. At the moment I am spending everything I earn on skydiving. I will definitely keep skydiving for a long time.

Do you take your family with you?

When we were training and competing in Arizona, I,

my wife Kristen, and our baby son Benson rented an RV to stay in on the drop zone. Ben was small enough to sleep in one of our suitcases! It was great having a self-contained 'house' on wheels with the family. Benson loved watching the parachutes and squealed every time he saw one come in to land.

What's in store for this season?

Summer this year will consist of a Speed Skydiving competition and freestyle training in May in France, the World Air Games in Spain in June in Freestyle, another Speed Skydiving event in July, the World Games in Japan in August in Freestyle and a further Speed Skydiving competition in September in Spain.

What do you like most about the sport?

I like the social part of it, the fact that you can run into your friends all over the world, and there are all the different backgrounds and all the different languages. I love doing great jumps. I love flying my canopy. I have an Xtreme 99 – until I had that I thought the freefall was the bit you had fun in.

Describe yourself in three words.

I would take on any challenge. That's not three is it?



Ashley winning the World Cup in Arizona, photo by James Stevenson

Stainless Polluteless

There has been a fair bit of discussion over the last several years about the merits of stainless steel over the more common cadmium-plated, carbon steel, harness hardware.

Well, test results from the Relative Workshop, originator of the three-ring cutaway system, show that stainless steel tends to deform earlier but will ultimately break at a higher load. The cadmium-plated three-ring, known as the RW-8 ring breaks at around 8,000 lbs while the stainless model – RW-8S, goes on until around 10,000 lbs. Both rings are proof-rated to 2,500 lbs, therefore both perform well over the required specifications.

The US Environmental Protection Agency is expected to ban the cadmium-plating process within the next ten years due to its excessive waste by-product. Stainless steel is more expensive to produce but is apparently better for the planet.

Kit News



by Rob Colpus

Derro's Odyssey



The Javelin Odyssey has relocated lateral straps closer to the centre



This keeps the container snug against your back, resulting in less movement

We reported in the last two issues of Kit News on a few improvements and options shortly to be available on Sunpath's Javelin system.

Well these, plus a few others, have now been released on the latest Javelin model named Odyssey.

These new features, supplied as standard on the Odyssey, include :-

- 1 Relocated lateral straps, see pictures.
- 2 'Anti-twist' main risers incorporating plastic riser tube inserts which allegedly resist crushing.
- 3 Longer riser covers (very overdue) which eliminate almost any exposure of the main or reserve risers.
- 4 A new quilted, extra comfortable backpad.
- 5 Split leg straps, where the two layers of webbing in the leg straps are split apart to create a wider, more comfortable seat for those extra G's you're going to pull under canopy.
- 6 Some funky new fabric options.

Sunpath - 001 813 782 9242
www.sunpath.com

Leg-less – Not !

If you like the idea of travelling light when you go off to the drop zone, then you'll be into the latest idea from Chappy of Original Lizard. Called Zipstaz, Chappy's latest product is a cross between the popular cargo pants and freely bottoms.

Zipstaz consist of a pair of smart, custom-built, cargo pants that can be converted into shorts with the added bonus of an extra pair of lower legs which transform them into freely trousers complete with baggy velcroed ankles. You can even swap your legs with your mate's – if you're happy with his hygiene!

Zipstaz are constructed from a medium weight pre-shrunk cotton drill, with lots of colours to choose from. The freely lower legs come as standard with the cargo pants. Standard trousers come in one or two colour combinations, with custom options available on request – any design considered! Zipstaz retail at £85 and additional pairs of freely lower legs from £30.

Original Lizard - 01 482 635 483
www.original-lizard.com



Trousers: Model's Own

Zipstaz are a 3-in-1, interchangeable piece of skydiving clothing from Original Lizard

Legend in its own Launchtime!



Parachutes de France has recently released a new version of their popular *Atom* container – named *Legend*. Following in the footsteps of the Relative Workshop's *Vector* system, PdeF is yet another container manufacturer who has now released a version of their rig with a redesigned main container pin-flap.

Since the growth of freely and speed skydiving, jumpers have become more and more concerned with the security of their main pin. With this in mind Relative Workshop brought out the *Vector 3* a few years ago with a main pin-flap which came up from below and tucked into a slot in the mid-flap. This provides protection from an airflow from below, for example, for when the jumper is in a feet-down position.

Since then, several rig manufacturers, including TSE with their *Teardrop Super-fly*, have come up with versions of their containers with the *Vector 3* type of main flap. Now PdeF has followed suit.



The new *Legend* also sports a redesigned reserve top-flap which, in their words, 'provides a cleaner airflow', the bottom corners of the reserve tray are now snag free, and better protection is provided for the main risers and toggles.



The bottom corners of the reserve tray are now snag free

The traditional *Atom* colour flashes are still in evidence on the (now smaller) mid-flap. Some new options have also been added to the list for the *Legend*, such as: leather hackey handle, a fabric loop cutaway handle, a choice of pillow, fabric loop or metal reserve ripcords. A few choices of tie-dye paracord fabric are also available for the container.

Parachutes De France
0033 1 34 32 77 77
www.parachutes-de-france.com

Video Nicety kit news

A couple of issues ago we reported on a nice little camera gizmo called the *Cam Eye 2*. This small, camera control item has proven very popular with camera flyers around the world. Now the egg heads at SkyTools in Sweden have come up with an even cleverer gadget they call the *CamRL* (Camera Radio Link) *CamRL* is a wireless remote for the complete camera set-up.

It replaces wires in those hard-to-reach places – on aircraft wings, hazardous environments or on moving objects other than yourself. *CamRL* can control a video camera and up to two stills cameras. It consists of a hand transmitter and a receiver module.

In order not to bore the non train-spotter reader full details are available on SkyTool's website.

SkyTools

www.skytools.m.se
0046 705 54 83 55

Dumped !

After fifteen years in use, one major rig manufacturer has recently expressed his dislike of the common method of line stowing on reserve free-bags.

Originally introduced by Para-flite, the market standard, square reserve free-bag uses a bungee cord, double-ended, 'safety-stow' locking loop for the mouth-lock and a line-stowage pouch closed by velcro for the rest of the lines. John Sherman of the Jump Shack, manufacturer of the *Racer* family of harness/containers, has recently issued a service bulletin which recommends modifying this configuration by replacing the safety-stow with two rubber bands and the stowing pouch with two rows of rubber bands as per most main deployment bags.

The bulletin states 'In consideration of the recent structural failures of some reserve canopies and, as a result of our continuing testing of deployment methods, *Jump Shack* has decided to upgrade the method of stowing lines on our Reserve Deployment Bags'.

Sherman has never really been a fan of the safety-stow and pouch system. He contends that the safety-stow does not provide a balanced releasing force. Further, he suggests this uneven grip could lead to line strip or line dump where the lines or the canopy are released from the bag early before full line stretch, often resulting in unreliable openings.

The line-stowing pouch has similar shortcomings, according to Sherman. The *Jump Shack* bulletin states that 'the forces generated by the mass of the stowed lines during snatch, show a potential for line dump'.

For years the *Jump Shack* has given their customers the option of two rubber bands over the 'safety-stow', now they are calling for the conversion of existing free-bags currently in use on *Racer* systems. The bulletin gives detailed instruction as to how a Rigger should convert a *Racer* bag, or the owner may trade in his existing bag for a new one from the *Jump Shack*.

Jump Shack – 001 904 734 5867
www.jumpshack.com

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* The PIA International Parachute Symposium, San Diego, USA, 29.1.-2.2.2001

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Statistics

By Allan Hewitt

Over a six week period I have received 127 incident reports from the BPA which is about the norm.

Although the vast majority of incidents resulted in minor or no injuries, the number of incidents is very high given that these are almost all:

- preventable, see Don't be a Statistic, previous issue of the Mag.
- repeats of incidents which have been reported many times over the last three years.

These break down as follows:

Landing Injuries	30
Not clear	30
Malfunctions	26
Tandem Malfunctions	12
Pilot chute in tow	7
No pulls	7
Oddballs	7
Exit problems	5
Low pulls/AAD firings	3
Total	127



Landing injuries (24%)

The reports showed a pattern of three links in the chain. An individual removing any one of the following could have prevented these injuries:

Not facing into wind on landing. It's definitely harder to achieve a good flare when going downwind as well as having a faster forward landing speed to deal with. Make sure you have plenty of time to get into wind.

