

skydive

The Mag



The British Parachute
Association Magazine



www.bpa.org.uk
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February 2008

Come skydive in Central Spain -

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The Freefall University is an independent skydiving school based in Ocaña 20 minutes south of Madrid. We are located minutes away from the modern city of Aranjuez which has all the nightlife you can handle. We have our own equipment, qualified rigger, British Instructors, facilities and professional ethic.

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The FFU Ocaña is the home of the Madrid Skydivers. It is also host to turbine aircraft, the Swiss national teams and some of the best facilities a skydiving centre can offer, of note is a 30km² landing area, swimming pool, onsite hotel and bar/restaurant.

Aranjuez where we 'hang out' in the evenings is a modern city of 100,000 Spanish city workers who make the short daily commute to Madrid, European city of culture for 2005. Alternate activities, restaurants, music bars, clubs and skydivers bars number in the hundreds!

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* The FFU does not book your flights, when you book with us, we will advise of the flight cost and our ATOL protected travel agent will call you to make the flight reservation.

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Well the Membership has awoken! Since I started skydiving 23 years ago, every BPA Council election we've been urged to vote, yet the turnout has been remarkably similar. The recent election, run through the external agency ERS and offering online voting, had almost double the number of votes from the previous year. Right on! It's excellent to see such interest in our Association, let's keep it up. The latest online offering from the BPA is the Membership survey, go to www.bpa.org.uk and take a few minutes to give your opinion to help shape our sport for the future.

From good news to bad news... well at least for me. Lucie is leaving The Mag. She started here on Valentine's Day 2005 and ends her term here exactly three years later - it's been a labour of love from the beginning. She has been a great support and fantastic to share an office with. There's just the two of us so it really helps when your partner is bright, cheerful and seemingly unflappable. I've watched Lucie mature and grow in confidence almost daily. She has worked extremely hard and always stays until the job is done, meaning long days, late nights and not much rest in deadline fortnight.

I would like to put on record her absolute commitment to completing her time at The Mag with the total dedication she has shown since she started. For most it is hard to keep motivated when you're handed in your notice but not this chick! This February issue went to press at midnight, Lucie being here until the very end and then even driving it to the printers, alone in the dark.

I wish Lucie every success in life, love and her ongoing career. I know we will always have that mutual respect that is only gained through going through troubles together, being tested time and time again, and proving that you stand by each other, supporting the team effort. Go Lucie, good luck babe.



Tony Danbury

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Issue	To Reader	Copy Deadline
April 08	Sat 5 Apr	Tue 26 Feb
June 08	Sat 7 Jun	Tue 29 Apr
August 08	Sat 4 Aug	Tue 26 Jun
October 08	Sat 4 Oct	Tue 26 Aug

Lesley

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We have lots of overseas subscribers, non BPA members who get The Mag because they like it.

If you're interested in skydiving, whatever nation you're from whether a first jump student, an adventure sports enthusiast, or you jump abroad, you'll enjoy The Mag.

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.**

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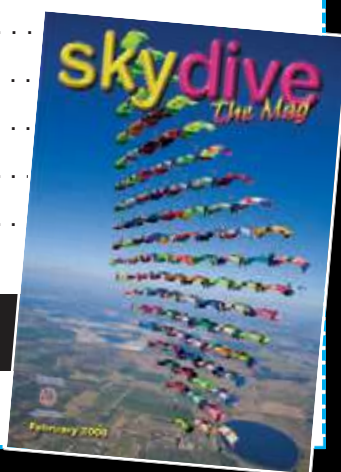
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A company limited by guarantee Registered in London no 875429 VAT Reg no 239 4696 20





skydive The Mag

Cover: Norman Kent captures the last two Performance Designs Lightning canopies joining 98 other Lightnings to make a new World Record

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NOTE: Some of the photos in this magazine may show skydivers without helmets or altimeters, or otherwise not obeying the BPA Operations Manual, in which case they were taken abroad. In the UK it is mandatory to wear a helmet and alti for obvious safety reasons. Students within The Mag are complying with BPA regulations.

Skydiving training and systems vary in different countries. If you are considering taking a skydiving course or qualification abroad, we recommend you first establish its relevance in the UK, through your CCI.

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

World Record break-off by Gustavo Cabana



SUPPORTED BY



SUNSHINE in Seville 2017

Photos: Andy Lovemore



We had so many great reports about the Skydive Spain Christmas Boogie, it was hard to choose. So here are edited highlights from five happy customers...

Trying Crew

There was so much on offer to whet the palette, it was hard to know which part of the hangar to venture to. You had the *Outbreak* boys urging you to go on your head, Caroline Hughes and Simon Cathrine beckoning you to try large belly-down formations, Liz Ashley crying 'Join the flock' while crazy dogs Pat Hammond and Steve Saunders were trying to get you to let them grapple with your canopy and lines!

It was a tough choice but I wanted to try something new so, whilst my wife Amanda was off playing with Brian (canopy course) I decided to join the crazy dogs, having never done CREW before. Well to say I crapped myself every time Steve handed me a rig is an understatement but I have to hand it to the ol' dog, he knows his stuff. Before I knew it everyone at manifest was ogling me, wondering what the hell I had on my back and if it was legal. I just closed my eyes and said a short prayer.

Each lift I was on was a laugh but the jump very serious. My first problem was whether or not I could do a stable hop 'n' pop. My next problem was identifying if the canopy above my head was indeed a canopy, they don't look right. My third problem was letting someone get near me as I've spent 18 years under canopy trying to avoid everyone! My heart has never beat so fast as the first time Steve grabbed my lines and started tugging at them. Then the shouting started – and boy do Crew Dogs shout, nobody told me they shouted so much – but I couldn't hear much over the noise of my thumping heart and just kept shouting back, 'Sorry'.

After my first Crew jump I vowed never to do another. I eventually did 12, ranging from 2-stacks to a very pretty 7-stack, or I was told it was pretty as I couldn't see it being at the bottom! Amazingly I was awarded my CF1, quite a novelty being of the old school and never having received a sticker before but it did cost me two crates of beer! I know lots of people say 'I would never try that' but I did and I ended up loving it. All the guys – Steve, Pat, Eugene, Doug, Tom, Maria – were brilliant and made the whole experience brilliant. That kit isn't as bad as it looks!

Inbetween frightening myself I did various other jumps, that's the whole idea of a boogie! I took Brian Vacher's fiancé, Sheridan, through her AFF, well done you (well Brian was playing with my wife so I returned the favour!) I tried sit-flying,



CF coaching, by Pat Hammond

Sheridan's AFF, by Andy Lovemore



14-ways, 8-ways, 4-ways; there was always something to do. With four Turbines, great manifesting, a very laid back CCI and staff that kept on going all day the only limit was you. Hannah ran that DZ calmly and never had a bad hair day, not that I saw anyway, and always had time to sort your queries.

Ash Kemp

Background image: David Butterell



Freefly fun by Andy Lovemore

Doing It All

I had an absolute blast. It was my **seventh** visit to Skydive Spain and it just gets better and better! I'm 99% sure it was my best trip (closely contended by the SS Easter Boogie 07 which was also great!) Outrageously brilliant number of disciplines, something for everyone. I did a canopy course, fun FS, organised big-ways and freefly coaching and didn't get bored with any of it! It was all easily accessible and inclusive of everyone who wanted it. The freefly coaching from Jim Harris was worth every penny.

Emily Handley

Freeflying

We found that this DZ rocks. It's a well oiled jumping machine with top coaches like Jim Harris, Mike Carpenter, Andy Newell and Adam Mattacola our progression shot through the roof. We never thought we would be in a 13-way head-down formation in such a short space of time! A big thanks to Andy Newell who did some amazing load organising and coaching; also Skydive Spain for a well organised DZ with a great atmosphere. Thanks guys, we will be back.

Carl Baines, Craig Baines & Will Thomas

Freefly coaching by Blair Stent



Organised head-down, by Andy Lovemore





11-way head-down, by Andy Lovemore



Jo Burns by Blair Stent



Caroline's organised FS by Andy Lovemore



Hoop dive by Blair Stent

Making Friends

I'd heard a lot of people mention that they were off to Seville for the Skydive Spain Christmas Boogie so I thought that sounded like a plan, although I must confess I was slightly phased by the thought of not knowing many people. That was soon to change!

Checking in at Liverpool Airport on 21 December I spied a couple with 'Skydive Hibaldstow' jackets so I asked the obvious question: 'Are you going to Seville?'. 'Oh yes' they replied (I had just met DZ owners Helen and Steve Swallow) and they kindly offered me a lift to the Phoenix bar near the popular Lux apartments. On arrival I could see Christmas had started! I met a friendly crowd who looked after me; namely, James and Hannah Swallow; Chris the pilot; Russ and the office team, plus numerous others! Well having been there an hour or so we were drinking some ungodly concoction and the scene for the boogie was set!

The DZ ran really well, the three 14-place G92 Dornier aircraft were at 15,000 ft in no time and the SMG92 Finist was also superb, especially in the mornings, it was so warm! The pilots worked their socks off keeping the loads going and the girls on manifest, well I don't know how they do it! We skydived all day and drank all night – well not **all** night. The festive period gave you that feel-good factor. Almost everyone on the DZ went out to the same restaurant on Christmas Day evening for a slap up meal and to drink to excess. It really didn't matter if you were on your own or with a group you soon made new friends one way or another!

Progressing Everywhere

Having been in the sport nearly 25 years, I wasn't sure that I would be doing an awful lot of jumping, thinking of a few days on, a few days off, etc. As it turned out, I was just keen to jump all the time!

Facilities include a nice big landing area (very easy to pick out from altitude) two sizeable hangars; spacious, well-equipped, clean rigging area (and friendly rigger!); dirtdiving area with trolleys; decent-sized, quality screens to use for debriefing; and café/bar. The drop zone had a very good atmosphere, which was why I wanted to be there all the time! The lift capacity was good, the manifest efficient and the pace/turn-around time for our FS group was perfect. I still get impressed with the speed that the G92s get to 15k+! At first I was getting caught out by the red light coming on so quickly

With the opportunities that were provided by the quality coaches/instructors with names that precede, people could be sure they were learning correctly from the start. For example, a few people with 100 jumps on the Brian Vacher Canopy Handling course went on to do a Canopy Formation course with Steve Saunders – now that's accelerated learning and has GOT to stand you in good stead for the rest of your skydiving career .

I was even inspired myself to step outside of my FS comfort zone and try a new discipline! Big thanks to Liz Ashley for briefing me and looking after me for my first wingsuit flight. It was interesting to be a student again – you're never too cool to learn! A LOT of progression was made across all disciplines, with many achievement announcements over the PA. It's great to see so much knowledge being passed on – particularly when accompanied by that well-maintained beer list!

Caroline Hughes and Simon Cathrine worked hard with their FS organised groups. Whilst they employ different styles, they seemed to work well together. They both have a collection of nice skydives to hand that draw the best out of their groups' relative experience, and both have the ability to add an imaginative twist. I enjoyed jumping with both organisers and would hope to see them at future Skydive Spain events.

Andy Lovemore's 'Video du Jour' was eagerly anticipated in the bar each evening. He had set up an easy to use download facility for everyone to dump down their footage throughout the day. I have no idea how he managed to review, edit and add music in so little time after jumping had finished. All disciplines were represented every day (including AFF, tandems etc) and I particularly looked forward to the daily light-hearted comic scenes. Hats off to Andy.

Would I go again...? You bet!

Rhino



Andy's antics by Blair Stent



Head-down coaching, photo by Andy Lovemore



Simon Cathrine's almost 2008 dive, by Andy Lovemore



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Wingsuit Big-way

BirdMan Chief Instructor Scott Campos is holding an invitational big-way wingsuit event at Skydive Arizona, 15-16 Nov. The intent is to build the largest, slot-specific wingsuit formation before a qualifier/warm up camp will be held 17-18 May, also at Eloy. This event is open to all nationalities. People outside the USA can qualify by a referral from plane captains Rolf Brombach, Jarno Cordia, Mark Harris and John Kallend.

loudiamond@dropzone.com



Photo: Edward Bleau

COMPLETE THE CIRCLE! ONLINE SURVEY

The latest BPA survey is now available online. Just go to the BPA home page and follow the instructions to register your opinions with the BPA committees. It will take less than ten minutes. This is your chance to have your say – don't waste it.

www.bpa.org.uk



Royal Aero Club Trust

BPA Vice President Jim Crocker has been elected as the Chairman of the Royal Aero Club Trust, in place of Fred Marsh who has retired from that post.



Team Satori

Julia Foxwell (*Airkix* and *Elan*) has a new 4-way team, *Satori*, with team members Liz Matthews (*VMax*), Aaron Faith (*Army 4*) and Katie Woods, plus Ian Ridpath videoing and Gary Smith as coach. *Satori* is a Buddhist term for enlightenment, literally meaning 'understanding'. They have a hard core three-year plan with most of their training at Skydive Spain, Seville and high hopes for the World Meet 2009.

JM's Newsround

Chris Gay Outstanding Airman

Chris Gay has received the FAI Diploma for Outstanding Airmanship, to go with his Royal Aero Club silver medal, for saving the life of a BPA Member. Chris was presented with the award by UPSA President, Glenn Bangs, after the world record CF 100-way completion at Lake Wales, USA. The BPA Member whose life Chris saved was also on the record with him.

Kids Fly for Charity

The Adrenalin Vertical Wind Tunnel, based at Headcorn, is planning an Easter weekend fundraiser, 22-24 March, 9.30am to 6pm. They invite everyone to come and fly, with or without their children and will donate £5 from every flight to cancer research. All kids get a free chocolate creme egg.

www.adrenalinvwt.com

Lancaster Bomber Sports Award

You can nominate your local superstar for the Thwaites Lancaster Bomber Sports 'Personality of the Year'. It could be anyone at your club, they are looking for the unsung heroes of grass roots sports. The winner will receive the award and a cheque for £2,000 for their sports club. Closing date is 11 April.

www.thwaites.co.uk

Make History

There are still some slots on the Everest Skydives which are happening, 22 Sept to 6 October. The well-experienced team will set up the highest drop zone in the world at 12,350ft and will provide for 2-way and tandem jumps from a Porter at 29,035ft in front of the summit of the largest mountain in the globe. DZ transport will be an Equirrel B3 helicopter and local yaks. Organiser slots are available for groups of nine, manifest online to secure your place.

www.highandwild.co.uk

May Contain Nuts!

May Contain Nuts is a web-based social network run for people who love extreme sports. You can create a profile, share videos, photos and opinions, socialise and make new friends.

www.MayContainNuts.com

Outcasts on the Run!

Members of the current national CF team, *Outcasts*, took part in a 5km run in December for the charity 'When you wish upon a Star' in Nottingham. They were all dressed as Santa. Gordy and Karen Saunders were in the first 10 people to finish the race, raising money to help terminally ill children. The *Outcasts'* car broke down on the way home. It must have been funny to see six Santas pushing a car down the A52! Team *Outcasts* are running another CF coaching programme in 2008.

teamoutcasts@btinternet.com

Photo: Gordon Mission



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Mandrin4Project

Team Mandrin, VFS pioneers are looking to create three VFS teams to train alongside them at Skydive Chicago and the Paraclete Tunnel. Four 4-day camps are planned, one each month starting June '08. Teams will benefit from Mandrin 4's experience, methods and supercoach Chris Talbert, of Arizona Airspeed & the Golden Knights. The project was inspired by Perris Fury's 8-way programme and provides each member of the participating teams with a slot mentor, to give them special insights.

myspace.com/team_mandrin

Missing Neptune

Mick Tyler's Neptune and Alti-hand were taken from his Javelin at Netheravon on 24 November. Only three leg strap alti-hands exist in the UK (the other two belong to Lee King and Graham Harrison). This particular Neptune has not been released in the UK yet as it was a demo from Altimaster, it has a carbon look to the casing with the new armour fitted. The kit should be easy to spot, please contact Mick if you have any information.

Mick Tyler

carbonphonix@hotmail.co.uk

Skydive Proença

Skydive Lillo have set up a new drop zone in Proença-a-Nova, Portugal, due to open in February. They will use a Porter and have freely and FS load organising. Their opening weekend is 16-17 February with multiple aircraft flying to 17,000 ft and a big party.

www.paraquedismoportugal.com

POPS World Meet

The POPS World Meet is at Ramblers DZ, Toogoolawah in Australia, 25 April to 3 May. Competitions include 4-way open, 8-way speed star, 2-way CF sequential, 2-way freely, wingsuit flocking, 4-way scrambles, accuracy, and hit 'n' rock. The event also includes record attempts, fun jumps, opening and closing ceremonies, organised outings for partners and informal social functions. SOS and female teams are welcome too.

www.ozworldpops2008.com

John Smyth MVO

Current BPA Chairman John Smyth was appointed by the Queen as a Member of the Victorian Order (MVO) in the New Year's Honours List 2008. Membership is given to those who have performed personal service to the Sovereign. This honour is totally in the Queen's domain and not subject to political influence unlike others. John has been involved in protecting royalty for 17 years and a police officer for 31; this honour is a credit to his dedication, loyalty and integrity.

Fury8Storm

Bodyflight Storm is teaming up with Perris Fury to establish one or more 8-way teams to compete at the UK Nationals in 2008. One Storm member will jump on each team, which will be coached by Perris Fury who have successfully taken teams to the US nationals for several years. The project will involve a 10-day camp in Perris, a weekend camp at the Bodyflight wind tunnel in Bedford, a weekend of 8-way jumping in the UK and the 8-way Nationals. The project hopes to enable people to skydive in a team at the UK Nationals without the hassle of finding teammates or dealing with the organisation. The closing date for applications is **26 February**.

www.stormskydivingteam.co.uk



DeLangar Tragik by Gary Wainwright

To Russia With Love

Matt Abram is once again organising the popular trip to Aerograd Kolomna, Russia, 12-26 July. The package includes flights, transfers, accommodation and 50 jumps. Aircraft will be three Let 410s and a Mi-8 helicopter. Demo disc available.

mattnomoremails@hotmail.com



Photo: Matt Abram

German Swooping Open

An open swooping competition will take place at the German drop zone TakeOff, in Fehrbellin, 27-29 June, all competitors are welcome but registration is required. Various swoop meets are planned at the same DZ throughout the season, see diary.

nina@swooping.de



Photo: Patrik Barton

Super Size Dive Pool

Dave Lewis has created 12-way and 14-way dive pools based on the existing 8-way dive pool. The 12-way dives were tested at Skydive Sibson now Skydive Airkix. Both dive pools are downloadable.

www.strollerweb.co.uk



Dave Lewis 14-way over Sibson by Zuzana Tillner

Slovakia Boogie

After its success in 2007 Pete Marsden of Boogie Club is running another boogie in Slovakia, 12-18 July. Aircraft will include a Let 410, balloons and gliders.

www.boogieclub.co.uk



Photo: Paul Dward

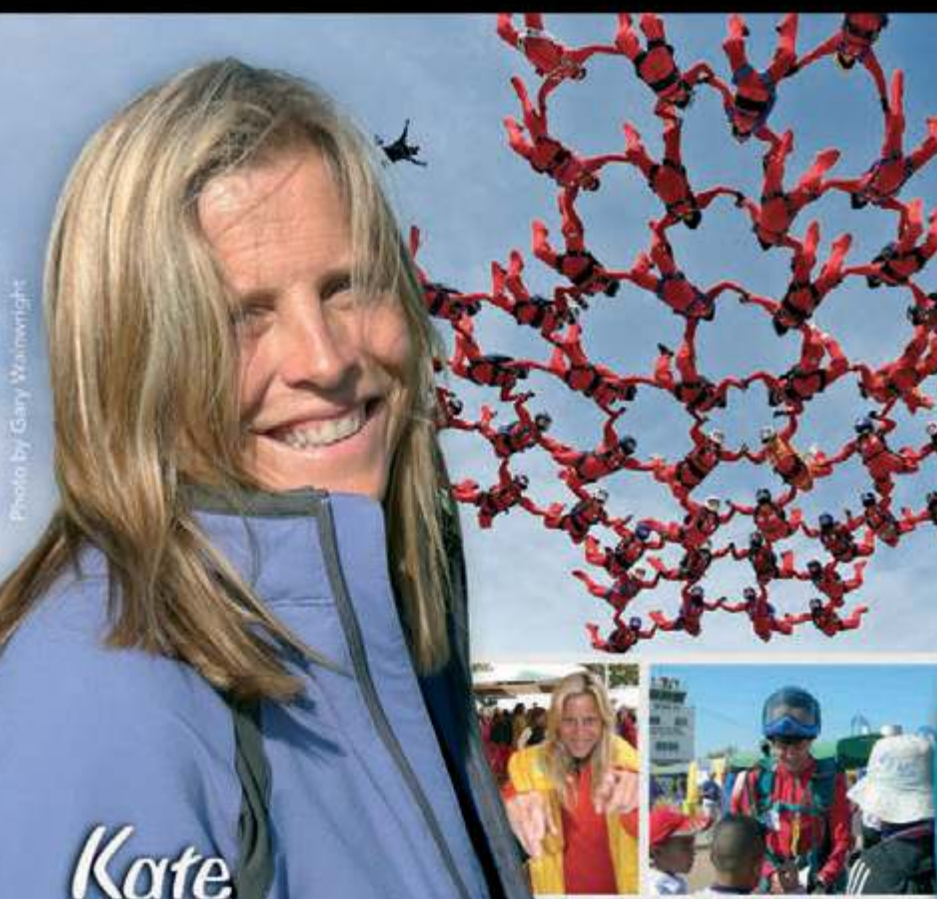
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- World Record Team member & organizer.
- Jump for the Cause organizer, raising \$1/2 million for breast cancer R&D.
- Member of 68 way Women's British Record, raising money for the British Red Cross.
- Founding member of Perris Performance Plus, offering world class FS coaching.
- FS competitor, BASE jumper, and Part owner of Square1, Square2 and Square3 Parachute Sales.

