

British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com April 2012

skyDIVE the mag

INSIDE: PROJECT XRW – WINGSUITS WOW IN DUBAI MEET THE NEW BPA COUNCIL TRY A NEW DISCIPLINE – SPEED SKYDIVING, CANOPY FORMATION, BACKFLY FOCUS ON TILSTOCK DZ PROGRESSION ZONE PLUS, ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND EVENTS

Come skydive in Central Spain -

Beginner and intermediate courses available

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.

We cater for holiday makers who wish to do an AFF course and also have BPA coaches full time for FS1 and FF1, FF2 and CH1. Remember we have a vibrant mid week dropzone so getting the jump numbers you want on holidays is not a problem.







One Instructor, One Student.

We provide you with your own exclusive UK AFF Instructor to personally see you through your course from ground school to completing your level 8. This means no waiting for 'your turn', leaving you free to focus on skydiving.

Good Links with UK dropzones.

We are an established school and graduates who have completed our course have been well received on UK dropzones. We offer an unparalleled level of after course support which is why many of our students choose to return for a second holiday in the sun.

Package Deal. What you want, when you want.

Talk to David or Lola in customer service about what type of package you would like. Whilst many things are included free such as video of all your skydives there are many options. For example you might want a car to visit Madrid or prefer to have your own hotel room. We can mix and match based on your requirements, and you can have your holiday at a time that suits you!

Jump all day and don't get bored in the evening!

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 30km^2 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!

Sample Package available.

Silver Package Budget	£1280

- Return flights LGW, Luton, Lvpool.*
- Transfers / Car Hire 7 days
- 7 days 2** private hotel room
- 8 Level **AFF Course** with British Instructor

✔ Recomended Upgrades	Prices
• 10 solo jumps Cost per jump £28.00	**£330**
•Group Discount	£call
•Military Discount	£call

Call our London office on **020 7870 2505**
7 days a week, 9am-8pm or contact us online at **www.freefalluniversity.co.uk**

FREEFALL UNIVERSITY

* 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.



Over the last year we've celebrated the BPA's 50th anniversary and marvelled at the advances made in kit and skills in just a few decades. But as this *Mag* goes to press, it struck me that our sport is still changing at an amazing rate. The XRW photos from Dubai took my breath away. Even just a few years ago it was unheard of that someone in freefall could fly with someone under an open parachute, yet today we have seen formations of up to 11 canopy and wingsuit pilots.

Also pushing the bounds of what is known to be possible is Gary Connery on page 8. Whether or not his attempt to land a wingsuit without opening a parachute is successful, he is the first to get this close to a serious attempt.

Finally, making a link between pioneers old and new, there are currently plans underway to break Joe Kittinger's record high-altitude jump of 102,800 feet which he set in 1960. Felix Baumgartner has just successfully completed a jump from 71,500 feet and plans to jump from 120,000 feet later this year. Olav Zipser is also planning a similar attempt.

So why not make 2012 the year that you try something new too? We have some ideas to get you started, with articles on three new disciplines that you could try: Speed Skydiving, CF and Backfly. Happy jumping!

Liz Ashley

British Parachute Association
BPA Ltd, Wharf Way, Glen Parva, Leicester LE2 9TF
Tel: 0116 278 5271 *Fax: 0116 247 7662* ***skydive@bpa.org.uk*** *www.bpa.org.uk*

Patron *His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales*
BPA Vice Presidents *Jim Crocker, John Lines, Chris Allen, John Smyth MVO*

BPA Council Chairmen
Martin Soulsby ***Chairman*** *martin.soulsby@bpa.org.uk*
Craig Poxon ***Vice Chairman*** *craig@bpa.org.uk*
Steve Saunders ***Competitions Chairman*** *cfsteve@sky.com*
Craig Poxon ***Development Chairman*** *craig@bpa.org.uk*
Adrian Bond ***Communications Chairman*** *adrian@bpa.org.uk*

Council Members
Paul Applegate paul.applegate@tesco.net
Karen Bain karen@bpa.org.uk
Kieran Brady kkbrady@btinternet.com
Marc Fletcher marc@bpa.org.uk
Richard Head tricky@bpa.org.uk
Ian Marshall marshall@bpa.org.uk
Paul Moore paul508@mac.com
John Page geordie@skydivelondon.co.uk
Mark Skarratts mark.skarratts@bpa.org.uk
Weed Stoodley weed@stoodley.co.uk
James Swallow james@bpa.org.uk

BPA Representatives
Debbie Carter ***Treasurer***
John Smyth MVO ***Royal Aero Club Delegate***
Jim Crocker ***RAeC Alternate Delegate***
John Smyth MVO ***IPC Delegate***
Tony Butler ***IPC Alternate Delegate***
John Hitchen ***STC Chairman*** *john@bpa.org.uk*
Paul Applegate ***Riggers Chairman*** *01869 277 469 paul.applegate@tesco.net*
Kieran Brady ***Pilots Committee Chairman***

BPA Staff
Tony Butler ***Technical Officer***
John Hitchen ***National Safety Officer***
Trudy Kemp ***PA to above officers***
Jon Gretton ***Financial Administrator***
Martin Shuttleworth ***Secretary-General***
Karey Goodwin ***Membership Services***
Sue Allen ***Membership Services***
Helen Lucas ***Administration Secretary***
David Lucas ***Stock Controller***

BPA Archivists
Andrew Hilton and Graham Spicer archive@bpa.org.uk

SUPPORTED BY

Approved GA/101/96









IN THIS ISSUE

03 Welcome
to the April issue of *Skydive the Mag*

07 News Zone
Keep up to date with the latest skydiving news

11 BPA Zone
News and announcements from the offices of the BPA

15 Meet the BPA Council
Get to know your BPA representatives

25 Try a new discipline
What could you do next?

26 Try... Speed Skydiving
A discipline with only one real concern. Speed!

29 Try... Canopy Formation
Gain the skills to fly in close proximity to other canopies

32 Try... Backfly
The first step towards the dark side

36 Progression Zone
Meet Joe Newrick, the BPA's New Skydiver of the Year

40 Raise the Sky's Project XRW
Wingsuits and canopies come together in spectacular fashion in Dubai

47 Safety Zone
The necessity of insurance

51 Kit Zone
The lowdown on the latest gear and accessories

54 Focus on...
Tilstock DZ

57 Drop Zones
How to contact your local DZ

58 Club Zone
News from a DZ near you

73 Events Zone

81 Time Zone
A glimpse into the archives

Cover: Canopy pilots Mikeal Stevens and Wuzi Wagner surf wingsuiter Taya Weiss over Palm Jumeirah, Dubai. By Jeff Nebelkopf

Welcome: An 8-way mixed flock cruises up the Dubai coastline

This page: Roberta Mancino and Taya Weiss grinning in anticipation of more world firsts in XRW. By Dan Dupuis



Contents



Skydive the Mag is published by:
Archant Dialogue Ltd, Prospect House,
Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE
Tel: +44 (0) 1603 664242
www.archantdialogue.co.uk

ARCHANT DIALOGUE

Liz Ashley EDITOR
editor@skydivethemag.com
Adam Browning PRODUCTION EDITOR
adam.browning@archantdialogue.co.uk
Richard Berry SENIOR ART EDITOR
Chris Smith DESIGN ASSISTANT
Nick Paul ART DIRECTOR
Stuart Meadows SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER
Zoë Francis-Cox PUBLISHING DIRECTOR
Mick Hurrell MANAGING DIRECTOR

For advertising enquiries, please contact
Rob Crane (ADVERT SALES) on
+44 (0) 1603 772539
rob.crane@archantdialogue.co.uk
or **Kay Brown** (ADVERT PRODUCTION) on
+44 (0) 1603 772522
kay.brown@archantdialogue.co.uk
For editorial enquiries, please contact
editor@skydivethemag.com

© BRITISH PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION LTD 2012

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED, STORED IN A RETRIEVAL SYSTEM OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM; ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL, PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION OF THE EDITOR.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN *SKYDIVE THE MAG* ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE BPA. OPINIONS IN THE EDITORIAL ARE THOSE OF THE EDITOR, NOT OF THE BPA. THE EDITOR RETAINS THE RIGHT TO WITHDRAW ANY ADVERTISEMENT AT HER DISCRETION AND DOES NOT ACCEPT LIABILITY FOR DELAY IN PUBLICATION OR FOR ERRORS, ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT IS TAKEN TO AVOID MISTAKES.

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.

SUBSCRIBE



1 YEAR / 6 ISSUES:
UK £25 OVERSEAS: EU £30 USA £40 OTHER £40

IF YOU TAKE OUT A MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION AND SUBSEQUENTLY JOIN THE BPA AS A FULL MEMBER, YOUR MAGAZINE COST IS DEDUCTED FROM YOUR BPA MEMBERSHIP FEE SO YOU DON'T PAY ANY EXTRA.

Online subscriptions are in progress but not active yet. In the meantime, email skydive@bpa.org.uk for an electronic form, which can also be downloaded from skydivethemag.com. If you prefer, you can also subscribe over the phone on +44 (0)116 278 5271.

CONTRIBUTE

Anyone can contribute to *the Mag* and we welcome news, articles and photos from everyone regardless of experience.

If you'd like to get involved, email editor@skydivethemag.com.

Deadlines you need to know for 2012 are:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
June	April 24	June 8
August	June 19	August 1
October	August 21	October 4
December	October 23	November 29


Danny Jacobs • www.dannyjacobs.be
SUN PATH
2012
DEMO
Roadshows
Javelin X Odyssey
Javelin Odyssey
Javelin
Student Odyssey
1987
25 YEARS
2012
Tel: 001-910-875-9002 • 404 W Edinborough Ave • Raeford, NC, 28376, USA • www.sunpath.com



BLESMA *TRANS4MERS*

Seven members of BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex Service Men's Association, travelled to Elsinore in March to complete their AFF courses. The project is the brainchild of husband and wife team Dave and Alana Pacey, as primary instructor and project manager respectively. Supported by the Army Parachute Association and Airkix, they had already completed a number of tandem skydives as well as some wind tunnel time. The plan is to form the world's first all-amputee 4-way team and to compete at the Armed Forces Parachute Championships in July followed by the British Nationals in August.

