

skydive

The Mag



The British Parachute
Association Magazine

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December 2001



Some wait
for evolution ...
Others make
it happen.

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From Performance Designs

skydive The Mag

out on the sixteenth of every other month

editorial

The Mag

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Check out my new Olympus E10 digital camera, a gift from Olympus well worth celebrating! The camera will be put to great use for the Mag. This is the start of a partnership between Skydive Mag and with Olympus, ideal bedfellows as we both aim for excellence in photography.

You can see a new feature, Olympus Spotlight on pages 4-8 which focusses on stunning images. Photographers, send in your shots and have the spotlight turned on you. Watch out too for future articles aimed at improving knowledge of photography. For starters, Brian Vacher has written a superb piece on flying camera for FS, see pages 39-43.

We will be bringing the Olympus E10 to the AGM, visit our stand and have your mugshot taken for posterity. We'd like to build up a library of people snaps for future use.

Also at the AGM, we will be running an open forum to see how we are doing against your expectations and what we can do better. The Mag represents 30% of your annual BPA membership fee, we'd like to give you what you want. I know that most of you have a view on the Mag's style, approach and content. Here's your chance to express it. Please give input for topics for discussion, whether you will be there or not. Email me your ideas, or leave them on our redesigned website. These will be passed to Simon Ward who is chairing the session and who will also take input on the day. We undertake to communicate the findings of the session back to you in the next Mag and also to the BPA communications committee.

Have a great festive season, whatever you're up to and I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in January.

Photo: Simon Ward with Olympus Digital

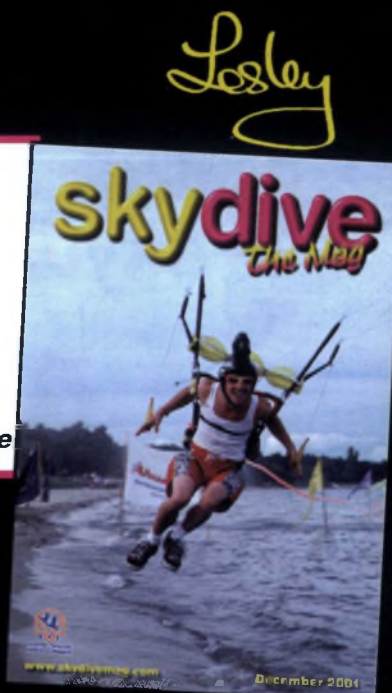


deadlines

Issue	Copy Deadline	To Reader
February	6 Jan	16 Feb
April	6 March	16 Apr
June	6 May	16 Jun
August	6 July	16 Aug

- out on the sixteenth of every other month
- copy deadline is the sixth of the month before

to subscribe
see page 9



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The Prince of Wales

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skydive
December 2001

Bruno Brokken took this shot to celebrate the parachute centre at Empuriabrava being the first centre in Europe to make its 100,000th jump! Empuria hopes to reach their targeted number of 120,000 jumps for the year by the end of their celebratory Christmas boogie with their new Twin Otter.



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 mag 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.

SUPPORTED BY



Front Cover
Taken by Hans Berggren at the
Swedish Freefly Festival



skydive *The Mag*

Out on the sixteenth of every other month

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OLYMPUS Spotlight



In conjunction with Olympus, we will have a dedicated photospread each issue.

These lovely shots were taken by Simon Ward on an Olympus digital camera but, of course, images from any camera or photographer will be considered.

To submit your work for 'Spotlight', send between 8 and 20 high quality shots and 50-250 words about them. A theme is preferable but you could also just submit your best pieces of work with the theme being YOU!

We urge all photographers out there to send your submissions to:

Spotlight, The Mag,
Station Road, Ailsworth,
Peterborough PE5 7AH.

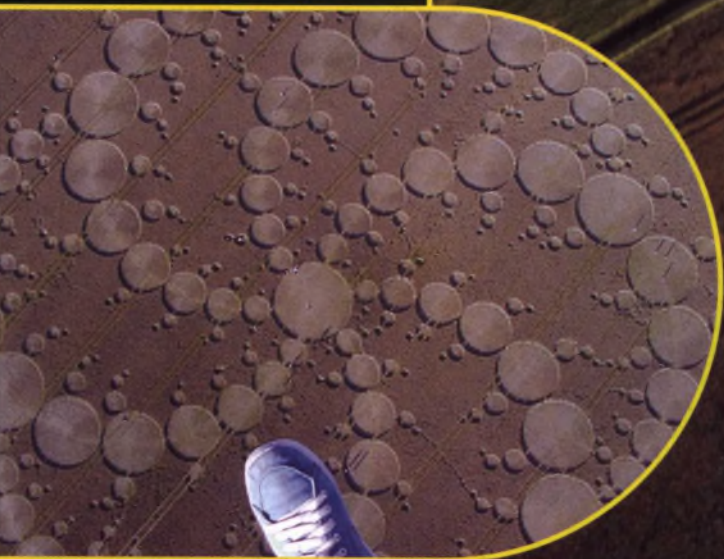
For further advice on photo submissions:
call The Mag on
01733 380 568
or check out the advice guidelines in the
contributors section of
www.skydivemag.com



The most impressive crop circle ever built in the UK is surely this one, just near Netheravon. Apart from the mega formation, which consists of 427 different circles, there are two more crop circles in the main picture and a white horse (probably drunk on his own Scotch)!



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YOU KNOW YOU WANT IT !



Photo: Simon Ward (Olympus digital) and Annette Bollmann

The Mag is, first and foremost, the British Parachute Association (BPA) magazine but we have an increasing number of non BPA members who subscribe just because they like it. First jump students, interested spectators and adventure sports enthusiasts all enjoy The Mag. Let's face it, you can't read it without someone looking over your shoulder!

If you subsequently join the BPA as a full member (after six jumps or when you progress to freefall) your magazine subscription amount is deducted from your BPA membership fee so, in all, **you don't pay any extra.**

UK £28 Ex BPA member £24 OVERSEAS (Afr) £35 Ex BPA member £30

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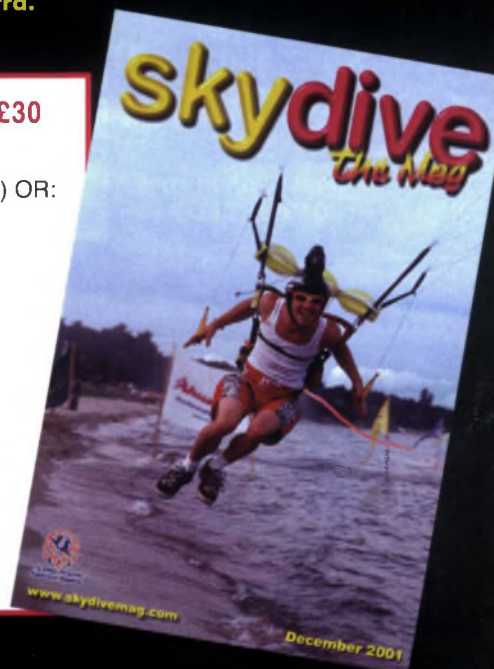
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JM's Newsround

Compiled by
John Mayo

Simon Ward



16-way World Record

At the 2001 US National Championships at Arizona in October, *Airspeed Blue* team posted a score of 19 formations. This set a new world record for 16-way FS and beat the Australians' record of 16, set in October 1998.

www.omniskore.com/comp/2001/nats/results_16.htm



RICKERBY'S BACK IN TOWN

World famous Brit artist Dave Rickerby, who's been living in the US for over 20 years, is back in the UK. Dave has been a professional painter for most of his life. His work has been critically acclaimed in New York where his pieces have fetched thousands of dollars. He is currently working on a commission for de Montfort University and is now available for private pieces, painted to order, from smallish items like pop top covers to massive paintings like the one on the left. He'd also like to hear from any of his old friends.

01162 246 614

davidrickerby@hotmail.com

Time Ooot!

Colin Bridges, Scottish cameraflyer for the British national 8-way team, VNE, has taken over production of the *Time-Out* from the infamous George Pilkington. Enquiries about the *Time-Out* audible alti should be made to Colin, who knows his stuff as he worked for George for several years.

colinbridges@yahoo.com
01992 715 244

New Sponsorship for TeamX



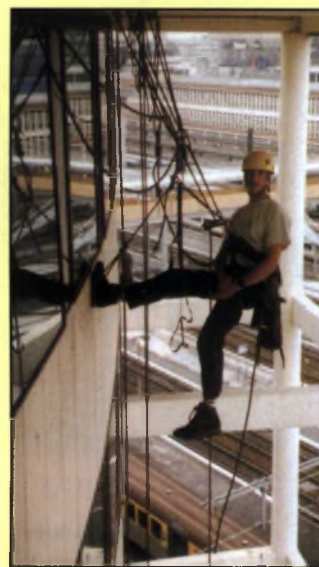
Tony Danbury



TeamX have got some new sponsorship from a French company called **Inaccess**. The company does high level, near impossible access work, maintenance, cleaning and reparation, all over Europe, and are looking to take on more work from the UK. They use advanced abseiling and climbing techniques to gain access to these areas (see *Team X* member Alan Fielding right).

They are happy to support the team as the perceived high risk, preparation and safety considerations taken into account in our discipline match the nature of their expertise. Although they work, we play. This is quite an accomplishment to have a French company sponsoring a British team!

www.teamx.org



JUMP to it

Professional photographer, Simon Ward (left) is looking to put together new skydiving themed proposals for film, video and photography.

1. **Have you an idea** that either works visually on the day (demo orientated) or through filming?
2. **Is there something you do** that needs to appear in a four minute film? It could be a

sequence, a freefall move, canopy handling, base exit, camera angle, a stunt, or anything under the theme of 'jump'.

Let Simon know if you have such ideas and would like to be involved.

Simon Ward
sward@pobox.com



4 Point 106-way

Roger Ponce De Leon, Kate Cooper and Tony Domineco organised a slot perfect, four point 106-way in which the final formation was held for ten seconds.

The jumps utilised three Casas and an Otter with an exit altitude of between 15,000 and 17,000 feet, using oxygen. The sky silhouetted the jumpers so from the ground the formation could be seen clearly as it built. The team had pushed uncharted territory for a world first.

British participation in the event saw Gary McGuinness and Jon Griggs take part. The drop zone, Cross Keys also just happens to be owned by a Brit – John Eddowes.

Kate Cooper: kate@square1.com
www.raoulgravell.com
www.flyingeyes.com
www.skeff.com



jm's newsround

IPC PROPOSED DIVE POOL CHANGES

The major proposed change is a reduction of the existing pool in size. The numbering and lettering has been adjusted accordingly.

4-WAY FS

Delete yuan and twins, sno-sno, sideflake opal – turf, sideflake donut – sideflake opal, bipole – bipole.

8-WAY FS

Delete rubick and cat, double Chinese tee – double donut, inout – bipole donut, cat diamond – cat accordion, block 24 completely and reduce the three point blocks 22 and 23 to two points.

FURTHER CHANGE

Instead of ten rounds (eight plus semifinal and final) there is a proposal to downsize to seven rounds including the semifinal and final.

If you are not updated yet you can find the proposed pool on the German FAI judge website:
www.schiri.klaus-wellens.de

The decision on these proposals will be made at the next IPC meeting in January 2002, input is invited.

Pal Bergan
 FS subcommittee chairman
pal.bergan@online.no

Empuria - AADs Mandatory

After much deliberation the following decisions have been taken by the Centro De Paracaidismo Costa Brava (CPCB) at Empuriabrava, Spain.

1. From the beginning of the Christmas Boogie on 15 December 2001, every skydiver doing freeflying will be required to use an AAD.
2. From 1 March 2002 the use of an AAD will be mandatory for all skydivers of all disciplines jumping at Empuria.

cpcb@gna.es
www.skyrats.com



Happy (Tunnel) Campers

Arizona Airspeed have been holding tunnel training camps in the SkyVenture freefall simulator in DeLand, Florida. Dates for 2002 camps are in the diary (inside back cover).

Pre-AFF Tunnel Programme

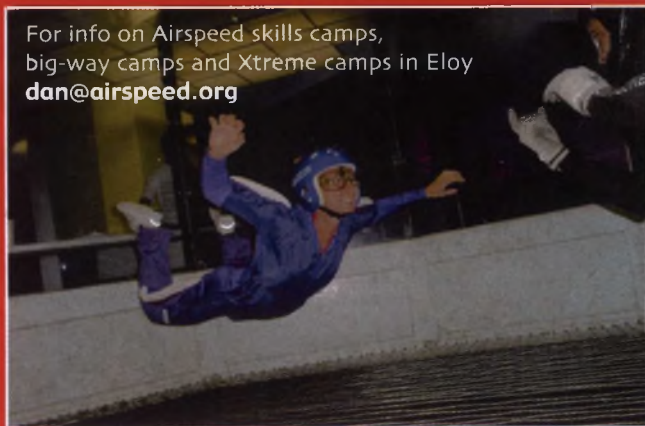
TunnelCamp have great success training skydivers who have become stuck on a particular level of AFF. Many are referred by their AFF instructors. At the last camp a 14 year old boy who had never jumped was doing vertical transitions over his dad, 540 degree turns in place with his eyes closed, super-positioning, side slides and even some freeflying!

4-way Tunnel Training Package

Airspeed have developed a special TunnelCamp package for 4-way teams, including both individual flying and 4-way specific material and lectures.

Alan Metni
www.airspeed.org
www.TunnelCamp.com

For info on Airspeed skills camps, big-way camps and Xtreme camps in Eloy
dan@airspeed.org



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Whether you're a first time jumper or have thousands of jumps under your belt, there's something for you at the AGM. Apart from the optional dinner it is all FREE. Check out the latest news, products and developments. Learn at the many seminars. Meet the people you read about in The Mag. Have your say at one of the open forums. In the evening, it's party time with the annual dinner and dance.



Photos: Simon Ward Olympus Digital

Venue: Hanover International Hotel

A5 Watling Street, Hinckley, Leicestershire.
Tel: 01455 631122

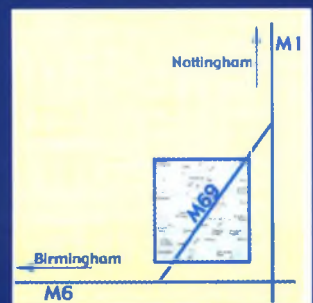
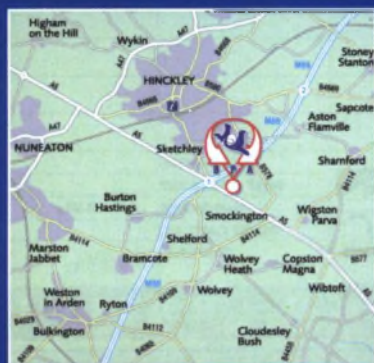
To reserve accommodation call the hotel, quoting reference BPA for the special rate of £75 per twin/double room or £65 for single occupancy (including breakfast and car park). Book before Christmas to avoid disappointment. If you are too late for the Hanover, you can try the nearby: Sketchley Grange Hotel: 01455 251133

Directions to the Hanover:

By road: Leave the M69 at junction 1. Take the A5 exit signposted to London & Milton Keynes, the hotel is 300 yards on the left (see maps below).

By air: via Birmingham International Airport.

By train: via Coventry Railway Station



AGM AGENDA Saturday 19 January 2002

10.30am: AGM & Presentations

AGM Agenda

- To receive and adopt, if approved, the Report of the Chairman of Council
- To consider any item(s) of special business*
- To set subscriptions payable by non-provisional members for the 12 months beginning 1 April 2002
- To close the formal proceedings of the AGM
- Presentation Ceremony

*Note: Members are reminded that under Article 13 of the Articles of Association, only such business as is notified to the BPA in writing, at least 40 days prior to the date of the meeting (by midnight on Monday 10 December 2001) can be included under agenda item 2, Special Business.

All Day: Exhibition

There will be a showcase of skydiving products, equipment and services, including a VR parachute simulator. It's an ideal time to order new gear for the coming season. Rig, jumpsuit and helmet manufacturers will all be there to take measurements and give advice. When else would you find so much expertise all in the same room?

Exhibition space (free) may still be available, call the BPA: 0116 278 5271.

Afternoon: Seminars

There are meetings of the DZ Defence Fund, display teams and tandem instructors. Plus many interesting and informative seminars from top names in the sport, including:

- **Canopy Formation** – Aaron Hearsom & Aron Jones, Red Devils
- **Speed Skydiving** – Ian Chapman & Craig Poxon
- **Freefly** – Paul Floyd
- **Mantis Position** – VMax
- **Camera Flying** – Brian Vacher

5pm: Open Forums

● Competitions Committee

Have your say on competitive skydiving topics to a committee which has made a name for listening and acting on the views of those in the field.

● So, you want to edit The Mag...

This session is aimed at:

- measuring how we're doing
- seeing what we can do better in future
- helping you get your items published

Even if you're not going to be there please give input for topics, by email, through the website or on the day. The findings of the session will be reported in the next Mag and to the BPA.

7.30pm: Drinks

8pm: Dinner

In the evening don your posh togs and sit down to a formal dinner. Tables seat 10 or 11 (12 at a pinch). Why not organise a group? We sold out last year so book early. Tickets are £21, call the BPA: 0116 278 5271. State seating preference and vegetarian option if desired.