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2007 World Cup DVDs

The DVDs from the 2007 World Cup in Stupino are now available for FS and Artistics at \$30 each (\$10 cheaper than in 2006). They contain the raw unedited footage from the competition rounds and include the draws, scores and rules.

www.koyn.com

Geese Get Together

Wild Geese, the only civilian BPA drop zone in Ireland, will celebrate its 25th Anniversary weekend with a boogie, 3-5 May. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of the load organising, BPA CF Roadshow, progression jumps, and a party with barbecue. Call for an airport or ferry pickup if coming from the mainland. Good quality accommodation available through the Wild Geese DZ.

www.skydivewildgeese.com

Airports TV

Airports TV is an Internet TV channel featuring action from competitive air sports, including videos and interviews from World Meets, World Cups, etc.

www.airports.tv

SOS Record

The Skydivers Over Sixty aim to set a new European record, 30 June to 4 July at Skydive Dädalus in Germany. They will use two Do28s to attempt a 30-way, which would beat the current 14-way European SOS Record, set at the same dropzone.

www.fallschirm-eisenach.de
0049 36920 73970

Canopy Piloting Manual

The Safe Flight School at Empuriabrava has released a full colour, glossy design Canopy Piloting Manual, now available from the website at a cost of £15. Brian Vacher will be running courses in the UK at Weston, Hibaldstow, Langar and Dunksell, see diary for dates; one is the Brit Chicks course tailored for women.

www.safeflightschool.com




Skydive Spa in Belgium is hosting the SPA-cial Invitational, 17-20 August 2008, two years after the first event. It is timed to follow the FS and Artistics World Meet, close by in Maubeuge. Three teams of 20, 40 and 60 skydivers will perform complex formations coached by world class players including Craig Girard, Eliana Rodriguez, Andy Delk, Thomas Hughes, Dario Jotti and Milko. A Casa 212 and two Skyvans will be used for the event, which culminates in a big party.

SPA-cial Invitational

www.spacialinvitations.com

SPA-cial Dive 2006 by Luc Van Britsom

Try Speed



Photo: Andy Fryer

Clare Murphy, BPA Speed Skydiving discipline rep, is running Try Speed events at Hinton, 16-17 February and 29-30 March. Clare, the fastest women in the world, will be on hand to answer questions, give advice and distribute prizes (pairs of the official L&B Pro Tracks) to the fastest competitors.

clarevanessa@hotmail.com
www.skydive.co.uk

New DZ

4xtremetime is opening a new drop zone in Cerfontaine, Belgium in a scenic environment near three lakes. Aircraft is a Porter with visiting Skyvans for events. The DZ will open from Friday till Sunday, 15 March to 31 October. FS & freefly coaching, team deals, canopy skills coaching, shop with demo gear, bunkhouse, camping, bar and restaurant are all available.

www.4xtremetime.com



Seville hybrid by Mike Lovemore

Spring Blow-Out Boogie

Skydive Spain are having a Spring Blow-Out Boogie, 8 March to 6 April at their sunny drop zone in Seville. They have fast turbine aircraft flying to 15,000 ft on every lift and will offer free load organising for FS and freefly. The BCPA foreign trip and Skywalkers Basic Camp will be there too.

www.skydivespain.com



Caroline's Christmas Choreography by David Butterell

Skydive Choreography

Caroline Hughes is a well known UK organiser of big-ways, spanning the novice to the experienced, as Skydive Choreography. Dave Lewis and Billy Payn have now formally joined Caroline to run future events. Skydive Choreography is about progressing all levels of jumper, creating opportunities and supporting the up and coming skydivers. The proof of its success is the continued participation of almost all its original jumpers, hence the need for more organisers.

www.skydiv choreography.com

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Guest International Coaches:

► Freely Coaching – **Jason Peters**

1st place in Freely 2007 World Challenge, IBA Instructor, thousands of hours tunnel-time.
March dates coming soon

► FS Coaching – **Arizona Airspeed** (No introduction needed!)

Train with Eliana Rodriguez, Craig Girard, Mark Kirkby and Andy Delk.
Dates: 25th and 26th March

Regular Events at Airkix:

► Mondays with Volairkix

Adam Mattacola, Andy Newell and Mike Carpenter
National Freely and Freestyle Champions coaching FS,
Freely and pre-AFF. Contact info@volareproflight.com

► Tues & Thurs Night FS Coaching

Beginner to expert level FS coaching, by current World
and National Champions, Claire & Andy Scott.
Contact sparky-scott@hotmail.co.uk

► Wednesday Night Coaching (all disciplines)

Learning to skydive? Working towards FS1?
Want to learn to freely?
Contact Andy Ford on coaching@infiniteskydiving.com

► Freely Thursdays

Hone your freely skills and get good....fast!
Contact Andy Lovemore on 07970 322 076 or
andrewlovemore@yahoo.co.uk

**For news and updates on Skydive Airkix,
visit www.skydiveairkix.com**

To learn more about the Airkix Fund, coaching and other forthcoming events and offers, please visit the 'skydiver zone' at www.airkix.com
Airkix is based in Milton Keynes (M1, Junction 14). For bookings and more information:

www.airkix.com E: skydive@airkix.com T: +44 (0)1908 247772/3

Canopy Piloting World Cup

The Canopy Piloting World Cup was held in Sydney, Australia, 7-11 November 2007. The British Delegation comprised seven members: Brian Vacher and Mike Gorman from the Safe Flight School; Spencer Hogg, Stu Storey and Alastair Macartney from HEAT; Martin 'Danger Pants' Reynolds of Bad Lieutenants fame; and Mikey Holmes over from New Zealand. There was no Head of Delegation or Team Manager.

The team members arrived at differing times and started to train. Unlike other skydiving disciplines, on site training in Canopy Piloting is essential to compete successfully at international level – dropzone elevation, differing wind conditions, air pressure, humidity plus course dimensions and layout are all factors that vary from location to location. The majority planned to use the time wisely and conduct a full training camp; however the weather was against us all. In fact throughout the training period the dropzone experienced the worst spell of bad weather for 23 years!

Mike Gorman was a last minute entry and arrived the day before the official practice day. However, the airline had lost his baggage. Not to worry – it would turn up the next day still in time. Having taken advice from Brian, Mike exited in cloud (this was often the norm during the training – either that or don't train!) and landed off the dropzone. There was still time for one more jump for Mike to get his eye in and practise but his J VX wound up and he ended up cutting it away. Unfortunately this meant that Mike started the competition without even one jump on the competition pond.

The World Cup started with the opening ceremony. This turned out to be a poorly organised meeting merged with the competitors' briefing. Some were still unclear on the intentions and, as the meeting broke up, one of the British delegation had to ask for the start time the next day – only a minor detail!

The Brits by Sheridan Coyle



Speed

Up first was Speed. The competitors arrived, looked at the skies and straight away all knew it was going to be a long, drawn-out competition. The draw had been done the previous evening and the Brits were fairly equally dispersed across a number of groups in four plane loads. The weather brightened and the competition got under way with decent conditions for all. Jay Moledzki beat his own World Record in round 1, setting the

pace for the rest of the competition. Alastair Macartney laid down a sub 3-second time, beating his own previous national record.

Round 2 got about halfway through before the weather moved in and we got ready for a series of standbys. This competition was going to become a Meet Director's nightmare; with the inclement weather, whingeing competitors, a poor forecast and a World Cup to complete! A Brit competitor took the record for having his kit on seven times and flying five times just to complete a single jump! Round 2 was again the Moledzki round where he beat the record from Round 1 and posted an impressive 2.56 second run on his Velocity 79. Jay continued, getting the fastest time on round 3 as well.

There were a few interesting runs with the sensors being taken out a few times, even by some experienced seasoned competitors, and a couple of people entertaining the crowd by bouncing off the water.

Unfortunately for the Brits this wasn't our event and the scores weren't accurately showing the flying ability. Mikey Holmes, having recently recovered from injury, got it together at the end with a sub 3-second time. Alastair Macartney laid it down with two sub 3-second times but a weak performance on round 2 was particularly costly. Stu Storey remained consistent and put down some nice times. Brian Vacher took a zero on the gate in round 1 throwing him out of the competition. Spencer Hogg ripped some

Shannon Pilcher



Isaiah McCauliffe



powerful turns but then battled with keeping it down and squeezed out of the course partway through. Mike Gorman found out what the course looked like for the first time, costing him dearly!

The Fastrax team ripped up the competition and were competing hard with the PD boys, both teams predominantly from the USA. Fastrax member Isaiah McCauliffe inched ahead of his teammate to take bronze and was less than a point behind Jonathan Tagle with the silver. Jay Moledzki, flying a Velocity 79 at a 2.7 wing loading, showed everyone how it was done and was a clear gold medal winner.

Photos: JC Colclasure

Main image shows
Jonathan Tagle



Lying flat extends the distance



Distance

With Speed finally completed, next up was the Distance event. The weather was becoming more difficult with conditions changing. This was becoming an experienced competitors' meet.

The Australians were starting to show their high level of skill as a nation. They had the added advantage that their Association had stood solidly behind them and funded a number of training camps at the World Cup site. A number of them were sporting chest strap extensions allowing them to loosen them right off under canopy to the point that they can lie completely flat, almost in a track position, going through the course, with Michael Vaughan having got this off to a tee.

The usual names were topping the leader board again. Worthy of note though were impressive performances from Spain's only competitor, Pablo Hernandez, and Brazil's only competitor, Marat Leiras. Pablo only switched to a 630 degree turn two months ago, yet his power generation and flick at the end were certainly having the required effect. Marat, of happyswooper.com fame, was flying at the top end of the wing loadings seen in the competition and started his 450 degree turn really high popping it out through the power band with awesome energy. Unfortunately he couldn't consistently put it on the gate which was costing him heavily. It was rumoured that he had sponsorship from McDonalds, Burger King and KFC – or at least it certainly looked like it!

Jonathan Tagle switched canopies for each round in the Distance event – a Velocity 71 when flying into wind, a 79 in no wind and an 84 for downwind conditions. While flying his 71 he had a wing loading of 2.93! He commented: *"It was quite difficult to keep changing the sight pictures out of my turn for the recovery arc. They are all different. I probably won't do that again."*

Brian Vacher's training paid off as he beat the current British Distance Record (which he set at the Nationals) on the first round with 116.05m and then topped this in round 2 with 117.56m. The rest of the Brits all took a zero at some point. Alastair Macartney, never really having been strong in Distance, only put in a mediocre performance. Mike Gorman was now dialling it in and put some decent scores on the board. Mikey Holmes wasn't quite hitting it right. Stu Storey was carrying his power through the course with a lovely third round score. Danger Pants ended up decelerating through the course while Spencer Hogg mastered the art of popping up through the gates but some transition problems at the later part of his swoop cost him some of those badly needed metres.

It won't be a surprise that Jay Moledzki got the top score on two of the three rounds taking the gold in front of teammate Jonathan Tagle with Isaiah McCauliffe in third.

Jonathan Tagle





Jay Moledzki



Jay Moledzki

Zone Accuracy

With Jay Moledzki holding a clear lead it was going to take some serious flying in the Zone Accuracy event to catch him. Conditions continued to switch round giving each pass something different to contend with. Most competitors will plan their point of manoeuvre over the ground before emplaning but in these conditions it was near impossible. Former World Champion Ian Bobo said, *"I don't know where I'm going to turn. In these conditions I am just having to go with experience and what feels right. All the wind indicators are often doing different things and keep switching around even while you are on finals. This is definitely a competition for experienced competitors and canopy pilots."* Ian was definitely right and the tricky wind conditions caught a number of competitors out.

Kaz Sheekey, the only female competitor, was the one to watch in this event. She had injured herself in training and would make her way to the plane on crutches with other members of the Australian delegation carrying her rig, helmet and almost 16 kilos of lead. Many competitors were in awe of her even competing with this injury let alone in the Zone Accuracy event which has a 10 point penalty if you don't stand up. Kaz put in three solid runs but her lack of physical ability to stand up cost her valuable points.

Mikey Holmes was the only Brit to score on all three rounds. Alastair Macartney had some decent runs, Brian Vacher only scored strongly on the last round, while Danger Pants was victim to stiff interpretation of boundary rules. Spencer Hogg, Stu Storey and Mike Gorman all had a bad day – although at least Spencer made the effort to keep the crowd entertained in doing so!

After some nail-biting performances Jay Moledzki was pushed down into fourth place. Third went to Martin Backlin from Sweden with some impressive flying, PD's Ian Bobo took silver and Fastrax's Brian McNenney shone through into the gold medal position.



Zone Accuracy Podium, Ian Bobo (Silver), Brian McNenney (Gold) & Martin Backlin (Bronze)

Pete Allum





Main image: Jay Moledzki



Overall podium, Jonathan Tagle (Silver), Jay Moledzki (Gold) & Ian Bobo (Bronze)

Overall

With the results lining up it wasn't hard to see who was going to be taking the Overall title. Step forward Jay Moledzki. He killed the rest of the competitors and left them behind in the dirt, storming forward for an undeniable victory. Jonathan Tagle was straight in second and Ian Bobo pipped *Fastrax* team member Brian McNenney to the post and took bronze. That was three *PD Factory Team* members stood on the podium proving once again that they are the best in the world.

Penalties for missing a gate were severe. The first person in the overall rankings to have taken two zeros was placed 20th with only two people before him that had taken a bust! There were some other credible results as well. The Italian delegation comprised only one person: former Brit Pete Allum. Pete flew a solid yet strong and powerful approach making a 270 degree turn. He hit the gates every time and, while not posting the top scores on any particular round, showed that consistency will steal the show placing him 10th in his first International Canopy Piloting competition.

The world was kept up to date on the competition via PD's new blog which featured constant updates and provided interviews with competitors and other background information. Pete Allum summed the competition up well stating that last year's FS World Championships in Gera was a great training camp for this. Anyone that followed that meet will know of the disastrous weather there and how attendance really was great mental preparation for this World Cup.

While those that followed the competition will note that all medal winners were flying PD Velocity canopies, that isn't completely true. In fact the majority were flying a canopy with the trade name XB. PD has been working on developing the Velocity for some time and has opened up the nose and developed a few tricks learnt on the Katana project. This new wing was flown by the top seven in Speed, top five in Distance and five of the top six in Zone Accuracy – some pretty impressive results. Fortunately for the rest of us PD anticipates releasing the competition level canopy towards the end of 2008.

It was unfortunate that none of the Brits had a particularly good competition this year. However analysing the results and seeing the flying skills, there is clearly potential and some great scores can be put on the board. With the impending launch of PD's new competition canopy it should help level the playing field and allow the Brits to provide a stronger performance at the 2008 World Championships.

Al Macartney
alastair@macartney.co.uk



Brian Vacher



Robbie McMillan

COMMUNICATIONS

Make a Difference

I have never known three years to go by so quickly but it has and now it is questionnaire time again! This really is important as it gives the BPA up to date Membership feedback on key areas. The information is analysed and fed back to the relevant committees to use in developing future plans.

The last response (2005) was 68% but of course we'd like to improve on this, so this year we're stepping forward by using online technology, which has certainly proved encouraging in the Council elections with an 80% increase in voting.

Go to www.bpa.org.uk for the link to the survey pages, then it's just a case of five minutes answering the questions. If you wish a hard copy call the BPA office (0116 278 5271) who will send you one to complete and return. The survey goes live on Friday 15 February and **closes on Monday 31 March**. If collecting this important data online works well, we'll use it in the future.

Adrian Bond
Communications Chair



Website Winner

Congratulations to Tom Urbanski, the clear winner in the competition to redesign the front end of the BPA website. Tom's design will be used for a makeover by our web consultants, together with improvements to the back end functionality.

BPA Membership Sub Reduction

The AGM greeted with applause the announcement that the insurance quotation has reduced, providing there are no new big claims before the new Membership year starts in April. This means the BPA membership fee will be going down for the first time anyone can remember (by £11.45 to £140.65).

Your membership renewal form is inserted in this magazine. Don't forget to complete and return it in good time so you can jump after 1 April.

COMPETITIONS

IPC NEWS

The recent IPC meeting, 26-27 January was attended by UK representatives John Hitchen and John Smyth who gave us the news. Some small rule changes, mainly clarifications, are summarised below. There were no changes to the dive pool.

RULES - FS

1. The working time may be changed from the same exit altitude

If the weather is unkind the Meet Director (after consultation) may change the exit altitude and/or the working time. The revised schedule would be 20 seconds working time from 7,000 feet for 4-way and 30 seconds from 9,000 feet for 8-way. This may mean starting a new round. The maximum exit altitude is 13,000 feet. The working time can be changed without altering the exit altitude, eg, for low cloud a 20 seconds working time from 10,000 feet might permit the competition to continue.

2. The tie break round will be the next drawn round

In the event of a tie in the top three, the medal winners will be decided by a tie break jump, if possible. This will be the next drawn round of the competition. Usually this would be round 11, drawn as a tie-breaker but, say if the meet completed on seven rounds, the tie-break would be round 8.

3. Freeze-frame and centrepont assessment

When judging, the degrees and turn direction of subgroups' centreponts will be assessed using only the two-

dimensional video evidence as presented. The same applies for scoring the grips on the freeze-frame (ie, whether the last point counts); only the submitted video as framed will be used.

Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS)

Rules have been established for the first World Cup in 4-way VFS (Eloy, this October). The exit altitude will be 13,000 feet with a working time of 35 seconds, over six rounds, with all teams going through to the final. Just like 4-way FS, there is an option to reduce the working time to 20 seconds (from a minimum height of 9,000 feet). There is no gender separation. At least three judges must evaluate each team. New definitions have been introduced:

Grips

A 'grip' is a handhold on an arm, leg or foot, and requires stationary contact. A 'foot grip' is stationary contact of a hand on a foot or an ankle.

Orientation

'Relative wind' is defined as the 'direction from which the air appears to be coming due to the relative speed of the competitors in freefall'. This definition is needed to interpret the definitions of various orientations:

'Head down' is when 'the competitor's head has advanced further into the relative wind than the competitor's feet by a significant amount', defined as the length of the competitor's torso. In the same way, 'Upright' orientation is when the head is significantly behind the average position of the feet.

'Bellyflying' is defined that the chest is facing the relative wind and the head is on level with the average position of the feet. It's the same for

'backflying' but with the back to the relative wind. (Note: Neither bellyflying nor backflying are currently used in VFS formations.)

John Smyth IPC Vice President

One of the two IPC Vice Presidents retired at the recent meeting in January so there was an election to decide his successor. Our own John Smyth was democratically elected as Vice President and membership of the Bureau of IPC, a great honour only previously bestowed on the BPA through Charlie Shea-Simonds in 1980. John accepted the nomination and modestly gave credit back to the BPA. He said "I would like to thank each and every member of the BPA for this honour. My honest-held belief is that this is an indication of the immense respect that the world has for every aspect of UK skydiving. Our British athletes are held in very high regard internationally, our magazine is considered the best in the world, and it spreads the news of the talent and dedication of our UK achievers. It is the BPA and its Membership that should be congratulated." This is the second honour this year for John who was recently awarded an MVO by the Queen.



Every IPC competition has three jury members who will make any necessary mediation decisions. John Smyth has also been chosen to be on the jury for the first World Championships in Canopy Piloting (South Africa, in November), and John Hitchen is on the jury for the Style and Accuracy World Championships (Slovakia, in July).

UK COMPS NEWS

2008 competitions committee met on 23 January and allocated dates and venues for most UK events. Rules will be updated with IPC meeting changes - (none major) and drafts available from mid March.

UK Nationals

Style, Accuracy, CP	10-13 Jul
RAPA, Germany	
4-way FS	23-25 Aug
Target Skysports	(reserve w/e 30 Aug)
8-way FS	30 Aug-1 Sep
Target Skysports	(reserve w/e 6 Sep)
Artistics, Speed	30 Aug-1 Sep
Target Skysports	(reserve w/e 6 Sep)
8-way Speed, CF	27-28 Sep
Target Skysports	

World Meets

Style & Accuracy	24 Jul - 2 Aug
Lucenec, Slovakia	
FS & Artistics	9-14 Aug
Maubeuge, France	
CF	8-14 Sep
Netherlands	
CP	14-23 Nov
Pretoria, S Africa	

VFS

The first World Cup in VFS will be held in Eloy, USA, 26-29 Oct. New VFS rep Weed Stoodley is investigating; info to follow. A VFS Nationals will be discussed at the next Comps meeting on 5 March. We already have four FAI approved VFS judges so no doubt some will be on site in Eloy! Ex-pat Sue Dixon will be on the jury.

Coaching Roadshows

The committee is working on the 2008-09 Action Plan targeting 'off year' support such as Coaching Roadshows. We're looking to add 'Coach the Coach' to help our team improve their own delivery skills - more on that as we firm it up. If you'd like a Coaching Roadshow at your DZ,



then ask your DZO to contact the Discipline Rep, who will do their best to make it happen. Be quick, availability is limited.

Action Plan & Funding

The next Action Plan is the last time we have UK Sport funds to help out – Council is working on longer term plans to keep us going – ideas welcome!

CF & CP National Teams

All our national teams bar CF Sequential are confirmed. The Nationals failed to generate a 2007 champion so we're trying to identify a qualifying event in early 2008 – keep an eye out for the opportunity to be selected! Brian Vacher will represent us in Canopy Piloting and hopefully more individuals will accept their invitations. Good luck all in 2008!

Andy Scott
Chair of Competitions

FS News

The UK Skydiving League has been launched, dates are in the diary and on the BPA website. The League's aims are the same as its predecessor, the Grand Prix series:

- To encourage participation at all levels of FS
- To coach up and coming individuals and teams for free
- To showcase our UK talent by measuring our scores against other nations

Anyone interested in 4-way and 8-way, please come along. I'm trying hard to get some prizes so watch this space! Rob Colpus from Symbiosis Suits has generously started the ball rolling with money-off vouchers for team suits and other goodies, many thanks to Rob for his excellent support.