Flaring too high or too late is a common description given. This is a difficult one as the only way to get it right is with practice and getting to know your canopy.

Bad landing is also a common description. A good parachute landing fall (PLF) is invaluable – if you get links 1 and 2 wrong, a good PLF will prevent most injuries. Practice PLF's and consider when you may need to adopt this, don't be too proud! Just because you have a square canopy and it has the capability of a soft landing don't always assume it will give you one.

Not Clear (24%)

These reports were either almost illegible or with little or no reason given for injury.

Malfunctions (20%)

By this I mean common types of malfunctions, generally caused by bad packing. A couple were due to broken lines and a couple to not being able to release one toggle.

To deal with the majority of these is a packing issue. The only prevention is to concentrate during packing and not become complacent. Get some coaching and become a safer packer.

Tandem malfunctions (9%)

These vary as follows:

Three instructors did a normal flare and landed fine but the student broke or hurt an ankle as they put their foot down before the instructor.

Two injuries were caused after a hard landing due to turbulence from trees. Two incidents were due to broken lines on deployment.

One was a student who pulled the reserve handle when grasping for the risers

One was damage to the canopy wall which ripped during .

The rest were traditional malfunctions.

I am sure Tandem Instructors will have their own views. The emphasis should be on landings, avoiding turbulence and checking lines during packing.

Pilot Chute in tow (6%)

Seven in six weeks is a very high number. What's even more interesting is that all the pilot chutes released on deployment of the

reserve, some ended up with two canopies and others subsequently cut away the main. The main cause of a pilot chute in tow is usually a pilot chute which is past its 'sell-by' date. Have yours inspected. This problem can also be down to a short bridle line or lazy deployment.

Oddballs (6%)

Two canopies collided at approximately 100 feet, causing a wrap and both jumpers landed with severe injuries.

Two canopies received broken lines on opening, both were landed by the jumpers, only to have them stall when flaring.

One chest strap came undone on opening.

One helmet came off on deployment.

One student landed in a tree, then cutaway and dropped 2 feet resulting in injuries.

No pulls (6%)

Seven in six weeks is a very high number.

One jumper had a hard pull and then went for the reserve.

Three could not find the pilot chute on BOC systems.

One could not find the pin-pull pad.

Two could not find the BOC ripcord on student kit.

Plenty of practice is required before the pull becomes a natural skill.

Exit Problems (4%)

Generally these were caused by bad exits – legs and arms getting caught on deploying lines, resulting in malfunctions and reserve rides. One was caused by hitting the airframe on exit, forcing the reserve pin out.

Low pulls/AAD firings (>1%)

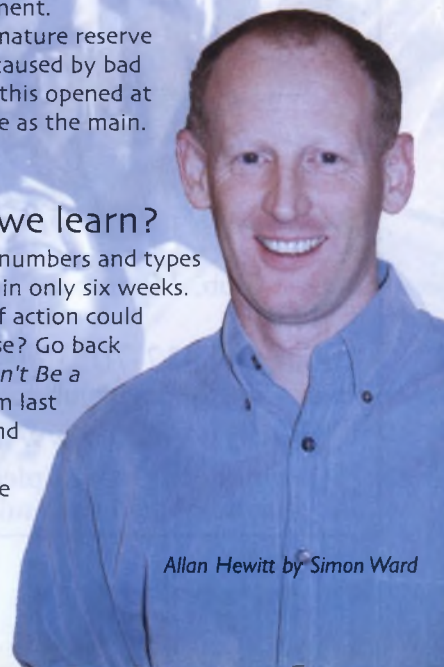
Two of these were caused by the firing of FXC AAD's at low altitudes at the same time as main deployment.

One was premature reserve deployment caused by bad closure loop, this opened at the same time as the main.

So, can we learn?

Look at the numbers and types of problems in only six weeks. What sort of action could prevent these? Go back and read *Don't Be a Statistic* from last issue to found out how to eliminate the majority of problems.

Allan Hewitt by Simon Ward





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Karlovy Vary 18 - 25 Aug

• Now in its 9th year, here we go again with all the usual facilities and good vibes that this great DZ in the Czech Republic has to offer.

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Club News

The beautiful spring weather has meant loadsa jumping at the weekends from our new single Turbine SMG 92 affectionately nicknamed 'The SMEG'. Those Scottish monkeys up at Strathallan have been borrowing the Dornier for a few weekends, but it is back in full time operation at Hibaldstow now. The newly styled 4-way team 'Quest' have been showing off their new clobber around during team training weekends. They have received a sponsorship deal from Quest Recruitment Solutions Limited for new jumpsuits, containers and helmets. The members of the intermediate team, Lynne, Simon, Andy and JP (who all happen to be BCPA members as well) competed last year at junior level under the name Up 4 fun. With all that training in Deland and wind-tunnel time, I am sure they will take the Grand Prix circuit by storm – Good luck Guys!

We've had live entertainment with Nick Battles the saxophonist and even some impromptu exotic dancing – proof that the Coat-stand in the bar can easily double as a pole!. A special mention to Josh Burnstone who managed to fully 'decorate' the gents loos after his celebratory funnel the day he achieved his FS1.

Cheeky Monkey

cheeky_monkey_hib@hotmail.com

Target

Achievements

1st Freefall	Ruth Kent, Derick Kent
Cat 8	John Fletcher, Mark Tanfield, Paul Chapman
FS1	Steve Rossal, Josh Burnstone, Tim Gardiner
IC1	Steve Barr, John Fletcher
200 jumps	Rob Sharp
1,500 jumps	Paul Hollow

Jose and Elliot taken by Daniel Parker

Cark

CONE TURBINE

Achievements:

Category 8 Amanda Higgins, Duncan Stott, Rachael Stott

There wasn't a dry glass on the airfield when our Turbolet touched down for the first time on our newly extended concrete runway. She will be permanently based at Cark each year from March to Christmas. Sharp-eyed readers will notice a difference at the pointy end, which contains a navigators cockpit for aerial photo-survey (yes the view IS amazing!). At the business end for us in addition to the usual float rails and steps, we have a proper 'airliner style' in-flight door, so no more scrambling to avoid the cold seat! Also new at Cark is a Freely School with Sean Ellison, who in order, to provide the best coaching possible, Sean recently spent a couple of weeks of preparation jumping with Olav Zipser

Dave Head



Photo: Dave Head

Bridlington

Welcome back to Phil Lyall, who went to work in the Middle East. He says he's back because he couldn't jump due to the 1,200 mile round trip to the nearest DZ. We think it's because he just loves packing tandems and tiling the DZ kitchen. CCI Nicki Johnston is busy renovating his new motorhome / hotel / bum spot vehicle / Mobile DZ.

Achievements:-

1st freefall	Sue Dawson and Jason Miller
AFF Graduate	John Utley
Cat 8	Kerry Connell
Cat10/FS1	Richard Baldwin
Cat10/FS1	Stuart Self
100 jumps	Del Hand
200 jumps	Mark Hankinson

Paul Simms



RAFSPA

Due to the Foot and Mouth restrictions, our new Twin Otter can only be admired as it sits on the tarmac. Apparently Otters can spread Foot and Mouth but not get it!

We were well represented at the Sky U Search in Sebastian, including Dru Spork, Liz Crichton, Stuart and Anna Cormack. Tiggs, our intrepid pilot from last year also turned up to keep us entertained. Dru also managed a couple of days of the *Sebastian XL* 4-way camp. Lake Wales has been inundated with RAFSPA jumpers during the winter break. Call into the new shop Korkin' Kats on site at RAFSPA. Proprietor Liz Crichton-Stuart says, "We'll provide a one-stop shop for everything. Even if we don't stock what you want, we will locate it for you, super-quick and super-easy. 'Korkin' Kats is open at weekends throughout the skydiving season. See Liz at the DZ or contact her at

korkinkats@hotmail.com
or on 07957 210675.

Congratulations

Big congrats to Shane Wood and his girlfriend Lyndsay, who are celebrating the arrival of their baby son, Fletcher. Tickets will be available to watch Shane attempting nappy changes between lifts.

Achievements

Cat 8 Emma Gillett, Debby Wharton
FSI Debby Wharton, Barry Kruger, Vicky Kilby
ICI Barry Kruger
100 Jumps Anna Cormack
200 Jumps Liz Crichton-Stuart

Bev Ford

Plummets Calling Plummeters

Last year, three novices from Weston, Dru Spork, Barry Kruger and Anna Cormack, set up the *Weston Plummets* as an informal group of new Cat 8 and 10 jumpers who could jump with each other, form a community on e-mail and at the DZ, and pass information on to each other. It's quite big now. It has an email group and a website. Plummets have an entertaining website

www.homestead.com/westonplummets/homepage.html.