9pm: Dance

After dinner, the Sibson-based skydiving band Grounded are back by popular demand after their great gig at last year's AGM. Celebrations Disco will be playing too. There's no charge to come to the band and disco and we really look forward to seeing you there.

Dinner Dance Menu

Home Made Cream of Asparagus Soup
with Crisp Croutons

Chicken Chasseur with a White Wine Sauce,
Mushrooms, Tarragon and Tomatoes

or (if ordered on booking) Vegetarian Option:
Vegetable Wellington with a Port and Stilton Sauce

Served with fresh seasonal vegetables

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Smothered in White Chocolate Sauce

Coffee and Mints



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December 2001

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STAYIN' alive



Hans Berggren

Justine Shotton, newbie skydiver with 65 jumps, visits the World Freefall Convention.

She gives some friendly advice on the most important thing when you go to any large skydiving gathering:



STAYIN' ALIVE!

The lessons were learned at Quincy but apply to any boogie you may be lucky enough to go to





Photos: Mike McGowan

As a new jumper, with memories of holding a static line at Weston still fresh in my memory, the prospect of the biggest boogie in the world was one of excitement mixed with dread.

Before embarking on the adventure I heard numerous stories and had been warned of the dangers facing all skydivers there – but it was hard to envisage the atmosphere until I arrived and saw for myself.

My objectives for the event were to learn a lot whilst having fun and improving my skydiving, but overall to stay alive.

The first problem as an inexperienced jumper was the lack of my own rig – a rather crucial piece of kit – so the first couple of days were spent investigating demo stalls, talking about what would be suitable to try. Over the next ten days I had a fantastic time, working for the Monkey Claw Freely team, jumping hard and playing harder! The following advice is based on what I learned whilst at Quincy, and hopefully will help any novice jumpers thinking of jumping there – or at any other DZ or boogie abroad.

Jumping in the USA and many other foreign countries is a learning experience in itself. You don't have to wear a helmet, you don't get flight line checks and the licensing requirements are different. Having been mothered by the stringent safety rules that exist in Britain it was a speedy plunge into the big bad world out there. It soon became apparent that there was nobody who would look after you if you didn't look after yourself. The best strategy I found was to mentally go through everything I needed to do to stay as safe as possible, every single jump.

Event:	The World Freefall Convention
Location:	Quincy, Airport, Illinois, USA
History:	This is the event's 12 th year
Participation:	3,244 registered skydivers - !!
Countries represented:	44
Duration:	10 days
Jumps made:	Over 54,000
Aircraft:	Otters, Skyvans, King Air, B-17, B-24, T-6, Bell 412 helicopters, biplanes, hot air balloon and more

These are the checks I went through:

1. Check your gear thoroughly before putting it on

This is something you should always do anyway but are in danger of neglecting if you know you're going to have a flight line check. Checking your gear is particularly important if it is demo kit as you don't know its history and it may not have been fully checked by the busy packers in between jumps by different people. Also, you need to familiarise yourself with handles in different places and possible new systems. Check the harness fits you correctly and you can easily locate all your handles. Find out if the rig has an RSL and a Cypres. If it doesn't, think how comfortable you are with jumping without one, bearing in mind you're jumping at an extremely busy boogie in an area you're not familiar with. These days most of the demo rigs DO have one, but make sure you find out before you're at 13,000ft! *(Remember though, altitude awareness and good reserve drills are most important of all – an AAD is just back-up to taking action yourself – Ed)* It's a good idea just to ask someone you trust to check you over before you get in the plane. Most people are very happy to do this and it may pick up a problem you didn't spot



Tony Danbury

2. Don't downsize

Although demo gear is there to give you the opportunity to try out different canopies, remember it isn't a good idea to go for something smaller than you've jumped and are happy with. Every canopy is different and there may be significant changes in the flight characteristics of the demo canopy from your normal one; for example, it may be partially or fully elliptical, hence making it respond differently. Talk to the people in charge of the demo gear, who will be able to advise you on how best to fly it. It is especially important that you are confident with the canopy you're flying at a boogie such as Quincy, since there is a high chance you will land off. The helicopter landing area is not near the main airport, and with balloon jumps and bad spots you WILL be landing off.



John Mayo

5. Be ready early

It may sound obvious, but put your gear on before you get in the plane! It's not worth compromising your life just to get on a 'now' call. Take your time, be happy with your gear, check you've got everything (alti, helmet, goggles, rig) and then chill. This will relax you giving you time to concentrate on the dive and eliminating a needless last-minute struggle, trying to do up leg straps whilst sitting on the floor of a crowded Otter! Be happy with who you're jumping with. Plan every dive so you get the most out of your air time. Ask someone you trust to give you a pin check in the plane too.



6. Check your airspace in freefall before deploying

At Quincy there are three parallel jump runs so there are trillions of people in the sky at once. A lot of the jumpers will be from Cessna DZs, so they're only used to maybe six people in the sky. Their lack of awareness together with your low experience level produces a potentially dangerous situation. So, it's important to continually check your airspace. This means looking everywhere around you and above you before you pull. If you're not safe to deploy, track away, re-check and then pull if it's safe *(but watch your altitude – Ed)*. It's a good idea to break off a little higher than usual so you've got a bit more altitude available if you need it. Tell the jumpmaster if you're planning on pulling high, and tell them what type of flying you're doing and with how many people.



Tim Porter

7. Constantly check your airspace under canopy

Once under canopy and all the way down, continually be looking around you, as with so many faster canopies in the sky it is easy for them to come out of nowhere. Avoid the flight paths of other parachutes early – even though you may have seen them, they may not have seen you and so it's best not to leave it until the last minute.



Hans Bergren

3. Check the wind direction before you jump

Checking the wind and orientating your landing direction with the sun means that, if you do land off, you'll know which way is into wind. There is a massive tetrahedron at Quincy to indicate the wind direction, so make sure you're happy with how to interpret it. In this case you should land in the direction in which the tetrahedron points. Most boogies will have a similar aid to help you. If you're unsure about the landing direction, whilst under canopy, keep an eye on those landing before you, especially when doing a balloon or chopper jump. Remember though, it is safer to take a downwind landing than to fly into an obstacle or to hit the ground part way through a low turn.



Simon Ward

4. If you're doing a balloon jump, plan where you will land

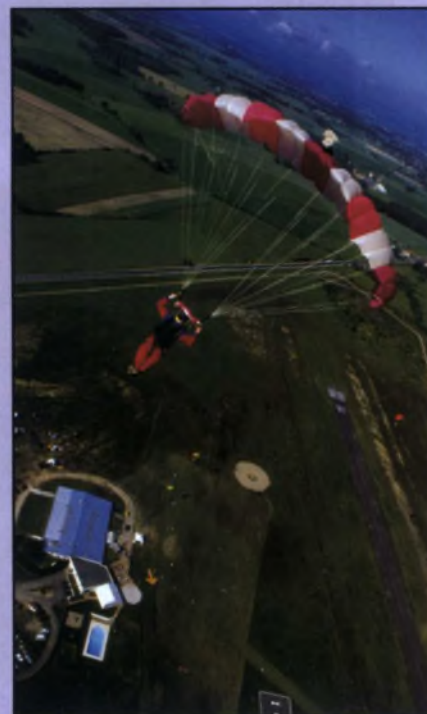
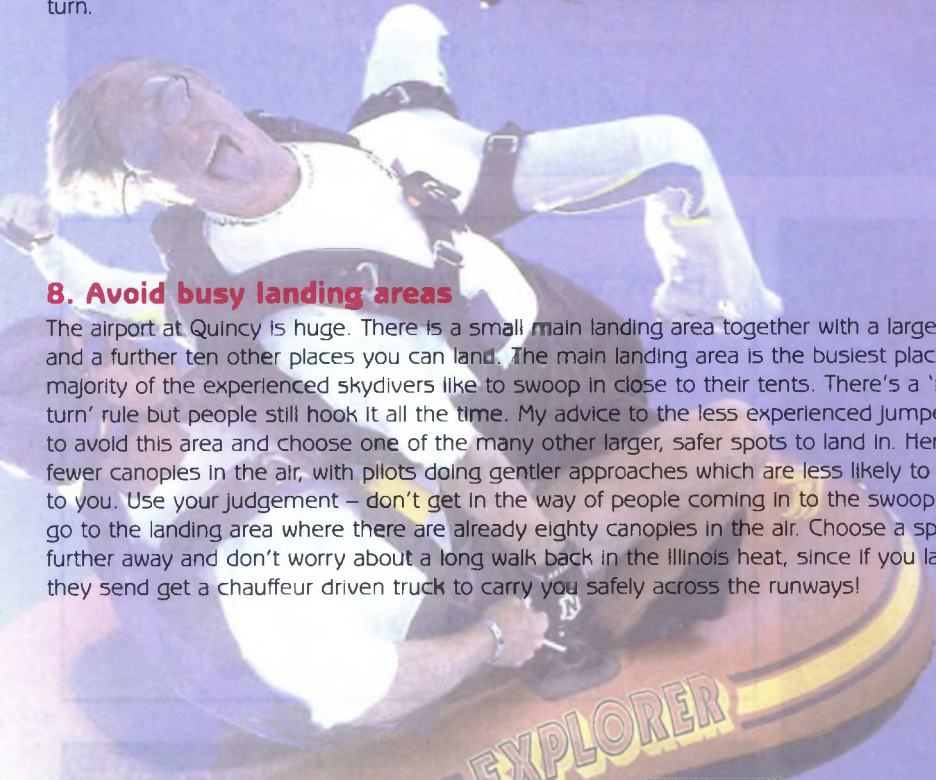
If you're lucky enough to get to jump the balloon, keep your eyes open for suitable places to land before you get out. Remember the abundance of power lines near roads which are often hard to see, as well as the usual obstacles. If you're confident about where you're going to land you will enjoy the jump more and will not be searching frantically under canopy. If in doubt, talk to the other jumpers on the load.



Justine Shotton

8. Avoid busy landing areas

The airport at Quincy is huge. There is a small main landing area together with a large swoop pond and a further ten other places you can land. The main landing area is the busiest place as the majority of the experienced skydivers like to swoop in close to their tents. There's a 'no low hook turn' rule but people still hook it all the time. My advice to the less experienced jumpers would be to avoid this area and choose one of the many other larger, safer spots to land in. Here there will be fewer canopies in the air, with pilots doing gentler approaches which are less likely to be a danger to you. Use your judgement – don't get in the way of people coming in to the swoop pond, don't go to the landing area where there are already eighty canopies in the air. Choose a spot much further away and don't worry about a long walk back in the Illinois heat, since if you land a way out, they send get a chauffeur driven truck to carry you safely across the runways!



Tim Porter



Justine Shotton

And finally...

Boogies are the perfect opportunity to jump different aircraft, meet all the top boys and girls in the sport and party! Use the huge knowledge bank that loiters on the drop zone to learn as much as you can. You'll be pleased you went and should come home with lots of good stories. Hopefully this advice should help you new jumpers to stay safe in the air... but the beer tent is a totally different story!

Justine Shotton, 65 jumps
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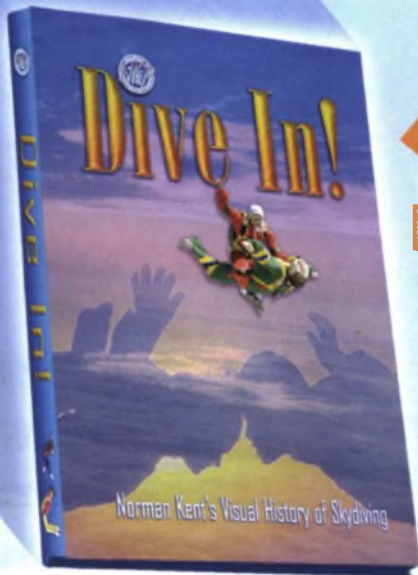


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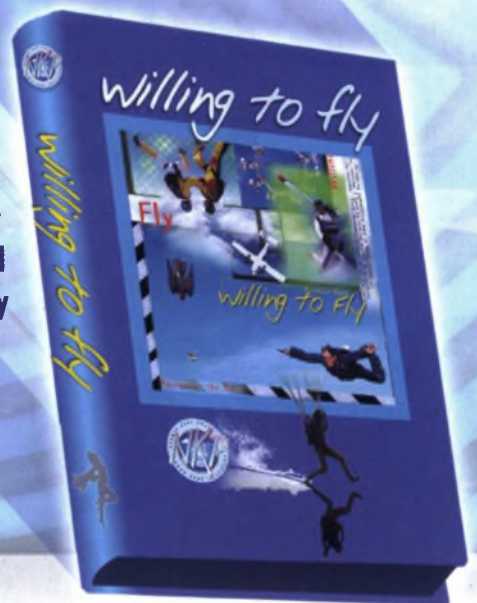


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FAI Judges

Dona Crum has qualified as an international judge in freestyle, freely and skysurfing. Carla Kole qualified in FS and came top! Congratulations to both.

Christmas Break

The BPA Office will close for Christmas at noon on Friday 21 December, and re-open at 9am on Wednesday 3 January 2002.

COUNCIL

Matters

All Unpaid!

Members of Council receive no fee from the BPA and give their own time in a purely voluntary capacity to govern and develop our sport. Altogether, Council Members travel over 19,000 miles a year to attend Council meetings! In addition, they all serve on at least one subcommittee, involving further meetings plus there's a great deal of work behind the scenes in preparing for and following up actions from meetings.

New Council 2002

Only 12 nominations were received for the 15 seats on the 2002 Council. Hence all of the nominees below will serve on Council 2002:

Chris Allen	Paul Applegate
Kieran Brady	Barrie Buck
David Hickling	Andy Houston
Eddie Jones	Ian Marshall
Ian Midgley	Craig Poxon
John Smyth	Jim White

Action Plan

One of the first tasks of the new Council will be to formulate the BPA's Action Plan for July 2002 to 2003. The plan maps out the Association's short term development goals. It is also used as the bid document for exchequer funding from UK Sport, which in recent years the Council has secured for safety and competitions. Suggestions for the plan are welcome.

Competitions

Venues for the nationals and regionals next year were not decided when we went to press but you should be able to now find them on the BPA website following the comps meeting of 4 December. The plan is for the nationals to again be over weekends.

Off Year Selection

The 2002 nationals will be a selection nationals for the 2003 world championships in all disciplines except classics.

On Year for Classics

This discipline campaigned to revert to on year selection, ie in 2003, probably only a few months before the World Meet. This decision has made the prospect of UK Sports Council funding for classics competitors unlikely as they cannot be included in the bid matrix in time. Comps chairman John Smyth said he was "totally against this decision" but the committee honoured the views of the majority of classics competitors, as they had correspondence stating 17 were in favour to 1 against.

Regionals

At the request of competitors, 8-way sequential and 8-way speed will be included in next year's FS regionals.

New BPA Certificates

Council has launched two new BPA certificates:

BPA Certificate of Achievement for outstanding sportsmanship or achievement.

BPA Certificate of Appreciation for those who have made a significant contribution to the activities of the BPA.

These add to the existing **BPA Certificate of Merit** which is awarded for outstanding services to sport parachuting.

Council will make any decisions on the awarding of these certificates. Written nominations for either of these certificates may be made through any Council member or the BPA office. They will normally be presented at the AGM (from 2003 as there are no more meetings before the next AGM). They will not necessarily be awarded every year.

Communications and Development

The BPA website continues to improve with many added facilities such as an on-line glossary, historical minutes and a useful section called *Cat 8 - What Now?* Development Officer Lucie Wood is now updating and managing the pages herself.

www.bpa.org.uk

The Skydive Mag site has been completely revamped and now looks far more modern, fresh and attractive. It includes a new contributions section, advertising details and a search facility to enable you to locate articles on a particular topic of interest. Lesley Gale and Bev Fairhurst are being trained on website management and updates, working closely with development and communications committees.