*Inaugural Council meeting
by Stuart Meacock*

British FS Teams

Our representatives for the World Meet 2008 are training hard. 4-way female team *Storm* have been in jumping in Perris and racking up the tunnel time at Bodyflight, whilst 8-way Champions *Connexion* have been braving chilly winter weather in Lillo. Both teams are training the different exits and continuity plans that Porters require, being a right hand exit (with no step). Some might say this gives the host nation an advantage as the Porter is the 'de rigueur' parachuting aircraft for our Gallic cousins. Let's just see!

Our British 4-way open team is *Fusion*, who have changed one member so it will be interesting to see how they get on under the watchful gaze of coach Craig Girard. It's good to see our top teams are taking their jobs seriously! These guys set a great example. Grass roots teams at Rookie, A and AA class are also something to be proud of. I look forward to submitting the our UK scores to NSL and once again watching the Brits come top of the international tree. Enjoy your training and see you at a meet soon!

Chris Hollis
FS Rep

Artistics

Our confirmed British artistic teams at the World Meet 2008, Maubeuge are: Freely – *Volairkix*, *Lillo Avalore* Male Freestyle – *Airtrix* Female Freestyle – *Bullet*, *Tumbleweed* Skysurf – *Orbit*

Competition Roadshows

Despite the best Artistics turnout ever at our Nationals and Coaching Roadshows last year, the Freely Grand Prix (FGP) continued to be very poorly attended. Therefore, this year freely GPs will be replaced with special 'Competition Roadshows'. These events, hosted by Netheravon (7-8 June), Target and Black Knights (dates tbc) will provide free coaching with a focus on competition, hopefully including a mini-meet and looking at judging, rules, presentation, etc. The Coaching Roadshow programme continues as usual, with events planned at St Andrews and Hinton (dates tbc).

Weed Stoodley
Artistics Rep

*Main image: World Freely Record
building by Norman Kent*

Officers & Committee Chairs

Council has elected the following officers:

Chairman

John Smyth MVO

Vice Chairman

John Horne

Development Chairman

Craig Poxon

Competitions Chairman

Andy Scott

Communications Chairman

Adrian Bond

STC Chairman

John Hitchen

Treasurer

Debbie Carter

Club Reps

Northern	Adrian Bond
Central	Paul Ledden
Southern	Martin Soulsby

Competitions Discipline Reps

Artistics/VFS	Weed Stoodley
CF	Ian Marshall
Classics	Paul Moore
CP	Alex Wilson
FS	Chris Hollis*
Speed	Clare Murphy*

* = non Council members

IPC and RAeC

IPC Delegate	John Smyth MVO
IPC Alternate Delegate	John Hitchen
RAeC Delegate	John Smyth MVO
RAeC Alternate Delegate	Jim Crocker

NEW RATINGS

AFFBI
Victoria Finch

TBI

Philip Knowles

CSBI

Hannah Betts
Sarah Smith
Derek Hopkins
Mark Baker
Justin Everitt
Lorraine Dixcey
Philip Stenning
Russ Murphy
Joanne Burns
Trish McDonagh

CSI

Hans Donner
Craig Poxon
Andrew Ewing
Kris Sheppard

Advanced Packer

Judy Walker (S)
Simon McConnell (S)

Advanced Instructor

Mark Tether



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Stuart Brown

Paintings & prints



◀ **'HALO Night Insertion'** - A Special Forces team follow a stabilized equipment container as they freefall through a moonlit cloudscape. An atmospheric image available as a limited edition of 650 artist signed and numbered prints. 28x18" (711x456mm). **£85 + £4 p&p**

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AGM

"A bit of a do"

Winter. Not great really, is it? Cold days, long nights, you know the score...

How fortuitous then that the BPA are kind enough to organise their Annual General Meeting every year in January providing each and every BPA member an excuse to travel to a big hotel and spend the weekend finding out what the BPA have been up to, perusing skydiving related purchases and generally having a bit of a do.

AGM Format

Now in its 41st year, the AGM was once again the Hinckley Island Hotel. It's not actually on an island but it is an hotel, and it is near Hinckley. The format of the AGM is a tried (or is that tired) and tested schedule. Chairman's speech and prizegiving in the morning, seminars in the afternoon, dinner dance at night. There's also a big room full of parachuting stalls running from morning to late afternoon.

Chairman's Report

The formalities kicked off as usual with the speech. Eddie Jones, the 2007 BPA Chairman giving the packed room a rundown of his year at the helm. Notable highlights included mention of how well the UK is doing on the international competitive circuit, with the new discipline of VFS being a great example. Also the often mentioned and rarely liked topic of insurance was once again in the news. This time however a **reduction in the insurance premium** was a first. This means the 2008 BPA subscription will be about £140, a reduction of nearly £12 from last year. Great news for everybody, just make sure you don't sue each other in 2008 and ruin it for the rest of us!

Motion Carried

During the official bit after the speech a motion to change the Articles of Association (the rules which govern the BPA) was put forward. This seemed a little poorly explained as the BPA officials assumed we had all done our homework – it was in the December Mag. (Under 'BPA Matters' which might explain a few things.) The change was so an election can be run through the BPA Office with a closing date before the AGM, for practical reasons so the votes can be counted. This is actually the way the elections have been run for years, unintentionally breaching the Articles. The election for the 2008 Council was 100% kosher, as the Articles do allow a pre-AGM cut-off date if run through an external agency such as ERS (Electoral Reform Services).

A Member asked a serious question, "What if there is a tie?" and was told by the Chairman that he would toss a coin. Not clear if this was a joke or a serious response. The motion was carried so next year's election can either repeat this year's online voting ERS-style or revert to the BPA Office staff counting the votes, God bless 'em!



SGM Awards & Presentations



The Taz Causer Trophy
Skydiver of the Year
Mike Carpenter



Instructor of the Year
Genevieve 'Freddie' Huntley (JSPC)
Mick Nealis accepted the award on her behalf



The Mike Forge Trophy
New Skydiver of the Year
Andreas Papadopoulos



Certificate Of Appreciation – Outbreak
World Cup Freefly Silver Medallists
Jim Harris, Mike Carpenter, Andy Newell



Canopy Piloting National Judge
Frank Mallabone (pictured)
Dave Openshaw, Bob Charters



Canopy Piloting National Judge
Paul Moore, Ann Fowler (pictured)
Accuracy Judge Paul Moore, Dave Openshaw



12 Hours Freefall
Niels Hansen



1,000 Jumps
David Butterell



2,000 Jumps
Craig Poxon



10,000 Jumps, 112 Hrs Freefall
Dave Howerski



2008 Council Results

The new 2008 Council was announced (see page 32). It's the only time in the 45 years of the BPA that a sitting Chairman hasn't been re-elected, tactfully described by Eddie himself as *'you seem to think I deserve a bit of a rest'*. The new Council has had a real shake-up with the Chairs of all committees bar Communications changing hands. Let's hope this fresh blood brings fresh ideas, and not just fresh blood.

Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Council held immediately after the medal ceremony for the 2007 prize-winners seems to bode well with everything going smoothly and all toys staying well within prams. So far so good.

Afternoon Entertainment

Afternoon saw the meeting settle into its usual schedule of attendees browsing the stalls, listening to various talks or just propping up the bar.

Seminars

Seminars on offer had something for everyone. FS types listened to the launch of the UK Skydiving League and advice on beginning big-ways; for the dark side Andy Newell and Jim Harris gave a talk on VFS and, for the train-spotters out there, who could resist the tantalisingly titled 'Aircraft Refuelling and Bowser Management'?!

Exhibition Stands

Trade on the exhibitors stalls was brisk. Various vendors employed different methods of enticing money from the passers-by. Paul Mayer from Bodyflight enjoyed seeing just how far people would go for free tunnel time (that man has a wicked streak!) and Regan Tetlow from Empuria revealed his raffle results in his best Del Boy style.

Tastes of the World

Evening entertainment was a buffet entitled 'Tastes of the World' which was a change from previous year's formal sit-down meal. Comments were overheard that now you had to queue for cold food rather than wait at your table for it! After the dinner the bar was crowded for people who wanted to socialise and, for the more energetic, live music was provided in the form of rock band 'Run for Cover'.

Can we Try Somewhere Else Dad?

AGM regulars will have spotted the Changing Rooms-style decor alterations but apart from that things were much the same. I think it would be good to try and find an alternative venue. (If only to update the logos on my towels at home!)

It's a shame that a genuinely enjoyable event where the best thing is meeting up with your mates starts to get a little jaded through over-familiarity and annoyance at hotel prices and service levels.

It's like going on holiday with your mum and dad to the same place again and again. You manage to have lots of fun, but just wish they'd think of somewhere else next year.

Chris Hollis
hollisc@TTint.com

BPA Grand Pri

ACCURACY



Senior – Glenn Stephenson

Intermediate – Jamie Gouldstone

Junior – Scott Jones

FREEFLY



Freefly A – Lillo Avalore
Adam Mattacola,
Louis Harwood, Rob McVey

Freefly B – Biggy Cheese
Brendan O'Rafferty,
Claire Murphy, Al Hodgson

CANOPY FORMATION



4-way Rotations – Outcasts

Gordon Mission, Biff Thornton, Pat Hammond, Ian Marshall,
Steve Saunders, Eugene Brennan



4-way Speed – Outcasts

Gordon Mission, Biff Thornton, Ian Marshall,
Steve Saunders, Pat Hammond



Intermediate 2-way Sequential – Los Perros
Michelle Meakins, Pat Hammond, Martin Robiette
(Gav McLeod pictured standing in)



2-way Sequential – Outcasts

Ian Marshall, Biff Thornton, Steve Saunders, Eugene Brennan



ix Regional Overall Awards

FORMATION SKYDIVING

4-way Rookie



Gold – 4-Play

Amy Kitson, Tom Hibberd, Nick Lord,
Kath Rybinski, Guy Martin

4-way A



Gold – Sonic-V

Rob Frost, David Honeybone,
Helen Arnold, Peter Spedding,
Ana Budjelan, John McIver

4-way AA



Gold – Wingnutz

Martin Wood, Vincent Lam,
Jason Kierman, Tom Hartland,
Chris Hollis, Darren Atter

4-way AAA



Gold – Elan

Tarnya Hollis, Alan Thompson,
Julia Foxwell, Amanda Kemp,
Emma Beyer



Silver – Strangers in the Night

Claire Tuckett, Fiona Law,
Richard Rust, Des Meyer,
Jeff Limna, Russell Smith



Silver – Phobia

Richard Head, Graham Wilkins,
Alan Thompson, Laura Battarbee,
Thomas Grocutt, Chris Hollis



Silver – Fend 4 Yourself

Jeremy Price, Alice Male, Mark Briant,
Renata Heranova, Dorian Harwood



Silver – Fusion

Dave Butterell, Laura McLelland,
Simon Cathrine, Lynne Murray,
Chris Hollis, Doug McLelland,

Bronze – West Coast Drifters

Dave Gordon, Steve Smith,
David Kingston, Manuel De Sousa,
Andy Phillipson, Stewart Brookes

Bronze – Monkey Magic

Jo Hawley, Viki Bingham, Rai Ahmed,
Zuz Tillner, Billy Payn

Bronze – Escondido

Guy Martin, Oli Pitchers, Rob Gray,
Mike Worthington, Brian Cumming,

Bronze – Storm

Claire Scott, Kate Stephens, Sarah Smith,
Hannah Betts, Gary Wainwright

8-way Intermediate



Gold – Blizzard

Darren Atter, Calvin Blacker, Mike Dawson, Henry Thompson,
Pam Snow, Kate Shearer, Elaine Cherry,
Bob Anderson, J Applebee, Nigel Rowlan

8-way Senior



Gold – Sounds Grr8

Kate Burn, Martin Wood, Paul Seymour, Eno Van Der Post,
François Cathelain, Martin Soulsby, Liz Ashley, Caroline Allen,
Charlotte Cooke, Paul Housley

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- ☐ Thorough inspection and air of main canopy?
- ☐ Thorough inspection of harness/container?
- ☐ New main and reserve closure loops?
- ☐ New bungees on deployment bag?
- ☐ Comprehensive advice on any rigging requirements?

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Off The **BLOCKS**

Sven Ibens, of Hayabusa fame, describes a set of principles which apply to any block move. Putting these into practice will improve your technique, your efficiency and your block times.

In the IPC 4-way dive pool, there are 22 different blocks. A lot of people think that each block requires a specific technique and a different approach. Of course, the formations look different and the grips that we take vary from block to block. However, the techniques used to turn the blocks are generally the same and the same principles apply.

Good set-up

Every block begins with a good set-up. The goal is to build the top of the block so that it looks the way we expect it to look. That is why we brief our jumps. The ideal jump is the jump where everything goes as we planned it on the creepers.

Working towards a good set-up requires a complete overview of the formation; not only knowing which grips you have to take, but also understanding where your teammates should be and what grips they should be picking up. Use the time on the creepers also to discover this aspect.

Communication

Good communication is very important on the ground, and also during the skydive. During briefings, talk to your team about how a briefing feels for you, and what issues you expect to occur during the jump. This will encourage the others to think about the jump as a whole and together you will most likely find solutions to any difficulty.

During the skydive, it is even more important to communicate. We can communicate by making eye

contact, gestures (eg, bringing your head back in after you have picked up a grip) and body language in general.

Communication will allow us to start our block move in a synchronised way. Synchronisation is key when turning a block. Eye contact will be used to key the top of the block and to determine whether or not your teammate is ready to start.

Staging

Only one person should be flying at a time. All blocks can be split up in different stages. Generally a block consists of two or three different parts. During each part, only one member of a subgroup will fly and execute a move. His (or her) piece partner will remain in place, making it easier to control the block move. It is easier for a subgroup if one person flies at a time, rather than trying to fly together. Again, it is very important that you understand where your piece partner needs to go during the move so that you can guide him/her.

Flying straight lines – opening the door

The goal is to fly as much as possible in straight lines and to avoid turning around each other within a subgroup. This is most efficient. Flying in straight lines will allow you to limit the distances between the centrepoints of the subgroups. It will also help you to open the door for your piece partner and create a space that he/she can use to execute his/her move.

Be patient

When your piece partner is flying, you will have to be patient and concentrate on keeping your individual centrepoint in place, allowing your piece partner to fly where he or she wants to. It is very tempting to start flying yourself and you will have the feeling that you are wasting valuable time. The reality is that if you wait, you will create time and overview for yourself and your team, which will allow you to fly the block move more effectively. This will result in faster block times.



Good communication is vital for the start and end of the block



Start every block from a great set-up



Stage the block so only one person in
each sub-group flies at a time

Small moves – big stops

Most people try to do too much, wasting energy and time. The aim is to do as little as possible. Economic flying is key. When briefing a skydive, look at your engineering from a distance and try to limit your moves.

Stopping your moves is probably what we hear most when asking an experienced skydiver or coach for advice. Not stopping is possibly the most common mistake in skydiving. Including stops in your block move will allow you to stage the block and to keep everything overseable for all teammates.

Interim pictures

Stops are also important to see pre-determined interim pictures. Identifying these will help us to make sure that our block turns the way we briefed it and to keep the synchronisation between the subgroups.

Example – Block 6

Let's take block 6 (Stardian – Stardian) as an example.

(Note: the photos show Bodyflight Storm in a mirrored left handed continuity plan as they are currently training. The principles of executing the block are important, not the continuity.)



The top of the block should be built square and not too wide. Building it too wide will result in bigger distances between the subgroups.



Photos show Bodyflight Storm by Gary Wainwright



The key will come from the Rear Centre (RC) and Front Centre (FC), using eye contact and agreeing on the start of the block. (Rear Centre is also called Inside Centre; Front Centre is also called Outside Centre).



The first move will be executed by the Rear and Front Centre. They will move on the imaginary line that runs through their centrepoints. They will move in a straight line, switch positions, stop and turn 90°. Their job is mainly done.



While the two centres are moving, their piece partners, Tail (T) and Point (P), will maintain their centrepoints in place. They will only start moving when they have seen the interim picture (one where no-one is still in the centre of the formation, as above).



The second stage of the block will be initiated by Tail and Point upon eye contact. Again, they will also move on the imaginary line through their centrepoints, switching places and limiting their move just to that.



If we execute the block in this way, we will be able to finish the block at 180°, rather than the expected 360°, still keeping it legal for the judges.

Moving away from the imaginary lines to the side where your piece partner is (the right hand in these examples) will result in a bigger move and turn. This is what we call: ending up in the negative quadrant.

Moving to the other side of the imaginary lines (ie, away from your piece partner – positive quadrant) will result in less degrees to turn but, if you execute the block vertically, may risk violating the centrepoint crossing rule.



ELECTION

Analysis



Jon-Pol Linto by Richard Hayden

Election 08

2008		ERS	
ELECTED		Votes	%
1	Andy Scott	731	65
2	Craig Poxon	653	58
3	Weed Stoodley	647	57
4	Paul Applegate	620	55
5	John Horne	603	53
6	John Smyth	549	48
7	Paul Moore	547	48
8	Ian Marshall	547	48
9	Alex Wilson	537	47
10	Geordie Page	484	43
11	Grant Richards	473	42
12	Adrian Bond	408	36
13	Martin Soulsby	394	35
14	David Ibbotson	372	33
15	Paul Ledden	367	32
NOT ELECTED-----			
16	Elizabeth Warner	365	32
17	Bryn Chaffe	362	32
18	Kieran Brady	335	30
19	Eddie Jones	318	28
20	Sandy Barnett	310	27
21	Chris Gilmore	291	26
Total Votes:		9,913	
Number of Voters:		1,133	
Invalid Votes:		1	
Total Valid Votes:		1,132	

This is the first time the BPA has used online voting and the first for many years that an election has been run through an external agency.

Here we present the results and compare with the last four elections, to see if there are other significant changes.

The 2008 election was run through the Electoral Reform Services (ERS) with a closing date of 7 January 2008. Ballot papers were distributed to 5,020 BPA Members, of whom 1,133 voted. The 2008 results are in the first table at the top of the page.

Online voting proved popular, accounting for 493 (43.5%) of the votes cast, although the traditional postal vote remained the preferred way of voting for 630 (56.5%).

More Valid Votes

Use of the ERS allowed for a simplified voting paper, as well as the real-time help given by the Internet option, which will not allow an invalid vote to be cast online. This slashed the number of invalid votes from 6.4% in the BPA-administered election of 2007 to only one invalid vote this time.

Percentage Voting

	2001	2004	2006	2007	2008
Members	5,427	5,621	5,072	5,073	5,020
Voting Cards	677	679	693	628	1,133
Invalid Votes	64	91	69	40	1
Valid Votes	613	588	624	588	1,132
% Spoiled/Invalid	9.5	13.4	10.0	6.4	0.1
% of Membership Voting	12.5	12.1	13.7	12.4	22.6
% Membership Valid Votes	11.3	10.5	12.3	11.6	22.5

Turnout

The turnout of 22.5% is almost double the last election turnout of 12.4%. The decrease in the number of spoiled votes is significant, from the highest value of 13% to this year's 0.1%. 80% more people voted than last year and, significantly, there were 92% more valid votes.

Minimum Overlap Table

2008 Election

	Votes	Andy	Craig	Weed	Apples	John H	John S	Paul M	Ian	Alex
Andy Scott	731									
Craig Poxon	653	252								
Weed Stoodley	647	246	168							
Paul Applegate	620	219	141	135						
John Horne	603	202	124	118	91					
John Smyth	549	148	70	64	37	20				
Paul Moore	547	146	68	62	35	18	-36			
Ian Marshall	547	146	68	62	35	18	-36	-38		
Alex Wilson	537	136	58	52	25	8	-46	-48	-48	
Geordie Page	484	83	5	-1	-28	-45	-99	-101	-101	-111
Grant Richards	473	72	-6	-12	-39	-56	-110	-112	-112	-122
Adrian Bond	408	7	-71	-77	-104	-121	-175	-177	-177	-187
Martin Soulsby	394	-7	-85	-91	-118	-135	-189	-191	-191	-201
David Ibbotson	372	-29	-107	-113	-140	-157	-211	-213	-213	-223
Paul Ledden	367	-34	-112	-118	-145	-162	-216	-218	-218	-228
Elizabeth Warner	365	-36	-114	-120	-147	-164	-218	-220	-220	-230
Bryn Chaffe	362	-39	-117	-123	-150	-167	-221	-223	-223	-233
Kieran Brady	335	-66	-144	-150	-177	-194	-248	-250	-250	-260
Eddie Jones	318	-83	-161	-167	-194	-211	-265	-267	-267	-277
Sandy Barnett	310	-91	-169	-175	-202	-219	-273	-275	-275	-285
Chris Gilmore	291	-110	-188	-194	-221	-238	-292	-294	-294	-304

BPA Council Election History

2007 BPA		
	Votes	%
1 Paul Applegate	411	70
2 Weed Stoodley	396	67
3 Grant Richards	374	64
4 John Smyth	374	64
5 Ian Marshall	368	63
6 John Horne	367	62
7 Georgie Page	364	62
8 Paul Moore	350	60
9 Robin Durie	346	59
10 Mike Rust	309	53
11 Alex Wilson	305	52
12 Eddie Jones	280	48
13 David Ibbotson	279	47
14 Adrian Bond	278	47
15 Paul Ledden	273	46

16 Ralph Fielding	271	46
17 Elizabeth Warner	265	45
18 Kieran Brady	264	45
19 Mark Maynard	261	44
20 Sandy Barnett	222	38
Total Votes: 6,357		
Voting Cards Received: 628		
Invalid Votes: 40		
Total Valid Votes: 588		

2006 BPA		
	Votes	%
1 Chris Allen	438	70
2 Paul Applegate	436	70
3 Weed Stoodley	423	68
4 Tony Goodman	356	57
5 Ian Marshall	353	57
6 Andy Scott	338	54
7 Grant Richards	336	54
8 John Smyth	330	53
9 Eddie Jones	327	52
10 Kieran Brady	326	52
11 Mike Rust	319	51
12 John Horne	309	50
13 Georgie Page	308	49
14 Paul Moore	302	48
15 Mark Maynard	268	43

16 Ralph Fielding	263	42
17 Nigel Holland	260	42
18 Adrian Bond	247	40
19 = Roy Clarke	246	39
19 = Eric Hall	246	39
21 Jim White	237	38
22 Stephan Reynolds	139	22
Total Votes: 6,807		
Voting Cards Received: 693		
Invalid Votes: 69		
Total Valid Votes: 624		

2004 BPA		
	Votes	%
1 Chris Allen	421	72
2 Paul Applegate	418	71
3 David Hickling	379	64
4 John Smyth	369	63
5 Ian Marshall	364	62
6 Weed Stoodley	333	57
7 Brian Vacher	331	56
8 Andy Scott	327	56
9 Kieran Brady	315	54
10 Eddie Jones	309	53
11 Tony Goodman	300	51
12 Ian Midgley	300	51
13 Jim White	288	49
14 Nigel Holland	277	47
15 Calvin Blacker	276	47

16 Brian Dyas	273	46
17 David Ibbotson	257	44
18 Georgie Page	256	44
19 Ralph Fielding	248	42
20 Adam Jones	214	36
21 Billy Gollan	199	34
Total Votes: 6,454		
Voting Cards Received: 679		
Invalid Votes: 91		
Total Valid Votes: 588		

2001 BPA		
	Votes	%
1 Lesley Gale	448	73
2 Chris Allen	444	72
3 Paul Applegate	414	68
4 David Hickling	396	65
5 John Saunders	395	64
6 Kieran Brady	368	60
7 Ian Midgley	363	59
8 John Smyth	363	59
9 Dona Crum	355	58
10 Tim Andrewes	353	58
11 Ian Marshall	348	57
12 Chris Clements	345	56
13 Lofty Thomas	339	55
14 Craig Poxon	313	51
15 Carl Williams	304	50

16 Richard Tregaskes	281	46
17 Mick Danby	269	44
18 David Tyler	219	36
Total Votes: 6,317		
Voting Cards Received: 677		
Invalid Votes: 64		
Total Valid Votes: 613		

Note: There was no election in 2002, 2003 or 2005 as there were 15 candidates or fewer, so the above are the last four BPA Council elections.