Whenever any Plummet goes anywhere, they pick up new Plummets. It's a new generation of people who are starting the sport and, more importantly, staying with the sport and doing so safely. The Plummets are organising seminars for rainy days at Weston and Jake's already offered to do them on spotting, flight-line checks, gear checks and all kinds of topics. It has definitely contributed to a vibrant and supportive community of novices at Weston.

Emma Gillett

February saw the club go on two trips, the first to a skills training camp at Eloy, Arizona. The second was to Empuriabrava, twelve of us set off for the winter sunshine, we had a large range of experience with us from just qualified cat 8 to FF1, so we split into small groups to do our own thing. Although the weather was not kind, when the three planes were going everybody got the chance to jump as much as they wanted and we all achieved our own personal goals. The trip home was an adventure, we stayed in Barcelona on the Saturday to be close to the airport for the early Sunday flight — still two of the group managed to miss their flight — but that's another story! Spain was great fun and the club is already planning for next February. Fancy it?

John McCourt



Declan & Martin,
Linda & Mike taken by
John McCourt

Hinton is having a baby boom. Congratulations to Simon and Sara Rushton on the arrival of Elijah, to Dave Haylor and girlfriend Liso on the arrival of Morgon, and to Allison Rowland on the arrival of Bradley. Also congrats to Phil and Angela O'Connor who are expecting their first child in June. Jo and Sean Arbon on tied the knot on the beach in Florida and Zoe Carrol and Pete Stoneman got engaged. Get well soon to Gus Malyon after badly breaking his ankle. But on a good note Eamonn's leg is finally mending, we hope to see him crutchless very soon.

Hinton enjoyed its first party of the year, a 5-way joint birthday party. Lots of drinking, funny shaped cakes and very silly games went on, and there were quite a few bruises in strange places the following day (the spacehopper took revenge!). Despite the extremely cold weather, it has been busy with loads of jumping,

the return of the packing tent and still more alterations in the hangar. A bigger shop and rigging room are going in upstairs along with a new office for Geoff and Mike.

May 19/20 sees another big tandem weekend. In association with Childline we are going for 130 tandems in one day. Geoff has already started to polish his Golden B*****s. Friday April 27 is Ladies Night at Hinton with an Ann Summers party in the hangar. Sorry no lads allowed and I will be checking for spy cameras.

Achievements

100 jumps Emma Hammersley, Anna Palmer
300 jumps Jason Carter
500 jumps Con Ryan
1st Freefall Adrian Barker
Cat 8 Ashley Nicholas

Caroline White

Achievements

Cat 10 Christine Moorgues
Cat 8 Kenny Rooney
200 jumps Jim Hunter
200 jumps Ralph

Netheravon

The party season got into full swing with Barrie Buck's 40th (yes — 40th!) and a Valentine's party. This month's mega achievement goes to Ian Cashman, who clocked up a gob-smacking 72 hours in freefall on Feb 14 in Deland. That's longer than most of the relationships that Dave Paton lays claim to!

Then foot and mouth happened so now we're Grounded. Hmm...maybe we should start a rock band, or has that been done before?! The rumour that Andy Godwin caused the outbreak because whenever he opens his mouth, he puts his foot in it are unfounded!

Achievements

The sheet is in quarantine at manifest! If you're not here, you'll be in next time:

100 jumps Bex Harrison
200 jumps Veronica Gordon-Johnston
200 jumps Graham Harrison
1,000 jumps Tag Pulham

Kath Salisbury



Wishing Gus Malyon a speedy recovery
Photo: Steve Saunders



Photo: Rob Kennedy

We would all like to wish Carl and Sara Williams all the very best, now they have left South Cerney and opened up at Pembrey Airfield. Good luck and a big thank you. In his shoes has stepped Andy Paddock as the new CCI and we wish him well. We also welcome Jez Wright onboard as the newest member of staff, all the best. Jeff Montgomery had a bit of a shock at the AGM, not just seeing his bank balance after the weekend's festivities, but also being awarded BPA Instructor of the Year, big up mate.

New manifestor Neil Freegard takes the chair after the last two females left to deploy their 9-month internal tandems. Congratulations on the arrival of two little boys for Gary and Marie-Anne Stevens and Dave and Karen Hix.

Gareth Leonard

Achievements

1st Freefall

Kevin Wright

Cat 8

Matt Noble-Clarke, Simon Noble-Clarke

Cat 8 and 100 jumps

Neil Freegard

FS1 and 200 Jumps

Darren Fews

300 jumps

Peter Blake, Ronnie Cetcuti, Dean Hoskins

400 jumps

Jeff Montgomery

500 jumps

Paul Kendall

600 jumps

Duncan Hathaway

Strathallan

Achievements

FS1 Ben Blake (Also IC1 and B licence),

Louise Drummond

FF1 Robert Bellamy

50 Jumps Wendy Yeoman

Turbine Fever

IT'S HAPPENED...Strathallan is now a TURBINE drop zone. With the G-92 at Strathallan since January, we've been making the most of some good weather. Good but cold — on one exceptionally cold day some brave souls exited at -35°C at 13,500ft — can anyone beat that? With the extra altitude the freeflyers have been having a blast. Advantage has been taken of the extra capacity to do larger formations. Our WARP, Freely

and CF coaches have also been busy. It's the fastest climbing turbine with enough rails and steps to enable anyone to launch anything, so if you're looking to be doing some competition training or just want to have some fun then come and visit us. Scottish Nationals are on 26 – 28 May and then our biggest ever event, a skydiving extravaganza, Sat 4 to Sun 12 August.

Anne Johnson

St Andrews

Hibernation is over: roll on longer days! The Head Down signs are on the loo doors and we're eating hot meals that aren't cooked in a World Famous Witch's Cauldron. Abertay University now has a skydiving club Skydive Abertay which is presided over by President Martin Seehuusen. According to Martin they already have about 40 members. The club is arranging nights in their Union (once is obligatory), both to raise money and also to get more people into the sport. The university has a fund for sporting excellence with whom Martin is currently working with the goal of funding for those who are planning to compete in BCPA. Edinburgh University are winding up for another summer of fun, and we look forward to seeing their new council members! They still hold the record for the most number of bodies (live) in a single bunk. I think it was 6! The small contingent from St. Andrews Uni is progressing well (come 2-way with the SkyGods, girls!). We hope to organise a University Challenge in the near future.

Ask Kelly Strachan about her CS1 rating...evil laugh. She will watch your defenceless, cuddly, little kitty while you're on hols....even if you don't ask her! Watch for Kelly's ace 4-way team Skinny Hairballs this summer! Goodbye and good luck to Ned Blyth.

Vicky Wilkinson

Monumental Achievements:

1st Freefall

Martin Seehuusen

Graduated AFF (after all those hit records!)

Brian Wilson

AFF Level 1

Kenny Schofield

WARP coach rating

Kelly Strachan



Steve Hards
Photo: Mark Harris

Peterborough is now open full time again. The instructors have returned from South Africa, New Zealand, Cornwall, Peterborough and are back refreshed and raring to make the summer at Sibson just great! Max and Alice have made it to Barbados in their ship Beluga, sailing single-handedly there we wish them all the best on their further travels. Cath and Dave — *Clockwork Orange* — have been training for the World Air Games, Haydn Harris has started his WARP and Steve Hards has found his perfect fall rate partners: Dave Dup and Mark Harris vertical... now, about getting that FS1... There is a new Cessna pilot, Howard, and Ronnie O'Brien is also taking to the skies with the Walkbury Flying Club. At least two club members have turned 40, but so far only Steve has been enrolled in POPS...

At the time of writing several DZ's are shut down due to foot and mouth; so far we are OK and a huge thanks must go to Hibaldstow for the use of the Dornier and the SMG92. However the Let is now on its way. All the Tandem rigs are now fitted with Icarus canopies for the season. Michael Tsikais has gone freefall and we are planning several progression weeks during the year. There will be regular quiz nights at Birdland Bar.