Going from AFF to 4-way competition in just a few months is a feat in itself, let alone doing it whilst missing a small collection of legs between them. Experienced skydiver and double amputee Paul Burns will film the team. Watch out for them this year!

Airspeed raise the bar again

***Airspeed* have become** the first team in history to score 23 points or higher in every round on a 10-round meet. The meet was the Valentines Money Meet held in Eloy, Arizona, and their overall average was 26.0. They scored 23 on four of their rounds and up to 37 on their other six. For you FS geeks, the 37 was for N-O-F-K-2.

Airspeed then went on to win the international Shamrock Showdown meet in Deland, Florida. UK National team *Satori* travelled to the same event but arrived without their tail flyer, Aaron Faith, who had problems with his ESTA. Nevertheless, they still did the UK proud and finished seventh, with a 19 average, with Steve Hamilton stepping in as alternate. UK scratch team *Blackstock* also showed what the BPA is made of, coming home with AA gold!



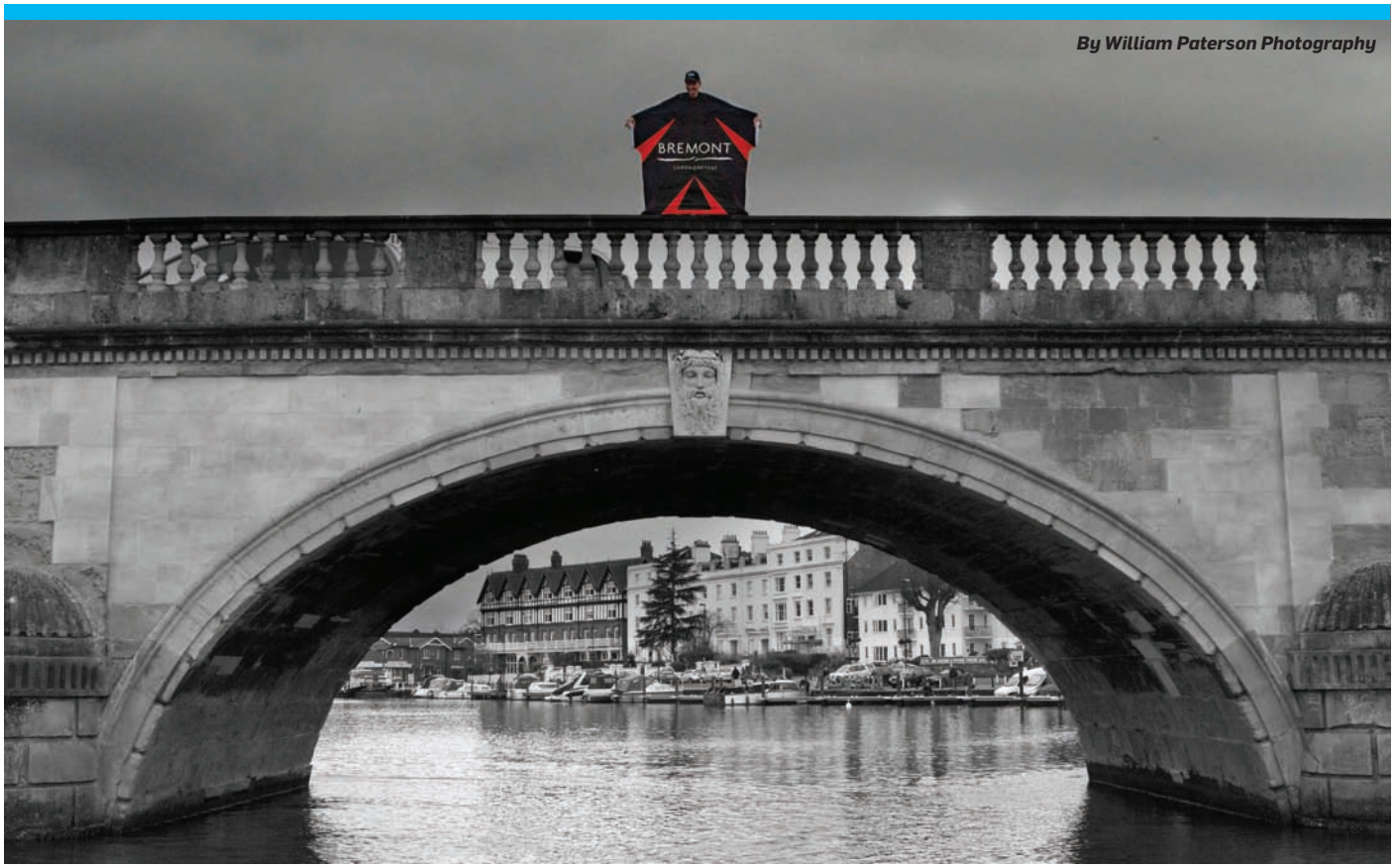
By Bill Schmitz

New CP Distance rules

The IPC holds an annual Plenary Meeting at which rule changes are discussed and implemented. Sometimes the FS dive pool might change, or tweaks might be made in other disciplines depending on feedback from competitors and judges. The major rule change at the 2012 Plenary was in Canopy Piloting, where the Distance event has been revised. Previously, competitors had to pass through an initial entry gate that marked the start of their Distance run, and their overall score was measured from that gate to the point where they touched down. Top competitors training under these old rules had developed techniques whereby they would score the initial gate, then 'pop up' to heights of 20 feet or more, giving them extra altitude with which to then glide through the course before landing.

The World Distance Record increased by 20 per cent in one month last year as competitors used these new techniques at high-altitude DZs to score big. However, at the same time it was creating problems. Competition swoop ponds must allow for a course that is 50 metres longer than the existing distance record, which at 222m meant that DZs were struggling to find space to build ponds big enough. Also the 'popping up' technique had the downside of leaving competitors at the end of a run with altitude left but little flare, resulting in hard landings. At the Dubai Cup in December 2011 there was a 10 per cent injury rate on just one Distance round.

The new rules dictate that all competitors must drag water through the entry gate, and stay below 1.5 metres from gates 1-5 (a horizontal distance of about 50 metres). This effectively eliminates the 'popping up' technique and means that new techniques will need to be developed. Although there will still be some fun events around the globe that cater for distance purists who just want to go as far as possible, these will use the old rules and be judged against the current 222.34m record. Officially, however, this record will no longer stand under the new rules. On the plus side, CP as a spectator-friendly discipline should continue to flourish as the new rules maximise the number of DZs capable of building competition ponds big enough.



By William Paterson Photography

Don't try this at home!

At the time of writing, in March 2012, most people reading this wouldn't have heard of Gary Connery. The Henley-based skydiver is planning a stunt in April, and if it has happened by the time you read this then you almost certainly WILL have heard of him now.

Gary is a professional stuntman who has made his living working on films from James Bond to *Johnny English*. One of his specialities is high falls, which are achieved by landing in a 'box rig' – a structure of hundreds of cardboard boxes wrapped together in such a way as to absorb the impact.

Another of Gary's favourite pastimes, when he's not skydiving, is BASE jumping and wingsuit proximity flying. Together with his high-fall experience, this unique skill set has left him convinced that he can pull off a world first – landing a wingsuit without deploying a parachute.

Gary has got CAA permission for the stunt, which is nothing to do with the BPA, and is waiting for a five-day good weather window in April in which to construct the huge box rig and perform the stunt. The box rig itself will actually be made up of 36 standard box rigs, each spaced two feet apart, to give an overall giant landing pad 350 feet long, 40 feet wide and 12 feet deep.

Gary has teamed up with Tony Uragallo of Tony Suits in Z-Hills, Florida to create a special wingsuit designed for slow flight. Gary is not the only person who has been asking Tony for slow suits – as the world of XRW progresses (see page 40), there is a demand for slower wingsuits that can more easily match canopy speeds. The new suit is 'deeper' with ribs that inflate to be fatter than usual. The arm position is up in line with the shoulders, rather than down by the sides, and the leg wing is smaller. This means more of the suit is in the arms and it can be flown at extremely slow speeds.

5'10" ultra-runner Gary weighs under 10 stone and has been achieving speeds of 60mph forward and 22mph descent rate in normal flight. He will flare the suit just before entering the box rig, which will slow him to just 50mph forward and 15mph down. As part of his stunt work he has previously performed high falls from 140 feet, landing at 60mph into boxes.

Most BASE jumpers, and even some skydivers, will be aware of a geographical feature known as 'The Crack' in Walenstadt, Switzerland. Jumpers leave an exit point wearing a wingsuit and aim to fly through a rocky valley that lies 2,400 feet below and 1.15km away. Gary has been training at Walenstadt, and the setup of the jump in Henley will exactly match the flights he has been making through 'The Crack'.

The Henley jump will be made from a helicopter hovering at 2,400 feet and Gary will fly to his box rig 1.15km away. He will be wearing a BASE rig as a backup, but must decide whether to use it or to commit to the landing by 300 feet. To any skydiver this seems crazily low! However, as he points out, 300 feet is less than the length of the box rig so if he does go for the landing then his landing site will appear huge by that point. If it doesn't, he will pull and have a very short canopy ride before going back up to try again. If he does decide to go for the landing, he will flare the wingsuit at about 200 feet.

Normally when doing a high fall, stunt men flip over onto their backs to further cushion the fall. However Gary is well aware of the huge lateral movement that can be caused by barrel-rolling whilst in a wingsuit, and the box rig is only 40 feet wide so he'd rather not take his eyes off it. So rather than try to roll all the way over, he will initiate a barrel roll at approximately four feet above the top of the box rig, so that he enters the boxes on his side and rolls into them. He will also be wearing a neck brace with extra padding to prevent whiplash, which he has been practising with for his last 40 jumps. Finally he will have two helmet cameras and one belly-mount.