Candidates Voted For

The possible number of votes is 16,980 (if everyone voted for the maximum number). Only 9,913 votes were cast so many people did not vote for 15 candidates. Comparing to previous years there is a significant decrease in the number of candidates voted for.

	Possible Votes*	Actual Votes	% Used
2001	9,195	6,317	69
2004	8,820	6,454	73
2006	9,360	6,807	73
2007	8,820	6,357	72
2008	16,980	9,913	58

* the number of voters multiplied by 15

It is clear the 2008 percentage is markedly different. For some reason this year people voted for fewer candidates. In previous years people voted, on average, for a larger number of candidates and therefore there was far more overlap.

Minimum Overlap Table

Each entry in the table adds the votes of the two people concerned and subtracts 1132 (total valid votes).

Positive Overlap

A positive number in the table is a definite overlap of votes, this number of people voted for both candidates, eg, at least 252 people voted for both Andy Scott and Craig Poxon [731 + 653 - 1132 = 252]. Up to 653 people may have done so. At least 7 people voted for both Andy Scott and Adrian Bond, up to 408 may have done so.

Negative Overlap

Negative numbers mean that there may not have been any overlap, eg, none of the 291 who voted for Chris Gilmore need have voted for Andy Scott (but they could all have done so). At least 110 voted neither for Andy Scott nor for Chris Gilmore [since 731 + 291 = 1022 and 1132-1022 = 110].

Geordie											
-175	Grant										
-240	-251	Adrian									
-254	-265	-330	Martin								
-276	-287	-352	-366	David							
-281	-292	-357	-371	-393	Paul L						
-283	-294	-359	-373	-395	-400	Liz					
-286	-297	-362	-376	-398	-403	-405	Bryn				
-313	-324	-389	-403	-425	-430	-432	-435	Kieran			
-330	-341	-406	-420	-442	-447	-449	-452	-479	Eddie		
-338	-349	-414	-428	-450	-455	-457	-460	-487	-504	Sandy	
-357	-368	-433	-447	-469	-474	-476	-479	-506	-523	-531	Chris

Spread

The 'spread' is the number of votes cast for the most popular candidate minus the number of votes cast for the least popular.

	Spread Overall	Spread Over Elected Members
2001	229	144
2004	222	145
2006	299	170
2007	189	138
2008	440	364

The wider spread in 2008 may be due to the large number of extra voters but is still mathematically significant. In previous years the spread of votes, particularly over the elected members, is very similar indicating fairly consistent voting, but the 2008 spread is much wider indicating a wide difference in the support gained by the candidates. It appears that this year the vote polarised with support being given to a smaller number of candidates, with a voting pattern that has significantly changed from previous years. This polarisation can be shown by the minimum overlap table below.

Summary

Similarity 2001-2007

The last four BPA Council elections in 2001, 2004, 2006 & 2007 are remarkable in their high similarity:

- the number of voters is within 5% of 670
- the number of votes is within 5% of 6,480
- the spread across elected members is within 13% of 150

Significant Change 2008

The election 2008 is markedly different from the previous four:

- 80% more members voted
- Invalid votes reduced to 0.1%
- 92% more valid votes than previous year
- the number of votes cast reduced by two per person
- The spread has more than doubled

Influencing Factors

It is not clear whether the change in pattern is due to a large number of new voters casting their votes in a different way, or a shift in emphasis of the usual voters, this being amplified as more people voted. It is beyond the scope of this article to speculate on the reasons for this change, the reader can do that with more knowledge of the skydiving arena.

Factors which have been known to affect other elections and which may (or may not) apply here include the following; ease of online voting; external agency administration; media election coverage; internet coverage; politics; events of the previous year; increased/decreased faith in the election system and/or the candidates. It is clear though that, for whatever reason, this election has generated a much higher interest than usual which, presumably, will be nurtured for the future of the BPA.

Diana Cowey BSc Hons
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Background image: World Team '06 by Hans Berggren



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Mar 21-24 **Easter Weekend FS and FF
Coaching Kick Start**
*April events in Association with Skydive
Choreography*

Apr 12-13 **High experienced Invitational
Challenge Event**

Apr 26-27 **Large Formation Beginners
Weekend**

May 10-11 **CRW Beginners Weekend**

May 30-Jun 1 **Safeflight School Canopy Course**

Jun 21-22 **POPS Meet**

Jul 5-6 **8-Way FS Grand Prix**

Jul 12-13 **28-Way Competition**

Aug 23-25 **British Nationals 4-Way FS**

Aug 30-Sep 1 **British National 8-Way FS, Artistic
and Speed**

Aug 30-Sep 1 **British Nationals 4-Way FS Reserve
Weekend**

Sep 6-8 **British National 8-Way FS Reserve**

Sep 6-7 **50-Way Challenge**

Sep 27-28 **CF Nationals**

Sep 27-28 **8-Way Speed Nationals**

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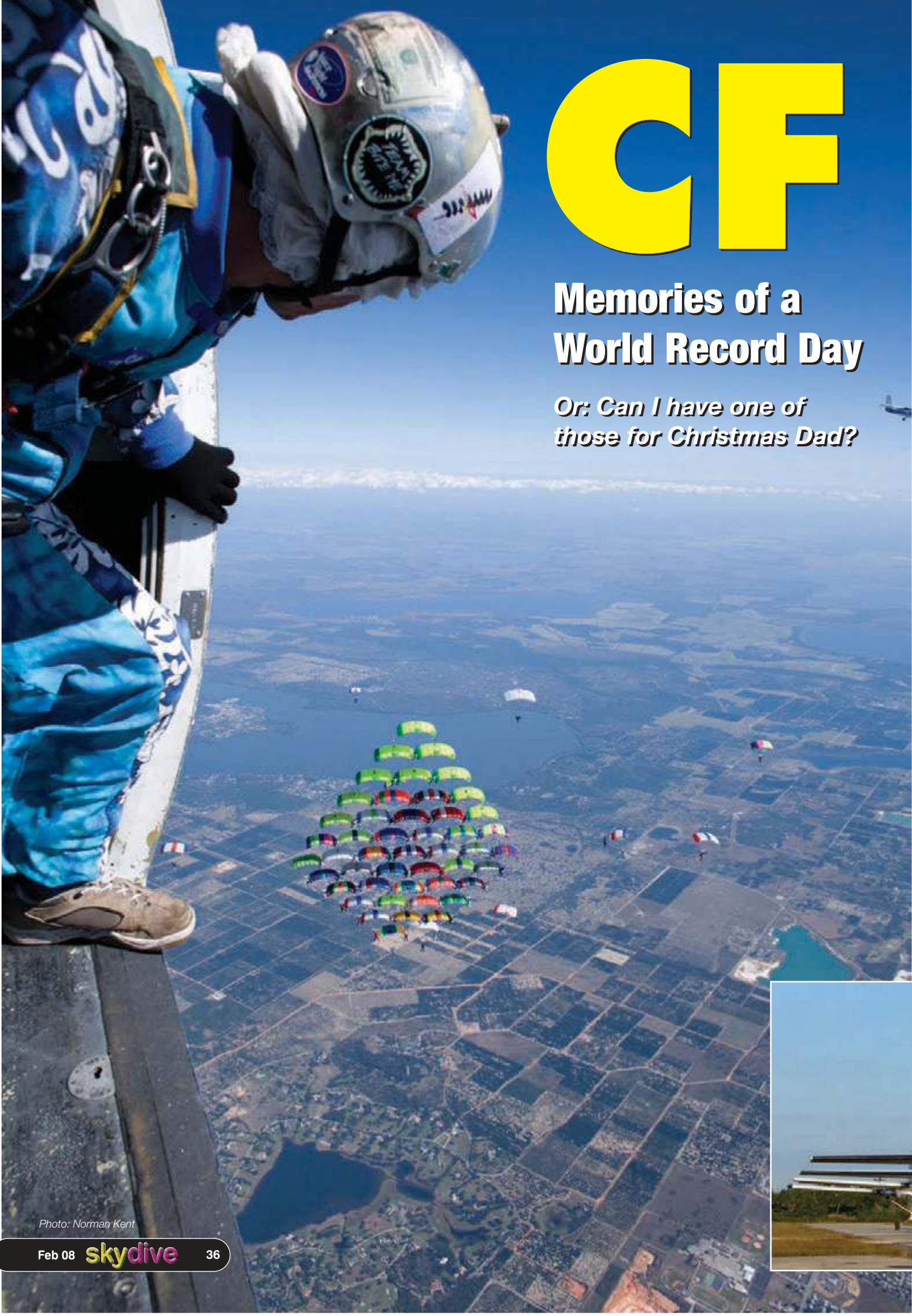
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Photos: Andy Lovemore



CF

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*Or: Can I have one of
those for Christmas Dad?*

Photo: Norman Kent



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Organiser Mike Lewis by Gustavo Cabana



Ramsey Kent



The Brits by Martin Robiette

When you set your alarm clock for 4am to get up and dirt dive, it had better be worth it. The 40 minute drive to Lake Wales Airport is dark and cold. The coffee and breakfast at the IHOP café is supposed to make you feel better, well the food is good but the coffee awful. I have to get some caffeine somehow. I don't want to fall asleep and miss my call for the jump – fat chance, I'm so excited this morning. I have been picked today to go for the 100-way, brilliant!

We set up the formation inside the National Guard's Armoury, a large hangar type building, our home for the week. We then found out that our teammate Joe had just died, at 4am*. Not a good feeling now, very low. We had a minute's silence for Joe, a quick pep talk from Chris Gay; then we walked out to the taxiway, did a final dirt dive, then a 'TEAM hug' and a big cheer to do it for Joe, and sat by our aircraft waiting for the sun to rise. What a beautiful sunrise it was! With our spirits lifted we boarded our aircraft at around 7am for another crack at the 100-way diamond.

We taxied in a line to the runway. I looked out of the window and saw all of the support team for the 100-way, lined up and waving us off. What a back-up team! We lined up, engines roared, and we all took off close together. Eat your hearts out Heathrow controllers! The 45-minute flight was a time to reflect on how we all got here. Everyone had his or her own story.

The first three aircraft had oxygen on board, the lead plane all jumped with it. The last two Otter-loads had to stay calm, to conserve their air. We heard the base had exited; about nine miles and six minutes before we have to go. RELAX! I'm thinking: *You must be mad! Feeling a bit of tingling in my feet. Right; slowly breathe in through the nose, fast out of the mouth. (Absorb O₂, exchange CO₂), I am feeling fine now. I look to see if the rest are okay; thumbs up, nervous smiles, all looking fine, good.*

Spirits were definitely up. The lead Otter flew in at 20,000 feet and the base 9 exited three miles before the DZ. The chase Casa went over the

base at 18,000 feet, and then in came the last Casa at 16,000 feet. We looked out of the cockpit window and saw the formation building above and five miles ahead, wow that's big, three minutes to go.

By 12,500 feet the 36-way base was hammering through the sky. At 12,000 feet the last two planes flew in down each side of the formation. We looked out at the other Otter on our right side, good it's there, just right this time, we watched the formation building to a 49, as we flew by it just under us, perfect, let's do it!

We stood up, I had 10 pounds of extra lead on, low-fived all on board and took a deep breath. Let's go! I exited the last Otter as number 80. I opened my parachute and turned toward the formation, there was my left wing leader Annie. *Right; lose some height, three front riser A-line left turns, and now line up and wait for your turn to dock on it...*



Organiser Chris Gay puts on the 90 lbs of lead he wore as base, photo by Ramsey Kent

*(See Skydiving January 2008, Volume 27, Issue 317, page 29)



Two Casas & three Twin Otters were used, photo by Ramsey Kent



Norman Kent

Build, baby, build!

I heard the reassuring voice of Mike Lewis calling row sevens in, good we are not late, just right this time. The formation built to 64 quickly and relatively smoothly by around 8,500 feet. Then I heard the call to arch, right this formation is going to lock out and fly fast now. Mike then called our row nine wings in on the radio. *Now concentrate. Go...*

I followed my wing in, good old Reager, very smooth; it was an easy formation to catch. I docked in my slot, on to Reager and Jim next to Cliff; he said *"Pleased to see you here buddy"*. We both grabbed hold of Ralf, put our feet in his lines and we then knew we had an 81-way at least. The row ten wings came in shortly afterwards, and the formation built into the high nineties by the time it reached the 5,000 feet hard deck. Mike gave a *'hold on'* call in anticipation of the last four people docking and to the sound of *'arch'* calls we waited; and waited... and waited... and... well, you get the picture!



Author Ian Marshall
by Gustavo Cabana



Gustavo Cabana

(On the ground everybody was shouting *"Build, baby, build!"*.) And, in short, the picture was wrong. According to who you speak to, the starburst call came somewhere between 3,500 and 2,700 feet. To split the difference, we can all safely (or unsafely) say that we were in a solid 96-way canopy formation at 3,000 feet. It was, however, healthy, and it broke down cleanly as we had practised it, and it needed to, a wrap now would be very bad indeed. We were out of it at 2,500 feet. Everyone landed in the boonies. We foreigners kept an eye out for alligators and those little black caterpillars that shed their hairs if you touch them, so your skin feels on fire. Everyone got a

lift back to the DZ – 107 of us in total, on-board a convoy of cars, pick-ups, trucks and Percy's camper van. (You should get some more friends Percy just to fill your van!) Certainly something to tell the grandkids about (and all the big kids on the DZ).

I have landed a few diamond formations in my time, and had to break a few low when it got a bit bumpy on a demo, but this formation was the most rock-solid one I have ever been in. But even crazy old me would have to think twice about landing this one. (Tempting though, I was thinking *'Are there 95 other lunatics around me?'*)



We repacked our parachutes, made a few changes at the bottom of the formation and put baggier clothing on some of the outside wing jumpers. Riggers took an inch off a line here and there, we recharged the oxygen bottles, rebriefed the pilots and wing leaders, added a bit of extra lead in a few weight belts, dirtdived it, and tried again...

The next formation broke off a little higher with more people on it. Four more to be exact. Ninety-six plus four equals... A WORLD RECORD! Celebrations and high fives and a group hug were in order. The mood was, in general, that we always knew this team would break the record. It was always a question of when. Then it was an agonising wait for the judges to review all the photos and videos of the complete formation, to see if all the grips that were holding it together were in the right place. After a one hour wait, Judy the chief judge came out and said 'Unfortunately... we have got a... NEW WORLD RECORD'. Huge cheers went up all around the armoury. Then we went for lunch, just your average bunch of world record holders!



Bryan Scott



Gustavo Cabana



Norman Kent

World Record

100-way Canopy Formation

21 November 2007 Lake Wales, Florida

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Record Organisers

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Record Breaking Brits

Gav McLeod, Ian Marshall, Maria Russell, Martin Robiette, Paul Speller and Doug Preston

www.cfworldrecord.com

Gustavo Cabana





Norman Kent

Aftermath

We turned up again in the late afternoon to dirt dive a second 100-way formation to include those of the 100-way team who had not already been on a world record dive. In the fading sunset over Lake Wales, another 100-way built again but, critically, a couple of heavy docks were made on a jumper who was not locked off from above. As we all know, once that happens it's almost impossible to close the gap. As it turned out, a grip that needed to be taken on the A-line could only be made on the skin of the canopy. It was just by inches, literally, *'but that don't make it legal'*, as they say in these parts.

The formal aspects of the day ended with all the jump planes doing a very low pass at dusk in 'a missing man formation' in tribute to those in our small, close-knit community who have passed on since we started this very long adventure and rewarding journey. To quote the transmission made to the world record 100-way on break off, *"Joe Lambricht, Scotty [Fiore and Cowan], Joel [Zane], Taz and Q... that was for you..."*.

It has been a long dream of mine, to build a 'large' canopy diamond, since my first CReV hook up in 1977 with a crazy American called Jack, and doing my very first 4-way diamond in 1978, with my fellow teammates, Graham, Ray and Nish. How large? Well nobody thought that we could build a 4-way diamond, *'You're all MAD'*, let alone nine or sixteen... etcetera!



Gustavo Cabana



Gustavo Cabana

Bruno Brokken



When I was in the World Record formation and heard Mike say *"Complete"* my dream had come true at last. I looked for that little boy on the ground, with a piece of string, flying his kite in Brockwell Park fifty years ago; and it was not me down there, there were lots of children looking up at this one, and flying it. Now 'I am' that jumbo-sized, 100-person, £500,000, multi-coloured kite! WOW! Big kids' toys! Oh yes, and I'm not dreaming, it's real. You do not get a chance to fly one of



these every day, do you? And we flew two of them today. So it was not just a fluke.

What's next? 121? Or even 144? No... never!

Well, just maybe! One day; one day soon, and at a DZ near you? It's up to you and your dreams young skywalker, they may just come true!

Ian Marshall
BPA11128
D1577, CReW #C80
Big Kid#100

Gustavo Cabana

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A New Dawn for *Sibson* ...

Sarah Hall

... Reborn as **Skydive Airkix**

The Peterborough Parachute Centre at Sibson Airfield has been training parachutists since 1971, with a superb safety record spanning half a million skydives. The DZ was a family affair, started by John Meacock, national accuracy champion seven times over, and overall champion for four. Following in his footsteps were his three talented sons; Stuart, Chris and Alex, who excelled in their own skydiving arena and have all been involved in the business. Peterborough has always been one of the premier UK dropzones, but since the bar and clubhouse burned down in January 2006, the club has suffered a drastic drop in numbers.

Now, however, new life has breezed in, with the introduction of two new business partners, both super successful entrepreneurs. David Turner (DT), who became the youngest BPA Examiner at 25, and was a joint owner of BPS Langar for nine years, has purchased 50% of the business. He brings a wealth of experience in marketing and DZ management, having been originally credited with inventing the concept of sponsored charity jumps with Parachuting Promotions, which brought a massive injection of finances into the skydiving industry in the eighties.



Owning a minority share (20%) is Airkix Plc. Headed up by astute businessman, skydiving photographer and *Brit 100* Chairman Simon Ward, Airkix will bring the enviable e-marketing systems that have proved so successful for the Milton Keynes wind tunnel. This has introduced more than 100,000 people to 'freefall' since opening two years ago.



The Meacocks retain 30%, with young, friendly Stuart in place as CCI. Stuart is an Advanced Instructor, BPA Pilot Examiner and has been a National Champion eleven times in seven different disciplines! Stuart says the decision to merge



was motivated by wanting to create an organisation to enhance an individual's ability to learn to skydive. With high quality professional coaching on the DZ and in the tunnel, the progression should be higher.

Sibson, now Skydive Airkix, is the first UK drop zone to combine forces with a wind tunnel. This brings two clear benefits to the DZ. Firstly, as a recruitment tool as many first time tunnel flyers are interested in 'trying it for real'. Secondly, to accelerate the learning process; Skydive Airkix are offering an enhanced AFF programme, which includes 10 minutes, 30 minutes or even an hour of tunnel flying, bringing the total 'freefall time' to 16, 36 or 66 minutes for an AFF Level 8 graduate.