Comelia Waymouth

Empuria Brava



The centre did 96,000 jumps in 2000. The whole of 2001 we will have a Pilatus Porter and a Super Twin Otter as our planes. We're very busy so we're flying everyday with those both planes plus another Super Pilatus Porter. The Russian teams for 4-way and 8-way are now coming every month to train from the Otter (they do a minimum of 12 jumps per day). The weather's very good and we are receiving a lot of visits from British skydivers (even more since we discovered the cheap flights that RyanAir offers from London to Perpignan – South France – at one hour's drive from the DZ). We're doing around 450 jumps per day as it's also the period of training for lots of 4-way teams coming from the UK, Italy, Czech Republic, South Africa and France. We have a group of Scottish people doing CREW, *The Golden Lions* (from the Scottish Division of the Army) that are training here doing CREW formation 4-way and practising rotations.

Babylon are quite busy too as they have quite a lot of students. They're preparing the 2nd Carnival film festival and its first prize is a Ninja, the new canopy from Parachutes de France. This will be happening as this magazine is published. The permanent freefly instructors are Stéphane, Tom, Kuri, Nimmo and Wolf. Stéphane is in the freefly French team (World Champions 2000).

Tiphaine

Photo: Babylon

Black Knights

We have brand new Barn conversion holiday accommodation on the DZ, brilliant. Congratulations to Ian Pringle and Tracey Fish who tied the knot in Las Vegas. Guests included Dan and Soo Fitzgibbon (ex BKPC) who now live in Texas. Apparently the Hen/Stag night party was a real night on the town. Sylvia Radcliffe who was one of the top jumpers in terms of numbers during 2000 is off to a good start again this year. She has just returned from Pete Marsden's Boogie in Dubai where she clocked up her 300th jump and C licence.

Jeff Illidge



Sylvia Radcliffe



Photos: Enrique Gaston



The first POPS meet is at North West Parachute Centre at Cork Airfield on the Spring Bank Holiday weekend 26 – 28 May. With the long weekend we shall be running a scrambles as well as the usual accuracy and hit n' rock. The Scrambles is three rounds of 4-way and is open to all over forty. Latest registration for the scrambles is 10am on Saturday. The accuracy will be three round of target accuracy format with concentric rings and a pad, but no tuffet. This permits a combination of traditional and swoop approaches, make sure you know what the others on your pass are doing! There will be three rounds, and we will be competing for the Doncaster Plate.



The World Meet

I shall have copies of everything at Cork. Accommodation seems to be a big question, and I am not aware of a British hotel. Julie and I are stopping on the DZ in a camper van, and subsequently touring the country – Jan Maskell of NZ Adventure on 0800 614162 is very helpful and can give POPS a 15% discount. DO register now. Please let me know when you have registered and also tell me your shirt size. Credit cards and pounds sterling will be acceptable for payment at the DZ.

New members: Adrian Read, Sam Rollason, Don Bain and Steve Spingys

Pete Shew

Paragon

The buildings have had a fresh lick of paint and there is now a path through the chips to assist pushchairs and wheelchair users. The packing shed is carpeted, the bunkrooms, canteen, and toilets are upgraded. Cheers Guys! We've got a new website up and running, thanks to our very own Software Developer, Linsay McKinnon (aka Wee Bucket). So a massive thank you to Linsay for all her hard work – it's fantastic!

www.paragonskydiving.20m.com
wgse08233@cableinet.co.uk

Paragon Achievers

Taking into consideration the extreme weather of late (-16°C @ 6,000ft!), we'd like to say a BIG congratulations to everyone for braving the elements, but especially our recent achievers...

1st Freefall	Emma Britton
Cat 8	Steven Riddell
200 Jumps	Chik Adams
500 Jumps	Dave Richards
1st Crew Jump	Stuart MacDonald, Steven Riddell and Chik Adams did their first crew jump (watch out for Stuart and Steven at the Scottish Nationals this year!)

We've got something special for all of our University Students to look forward to, but can't give away too much detail...

Sandra Inglis

Mike Kapper taken by
Bryn Chaffe



Blue Skies at *Peterlee*

Achievements

1st Freefall: Stephen Joyner, Ross Sibbald, Guy Radcliffe (Peterlee's most persistent student! - now off to Spain to do AFF), Ken Barry and Chris Moore

200 jumps: Will Major

500 jumps: Bryn Chaffe

FF1: Tony Fernyhoff

Steve "Fantastic" Ashman has achieved Cat 10 (after 12 months of trying!)

Everyone who went to the AGM had a brilliant time, hope to see even more people there next year. Well done to Stephen Joyner for incorporating a 10-second delay and a reserve ride into his 1st freefall. Ian Roseninge, our esteemed leader, gets the award for the most interesting tandem jump (just ask Mick Glover!), his first tandem reserve ride. Lol Bull did his first freestyle camera jump

Jane Robertson

Terry Leith



Terry & daughter
Christina taken
by Ian Smith

Terry was born in Hackney Hospital in 1952, to Norah and Cyril. In 1977 Terry met his future wife Kay and, just six weeks later, asked her to marry him. In June 1979 their first kid, Christina, popped out and in June 1984, they had me, Christopher. Terry was in the carpet trade and a very successful business man building up to owning his own shop called The Carpet Store.

Terry - otherwise known to me as Dad - started skydiving in May 1998 with my sister Christina. Terry loved it and tried to get down the airfield as much as possible, his nickname was Floaty 2. Then in June 2000, Terry got me up in the plane the day after my sixteenth birthday, I loved it.

In November 2000 Terry was diagnosed with terminal cancer at only 48. Tragically, seven weeks later on January 9, we lost my Dad, all of a sudden. It was so unexpected, the day before Dad died he was his usual happy self and was bossing us about! Dad was known by a lot of people who loved and now miss him dearly. I always imagined that I would learn to skydive and then be able to skydive with my Dad and sister, but it was obviously not meant to be. Rest in peace Dad for you will never be forgotten. He was a good man who left a footprint in a lot of people's hearts, he left one in mine. Dad will always be remembered for having a smile on his face.

Blue Skies
Christopher Leith



Photo: Bryn Chaffe

Price Cut

The Turbolet 410 is back for the summer. If you are 'B' licence and above, our altitude tickets are going DOWN to £16 from 1 April. Friday prices remain at £14.

Sean 'Flipper' Hart is the latest in a long line to land in the river. Alex Fixsen has joined the elite Bent Beaver club - he is its third member; we hope there won't be any more... Rob McGiff has left the full time staff to do surveying work - Good luck! Pete Sizer is now qualified to run advanced packing courses at Headcorn. 25 August will see Headstock - balloons, flying, hovercrafts, funfair and a rock festival

New and Improved!

You will hardly recognise the place! Mick Danby and the rest of the staff have done a fantastic job. The office has doubled in size, has been painted and - red! - carpeted. Skid Row has been paved, gravelled and painted and is looking good! Apparently Michelle Pollard, who is making good progress is going to paint a mural for us. The accommodation has gone large with 15 beds. The rooms have been reroofed, carpeted, painted and are heated. We'll be charging £2 per night for the bunkhouse - see Mick Danby, the money will be used on more improvements. One of our indoor packing areas is now carpeted. The hangar has been painted. The canteen's under new management, has been refurbished and now boasts a greatly improved menu. Wings, the airfield bar, is now run by very friendly balloon pilots and is serving a great selection of evening food.

A group of WARP coach wannabes were recently put through their paces by CCI Pete Sizer who gave out excellent hints and tips. So there's a fresh new crop of WARP coaches for you.

Headcorn

100 jumps	Trigger, Robin Day
200 jumps	Sarah-Jane Smith, Chris Pillings, Graham 'Sharon' Stone
400 jumps	JP Reynard
500 jumps	Jan Gaynor, Garry Wilson
800 jumps	Darren Lucas
900 jumps	Gunner
1,000 jumps	Steve Tomlin, Paul Finn, Mike Dawson
2,000 jumps	George Raft, Bernard Devine, Lee Andrews
7,500 jumps	Chris Lynch
Cat 8	Danny Bateman, Hely Boylan, Nikki Stroud, Michael 'Wizzy' Wisdom
FS1	Robin Day, Dan Stothart, Nikki Stroud, Dave Tingey
FF1	Chris Pillings



University of Kent Skydiving Club went to Lake Wales, thanks Mick, Gill and all for fantastic fun and frolics - high altitude jumps, high speed exits and tubes - Cool! Taken by Mick Hall

Langar



Kristian Winder by Gary Wainwright

The Langar Annual Do took place at the Nottingham Hilton at the end of January. This year the ladies decreed a Masked Ball, so everybody was heavily disguised – No! Although masks weren't enough to provide cover for outrageous behaviour, the hypnotist certainly was. Personally, I don't reckon any of 'em was really 'under', but one or two certainly took the opportunity to enhance their notoriety. No names, no pack drill. You know who you are, Loopy Lou. The BPS Student of the Year award went to Ben Wilkins, who is a bit of star, but don't tell him.