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Photo by Tony Danbury shows Langar's Box of Frogs



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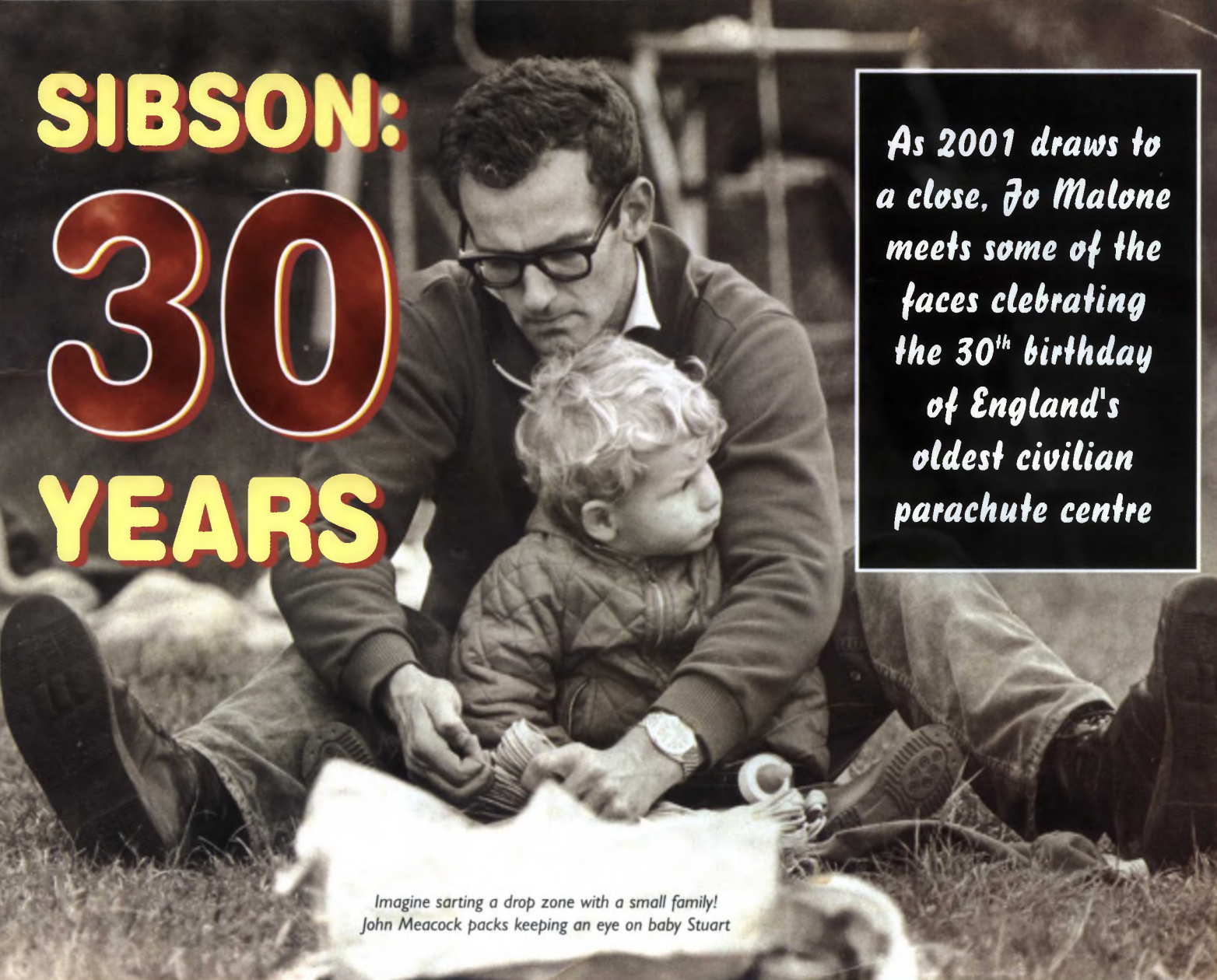
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SIBSON: 30 YEARS

As 2001 draws to a close, Jo Malone meets some of the faces celebrating the 30th birthday of England's oldest civilian parachute centre



*Imagine starting a drop zone with a small family!
John Meacock packs keeping an eye on baby Stuart*

1971

What would the excited wannabe skydiver have met when they arrived at Peterborough Parachute Centre back in 1971? A DeHavilland Rapide biplane, a few tiny buildings, huge front n' back kit, Sue Meacock busy in the packing shed, John Meacock running the show and a couple of very small children running about.

2001

Now they'll find a swish Turbolet to whisk them up to altitude in twelve minutes, a range of buildings from bar / restaurant to lecture rooms and accommodation, itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny kit, a busy team in the packing shed, a team of instructors running the show and a gaggle of Britain's premier freeflyers. But you still won't have to look far to find Sue and John Meacock, the genesis of Peterborough Parachute Centre.

Family Business

PPC was John's vision. Back in the 1960s he was working in the print industry and a parachute instructor at weekends; in his dreams he was running his own drop zone. He was Sue's instructor on her first jump course at Halfpenny Green and soon she was not only sharing that dream, she was helping bring it to life with two and then three children in tow. Sue and John persevered with their aim, gaining respect for the way they kept the drop zone going after their second son Chris was tragically killed flying their Skyvan in Spain.

There has been an airfield at Sibson, just off the A1, for about forty years. It started life as a farmer's private airstrip before it became Peterborough Aero Club. John and Sue found this ideal venue for their new venture. They moved onto the zone with a caravan, and very little else, apart from their eldest son, two year old Stuart and little brother Chris, then aged about six months.

"Thirty years for one DZ that's consistently at the forefront of UK skydiving is some achievement. I guess that just about any UK skydiver with time in the sport will have some great memories of Sibson. Congratulations to the Meacock family and the whole Sibson team."

Simon Ward

"Even though I live in Florida and jump all over the world, Sibson is the DZ that I always come back to in the UK. The memory of a good jump fades rather quickly with time but the memory of people, events and places stay forever. Thanks Sibson for some memorable times!"

Pete Allum

"For me Sibson always represented the place to be, to learn from many talented skydivers and to be part of a great family of friends."

Toby Stafford

Sue Meacock

What does Sue remember of those times? "It was worrying because we had used everything we had to fund it" said Sue, whose kids were on the drop zone from the start. "Stuart was on the DZ at Duck End Farm when he was seven days old. I used to park his pram under the trees" remembered Sue. "In those days there were fewer skydivers so everybody knew everybody" said Sue, who took much of the work of PPC on her shoulders after Chris died.



Back to 1971

John and Sue worked hard; business grew and so did the planes. Initially hiring a Rapide but soon buying their own Cessna 180, PPC were the first UK drop zone to have a Porter as their regular aircraft, the first to buy a Skyvan and the first to lease a Turbolet, now a common aircraft at British drop zones.

Leading Edge

Sibson has always been at the leading edge of British jumping. If there was a challenge to meet, a goal to aim for or a record to set, it was the place to go. It hosted many British formation records, with the 60-way in 1989 a great achievement. Before that it had been the venue for the first 14-way, 16-way, 18-way and so on. Sibson, as we call PPC, was the place for the Nationals and its boogies were legendary – particularly when the Met Police were around.

Then and Now

Many jumpers will remember when the entire Meacock clan were on the DZ, what a phenomenal force. Chris would be flying the aircraft, Stuart filming, a young Alex fuelling, with John keeping the instruction second to none and Sue entertaining with her legendary buffets. These days the roles have changed but Sibson keeps its slot as one of Britain's favourite DZ's, with a growing reputation as the freely capital of the UK.



The Meacock family; circa 1973 and, below left, today



PPC celebrated its 30th birthday in style with a marquee, dinner dance & live band Grounded



Sibson is now a happening freefly drop zone, photo taken this year by Dan Parker

"I'll always remember back in 1979 when John Meacock as Chairman of the BPA gave out the medals at a Netheravon Nationals. Along with the medals, he slipped Symbiosis, our team, a Peterborough Parachute Centre envelope with a £100 cheque inside. He made no announcement or fuss about this, so afterwards we asked him why PPC had given us money when the Nationals were not at his centre and we hadn't even trained there. He said that he knew what it was like to spend all your money and enthusiasm on your sport: well, that's certainly what he and his family have done for 30 years."

Rob Colpus

Alex Meacock

Alex has a full time job at Sibson, he's in charge of freeflying, tandem camera and jet fuel. "I wouldn't be able to do a normal job. This is reality to me and everybody else lives in a very strange world" says the 27-year-old. He



was one of the first freeflying coaches in Britain, with a friendly, confidence-inspiring approach. If you're up there, kicking about, backsliding, back-tracking, falling off everything it's possible to fall off, he'll be right beside you, smiling, telling you to relax and showing you again how to do it. One of Britain's favourite freeflyers, he runs an annual Sibson freefly week, head-down coaching courses and has earned worldwide respect since gaining a gold at the Arizona Freefly Money Meet in 1999 against most of the best. He continues to stretch and further his freeflying limits and is partly responsible for the influx of overseas freefly instructors at Sibson.

Stuart Meacock

Stuart, his big brother, is a phenomenal cameraflyer and an exceptionally talented skydiver. Forcing a skydiving CV from Stuart, 32, was painful as he doesn't like talking about his achievements. He has over 7,000 jumps, having started skydiving when he was 16. By the time he was 17 he was filming and packing for the Austrian national team. He then spent six months in Perris where he feels he truly learned how to jump camera, with mentors such as Tom Sanders and Norman Kent. On the FS front he was national 8-way champion with Mo. He was the cameraflyer in the 1989 world championships when Mo were the first team using air-to air-video to successfully challenge the judges' ground-to-air video decision and reclaim their points. "That was nice. That was the first world championships where cameramen were important and that was proved by getting the points back from the judges" said Stuart. Mo came fourth and were awarded the Royal Aero Club Prince of Wales Cup.



Stuart was 4-way jumping in '91 and '92 in a team called .25 with his younger brother Chris and the infamous Grant Lancaster and Eastley. Stuart was on *Mind Games* 8-way team in 1992-3, gaining eighth at the world championships. Meeting Olav Zipser in 1993 opened a new world for Stuart whose his freeflying and freestyle jumping began. He and Alex came a respectable 11th in the freestyle world championships in Arizona in 1994. Stuart and Alex walked away with the gold at this year's freefly Nationals and took gold and silver in the freestyle, jumping with Giles Fabris in both events.

Stuart is a jump pilot examiner and a superb AFF instructor. He continues to fly camera and skydivers can bump into him working all over the world; he is currently working as a freefly instructor for Babylon in Empuriabrava. His more recent work includes filming with a 35mm camera for a movie, *Reign of Fire*, which is due out in spring. Look out for appearances from Scotty Milne and Alex.

Ronnie O'Brien

Ronnie O'Brien, CCI, is the face of Sibson most jumpers will know. He's been earning a living from skydiving for 31 years and at Sibson for 25 of those. He started his own drop zone with partners, at Bridlington before he was offered the job at Sibson by John. He and John were in the same TA parachute battalion. Ronnie's an instructor, advanced instructor and examiner who started jumping in 1965. *"I could probably have done a grown-up job and earned a lot more money but I enjoy it. You meet some very nice people"* said Ronnie, who has about 5,000 jumps and a vast collection of medals for everything from accuracy to 8-way. He held the altitude record with Robin Jones and Pete Halfacre, 30,000 ft over Sibson in 1989. He holds a Royal Aero Club gold medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his mid-air saving of a tandem in 1991 when the bridle was caught around the tandem instructor's throat. Ronnie was on the first tandem instructor course in England; he also did the first BPA AFF instructors' course. His highlight? Flying a Hawk at 600mph about 100ft off the deck, a jaunt fixed up by one of his students. *"The best thing I ever did"* said Ronnie. Check out the photos in his office if you get the chance.



Aunty Loo

Louise Denney is Sue's little sister (so Stuart and Alex's Aunty Loo), gorgeous and the genuine smiling face of British skydiving. Louise keeps the business in the family, working on accounts, admin and selling skydiving courses.



She did her first jump in 1980, the day after her 16th birthday. After a few jumps she took a break and got back in the air about ten years later, becoming a member of the Daily Express Display Team. What's important is not her number of jumps, but her love of the sport and understanding of what skydivers want from their drop zone.

John Meacock

What about John, the driving force who started it all? He was Army Champion in 1966 and then National Champion in Classics in 1971, 72 and 73. In the 1970s, John was Editor of *Sport Parachutist* (now *Skydive Mag*) and an active member of the BPA Council, being BPA chairman from '77 to '79 and gaining a Royal Aero Club Silver Medal and Diploma of Merit. John coached countless teams in style & accuracy, trained the Kenyan Police Force in parachuting and was in the film *Battle of Britain*. Making that, he remembers sitting in the bomb bay of a Heinkel III on a wooden slide for take-off, wondering if he was going to be able to hang on!



John's safety awareness set the standard of instruction on his drop zone which has an exceptional safety record. He also had a name for looking after his staff, coming out with occasional unexpected benefits such as a brand new rig or free trip abroad. He has a unique sense of humour, once advertising for an instructor as follows: *"Either sex may apply but must have testicles"*. John still loves skydiving, feeling that, although his sport has become his work, he is working at something he loves.

Mark Harris over Peterborough Parachute Centre at this year's freefly nationals, photo by Dave Du Plessis



The Future

But, while we're all expecting the drop zone to be handed down to Stuart and Alex, John will not say what will happen. *"If I could see the future, I'd be running a church, not a DZ. I couldn't have foreseen 30 years ago how it is now, nor would it have occurred to me to try"* he said.

Has it been difficult? *"We thought we had had some tough times but nothing could compare to losing our son Christopher"*

John added his thanks too. *"I couldn't have done it without my wife, Sue, Ronnie, my sons and all the staff over the years, both full and part time"*

Thank you Sibson for the last thirty years and here's to many more.

Jo Malone
johomalone@hotmail.com

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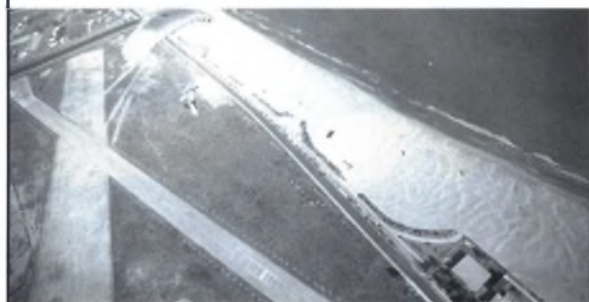
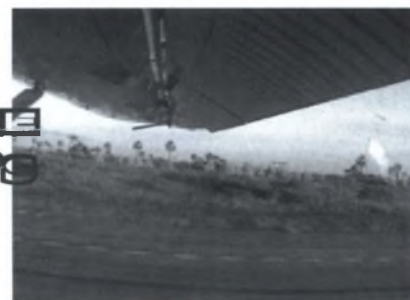


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Photo: James Stevenson

Size Matters

“performance
does not
improve the
smaller you go”

Dave Morris explains...

Size Matters

combined with the hook turn or, more correctly, the front riser turn, the landings possible have added a whole new dimension to the sport.

At 15 stone with all my gear I have personally experimented with main canopies as small as 97 square feet. In one day I jumped myself through the complete range from one manufacturer, starting with a 150 then dropping each time to the next one down, 135, 120, 105 and finally the 97. With my experience the experiment was without incident and I learned a lot about the way performance changes as the wing loading increases. Just because it is possible to fly and land safely under an extremely small parachute, does not mean that it will be safe under all circumstances.

There is an optimum size for your weight so performance does not improve the smaller you go. For an example, for me, the 97 was too small so to get the lift necessary for a safe landing I had to increase the flap and generate more lift. This put the canopy into a configuration that made a high speed stall extremely likely.

A 135 will level off, then maintain altitude as the brakes are progressively increased, decelerating to a point where a soft and acceptably slow landing can be made. Compare this to the 97, which will stall when the brakes are increased. The size of wing is no longer enough to keep you airborne unless you are travelling very fast. The natural tendency is to increase the brakes as normal, causing a stall. When a small wing, at high speed with a lot of weight under it, finally gives up, it happens very quickly indeed. The stall will usually happen on one side first and the result is an extreme one.

The photo to the right shows an intermediate pilot with a lot of talent who has learned to land correctly. He has been under observation over the years and has always had more experienced pilots to give advice and sometimes give minor punishment for doing something stupid. He generally looks very cool when he lands. On this occasion this 12½ stone skydiver was jumping an Icarus FX 82. The photo shows that the canopy is just at the point of giving up. Under less perfect conditions this landing could easily have caused an injury.

It is possible for a heavy person to jump a tiny main and, let's face it, there are many reasons that make it attractive to do so. But jumping a tiny main on a regular basis is definitely not what is required for a long and incident-free swooping career.

The optimum size for my weight is a 135. I know that the performance will not improve if I go smaller. In fact it is quite

Developments over the years have given us main parachutes that perform like nothing before. We have found that by loading the wing, performance improves. More speed equals more lift and

the opposite, the reduction in performance would put me into a danger area that is not really apparent until the s**t hits the fan! Unfortunately, some designers today may be guilty of being too good at their job and the inflatable wings they produce are incredibly efficient. To gain a pilot's licence you have to fly an aircraft in a manner that satisfies an examiner, as well as pass a number of exams. The theories of flight are taught to quite a high level on the course, unlike the basic theories that are covered on a skydiving course. High performance mains today perform more like their bigger brothers [aircraft] and require greater skill to land correctly. A greater understanding of the theory of flight and a correct choice of wing loading can only benefit those who aspire to swoop into the landing area looking as cool as you like.

Size really does matter!

Dave Morris
dave@daleside2.demon.co.uk

“designers may be guilty of being too good at their job”



Icarus Ridiculous

A split second after I took this shot, the right hand side of the canopy stalled – but by then he had put his feet down! Basically the canopy is too small, he's all out of lift but he wants to get rid of some more groundspeed before he puts his feet down.

*'Fred Smith' (name changed to protect the guilty) is a great canopy pilot but he said to me "****k that! I don't need anything that small!"*

Gary Wainwright

Photo and background image: Gary Wainwright



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SAFARI



AT THE KENYA BOOGIE





5pm, Sunday 26 October. A bunch of very excited skydivers from the UK are in Diani, about fifteen minutes from Mombassa, in Kenya. We are getting a briefing from Geoff Wood when we suddenly notice canopies in the sky. Harro Trempenau, the boogie organiser and some pals have flown in from Nairobi and have decided not to land with their luggage! The 14th annual Kenyan boogie has just begun.

The DZ was the beach! Manifest was nicely positioned between the swimming pool and the beach. There was an air conditioned packing area nearby, although most of us opted for packing on the grass under the shade of the palm trees or going for a swim while one of the ten packers on hand took our rigs away with a smile. There is nothing hard core about this boogie, the emphasis was on fun.