Experience elsewhere in the world has shown that students who do tunnel time have fewer re-jumps and progress more quickly. There are learning tools such as AFF-style tunnel rigs and wind-down 'altimeters'. The student can learn to skydive before they have ever been in the aircraft, let alone jumped out of it! Once Skydive Airkix has graduated these first time flyers, the superb quality teaching will continue through special coaching programmes, which share the instructors between the DZ and the tunnel. They aim to fill that gap often experienced pre and post-FS1

The concept is to create, from the bottom up, a new and more professional approach to skydiving. Many of us have probably cringed when bringing our Mum, friends or TV crew to a shabby dropzone, with antiquated toilet facilities and not much of a customer attitude. Skydive Airkix see the burning down of Sibson Bar, catastrophic at the time, now at least meaning they can make a complete new start. A purpose-built restaurant/bar/clubroom is under way, and scheduled to open for the new season. Instructors/coaches will wear matching branded clothing (sweatshirts, helmets, jumpsuits etc) so students will turn to the right people for advice. State of the art streaming digital systems and photography is planned. They want to involve the

spectators (friends and family) in briefs and de-briefs of tandem and AFF jumps, the aim being to work hard at interest, retention and at bringing new blood into the sport. Dave Turner explained, "Skydiving is a mature market so the only way to improve it is to change the whole approach. We're re-evaluating the whole concept of skydive training. We want a culture of staff professionalism." Of course it will take time to introduce the new systems but they have a clear vision of what is wanted.

An associated company, Airkix Aircraft Limited, owns four aircraft. Some are leased to other drop zones, the main jump ship at Sibson will be a 16-place fast climbing Turbolet, with a large in-flight door – perfect for skydivers. They also have another Turbolet, which doubles as a complete set of spares, plus a brand new Airvan and a Cessna 206. A sale of the 206 for another new Turbo Airvan is being negotiated as we go to print.

So – great for growing the sport, but what does it mean to Joe Jumper? Cheap jump tickets, best price £15 for altitude. Great deals on tunnel time with a special Skydive Airkix deal for club members. The opportunity to carbon offset at a voluntary £2 per jump. High quality coaches and a professionally run DZ you'd be proud to take your friends and family to. A funky new style competition called Airmix; you're scored on your combined performance in freefall and the tunnel. This combined with all the advantages Peterborough has always had, an idyllic countryside location, less than an hour from London, excellent safety management, and lovely atmosphere, makes it a good place to put on your visiting list this season.

Lesley Gale

lesley@skydivemag.com



Bodyflight Mamba



The 2-way open Freestyle competition gives teams of two the chance to wow the judges with their 3D and artistic flying skills. A huge range of movements can be achieved in the sky, all of which can be applied in the confines of the Bodyflight wind tunnel, with a greater emphasis on precision.

The event consists of nine rounds, three of which are for compulsory manoeuvres. Two will be set to music and the remaining four rounds are for free routines.

Teams of four shall attempt a series of complex manoeuvres selected from the International Parachute Commission (IPC) pool of skydiving formations.

As with recognised skydiving events, the object of this Open FS competition is to complete as many scoring formations as possible within the working time, whilst correctly following a set sequence.



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Is it a Mirage?

Despite its name the *Mirage* has once again reminded us of its existence with another flurry of options and improvements to the popular rig. In a previous Kit News we reported on the introduction of slip-on armoured leg pad covers for protection during the swooped landing. Now those non-mirages at Mirage Systems have come up with two more gizmos for the keen swooper. The *Lower Swoop Belt* allows the swooper to totally remove his or her chest strap and lie on the lower belt, allowing them to become almost horizontal for minimum drag and longer distances.

Their new *Swoop Loops* are formed by sewing teflon cutaway cables inside a pair of front riser dive loops, which keeps them in an easy to access bowed-out shape, ideal for quick manoeuvres. The swoop loop is mounted higher on the front risers than the standard dive loops.



The Mirage's *Low drag mini risers* comprise of a set of regular 1" type-17 risers which have been zig-zag stitched in half just above the armoured housings in order to reduce drag on the risers by creating a 'knife edge' towards the air.



Barking!



The Release Bark

A small Italian company called Skysport has released a lightweight flexible helmet of only 300 grams made from 100% carbon and called the *Bark*. The company claims that, after much research, their shell design follows exactly the human skullcap, and a slight angle close to the cheek prevents movement.

On the top of the helmet a flat base is raised for the installation of stills or video cameras. On the left side there is also a flat base for the mounting of a video camera. On the right side there is a mounting port for up to two audible altis located externally, and well protected by a raised ridge.

Those canny Italians claim that they've found the 'perfect harmony between comfort and form' which has been made possible thanks to their wind tunnel. The *Bark* sports a carbon fibre chin cup with a special lodging for the chin straps to be stored when fitting the chin cup. Skysport also manufactures a model with a cutaway system, called the *Release Bark*.

www.skysport.it



Mirage's Lower Swoop Belt in action

The larger type-8 risers are also available with the knife-edge mod for jumpers weighing over 200 lbs.

Another clever idea from Mirage is their new *Elastic Lumber Support*, which stretches from the centre of the main container back pad, out to both lateral straps. The lumber



support keeps the main container comfortably snug against the jumper's back preventing it from lifting off, particularly when in a sit or stand-up position. The lumber support is not visible when wearing the rig and is adjustable, replaceable and easily permanently removable. This feature comes at no additional cost and is standard with the *Mirage G4*.

www.miragesys.com



Kit News

by Rob Colpus

Oops! Premature Activation!

Our German friends at Airtec issued a service bulletin in January following the inadvertent activation of a *Cypres2* AAD a few seconds after exit above Eloy, Arizona.

Apparently the *Cypres* in question showed some problems with its 'switch-on' several times the day before. An attempt to switch the unit on before the skydive in question was unsuccessful so the jumper decided to leave the unit switched 'off' and jump without an AAD. Unfortunately the unit fired but fortunately there was no injury to the jumper or anyone else – just a long reserve ride.

After technical inspection back at the factory Airtec concluded that this error was caused by several factors. A very abnormal power supply defect in combination with a 'specific flight situation' (no details given) made the activation occur. After several days of reconstructing the said scenario and much testing the boffins at Airtec conclude that this was a very rare event and they have received no reports at all of similar cases.

The company's service bulletin states that you should always observe the complete self-test until the 'O' appears. In the event that an error code is displayed, the owner is asked to consult the user guide for the appropriate action required.

The bulletin goes on to say that, in the event that there are irregularities during self-test and/or switch-on procedures which are not explained in the user guide (such as unknown error codes or numbers, missing numbers, no red light, blank display etc), Airtec (or SSK if in the USA) should be contacted BEFORE the next jump.

www.cypres.cc
0049 2953 989948
kai@cypres.cc

Icon and Grommet

Aerodyne of Florida released a service bulletin at the end of last year pertaining to its *Icon* harness/container system. The bulletin relates to Icons manufactured after and including 1 September 2007 and concerns damaged grommets.

Scratching by the grommet press tool at the factory had caused the damage, which can be seen on the inside of the grommet. Scratched, damaged or badly set grommets can cause excessive wear on closing loops ultimately resulting in breakage.

Aerodyne is calling for owners of Icons manufactured on or after the above date to inspect all the grommets on their rig. The company stated that this could well be an isolated incident.

Aerodyne invites customers to return any suspect Icons, which will be sorted out under warranty. Owners can also give the rig to a rigger for remedial action but this would be at their own expense.

www.flyaerodyne.com

PdeF Reserve Warning

In December Parachutes de France, aka Aerazur, issued a service bulletin concerning its reserve canopies manufactured between 1 January 1987 and 28 Feb 1989 with serial numbers from 87 01 001 up to 89 02 XXX. This warning was prompted by an accident that occurred after a *Minimax 5* reserve suffered steering line attachment tape failure. The failure may have been caused by a specific stitching type used on these canopies which are not necessarily all Minimax 5s.

The bulletin requires that canopies should be grounded and remedial work carried out if they show either of the following features:

- double sewing without back-stitching over attachment tape
- evidence of any kind of failure initiation on any part of the steering line attachment on or around the tape.

0033 1 41 23 23 23

A Cybernetic Reminder

With the competition hotting up in the high-tech AAD market, long time market leader Airtec, manufacturer of the *Cypres* system, reminded us in December that the first units of the *Cypres 2* will have 'come of age' and the message 'next maint NOW' will have appeared in the control unit's window.

Airtec is the only one of the current AAD manufacturers that requires each unit to be returned to the factory for a mandatory service, at periods of four and eight years from DOM (date of manufacture). The message 'next maint NOW' will be shown automatically after the unit's self test if no maintenance has yet been performed within four years and six months after DOM. The message remains visible for one minute, and then the 'O' will appear as normal.

From the first notification of the service date being shown in the unit's window there is a period of 13 months before the 'next maint NOW' warning will be shown, giving the owner time to schedule maintenance for a personally suitable date.

www.cypres.cc
0049 2953 989948
kal@cypres.cc

Head Sheds

The *Vapor Narrow* is the latest offering from the stables of those skydiving helmet wizards at Skysystems Inc in the US. This new incarnation of the company's *Vapor* camera helmet is a smaller version of the *Wes Pro*, designed to fit a single camera on top but with room for a front-mounted stills camera. It features an internal audible pocket and a removable liner, which makes sizing and cleaning quick and simple, says SS. The *Vapor Narrow* is constructed from multi-layer composite material for strength and low weight. The helmet is well balanced for camera mounting. The *Vapor* series of helmets comes in standard black but custom paint colours are available.



The Vapor Narrow

Another new product from Skysystems is an open-faced helmet tagged the *HR2*. The *HR2* also features composite construction with high-impact foam, providing increased strength and protection according to SkySystems. Dual interior pockets will accommodate any audible altimeter, and multiple shell sizes provide a good fit. The *HR2* is available in sizes ranging from XS to XL. Every *HR2* comes standard with a drawstring helmet bag.



The HR2

www.skysystemsusa.com

One ON the Wrist

SportsCam Video Systems Inc of Sarasota Florida has reported the introduction of its new product – the *WristCam* for tandem instructors. The company claims that the new *WristCam* is ten times smaller and lighter than the conventional wrist-mounted camcorder now being used at some drop zones and went on to say that the *WristCam* 'offers greater safety and ease of use without compromising picture quality'.

The *WristCam* consists of a micro camera fitted to a semi-rigid fingerless glove which covers the tandem instructor's wrist and hand, and a Sony HC camcorder which is located in a camera body pouch on the tandem student's belly band.

In the UK, Mark Rostovsky is acting as agent for SportsCam Inc, and he can be found on 01522 800315. SportsCam is currently offering a \$200 rebate with the purchase of any SportsCam System (*HelmetCam*, *GoggleCam*, or *WristCam*).



The WristCam by Tony Swain

www.sportscam.biz

UK Agent: Mark Rostovsky
01522 800315

NB: In the UK, currently it is not permitted for tandem instructors to film their passengers with a wrist-mounted camera (some other countries allow this).

Altiweatherpass

If you're planning on a skydiving trip to the mountains you might well be interested in a funky new altimeter, which is designed to be hand-held or clipped to the belt but which could also easily be attached to a hand, forearm or chest mount.

Launched onto the market by a company called Oregon Scientific, this neat little device also digitally displays outside temperature and forecasts the weather for the next 12-24 hours. So if it's reached freezing point or tomorrow's forecast holds thick cloud, this little baby will make sure you're prepared. It displays user-settable altitude levels in a 400m to 9,000m range, and the LED display is backlit for all those night time escapades.

Also equipped with a digital compass this is the only alti I know of which can help you find your way back from a dodgy spot on an unfamiliar DZ. It has a user-adjustable declination angle and true north calibration, which means you can rely on its readings if ever in an unsure situation. Clock, alarm and snooze functions will also make sure you're up in time to catch the first lift in the morning!



www.oregonscientific.co.uk

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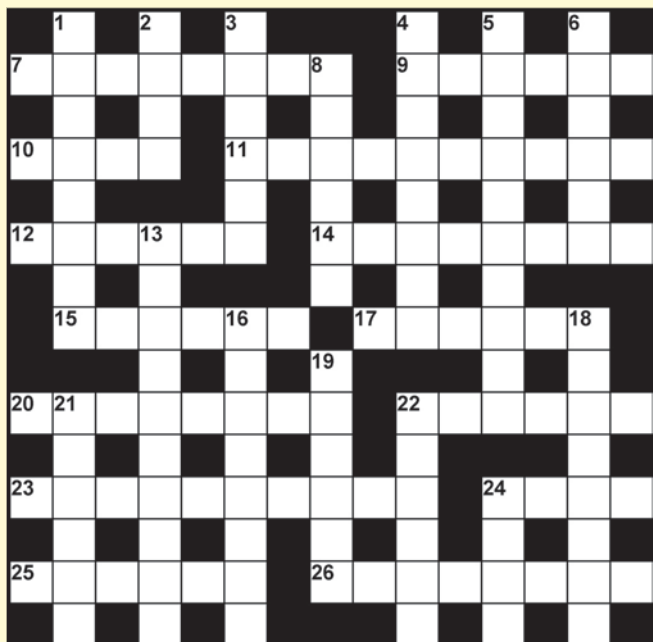
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Online Voting

When the Council election form arrived I was pleased to find that I could vote online for the first time. Voting for our Council members is important as they protect and promote the sport for the benefit of us all. In previous years voting has been through a simple-to-use form complete with reply-paid envelope; even so the percentage of those bothering has been low. This year, it was even easier for anyone with internet access. I was impressed with the security and speed of the system, the fact that my choices were presented back for me to confirm and the acknowledgement of my vote. It really did take only two minutes with no risk of a spoilt or lost ballot paper. The number of voters this year almost doubled, which shows the demand for this type of facility. Thank you to all involved in this project. I am sure everyone who used online voting found it as friendly as I did. I would encourage all BPA Members to vote next time round, it is your chance to have a say about who represents us, so don't waste it.

Vikki Forrest
vikki-f@tiscali.co.uk

Welcome in Oz

I am leaving the UK to go to Australia, joining the police out there and starting a new life with my Aussie wife Fiona, and our baby girl (Fi is five months pregnant). I will have to stomach jumping on the beach in Sydney, hard life!

I jumped a lot here, being a founding member of *Euphoria*; coaching at Netheravon and Hibaldstow; and jumping with some of our best who have all outstripped me, people like Mike Carpenter, Andy Newell, Alec Cotton, Gary Sweeney. Unfortunately, when I left the Army and joined the Police, I only had about six weekends off during the season so I lost contact with almost everyone except at my local DZ, Headcorn.

Hence, a lot of people don't know I am off, or that there will always be a bed for them if they come over to Oz. I just want to say thanks, goodbye, and give my email for anyone to get in touch. Big thanks to the people that have helped me over the years; all the guys at Nethers, Ian Cashman, Barrie Buck, Jonno Horne, Nigel Allen, Andy Scott, Geordie Page; guys from the Engineers and the Royal Signals, all the folk who kept me out of trouble when I was young, eager and stupid; Tim Porter, Chris Lynch, Rob Silver, Tim Carter; the crew at Hib and Headcorn; and the BPA.

Chris Guntrip
chris.guntrip@hotmail.co.uk

Support Your Teams

This year sees the World Championships in FS and Artistic events hosted in the north of France at Maubeuge, close to the Belgian border, (9-14 Aug). This is probably the closest a World Meet will be for many years.

Sports fans will know the difference that dedicated supporters can make. I have competed in nine separate World Cups/Championships in a variety of disciplines. These have ranged from having no support at all to a strong enthusiastic flag-waving following, cheering competitors to the plane. It really makes a big difference. This year is the easiest to make this happen via a low cost flight or a short drive from Calais. Attending the whole event, a long weekend, or even just stopping by for a couple of hours on your way to somewhere else, will help our teams. Seeing a World Meet first hand is also a great experience with the top jumpers you normally only ever read about all focused on performing at their very best.

Support your national teams! Make the trip, wave the Union Flag proudly and provide support so they can do their best to bring the medals home.

Alastair Macartney
alastair@macartney.co.uk

CLASSIFIED ADS

COMPLETE RIG
Javelin Odyssey C17, Black with silver and white 120 jumps, PD Sabre 2 170 silver and black, 120 jumps; Raven 1 reserve 0 jumps. Cypres 2 - 3 years old. Email or call for full details. £2,500 (no offers)
Contact: Mark Andrews, Hertfordshire
Tel: 07780 680058
Email: jumpermark@hotmail.com

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Sabre 150, Tempo 150 (unused) in Javelin, 400 jumps (1996) Also: alti, jumpsuit (5'11") etc. All services at Dunkseswell, RAFSPA & Langar. £1,000 (offers accepted)
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Tel: 0207 8288898
Email: al@thehays.co.uk

Main (Cryptic)

Across

7. Half of pier swaddled in paddle boat's coverings (8)
9. Priest never covers spinning competitions (6)
10. Crack shot (4)
11. Flipping link as beer stoppers come out (5,5)
12. Examines the pronunciation of east Europeans (6)
14. Fall in company, 50 backslide (8)
15. Falling behind tail of gross cow? (6)
17. Earns a fair slice in summer it seems (6)
20. Influence movement of perusers (8)
22. Composing lament for lunatic (6)
23. 'T' in semaphore fluttering in the air (10)
24. Hearts' evil inclination (4)
25. Disapprove of knot in footwear (6)
26. Controlling the permutation of integers (8)

Down

1. Meals are (briefly) taken aboard boats (8)
2. Game played on table turned into a ring (4)
3. Potter's aircraft in the cloud (6)
4. Dropzone which is safe on the downwind side (8)
5. Pause to adjust Ian's hot tie (10)
6. Queen's supporting excessive aircraft (6)
8. Segment of rowdy chants? (6)
13. Draw lines through left's inflation boosters (10)
16. Having gear, cockney man joked (8)
18. Holding up everybody in a criminal deception (8)
19. Gauges merest trembling (6)
21. Aristo's complicated relationships (6)
22. Less forceful point (6)
24. Firm sand found in Kandahar dunes (4)

Reserve

Across

7. Parachutes
9. Competitions, happenings
10. Photograph
11. Parachute control cables (5,5)
12. Flight-line examinations
14. Fall, fold up
15. Less quickly
17. Parachutes De France canopies; earns
20. Force of gas
22. Of the mind
23. Air, sky
24. Small mountain, beginning of skydive
25. Child's shoe
26. Directing a vehicle

Down

1. Begins, sets afloat
2. Ring
3. Rain-cloud
4. Durham dropzone
5. Delay (as pilot chute)
6. Aircraft; river mammals
8. Pluck away quickly
13. Internal parachute vents
16. Kitted out
18. Flying away slowly
19. Gauges
21. Mathematical proportions
22. 4-way formation; more gentle
24. Unyielding

Solutions Across
1. Hard
2. Meeker
3. Ratios
4. Rattos
5. Meters
6. Stalling
7. Equipped
8. Crossports
9. Snatch
10. Otters
11. Hesitation
12. Petree
13. Nimbus
14. Loop
15. Launches
16. Steering
17. Boote (bootie)
18. Hill
19. Atmosphere
20. Mental
21. Pressure
22. Ments
23. Slower
24. Collapse
25. Checks
26. Brake lines
Solutions Down
1. Snap
2. Events
3. Canopies
4. Goggles
5. Parachutes
6. Happenings
7. Competitions
8. Photograph
9. Parachute control cables
10. Flight-line examinations
11. Fall, fold up
12. Less quickly
13. Parachutes De France canopies; earns
14. Force of gas
15. Of the mind
16. Air, sky
17. Small mountain, beginning of skydive
18. Child's shoe
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23. Durham dropzone
24. Delay (as pilot chute)
25. Aircraft; river mammals
26. Pluck away quickly
27. Internal parachute vents
28. Kitted out
29. Flying away slowly
30. Gauges
31. Mathematical proportions
32. 4-way formation; more gentle
33. Unyielding

EMPURIA Boogie



Gustavo Cabana



Gustavo Cabana

Think of a parachute centre. They have a runway for the planes, a field for the skydivers to land in, a hangar to pack and a bar to get a drink and a bite to eat. That more or less covers 99% of all skydiving operations in the globe. Now take that model and drop it on top of a typical Spanish holiday resort; that's Skydive Empuriabrava, making it unique.

Within five minutes walk of the dropzone you have five supermarkets, a go-kart track, four swimming pools, three hotels, a dozen restaurants, two nightclubs, many bars, two tennis centres and a small gym. Walk fifteen minutes and you are on the beach – 20 kilometres of sand making up the bay of Roses. You now have many more restaurants and bars, wind and kite surfing, more nightclubs and a big variety of tourist shops. In winter, drive for an hour and you are at the ski resorts of the Pyrenees. In fact I'm getting ready for a day on the slopes tomorrow as I write this!

Europe's Biggest Christmas Boogie

Every Christmas hundreds of skydivers descend on Empuriabrava to skydive and party at Europe's biggest Christmas Boogie. This year, held between 22 December and 2 January, was the busiest for a good while. Nearly 400 skydivers registered for the event which saw four aircraft in operation and almost perfect weather for the duration.

Sunshine and no wind were the norm for most days. In total 10,000 jumps were made over the boogie, all without injury. It was fantastic to see visitors from so many different countries, that's one of the best things about working in this sport.

Five FS groups were hosted by Milko, Billy, Regan, Karsten and Felix. Every level of skill was catered for from 6-ways to multi aircraft formations. Tim Porter and the *Babylon* team looked after the freeflyers and a flock of wingsuited bird-folk were busy all week.

Party, Party, Party!

Each evening the day's jumps were shown in the main tent and in the bar. Nico's kebabs were a great hit, I think I had kebab most nights even when I was going for dinner later!

It was party atmosphere every night but some evenings were extra special. 22 December was amazing! Bruno Brokken had put together three hours of footage from the last 20 years here and had invited loads of ex-staff from all over the world. The bar and tent were packed to bursting as we watched the sport of parachuting evolve in front of our eyes. It was quite astonishing.

The next night was the one year anniversary of our 'Blue Sky' bar opening. This was a big party with international DJ Regan (me) keeping everyone dancing until the early hours.