Although Gary has secured some sponsorship from Bremont, he is funding the £40k cost of the project himself. Almost half of this cost is for the 18,600 cardboard boxes. However he hopes to recoup some of this back by reselling the undamaged ones afterwards. A normal high fall would damage around 30 boxes out of 700, so he actually expects to only damage around 50 or 60 on this jump. He is also making a documentary about his jump.

If he pulls this off it will be a world first, in the UK, by a British skydiver. However, it goes without saying that the stakes are high and the potential consequences very serious. Gary has about 450 BASE jumps and twice as many skydives, with around 200 wingsuit jumps in each sport. However, it is the combination of his stunt experience as well that makes him confident that he has the unique skill set required to attempt such a feat.



















CHUTINGSTAR.COM
001 • 770 • 445 • 4000
Gear@ChutingStar.com

skydive empuriabrava

skydive empuriabrava

Home of...

FSCOOL
Formation Skydiving School

INNER RHYTHM COACHING
FS Team Coaching

BABYLON @ SKYDIVE EMPURIABRAVA
Freefly School
www.babylon-freefly.com

HOT WEEKENDER
Load Organizing

SAFE FLIGHT SCHOOL
Canopy Piloting School

"We call it the Babylon-Experience: Endlessly redefining the possibilities of Freefly."

Stefan Fardel
5 gold medals & a total of 10 podiums at World Class Competitions.



The biggest Dropzone in Europe!

www.skydiveempuriabrava.com





Judges' Co-ordinator Kate Charters with her fellow judges at the 2011 Nationals, by Andrew Lovemore

Judges' training seminar

The Annual Judges' Training Seminar was held at Skydive Hibaldstow on the weekend of March 3-4 with 12 judges taking part. This seminar takes place to allow the judges to go over the FAI rules with any new amendments included.

Some judges do all disciplines in parachuting while others may only cover one or two, so having these training weekends allows the judges to see how other events are conducted. Judges are also encouraged to try a new discipline, which is good because it allows the BPA to become self-sufficient and not rely on judges from other countries.

Judges not only learn about each discipline but they also learn how to conduct themselves at a competition, whether it be a small GP, Nationals or World Meet. Ratings are not just given to judges; they must prove that they have the ability to judge fairly, understand the rules and be able to interact with the competitor. Normally it takes a year to gain National level then another two years before we would consider sending anyone on an FAI training course.

THE BPA IS PROUD OF ITS JUDGES' REPUTATION

We pride ourselves in this country of having some of the best judges in the world, and, like the competitor who works towards winning the Nationals and going on to represent the BPA and their country at a World Meet, this is the same motivation for the judges. No BPA judge favours any competitor whether they are related, friends or any other. All competitors are judged exactly the same.

During the seminar judges are sometimes taken by surprise when I ask them to give a brief about the discipline they judge. Yes, I hear the groans, "I haven't prepared for this", but when they do stand up in front of everyone they come into their own and give good presentations which shows how passionate they are about what they do.

NEW RULES AND A CHANCE TO PRACTISE

Any rule changes are discussed at great length so we can all get them into our heads before the start of the competition season. Not only do they look at changes, they also get a written test paper based on rules in the Sporting Code and the General Section, so when a competitor asks a question they can give an honest answer. And as I say to them, no one is perfect no matter how long they have been judging, you may miss something obvious so it helps to have more sets of eyes.

During the year judges review a lot of previous competition footage in their own homes or at a DZ. This is because while it is easy to know the rules, they must also have the ability to recognise what they see on screen. Then they come along to the judges' seminar and I expect them to look at lots more then quiz them on how they think they are doing.

One of the really important parts of the seminar is the opportunity to meet other judges. Some judges do not interact with each other throughout the season so it helps to put a face to a name. When they do meet up at the seminar they have lots to talk about and can feed off each other. Some judges unfortunately could not make the first seminar, so another is planned to allow all judges to get the benefits of being part of a team.

GET IN TOUCH

So if you have been thinking about taking up judging and I have not put you off, get in touch!

And finally a parting word to all competitors: remember to give the judges lots of sugar to keep them awake – they spend many hours a day in the judging room on your behalf. Also if you are a team in training in any discipline and you want some feedback on your jumps, either contact me on Facebook or any judge who lives or works in your area, we're all happy to help. Judges are well aware of how much money competitors spend on training in preparation for the coming competition season and they want to give them the best judging possible.

I hope you all have a great competition season and I look forward to seeing you all.

Kate Charters
BPA Judges' Co-ordinator

ALL OUR YESTERYEARS

The Development Committee at its first meeting of 2012 considered plans for the BPA Archive Project. Members Andrew Hilton and Graham Spicer had been appointed as BPA Archivists late last year. They successfully launched the BPA Archive Project at AGM Day on Saturday January 28 2012 as part of the crescendo of celebrations of the BPA's 50th anniversary year, 1961-2011. As well as the considerable project that they have embarked upon, Andrew and Graham will be taking over Time Zone each issue. Here they will provide updates on the project as well as interesting snippets that they have found. They also welcome contributions from members and will use Time Zone to send out specific requests for information.

Both archivists are kindly donating their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. However, digitisation of back *Mags* and other preservation and conservation measures to construct an accessible digital archive – such as hosting of an archive website or section of a website – will incur direct costs, as will the archivists' essential travel. The Council recognised a pressing need to establish and maintain a BPA Archive, and that reaching the milestone of the 50th anniversary of the BPA was a clarion call to do so. That said, the Council also recognised the duty upon it to establish a clear budget and financial framework into which the project would fit, as any project of this nature could potentially be open-end. The Council unanimously agreed to allocate up to £10k funding to the Development Committee for their controlled release in tranches to the BPA Archive Project, together with a lower annual maintenance cost yet to be agreed (as a reliable estimate of this cost was still being prepared).

bpa.org.uk/bpa-archive-project



BPA Speed Skydiving rep Mike Lovemore, by Blair Stent

FASTER! FASTER!

There are a whopping three BPA Speed Skydiving roadshows this year run by Mike Lovemore and Simon Brentford (previous and current national champions). Sponsored by L&B, there's a Solo2 or Optima2 to get your mitts on at each event.

Sibson, April 7-8 – Mike Lovemore
Cark, May 5-6 – Mike Lovemore
Hibaldstow, June 9-10 – Simon Brentford

Do you want to know how to go 270mph, 300mph? Get some coaching on how to go faster and stay safe. Use the BPA Speed ProTracks and JumpTrack software to see how fast you are.

You can just turn up on the day but please try to let Mike know in advance so he's got an idea of numbers (especially if you've not had a go at Speed Skydiving before).

speedskydiving@hotmail.co.uk

Will you be the 1,000th FS coach?

The thousandth FS coaches' rating (since 1990) is expected to be awarded soon. To celebrate, BPA is waiving the normal £10 fee. And, who knows, you might get your pic in *The Mag*!

RENEWAL REMINDER

To those members who have renewed – thank you! To those who haven't, last year's subscriptions expired on March 31 and you must have renewed to jump on or after April 1. A renewal form was in the February issue of *The Mag*. You can download the form from the BPA website or phone the BPA Office. The June mag will be sent only to those current on the membership database when we print the labels in mid-May.

bpa.org.uk/member
0116 278 5271

New Ratings

CSBI
Chris Sparks
Henry Nkwanga
Alastair Bradie
Paul Aubrey-Rees
Kevin Keogh
Thelma Goddard
Antony Pearce
Peni Veisugusugu
Harriet Watson
Gary Yerrill
Jamie Hart
Peter Lehane

AFFBI
Georgina Roles
Julie Woodrow

TBI
Matthew Robinson
Janos Leszko
Jason Southall

CSI
James Lee

Advanced Instructor
Andrew Hodgson

Instructor Examiner
Andy Clark
Nick Brown

Advanced Packer
Spencer Hogg (S)
Karen Saunders (T)
Louis Saunders (T)
Chris Sharman (T)
Samuel Cady (S)
Joshua Clark(S)
Christine Downer (R)
Rebecca Bull (S)

New BPA licences

FAI Certificates are changing... but only in name. The FAI has advised the BPA that they should no longer be known as FAI National Certificates, and that they should bear the BPA's name instead. Since the name was changing anyway, Council took the opportunity to also change it from Certificate to Licence, since many people refer to them as licences. So from April 1 2012 they will be known as a 'BPA National Parachutist Licence', or just 'A Licence', 'B Licence', 'C Licence' and 'D Licence'.

New books have been printed for all licences issued from April, and all previously issued Certificates remain valid. All references to 'FAI Certificate' in the Operations Manual have been changed to 'BPA Licence', which equates to a considerable number of changes and therefore a good time to update your copy. You can download the Ops Manual at bpa.org.uk/stay-safe.



DROP ZONE PROSTĚJOV

www.dropzoneprostejov.com



world europe 2012

Prostejov CZECH

www.ec2012prostejov.com

FAI INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING COMMISSION

WORLD CUP & EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

27. 8. - 2. 9. 2012

formation skydiving & artistic events

BIGWAY GIRLS EURO 2012

BIGWAY 2012 EURO GIRLS

DROPZONE PROSTĚJOV

28. 6. – 1. 7. 2012

DISCOUNTED JUMP TICKETS PROFESSIONAL COACHING MISS PARACHUTIST
RAFFLE MUSIC DJ´S EVENING PARTIES MEN STRIPTEASE

REGISTER ONLINE TO

WIN A FREE VECTOR

JUNE 19-23 2012

VECTOR FESTIVAL

WWW.VECTORFESTIVAL.COM



SOUL FLYERS

Vince Reffet and Fred Fugen
Stéphane (Zun) Zunino

SKYWALKERS

Kristian Moxnes
Håvard Flaat

VOLARE

Fabian Raidel
Mikey Carpenter

BABYLON

David Nimmo
Gregor Van den Eynden

Ippo Fabbi - AriA
Philippe Vallaud
Scott Palmer - Plamer
Al Hodgson
Petter Jönsson

PROSTEJOV
CZECH REPUBLIC

VECTOR

Cookie

boogie man FreeFly wear

sonic FLYWEAR.COM

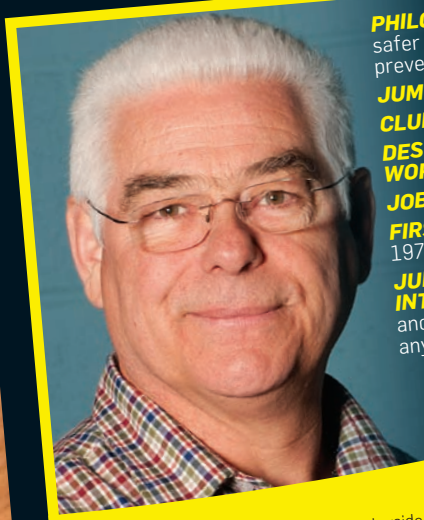
wing store

Photo by: Babylon-FreeFly.com

Meet the BPA

THE BPA COUNCIL IS MADE UP OF 15 ELECTED MEMBERS, AS VOTED FOR BY YOU. WITH FOUR FIRST-TIME MEMBERS IN 2012, WE MEET THEM ALL

Paul APPLEGATE



PHILOSOPHY: Keeping people safer by sharing my mistakes to prevent them from doing the same!