Jump numbers Chris McCann (1,000), Chip Amies (900), PD (700), Vicki Priest (200), Mike Outen (100), Alistair Hodgson (100), Lisa James (100)
Cat 8 Abi Fineberg, Andy Bourne, Tim Marquis, Paul Paterson, Carl Goodwin, Nigel Hawkins, Steve Tipper, Robbie Gregg, Paul Bradford
1st freefall Dave Allen, Kristian Ridley, Paul Monckton, Dom Stuart
About time too Stan Hopkins (FS1) and Ian Ridpath (Cat 8). Hooyeh!, as Ray Armstrong sez

Our erstwhile leader, Dave Hickling, is still keeping up with the times and has got his first Birdman suit jump in, as has Dave Lewis. All we need is another suit and we might get a picture of it! Milko has been playing with a Pro Track of late and has clocked up a speed of 283 mph so far! Kristian and his surfboard plus two mates (and theirs) managed his first 3-way skysurf jump. Local ladies *Handbags at Dawn* are trucking on with their recent Breakfast TV appearance and a full-on 4-way training camp at Deland.

Tony Danbury

Umm Al Quwain boogie 2001



About 100 Brits, accompanied by Pete Marsden, descended upon Dubai for the start of what is set to become an annual February boogie. There was a good mix of experience levels and interests, from AFF students, to load organisers Darryl Moran and Sam Williams who put some nice flat stuff together plus freeflyers and a good number of people who did both. The aircraft used most days was the club's own Let 410. A second Turbolet was brought in for the first few days, we also had an AN26, was brought in.

There was a whole week of gorgeous weather and plenty of toys! We had hoop jumps, tracking jumps, jumps with pink swimming floats, spaceballs... then Sheikh Mohammed arrived daily with a different toy to show off... a new style Porsche, Lexus, Lamborghini! The

Sheikh even had a Hummer parked next to his pad on the island! In all we did seven days of jumping, 72 lifts and almost 1,500 injury-free jumps. Highlights were a sunset beach jump onto Sheikh Mohammed's island, a whole week of gorgeous weather, chilling by the pool between jumps and riding the water slides

There is such a lot to do in the Emirates – the beautiful scenery includes rolling desert, rugged rocky mountains, stunning beaches, there is a waterpark, a shooting club and a relaxed atmosphere at the Barracuda Hotel with drinks around the pool till the early hours. Same again next year please, Pete!

Deb Clarke and Jim Weir
for info:

pete@boogieclub.co.uk

Angela Weinand by George Katsoulis



Chatteris

Congratulations to Dr Shazza Simonian who recently completed her PhD. This was celebrated in typical Chatteris style with a Doctors and Nurses party last month. Rumour of turbine smells at Chatteris continue, we will soon be jumping a Beaver. Watch the Chatteris website for details:

www.chatpara.com

More building work is afoot during the continual improvement of the facilities. With the bar, toilet and shower block complete, the cement mixer has moved to our main hangar where the new manifest block will be built. Further improvements include better preparation facilities for tandem students, a new tannoy system, improved electrical supply and a new window for Kim!

Achievements

FS Coach	Luci Baela
2,000 jumps	Graham Ribbons
1,500 jumps	Steve Wilkins
400 jumps	Yo Lee
200 Jumps	Mark Mallinder, Alex Micalaff, John Stevens
100 Jumps	Vicky Challiner, Pat O'Sullivan, Marcus Hoyer, Ivan Peters, Ian Bareham
FS1	Chris Hall, Doug Boari
CF1	Yo Lee

George Katsoulis



Photo: Paul Stockwell



Photo: Sylvia Radcliffe

BPA affiliated drop zones



Coaching		equipment shop
LO	load organisers	
FS	formation skydiving	canteen
CF	canopy formation	evening restaurant
FF	freeflying	bar
AC	accuracy	bunkhouse
WP	WARP	showers
SU	Skydive U	camping welcome
Facilities		caravans welcome
<	rigging room	1-22 Civilian BPA Centres
>	video room	A-D Military BPA Centres

7 Headcorn Parachute Centre

Headcorn Aerodrome, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX
Tel: 01622 890 862 Fax: 01622 890 641
skydive@headcorn.u-net.com

Open: Every day 9am - dark

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Turbolet (Apr-Sept), Beaver (Oct-Mar), Islander

AC WP < > < > < >

8 Hinton Skydiving Centre

Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley, Northants NN13 5NS
Tel: 01295 812 300 Fax: 01295 812 400
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

Open: 9am - 7pm Tues - Fri, 8am - 8pm Sat and Sun

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 206 (all year), Turbolet March - Dec

FS CF FF SU AC WP

< > < > < > < > < >

9 London Parachute School

31 Green Street, Hazlemere, Bucks HP15 7RA
Drop Zone located off Junction 6 of M40
Tel: 01494 459 500 Fax: 01494 444 326
info@londonparachuteschool.com
www.londonparachuteschool.com
Mob: 07970 818 458

Open: Weekends 8am - dark

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, tandem

Aircraft: Islander, Cessna 206

WP < > < >

10 Merlin Parachute Centre

Alanbrooke Barracks, Topcliffe, Nr Thirsk, N Yorks
Tel: W/days 01204 391 860 W/end 01748 875 367

Open: Weekends and bank holidays 9am - dark

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Islander

FS CF AC < >

11 North London Parachute Centre Ltd

Chatteris Airfield, Manea, March, Cambs PE15 0EA
DZ: 01354 740810 Office 01473 829 982
Fax: 01473 829 515 www.chatpara.com

Open: Tues - Fri 10.30am - dark, Weekends 8am - dark

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Islander

LO FS CF WP < > < > < > < >

12 North West Parachute Centre

Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, Nr Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria
Tel: 015 395 58 672 Fax: 01772 774 188
dave@skydive-northwest.com www.skydive-northwest.com

Open: Weekends and bank holidays

First Jump Courses: squares, tandem

Aircraft: Islander

LO FS CF AC WP < > < > < > < >

13 Paragon Skydiving

Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol PH2 7TB
Tel: 01821 642 454 Fax: 01821 642 656
billycurri@aol.com http://members.aol.com/billycurri

Open: Wed - Sun

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 206

CF WP AC < > < > < > < >

14 Peterborough Parachute Centre

Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280 490 Fax: 01832 280 409
www.skydivesibson.com

Open: 8am - 8pm, Tue - Sun (summer), Wed - Sun (winter)

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Islander, Cessna 206, Turbolet (summer)

LO FS FF WP < > < > < > < >

15 Peterlee Parachute Centre

PO Box 192, Durham DH1 5WD
Tel: DZ 0191 517 1234 Tel/Fax: Office 0191 386 5261
skydiveamy@aol.com http://members.aol.com/skydiveamy

Open: All day Sat/Sun/Bank holiday Mon all day. Occasionally mid week

(especially Wed & Fridpm - phone to confirm before travelling)

First Jump Courses: rounds by advance group booking only,

squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 182, Turbo 206

FS CF WP < > < > < > < >

16 Skydive St Andrews

Kingsmuir Airfield, Saint Andrews, Scotland
Tel: 01334 880 678
skydivestandrews@mail.com
www.skydivestandrews.co.uk

Open: Every w/end & Public holiday 8am - 10pm,
Regularly open midweek (by arrangement)

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Cessna 185 with inflight door

LO FS CF FF WP SU < > < > < > < >

17 Skydive Strathallan

Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LA
Tel: 0777 468 6161 Weekend 01764 662572
bradyk@fsdial.co.uk www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk

Open: Fri 5pm - 9pm, weekends 9am - 9pm

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, tandem

Aircraft: Turbine, 3 x Cessna 206

LO FS CF FF AC WP < > < > < > < >

18 Skydive Wales

Pembrey Airfield, Pembrey,
Carmarthenshire,
Wales SA16 0HZ
Tel: 01554 891 534 Mobile: 07779 019655
will@skydivewales.co.uk www.skydivewales.co.uk