Our world-famous tombola was on 30 December. Local band Runway One-Seven got the night going before the draw. As always, some

great skydiving prizes had been donated including altimeters, audibles, jumpsuits, whole lifts in Jan's Beech 99, watches and various other cool stuff. The big prizes were a block of 25 jumps, a Sunpath Javelin Odyssey and the star prize (drum roll please)... a Vector 3, Cypres 2 and PD reserve, won by Sarah Neale from the UK. To say she was happy is playing it down (see photo). The band came back on followed by me DJing. The tent was actually bouncing and we had to hold onto the sound equipment to stop it jumping onto the floor! This was one of the most amazing nights I have had at any boogie. Everyone had the best time ever!

New Year's Eve was in and outside Blue Sky bar with a 007 theme; dinner jackets, cocktail dresses and kilts from the Scots were the dress of choice. Again another great night.

For me this was the best Christmas Boogie since starting work here in 2004. I can't think of anything that could have been better. Have a drool at the photos... and we'll see you at Easter!

Regan Tetlow (pictured)
regan@skydiveempuriabrava.com



Babylon by Will Penny



Tim Porter by Will Penny

Gustavo Cabana

Milko's dive by
Vincent Van
Laethem





Gustavo Cabana



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Club News



Sarah Hall

This will be my final Club News as I have decided to spread my wings and move on to new heights. I have been at the Mag now for three years and have enjoyed every single one of the 19 magazines I've helped to create. It's been a privilege to work on the best skydiving publication in the world.

It has been a pleasure to work with all my Club Reps and everyone I've had contact with through the job. I have learnt loads from Lesley and would like to thank her for her support. I've also made lots of new friends and have a greater understanding of the sport, its UK drop zones and the workings of our Association.

The beauty of the Mag is that in years to come I will be able to look back at the issues I worked on and remember my involvement with pride. It is the right time for me to move on in my career but I will still be jumping and tunnel flying so I will hopefully see you in the air soon.

Lucie

Thanks to everyone who jumped with us in 2007; it was another packed year, despite the best efforts of the weather.

The BCPA army arrived in force for their first Langar big-way weekend, 50+ students attended, including Langar's own *LU:ST*. They completed four-point 12 and 13-ways before the wind picked up. **8-9 March** has been set aside for the second **Big-way Weekend**. Check Facebook (event: BCPA Big-way Weekend 2).

All our students have progressed well in FS thanks to our raft of quality coaches, watch out *Bullet*, they'll be after FF1 next! Over the festive season it was good to see people braving the cold and taking advantage of the sporadic winter sun. We even managed back-to-back lifts in the early new year – not bad for the middle of winter!

2008 is going to be another bumper year! Our **Easter Boogie, 21-24 March**, kicks the season off with organisers Dave Lewis & Billy Payn – come and get yourself current. **Go Vertical** returns **22-26 May** with Jan's super-fast Beech 99 going to 15,000 feet and loads of freely organising from Tim Porter & *Bullet*. Our two **Boogies** with the *Skyvans* are **9-11 May** and **13-21 September**. Load organisers every weekend from 1 March and both of our Grand Caravans every single day!

Gareth Thomas

Tilstock

An excellent turnout had fun and games at our combined Christmas party & AGM. Big Tony Houlton gets the prize for the farthest travelled, all the way from Georgia,

USA! Second was Johnny Galbraith from the Isle of Man. It was the last Christmas do at Hawkstone Park, it's time for a change. The 2008 AGM will be on 13 December at Hill Valley. A huge thanks to Liz Rimmer for organising a quality bash again.

Congratulations to the award winners, especially Terry Hall, Club Member of the Year, and Craig Powell, Student of the Year. Pilot of the Year went to David Robinson while Johnny Galbraith walked off with the (Better Take Up) Golf Award. For the first time, the Annual Crater Award was not given as 2007 was our only injury-free year! Let's keep it up.

Several members used the closed period to head for sunnier climes but, by the time you read this, Tilstock will be open for 2008 and the weather will be perfect!

Colin Fitzmaurice



Sutti by Ed Dickinson

Jay, Kenny & Thea by Wez Westley



George practising his speech
by Simon Wilkinson

Pixie having a wild hair day!



Anvil's top & Bullet's bottom



Steve Newman



Langar photos by Milko

Katie Woods



Langar

Achievements

Cat 8

Laura Hampton
Tara Taylor
Dave Jones
Jonny Long
Vicki Howe
Tom Fuller
Alex Parker
Nick Jackson-Spence

CH1

Ben Adamson
Jonny Long
Vicki Howe
Tom Fuller
Alex Parker

CH2

Jenny Buckle
CP1, JM1
Matt Sweeney
CH1, CH2, JM1, FS1
Laura Hampton

FS1

Harry Joseph
Kara Vincent
Olly Gibbs
Ross Shaw

FF1, FF2

Blake Hooper

Jump Numbers

200

Shona Blainey

300

Sophie Cook

700

Dan Williams

2100

Pixie

Netheravon

We had a very successful 2007 and with our new 'foxy' Caravan arriving, we now have two to play with.

This year we have lots of exciting weekends planned and some great parties too. The first event is the **Valentine's Glam Rock party, 16-17 Feb.** We have the **Skyvan** in on **21-24 March** with Caroline Hughes organising some intermediate to experienced big-way jumps.

Cossie is on the road to recovery and wants to thank you for all the support after his accident, especially Cookie, who's been 'like a rock'! Wishing a warm welcome to Andy (our new instructor) and Ed & Nick (assistant staff), we hope you enjoy yourselves.

We've lost our little Freddie temporarily; she's off learning to be a sailor. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her jumping with Royal Marines. A tearful farewell to Kenny who's gone to Black Knights,

we'll miss him, he's been awesome. The assistant staff will be lost without him, especially Hans, who relies on Kenny to wake him up every morning!

Check out our new improved website (should be up and running by now) for these and other events; **APA AGM 7 March, Army CP Team Coaching and 20K jumps** in oxygen-equipped Foxy Lady **7-9 March** (brrrr!). The **BCPA Southern Championships** is **14-18 March**. We have the **Skyvan** booked for **Easter**, the late **May bank holiday** weekend and **20-22 June**. 21 June is Solstice boogie day when we'll be jumping from dawn till dusk! The **Autumn Ball** is **11 Oct** - that's ages to sort out the glad rags.

Kath Salisbury & Thea Follett

Wez swooping in DeLand, photo by Gustavo Cabana

Achievements

FS1

Rose Ashley
Vince Blandford

CF1

Jim Gray

Jump Numbers

200

Sarah Churchill

400

Kenny Everitt

600

Rob Millin

700

Lee Thomas

Thea Follett

1000

Wez Westley

Trevor Hookings

1200

Matty Holford

1500

Liz Ashley

2000

Goddards

3000

Cossie

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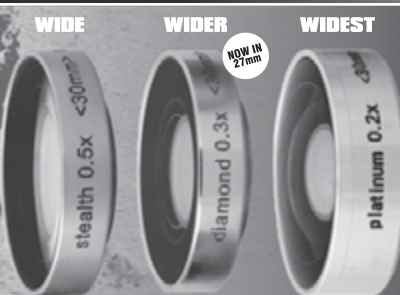
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Alex hangs out with the Let, photo by Sarah Hall



Skydive Airkix

Caroline Moran by Sarah Hall



Skydive Sibson re-launches as Skydive Airkix for 2008. It promises to be an amazing season at one of the UK's oldest and most respected drop zones, where over half a million successful skydives have been made since it started as the Peterborough Parachute Centre. Joining the Meacock family, who founded the club in 1971, are two new partners. David Turner has purchased 50% of the centre and will manage the business. Airkix Plc becomes a 20% partner and will introduce new systems and coaching programmes to the DZ using skills learned in one of the most successful vertical wind tunnels in the world.

There will be cross-benefits for both Skydive Airkix jumpers and customers of the Airkix wind tunnel in Milton Keynes.

A brand new, purpose-built clubroom should be open for the start of the season. The new complex will feature a restaurant serving meals at all times of the day, a fully stocked bar and comfortable areas for jumpers and visitors. Free Wi-Fi will be available as well as bunkhouse accommodation, camping and shower facilities.

Skydive Airkix owns a completely overhauled 16-place, fast climbing, turbine-powered, Let 410 that is permanently based at the DZ. Best

of all are the new prices for experienced jumpers who can go to 13,000ft for just £15! First time students will find Skydive Airkix unique, through a specially designed AFF programme which includes wind tunnel training. Top level freefly and FS coaches will be shared between the DZ and the tunnel.

In a new move to the skydiving industry, Skydive Airkix will be the first DZ to offer jumpers the opportunity to carbon offset. By adding a **voluntary** £2 to each jump, we will pay into a recognised established offset programme, chosen by the jumpers.

Sarah Hall

Dunkeswell

Welcome back all those lucky club members who travelled to sunnier climates over the winter. Now we're looking forward to a booming 2008! Over 500 club members joined last year, showing skydiving is firmly back in place in the south-west. An overview of 2007 at the Well saw freefly team *Avalore* coaching, a canopy piloting weekend, Sky Divas, a POPS meet and canopy formation to name a few.

There were also many unforgettable parties, such as the Medieval Ball, Halloween, Mr & Mrs Christmas and countless barbecues. We're still on track for opening the swoop pond in May so watch the website.

There was a great turnout for Ed's leaving do. Ed's now back in the States as Staff Sargent Pickens, so we welcome our Chief Pilot to fly the King Air. His reputation and moonshine precede him, many of you will already know Tiggs! We know he'll do a grand job flying for us.

The Christmas party saw many faces enjoy a traditional dinner, flowing drink and festive cheer. It was a great night. There were interesting choices of dress, including a bare-bottomed Santa!

The longer days are approaching and we're looking forward to more jumping. Please take note of the new opening days – Thursday to Sunday until further notice.

Leanne Milligan



Andy Montriou by Oily Denham

Achievements

First Freefall

Josh Thompson
Alistair Thornton

Cat 8

Jamie Dunbar

JM1, CH2

Lou Finch

CH1, Cat 8

Paul Gardner

CH2, 50 Jumps

James Howland

Stefan Cocksedge

1 Hr Freefall

Lou Finch

12 Hrs Freefall

Andy Halloway

Freefly brothers, by Oily Denham

Old Buck

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1

Pam Hawes
Anthony Johnson
Clare Garner
Sarah Law

FF1

Gavin Rixon

400 Jumps

Barrie Bremner
Jennie Sedgewick

500 Jumps

Gavin Rixon
Steve Brooks



Susie Hayne by Steve Wickham

Our third Christmas party lived up to expectations. We packed out the Gamekeeper pub decked in our finery to raise a glass (or several!) to a great year. We welcomed a wide range of skydivers from those with many years experience to new fledglings. Grant & Tomo thanked everyone for their support and gave out our traditional awards. Student of the Year went to Ian 'Taff' Watkins who graduated AFF and got Cat 8 in just 4 days, a record for the club. Club Member of the Year went to Phil Canning, sadly taken from us a few months ago. After a moving tribute his wife Jane received the award on his behalf.

We are up to 180 club members, lots of whom travel long distances each weekend to jump at our friendly DZ. We have achieved record levels of AFF graduates in 2007. Tim Skinner picked up the role of AFF co-ordinator and did a fantastic job taking care of our students.



Taff, Tomo & Grant

Our star on the staff is Aaron Ellen who has progressed rapidly from AFF student to tandem instructor in just three years. We're thrilled that Stu Murtha has got his AFF rating, as has Aff who'll join the team too. Steve Nalden, intrepid tandem instructor, has emigrated to Australia with his girlfriend Kelly, we wish them well.

We're looking forward to having our very own 14-seater Cessna Caravan which arrives ready to jump on 1 May. It will be faster than the Nomad so we'll be packing the lifts in. Until then we have our Airvan with Grant now at the controls, currently flying jump pilot under the watchful eye of Tony Knight. We expect him to qualify soon.

Several of our crowd had a great Christmas trip to Perris and racked up the jumps. Gav Rixon & Steve Brooks qualified as FS coaches, got to 500 jumps and did several scary balloon jumps. Gav got his FF1 while Clare & Sarah both jumped the jet. Quite an experience as they'd only just got Cat 8. They showed the boys up too from the sound of things! Tomo cooked Christmas dinner and Sarah showed her wild side after some heavy drinking in the Bombshelter!

We're all looking forward some better jumping weather this year!

Vikki Forrest

Hinton

Thanks to everyone at Hinton for a fantastic 2007! Our firework party was a huge success with everyone bringing some sparkly rockets for all of us to enjoy. Thanks to Mike Brown, Rich Orf & friends who braved the rockets, flying around them to entertain us. Thanks to Caroline White for a tasty hot chilli and vegetarian option. We even had some of the Weston crowd here!

At another progression weekend Doug, Sandi, Matt, Chris, Rich & Julie helped more to learn those important skills of spotting, flight-lining, packing and canopy handling. Look out for more soon, check out www.skydive.co.uk

Gary 'Wingnut' Aldwinkle celebrated his 500th jump by swapping his pink canopy for the blue tandem one of Geoff Wood's. What a great jump – it kept the whole DZ entertained when Gary screamed on landing!

The new office is now fully functional with a great set-up, making it easier to get last minute tickets. The packing hangar has had doors and windows fitted to the newly built walls to keep everyone protected from the winter winds. With many more new jumpers coming to Hinton the great selection of hire gear is extremely appreciated while trying to get qualified. Thanks to Geoff & Mike for having the gear and thanks to the packers for keeping them packed.

The rigging team at Point Zero is kept busy by many more people bringing their kit in. Dave & Matt keep everyone happy. Maddy has added yet more clothing ranges to the already fantastic selection at DZ Sports, pop in next time you are around.

The Christmas party was brilliant with the packing hangar transformed into a scene out of 1001 Nights. The theme was 'Sheikh Down' with everyone dressed as belly dancers and sheikhs, looking absolutely amazing and creating a feeling of actually being in the Orient.

We salute Ian, Ash, Pip & Bob who keep going even during the coldest of days and try to make as many loads as possible. Some went to Seville to celebrate Christmas. Joel even came back with his CF1. Well done.

Congratulations to Mark & Linda Beardsley on their 25th wedding anniversary. Well done and all the best.

The first jumping weekend in 2008 was a huge success, with brilliant weather, the return of the regulars and lots of lifts. If this weekend is anything to go by we're looking at a great year.

Kerstin Griep

Swindon

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1

Simon Cresdee
FS1, 100 Jumps
Elly Kirby

We go from strength to strength at Skydive London. 2007, our third year was our best ever! We had a good turnout for the 'Little Britain' Christmas do with everyone bar Pete 'Bah Humbug' Marsden in character. MC Howard White entertained us but the karaoke was worrying. Congratulations to fancy dress winner

E2 as Andy. E1 perfectly complemented Lou, both scarily lifelike! Ed Robson & Shane Wood were the best drag acts – although it's not a good look falling asleep with your legs open, Shane! Geordie was very successful in hypnotising party-goers into buying him a drink. Mark Benson's Bubbles De Vere scared the local taxi driver who wouldn't change gear in case he touched the wrong stick! Jim Moran dancing as Daffyd was a sight worth paying for. Thanks to Brucie, Karl Williams & Howard for putting lots of money behind the bar. Now we'll expect it every year!

John 'No' Friels passed his accountancy course so is now qualified to count his vast fortune! Brucie's lost over three stone (he runs a lot, y' know!). You wouldn't guess

from her teenage looks but KC celebrated her 20th year in the sport, here's to another twenty.

2008 looks fab with the regulars progressing and the great family atmosphere, we can't wait to get back in the air!

Dylan Griffith-Jones



Little Britain party
by Ed Robson



Brucie, Howard & Ed by Babs Burnell



Allan & Kristine, by Mikey Lovemore



Gary Aldwinkle's 500th with Geoff Wood & Steve Baldwin by Eamon Fairhead



Marcus, Chris & Natalie by Bob Miller



Jayne & Sandi by Bob Miller

Achievements

AFF Graduate

Martyn Gray

Cat 8

Haydn Herbert

Cat 8, CH1

Scott Harrison

CH2

Nick Wakeman

FS1

Andy Hyman

CF1

Joel Gluth

Jump Numbers

50

Nick Wakeman

100

David Worrall

Gary Grainger

200

Adam Searle

Jason Walsh

300

Tony Walden

1700

Bob Miller

Stu Storey by Mark Tether



The staff went to Skydive Elsinore, sunny California for blue skies and great jumping. Everyone did 40 jumps in two weeks, except Mark Tether who's got too much money and did nearly 80. Congrats to Mark for starting as new CCI after passing his advanced course. Also, for jumping his new 75 sqft canopy and surviving, albeit in a dust cloud now and again! A fond farewell to outgoing CCI Dave Openshaw and to Ian Lyons who's moving onto pastures new.

We're maxed out with courses so it's all hands on deck. Our new aircraft arrives later (the Quest Kodiak), increasing our lift turnaround and being slightly comfier than the Islander. Paul Moore is a little excited to say the least, especially as it involves various US trips to check on progress!

We're hosting the **UK CP & Classics Nationals, 10-13 July** followed by the infamous **RAPA Champs, 14-19 July**. We're looking forward to hosting the **BPA Judges Seminar 11-14 April**, a **Speed 8 Comp** and the **European POPS** in May, and a **4-way Comp over Easter**. We've got expeds throughout the year making the most of the German sunshine and Warsteiner! Pop over, we'd love to welcome you, we're only 20 mins from Paderborn airport.

Dave Newton

RAPA

Achievements

100 Jumps

Mitra Soroush

200 Jumps

Alex Mining

1400 Jumps

Dave Newton



RAPA trip to Skydive Elsinore

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Headcorn

Chris Lynch by Bernard Devine



We saw out 2007 in style, with a dinner dance at one of the local golf clubs. It was a joint effort with other airfield-based organisations – and a rousing success judging by the noise levels! Bruce Abbott proved he was more of a skydiver in than a pilot. There were loads of raffle prizes, with different companies based at the airfield outbidding each other not to win, but to donate prizes!

Congratulations to Lucy Smith-Willey who was awarded Student of the Year. She started jumping at the same time as her dad who has yet to catch her up. Having survived the Beaver crash, Lucy qualified and now has her B Licence – not bad for someone who still hasn't reached 18.

The first Sunday of jumping we just didn't stop, with great weather and a vibe to match. Long may it continue! We've had one casualty this year – Auntie Jane trying out her new Heelys from Santa, and ending up on the pavement with bruises and sprains all over. Ouch!

We have a new email address
info@headcornparachuteclub.com

Ruth Cooper

Achievements

First Freefall
Shaun Burgess
AFF Graduate
Helen Bishop
CH1
Helen Bishop
Alex Hopkins
CH2, JM1
Lucy Smith-Willey
Jump Numbers
100
Nigel Davis
200
Jackie Whyte
900
Richard Parkin
6500
Clem Quinn

Lucy & Pete



Ruth Cooper

Brid

What a fantastic 2007! Big thanks to everyone involved. It's a shame we've had some lousy weather but I guess that's the price you pay for stunning coastal views. The Porter will be flying soon but in the meantime we're getting nostalgic (cold!) in the Cessna.

We were saddened to hear about Dave Dunn's little boy, Harley, being ill with meningitis. Thankfully he's now on the road to recovery. We'll be organising a family charity weekend this summer, including a barbeque and bouncy castle for kids of all sizes.

We've had a superb trip to Zephyrhills, Florida. Thank you Derek & Victoria for your hospitality. It was so good, we

may turn it into a club event for this November. Del 'Squirrel Scarer' Hand is desperate to rack up jump numbers for his impending tandem course (good luck mate). If you can't find your rig, check Del's back! Anyone wanting an extra thrill when jumping can request a special 'Daring Dori' pack job. The Christmas party (food fight) was a sombre affair – 'ahem'. Our two double-barrelled ladies (both in name and other areas) were definitely NOT throwing mince pies into each other's cleavages!

Old timers and new jumpers beware – Dave & Lynne Johnston are on their way back. We can't wait to meet the old fella!

Don't forget **Night Jumps** on **Friday 21 March** and our **Mini Spring Blow-Out Boogie 18-21 April**.

Clair Armstrong & Ryan Lee

Achievements

50 Jumps, FS1, CH2

Dave Dunn

100 Jumps

Steve Perkins

500 Jumps

Clair Armstrong



First lift of 2008, Dave, George, Alec, Steve & Ollie, photo by Clair Armstrong

Achievements

JM1, CH2

Martin Jarvis

Marcus Wallen

FF2

Carl Chapman

Phil Coates

2000 Jumps

Richie Parker

Chatteris

Photos by Lorraine Dixcey



Christmas dinner



Last round jump!



Nick Chipp

2007 was a super successful year. Although the weather only gave 167 jumping days, we completed 9,378 descents including 4,652 tandems.

Well done to Mike Evans & Bryn Chaffe for their success in Spain and congratulations to Sam Clarke on being awarded the Student of the Year. It's great to see Nick Chipp & Phil Coates joining the camera team.

Our Christmas meal at the Cross Keys went well with 50 guests – who all got what they ordered! Sam & Donna did a great job organising everything.

The last weekend of the year was a good one, with Gary Small completing the last ever static line round jump at Chatteris.

Lorraine Dixcey

65

skydive Feb 08

Peterlee

Achievements

First Freefall

Michelle Tilley

Cat 8, CH1

Martin Spears

CH2, JM1, 50 Jumps

Paul Bloomfield

CH2, FS1

Patrick Wake

Stuart Childs

Jump Numbers

100

Harry Joseph

200

Jade Elliott

Mal Smith

700

John Hillam

Lee Saunders

800

Kev Dynan

900

Dave Taylor

Nick Brown

1000

Paul McCormick

1800

Alan Thompson

1 Hr Freefall

Harry Joseph

24 Hrs Freefall

Alan Thompson



Ian & Connor by Alan Thompson

We've been successful against the latest appeal to place wind turbines near the DZ. Despite a multitude of arguments against, the council's decision to reject the appeal was due to the potential impact on the parachute centre and concern over protected flying species nearby – not skydivers but bats! Thanks to everyone who supported us. A7 Energy do intend to appeal, so we have only won the battle and not the war but the centre is moving on with expansion plans. It has taken a while, but we now have both the Airvan and the Cessna 182 in action.