This was an excellent trip to combine a holiday with non jumping partners and family. There were babysitting facilities and kids activity clubs which allowed parents to enjoy the

jumping and evening drinks. There were plenty of activities when not skydiving, the usual water sports including a scuba centre and deep sea fishing. Quite a few of us went to the Masai Mara on Safari before the boogie began and some climbed Kilimanjaro, has anyone seen Gibbo?

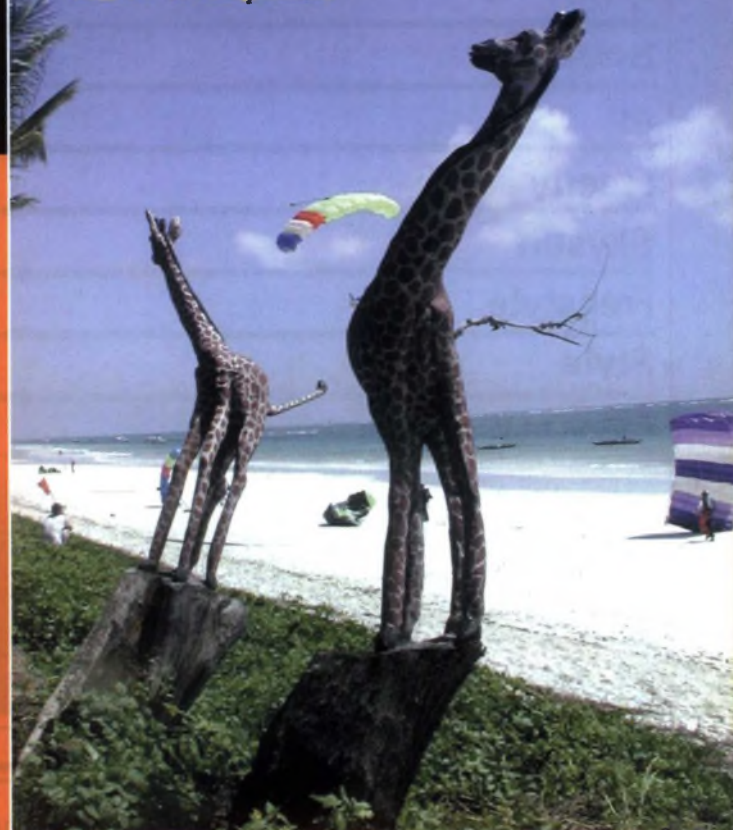
A large UK contingent was there including 24 skydivers from Hinton and a number from the Irish Parachute Club. Jumpers also came from France, Belgium, USA, Canada, Uganda and, of course, Kenya. Ten AFF students were trained and jumped at the boogie, including five locals.

There are two boogies planned for next year (details to right) and I certainly won't be missing the next one. Thanks Geoff for all your hard work getting us there and for looking after us – always difficult once the bar opens! Harro, I didn't think you could improve on last year's brilliant trip, but you have.

Pollyanna Lenkic
pollyanna@dia1.pipex.com

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Harro Trempenau



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GO STEEP

Good 4-way video is easy to judge

Brian Vacher (right) of VMax was voted cameraman of the week by Tim Wagner on Omniskore at the World Meet in Spain. Tim, ex cameraman for the world champion Golden Knights team, was impressed by Brian's consistently steep, steady and well-framed video.

Steepness over the formation is the most important skill to grasp for competition. Your aim is to make the video easy to judge so that all the points your team builds are scored. For that, you must see all the grips clearly, the only way to do this is to go steep. It's also vital to crack the exit.

Here, Brian gives out loads of hot tips on shooting FS...



Norman Kent's article in the April 2001 issue of The Mag talked about developing your skills from beginner to master. As with his article, just because you master one form of camera flying, it doesn't mean that you will automatically be a master of another. I consider myself an accomplished 4-way camera flyer but I can't shoot and edit a tandem video like a master. So this article is about flying 4-way camera in particular...

Photo: Rusty Lewis

Safety

In the UK the majority of drop zones do not allow you to put a camera on your head until 200 jumps and entirely at the CCI's discretion. This has a good reason. Sticking a camera on your head gives you something else to think about, siphoning off vital brain power, normally dedicated to life-saving procedures. Having additional equipment sticking out also raises the chances of a malfunction and therefore increases the number of correct emergency procedures you must have at your fingertips.

The main areas to consider are:

1. Lines/risers catching your equipment.

Mike Emery



Ensure equipment doesn't stick out – and no, Brian didn't jump it!

Make sure your equipment is secure without sights, mounts or lenses sticking out like a venus fly trap for your lines. Also consider jumping a helmet with a dedicated cutaway system – if not, be sure you know how to get your helmet off with one hand in a hurry. Most importantly get your equipment checked by your resident camera guru before jumping.

2. Additional weight

Camera equipment will increase your wing loading under your canopy and will effect your exit weight and your canopy characteristics. You also want to be confident in your freefall skills so you don't headbutt your fellow skydivers. The extra weight also puts strain on neck muscles not normally used to heavy work – unless you look like Gladstone Small!

3. Jumpsuits

If you're wearing a winged camera suit, be careful your legstraps and wings are routed correctly, that your wing does not cover your toggle and be aware of the difference in airflow and thus the effect on your body position when it comes to pull time. Preferably jump the suit *without the camera* the first couple of times and revisit the family of malfunctions to go over; the 'pilot chute hesitation' nuisance factor in particular. Trust me you'll get them.

4. Canopy choice

Think about your canopy choice in relation to your increased exit weight and the extra strain on your neck. Choose a canopy that doesn't consistently crack open – many team cameramen jump smooth, slow-opening canopies such as the PD Spectre or Stiletto and more recently the Icarus Crossfire. As you deploy, grab air to slow your fall rate, sit up and consider rolling your shoulders as you feel your canopy coming off your back to reduce the opening shock on your neck. I have also found that **not** watching the opening (Scott Miller, canopy test pilot, also advises this), leads to more consistent openings and reduces the chance of equipment and lines coming together.

Helmet and Camera Equipment

This is a massive topic with a great number of options depending on your budget, experience and type of camera flying you want to do. For 4-way I use two top-mount camera helmets – the Bonehead (flat top Pro) and a custom made Wes helmet. This allows me to mount multiple cameras for competitions and/or a stills camera. If budget allows choose a helmet that is specifically designed to have a camera mounted rather than gaffer taping your mums old cine camera to the side of your mountain biking helmet.

Again if budget allows, go digital, simply because the quality is good and the format is so versatile when you come to edit. Digital cameras have come down considerably in price and it is easy to pick one up second hand. Older versions, such as the earlier models in the Sony PC range are ideal. These are often

more robust than the newer models and provide good quality footage. As a general rule of thumb, newer versions offer more features and are slightly better quality but these are not real issues if you are just starting. If you want a laugh though, go up to your local camera dude with the latest digital camera and ask him how many features he uses, it's probably no more than two!



Brian Vacher

Brian's camera setup. Note the 3.5" LCD which offers teams a decent sized viewing screen on back to back loads. The two videos provide a back-up, one has an extra wide lens to ensure no grips move out of frame.

The flush site mount was made by Tony Silman

Flying Techniques

Framing the subject

Most team cameraflyers jump with some sort of ring sight (see above). This is so you can learn where the image frame lies. The image needs to be steep and appear to be close.

What makes good 4-way video?

Flying camera for 4-way divides into two main areas;

In training, the frame should be still so the team can debrief effectively using the ground as a reference, as they can see the starting and stopping points of their moves. Most coaches request horizontal footage at some point in the training. Fly slightly lower than the formation looking up at the team. This way the footage will provide clear shots across the whole formation.

In competition, judges need to see the grips. It's that simple. This means you have to be steep. You have to appear to be close so the image is nice and big and the judges aren't squinting at the screen. Remember the team is showing the points to the judges and not to themselves. Good 4-way video is easy to judge.

“let the burble become your friend”

Photo: Wendy Smith

Exit techniques

There are two main types of exit from a side door aircraft; *floating* and *peeling*, also referred to as *leading* and *trailing*. The floating technique is normally used from tailgate aircraft.

Floating (pictured below) is where the cameraflyer leaves the plane from below at the same time as the team exits the aircraft.

Peeling (pictured below right) is when the cameraflyer peels off the side of the aircraft to film the team from above, leaving with the centrepiece of the team. Both types of exits are effective if performed correctly; both can be disastrous if performed wrong. The key point to either exit is to leave with the team.

To float or to peel, that is the question...

For 4-way, my personal preference is to use the floating exit for both training and competition. When performed correctly, the floating exit immediately captures the formation coming out of the door. This means that you will never miss the first point. The floating exit also gives the team a point of reference (the aircraft) so they can easily debrief their exit positions and angles to the relative wind. In competition the floating exit is the safest for ensuring that the judges can clearly see the grips of the first point.

The peeling exit does not always do either of these two things. With a fast team, the danger is that the video angle of the peeling exit will not clearly show all grips of the first point before the team

breaks to go to the second. The angle of the video also means that it is more difficult for the team to debrief their exit positions as they might not have a point of reference.

Distance from the formation

A common misconception when filming teams is that you have to be on their backpacks, checking pins. With a decent camera, and particularly when learning, you can pretty much fly as far away from them as you like. A good distance from the team is any distance where the team fills the screen. This can be achieved by flying further away from the team, and having your camera zoomed in slightly or leaving off that super wide angled lens. This means that you can get great video and concentrate on your position above the formation without the fear of taking them out.

Steepness over the formation

This is by far the most important skill to learn when filming 4-way. It is also probably the hardest technique to become consistent at. However this skill will provide easy-to-judge video, which both teams and judges will be grateful for. Remember, just because the team fills up the screen, it does not mean that it is easy to judge and debrief. You need steepness to see all the grips clearly. To get steep on the formation, begin by flying a good distance away. Use your camera wings and booties to consistently fly as steep as possible and have fun finding the burble! Get into the burble! Fall down the burble!... Then use your wings to avoid the team, which of course, you will be able to do easily because you are a decent distance away.



The floating exit, where the camera leaves at the same time as the team, from a horizontal position



The peeling exit, where the camera leaves with or fractionally after the team, from a more vertical position

Photos and background image: Rusty Lewis

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Contact : Geoff Wood (Hinton Skydiving Centre) 01295 812300
or email info@skydive.co.uk

Eyeball the centrepoint

Another useful technique, both on the rail and when exiting a tailgate, is to look at the centre of the formation when the team is in the door. This means that on some side door exits you will actually be looking through the side of the fuselage where you imagine the centrepoint to be. This way, the camera is immediately framing the centre of the formation before it has left the plane. This works for tailgates as well. Get yourself well away from the team to get the distance you need before the team leaves the aircraft.

Visualisation

Flying camera is no different in terms of visualisation to any other discipline – you will benefit from visualisation. This means you need to know where the centrepoint is for all the formations the team is planning to show on the jump. Work out these centrepoints on the ground with the team when they are dirt-diving. In the plane, visualise the team filling the screen perfectly on the exit. Visualise the formations turning on the hill and visualise the angle and formations when the formation reaches the flat.

Relax!

Like any discipline in this sport you must relax. Relax out on the rail, interact with your team when climbing out, let them geek the camera. Come off the rail WITH THE TEAM. Not before, not after. Relax on the hill and use your wings and your legs. Relax when flying above the team. Relax into a constant fall rate. Have fun playing with the burble. Let the burble become your friend. (Most skydivers speak about burbles with fear and dread – cameraflyers talk about the burble with a smile).

Welcome to flying camera. It's a great discipline because you improve your flying skills on every jump. Enjoy.

Brian Vacher
brianvacher@aol.com

INTERESTED? FIND OUT MORE:

At Brian's
cameraflying
seminar at the AGM

Background image: Rusty Lewis

Age: 29

Time in sport: 7 years

Number of jumps: 2,400

Number of jumps in past year: 750

Slot on team: Cameraflyer

Favourite DZs and why: DeLand, for fast planes, wind tunnel, good weather and 22 jumps in one day! Weston and Netheravon during summer months for excellent vibes

Most memorable jump and why: Round 10 of the Women's World Cup in Australia. We were two points down after round 9 and came through for the gold (Also round 4 at the World Cup for one MJ – unfortunately I will never forget that one either)

What are the strengths you bring to the team? Commitment and motivation

And your weaknesses? Sometimes I push a joke too far

What do you like about being in an all-female team? All the females! More seriously, the gender doesn't really make any difference – what does make the difference is that our team works hard, is professional and realistic towards our goals and as a result achieves most of them. That's why I enjoy jumping with this team.

Skydiving tip: Get as much tunnel time as possible

Beauty tip: Drink ten pints then it doesn't matter. Seriously, it's all about nutrition

Favourite position: In the air, about five feet above the chicks

Favourite underwear: My wife's (on her though)

Do you watch your weight? Definitely – in order to maintain a level of fitness so it doesn't become an issue during training camps

To what do you find it hardest to say no? "Do you want to be on the next lift?"

Do you 'wear the trousers' in a relationship? One leg in, one leg out – sort of like a three legged race

Favourite film and why: Star Wars – cos I'm a bloke

Ideal way to relax: Hot tub – after a hard day's jumping

What's your perfect day? Riding a fast bike to the DZ – doing 15 jumps – riding home at dusk to a warm (shared) bed

What job do you do and why? Personal trainer and sports therapist (sports injury rehabilitation). It beats working in an office and I can use it in skydiving

What are your other interests? Motorbikes, mountain biking, walking, snowboarding

What winds you up? Key people in the sport coming up to me after we had won the gold in Australia saying, "Didn't the girls do well"

Do you have a philosophy? Jump lots, fly steep over the formation, and keep 'em in frame whatever they're doing

Favourite quote: "He is so steep [over the formation] it is almost impossible to tell which side of the formation he is flying" –

The Wagners on Alex Johnson – the Norwegian cameraman (who won 'cameraman of the meet') at the 1999 US Nationals

Describe yourself in three words:

Lanky, calm, daydreamer

Anything to add: Fly camera and discover a new challenge!



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Too Titillating

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the 'laddish' nature of the editorial. There has been a marked increase in titillation and I am not happy about this.

Optional Subscription

However, I am well aware that my views may differ with a large number of the magazine's readership. Hence, I do not wish to influence the editorial content of the magazine but I merely wish to have the option of not receiving the publication. If Skydive Mag was on sale at my local newsagents, I would choose not to purchase it. Unfortunately, I have no option at the moment, as the magazine is an integral part of the BPA subscription. I would therefore like to suggest a new subscription rate that does not include the magazine. It would allow the element of choice and it would greatly reduce the subscription cost.

Adrian Bratby

In Response to 'Laddish'

I'm not sure to what you're referring. In general, I don't expect everyone to like every page of the Mag; this would be impossible as we're a small number of members with a large number of interests. We aim to provide something for everyone. Has there been nothing in the Mag which interested, educated or entertained you?

Opting Out

Making the magazine subscription optional would cripple the way the magazine is run so the quality and size would suffer dramatically. The magazine budget is very tight, relying on economies of scale and a predictable subscription income. It would hardly be a fair system to make The Mag optional as other members would undoubtedly read it at drop zones through the free magazines provided there.

The last membership survey showed that 87% of members are happy with the content of the Mag and hence, that the majority want a magazine. The BPA membership fee is an average of the costs involved in running an organisation. Every member could take a part of the membership fee and demonstrate that they do not use it or want it; for example, not everyone will go to a coaching roadshow or train to be an instructor.

The BPA is a non profit-making, democratic organisation, run by the members for the benefit of the members. If you would like to affect the way it is run then why not stand for Council? Also you have the option of taking a proposal to the AGM; if the members vote in favour then your suggestion will be taken up – that is what a democracy is all about.

Back to Adrian... 'semi-naked women demeaning'

All 'dangerous' sports have a governing body and all participants in that sport should abide by the rules laid down by the governing body. The BPA is an example of this. Consequently I view the BPA as a 'learned society', similar to the Chartered Institute of Building, of which I am a member. Skydive Mag, as a journal of a learned society, has certain standards to uphold. I considered pictures of semi-naked women (for whatever the cause) demeaning to the standing of the BPA. I obviously realise that you think differently.

Has the magazine interested me? On the whole I have to say no. I illustrate this with the TV licence dilemma. Someone writes to the TV press complaining that the programme they watched last night was awful and a waste of licence payers' money. Someone else writes in saying that everyone can just turn the TV set off if they do not like what they see. Another person writes in saying, "Why should we pay a licence fee merely for the privilege of using the 'off' switch?" Skydive Mag is the BBC and we have to lump it even if we watch only ITV.

I still feel very strongly about the optional subscription argument. The whole point behind my letter is the lack of democracy. The BPA is compulsory; the insurance is compulsory so why should the magazine be compulsory? The best way of putting my point forward is, as you suggested, standing for Council. It is a serious commitment and it is something, which unfortunately, is too big a commitment for me to undertake.

Adrian Bratby

Now I understand the 'titillation' was the bikini/bra skydives, please note the article was intended as a fun, informative report. I'm a bit surprised you found it arousing and amazed you think it demeaning. I guess it's a matter of taste.