Open: Friday - Sunday

First Jump Courses: tandem. Squares available March 2001

Aircraft: Cessna 182

FS AC WP < > < >

19 Stirling Parachute Centre

Thornhill, Nr Stirling, Scotland FK8 3QT
Tel: 01786 870 788 Fax: 01786 870 748

Open: Weekends 9.30am - 9pm, sometimes midweek

First Jump Courses: rounds

Aircraft: PA-32, Cherokee 6

LO FS CF WP < > < > < >

20 Target Skyports

Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow, Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
Tel/Fax: 0113 250 5600 or 01652 648 837 DZ
info@targetskydemon.co.uk www.skydiving.co.uk

Open: 9am - dusk every day

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: G92 Turbine, SMG-92 Turbo Finist, Cherokee 6

LO FS FF WP < > < > < > < >

21 The Parachute Centre

Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA
Tel: 01948 841 111 Fax: 01948 840 638
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
www.theparachutecentre.com

Open: Sat 8am - dark, Fri 2pm - dark (summer)

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: 2 x Cessna 206

LO FS CF AC WP < > < > < > < >

22 UK Parachuting

Old Buckenham Airfield, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1PU
Tel: 01953 861 030 Fax: 01953 861 031
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk www.ukparachuting.co.uk

Open: Weekdays 9am - 8pm (best to phone first)

First Jump Courses: squares, tandem

Aircraft: PA-32 (available for weekend displays)

FS < > < > < >

23 Wild Geese Skydive Centre

Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road, Garvagh,
Coleraine, Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
Tel: 028 295 58 609 Fax: 028 295 57 050
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

Open: Every day. W/end 8am - dark, W/days 9.30am - dark

First Jump Courses: squares, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

FS FF CF WP < > < > < > < >

A Army Parachute Association

The Commandant, JSPC Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
Tel: Bulford Camp 01980 678 250
apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk www.netheravon.com

B RAFSPA & RAFSPA Hawks Parachute Team

JSPC (W) RAF Weston-on-the-Green, Gloucester, Oxon OX6 8TQ
Tel: 01869 343 343 / 343 201 Fax: 01869 343 676

C Services Parachute Centre

Shackleton Barracks, BFPO 802.
Tel: 01504 721 472 Fax: 01504 721 342
Mobile: 0780 232 8755 SPCNI@aol.com

D Silver Stars Parachute Team

Duke of Gloucester Barracks,
South Cerney, Cirencester, Gloucester GL5 5RD
Tel: 01285 861 344 or 01285 860 551 ext 8259
info@silverstars.fsnet.co.uk www.rcftt.fsnet.co.uk

Overseas Military Affiliated DZ's

These Drop Zones are run under the BPA Operations Manual

Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Centre (CCSPC)

Contact: Club CCI,
Dhekelia Garrison, BFPO 58, Cyprus
Tel: Office 00 357 474 4337
DZ: 00 357 474 4245
Fax: 00 357 474 4180 skydive@logos.cy.net

RAPA JSPC(L)

(Rhine Army Parachute Association)
Flugplatz, 33175 Bad Lippspringe,
Germany, BFPO 16
Tel: 00 49 5254 98 2378 or 98 2740
Fax: 00 49 5254 98 2740 awright91@aol.com

Associated Organisations

When at BPA Affiliated Centres, the following organisations are run under the BPA Operations Manual
The BPA takes no responsibility for training or advice when these organisations operate at other centres

Ace Free Fall Adventures

Skydive Wales, Pembrey Airport, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Wales SA16 0HZ
Contact: Carl Williams
Tel: 01554 891534
Mobile: 07779 019655
will@skygod.u-net.com
www.skydivewales.co.uk
AFF Adventures offering courses in UK & Spain. Course includes 1 tandem & 7 jumps. Carl is a British team member and current national champion. Ratings include BPA examiner, AFF/tandem instructor with several years experience in AFF instruction. Personalised instruction with somewhere to go once you've finished.

Active Skydiving

Glengoyan, St Fillans, Perthshire PH6 2ND
Tel/Fax: 01764 685316
Mobile: 07803 041348
scotty@skydive.prestel.co.uk
www.commercepark.co.uk/skydive
Specialist AFF School offering residential courses in Spain and USA, video included on all jumps. Run by Scotty Milne, ex Red Devil, 5 times British Champion, with over 7,000 jumps. Advanced Instructor & Examiner, Scotty uses the latest equipment and teaching techniques for best results.

Airwaves International Skydiving School

78 Bexley High Street, Bexley, Kent DA5 1LB
Tel: 01322 557375
Mobile: 07802 472 566
France: 00 33 (0) 619 605 997
skydive@air-waves.co.uk
www.air-waves.co.uk
BPA Approved instructors Rod Bartholomew (22 years experience), Chris Lynch (ex XL), & Coco Cazalas (USPA) offer AFF, RAPS / RAPS progression, tandem, FS, FF and team coaching at our beautiful seaside resorts in Royan, Corsica and Florida. Operating full-time all year, our professional and personal skydiving holidays have everything. Video included. UK support on return.

British Collegiate Parachute Ass

Jo Redman - Treasurer
18 Berne Avenue, Westlands, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 2QJ
www.bcpa.org.uk
waawaawaa@hotmail.com
Affiliated Universities: Anglia, Bath, Bristol, Dundee, UEA, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Kent/Canterbury, Leeds, Loughborough, Luton, Manchester, Newcastle, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Queens Belfast, Reading, Salford, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam, Staffordshire, Teeside, York.

David Morris Action Sports

2 Daleside, Cotgrave,
Nottingham NG12 3QA
Tel/Fax: 0115 989 2050
Mobile: 0777 498 6600

E-mail: dave@daleside2.demon.co.uk
www.dalesside2.demon.co.uk

Dave specialises in AFF courses and tandem introductions in the UK, Spain and France. The AFF course includes free jumpsuit, altimeter, helmet, goggles, video log with re-jumps at cost. A great deal if you want to learn to skydive. Dave has over 7,000 jumps and is a BPA Instructor, Examiner, tandem and AFF.

East Coast Parachute Centre

8 Burns Crescent, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0TS
Tel: 01245 268772
Currently sharing facilities with the London Parachute School at Lewknor drop zone.

FreeFall Company

The Coach House, West St, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7RL
Tel: 01372 801 851
Mobile: 0796 871 2020
Tel: (Spain) 00 34 619 356 202
kevin@freefallco.com www.freefallco.com
Operated by Kevin McCarthy, National Champion with over 6,000 jumps and over 18 years experience. Probably the best AFF school in Europe. State of the art equipment and professional, personalised training gives you safe, rapid progression to Category 10 and beyond! Videos with all jumps. Courses available all year in the Costa Brava. Flexible payment to suit YOU!

Manchester Parachute School

23 Heywood Gardens,
Prestwich, Manchester M25 1FW
Contact: Chris Miller
Tel: 0161 798 6895 Mobile: 0777 057 5621
chris.miller@zetnet.co.uk
www.manchesterparachuteschool.com
Based in Stockport, Manchester with 2,000 sq ft of full time dedicated training premises for RAPS static line & AFF courses. We also offer tandem skydives and AFF courses in the UK at weekends. Train midweek day/evening & jump at weekend. All AFF jumps include FREE video. Operating at Black Knights PC. See our web site for more details.

Parachute Training Services

11 Godwyn Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 1BU
Tel/Fax: 01235 529570
doug@paratrg.demon.co.uk
www.paratrg.demon.co.uk
Run by Doug Peacock, BPA Instructor/Examiner. The complete RAPS package, PTS offers one jump introductory courses with the option of individual progression training through Cat 8 and advanced grades. Operating at Hinton Airfield in conjunction with Hinton Skydiving Centre. Six days per week, call for further information.

PhD Skydiving

Shrewton, Wilts SP3 4JY
Tel: 01980 621363 M: 07971 665815
off@phdskydiving.co.uk
www.phdskydiving.co.uk
Friendly, professional AFF school and skydive U coaching run by Martin Williams, BPA examiner, AFF instructor and Skydive U coach. Providing clients with small, personalised courses all year in California, Spain and UK. Emphasis on continued support in UK post course. Video on all jumps, only best equipment used.

Pops UK

Pete Shew, 6a Amphill Rd, Shefford, Beds, SG17 5BD
Tel: 01462 638312
pete@thepops.com www.thepops.com
A society of skydivers over forty. Regular national and international meets at host parachute centres.