Congratulations to Kev Dynan who popped the question to Jane Robertson in Cambodia... and she said YES! Connor Cessford finally got to do a tandem with dad Ian (Cess) two days after his 16th birthday. Connor's been around skydiving all his life, has waited patiently and loved every second of it. We hope he's gonna be following in dad's footsteps?

Our family firework night went off with a real bang. Everyone pulled together to spruce up the club with a lick of paint and some new pictures. Colin Daley & the Phoenix video guys dived with death as they lit what seemed like thousands of fireworks. We're not sure where Colin got them all from but thanks anyway. Everyone loved Sue O'Connor's buffet and Janet Willcox's curry but the same couldn't be said for the karaoke!

At our Christmas party the annual awards were handed out. Newcastle University Parachute Club won the prestigious Club of the Year Shield after an intense battle with Durham and

Sunderland. Speedy won the Most Entertaining Landing when a downwinder ended at the hangar doors to a round of applause. Harry Joseph was in the running however he's landing on the DZ now! The Most Progressive Student went to a well-deserved Jonathon 'Jonsky' Brown. It was close but the Most Persistent Student was presented to Phillipa Shield (with a special mention for Trevor Garrett).

We were even graced by the return of Dave Leonard. Entertainment during the raffle was provided by Regan who took every opportunity to plug Empuriabrava but, as he provided so many prizes, we forgive

him. The raffle raised £165 for St Cuthbert's Hospice.

Jade Elliott did her first wingsuit jump at the Seville Christmas Boogie. By all accounts she showed Lee Saunders & Marcus Speed how it's done!

Sue Scott



Winguiters, photo by Lee Saunders



Jade by Lee Saunders

Weston

Achievements

AFF Graduate

Matt Clarke

Andy Moss

Cat 8, CH1

Judie King

Julia Halstead

CH1

Matt Clarke

CH2

Martyn Harris

CF1

Ash Kemp

Josh Burrill

Dougal Seeley

FS1

Georgie Roles

Iain Sinclair

FF1, 300 Jumps

Louise Hughes

FS1, 50 Jumps

Victoria Bradley

Rebecca Bradley

100 Jumps

Nick Etchells

Amy Poskitt

200 Jumps

Terry Purcell

900 Jumps

Ian Ridpath



Louise & the twins by Amanda Kemp

Our Battle of Britain party was a top night with some great outfits that spookily suited the wearers. Sounds of Glen Miller echoed, the classic film played on TV all night and I've never seen so much bunting!

Late congrats to Phil Hartree & Sparky for passing their AFF courses. I think Andy & Claire Scott are the only husband and wife team in the UK for AFF (imagine the arguments!). Also, well done to Andy Ford for gold at the VFS championships.

The end of the season party at the Ben Jonson was a great venue to celebrate the year. Everyone looked tip-top and six hours flew by before we continued the festivities at the clubhouse. Over Christmas a multitude

Hib

The last 2007 event was the Christmas party. The planned accuracy money-meet was washed out but this didn't dampen our spirits. There was a big party and free buffet, thanks to Noel & Liz Purcell. Leanne James won the Best Progressed Student, while 4-Play won the Best Team for winning the ESL Rookie finals and Grand Prix and bronze

at the Nationals. Thanks to Paul Cooper for DJing again, James for the cocktails and H for presenting the awards.

Thanks to the wonders of Facebook and a few well placed calls, a group of 14 skydivers enjoyed a weekend of big-way skills with Simon Brentford.

Lots of fun can always be had when the BCPA arrive. Large numbers from many universities came for the BCPA Freshers meet, despite poor weather. See page 71.

Back by popular demand, Dave Butterell ran another cameraflying seminar. It was a big hit, he knows his stuff. He introduced the disciplines and the skills required for each. Dave is a successful talented cameraflyer, a regular on the tandem pool here and current *Connexions* cameraman. This seminar was sponsored by the BPA, which has provided funding for a series of skills evenings to be run on Saturdays over the next couple of months. Thank you very much to the BPA for the funding!

Static line courses were run for Hull and York universities by our then trainee instructors, Trish McDonnagh & Jo Burns (with Tony Keightley & Andrew Hilton supervising). Trish & Jo have since successfully qualified as CSBIs. AFF next!

Alex Pickering visited the dropzone with Macca from Birdman to do a tandem for Children in Need. He raised £1,800 by doing a jump dressed as Borat!

Fusion will represent the UK in 4-way FS at the World Championships in 2008. Held in Maubeuge (France), the team will be competing from right-hand door Porters with no step. Lynne Murray said that they plan to do a minimum of two camps with a possible third on the cards. We wish them the best of luck.

Thanks to all who came to Target last year and made it a success. **In 2008 we have the Scrambles Competitions, FS and freefly coaching weekends, 28-way competition 12-13 July, 50-way weekend 6-7 September, progression days, the Halloween party on 25 October and much more.**

Achievements

First Freefall

Chris Maltby

AFF Graduate

Mick Thornley

FS1

Eamonn Henshall

Jump Numbers

50

Stu Spark

100

Chris Brook

300

Lucie Fenton

500

George Impey

1000

Speedy Hogan

1400

Blair Stent



Mike Colthart

Hybrid by Andy Lovemore

Trish teaches a static line course, photo by Blair Stent



Photo by Dave Butterell



Ash, Jon & Si by Amanda Kemp



ventured abroad. A few went to the Algarve and had a cracking time, the highlight being a 42-way over Alvor beach. The largest contingent, 40+, went to Seville for the great atmosphere. Georgie, Victoria, Rebecca & Cinks all did brilliantly with nice skydives considering they have just 50 jumps each. Josh, Dougal and I went to the very dark side,

all getting CF1 and having a great time with Steve, Pat, Eugene & Doug who taught us brilliantly – just don't look at the rigs! We hope to have these guys visiting us so come along and give it a go. It's rather odd having someone hanging onto your canopy!

Brian Vacher is back 21-23 March & 5-7 September with his

canopy course. The **POPS Meet** is **19-20 July**. We'll also have **Weekends of Tracking, Wingsuit, 4-way Comp, Scrambles** and, hopefully **Big-way**, all TBC. We're planning more free packing and briefing days too. The **Skyvan** is booked for **17-18 May & 12-13 July**. Keep an eye on our website.

Page 3 model Sam Cooke came to do a tandem for Breast Cancer Research, she turned many heads. We had no trouble getting tandem instructors but the lucky bloke was Dave Emerson, who is still smiling! You can make a donation at www.justgiving.com/samcooke skydive

Ash Kemp

Sam Cooke by Keith Hartley



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St. Andrews



*Courtesy Flush over St Andrews
by Graeme Mackay*

Empuria trip by Graeme Mackay

This winter has been one of the windiest we've seen so, in true Scottish style, we used the time to put up a new TV aerial and do some roofing!

The turnout for our Christmas meal was astonishing, with almost 50 people crawling out of the woodwork. We had a great time, with no permanent damage!

Several went to Spain, with a group of four heading off before Christmas and a rowdier 15 heading to Empuria for new year. We jumped aplenty in the Spanish sunshine and soaked up the local beer.

Hopefully 2008 brings good weather and another busy season.

Graeme Mackay

Achievements

FS1

Yuri Mellow

Fiona Millar

200 Jumps

Joshua Caird

Sth Cerney

Tomy & Chas by Nick Anthony



South Cerney is now open full time and lots of changes are happening. We operate from 9am to 7pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Camping is now available and we're in the process of building a new bar. Ash Hollick has opened his AFF school which we expect to be a huge success. The CCI is taking an expedition to Perris, USA, 12-26 March, any students interested call us. We're looking forward to a busy 2008 and hope to see new faces as well as the regulars. Come and visit anytime, everyone welcome.

Tony Goodman

Black Knights

Huge congratulations to Al Holmes for an absolutely amazing job on the year-end DVD. Dave Dand & Danny R added some great clips – nice job.

Jimmy failed to fasten his hat properly and now a sheep is strutting around with a snazzy paint-splattered helmet. The same sheep is probably wearing Frank's trainer!

The Christmas party was eventful as ever, with custard pie throwing, rugby tackling, table-surfing and dripping tap practical jokes – don't ask! Apparently a certain someone locked outside his room was wandering the corridors half-naked! I hope we get invited back. Dave's now busking to pay off his bar bill, which included 35 brandies! The girls hacked the pace until the very end – 7am!

Congratulations to Manuel and little Lisa who have both had baby boys – budding skydivers we hope. We're now open again with the fabulous F-GODZ – here's to a great year.

Sam Davis



Jeff Illidge, by Laura Gray

Achievements

First Freefall

Stephen Gibson

FS1

Debbie Williams



*Stephen by
Debbie Williams*

Regulars at the Christmas party, photo taken by the barman



Cornish

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1, CH2, JM1,
FS1, 50 Jumps

Steve Pope

Cat 8, CH1

Russell Studt

Phil Simons

FS1

Mark Finch

3000 Jumps

Ben Wood



Ben & Dave Wood by Andy Lovemore

Seville contingent, photo by Sharon Lynch



Steve Pope's AFF by Paul Yeoman

The club was very lucky in 2007 with an increase in club members and jump numbers. The north Cornish coastline has its own weather pattern, which most of the time works in our favour.

The end of season drinks night at our favourite beach bar, the Watering Hole, was very well supported. Everyone enjoyed it. The drunken struggle home, across the beach and in the dark, was invigorating and funny.

During the winter shutdown some club jumpers enjoyed a successful trip to Seville. The staff at Skydive Spain were very welcoming and 15,000ft in the winter sunshine was brilliant. A visit to Skydive Spain is a must! Steve Pope enjoyed his AFF with extra altitude, did 50 jumps, and made his FS1, with a little help from his friends.

CPC will continue to grow in 2008. The new airfield owners intend to improve the facilities and the club will benefit greatly.

Chris Wood

Cark

Achievements

6000 Jumps

George McGuinness

The Christmas party was another brilliant evening at Stoops Hall, on Lake Windermere. Many arrived early to make full use of the bar. A great dinner was served to over 100 guests. Congratulations to all our award winners:

Duncan Haynes – Little and Large Award

Harry Hardy – Outstanding Achievement

Myles Ziebart – Student of the Year

Steve Freakes – Skydiver of the Year

Cliff Wilson – Commitment to the Sport.

Our no-so-sober guests had an informal after-hours tour of the hotel's wine cellar and tasting area. The hotel staff rashly left it unlocked – where there's free alcohol there's skydivers! Sunday was dismal weather so no jumping, good job looking at some people!

Congratulations to Gary & Nicki Yerrill on adding a fourth to their team. We all wish you well.

Many celebrated Christmas and the new year in Portugal, returning safe and sound but with sore wallets. Alpha Yankee is in for repairs, but Langar have kindly loaned us a Cessna Caravan – big thanks to Angela, Dave & Milko.

Huge thanks also to James for his hard work on our new website. Check it out for our 2008 diary and to register on our mailing list.

Don't forget to let me know your achievements via the posters in the recreation room or email. And remember to grab your **free** 2008 Cark calendar from the office.

Stu Morris

Illegal midnight wine
tasting by Kat Lawlor



Girls Aloud by Kat Lawlor



Wild Geese

As the long dark days drew in the Geese were in migration and party-planning mode. Before Christmas six of the flock sent their letters to 'Santa Tony' [Suits] for their wingsuits, delivered by reindeer on Christmas Eve. All colours and sizes (Rod!) were catered for. This now brings the flock of geese-men to eight. We've informed the local gun club as we don't want them used for target practice!

New geese-suits, photo by Francis Mullin



The Christmas party had a top turnout, old members joined with the die-hards and new Queens students at the Ramada Hotel, Portrush. The new venue was a great success. Maggie presented the Student of the Year to hot favourite Eddie Monteith and Skydiver of the Year to Alison Owen, a very worthy winner. Congratulations guys!



Alison Owen & Maggie by Mike Murphy



Eddie Monteith & Maggie by Mike Murphy

The regular members and I all massively thank Dave, Maggie, Judith, Drew & the part time staff for their hard work and dedication in 2007.

Places are still available for the **Algarve Spring Boogie, 11-20 March.**

Mike Murphy

Achievements
FF2, 1000 Jumps
Rod McCrory

POPS

2008 looks busy with two UK meets, a World Meet, a Sunshine Trip and the opportunity to improve our current 36-way record.

Hope to see you at **Hibaldstow, 21-22 June** and **Weston, 19-20 July**. The **World Meet, Toogoolawah, NSW Australia is 25 April to 3 May 2008**. It's not too late! It's a different format from previous years with many more events included and a medal in any competition can be regarded as a World Champion medal. Register on line www.ozworldpops2008.com and find up to date info www.popsdownunder.com or call **00612 5684 0909**.

There will be a sunshine trip to **Empuriabrava** for a **POPS Competition, 11-12 October**. Dates not fully confirmed yet but



I'm confident and, if that means that Ann & I have to stay there for a week either side to administer the meet, so be it!

More details on the POPS UK record attempt soon, we know you're keen to crack it!



Roger Bancroft

Dick Barton Photos by Dave Lewis

BCPA



BCPA big-way over Langar, photo by Gary Wainwright

Even with a poor weather forecast, a great turnout of 115 (just breaking last year's record) from 18 universities showed up at Hib for BCPA Freshers. The bar was heaving on Friday night and turned into quite a session so, when the one and only lift of the day went up on Saturday, there weren't too many people on it!

The bad weather didn't dampen our spirits and we got stuck into one of the most valuable aspects of the BCPA, socialising at Brandy Wharf. On Saturday night the bar was transformed with giant BCPA lasers (think: Austin Powers) and heavy duty smoke machines. DJs provided tunes until the early hours, our thanks to them and to Russ for manning the bar.

On Sunday the sub-zero temperatures were braved by most and an impressive amount of lifts went up, with BCPA big-ways, 3-way scrambles, tracking dives, freeflying and pure fun jumps. Many thanks to everyone who entered the scrambles, even if you ended up competing on the wrong teams! Marc chaired



BCPA freshers by Blair Stent

a meeting with club captains and set out the steps needed to affiliate with BUSA. Remember to check out how the new league system is progressing at UKS.

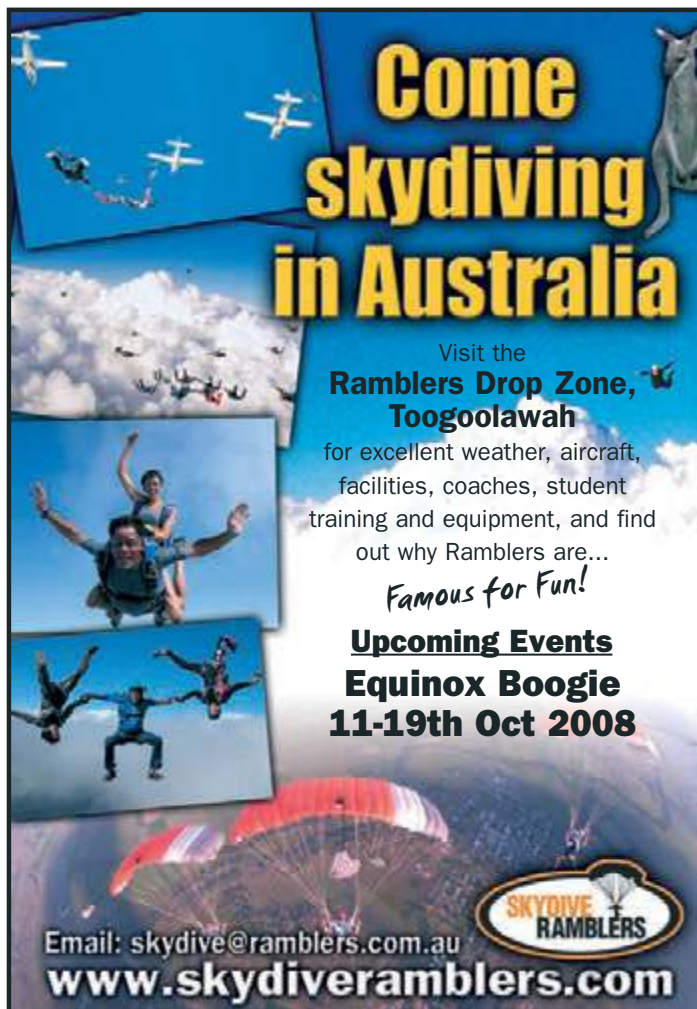
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6

Dunkeswell

01404 890 222



Skydive UK Ltd

Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon EX14 4LG
Tel: 01404 890 222 or 07718 638 000

info@skydiveukltd.com www.skydiveukltd.com

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Twin Turbine Beech King Air

Open: 8am-dusk, Thurs-Sun and bank holiday Mondays.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

For midweek operation please call the DZ first.

LO FS CF FF WP SU

7

Headcorn

01622 890 862



Headcorn Parachute Centre

Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX

Tel: 01622 890 862 Fax: 01622 890 641

info@headcornparachuteclub.com

www.headcornparachuteclub.com

Aircraft: Cessna Caravan, Islander

Open: 9am-dusk, Tuesday-Sunday. 1pm-dusk on Monday in summer.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

Come and join in the fun here at Headcorn!

LO FS CF FF AC WP

8

Hibaldstow

0113 250 5600



Target Skysports

Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,

Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN

Tel/Fax: 0113 250 5600 DZ: 01652 648 837

info@skydiving.co.uk www.skydiving.co.uk

Aircraft: Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92

single turbine, Cherokee 6

Open: 9am-dusk every day.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

15,000ft on most lifts, host to the BPA FS and Artistic Nationals 2006.

LO FS FF WP SU

9

Hinton

01295 812 300



Hinton Skydiving Centre

Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley,

Northants NN13 5NS

Tel: 01295 812 300 Fax: 01295 812 400

info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

Aircraft: PAC 750XL

Open: 8am-9pm at weekends.

9am-7pm Tuesday-Friday.

First Jump Courses: AFF, tandem

Small and friendly. Bunkhouse, camping & showers on site.

FS CF FF AC WP

10

Jersey

01534 747 410



Skydive Jersey Ltd

States Airport, St Peter, Jersey JE3 7ZR

Tel: 01534 747 410 Fax: 08708 313 107

info@skydivejersey.net www.skydivejersey.net

Aircraft: Cessna 206, occasional turbines

Open: Every day, hours vary with tide, call first before visiting.

First Jump Courses: AFF, tandem

Stunning views jumping onto the beach in St Aubin's Bay. Good deals with local hotel.

LO FS CF FF WP SU

1

Black Knights

01524 791 820



Black Knights Parachute Centre

Patty's Farm, Hillam Lane, Cockerham,

Lancashire LA2 0DY

Tel (DZ): 01524 791 820

Tel/Fax: 01772 717 624

www.bkpc.co.uk info@bkpc.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 185, Turbine Porter

Open: Fri-Mon every week. All week for the first week of every month.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

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LO FS CF FF WP CP

2

Bridlington

01262 677 367



Skydive Brid

East Leys Farm, Grindale Rd, Bridlington,

E Yorks YO16 4YB

Tel: 01262 677 367 or 07836 276 188

Fax: 01262 401 871 info@skydivebrid.co.uk

www.skydivebrid.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Turbine Porter

Open: 8am-8pm, every day.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

FS CF AC WP

4

Chatteris

01354 740 810

NLPC

North London Parachute Centre

Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea, March,

Cams PE15 0EA

Tel: 0871 664 0113 Fax: 0870 787 4909

info@ukskydiving.com www.ukskydiving.com

Aircraft: 2 Nomads, Cessna 206

Open: 8am-8pm Tuesday-Sunday in summer.

9am-dusk, Wednesday-Sunday in winter.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, rounds, tandem

A friendly, progressive drop zone with excellent facilities that are constantly being updated.

LO FS CF FF WP SU

3

Cark

01229 889 516



North West Parachute Centre

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Cumbria LA11 7LS

Tel: 01229 889 516 Weekends: 01539 558 672

Fax: 01772 787 106

skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk

www.skydive-northwest.com

Aircraft: PAC 750XL

Open: 9am-9pm, weekends & bank hols, weekdays by arrangement.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

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LO FS CF FF WP

5

Cornish

01872 553 352



Cornish Parachute Club

Perranporth Airfield, Higher Trevellas,

St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0XS

Tel: 01872 553 352 or 07790 439 653

cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk

www.cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 206, guest aircraft

by arrangement

Open: 9am-dusk on Sat. 10am-dusk

Wed-Fri & Sunday.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

WP FS CF

11 Langer

01949 860 878



British Parachute Schools

Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY
Tel: 01949 860 878 Fax: 01949 860 012

www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

Aircraft: 2 Cessna Grand Caravans, Skyvan occasionally

Open: 9am-8pm (or dusk) every day. 10am start on Sunday. Office open every day, 8.30am-6pm.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

Lots of aircraft, always lots of jumping, busy every day - midweek too!

LO FS CF FF WP CP

12 Lewknor

0845 130 7194



London Parachute School

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Drop Zone located off Junction 6 of M40

Tel: 0845 130 7194 Fax: 0845 130 7195

info@londonparachuteschool.com

www.londonparachuteschool.com

Aircraft: Islander, Cessna 206

Open: 9am-dusk at weekends.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

LO FS CF AC WP

13 Netheravon

01980 678 250



Army Parachute Association

Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF

Tel: 01980 678 250 Fax: 01980 678 275

apa@netheravon.com www.netheravon.com

Aircraft: Cessna Caravan, Turbine Islander, Piston Islander

Open: Wednesday & Friday afternoons from 12pm. Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 8pm.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

Military and civilian jumpers are very welcome at Netheravon.

LO FS FF AC CP WI

14 Old Buckenham

01953 861 030



UK Parachuting

Old Buckenham Airfield, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1PU

Tel: 01953 861 030

Fax: 01953 861 031

jump@ukparachuting.co.uk

www.ukparachuting.co.uk

Aircraft: Nomad

Open: Every day.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

LO FS CF FF WP CP

15 Paragon

01821 642 454



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billy.gollan@btinternet.com

www.paragonskydiving.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 182

Open: 9am-6pm Saturday, 10am-6pm Sunday, all year. 9am-7pm Wed-Fri in summer for courses & tandems only.