JUMPS: 7,500

CLUB: Weston

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Wise old fox

JOB: Rigger

FIRST JUMP: April 28, 1973 at Compton Abbas

JUMPING INTERESTS: Rigging and kit, students and anything that's fun!

OTHER INTERESTS: Shooting and countryside pursuits

WHY DID YOU STAND: After many years in the sport and lots of experience in many disciplines, I wanted to contribute my knowledge to the running of the Association, alongside the new up-and-coming jumpers

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Development and Communications (and Chair of Riggers). Development – to contribute my experience to new developments and help to prevent reinventions of the wheel. Communications – because communication with the membership is key to the success of the organisation

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: I want to be able to look back at the end of it and know that I have made a difference

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: Experience, depth of knowledge and a passion for safety in the sport

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: Jerry Bird

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: I would like to see the organisation developing a closer working relationship with the European governing bodies for skydiving and aviation – particularly, sharing the BPA's wisdom and experience to influence others

E-MAIL: paul.applegate@tesco.net

Karen BAIN



PHILOSOPHY: Anything is possible

JUMPS: 2,000+

CLUB: Hibaldstow

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Stubborn, independent, mischevious

JOB: DZ Manager at Skydive Hibaldstow

FIRST JUMP: June 2000 – Black Knights (unless you count a one-off SL jump at Peterlee in 1993)

JUMPING INTERESTS: Competitive 4-way in previous years. Currently TI, RAPS instructor and freeflyer. Aspiring to be AFF instructor, canopy flyer and more competitive freeflyer in coming years

OTHER INTERESTS: I'll try anything once! Triathlons, marathons, adventure races, climbing, BASE, walking with lions!

WHY DID YOU STAND: Because I believe that I am in a position to positively contribute to the BPA and skydiving within the UK

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Competitions. Having been a competitive skydiver I believe I have the most to offer on this committee

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: On Council – I want to learn how the BPA works and become an integral and valued member of the BPA Council

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: An understanding of both skydiver and DZO perspectives, enthusiasm, commitment to action and a pragmatic attitude (and some fun?!)

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: Anyone who succeeds against all the odds

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: I'd like to see the BPA continue to develop as an organisation that embraces change for the continual improvement of skydiving in the UK – from a safety, commercial and fun perspective for the regular skydiver who makes up the majority of the BPA's membership. I'd like to see the BPA commit to some hard targets for retention and membership growth and to set goals for other areas in which it would like to see progress being made. I'd like the BPA to continue to support British skydivers to become known as and represented as the best in the world, both competitively and as a training regime for new skydivers and instructors

E-MAIL: karen@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA



MEET THE BPA

Kieran BRADY



JUMPS: 6,500+.
CLUB: Skydive Strathallan
JOB: Garage proprietor
FIRST JUMP: 1985, Strathallan
JUMPING INTERESTS: All

OTHER INTERESTS: Motorcars and bikes
WHY DID YOU STAND: To help with the goals we need to achieve
WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Communications and Development
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: Goals which exist in helping to steer new regulations in aviation which could be a threat to our sport if left unchallenged at the consultation phase
WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: Time and the willingness to be involved
WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: Martin Luther King
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: I would like to see the BPA back to where it was five years ago
E-MAIL: kkbrady@btinternet.com

Adrian BOND

CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNICATIONS



PHILOSOPHY: Nothing is impossible
JUMPS: 572
CLUB: BKPC
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Determined, humorous, willing
JOB: Management consultant
FIRST JUMP: 2003, Adelaide
JUMPING INTERESTS: FS and Camera – looking to try wingsuits this year

OTHER INTERESTS: Gym, drumming, DJing, motorbikes, vintage black cabs
WHY DID YOU STAND: When I first went onto Council it was to represent those new jumpers like myself. I still have that in mind today along with achieving the goals and objectives that have begun over the last 12 months
WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Communications – to increase our ability to communicate with members and the public by various media. Development – a lot of works crosses over from Communications so makes sense to be party to this committee
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: Promote the sport to a wider audience locally and nationally. Some good opportunities have arisen from a meeting I had with Archant last year, which will enable this goal
WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: Over the years I have been able to utilise my commercial expertise to assist in a number of areas that have benefitted the BPA, and will continue to do so
WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: Steve Jobs – his ability to give people what they wanted before they even knew they needed it
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: Increase membership and being an organisation others aspire to be
E-MAIL: adrian@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA

Marc FLETCHER



PHILOSOPHY: Work hard, play harder
JUMPS: 1,500
CLUB: Sibson
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Approachable, determined and fun-loving!
JOB: University student
FIRST JUMP: Langar, 2003
JUMPING INTERESTS: Everything, but above all else I love coaching

OTHER INTERESTS: Anything that involves high speed and/or danger
WHY DID YOU STAND: To better represent low-experienced skydivers
WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Development and Communications, since that's where I can best pursue my goals
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: In my first year I hope to achieve a good understanding of how and why things are currently done the way they are. Without that, trying to achieve anything else would probably be counterproductive
WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: For almost a decade, including two years as BCPA chairman, I've been directly involved with low-experienced skydivers. I hope to contribute that experience in aid of the general goals of the BPA
WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: I don't admire any particular individual but do take inspiration from the best parts of many different ones
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: I'd like to see the number of renewing BPA members increase considerably
E-MAIL: marc@bpa.org.uk

Richard HEAD



PHILOSOPHY: Try to enjoy yourself
JUMPS: 1,300
CLUB: Hibaldstow
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Friendly, competitive, coach
JOB: Electronic engineer
FIRST JUMP: Tilstock, March 2001
JUMPING INTERESTS: Up until last year I have been an FS competitor, which naturally led to FS Coaching which I really enjoy. That got in the way of anything else. Hopefully this year I'll manage to get my AFF rating, and maybe one day I'll do my second wingsuit jump

OTHER INTERESTS: I enjoy a good session on the drums. I used to love playing in bands, but no time for that now with skydiving and a baby

WHY DID YOU STAND: While waiting for a lift, Andy Scott accused me of having an opinion and suggested I stood for Council. So I did!

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: I've always been FS rep and because of my FS competition experience I thought I'd be the best man for the job on Council at the time

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: I am looking forward to seeing the return of funding for non-senior teams (those that win the Nationals). I would love to make this an annual fund, so I will try and convince everyone else that it's a good idea. I would also like to see a greater participation in ESL – I want to bring the Sword back to the UK!

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: I strive to continue encouraging top-level competitors to coach at FS roadshows and UKSLs. I aim to continue organising these roadshows for all, keeping them published and making sure the membership get the best benefit out of them

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: I really admire those FS teams that come back for more competition, especially when their scores are improving, while moving up the categories

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: From an FS point of view, it will be about keeping the momentum going. With a huge Nationals and popular UKSL, we need to keep the new membership interested in 4-way. An overall increase in membership would help, as will encouraging more people to get their FS coaches rating

E-MAIL: tricky@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA

Ian MARSHALL



PHILOSOPHY: NO is not the right answer to a question; try changing the question
JUMPS: 10,000+, including 10 really, really good ones
CLUB: London Parachute School
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Up and down
JOB: Don't want one; interferes with jumping
FIRST JUMP: 1970, Netheravon
JUMPING INTERESTS: CF competing and coaching, tandems

OTHER INTERESTS: There are other interests?

WHY DID YOU STAND: After 40 years in the sport and 20 years on Council I still feel that I have something to contribute

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Competitions: that's what I can do

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: More teams entering CF competitions nationally and internationally

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: My experience of 20-years-plus of competing

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: Anyone that can fly a parachute safely to land; so they can go skydiving again

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: I would like the sport to increase its retention, and try to lower the injuries on landing

E-MAIL: marshall@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA



FOR ALL YOUR SKYDIVING GEAR

Photo courtesy of KOE



DZ SPORTS

COMPLETE PARACHUTE SYSTEMS * T-SHIRTS * SWEATSHIRTS
* HOODIES * HEAD GEAR * CAMERA GEAR * JUMPSUITS *
* ALTIMETERS * GOGGLES * GLOVES * LOG BOOKS * BOOKS
DVDs * COOL STUFF & GADGETS
+ "free" demo gear available (T&C Apply)



CHECK OUT OUR FANTASTIC ONLINE STORE

WWW.DZSPORTS.COM

EMAIL: SALES@DZSPORTS.COM * TEL: +44 (0)1295 812 101

DZ SPORTS LTD * HINTON AIRFIELD * BRACKLEY * NORTHANTS * NN13 5NS



DEALER FOR ALL MANUFACTURERS

Bev Suits · Vigil · Groundrush · Vector 3 · Parachute Systems · Javelin Odyssey · Aerodyne · Cypres 2 · Boogie Man · PD · Matter · Mirage Systems · Deepspeed · Icarus Canopies · Velocity