Lesley

Adrian has won our Star Letter prize of a bikini top

Caroline goes bra-nanas

The Bra Skydive was organised in association with Walk the Walk – a charity which encourages women to raise money for Breast Cancer Research via activities in their bras. Such women raised £1million in the Playtex Moonwalk and New York marathon and we were a complement to this. Most people do a charity skydive as their first jump but very few raise money with subsequent skydives. As we wouldn't get much sponsorship to do a regular skydive, we made it different by joining with Walk the Walk. At no point did any of us feel that what we were doing was demeaning to the BPA, the charity or to ourselves. We raised a lot of money and awareness for the charity and felt a sense of achievement, not shame or embarrassment.

As for 'semi-naked women', we showed no more flesh in the Skydive Mag article than you would see on a DZ on a hot summer weekend. Having the centre pages in The Mag was a great advert for the charity and showed that anyone can raise money to help others and it kept Breast Cancer Research in the limelight. It is one of the biggest killers, claiming 1,000 women every month in the UK alone.

I'm sorry if what we did offended you but I'm not sorry we did it. I hope one day that you'll think of others as well as yourself.

Caroline White,
Bra Dive Organiser

Over to you, bikini babe

Are you saying that all of us were demeaning ourselves and not representing the BPA and the sport in a correct manner? I disagree and think it is the opposite. Apart from raising a lot of money, the event captured the fun and community spirit that goes hand in hand with skydiving.

Whether you have been in the sport a while or just starting out, receiving the Mag is a highlight every two months. It enables you to keep up to date with what is going on in the world of British skydiving, news, products, safety, etc. Importantly, you learn something new every issue, especially so if you are a student or recently qualified.

Liz Crichton-Stuart,
Bikini Dive Organiser

Biggerer and betterer

Bigger, better Mag needs bigger better staples!

Kerry Mathews

Sorry about the last issue Kerry and our other readers. There was a problem with the folding, stapling and glueing line where too much pressure was put onto the magazines making them weak. We've had a word with our printers and it shouldn't happen again. At least it made it easier to extract the brananarama centrefold – whether to pin it up the wall or throw away in disgust!

Lesley

More letters please!

I really enjoyed last issue's letters page, whereas often there isn't one. Same again please!

Steve Jameson

I'm really happy to have a letters page each time – provided I get sent some letters, I can't make them up!

Lesley

Introductory Blowout!

50% OFF limited time offer

Open letter to all Skydivers of the World from George Galloway, president, Precision Aerodynamics:

In the spring of 1986, I met a skydiver named Bill Hazlett, and I was immediately impressed with his incredible intellect, his intuitive insight, and his obvious wisdom. In the summer of that year, I hired Bill Hazlett to work for Precision as a parachute designer, and I understood fully that he would likely someday learn enough, earn enough, and yearn enough to control his own domain in the parachute industry. I'm sure that Bill learned a lot from me during those early years, but I think he taught me even more. He cut his teeth on parachute design and construction at Precision, but I was not surprised when he came to me one day and respectfully declared his wish to go out on his own with his own designs and start his own business. I regretted losing his talents, but I also understood his desire to pursue his own destiny. He named his new company Aerodyne Research, and he has done very well in meeting the marketplace.

Bill and I have remained good friends and competitors through the years, and we have shared thoughts and dared projections from time to time of what direction this industry would take, and we have often pondered the future of parachute designs and sales. One of the most innovative approaches to parachute sales that I have ever seen came from the brain of Bill Hazlett just one year ago. It was simple, down to earth, creative and cool, and upon learning about it I called him immediately to express concern that he might have gone a little too far. The reality of course, for those of us who are competitors of Aerodyne will never forget the day we heard about his crazy idea for customers to trade in any old parachute canopy and in doing so, be eligible to purchase a new state of the art canopy at 50% off!

Precision
aerodynamics, inc.

**So Bill, as you read this, and as we discussed on the phone today,
The teacher has become the student, and now it is time for payback!**

My friends, you have been seeing the ads for Precision's Project GroundZero for several months now. We had anticipated rolling out the project earlier this year, but we have only recently concluded our extensive testing program for the first wave of GroundZero canopies, which include the Xaos-21 (pronounced Chaos Twenty One), the Nitron, and the Synergy. I have been manufacturing parachutes for more than 20 years, and I have never been so proud of any other canopies as I am these. My confidence in the canopies of Project GroundZero is supreme. We have spent the better part of 2 years tweaking, trimming, and testing these canopies to be certain that they are as ready for you as you are for them. People have asked us when the second wave will be delayed (Fusion, Xaos-27, and RavenMax). The answer is that they will be brought to market only when they are ready. We are not anticipating any specific date yet, but you can be sure that they will be worth the wait.

Most experts in the parachute industry will agree on two simple elements:

1) The most effective advertising for parachute products is word-of-mouth. You can have the best color advertising in the world, but if your products don't back up your claims, your time on top will be short-lived.

2) Word-of-mouth advertising can only be spread as fast as jumpers are able to experience any new product. Having a demo program is ok, but the exposure is limited and demo programs are slow to produce.

I truly believe that the best way for Precision to allow you, the end user, the opportunity to understand the products of Project GroundZero is to follow Bill Hazlett's model of offering a 50% discount direct to the jumping public for a limited time. You can call your dealer, or you can order directly from the factory. We will require, as part of the deal, that you trade-in some other parachute. Your trade-in does not have to be airworthy. We will take your order for a brand new GroundZero canopy, and this process will rapidly germinate the valuable word-of-mouth advertising for us in return.

We have the products and we have the passion, and now you can experience the power and the performance of our new GroundZero canopies. Our experience and tenure in testing make it easy for me to give you my personal promise that, if for any reason you are not wholly happy with either the canopy or the deal, I will return your cash, direct to your pocket, with no hassle or comment. There's no smoke-screen fine print in this promise, I stake my reputation on it.

For more information about the canopies of Project GroundZero and the details of this limited time offer, log onto:

<http://www.aerodynamics.com>

Precision
GroundZero



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Antipodean GOGGLES



Tornado

The small Australian company, Total Control has recently introduced a range of skydiving goggles onto the market. Their products feature polycarbonate rather than the usual acrylic material for the construction of the lenses, and a one inch wide elastic strap for better grip. The company states that polycarbonate provides 100% UV400 protection and lasts longer without cracking or scratching. The goggles are designed exclusively for skydiving and range from £10 to £25.



Ruby

FREEBIE

Anybody who sends Total Control a cool photo of their goggles in freefall will win another pair of their choice free (inc P&P).

Nick Balgowan.
Total Control Skydivers
PO Box 6525, East Perth
6892, WA, Australia
www.totalcontrol.com.au
info@totalcontrol.com.au

Kit News



by Rob Colpus

Cameras to the left of us, cameras to the right...



Steve Swain, aka 2K Composites, has come up with another nice little item for the rapidly growing band of cameraflyers in our midst. Named for the moment (until Steve thinks of something better) the *FFX*, this new British designed and built, open-faced camera helmet has been specially designed to provide the option of shooting stills in addition to video. All camera angles on the helmet have been lined up 'true to line of sight' so there is little compromise to body position or angle.

Much work has gone into the exterior shell of the new helmet producing smooth clean lines, reducing the risk of nasty dangerous line snags. The fully enclosed video camera housing has been moulded into the shell in a pleasing new design. Because of this 2K claim that the aerodynamic *FFX* is now the narrowest and safest camera helmet on the market. (Comments from other helmet manufacturers are welcome.)

The new helmet also features enclosed dual altimeter ports that will fit all brands of audibles and comes with the option of a chin-cup and a hinged opening camera box. Also on the cards is a quick release cutaway system that will be available as an optional extra. The *FFX* fits the following video cameras: Sony PC6, PC9, PC100 & PC110, soon to fit the PC120, IP5 & IP7.



2K Composites
01296 688 536

steveswain@freelyfly2K.fsnet.co.uk

Space clocks

Altimaster 2, the small Michigan company which has taken over the sales and marketing of the classic Altimaster range of altimeters has announced the launch of two new models based on their popular *Altimaster 3*.

The new models named *Galaxy* and *Stratosphere*, differ from the original Alti 3 by sporting a replaceable lens and larger numbers on the faceplate. The *Galaxy* reads altitudes up to 18,000 ft MSL and the *Stratosphere* up to 30,000 ft, although the faces on both altis show only the standard 12,000 ft figures, therefore the jumper still

must remember the number of times the needle has rotated the face.

Other changes involve a 'smoothing-off' of the case and the option of a wide wrist band which locates the alti around the wrist or forearm leaving the hand totally free. The *Galaxy* and *Stratosphere* are available in feet or metres and in a choice of ten colours.



Alti 2: 001 248 668 9911
www.alti-2.com

ICARUS IN THE CROSSFIRE!

The last few months will have not left many fond memories for Icarus Parachutes executives. Since September they have had to issue a flurry of statements and safety bulletins relating to a flight stability problem with their *Crossfire* high performance main canopy.

The Icarus *Crossfire* was released in August 2000. After its release it became apparent that some *Crossfire* owners were experiencing severe buffeting when initiating front risers control inputs. In addition to this, KN has heard of at least one accident recently in the US (and rumours of at least one other) after a *Crossfire* canopy collapsed, although no concrete evidence is available to rule out wind turbulence or other factors in these cases.

After conducting some tests on the affected canopies, the company modified the trim and other parameters. Since then an additional number of *Crossfires* have also experienced the same problem.

The company have been at pains to insist that it's only **SOME** canopies that are affected, but the problem has been documented in a variety of sizes, wing loadings and weather conditions, and is not limited to only one manufacturing plant, although they state that none have been attributed to their Spanish operation. (Until recently Icarus manufactured canopies at three plants in three different countries.)

After further investigations the company concluded that the problem is one of manufacturing tolerances and was limited to canopies within a range of serial numbers. A list of those numbers were issued. Owners were assured that their canopies were safe to jump but that they should refrain from using front riser steering until further tests were concluded.

A later warning was issued requesting that those jumpers with limited experience, who may not possess the necessary knowledge to determine whether or not their canopy may

be affected, should **refrain from using their canopy pending the conclusion of testing.**

Following even more testing Icarus say that they have now been able to stabilise all affected *Crossfires* by performing a minor line-trim modification. Further action may be taken at a later date (whatever that means?) however, they feel it prudent to, *"act quickly and decisively to stabilise any canopies which may be affected and to allow Crossfire users to return to flying their canopy without flight restrictions"*.

The required action is for owners of *Crossfires* with serial numbers that appear on annexes 1 and 2 of their latest safety bulletin (found on their web site) must have the modification performed before November 2001 (before you read this unfortunately). Upon completion of this modification these canopies will no longer be subject to any flight restrictions. The company recommends that these modifications are performed immediately, and that canopies not modified before 30 November 2001 will be considered grounded from that date.

Icarus Canopies will perform the trim modification for you at no charge should you wish to return your canopy to their facility. They ask that you contact them prior to sending your canopy to attain a reference number. Alternatively local riggers should be able to perform this trim change which should take approximately 45-60 minutes, and should be no more than the cost of a reserve re-pack.

Note: Canopies in annex 2 that have already been re-lined or re-trimmed since 01 February 2001 will have been fitted with the latest trim specification at that time and will not require any further trim modification.

Icarus are at pains to point out that all *Crossfires* now being manufactured are immune from front riser buffeting or any



other defects and that no other products in their range have ever been affected by this problem.

In addition to the above, owners of *Crossfires* with Spectra lines are being advised to have them replaced with a Vectran line set. Due to the superior trim qualities of Vectran, Icarus are requesting that owners of *Crossfires* fitted with Spectra lines get a Vectran line-set replacement before 30 November 2001. Icarus will replace the Spectra lines free of charge – good deal! Contact Icarus Canopies for details.

Sascha Arndt
Icarus Canopies Europe
0034 938 496 432
sascha@icaruscanyopies.com
www.icaruscanyopies.com

Flying too close to the sun perhaps?

Much fracas has come to light following the recent problems faced by Icarus Parachutes and its *Crossfire* canopy. The Icarus partnership was formed two years ago as an amalgam of three parachute manufactures to handle the marketing and sales of a range of canopies by Jyro, the parachute design guru of New Zealand Airports. The three companies were Precision Aerodynamics of the USA, CIMSA of Spain and New Zealand Airports.

Icarus have stated that the majority of the *Crossfires* affected by the trim problem were manufactured by Precision, meanwhile Precision are saying that Icarus have

been irresponsible in not grounding ALL *Crossfires* until they were certain of the cause of the problem. George Galloway of Precision calls the problem "the *Crossfire* condition" and contends that a propensity for partial collapse lies dormant in every *Crossfire* irrespective of where it was built. There seems to be a disagreement between the two parties as to whether the problem is now solved or not.

A recent further development of the saga is that Icarus Parachutes released a 'no holds barred' statement to dealers on 5 November stating that Precision are no longer a partner and no more Icarus canopies will be built by them.

They go further in accusing Precision of offering and selling Icarus designs direct to dealers, cutting out the Icarus partnership, while Precision cite a strained business relationship and Icarus' method of dealing with the *crossfire* problem as amongst the reasons for the split. All of this follows Precision's release earlier this year of a range of its own designs which will compete head on with the Icarus products.

Several teddies have been thrown out of prams and fireworks were seen on 5 November in parts of the world that don't usually share that tradition.



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AFF CERTIFICATION



Photograph by Scott Hartley

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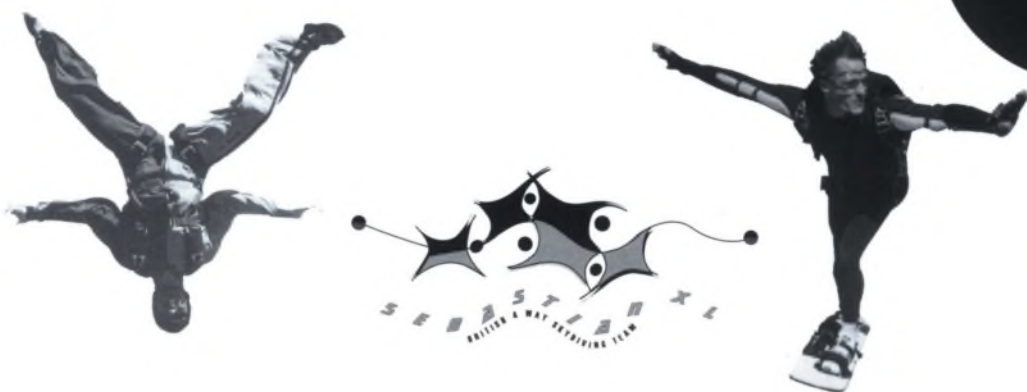
At the end of the 8 levels of the AFF course, the BPA requires that you make 10 solo 'consolidation' jumps. At Skydive Sebastian you will continue to receive instruction and guidance throughout these jumps.

Once you have completed these 10 solo's, you will have achieved "category 8" of the BPA classification, and you can also apply for your FAI (British standard) "A" Certificate.

You will then be able to jump at any DZ in the United Kingdom, as long as you meet the currency requirements of the CCI (Club Chief Instructor) and there is suitable equipment available.



Team Sebastian XL - John McIver, Toby Stafford, Rob Stevenson, Pete Allum, Steve Hamilton



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Call for information on our organized summer events!



Talking to Dean was more of an education than an interview.

He has so many interesting stories, I feel sorry for people who can only read this short article, as spending a couple of hours listening to him was fascinating stuff.

I feel really privileged to interview him and it gave me a heck of a lot of insight into how far the sport has come. I had to leave so much out so, if you see Dean at Langar, go and ask him to tell you one of his notorious jokes or hairy stories from his 35 years in the sport.

When did you do your first jump?

January 1966, but I actually entered the sport in November 1965.

How did you find out about it and where did you make it?

Because I was always talking about it, a guy I worked with showed me a little ad in a magazine saying, 'You too can make a parachute jump!' I thought, 'Yeah, great!' so sent off for the list of drop zones. There was only four at the time: Halfpenny Green, Thruxton, Hereford and Bridlington. The nearest one for me was Halfpenny Green, and it was £10 for the course, which was a lot of money in those days. I was on about £18 a week working as a sewing machine mechanic and still am. (*Times are hard at Langar, eh – Ed?*)

There were only three of us on the course and we couldn't jump that weekend because it was foggy. Every weekend after that, I phoned or turned up but they couldn't get an aircraft, or they couldn't get a pilot.

Eventually one weekend they had a Beagle Terrier (a three seat aircraft, similar to a Cessna). I was more excited than nervous. I was fulfilling a life-long dream that I can remember to this day.

Who were the biggest influences in your skydiving career when you were starting out?

I would say both of my instructors; Mike West, because he'd done about 400 jumps and back then you were awe-struck by someone like that and John Meacock who inspired me a lot. He was dead keen.

Which countries have you jumped in?

England – every single one of them in England. I'm not interested in the big meets or boogies. I like to look after the students.

What was your longest lay-off?

Seven weeks, I had broken my ankle, but I was still involved in the sport. I still kept dispatching students in that time with my



Dean (far right), jumpmaster of this Rapide load at Halfpenny Green, June 1969



ankle in a cast. It was very frustrating not being able to jump out after them.

Can you tell us a bit about any of the current instructors you trained?

When I was at Ashbourne I had to ask Dave Hickling, my static line student at the time, to help me work out how to despatch out of a Cherokee 6!

What was the sport like back then?