First Jump Courses: RAPS, tandem

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FS CF WP

16 Peterlee

0191 517 1234



Peterlee Parachute Centre

The Airfield, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH

Tel/Fax: 0191 517 1234 skydiveacademy@aol.com

www.skydiveacademy.org.uk

Aircraft: Airvan, Cessna 182

Open: 8.30am-8.30pm weekends & bank holidays.

1pm-8.30pm Wed-Fri. Flexible hours, phone to confirm.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

15 minutes drive from Durham city, 25 minutes from Newcastle, centrally located for NE England.

FS CF WP

17 Sibson

01832 280 490



Skydive Airkix

Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE

Tel: 01832 280 490 Fax: 01832 280 409

skydivesibson@aol.com

www.skydiveairkix.com

Aircraft: Turbolet 410

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Tel: 01285 868 259 Fax: 01285 861 344

info@silverstars.org.uk www.silverstars.org.uk

Aircraft: Islander, Airvan & Cessna Caravan

Open: Wednesday-Sunday 9am-7pm

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

Military and civilian jumpers are very welcome. Photo ID is required. Call or check website for prices.

LO FS FF CF WP CP

19 St Andrews

0845 189 5865



Skydive St Andrews

Kingsmuir Airfield, Saint Andrews, Fife KY16 8QQ

Tel: 0845 189 5865

skydivestandrews@mail.com

www.skydivestandrews.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206,

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20 Strathallan

07774 686 161



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Weekends: 01764 662 572

Tel: 07774 686 161 Fax: 01236 732 461

kk.bradley@btinternet.com

www.skydivesthathallan.co.uk

Aircraft: 3 Cessna 206, Turbine (for various events)

Open: 9am-9pm weekends & bank holidays.

5pm-9pm Fridays in summer.

First Jump Courses: RAPS, rounds, tandem

LO FS CF FF AC WP

21 Swansea

07779 019 655



Skydive Swansea

Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea, SA2 7JU

Tel: 07779 019 655

info@skydiveswansea.co.uk

www.skydiveswansea.co.uk

Aircraft: Airvan

Open: Sunday, weekdays by appointment

First Jump Courses: AFF, tandem

The DZ is only operating on Sundays due to aircraft availability.

LO FS CF WP

22 Swindon

01793 791 222



Skydive London

Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm, Wanborough,

Swindon SN4 0AA

Tel: 01793 791 222 or 01384 351 050

Fax: 01793 791 133

info@skydivelondon.co.uk

www.skydivelondon.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Islander

Open: 8am-7pm Mon-Sat. 9am-6pm on Sunday.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

FS CF AC WP

23 Tilstock

01948 841 111

THE PARACHUTE CENTRE LTD.

The Parachute Centre

Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA

Tel: 01948 841 111 Fax: 01948 840 638

skydive@theparachutecentre.com

www.theparachutecentre.com

Aircraft: 2 Cessna 206, Airvan

Open: 10am-dusk on Friday. 8am-dark on

Saturday. 9am-dusk on bank holidays.

Closed on Sunday.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

LO FS WP

24 Weston

01869 343 201



Skydive Weston

RAF Weston on the Green, Bicester, Oxon OX25 3TQ

Tel: 01869 343 201 Fax: 01869 343 194

skydiveweston@fmail.net

www.skydiveweston.com

Aircraft: G92 Dornier

Open: 12pm-8pm Fri. 9am-8pm Sat.

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25 Wild Geese

028 2955 8609



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Tel: 028 2955 8609 Fax: 028 2955 7050

jump@skydivewildgeese.com

www.skydivewildgeese.com

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

Open: Dawn-dusk w'kends, 9.30am-5pm w'kdays.

First Jump Courses: RAPS, tandem

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Cyprus

0035 724 744 337



Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58, Dhekelia Garrison,
Cyprus
Tel: 0035 724 744 337
Fax: 0035 724 724 330
info@skydivencyprus.com.cy
www.skydivencyprus.com.cy
Aircraft: PBN Piston Islander
Open: 7am-1pm weekends. Midweek by
arrangement.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
Please contact the centre before visiting
to ensure availability. Equipment
available for modest hire charges.

FS FF WP SU CP

RAPA

0049 5254 982 2378



Rhine Army Parachute Association
Flugplatz, Bielefelder Strasse, 33175,
Bad Lippspringe, Germany
Tel: 0049 5254 982 2378
Fax: 0049 5254 982 2740
jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk
Aircraft: Turbine Islander,
Dornier G92 on call
Open: 9am-7pm (or dusk) every day,
February to November.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
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on mainland Europe and it has a swoop
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Parachuting Societies

British Collegiate Parachute Association

Long View, High Road,
Londonthorpe NG13 9RU

www.bcpa.org.uk

chairman@bcpa.org.uk

Contact: Marc Fletcher, BCPA
Chairman

The BCPA aims to promote skydiving at
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university clubs. The BCPA provides a
community where university skydivers
can find like-minded people to jump
and socialise with.

POPS UK

9 Mansion House Mews, Pickwick Road,
Corsham, Wilts SN13 9BB

Tel: 01249 701805 or 07860 559112

dbarton@fsmail.net www.pops.org.uk

Contact: Dick Barton, Top POP

A society of skydivers over forty. We hold
regular meets at host parachute centres.

SOS UK

Flat 14, 21 Victoria Square, Clifton,
Bristol BS8 4ES

Tel: 01179 738341

nielshnsn@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: Niels Hanson

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Fax +49 2853 1293
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Photo: Andrey Veselov

DIARY

FEBRUARY

- 16** Langar **Night Jumps**
www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 16-17** BCPA Valentine's Meet
Bodyflight, Bedford www.bodyflight.co.uk
- 16-17** Try Speed Skydiving
Hinton www.skydive.co.uk
- 16-Mar 24** Spring Boogie
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 18-20** Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 18-22** BPA Instructor Course
Netheravon 0116 278 5271
CSI/Pre-Adv trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 19** BPA Council Meeting
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 20-22** Canopy Piloting Course
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 20-23** PIA Symposium
Barcelona, Spain www.pia.com
- 21-24** POPS Meet
Eloy, USA www.thepops.org
- 22-24** Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 23** Night Jumps (Reserve Weekend)
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 23-24** 4-way Championship
Aerokart Tunnel, France www.aerokart.fr
- 23-Mar 3** Boogie in Belize IV
San Pedro, Belize www.skydivebelize.com
- 23-Mar 7** Vietnam Boogie
Nah Trang, Vietnam www.skydiv vietnam.com
- 24-Mar 1** Island Style Boogie
Hawaii www.flitesolutions.com

MARCH

- 5** Competitions Meeting
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 3-8** POPS Springfest
Lake Wales, USA www.floridaskydiving.com
- 5-9** Para-Ski World & European Cup
Donnersbachwald, Austria www.fai.org
- 5-10** Atmonauti Boogie
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 7** APA AGM
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 7-9** Canopy Piloting Course
Seville, Spain www.safeflightschool.com
- 7-9** Canopy Piloting Coaching
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 7-9** High Altitude Jumps
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 8-9** BCPA Big-ways
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 8-Apr 6** Spring Blow-Out Boogie
Seville, Spain www.skydivespain.com
- 9-23** Thai Sky Festival
Prachuap, Thailand www.thaiskyfestival.com
- 14-16** BCPA Southern
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 14-16** Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 15-16** Atmonauti ARW2
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 15-23** Easter Boogie
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivcity.com

- 18-19** Women's Vertical World Record Warm-Up
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 19-21** Canopy Piloting Course
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 19-23** Boogie Guarani
Asuncion, Paraguay www.boogieguarani.com
- 20-23** Women's Vertical World Record Attempt
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 20-23** Spanish Big-way Record Attempt
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 20-24** Easter Boogie
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 20-24** Easter Boogie
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 21** Night Jumps
Bridlington www.skydivebrid.co.uk
- 21-23** Easter Boogie
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 21-23** Canopy Piloting Course
Weston www.safeflightschool.com
- 21-24** Easter Skyvan Boogie
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 21-24** Easter Boogie
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 22-23** Kick Start Coaching
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 22-24** Easter Fundraiser
Adrenalin Tunnel, Headcorn www.adrenalinvtw.com
- 28-30** Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 29-30** World Challenge
Bodyflight, Bedford www.bodyflight.co.uk
- 29-30** Try Speed Skydiving
Hinton www.skydive.co.uk
- 31-Apr 4** BPA Instructor Course
Langar 0116 278 5271
Tandem/AFF trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 31-Apr 6** Go Vertical
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

APRIL

- 1-2** JOS World Record Attempt
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com
- 3-6** Z Team 60-ways
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivcity.com
- 4-6** Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 4-6** SOS World Record Attempt
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com
- 5-6** Swoopmeet
Fehrbellin, Germany www.swooping.de
- 5-27** Freely Adventure
Eloy, USA www.toratora.nl
- 10** BPA STC Meeting
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 10-17** Jeddah Championships
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia www.asiania.org
- 11-14** BPA Judges Seminar
RAPA, Germany jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk
- 15-17** Canopy Piloting Course
Dunkeswell www.safeflightschool.com
- 16-18** Canopy Piloting Course
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 16-20** 100-way Event
Spaceland, USA www.skydivespaceland.com
- 18-21** Mini Boogie
Bridlington www.skydivebrid.co.uk

- 19-20** Hibaldstow
- 19-20** Eloy, USA
- 21-23** Empuriabrava
- 22** BPA Council Meeting
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 23-31** Egyptian Championships
Giza, Egypt www.asiania.org
- 25-May 3** POPS World Meet
Taogoolawah, Oz www.ozworldpops2008.com
- 25-May 4** Bridge Boogie
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 26-27** Big-way Beginners
Hibaldstow www.skydivechoreography.com
- 28-30** Dunkeswell
- 28-May 2** Hibaldstow Tandem/AFF
- 28-May 6** Perris
- F5 Scrambles**
www.skydiving.co.uk
- VFS Competition**
www.skydiveaz.com
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.safeflightschool.com
- BPA Instructor Course**
0116 278 5271
trudy@bpa.org.uk
- Fury8Storm Camp**
www.stormskydivingteam.co.uk

MAY

- 1-4** Big-way Camp
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com
- 1-4** Canopy Piloting Course
RAPA, Germany www.safeflightschool.com
- 1-4** Spanish Canopy Piloting Open
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 2-4** Langar
- 3-5** Hibaldstow
- 3-5** Wild Geese
- 3-5** Wild Geese
- 3-11** Langar
- 8-11** Perris Valley, USA
- 10-11** Eloy, USA
- 10-11** Fehrbellin, Germany
- 10-11** St Andrews
- 10-11** Hibaldstow
- 12-14** Empuriabrava
- 12-16** Strathallan CSBI/TBI/AFFBI
- 16-19** Marche, Italy
- 17-18** Langar
- 17-18** Weston
- 17-18** Elsinore, USA
- 17-18** Eloy, USA
- 19-21** Empuriabrava
- Big-way Camp**
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- Spanish Canopy Piloting Open**
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- BCPA Northern**
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- Tracking, Hoop & Hybrid**
www.skydiving.co.uk
- 25th Anniversary Weekend**
www.skydivewildgeese.com
- BPA CF Coaching Roadshow**
www.skydivewildgeese.com
- Boogie I**
www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 100-way Camp**
www.skydiveperris.com
- VFS Scrambles**
www.skydiveaz.com
- Swoopmeet**
www.swooping.de
- BPA CF Coaching Roadshow**
www.skydivestandrews.co.uk
- CF Beginners Weekend**
www.skydiving.co.uk
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.safeflightschool.com
- BPA Instructor Course**
0116 278 5271
trudy@bpa.org.uk
- Atmonauti ARW4 Cup**
www.atmonauti.com
- F5 4-way UK Skydiving League**
www.bpslangar.co.uk
- Skyvan Weekend**
www.skydiveweston.com
- Freely Film Festival**
www.skydiveelsinore.com
- Wingsuit Big-way Camp**
www.skydiveaz.com
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.safeflightschool.com

- 19-23** Strathallan CSI/Pre-Adv
- 21-23** Lillo, Spain
- 22-26** Langar
- 23-26** Netheravon
- 23-26** Strathallan
- 24-26** Headcorn
- 30-Jun 2** Marche, Italy
- 31-Jun 1** BKPC, Cockerham
- 31-Jun 1** BKPC, Cockerham
- 30-Jun 1** Hibaldstow
- BPA Instructor Course**
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trudy@bpa.org.uk
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.skydivelillo.com
- Go Vertical**
www.bpslangar.co.uk
- May Boogie**
www.netheravon.com
- BCPA Scots**
www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk
- Accuracy Grand Prix**
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk
- Atmonauti Sfida Cup**
www.atmonauti.com
- CF Grand Prix**
www.bkpc.co.uk
- F5 8-way UK Skydiving League**
www.bkpc.co.uk
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.safeflightschool.com

JUNE

- 5** BPA Offices, Leicester
- 6-8** Rijeka, Croatia
- 7-8** Netheravon
- 7-8** Netheravon
- 9-11** Empuriabrava
- 11-13** Lillo, Spain
- 13-15** Gmunden, Austria
- 14-15** Elsinore, USA
- 14-15** Fehrbellin, Germany
- 16-20** Poland
- 17** BPA Offices, Leicester
- 20-22** Netheravon
- 21-22** Bodyflight
- 21-22** Hibaldstow
- 21-29** Gap, France
- 22-29** Voss, Norway
- 23-25** Empuriabrava
- 27-29** Bled, Slovakia
- 27-29** Fehrbellin, Germany
- 27-30** Marche, Italy
- 28-29** Cark
- 30-Jul 4** Dädalus, Germany
- BPA STC Meeting**
www.bpa.org.uk
- Europa Cup**
www.parawcs.com
- Artistics Competition Roadshow**
www.netheravon.com
- F5 4-way UK Skydiving League**
www.netheravon.com
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.safeflightschool.com
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.skydivelillo.com
- Leather Trousers Record Attempt**
www.flugring-traunsee.at
- VFS Competition**
www.skydiveelsinore.com
- Swoopmeet**
www.swooping.de
- Polish Record Attempt**
www.skydive.pl
- BPA Council Meeting**
www.bpa.org.uk
- Solstice Boogie**
www.netheravon.com
- Fury8Storm Camp**
www.stormskydivingteam.co.uk
- POPS Meet**
www.skydiving.co.uk
- Gap Vector Festival**
www.parachutismegap.com
- Extreme Sports Week**
www.ekstremsportveko.com
- Canopy Piloting Course**
www.safeflightschool.com
- Europa Cup**
www.parawcs.com
- German Swooping Open**
www.swooping.de
- Atmonauti Race Cup**
www.atmonauti.com
- F5 4-way UK Skydiving League**
www.skydive-northwest.com
- SOS European Record Attempt**
www.fallschirm-eisenach.de

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KEY

BPA
Canopy Piloting
Formation Skydiving
Canopy Formation
Style & Accuracy
Boogies/Fun
Freestyle & Skysurf
POPS
Wingsuit
Unclassified

JULY

3-6	Mission Impossible 4
Cerfontaine, Belgium	www.4xtremetime.com
5-6	CF Grand Prix
Hibaldstow	www.skydiving.co.uk
5-6	FS 8-way UK Skydiving League
Hibaldstow	www.skydiving.co.uk
9-13	BCPA Nationals
Cark	www.skydive-northwest.com
10-13	Classics & CP Nationals
RAPA, Germany	jspcl-cmdt@atgg.mod.uk
12-13	Skyvan Weekend
Weston	www.skydiveweston.com
12-13	Swoopmeet
Fehrbellin, Germany	www.swooping.de
12-13	28-way Competition
Hibaldstow	www.skydiving.co.uk
12-18	Slovakia Boogie
Slovakia	www.boogieclub.co.uk
12-26	Aerograd Trip
Aerograd Kolonna, Russia	www.aerograd.ru
14-19	RAPA Championships
RAPA, Germany	jspcl-cmdt@atgg.mod.uk
18-20	Europa Cup
Altenstadt, Germany	www.parawcs.com
19-20	POPS Meet
Weston	www.skydiveweston.com
19-27	4Fun Summer Boogie
Soulac-sur-mer, France	www.toratora.nl
21-26	Safe Play Week
Voss, Norway	www.skydivevoss.no
23-27	Spanish FS Nationals
Empuriabrava	www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
24-Aug 2	Style & Accuracy World Meet
Lucenec, Slovakia	www.fai.org
26-27	Netheravon Closed
Netheravon	www.netheravon.com
26-Aug 3	Atmonauti Pro 5 & Airshow
Marche, Italy	www.atmonauti.com
26-Aug 4	Irish Boogie Week
Irish Parachute Club	www.skydive.ie
28-30	Canopy Piloting Course (Adv)
Empuriabrava	www.safeflightschool.com
31	BPA STC Meeting
BPA Offices, Leicester	www.bpa.org.uk

AUGUST

2-4	Irish Big-way Record Attempt
Irish Parachute Club	www.skydive.ie
3-8	Gryttjom Big-way Camp
Stockholm, Sweden	www.skydive.se
4-9	Go Vertical
Voss, Norway	govertical@skydivevoss.no
4-31	Summer Boogie (Atmo World Championships)
Marche, Italy	www.atmonauti.com
8-10	Europa Cup
Belluno, Italy	www.parawcs.com
9-14	FS & Artistics World Meet
Maubeuge, France	www.fai.org
11-15	BPA Instructor Course
Hibaldstow	0116 278 5271
CSBI/TBI/AFFBI/Adv	trudy@bpa.org.uk
14-18	Atmonauti World Record Attempt
Marche, Italy	www.atmonauti.com
15-17	Brit Chicks CP Course
Langar	www.safeflightschool.com
15-22	The Armies
Netheravon	www.netheravon.com

16-17
Langar

CF Grand Prix
www.bpslangar.co.uk

18-22
Hibaldstow
CSI/Pre-Adv

BPA Instructor Course
0116 278 5271
trudy@bpa.org.uk

19

BPA Offices, Leicester

BPA Council Meeting
www.bpa.org.uk

22-24

Zeel Am See, Austria

Europa Cup
www.parawcs.com

23-25

Hibaldstow

4-way FS Nationals
www.skydiving.co.uk

30-Sep 1 8-way Nationals & 4-way Reserve
Hibaldstow
www.skydiving.co.uk

30-Sep 1 Artistics & Speed Nationals
Hibaldstow
www.skydiving.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

6-8
Hibaldstow

50-way Challenge
www.skydiving.co.uk

5-7

Weston

Canopy Piloting Course
www.safeflightschool.com

6-8

Hibaldstow

8-way, Artistics & Speed Nats Reserve
www.skydiving.co.uk

8-14

Netherlands

Canopy Formation World Meet
www.fai.org

12-14

Fehrbellin, Germany

Canopy Piloting Course
www.safeflightschool.com

13-14

Fehrbellin, Germany

Swoopmeet
www.swooping.de

13-20

Empuriabrava

Go Vertical
www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

13-21

Langar

Boogie II
www.bpslangar.co.uk

17-19

Lillo, Spain

Canopy Piloting Course
www.skydivelillo.com

22-Oct 6

Everest, Nepal

Everest Skydives
www.highandwild.co.uk

25

BPA Offices, Leicester

BPA STC Meeting
www.bpa.org.uk

25-30

Marche, Italy

MaGiA Boogie
www.atmonauti.com

26-28

Locarno, Switzerland

Europa Cup
www.parawcs.com

27-28

Hibaldstow

CF & 8-way Speed Nationals
www.skydiving.co.uk

27-28

Hibaldstow

FS Scrambles
www.skydiving.co.uk

OCTOBER

3-5

Elsinore, USA

Chicks Rock Boogie
www.skydiveelsinore.com

3-5

Perris Valley, USA

POPS World Record Attempt
www.thepops.org

4-5

Fehrbellin, Germany

Swoopmeet
www.swooping.de

7

BPA Offices, Leicester

BPA Council Meeting
www.bpa.org.uk

10-12

Dunkeswell

BPA CF Roadshow
www.skydivethewell.com

11

Netheravon

APA Autumn Ball
www.netheravon.com

11-12

Empuriabrava

POPS Sunshine Meet
www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

11-19

Ramblers, Australia

Equinox Boogie
www.ramblers.com.au

15-17

Lillo, Spain

Canopy Piloting Course
www.skydivelillo.com

18-19

Empuriabrava

Sky Rats Open
www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

18-25

Eloy, USA

USPA Nationals
www.skydiveaz.com

25-26

Hibaldstow

Halloween 10-way Speed
www.skydiving.co.uk

26-29

Eloy, USA

VFS World Cup
www.fai.org

29-Nov 2

Marche, Italy

Halloween Boogie
www.atmonauti.com

31-Nov 2

Eloy, USA

Halloween Boogie
www.skydiveaz.com

NOVEMBER

12-14

Lillo, Spain

Canopy Piloting Course
www.skydivelillo.com

14-15

Empuriabrava

Cafress Open Competition
www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

14-23

Pretoria, S Africa

Canopy Piloting World Meet
www.fai.org

15-16

Eloy, USA

Wingsuit Big-way Invitational
www.skydiveaz.com

20

BPA Offices, Leicester

BPA STC Meeting
www.bpa.org.uk

DECEMBER

2

BPA Offices, Leicester

BPA Council Meeting & EGM
www.bpa.org.uk

10-12

Lillo, Spain

Canopy Piloting Course
www.skydivelillo.com

13

Hill Valley

Tilstock AGM
www.theparachutecentre.com

20-Jan 1

Empuriabrava

Christmas Boogie
www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

24-Jan 4

Eloy, USA

Holiday Boogie
www.skydiveaz.com



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