Paul MOORE



PHILOSOPHY: A Buddhist monk once held my life in the palm of his hand

JUMPS: Nearly 3,000 sport jumps and about 400 military jumps

CLUB: Peterlee

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Ginger looking good

JOB: Retired army officer but currently self-employed

FIRST JUMP: Folkestone, Kent 1977

JUMPING INTERESTS: Canopy Piloting, FS, Accuracy

OTHER INTERESTS: Flying and judging

WHY DID YOU STAND: To try to make a difference. The BPA is a very good organisation but we can improve. We have to do this as we have some challenges ahead

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: This year – Competitions: I'm CP Rep and an FAI-rated CP judge. I'm also a national-rated accuracy judge. Comps is the public face of what we do in our great sport and as a sporting association, success in competitions in all disciplines and at all levels is how we will be judged worldwide. Having been on Council now for about seven years, I have sat on all of the Committees at one time or another

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: 1. To produce the best collective team for the Mondial in Dubai that the BPA has ever fielded. 2. Take the BPA to a new level in terms of its ability to play and score on the world field

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: Just about everything I have done in the last 30-plus-years has been connected with skydiving in some way, and I have oodles of management experience in all sorts of bizarre ways behind me. I can put this to good use I'm sure

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: My top three are: Helmut Cloth, Pete Allum and Bill Booth

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: To continue its transparency and to continue to get the best deal in whatever it may be for the membership. I'd also like the BPA to consider a move to premises which offer better facilities, and to improve working relationships with other aero sports associations

E-MAIL: paul508@mac.com

MEET THE BPA

John PAGE



JUMPS: 3,500

CLUB: Skydive Jersey

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Interested, attentive, approachable

JOB: IT consultant

FIRST JUMP: 1986, Bad Lippspringe

JUMPING INTERESTS: Tandems, Accuracy, FS

OTHER INTERESTS: Family

WHY DID YOU STAND: Well, I love this association. It's great in so many ways and I want to ensure it continues to stay that way. I maintain it's far better to be attempting to steer the association than to sit back and see where it goes

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: STC – I've been involved with STC since becoming a CCI in 1996 and safety should always come first. Development – it's this committee's job to see the BPA prosper and move forward – I think that's very important

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: I would like to make contributions at Council that make the BPA better. As long as at the end of my tenure I can say 'I helped move that forward' or, 'that was my idea', then I can say I achieved my goal

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: A valid opinion from someone who has the best interests of the association and its members at heart

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: I could spend all day on this one but, for the record, Tim Andrewes has pointed me in the right direction so many times I don't think he knows it. But others in the sport include Pete Allum, Bob Charters, Pete Lambson and Bob Card

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: As it currently is. The BPA may not advance at the same rate that some would have it, but it is constantly changing in a sport that is constantly changing

E-MAIL: geordie@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA





Craig POXON

VICE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL AND CHAIRMAN OF DEVELOPMENT



PHILOSOPHY: Work to live, not live to work. Knowledge dispels fear

JUMPS: 3,500

CLUB: Chatteris

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Considered, hairy, geek

JOB: IT (Microsoft.NET technologies). Currently working for an online stationery company. Zzzzzzzzz!

FIRST JUMP: 1990 at Ipswich, but my second wasn't until 1997 at Chatteris (with UK Parachuting)

JUMPING INTERESTS: Seriously, all of it!

OTHER INTERESTS: Wind tunnel, keeping fit (which mostly means running). Snowboarding (although Council commitments, training camps, big-way events and family means I don't really have the time)

WHY DID YOU STAND: To give back to the sport I love! Bleurgh! "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem." For the riches and the groupies!

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Communications and Development. I feel these are where my 'professional skills' are best suited

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: Without being glib, it's in my election nomination for this year – to finally get online membership up and running! Committees sometimes make it difficult to get a big win, so I'm happy to achieve a lot of smaller, incremental improvements

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: A view that's progressive, balanced and, hopefully, in-tune with the membership's needs

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: Too many to mention. There are so many (humble) superstars in every aspect our sport, many of them unsung, and not enough space here to mention them all – and I wouldn't want to embarrass the few that I was able to name here. Sorry, it's a bit of a cop out

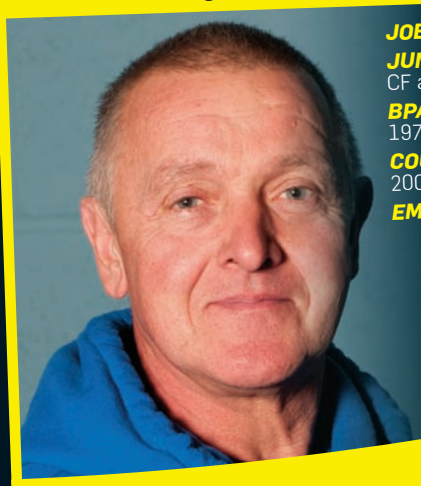
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: The old chestnuts; growing our membership through retention and generating more revenue that can be invested in and for the benefit of our members

E-MAIL: craig@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA

Steve SAUNDERS

CHAIRMAN OF COMPETITIONS



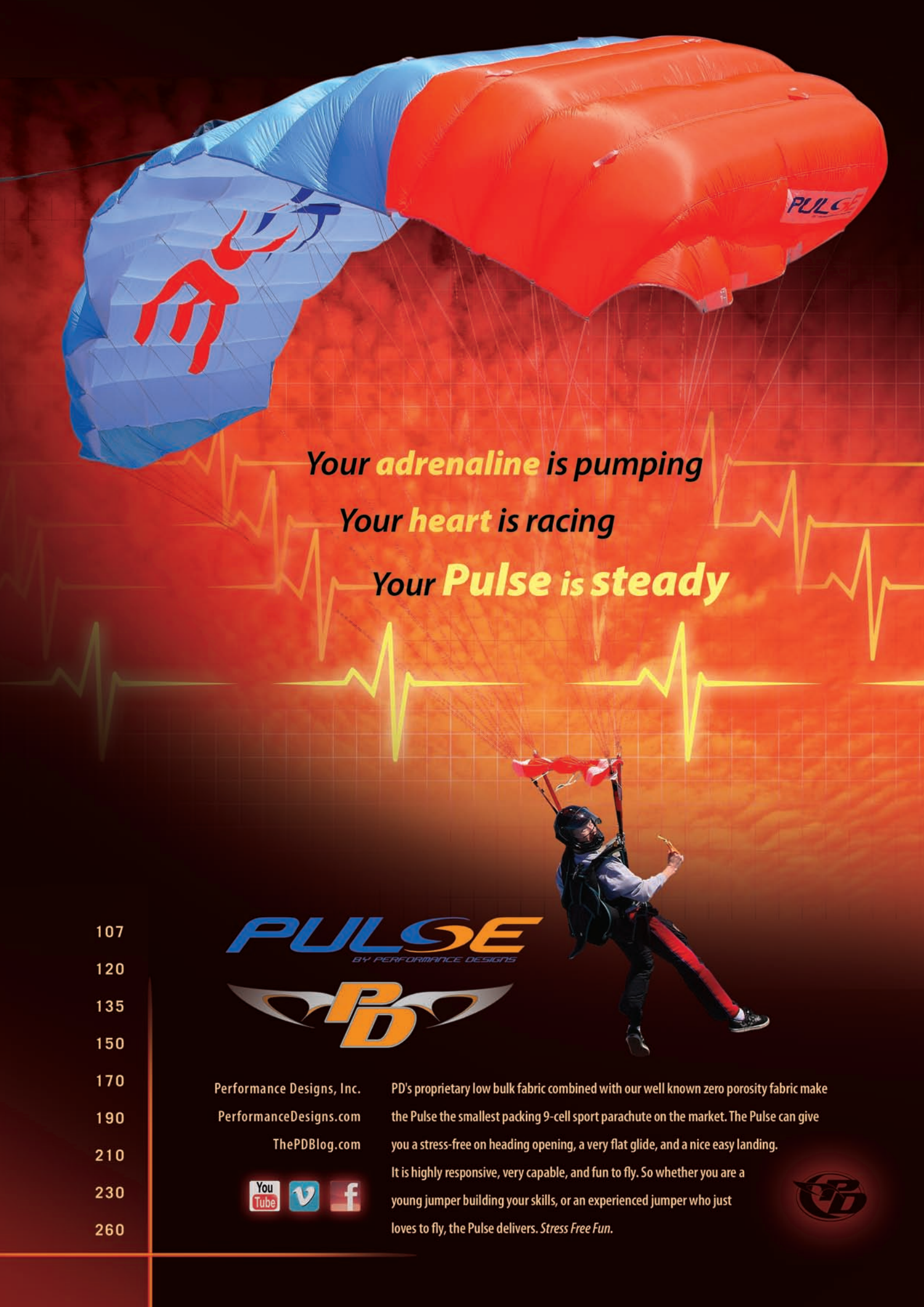
JOB: Builder

JUMPING INTERESTS: CF and students

BPA MEMBER SINCE: 1978

COUNCIL MEMBER SINCE 2009

EMAIL: cfsteve@sky.com



*Your **adrenaline** is pumping*

*Your **heart** is racing*

*Your **Pulse** is **steady***

107
120
135
150
170
190
210
230
260

PULSE
BY PERFORMANCE DESIGNS

PD

Performance Designs, Inc.
PerformanceDesigns.com
ThePDBlog.com

PD's proprietary low bulk fabric combined with our well known zero porosity fabric make the Pulse the smallest packing 9-cell sport parachute on the market. The Pulse can give you a stress-free on heading opening, a very flat glide, and a nice easy landing. It is highly responsive, very capable, and fun to fly. So whether you are a young jumper building your skills, or an experienced jumper who just loves to fly, the Pulse delivers. *Stress Free Fun.*



Martin SOULSBY

CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



PHILOSOPHY: Go for it! What could possibly go wrong?
JUMPS: 4,100
CLUB: Everywhere
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Enthusiastic, driven, focused
JOB: Director of a recruitment company
FIRST JUMP: Queens Avenue, Aldershot, 1982
JUMPING INTERESTS: FS