It was so different in those days. People just wanted to jump out of an aeroplane. It didn't matter if we got 2,000 or 10,000 feet. We used to say, "Yeah! We got one in today!" It was an achievement – and you were grateful. Okay, people want to jump today but when they turn up and there's low cloud, they'll say, "I'm not jumping today, I want to go to 13,000 feet".

Tell us about your days in the Barnstormers' Flying Circus

That was ultimate fun jumping because you'd go to the display and you wouldn't know what you were going to be jumping. It was wonderful. We got to jump out of all sorts of aircraft – you can't do that now, they've brought in too many rules. Sometimes we used to do formation flying in three Tiger Moths, one parachutist in each.

What was your most memorable display with the Barnstormers?

Well there was this one jump at a show in Coventry. The commentators were expecting a single cutaway stunt but I was going to do a double cutaway. My mate, Chalkie, helped me out onto the step of the 172, facing the tail. Just kicked off, opened the first one, streamed it just a little, then back into freefall. Steve Joyce, commentator on the ground didn't know what I was doing. So, next canopy comes out, streaming again! So now, he thought it was for real and his commentary changed to, "Oh, I've never seen this before – something's gone wrong! His main canopy is streaming!" One woman in the crowd fainted. Steve was so mad at me afterwards for not telling him what I was going to do. Shortly after they brought in more strict legislation for show jumps.

Have you jumped from any unusual aircraft?

One of the most interesting ones I jumped was a Stearman biplane with a radial engine. Now, this plane was used for crop spraying and didn't have a place for a passenger. One day after a display at Leicester, I jokingly asked the pilot John Jordan, if I could jump from it. John says, "If you can get in the crop-spraying well, I'll take

you up". So he strapped back the lid and emptied out all his crop-spraying kit and I climbed up on the fuselage. I couldn't fit in because my rig was just too wide. Then I said to him, as a laugh, that I could lie on the fuselage and hold onto the two centre wing spars. He replied, "if you think you can hang on, I'll take you up". So then we taxied out, and I was lying on the fuselage hanging onto the spars, then the tail came up and I caught the prop blast full on. I thought, 'I'm not going to be able to hang on here...' but it was too late, so I just got my head down and clung on for dear life. We got to 4,000 feet in about as many minutes and I just slid off to one side, gave John a thumbs-up and let go.

How do you feel about the newer disciplines in skydiving, such as freeflying and skysurfing?

I think freeflying is great, because that's an individual doing their own thing and this is what I'm into. If I wasn't with students regularly, I'd be doing the skyboarding stuff – I love to watch that.

What do you think of base jumping?

When I see a base jump on video, my heart starts pounding. I have got to do one. It would have to be a safe height, maybe Norway – anything over a thousand feet. Definitely not in the UK. I have too much to lose and anyway I couldn't run that fast to the getaway car with my arthritis.

What advice would you give to a student who has just completed their Cat 8?

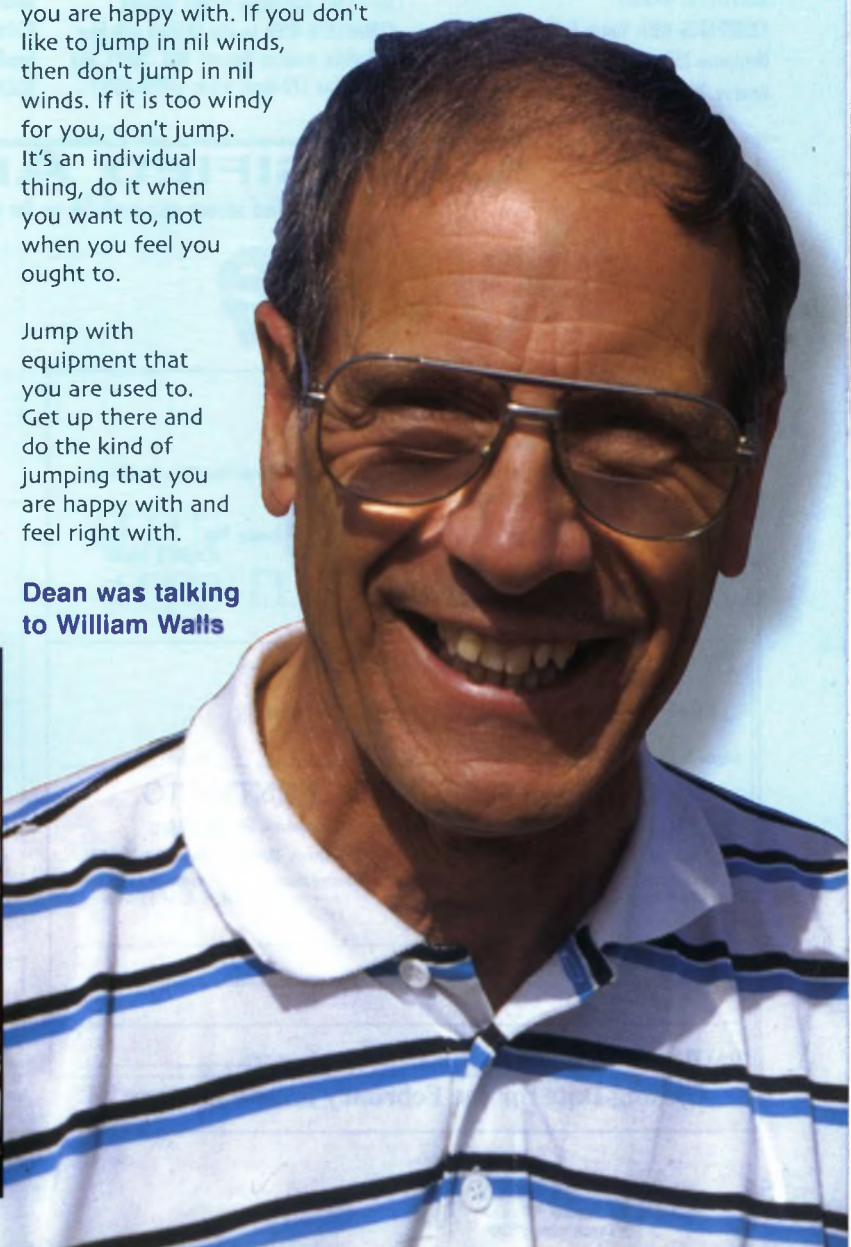
Don't try to run before you can walk. Jump in conditions that you are happy with. If you don't like to jump in nil winds, then don't jump in nil winds. If it is too windy for you, don't jump. It's an individual thing, do it when you want to, not when you feel you ought to.

Jump with equipment that you are used to. Get up there and do the kind of jumping that you are happy with and feel right with.

Dean was talking to William Walls



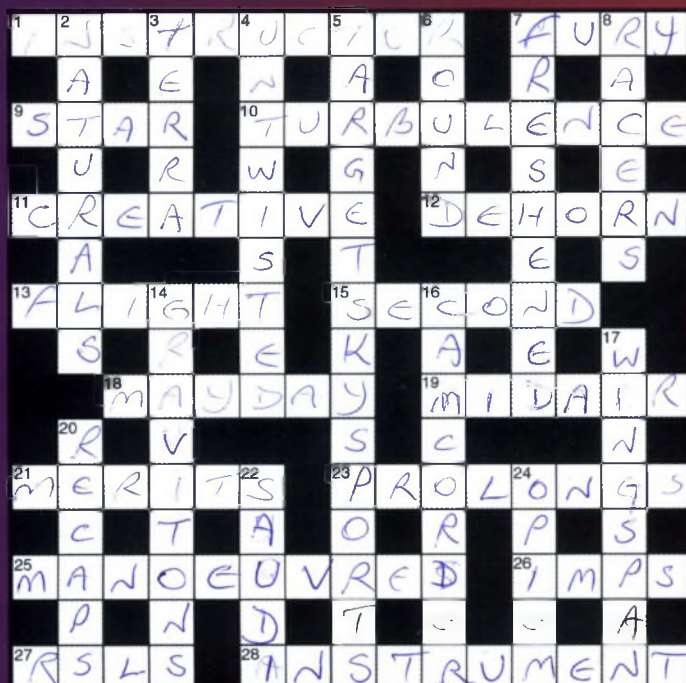
June 2001, more than thirty years later, Dean still loves the sport



CUTAWAY CROSSWORD



Two sets of clues with the same solutions



The main clues

ARE ELLIPTICAL AND TWISTED

the reserve clues are much more controllable.

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

Main clues

Across:

- 1 Coach or coach (10)
- 2 Canopy rage! (4)
- 9 Rats backslide into a formation (4)
- 10 Agitation and instability in the air (10)
- 11 Artistic sort, 'e carve it (8)
- 12 Disarm a rhino to make it safe from poachers? (6)
- 13 Fiona starts sunny journey by air (6)
- 15 Post a minute part (6)
- 18 Mademoiselle says "Help me get a date" (3,3)
- 19 Flying Ida aboard a space station (6)
- 21 Deserves canopies (6)
- 23 Delays for lengthy second (8)
- 25 Schemed to misdirect a nude mover (10)
- 26 Little devils stir Pims (4)
- 27 Emergency equipment rustles oddly (acronym)
- 28 You can get a tune from this audible alti (10)

Down:

- 2 Quick learners, they're not sharp or flat (8)
- 3 Discussed fear of the ground (5)
- 4 Not kinky after being kicked out (9)
- 5 Aim for air games at Hibaldstow (6,9)
- 6 Levels of competition for old chute (5)
- 7 Showered as the wind speed increased (9)
- 8 Speed skydiver's containers (6)
- 14 Quanta are massively attractive, theoretically (9)
- 16 Video cable dropped into whipped cream (9)
- 17 Fly south and criticise width of canopy (8)
- 20 Runs over spacer (6)
- 22 Middle Eastern ingredients found in Nassau diner (5)
- 24 Karl said "Religious people don't use this drug" (5)

Reserve clues

Across:

- 1 Teacher
- 2 FCI canopy
- 9 Celestial body
- 10 Rough air
- 11 Imaginative
- 12 Remove antlers
- 13 Air trip
- 15 Unit of delay
- 18 Radio distress signal
- 19 In-flight
- 21 Parachutes De France canopies
- 23 Extends
- 25 Moved an aircraft
- 26 Gremlins
- 27 Stevens Lanyards (acronym)
- 28 Aircraft indicator

Down:

- 2 Sure things
- 3 Earth
- 4 Unravelling
- 5 Drop Zone (6,9)
- 6 Slice of toast
- 7 Increased (of wind)
- 8 Jump shack rigs
- 14 Quanta of gravity
- 16 Video camera
- 17 Distance between stabilisers
- 20 Goes over
- 22 Arab country
- 24 Poppy

By Paul Boorer

answers - inside back cover

Quote of the Month:

"Think wrongly, if you please, but in all cases think for yourself"

Doris Lessing



skydiveportugal

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RW Skills Camp

24 March 2002 - 28 April 2002

Easter Boogie

29 March 2002 - 07 April 2002

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Photograph by John Dewys

Club News

EDITORIAL

I spoke to the majority of club reps last month to discuss the Mag as a whole, especially club news. The feedback I received was extremely positive and very productive. It helped me to put the pages together with a greater appreciation for what club jumpers believe in.



Club News is important and I am giving it the time and effort it deserves. This article is impressive and all ten pages are something for you to be proud of. I have made Club News my thang and want it to continue to develop as it has been, into a mini magazine and without our mammoth team effort, this would not happen. Your rep does not have an easy job so do try to help them by handing suitable photos and words to them promptly.

I note that all clubs claim to have had the biggest and best bonfires. By who's standards? – And at the last count, there's a choice of eight DZ Crimble parties to go to, all in the same week. Anyone planning to make it to all of them?

I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at my first AGM!

Bev

STRATHALLAN

Strathallan saw the biggest and best bonfire night in the area on 3 November. Andy Frew approved the secret recipe 'big-pan-doo' to feed the hungry hords, the pyrotechnics set off a spectacular display of several hundred pounds worth of fireworks, and the bonfire was hotter than even Jack Jefferies dare try (the bike just buckled in the heat!). A speed star competition provided fun in the air with the karaoke adding to the night time entertainment.

More free beer flows, as the high rate of student progression continues. It's great to see so many becoming regulars, with such enthusiasm, encouraged by the new kit and aircraft available for them to jump. Remember the SMG92 turbine is permanently based at Strathallan every weekend, which means it will be here to jump all through the winter.

Anne Johnson

Achievements

First freefall

David Hall
Rose-Ann Gross
Alan Sharp
Chris Reeves
Bill Mudie
Julie Terry

Cat 8
FS1
IC1

Jump Numbers

50
100
200
700
1,400

Laura Hillis
Lisa Saunders
Dugald Robertson
Mike Harrower
Eddie Jones



Jim Stevenson



Groundrush



Mmm Doughnuts



Gripswitch

Annual Woodmouse 4-way FS Meet, September

There was a terrific atmosphere with everyone out to have fun and learn from those with more experience, including some of the senior team members who were finding the blocks a whole new adventure!

Juniors

Team *Damn!* were clear winners finishing 15 points ahead of second place. The remaining positions were only decided on the final round. *Limited Ability* were disadvantaged by a hungover team leader, Rose who bowed out. This led to three team member changes before the first jump was made.

Winners

- 1 *Damn!*
- 2 *Mmm Doughnuts*
- 3 *Organised Chaos*
- 4 *Limited Ability*

Intermediates

This was the battle of the DZs with Headcorn, Hinton, Langar and Sibson represented.

Winners

- 1 *Air Rage* (Hinton)
- 2 *Air Bizkits* (Sibson)
- 3 *Sekoya* (Langar)
- 4 *Gripswitch* (Headcorn)

Seniors

This was a hotly contested category with just five points separating the medal positions. *Skydive Ltd* were the unluckiest, after their cameraman refused to jump with them due to the smells they generated in the plane! Two different pool cameramen proceeded to collide with the team on exit, although no NJs were noted.

The winners were not known until the medal ceremony, as judging had continued to the final minute. The whole bar silently waited. It was announced that although completing the competition with the same points and time, not allowing a jump off, *Skydive Ltd* had second place. *Groundrush*, having scored the higher first round (seven versus six) with cleanly executed jumps, claimed a well deserved first place.

Winners

- 1 *Groundrush*
- 2 *Skydive Ltd*
- 3 *Sultana*
- 4 *Half a Bear*

Thanks to the staff and cameramen at PPC for their great effort that enabled this competition to complete.

SIBSON

Parties

After the Halloween bonfire night party, the next party in Birdland Bar is the Christmas fetish party on 15 December. The centre closes on 17 December, through January and reopens at weekends only in February. We open full-time with the Let in March. Check out the article on 30 years of Sibson, page 26.

Achievements

AFF level 8	Lance Bowering, Chris Harris
Cat 8	Kev Bates, Ben Tonner (and fastest yard of alet!)
FS1	Nick Allen, Caroline Allen

Jump Numbers

50	Justin Noon
100	Caroline Allen
200	Gordon Denney
7,000	Stuart Meacock

Cath Symmonds & Cornelia Waymouth

HEADCORN

Wings bar is now opening in the evenings mid week and don't forget that Friday jumps are still £14. A funky new range of t-shirts, 'Be Free, Go Fly', designed by Chris Lynch are now available. Contact: chrislynchxl@compuserve.com

Balloon Jumps

Balloon jumps will very soon be happening regularly at Headcorn on weekday mornings and will hopefully be extended to weekends in the new year. Contact Garry Wilson at the club for details of the latest dates.

Helicopter at Headcorn

There was a real treat for club members in September with the visit of a Jet Ranger helicopter. In one morning it flew 13 lifts and enabled over 50 people to jump.

Bonfire Party

Thanks to some fantastic weather there was an excellent turnout for this year's bonfire party held in conjunction with the balloonists; with a huge bonfire, amazing fireworks and a great barbecue followed by a long night in Wings.

Vicki Tomlinson

Achievements

First freefall	Dan Seymour, Hartley Steve Gendek
IC1	Ashley Burns
FS1	Andy Holland, Ashley Burns
FF1	Andy Holland, Robin Day
FS Coach	Garry Wilson

Jump Numbers

100	Ashley Burns
200	Trigger
300	Chris Pillings, Louise Hawkins Graham 'Sharon' Stone
400	Chris Hines
600	Vicki Tomlinson
700	Pete Leighton
800	Dave Coveney
900	Baz Smith
1,800	Ken Webber
2,500	Lee Andrews
8,000	Chris Lynch

Hours Freefall

12	Barry Smith
24	Lee Andrews
36	Clem Quinn



Malcolm Darling

Our Let departed early in October to be replaced by the black Beaver which will be here all winter. The Beaver is a very fast-climbing turbine with a well fitting door and a good heater. Welcome to Pilot John O'Connell who will be flying it for us.

FIVE NATIONS CUP



Senior Accuracy
Gold: Glenn Stephenson



Senior Accuracy
Silver: Mike Murphy



Intermediate Accuracy
Gold: Peter Herrick



Junior Accuracy
Gold: Keith Hoy



Senior 4-way FS
Gold: Whatever – Nigel, Evan, Ronnie, Willie & Pete



Senior 4-way FS
Silver: Whoop Arse – Paul, Colin, Stevie & John



CF
Gold: Pat, Karen, Eugene & Yo

WILD GEESE

Classics & CF Grand Prix and Five Nations Cup

Sadly, only a handful of jumpers made the trip over from the mainland. As usual the Geese had arranged to pick the competitors up from the airports and ferry terminal. We offered free accommodation and cash prizes. There were only two teams in the 4-way but both fought hard and were tied until the last round when team *Whatever* took Gold. Pat Hammond made the trip with the only CF team of the competition.