Red Devils

Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 678211 (Chief Instructor)
Tel: 01980 678203 (Courses)
Fax: 01980 678349
Displays, tandem and RAPS courses.

Scottish Sports Parachute Association

Bunny McGeechan (Chairman, SSPA),
Strathallan Airfield,
Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1BE
Tel: 01698 812 443 (weekdays)

Tel: 01764 662 572 (weekends)
www.sspa.co.uk e-mail: info@sspa.co.uk
Newsgroup: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scotpa
The SSPA aims to promote parachuting in Scotland and provide training grants and subsidies for all aspects of the sport.

Skydive Academy

PO Box 192, Durham DH1 5WD
Contact: Ian Rosenvinge
Tel/Fax: 0191 386 5261
Mobile: 0786 015 6779
skydiveamy@aol.com
http://members.aol.com/skydiveamy
7 day AFF courses our speciality. Late May-mid September at Peterlee. Outside this period, courses can be arranged abroad. Centre 15 mins drive from Durham city (2.45hrs from Kings Cross and less than 2 hrs from Edinburgh). B&B in local pubs from £12.50, in Durham City from £18.

Skydive Limited

Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280066 Fax: 01832 280067
M: 0785 000 7178 skydive@ukgateway.net
Chris Allen, Ex Red Devil, CCI, BPA AFF/Tandem Examiner, USPA Safety and Training advisor and Skydive University UK co-ordinator. Offers AFF courses in America, Spain, Germany and the UK. Also available; team coaching, Skydive University one-on-one programme and tandem.

Overseas Associated Organisations

The BPA takes no responsibility for any training or advice given by these organisations as they do not necessarily operate under the BPA Operations Manual

CPCB

PO Box 194, 17487
Empuriabrava, Spain
Tel: 00 34 972 45 01 11
Fax: 00 34 972 45 07 49
cpcb@gna.es www.skyrats.com
Skydive Spain! AFF courses (1 tandem, 7 jumps with air-to-air video), tandem flights, freestyle school, Babylon freestyle school, Skydive U, free load organising, team coaching (special rates), gear hire (with Cyprus). Pilatus Porter and Twin Otter all year. All jumps from 12,500ft. Open all year – and now club house, tennis and pool!

Freefall Adventures

440 S Airport Road,
Lake Wales, FL 33853, USA
Tel: 00 1 863 679 9779
Fax: 00 1 863 679 9449
skydivemik@aol.com
www.fvadventures.com
BPA and USPA qualified instructors. Owned by Brit Mick Hall. Otters and Casas. Over 600 acres, classrooms, state of the art equipment, undercover packing, wind tunnel training, free camping, showers, bunk rooms, rigging, store, restaurant.

Skydive City / Z-Hills

4241 Skydive Lane, Zephyrhills, FL 33540, USA
Tel: 001 813 783 9399
Fax: 001 813 782 0599
www.skydivcity.com
Visit Skydive City / Z-Hills – Florida's #1 skydiving centre with full time Super Otters. covered packing, RV park, free camping, Sunshine Factory and rigging shop on site, AFF, tandem, video available. BPA instructors.

Skydive Sebastian

400 W Airport Drive, Sebastian, FL 32958, USA
Tel: 001 561 388 5672
Fax: 001 561 388 2105
info@skydiveseb.com
www.skydiveseb.com
Seb XL: pete_allum@compuserve.com
BPA and USPA qualified training. Aircraft – Super Otter, Super Casa. AFF, tandem, home of Skydive U, freestyle coaching, team training from Sebastian XL. Equipped team rooms, gym, volleyball, bunk-house, camping, beach jumps, load organising, rigging service, accommodation arranged.



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The Airfield,
Headcorn,
Kent TN27 9HX

Tel: 01622
890967
Fax: 01622
891236

Email:
sybiosis.suits@
btinternet.com



PARAMASTER ALTITOP



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fittings &
2 year Warranty

Altimeter
Service Centre

28 High Street, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY113 1AU

Tel/Fax: 01948 - 662179

48 ALEXANDRA ROAD COWES ISLE OF WIGHT PO31 7JT

AIRSPORTS

FAST, RELIABLE AND FRIENDLY ADVICE FOR SKY DIVING,
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Fax: 01354 740406

Email: chatpara@aol.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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Big Stuff, Fun Stuff, Party Stuff,
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With Sebastian XL, Lyle Presse, Rob Silver
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Rob Stevenson, Pete Allum, Steve Hamilton



www.dropshopsales.com



www.skydiving.com



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For more information 561 388 5672
email: info@skydiveseb.com - www.skydiveseb.com

Call for information on our organized summer events!

Diary Dates

APRIL

22-28 Go Vertical Boogie

Skydive Portugal skydiveportugal@aol.com
www.skydive-portugal.com

24 BPA Council Meeting

BPA Office
0116 2785 skydive@bpa.org.uk

27 Ann Summers Party

Hinton 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

27-8M European Freestyle Cup

Skydive Portugal
skydiveportugal@aol.com
www.skydive-portugal.com

28-1M Freestyle Contest

Lapalisse, France
00 334 70 99 18 03
www.lapalisse-aero.com

28-6M Airspeed Skills Camp

Eloy Arizona
001 520 466 3753
29 Florida Skydiving League - Meet 4
Skydive City 001 813 783 9399

MAY

4-7 Red Devils CF Weekend

Netheravon
01980 678 211
reddevils@reddevilsonline.com

4-7 BCPA Northern Nationals

Cark
DZ 01539 558 672
Northern@bcpa.org.uk www.bcpa.org.uk

5-7 Scrambles Competition

RAFSPA, Weston
01869 343 343

5-7 Cinco De Mayo Boogie

The Ranch Parachute Club, USA
001 914 255 9538

5-13 Langar Boogie

Langar
01949 860 878
Info@bsplangar.co.uk
www.bsplangar.co.uk

5-7 18th Anniversary Boogie

Wild Geese, Northern Ireland
028 295 58609
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

5-7 Classics & CF Grand Prix

Bridlington
01262 677 367

12-13 Pops Ladies Day

Perris Valley
001 909 679 9321

18-20 Airspeed Tunnel Camp

Orlando, Florida
www.tunnelcamp.com

19-20 Tandem Record Attempt

Hinton
01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

19-20 FS Grand Prix

Wild Geese, N Ireland
028 295 58609
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

19-27 Spring Boogie

Lapalisse, France
00 334 70 99 18 03
www.lapalisse-aero.com

20 Florida Skydiving League Meet 5

Skydive Deland
001 904 738 3539

21-23 Airspeed Tunnel Camp

Orlando Florida
www.tunnelcamp.com

24-31 Space Games World Championships

Skydive America Palm Beach, USA
freestyle, skysurf and freestyle
ffclown@aol.com www.10lav.com

24-27 2nd Speed Skydiving World Cup

Lapalisse, France
www.speedskydiving.net
www.lapalisse-aero.com
00 33 4 70 99 18 03

25-27 Benelux Accuracy Championship

Skydive Malle, Zoersel, Belgium
Goris Fons 00 32 1524 7011
skydive.malle@skynet.be

25-28 PD Weekend

Netheravon with Grounded band
01980 678 250
apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com

26-28 Mini Freestyle Festival

Sibson Alex Meacock & Giles Fabris
01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com
www.skydivesibson.com

26-28 Rodders 4-way Meet

RAFSPA, Weston
01869 343 343

26-28 Scottish Nationals

Strathallan
4 & 8-way FS, CF, freestyle,
freestyle, skysurf, classics
07774 686 161 / 01764 662 572
kbrady@fsbdial.co.uk

26-28 POPS Meet

North West, Cark
pete@thepops.com www.thepops.com
01462 638 312

26-28 Spring Fling

Skydive Sebastian
001 561 388 5672 info@skydiveseb.com
www.skydiveseb.com

26-28 Turbine Madness & Arizona Challenge

Eloy Arizona
001 520 466 3753

27 Barking Bob's Night

for Guide Dogs for the Blind DJ Richie
Birdland Bar, P'boro 01832 280 404

JUNE

2-3 Speed 8-way

Headcorn
01622 890 862
skydive@headcorn.u-net.com

2-4 All Ireland Open Boogie

Wild Geese, Northern Ireland
028 295 58609
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

7-10 Para-Performance Pro Cup

Perris Valley Skydiving
paraprotour@excite.com

9-16 RAPA Meet

Bad Lippspringe, Germany
FS, Classics, Pond Swoop & Balloon Jumps
004 952 54 982 740
awright91@aol.com