OTHER INTERESTS: Climbing, running and my dog, Flynn

WHY DID YOU STAND:
I had spent many years commenting on Council and decided the only way I could really make a difference was to be involved

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: As Chairman I do not get to join any of the Committees, but I do get involved in them all

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR:
Looking at ways to improve the retention of BPA members

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE:
Ideas, taking ownership and empowering others to take ownership

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE:
Dan BC, Thierry Henry, all my team mates past and present and my wife

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP:
Safer, a bigger membership and to be seen as the best Parachute Association in the world

E-MAIL: martin.soulsby@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA

Mark SKARRATTS



PHILOSOPHY: Be nice to everyone and treat them as I would like to be treated, but only up to a point!
JUMPS: Too many people are obsessed by jump numbers. I try to judge people by their ability rather than how many times they've jumped
CLUB: Dunkeswell and others
DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: No, it's what other people think of me that counts
JOB: Police intelligence officer
FIRST JUMP: 2002, Skydive Taupo, New Zealand
JUMPING INTERESTS: Mainly CF, but I intend to try wingsuiting and freeflying

OTHER INTERESTS: Motorcycling and falling off mountain bikes

WHY DID YOU STAND: Friends have been telling me to stand for some time so I finally decided to have a go and see what it is really like and what I can do

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Competitions Committee. I wanted to take on the role of the CF rep and give the discipline a push back into the mainstream. I've also been to a few Comps meetings as an observer, so I have a good idea of what they do

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: I'd like give CF the push it needs, and deserves, and interact as much as I can with the membership in my varied travels around dropzones and bring their views back to the Council table

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: I'm a fresh face with new ideas, which is something that I think is always needed and I'm someone who is open to change and willing to modernise

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: Brian Vacher, despite having achieved so much in his chosen discipline, is one of the most approachable, accessible and passionate jumpers I've met. He is always willing and happy to spend time speaking with the newest and most inexperienced skydiver because he genuinely cares about them and the sport

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: I'd like to see it become much more open and accessible with more involvement of the membership in the committee meetings and decision making process and the introduction of video streaming, so people can see what actually goes on in meetings

E-MAIL: mark.skarratts@bpa.org.uk – I can also be contacted via the *PH36* Facebook page and as 'Anvil' on UKSkydiver

MEET THE BPA



James SWALLOW



JUMPS: 1,000

CLUB: Hibaldstow

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: Thinker, progressive and I'll leave the last for people to decide themselves!

JOB: Working with my family and valued employees I operate Skydive Hibaldstow, Skydive Spain, Wingglider Limited (leasing of parachuting aircraft), and Maybe Sailing

FIRST JUMP: 1997 at Hibaldstow Airfield

JUMPING INTERESTS: Freefly, flying for parachuting

OTHER INTERESTS: Flying, and general adventure sports – when I get the chance!

WHY DID YOU STAND: With the changing nature of the sport and having previously attended Council meetings, I feel I could have some experience and knowledge which could help. At the end of last year I was in a position to give the time and effort to put myself forward to stand for election

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Development Committee – I feel this is where I can offer the most value at this time as possibly many of the issues would or could be similar to what I already see or experience as a DZO

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: That's impossible to answer now as I haven't even attended my first meeting, when writing this!

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: New, younger, enthusiastic blood onto Council, who believes he has good experience in the skydiving market and of skydivers' desires. I can give my opinion on things from a DZO's perspective as dropzones' needs may differ to the skydivers' needs in some cases. Finding a balance is always interesting!

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: In the context of this questionnaire – anyone who repeatedly gives their time and effort to the sport out of good will

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: Attract more overseas skydivers and introduce more instructors

E-MAIL: james@bpa.org.uk

MEET THE BPA

Weed STOODLEY



PHILOSOPHY: Better to have tried and failed than never have tried at all

JUMPS: Nearly 900

CLUB: Langar

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS: I don't do three words! OK – disorganised, optimistic, muddled

JOB: Mother, accountant

FIRST JUMP: 2000, Tilstock, tandem

JUMPING INTERESTS: I am interested in all aspects but I enjoy freeflying and now having a go at VFS! Had a try at CF and wingsuiting

OTHER INTERESTS: Bike racing

WHY DID YOU STAND: Because I see my role as Artistic and VFS rep important, and want to continue supporting these disciplines at competitions. I like to get involved

WHICH COMMITTEES HAVE YOU JOINED: Over the years: Development, as this is the main driving force of the BPA; Finance, due to my background in finance; Communications, as I feel I have quite an artistic flair and definitely do a lot of communicating! I was also media co-ordinator for a few years. Competitions, to start with, because they were lacking an Artistic rep so I offered

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR: To put in my share of work, especially within competitions, and if possible, our support helping world teams bring home medals

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE: Energy, knowledge from my sphere of work and sporting experience. An alternative view, ability and confidence to ask questions

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE: In the sport? Any tandem instructor – I can't imagine having someone strapped to me! In life? People who get on quietly day-by-day and achieve some awesome things

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE BPA DEVELOP: Continue to grow membership, with further emphasis and programmes on retention. Continuation to work for the safety and education of members. Continue further at the heart of EU to ensure a future of the sport. And, of course, to produce more world champs and potential champs

E-MAIL: weed@stoodley.co.uk

MEET THE BPA



SECURE ONLINE ORDERING
WWW.PARAGEAR.COM

Para Gear EQUIPMENT COMPANY

FOUNDING MEMBER PIA

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

WHAT'S NEW @ PARAGEAR

WE CARRY ALL MAJOR MANUFACTURERS' PRODUCTS!



CONTOUR +
COMPACT HD VIDEO CAMERA
#L12720


Camera Not Included

GOPRO LCD BACK PAC
CAMERA ACCESSORY
ADD A LCD VIEWSCREEN TO YOUR GO PRO
#L12614









CONTOUR ROAM
COMPACT HD VIDEO CAMERA
#L12705


Camera Not Included

GO PRO CAMERAS & ACCESSORIES FOR SALE IN THE USA ONLY!


Cameras Not Included

PARAGEAR GEAR BAGS
LARGE OR MEDIUM GEAR BAGS
BLACK ONLY. SPECIFY SIZE WHEN ORDERING
LARGE #N12340 MEDIUM #N12330

COOKIE HANDMOUNT
FOR GO PRO CAMERAS
FINALLY A STURDY HANDMOUNT
CARBON FIBER CONSTRUCTION
#L5724



CONTOUR GPS
COMPACT HD VIDEO CAMERA
#L12715

GOPRO BATTERY BACK PAC
CAMERA ACCESSORY
ADD MORE BATTERY LIFE/POWER TO YOUR GO PRO
#L12617

GOPRO 3D CASE/MOUNT
CAMERA ACCESSORY
SHOOT IN 3D WITH THIS WATERPROOF CASE.
#L12619





ALTIMASTER III
GALAXY MODEL VISUAL ALTIMETER
#111915
BLUE OR BLACK CASING COLORS.

ALTITRACK
FREEFALL COMPUTER & VISUAL ALTIMETER
DIGITAL ACCURACY W/ ANALOG FACE
#110510
ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE

Royal Lens
WIDE WIDER WIDEST





EVOLUTION FREEFLY SUIT
OFF-THE-SHELF
HIGH QUALITY JUMPSUIT
NO WAITING!!!
S-M-L-XL-XXL SIZES
#L1199





NEW! CAM-X
CAMERA HEADGEAR
FLAT SIDES AND TOP FOR MOUNTING W/ CHINCUP FROM SKYSYSTEMS
#L4405

NEW! EDGE
OPEN-FACED HEADGEAR
FROM SKYSYSTEMS
#L4401





OPTIMA II
ADVANCED AUDIBLE ALTIMETER
PROGRAMABLE W/ SWOOP ALARMS
#110500

N3 - NEPTUNE 3
VISUAL & AUDIBLE ALTIMETER
ALUMINUM CASE
NOW RECHARGEABLE!
#11423

Royal Lens stealth .5x
LOW-PROFILE 0.5X LENS
25MM #L1318
43MM #L31843
40.5 MM #L31840.5
SPECIFY 25, 40.5 OR 43MM THREAD



COOKIE G3
FULL-FACE HEADGEAR
NEW FLIP-UP DESIGN
#L5733





BH MAMBA
FULL-FACE HEADGEAR
CARBON FIBER STANDARD
#L5163


Please specify plug type.

CONCEPTUS BITE OR TONGUE SWITCH
ACTIVATION SWITCHES FOR CANON DIGITAL PLUG & OTHER 2.5MM PLUG CAMERAS.
BITE CANON DIGI-PLUG #L1332 / 2.5MM PLUG #L1331
TONGUE CANON DIGI-PLUG #L1333 / 2.5MM PLUG #L1334



FLYSIGHT
ADVANCED AERO GPS
PROVIDES REAL-TIME AUDIBLE INDICATION OF GLIDE RATIO AS WELL AS HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL SPEEDS!
#11482

Royal Lens diamond .3x
LOW-PROFILE 0.3X LENS
25, 27, 30 30.5, 37MM #L1316
SPECIFY 25, 27, 30 30.5, OR 37MM THREAD
40.5MM #L31640.5

Royal Lens platinum .2x
LOW-PROFILE 0.2X LENS
#L1320
SPECIFY 25, 30 OR 37MM THREAD



BH REVOLVE
FULL-FACE HEADGEAR
FULL FACE & LENS FLIP UP AND OUT OF THE WAY
#L5132

COOKIE OZONE
OPEN-FACE HEADGEAR
CARBON FIBER FINISH STANDARD
#L5706

HYPEYE D PRO
SWITCH / INDICATOR
LIGHT AND SWITCH COMBO. WILL FIT MOST D/AV PORT CAMERAS
#L12430

HYPEYE D PRO EXPANSION KIT
#L12431



BH 'L' BRACKET
CAMERA MOUNT
FITS MOST HANDYCAM STYLE CAMERAS
#L5115

CYPRES 2
$ CALL EXPERT-STUDENT-MILITARY-TANDEM-2PIN







$ CALL PRO-STUDENT MILITARY-TANDEM-2PIN

CONTAINERS - CANOPIES - ACCESSORIES - RIGGING - HARDWARE

SERVING THE WORLD FOR OVER 50 YEARS!