BPA Roadshow

It was good to see everyone taking advantage of the vast experience from the BPA roadshow at the Wild Geese. Thanks to Sacha Chilton & Brian Vacher of *VMax* plus Kev Sargent & Ian Stevens of *VNE* who made the trip. Low cloud and high winds prevented any jumping on the Saturday but everyone was split into 4-way teams and practiced hard in the hope that Sunday would be better.

That night we all headed down to the local hotel for food and refreshments, one of the staff from the Geese had planned a surprise for his girlfriend – a cake in the shape of a willy! (pictured below).

Creepers Meet

Sunday morning brought no change to the weather so Dona Crum, a BPA judge decided to hold a 4-way creepers meet. The teams had to exit the mock-up and turn points on the creepers under the watchful eye of Dona with her stopwatch. The competition was very close but the local 4-way team took the honours.

Achievements

If you want to see your name here give your club rep the information!

Words and photos
John McCourt

Everyone who comes over to visit Wild Geese finds we are a good, friendly DZ and the crack is mighty. It would be great to see more jumpers attending competitions here. Give us a call and we will pick you up from the ferry or airport.



Sharon and her birthday cake

RAPA

Achievements

First freefall Lenny Wiles
Steve Frost
Chris White
Jeff Pearson
Cat 8 Steve Flemming
Vicky Holman
Ian Murry
Stu MacKinnon

Jump Numbers

50 Linda Gillan
Vicky Holman
200 Keith McCleary
300 Stu Murtha
Sully Rhaman

Welcome to CSI, Ian Anderson.
Farewell to Paul Worthing.
Thanks for all your hard work.

Bish

CHATTERIS

The Nomad is now working hard and attracting lots of new faces to the centre. Welcome to Martin Williams and team *Pumpkin* who put in a visit and brought along a hot air balloon to play with but alas, it was grounded due to wind.

Congratulations to Ian Ashpole on his toy balloon altitude record attained over the skies of Chatteris. He ascended to 11,000 feet with 600 helium balloons. Rumour has it that it would have been higher but they ran out of string! Apologies to all the regulars who were kept awake by the sound of popping balloons and helicopters at six in the morning.

Our closing dates this year are 17 December through to 18 January, with the Christmas party date to be confirmed. Ring the centre for details.

Words and photo by
Steve Wilkins

Achievements

Cat 8 Kevin Lamy, Troy Donovan, John Keeling, Mark Turner
FS1 Lloyd Quenby, Pat Naylor

Jump Numbers

100 Pat Naylor, Alistair Baker
300 Kai Sherwood
600 Yo Lee
3,000 Mike Rust

Hours Freefall

24 Sharon Simonian



club news

POPS



Niels, Pete and Don

Inner Alarm

Calling All Over-Phorties!

Big-Way Record Attempts

April 6-7 and August 3-4, Langar

The POPS in the UK are changing. We rarely jump on our own, we pay more attention to organising bigger loads, and we are using larger aircraft. In some respects we appear to be swinging away from the classics towards big-ways. Seeing as there is such a lot of skydiving experience amongst the over-40s and the British POPS record currently stands at 14; we intend to push the POPS formation record into the 20s or even 30s.

There will be load organisers and video cover for every group over eight. It is hoped that as many POPS as possible will come out of the woodwork on both occasions.

Langar has a turbine lift capacity of 36 and all aircraft will be available for the record attempts. It is rumoured that Dave 'Ogre of Langar' will be getting his geriatric frame into the sky for the record attempts. (which one? — Ed)

Hit & Rock and 4-way scrambles will still be a part of all the other POPS weekends next year. It is only the two weekends above which will be devoted to 8-ways and bigger.

Paul French

HINTON

Scrambles Competition

In September we held the first annual scrambles competition. Even the hardened freeflyers found an FS suit and joined in (see — you can remember how to flat fly!). Due to the weather, we didn't complete all the rounds and it was a very close competition. It ended up being judged on 35 seconds working time.

Touch played a fantastic gig well into the night, including guest appearances by Phil Bird and Tim Carter on guitar and drums. There were a lot of sore heads on the Sunday, and luckily(!) a 500ft cloud base. Thanks to Geoff and Mike for the pig roast, t-shirts and camera slots.

Winners

1st 4Qs, 2nd Scratch'n'Sniff, 3rd 2 Mile High

Bonfire Weekend Party

Thanks to Steve, Con and Eamonn for the fantastic firework display, even if some of them did fire in rather odd directions. Even the Halloween pumpkin joined in the party by going up with a bang!

Congratulations

Just when you thought the gene pool was safe — Clive Bennett has become a Dad. Congrats to Clive and Jo on the arrival of baby Alexandria.

New Bar

Colin Harvey won the competition to name our new bar *Personality Place* (It's the only place he has one!). The TV room has been redecorated and has some mega comfy new sofas. There is now a debriefing room and the shop has finally moved upstairs to its new massive home with loads of new stock. Check it out in Drop Zone Focus, page 68.

The DZ will close on 16 December for Christmas and reopen on 5 January.

Words and photos
Caroline White

Achievements

FS1 John Keogh, Steve Baldwin

Jump Numbers

100 Maria Russell, Steve Stringer
Jon Keogh, Mike Sheehan
200 Will Walls
300 Mike McHale
400 Rachel Gray
500 Clair Tuckett, Alec Cotton
John Holmes



4Qs — Steve, Woody, Gus and Jason



Scratch 'n' Sniff — Gibbo, Emma, Leonie and Mike

NETHERAVON

Halloween Weekend

In October was the Halloween ball weekend which kicked off with night jumps on the Friday. Craig Poxon started the proceedings, executing a perfect swoop across the floodlit pit. Thanks to Steve, Mac and Ian for organising and running the event, which resulted in a fair few bell rings in the bar!

For the last lift on the next day the weather treated us to the black tie jump. Surprisingly enough, no one chose to wear a ball gown although Scotty Weller came the closest in his kilt, commando style! We liked junior pilot Nick O'Brien's interesting interpretation of black tie. Nice bermuda shorts! The champagne cocktails set the tone for the rest of the evening and the band, disco and entertainments were all fantastic. It looks like the vodka jelly may have to make a re-appearance at the next ball, with a prize being awarded for the most inventive way of consuming it! Thanks to everyone for making such an effort. Debbie 'hungover for a week' Ingle (right) showed us a novel way of riding the bucking bronco (below right) – who needs a wind tunnel?! Apparently it was in an attempt to preserve her dignity – sorry Debs, but it was too late for that!

Sunday dawned grey and overcast which was probably just as well. We would have struggled to fill the earlybird lift due to the number of people experiencing fluffy heads!

Finally, commiserations to Fitz who broke his arm in an alarming number of places on a recent trip to the States. Is there any truth in the rumour that this was done whilst posing for the camera?

Words and dinner table photo:
Kath Salisbury

Other photos:
Simon Ward on Olympus digital

Achievements

Cat 8	Maya Ringshall
IC1	Mike Alderson
FS1	Paul Housley, Liz Ashley Callum Harwood Andrew Edmunds, Jo Ford Carl Jackson, Dean Rooney Stephen Henderson Mike Jackson, Justin Baker John Dennis, Charlotte Cooke
FF1	Justin Roberts, Graham Wood
FF2	Geoff Halls

Jump Numbers

50	Liz Ashley, Justin Baker, Paul Housley
100	Carl Jackson, Dean Rooney Matt Applegate, Mike Jackson
200	George Easton, Keith Davidson Stephen Henderson, Tony Beevor
400	Taff Rogers
600	Geoff Halls
700	Ian Nicholson, Richard Tregaskes
1,000	Bob Soutar





ST ANDREWS

Kneeflying with the Happy Chipmunk Squad

As part of the BPA's roadshow programme we had a brilliant FS coaching weekend at the end of September. Thanks to Liz and Kate from VMax and Martin and Ian from VNE, APA and the multitudes of others who made it a friendly and fun learning experience. I personally found Ian 'Stumpy' Matthew's pointers on 'How to Fly Your Bitch' very useful for my upcoming training on blocks. The ground training was invaluable and everyone who came to jump with some of Britain's best got their chance. Most students came away with an appreciation of the mantis position (aka happy chipmunk) and a desire to form some sort of team.

New Dictator

You'll all be happy to know (well, almost all of you) that our CCI got better looking overnight. Alan Wilkinson is the centre's new CCI as Brian is off to ponce about in France, although he will be back to haunt you every few weeks (aw, we wuv him weally!).

Paaar-tay

In October we had a wild Halloween party. The uni clubs gave out beer and T-shirts to the winners of the best costumes. First place went to John Ingledew for his viking impersonation. I am sorry to say that too many blokes went for the lingerie look.

On November 3 we had a huge bonfire and a very impressive fireworks display. There was the usual hot meal and beer in front of the fireplace afterwards. Aah, DZ life in winter doesn't have to be so bad! December 1 we had a birthday party for Louise and Moi at the Lundin Links Hotel.

Scrambled Eggheads

In October we had an informal 3-way and accuracy scrambles. For quite a few jumpers this was their first formation jump and they had a great time. There's nothing like a fun and progressive atmosphere to bring students along in leaps and bounds!

Vicky Wilkinson

Achievements

First freefall	Kirsty Gunstonel, Sarah Rhind
Cat 8	Johnathan Smullen, Darren Rose
FS1	Alex Astaras
FF1	Ian Johnstone

Jump Numbers

50	Michael Franchetti, Louise Duguid
2,000	Ned Blythe

Hours Freefall

12	Ned Blythe
36	Jimmy White



Satan (former CCI) shaking hands with Dr Evil (new CCI)

club news



Charlie holding Louise's hair back

Photos: Louise Duguid

Louise, Alan, Sarah and John



PARAGON

Over thirty of our regular Paragon jumpers will be arriving on foreign soil, namely Northern Ireland for a visit to Wild Geese. Here's hoping they are welcomed with blue skies and sharing the day's aerial antics over a pint 'o' Guinness at night! Yet another trip to Empuriabrava is proposed for early on in the new year. Bookings have started flooding in from the troops for 12-19 February, with cheap flights available on the net.

Welcome back to Dennis Murphy who has been away for some time suffering from a long term injury.

Sandra Inglis

Achievements

Cat 8	Ed Murdoch (in 19 jumps!)
First freefall	Harry Minty
36 hrs freefall	George McGuinness
1,500 jumps	Walter Gillan



George McGuinness goes for the disk!



Simon Ward



UBI Bodyflight winning the junior 4-way Nationals this year, photo not available last issue.



WESTON

Simon Ward

At Weston, we have plenty to look back on and celebrate. Our teams have delivered outstanding performances. Huge club pride for *VMax*, *4Pak*, *UBI Bodyflight* and *VNE*. There have been some fantastic events – the bikini dive, club competitions, Warp weekends and of course, the first summer ball. We've also seen some impressive student progression. Particular congratulations to Nicky Dumbleton who was awarded the student of the year trophy, donated by VMax.

Steve Mursell married Ali on 1 September – what a cracking wedding party! The *XTrix* boys plus helpers put on an amazing fireworks display at the end of season party, and who could forget the impressive dent in Mary Applegate's car courtesy of Ben Wood – nuff said!

Look forward to seeing you at the Christmas party in Woodstock on 15 December, and at the BPA AGM on 19 January.

Bev Ford

Achievements

6,000 jumps Dave Woods
(What a jump-hog! Since the last issue, Dave has crammed in no less than 5,400 jumps – congratulations!)

Team UBI BodyFlight

Our first year of competitive four way FS. What a buzz! This year our results are directly proportional to our input. The energy, commitment and desire to succeed have been truly satisfying. We would like to thank everyone for their support, especially everyone at Weston 'The fat Super Otter'. Solly Williams 'Just Magic' and Paul Floyd 'He's all over it'.

What's Next? Our second home, Skydive Deland for the most impressive teaching aid ever – the Sky Venture wind tunnel. Its going to hurt! See you all next season.

christian.ivory@uwe.ac.uk

TARGET

You would think it was still the middle of summer in sunny Scunny as the sun has shone faithfully virtually all year. Having the fabby G92 with its nice up-and-over door and its heating is a total bonus. One last bash before we say goodbye to 2001 – the Christmas party on 15 December.

Welcome back to Ruth Kent after her accident and congratulations to Andrea and Nick who have just announced the arrival of Maddison Hannah.

Halloween 10-way Speed

This year's Halloween 10-way speed meet at Hibaldstow was the best we have seen so far. The weather was glorious and the DZ was packed. It was obvious the competition was going to be tough. *The Spooksters* were led by Joanne Johnston, with Jason Brister captain of *Low Fat Spread* (!) *Matilda The Bun* was led by the weary Jim Keery; and Baldrick was responsible for the *Monster Mashers*. The build times were excellent and *Matilda The Bun* took on Thanks to Shaun Ellison and Dan Parker for coaching and organising. Despite the number of intermediate teams and fun jumpers, James on manifest did an awesome job and the competition was completed by the end of the day. When the night drew in the moon was full and we were all in the spooky mood. The bar was full of blood, guts, gore and ghoolies. Erm, it wasn't supposed to be fetish but hey, no one was complaining.

Bonfire Party

We had the most amazing bonfire and firework display (Baldrick escaped unscathed!) and Nick and his band *Oblivion* started the night rocking. Aidan then took over on the decks to finish off a perfect day. This is definitely one for next year's diary; lots of fun and a wicked party to top it off.

Ruth Covell

Matilda the Bun

Low Fat Spread

10-way Speed Results

- 1 *Matilda The Bun*
- 2 *Spooksters*
(excellent result for the average jump numbers)
- 3 *Low Fat Spread*

Photos: Paul Hollow

PETERLEE

Showing that persistence does pay off, Guy Radcliffe has graduated from his AFF course in eight jumps. It's great to have all the uni clubs back at Peterlee with a load more fresh faced students. One in particular, Salim Al-Riyami from Teeside Uni did some interesting accuracy involving a tree. There is finally a door on the 182, nothing short of a miracle (thanks Darren). Congratulations to Ian and Thelma Rosenvinge on the arrival of baby Niamh.

Jane Robertson



Alan Thompson (above) is the first deaf person in Britain to achieve his FFI

Achievements

First freefall	Joanne Dawson, Harry Burchnell
Graduated AFF	Guy Radcliffe
FFI	Alan Thompson

Jump Numbers

50	Oliver Neuberger, Guy Radcliffe
200	Alex Smith, Paul Dordward, Jane Robertson
400	Mick Glover



Alli Armstrong's 500th jump

LANGAR

Achievements

First freefall	Anita Levy, Rebecca Siddell Martin Watson, Tracy Ward
Cat 8	Ken Evans, Chris Taylor Matt Robinson Stuart Watson Gary De'Ath Alec Flint (<i>in min jumps</i>) Alex and Chris Dulewicz (<i>we think, but it's difficult to be certain as we still can't tell them apart!</i>)
FS1	Marius Calapaci
CF1	Nigel Jordan
FF1	Al Hodgson

Jump Numbers

100	Weed, Nicolas Desmonts Ian Ridpath
200	Trev Dickson
300	Alex Lewis
500	Alli Armstrong, Caroline Hughes
600	Craig Poxon

The CF skills roadshow at the end of September went well despite the slightly dodgy weather. The Red Devils did their usual excellent job with special mention to cameraman Mac Macauliffe who had a mal, cut away and kept filming the action regardless!

Camera flying is popular. Everybody and their dogs want to try it. Soon you won't be able to move at Langar without being filmed! The Let has gone home for the winter, so we had the usual raucous send-off party. Captain Leonid and his crew will be back in the Spring, but until then we'll just have to make do with the Grand Caravan (!) Thanks to Keith and Chuckles for bonfire night which went with a large number of bangs!

Tony 'Bones' Smith, our largest tandem instructor has completed 25 years in the sport. Pilot Tim Holland joined us a little while ago, and it didn't take long to make him jump too.

Langar Boogie

It went so well being early year so the next Langar boogie is planned for 4-12 May 2002. This is an excellent way to get your skills back up to scratch after a long winter, so put it in your diary and book a few days off work.

Tony Danbury

TILSTOCK



Roy Parker

Air Rage — Steve, Gavin, Euan and Ben

When our first night jumps for the winter had to be postponed due to the weather, demolishing Schof's caravan with an axe was a good way of letting off steam! The bonfire was therefore well fuelled and the fireworks were great, as I'm sure all the drivers on the A41 would agree!

Ken Taylor (73) has just completed his third tandem jump. It's nice to see him as a regular and congrats on all the fund raising.

Colin hasn't had as much success getting revenge on the mouse which developed a taste for the hacky sack on his rig!

See you all in the new year, allowing recovery time from the AGM and Christmas party. We close on 15 December and reopen on 26 January.

Liz Rimmer

Achievements

First freefall	Peter Duckett
Cat 8	Russell Adams
IC1	Rob Little
1,000 tandems	Chris Gilmore



Photo: Paul Sheehan

WALES

Lindsey Ashwood (Cat 8), Carl Williams, Ian Rawlings (AFF) and Paul Sheehan (Cat 8), all from Skydive Wales on a trip to Empuriabrava during October.