16-17 FS Grand Prix

Hibaldstow
0113 250 5600
info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydiving.co.uk

19 BPA Council Meeting

BPA Office
0116 2785 271 skydive@bpa.org.uk

23-11 World Air Games

Granada, Spain
World Championships in FS, freestyle,
skysurf, CF, style & accuracy
Also a huge range of aerial sports

23-11 Fun/Progression Week

Black Knights, Cockerham
01524 791 820
jeff@payco.net www.bkpc.co.uk

23-11 Bargain Week Boogie

Target Skysports
0113 250 5600
info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydiving.co.uk

23-4 Tandem Weekend

Hinton 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

JULY

2-6 BCPA Nationals

Hibaldstow
DZ 0113 250 5600
BCPA Awrigh58@ford.com
www.bcpa.org.uk

7-8 Andy Kelly 4-way Meet

Headcorn
01622 890 862
skydive@headcorn.u-net.com

7-15 CF Spektakel

Teuge Holland
CF seminar, coaching and equipment
00 31 23 531 11 17
Bunkhouse: 00 31 55 323 24 62
CF spektakel@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/pipeline/slope/6750

9-15 Airspeed Skills Camp

Royan, France
Mark Kirkby and Craig Girard
07802 472 566 skydive@air-waves.co.uk

13-15 Speed Skydiving Cup

Texel, Holland
www.speedskydiving.net

14-15 Classics & CF Grand Prix

Border PC, Brunton
01665 589 000
skydivenorth@email.msn.com
www.borderparachute.co.uk

14-21 Swedish Freestyle Festival

Charles Bryan, Eli Thompson
and Adrian Nicholas
004 6707 97 97 57
www.skydiveskane.m.se/friflag
freestyle@skydiveskane.m.se

15-22 Pre FS Nationals Team/Coaching Week

Royan, France
pre UK Nationals team 4 & 8-way
training/coaching week by Mark Kirkby
07802 472 566 skydive@air-waves.co.uk

20-22 FS Nationals

1st weekend - 4-way

Hibaldstow
0113 250 5600
info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydiving.co.uk

27-29 FS Nationals

2nd weekend - 4 and 8-way

Hibaldstow
May be used to complete the 4-way.
0113 250 5600
info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydiving.co.uk

Crossword

Across

- 1 Cool headed, 5 Fall, 9 Tutor,
- 11 Triathlon, 12 High time, 13 Cessna,
- 15 Pins, 16 Atmosphere, 19 California,
- 20 Spud, 23 Airmen, 25 Horizons,
- 27 Turbulent, 28 Drive, 29 Dirt,
- 30 Deployment

Solutions

Down

- 1 Catch up, 2 Octagonal, 3 Altimeters,
- 4 Exit, 6 Atlas, 7 Linkage, 8 Attempt, 10
- Rate, 14 Horizontal, 17 Explosive,
- 18 Offer up, 19 Coasted, 21 Descent,
- 22 Wind, 24 Rarer, 26 Here

27-29 2-way Canopy Formation Skydiving Cup

Besançon
00 33 662 70 89 33
cbalisky@skyservices.net
www.skyservices.net

28 30th Anniversary Dance

Sibson
Party, Dinner and Dance
01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com
www.skydivesibson.com

28-31 Espace Boogie

boogie@espace-boogie.com
www.espace-boogie.com

AUGUST

3-5 Classics & CF Nationals 1st weekend

Bridlington
01262 677 367

3-12 Extravaganza / Skills Camp

Strathallan
kbrady@fsdbial.co.uk
07774 686 161 / 01764 662 572
www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk

4-5 POPS Meet

Sibson, Peterborough
pete@thepops.com www.thepops.com

4-6 Irish Open Nationals

Irish PC, Clonbullogue
00353 405 30103 Fax 00353 872 3161

4-12 World Freefall Convention

Quincy, Illinois, USA
001 217 222 5867
wffc@freefall.com www.freefall.com

10-12 Classics & CF Nationals 2nd weekend

Bridlington
01262 677 367

11-17 French Nationals

Gap 0033 4 92 54 0239
skydivgap@online.fr

14-23 World Games

Akita, Japan
FS freestyle, skysurf, CF, style & accuracy

16-25 Operation Royal Salute

Memorial jump to honour
King Hussein of Jordan
www.paradventure.org

17-19 New Age Nationals

Sibson, Peterborough
Will continue on 24-26 August if necessary
01832 280 490 www.skydivesibson.com

18-26 Karlovy Vary Boogie

Pete Marsden
pete@boogieclub.co.uk
01932 701 321 www.boogieclub.co.uk

18-27 Fun/Progression Week

Black Knights, Cockerham
01524 791 820
jeff@payco.net www.bkpc.co.uk

21 BPA Council Meeting

BPA Office
0116 2785 271 skydive@bpa.org.uk

24-26 2-way Canopy Formation Skydiving Cup

Moorsele 00 33 662 70 89 33
cbalisky@skyservices.net
www.skyservices.net

25 Headstock Balloon Festival

Headcorn 01622 890 862
skydive@headcorn.u-net.com

25-26 Dicko 16-way Meet

RAFSPA, Weston
01869 343 343

25-27 Third Annual Speed Freaks & International Competition

Target Skysports
0113 250 5600 info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydiving.co.uk
www.speedskydiving.net

SEPTEMBER

1-2 LAC Meet

Headcorn
01622 890 862
skydive@headcorn.u-net.com

1-2 FS Grand Prix

Langar
01949 860 878 bpslangar@aol.com

1-2 POPS Meet

Target, Hibaldstow
pete@thepops.com www.thepops.com

8-9 Big Tandem Weekend

Hinton
01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

8-10 5-Nations Competition

Wild Geese, Northern Ireland
4-way FS, accuracy and freestyle
028 295 58609
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

15-16 Classics & CF Grand Prix

Wild Geese, Northern Ireland
028 295 58609
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

22-30 European Freely Convention

Lapalisse, France
00 334 70 99 18 03
www.lapalisse-aero.com

OCTOBER

4-7 World Cup Test Event

Skydive Portugal
4, 8 and 16-way FS, freestyle, skysurfing
skydiveportugal@aol.com
www.skydive-portugal.com

6-14 Big Way Boogie

Skydive Nagambie, Australia
Louise Cross 0061 3 5794 2626

20-28 US Nationals

Skydive Arizona
001 520 466 3753

23 BPA Council Meeting

BPA Office
0116 2785 271 skydive@bpa.org.uk

27 End Of Season Party

RAFSPA, Weston
01869 343 343

27-28 Halloween Meet

Target Skysports
0113 250 5600
info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydiving.co.uk

27-31 Halloween Boogie

Lapalisse, France
00 33 4 70 90 18 03
www.lapalisse-aero.com

NOVEMBER

TBA Cyprus Challenge

Paphos, Cyprus
120-way race and national record attempt
Tony@cypruschallenge.aviators.net
www.cypruschallenge.com

20-28 Para-Performance World Games

Perris Valley, USA
extreme pilots canopy meet
paraprotour@excite.com

DECEMBER

11 BPA Council Meeting

BPA Office
0116 2785 271
skydive@bpa.org.uk

15 Christmas Dinner Dance

Bushtown House Hotel, Coleraine
Wild Geese, Northern Ireland
028 295 58609
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

15 Christmas Dinner and Party

Target Skysports
0113 250 5600 info@targetsky.demon.co.uk
www.skydiving.co.uk

26-31 National Championships

Ramblers Parachute Centre
Toogoolawah South Queensland
FS, CF, skysurfing, freestyle & freely
007 33 99 6400 info@ramblers.com
www.ramblers.com.au

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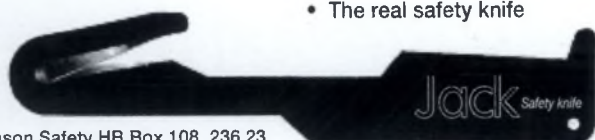
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00 45 46 757722 www.Land.B.dk	
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01354 740810 chalpara@aol.com	
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00 44 (0) 15395 58672	
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00 44 (0) 1482 635 483 chappy@original-lizard.com	
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00 33 (0) 134 32 77 77 Parachutes-de-france@csi.com	
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001 847 679 5905 sales@paragear.com	
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00 49 683 773 75 infosave@paratec.de	
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001 904 738 2224 www.performance-designs.com	
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07774 686161 www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk	
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