2011-12 CATALOG AVAILABLE NOW!

Para Gear EQUIPMENT COMPANY

3839 West Oakton Street | Skokie, Illinois 60076 USA
PHONE: 847-679-5905 | FAX: 847-679-8644
WWW.PARAGEAR.COM

WHY NOT TRY...

WHY NOT MAKE 2012 THE YEAR YOU STEP OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND TRY SOMETHING NEW? TO GIVE YOU SOME IDEAS, HERE'S THE LOWDOWN ON THREE DISCIPLINES THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE TRIED BEFORE



Speed Skydiving



Canopy Formation



Backfly



Speed Skydiving

SPEED SKYDIVING IS THE FASTEST NON-MOTORISED SPORT AND FOR THE PETROL HEADS OUT THERE, WE'RE FASTER THAN A BUGATTI VEYRON

I hear people say, "it's for loners", "you have to dress up like a gimp" and "my Neptune says that I've been 4,000mph, so I know I can go fast". Whether they are right or not, they are missing out on an exhilarating and addictive personal experience. Speed Skydiving is a simple discipline with only one real concern. Speed!

A QUICK HISTORY

Speed Skydiving is a younger discipline than Freeflying and first officially appeared in 1996 when the term was coined by Ken Hansen – now the Chairman of the International Speed Skydiving Association (ISSA). In 1999, George Pilkington brought it to the UK with the first annual Speed Freaks competition at Hibaldstow and there has been a British Nationals in Speed Skydiving since 2004. Mark Calland has held the UK national record at 302.9mph since 2004 and the world record currently stands at 327.4mph, set by Christian Labhart in 2010. Christian set this speed record in T-shirt and jeans... so there goes the gimpsuit theory.

THE GEEKY BIT:

Your speed on a Speed Skydiving jump is worked out as an average speed between 8,858ft and 5,577ft (one vertical kilometre). This is measured with two specially calibrated Speed Pro Tracks. The data is input into Jump Track software to extract the exact result. Jump Track is great to use as a training aid as well, you can look at your jump data on a graph and see where you're accelerating and decelerating. For the most accurate speed reading one Pro Track is fixed to each of your rig's laterals. If the Pro Tracks read average speeds greater than 30kph difference this is called an OB (Out of Bounds) and no speed is recorded for that jump. This indicates that there was a pressure difference between each side of the speeder's body, hence the result is considered unreliable. To allow for this in competition, each competitor completes six rounds and the average of their best three speeds is used as their meet result.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Your CCI must be happy that you can speed skydive your kit and that you have sufficient experience to retain awareness and control at very high speeds. Having a premature deployment at over 200mph would not be pleasant. It is a major concern on a speed jump because of the increased airspeed over your kit. Tighten your closure loop a bit and make sure your bridle cover does its job well – a pin pull deployment system is better suited for speed. Have your chest strap a bit tighter than normal, and the excess securely stowed. Make sure your leg straps are tied together (Bungee cord


2

Mark Calland has held the UK national record at 302.9mph since 2004 and the world record stands at 327.4mph, set by Christian Labhart in 2010

or pull-up) like you would for freeflying. If you 'fall off' your fast dive onto your back, your leg straps will easily travel down the back of your legs. The accepted norm for headgear is a full-face helmet. Make sure the visor is not going to flip up. You can wear an open-face helmet and goggles but it makes it harder to hear audibles and your goggles need to be very tight so they don't flip up. Any doubts about your kit... ask the CCI.

Speeders should exit first on jump run so let the JM know what you have planned. Aim 90° to run in; if you're not perfectly vertical you will be tracking slightly, so you need to ensure you are moving away from jump run. When dropping out of your vertical dive and slowing down you may consider covering your handles to avoid any flapping, which may dislodge a cutaway pad.

The bottom measurement gate (exit gate) in competition is 5,500ft; it is a good idea when trying out Speed Skydiving for the first time to come out of your dive higher until you're confident you can slow down from your top speed to a safe deployment speed in around 2,000ft. Altitude gets eaten up very quickly and as you get better at Speed Skydiving, you will need to slow down more quickly. Any instability at the lower end of the jump is going to waste precious time. Make sure you jump with an audible (I use two) both set for the altitude of the exit gate so there's no confusion.


3

1 Peter Warren, by Andy Lovemore

2 Marco Wiederkehr, by Marcel Schuster

3 Red Speed Pro Tracks, by Arnold Hohenegger

COMPETITION

Speed Skydiving is growing in popularity, and thanks to the work of the ISSA will be run as a demonstration competition at the upcoming Dubai Mondial, which will be the biggest skydiving competition ever held. Ten of the fastest speed skydivers will be invited to compete in the competition and this may lead to Speed Skydiving being included in FAI/IPC competitions in future.

The BPA Speed Skydiving roadshows this year are a great opportunity to have a go at Speed Skydiving. Without the pressure of competition you can learn how to go fast safely using the competition equipment. L&B have sponsored the events this year so there will be an Optima2 or Solo2 to win at each event. Gimpsuits optional. ●

Email me, Mike Lovemore, if you have any questions: speedskydiving@hotmail.co.uk

Tips

There are many techniques in speed skydiving; everyone does it slightly differently. Here are some tips to get you on your way to develop your own style.

▶ Exit head to the airflow and smoothly/gradually work your way towards vertical. Some people look at the horizon and some people look down. You'll feel the speed increase quickly. If you get a speed wobble try to absorb it by relaxing slightly. Straighten your body as if you're being stretched from head to toe. Keep your muscles alert but relaxed, as tension leads to rigidity and instability. Start with legs slightly apart and arms away from your body. As you speed up draw your arms and legs in to keep your acceleration smooth.

▶ If you feel wind on the back of your legs, you may be laying slightly too far back. There will be a burble from your container, which affects the airflow down your back. When passing through the exit gate avoid going straight onto your belly. Angle into a steep track (90° to jump run) for a moment or two, which will bleed off a lot of speed, then continue the transition to your belly. Then de-arch before dumping out to bleed off the rest. You need to be proactive at the bottom end because things happen fast and you don't want to end up down and dirty and grounded.

▶ There is no particular type of body shape and size that is considered perfect for speed skydiving because technique is such a large factor. Yes it helps to be bigger but that doesn't necessarily mean you will be faster.

▶ A vital ingredient in recording consistently high speeds is being in the right headspace. There's not much to think about other than going fast and being altitude aware but if you've got some doubt about your kit, or what altitude you're at, then you won't get the consistent speeds that you're capable of. Be ready in advance, double check your audibles and make sure you're confident in your equipment. Speed skydiving is a mind game. It takes concentration and a jump that felt ballistic can turn out to be slow.

Roadshow dates:

▶ **April 7-8** – Sibson, Mike Lovemore
▶ **May 5-6** – Cark, Mike Lovemore
▶ **June 9-10** – Hibaldstow, Simon Brentford



Being safe is not about fear, it's about walking through life with your eyes open, senses fully extended, seeing the details that others miss, and having a Vigil is giving us that secure feeling...

Steve & Magali Braff

Photo: Jordy Zangerlé



www.vigil.aero



Canopy Formation

FIRST JUMP TRAINING TEACHES US "STEER AWAY", BUT ONCE QUALIFIED THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD OUT THERE THAT SOME OF US NEVER EXPLORE

2012 is looking to be a good year for Canopy Formation for the BPA, with *CFUK* going to the IPC World Championships in Dubai, *PH36* heading to Germany for the European record, new teams formed from last year's CF roadshows and we welcome the new BPA CF rep Mark Skarratts.

SO WHAT'S THE FASCINATION WITH CF?

Well firstly it's fun! I believe every skydiver should give it a go and I assure you, you will love it and will learn a lot from it, whether you're a world-class skydiver or new into the sport. Every one of us will be under a canopy at some point but do you know who is around you? CF will give you confidence to fly in close proximity to other canopies, be it intentional or not, and will give you the tools you need to hopefully avoid a collision if that moment arises. It will also show you that a controlled intentional collision can be safe as well as good fun.

WHAT DO I NEED TO START CF?

We will require that you have at least 100 jumps and be able to do a stable student exit with a three- to four-second delay. We will then show you the differences between your rig and a CF rig and you will learn how to pack a CF rig and how to pick the right CF-friendly canopy. Following this you will get a full brief and dirt dive your first CF jump (even *CRW Dawgs* dirt dive).

After your CF intro you can continue with the CF1 course where you will learn new techniques of flying your canopy with front and rear risers, toggles, cross control, approaches, breakdowns and spotting. The progression will move you on to 2-, 3- and 4-way jumps. Once you have gained your CF1 that's not it – you can go on to less conventional CF jumps with bi-hands, downplanes, diamonds ➔





***1** Team Wave, by Mark Skarratts*

***2** Mark Skarratts films Jamie Flynn and Jason Pocock's 2-stack, by Pete Lindstrand*

***3** Two 4-stacks locking together, by Jamie Flynn*

4



Types of CF

- **Rotations** – building a stack, usually a 4-way, then 'rotating' the top person off the top and re-docking them on the bottom. As soon as they're docked, the new top person can go.
- **Sequential** – a bit like FS, building 2-way or 4-way points from a dive pool, including off-set formations docking on end cells
- **Speed** – all about building a single formation as quickly as possible
- **Big-way** – does what it says on the tin! The current world record is a massive 100-way diamond built over Lake Wales, Florida, in 2007

CF dates 2012 so far...

- **April 28-29** – CF roadshow, Dunkeswell
- **May 26-27** – CF roadshow, Hibaldstow
- **June 9-10** – CF Grand Prix, Dunkeswell
- **September 1-2** – CF Roadshow, Sibson
- **September 8-9** – CF Nationals, Sibson

and pendulums; the list goes on.