CARK

Freely Weekend

A the end of September we hosted the first Cark freely weekend. Plenty of freeflyers from Hibaldstow made an appearance and coaching was offered by our very own Sean Ellison and Hib's Dan Parker & James Swallow. Everyone who registered had the opportunity to get one free coaching jump. Cark was swarmed with freeflyers but it didn't stop us flat flyers from getting some good 4 and 6-ways together.

Thanks to Craig for rounding people up for some big-ways. It was good to see so many disciplines and people having so much fun. Thanks also to Sarah-Jayne Thomas for all the freebies.

Saturday night we had a guest DJ (who was that guy?) and a most excellent vodka bar. Roll that dice and pay your price! The weekend was a hit and the atmosphere was superb.

There are plans to arrange another freely weekend soon, incorporating an FS skills weekend. Hopefully it will take place on the first bank holiday in the new year.

G-BEEG is back in action

Great news that our Islander has now returned after being off poorly-sick. University students have been making use its return. G-BEEG is now fully recovered and has had a new point job to boot. Thank you to Maggie and Dave Penny from Wild Geese for lending us the Cessna. Without it our students would not have been able to jump.

CYPRUS

To help promote 'keeping violence out of sport', the demo team of seven jumped into a match at the Cypriot premiership football season at Larnaca to a very warm welcome. We finished the season with a full weekend of jumping, the AGM and a great party to boot! Goodbye to Sam Scott (who couldn't wait till the end of season to get away, and left in September), Reg Green and Steve Studders. They'll all be greatly missed. Best of luck in your new postings!

Helen Mills

Achievements

ICI	Joe Clothier
FS1	Richard Kolinski
Graduated AFF	Efrinos Fren

BLACK KNIGHTS

Our Cessna 185 has returned from it's C of A and is like a brand new aircraft. It's good to see it in the skies over Cockerham again.

Poor Dave Gaskell was taken into hospital with appendicitis but ended up in intensive care for 23 days. Now he is back at home and getting back to normal. We all wish him well.

The Christmas party is set for 15 December and we have fully booked the hotel. A brilliant response to what will be an excellent festive party.

Jeff Illidge

Achievements

First freefall	Alan Davies, Neil Henshall
ICI	Rob McVey
2,000 jumps	Billy Sharples

Mother and son, Carol Sutton and Drew Cummings



Pete Hughes

Night Jumps

Night jumps took place on November 3 and six Islander lifts took 48 jumpers into the night sky. Most of us had not done a night jump before. The organisation was brilliant and made for a very different but excellent experience. There were five and ten second delays from 4,000ft and the more experienced jumpers went to 8,000ft. One dive in particular came away with an 8 point 4-way! Well done to Dave, Craig, Duncan and Steve for that.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Martine and Stuart Morris who are expecting their first child. Great news for the ending of a fab year at Cark; what's more is that the Let is staying until at least February too! See you all at the Christmas do.

Michelle Meakins

Achievements

First freefall	Steven Edge
Cat 8	John Lucas (in 21 jumps!)
	Anthony Jenkins
FS1	Rob McConachie
FF1	Peter Connor

Jump Numbers

200	Mick Lloyd, Kay Carruthers
	Andy Brass
300	Steve Hanky
500	Gary Turner, Pete Hughes
	Peter Connor
600	Craig Kelsall

Duncan Stott



John Lucan (left) celebrating his Cat 8 with Mick Carruthers

John Williamson



Dave, Stan, Tracey and Tim

Trek to Texel

16 regulars from Cark boarded the Let for their trip to Texel, Holland. Big-way training by Herman Landsman was on offer and the ultimate aim of the trip was to build a 50-way. After the flight the majority of jumpers decided to land in Holland under canopy.

Texel is the largest full-time centre in the Netherlands with two turbine aircraft, three 206s and an AN2. Most of the group enjoyed the novelty of the incredibly slow run-in speed of the AN2 after a week of turbines.

We stayed at the Hotel de Kievit, cheap and cheerful with a proper skydivers' bar. The evening entertainment

had to be seen to be believed and at least one person left the snorers in the dorm for the sanctuary of the corridor each night!

The barbecue at the DZ was excellent, with mountains of food and beer. The Dutch are great. One of the DZ staff took the wrong slot on a 14-way, and duly furnished the group with a case of beer.

The trip was superb. Good jumping, good coaching and good vibes. Another trip is planned for next year. Places are already going! Book mine Mick!

Craig Kelsall



Cark big-way training camp at Texel

Drop Zone Focus

Map No

8



Hinton Skydiving Centre

Hinton

Hinton Skydiving Centre

Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley,
Northamptonshire, NN13 5NS

Tel: 01295 812 300

Fax: 01295 812 400

info@skydive.co.uk

www.skydive.co.uk

INSTRUCTORS:

Dave Emerson, Geoff Wood, Mike Browne, Zoe Carroll, Gary Small, Steve Ashenden, Kenny Lloyd, Derk Boersma, Doug Peacock, Glen Morris, Bryan Poole, Nick Everett, Simon Rushton, Clive Bennett, Dave Luke, Pete Carroll, Geoff Tucker, Billy Jenkins

PILOTS:

Joseph, Bob O'Hara, Geoff Kent, Tiggs

AIRCRAFT:

Let 410 (17 places), Cessna 206 (5 places)

ALTITUDE RESTRICTIONS:

None

JUMP PRICES:

Static line rounds	£25
RAPS (Static line, freefall)	£30
Up to 3,500 feet	£8
Up to 6,500 feet	£12
Max: 12,000 feet	£16

1st JUMP COURSES:

RAPS, tandem, AFF

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Scrambles are held on an annual basis.

COACHING:

Warp coaches are available, subsidised by the DZ. We have a freefly school run by Tim Carter (silver medal at freely nationals) and CF coaching is also available from Steve Saunders or Richard Hayden.

OTHER BUSINESSES:

Parachute Training Services, Aerialchute Photography (skydiving filming), DZ Sports (skydiving equipment shop on new premises), Personality Place (bar), gliding club, cafe, B & B.

FOOD AND DRINK:

Cut Away Cafe serves burgers, sandwiches, crisps, chocolate, veggie food, ice-creams and drinks. The bar opens after jumping.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:

The DZ is in the middle of the countryside with lots of footpaths and villages. Silverstone is not far from Hinton and can usually be seen on the way up to altitude. Banbury is only a ten minute drive away with lots of shops, cafes, pubs and clubs.

LOCAL FOOD & DRINK:

Brackley is the nearest town about four miles away and offers takeaways and pub grub. The Plough and Red Lion are where most people go and The Rose & Crown in Charlton is the closest pub to the DZ and offers good food and drink. The White Horse in Kings Sutton is a more sophisticated place and The Butchers Arms, also in Kings Sutton offers the best Sunday roast.

OVERVIEW:

The DZ has grown since it was bought three and a half years ago but it has retained its friendly club atmosphere with barbecues and parties throughout the year. Hinton is a friendly, welcoming place where people are approachable, helpful and will try and get everybody jumped.

CAMPING:

You can pitch your tent at the back of the hangar or you can sleep in the classrooms on the mats. There is also a shower block.



Hinton images: Caroline White

OWNERS: Geoff Wood
& Mike Browne

CCI: Dave Emerson

Directions

Hinton is located off the A422 between Banbury and Brackley near a small village called Farthinghoe. From the M40, come off at junction 11 onto the A422 towards Brackley. Immediately on leaving Farthinghoe turn right, signposted Hinton Airfield 1½ miles.



Recommended Local Accommodation

Wall Tree Farm B & B, Hinton Airfield
01295 811 235
(located on the drop zone)

The Crown Hotel, Brackley
01280 702 210
(special rates for skydivers)

Altitude awareness may be natural.



Or not.

AIRTEC

Mittelstrasse 69 Tel. +49 2953 98990
D-33181 Bad Wünnenberg Fax +49 2953 1 2 9 3



Ken Franklin's falcon "Frightful", photo by Norman Kent during the filming of "Willing to fly"

BPA Associated UK Organisations

Overseas DZs

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

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 Association

Dave Thompson - Chairman

Mill Hollow Barn, Stockwell Lane, Sulgrave, Banbury, Oxon, OX17 2RS

www.bcpa.org.uk chairman@bcpa.org.uk

The BCPA aims to promote parachuting and skydiving at collegiate level. We hold events for our 25 affiliated university clubs and we provide help on setting up and running these clubs. Most importantly we provide a community where university skydivers of all abilities can find like-minded people to jump and socialise with.

David Morris Action Sports

2 Daleside, Cotgrave,

Nottingham NG12 3QA

Tel/Fax: 0115 989 2050

Mobile: 0777 498 6600

dave@daleside2.demon.co.uk www.daleside2.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 Tandem and AFF Instructor and Examiner.

East Coast Parachute Centre

8 Burns Crescent, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0TS

Tel: 01245 268772

RAPS, static line and progression courses. AFF — UK and abroad.

Tandem Video by arrangement.

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!

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 Mobile: 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, 60 Amphil Rd, Shefford,

Beds, SG17 5BD

Tel: 01462 638312

pete@thepops.org www.thepops.org

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

reddevils@reddevilsonline.com

www.reddevilsonline.com

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)

info@sspa.co.uk www.sspa.co.uk

Newsgroup: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scotspa

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

skydiveacademy@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

Mobile: 0785 000 7178

skydive@ukgateway.net www.skydiveltd.com

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 the UK and abroad. Also available; team coaching, Skydive University one-on-one programme and tandem.

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

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 freely 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

400 W Airport Drive,

Sebastian, FL 32958, USA

Tel: 00 1 561 388 0550

Fax: 00 1 561 581 4468

skydivemik@aol.com

www.fadadventures.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

info@skydivecity.com

www.skydivecity.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, freely coaching, team training from Sebastian XL. Equipped team rooms, gym, volleyball, bunk-house, camping, beach jumps, load organising, rigging service, accommodation arranged.

Background Image: Simon Ward

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER 2001

- 8** **Cark Christmas Dinner**
Swan Hall Hotel, Newby Bridge, Cumbria
www.skydive-northwest.com 01539 558672
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
- 8** **Tilstock Christmas Party**
Tern Hill Hall Hotel 01948 841 111
www.theparachutecentre.com
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
- 11** **BPA Council Meeting & EGM**
skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 2785 271
- 15** **Wild Geese Christmas Dinner Dance**
Wild Geese 028 295 58609
Bushtown House Hotel, Coleraine
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk
- 15** **Black Knights Christmas Party**
BKPC, Cockerham w/e 01524 791820
www.bkpc.co.uk or 0151 9245560
jeff@payco.net
- 15** **Target Christmas Dinner and Party**
Target Skysports 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk
- 15-6 Jan** **Empuria Christmas Boogie**
Empuriabrava, Spain 0034 972 450 111
cpcb@gna.es www.skyrats.com
- 17-25** **Skydive City Christmas Boogie**
Zephyrhills, Florida 001 813 783 9399
www.skydivacity.com info@skydivacity.com
- 18-4 Jan** **Elsinore Christmas Boogie**
Skydive Elsinore, 001 909 245 9939
California www.skydiveelsinore.com
info@skydiveelsinore.com
- 19-23** **XL Challenge Skills Camp**
Pete Allum 001 561 589 6734
Skydive Sebastian, www.skydiveseb.com
Florida pete_allum@compuserve.com
- 22-6 Jan** **Skydive Portugal Christmas Boogie**
Target Skysports Holiday: 0113 250 5600
www.skydive-portugal.com
info@skydive-portugal.com

22-6 Jan **Nagambie Christmas Boogie**
Nagambie, Melbourne, 0061 3579 4146
Australia skydivenagambie@yahoo.com
www.skydivenagambie.com.au

23-5 Jan **Castellon Winter Boogie**
Castellon, Spain 0049 5674 999 333
info@skydive.de www.skydive.de

26-31 **Vertical Vacation & Tracking Competition**
Skydive Sebastian, FL 001 561 388 5672
info@skydiveseb.com www.skydiveseb.com

26-31 Jan **Aussie National Championships**
Ramblers, Toogoolawah, South Queensland
FS/CF/Ssurf/Fstyle/FF
www.ramblers.com.au 0061 0733 996 400

27-2 Jan **2nd Annual Skyvan Boogie**
Corowa, Australia skydive@aragnet.com.au
Frank Smith 0061 0260 332 435

JANUARY 2002

3-8 **Airspeed Basic Tunnel Camps**
www.tunnelcamp.com 001 480 283 2603

19 **AGM**
Hanover Hotel, Hinckley 01455 631 122
BPA Office 0116 2785 271
skydive@bpa.org.uk www.bpa.org.uk

25-28 **Australia Day Beach Boogie**
Port Macquarie, Australia
skydive@turboweb.net.au
Dee Bowring 0061 0409 995 802

26-27 **IPC Meeting**
Lausanne, Switzerland john@bpa.org.uk
John Hitchen, BPA 0116 278 5271

FEBRUARY

20-2 Mar **Umm Al Quwain Boogie**
United Arab Emirates
Pete Marsden 01932 701 321
pete@boogieclub.co.uk www.boogieclub.co.uk

20-24 **Skydive U - The Search III**
Skydive Sebastian 001 561 581 0100
Exclusive opportunity for novice jumpers
Limited places www.skydiveu.com

22-9 Mar **Borneo Boogie**
Herman Landsman 0031 222 311 658
skydive@exoticskyadventures.com
www.exoticskyadventures.nl

23-3 Mar **3rd Annual Freely Boogie**
Port Macquarie, Australia
skydive@turboweb.net.au
Dee Bowring 0061 0409 995 802

27-3 Mar **XL Challenge Skills Camp**
Pete Allum 001 561 589 6734
Skydive Sebastian, www.skydiveseb.com
Florida pete_allum@compuserve.com

MARCH

1-10 **World Pops Meet**
Matamora, Fax: Val 0064 927 34 263
New Zealand paul.faulkner@xtra.co.nz
www.thepops.org

2-9 **Kenya Safari Beach Boogie**
Geoff Wood (Hinton) 01295 812300
info@skydive.co.uk

7-12 **Airspeed Basic Tunnel Camps**
www.tunnelcamp.com 001 480 283 2603

22-6 Apr **Empuria Easter Boogie**
Empuriabrava, Spain 0034 972 450 111
cpcb@gna.es www.skyrats.com

23-5 Apr **Castellon Spring Boogie**
Castellon, Spain 0049 5674 999 333
info@skydive.de www.skydive.de

24-28 **Skydive Portugal FS Skills Camp**
www.skydive-portugal.com
info@skydive-portugal.com

28-1 Apr **Easter Big-way Boogie**
Skydive Nagambie, Australia
Louise Cross 0061 0357 941 466

29-7 Apr **Skydive Portugal Easter Boogie**
www.skydive-portugal.com
info@skydive-portugal.com

APRIL

6-7 **POPS Big-way Weekend & FS Record Attempt**
Paul French 07815 983485
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
113440.200@compuserve.com

11-16 **Airspeed Basic Tunnel Camps**
www.tunnelcamp.com 001 480 283 2603

MAY

4-7 **Australian National Classics Championships**
Sunshine Coast Skydivers, Caloundra,
5 Queensland, Australia stx@fan.net.au
Mike Dyer 0061 073 369 8863

4-12 **Langar Boogie**
British Parachute Schools 01949 860878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

29-2 Jun **Basic FS Skills Camp**
Skydive Delmarva, Laurel, Delaware, USA
www.skyeyeskydiving.com
www.skydivedelmarva.com
skyeyeskydiving@hotmail.com

30-4 Jun **Airspeed Basic Tunnel Camps 25/26**
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JUNE

1-3 **Scottish Nationals**
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6-9 **Intermediate/Advanced RW/FS Skills Camp**
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with Pete Allum www.skyeyeskydiving.com
of Sebastian XL www.skydivedelmarva.com
skyeyeskydiving@hotmail.com

8-9 **Speed 8**
Headcorn PC, Kent 01622 890862
headcorn@btconnect.com
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

8-15 **RAPA Meet**
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Boogies
Freefly & Skysurf
POPS
Speed Skydiving
Unclassified

JULY

8-12 FS Week

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 www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

13-14 4-way Meet

Headcorn PC, Kent 01622 890862
 headcorn@btconnect.com
 www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

AUGUST

3-4 POPS Big-way Weekend & FS Record Attempt

Paul French 07815 983485
 Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
 113440.200@compuserve.com

17-23 Armed Forces Championships

Netheravon 01980 678245
 4-way FS/S&A www.netheravon.com

SEPTEMBER

7-8 LAC Meet

Headcorn PC, Kent 01622 890862
 headcorn@btconnect.com
 www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

27-29 CASA Failfest Boogie

Skydive Delmarva, Laurel, Delaware, USA
 www.skyyeskydiving.com
 www.skydivedelmarva.com
 skyyeskydiving@hotmail.com

OCTOBER

13-23 Equinox Boogie

Ramblers Parachute Centre, 01622 890862
 Toogoolawah, ramblers@hypermax.net.au
 SQ, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

26-10 Nav Kenya Safari Beach Boogie

Geoff Wood (Hinton) 01295 812300
 info@skydive.co.uk

DECEMBER 2002

26-3 Jan Australian National Championships in FS, CF, Freeflying

Sydney Skydiving Centre, FS/CF/artistic events
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