Gone are the days when people were scared of doing Canopy Relative Work as more and more people are requesting roadshows and, as a result, we are seeing more CF on BPA DZs. Last year saw lots of new CF jumpers at Dunkeswell and other DZs around the country and we hope that this continues into 2012.

Brian Vacher of the *PD Factory Team* spent a season as part of team *PH36* to complement his swoop training:

"The average CF jumper is more knowledgeable and conscientious than the average skydiver with a great deal of experience. The sub-group reminds me a great deal of high-performance canopy pilots. Like swoopers, the average CF jumper is so obsessed with his discipline he already has a high level of understanding of how the canopy works, the range of inputs available, the canopy environment and the dangers associated with the discipline and skydiving in general. Both disciplines provide focus in the area where jumpers have traditionally been lacking or chosen to ignore due to fear or the "it won't happen to me" attitude. That season with *PH36* has taught me to face up to my fears and prejudices with regards to CF. It's a little scary but compelling and offers a fast track to canopy techniques and knowledge to make everyone a safer, better jumper. Best of all you don't have to dress or drink like the traditional *CRW Dawg*, so even if you give it a go you can still maintain a relatively normal life afterwards. The experience had planted a seed. I found myself using many of the skills learnt from CF into my personal flying, my business of canopy coaching – The Safe Flight School, and more recently within the canopy team flying since joining the *PD Factory Team*."

CONTACT

If you are interested in giving Canopy Formation a go or want to join the new CF mailing list, contact us through our *PH36* Facebook page, email us at ph36@hotmail.co.uk or contact the CF rep at mark.skarratts@bpa.co.uk ●

Jamie Flynn
Aerodyne PH36

4 4-way diamond, by Gary Wainwright

5 Brian Vacher training with PH36 *over Empuria, by Nigel Holland*

5



IF YOUR MIND IS SET ON THE SWOOP POND, THEN THIS MIGHT BE YOUR CHOICE . . .

www.paratec.de



FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, THERE'S THE . . .

RAGE 2



Different by
DESIGN

Visit www.paratec.de



- SOFTER, SMOOTHER OPENINGS THAN ANY OTHER CANOPY IN ITS CLASS*
- BUILT WITH CAD, LASER-CUT PANELS AND RAGE TECHNOLOGY, TO REDUCE DRAG AND IMPROVE LAMINAR AIRFLOW
- LIGHT AND CONTROLLABLE FRONT RISER PRESSURE
- LONG, PREDICTABLE SWOOPS WITH A POWERFUL FLARE, WITHOUT THE PACK VOLUME OF CROSS BRACING

LANDING IN SPRING 2012

**Our unique R&D programme uses computer controlled telemetry to measure all aspects of canopy performance. Typical openings from terminal velocity, with optimum wing loading averaged 4.2 seconds, with a maximum opening peak force of 1.9G.*

Paratec GmbH
Flugplatz - D -66798 Wallerfangen
Tel: +49-6837 - 7375 - www.paratec.de - info@paratec.de

paratec
dare to be different

1

Backfly

A VERSATILE POSITION THAT OPENS THE DOOR TO A RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES



Learning to backfly is often the first step taken when learning to freefly, either in the air or the wind tunnel. The backflying position offers incredible versatility in flying speeds and can be flown with everyone, from belly to head down flyers. This versatility offers an excellent recovery position when learning to fly in other freefly positions such as sit, stand or head down with the flyer able to 'fall off' the position without a rapid deceleration of fall rate, which is hazardous to others around in the air. This is called corking and must be avoided at all times when freeflying.

Before making any backfly jumps you must get a brief from an FF coach. This applies even if you can already backfly in the tunnel as there are important issues that must be addressed that you may not have taken into consideration. These include but are not limited to:

- using suitable equipment. This includes your container, audible and jumpsuit.
- facing off the line of flight (the direction the aircraft is flying from and to), which will ensure if you do drift you will do so into clear airspace.

Your FF coach will go over any matters you are unsure about.

Learning the position offers many advantages and is an excellent transitional position between belly flying and sit-flying. We will now look at the basic body position and take a look at how to make it mobile.

1 Ally Milne, by Nick Robinson

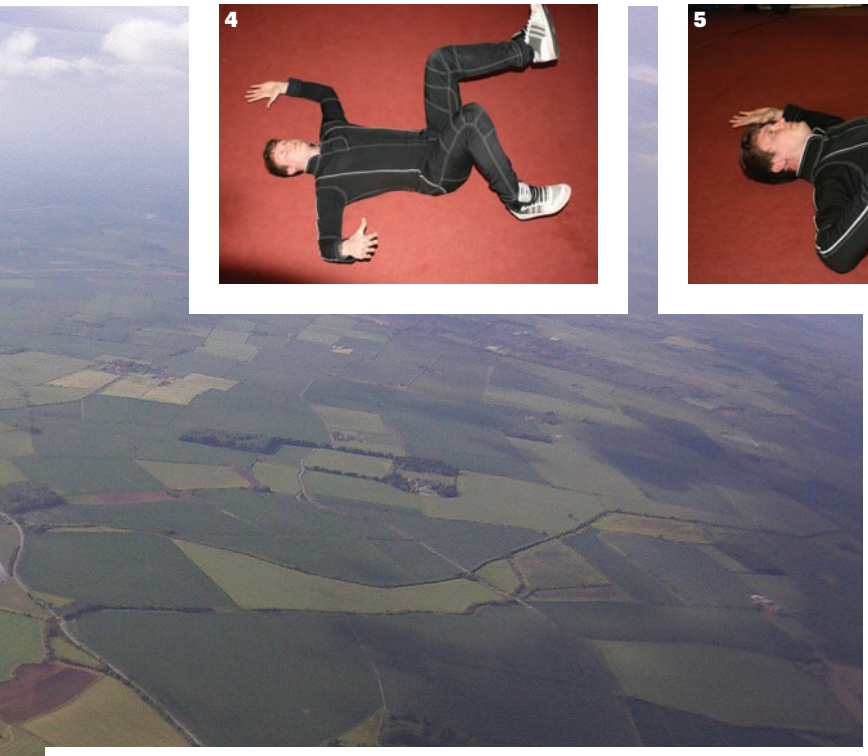
2 Wind tunnel coaching can help refine techniques, but the rig makes a big difference when backflying, by Gary Wainwright

3-7 Training photos, by Ally Milne

BASIC BODY POSITION

When learning the basic body position many of the principles that apply to belly flying also apply to back flying. This is the same for all the freefly body positions and trying to skip ahead is similar to trying to run before you can walk. A straight spine and symmetrical body position are required when learning. One point of difficulty many flyers suffer is the positioning of the head. Our brains are used to seeing the horizon the right way up. In back fly our head is using a different frame of reference. This is normally above the person flying or in some cases behind the flyer. When looking towards the feet the student should be careful to look with the eyes without lifting the head. This causes

“The backflying position offers incredible versatility in flying speeds and can be flown with everyone, from belly to head down flyers”





them to reduce the surface area and slide away toward their heads. We look with the eyes, not the head. This is an important principle in all freefly body positions and also camera flying.

Picture 2 shows the mistake of looking with the whole head with heels too narrow

The angles between the lower body and legs are exactly the same as a sit-fly position and for initial stability the flyer is required to keep the knees a little wider than shoulder distance apart. The closer the knees are the easier it is to turn. Stability is the key at this stage of the game, mobility comes later. To help keep the legs stronger the heels must be pressed into the shoes. This is a key difference to belly flying which requires the toes to be pointed. The arms are initially boxed out at 90-degree angles like an AFF student.

Picture 3 shows good body position







TURNING

Pictures 4-6 show a turning input

Just like when we learn belly flying we first learn to turn with the upper body, as our upper body co-ordination is much better than our lower body co-ordination. Turning can be started by keeping the elbow in place and rotating the arm three-quarters or 135 degrees around the elbow pivot point. The elbow pivot point must not move during the turn as this will reduce turn speed and power.

Once upper-body turns are learned we can then learn the input with the legs. Leg turns in co-ordination with arm turns can be very powerful. This co-ordination is also used to turn in sit-fly with the aim to deflect the same amount of air from the top and bottom half of the body so the flyer can rotate around a centre point.

MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE HEAD

Picture 7 shows the angles of the arms and legs needed to move towards the head



Learning to move towards the head is the start of learning how to back track away, which is an important skill when breaking away from a FF formation of more than two people. This skill is important as it allows you to track away whilst initially checking your airspace above you.

To move towards the head we deflect the air by changing the angles of the arms and legs. We push air with both our arms and legs. The aim is to get the arms and legs to approximately 45 degrees as this pushes the maximum amount of air. For smaller movements we put in smaller inputs. ➔


8


12


9


10

8-11 Training photos, by Ally Milne

12 Back tracking, by Fletchy Fletch

MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE FEET

Picture 8 shows the correct arm and leg position

This move is generally found to be more difficult than movement towards the head. The student must press the lower legs onto the air by digging the heels in whilst keeping the knees in the same place and the heels wide. With the upper body they must extend the arms above and behind the head; the student must be strong with the arms. Remember at all times you are stronger than the wind!

INCREASING AND DECREASING FALL RATE

Picture 9 shows the body position for increasing fall rate and picture 10 shows the body position for decreasing fall rate

Fall rate changes work by increasing and decreasing the surface area of the body whilst keeping falling down the tube. It is generally easier to go faster than slower. To go faster the arms are relaxed more to the side, the knees are closed and the lower legs can also be relaxed. This is a much more relaxed position and a position that is useful when falling off sit-fly.

To decrease fall rate or slow down initially the knees must be widened so that more air hits the side of the thighs. The arms must then be extended to be level with the air, which may require some effort. Finally the legs can be extended as far as someone can before driving headwards, which is a possibility if the legs are over-extended. This is a useful skill in the tool box as it allows you to chase your new FF1 mate when they fall off the sit position if they decelerate slightly.


11

SIDE SLIDING

Picture 11 shows side sliding

It can be tricky learning the co-ordination of arms and legs required for side sliding, and can also be confused with turns. The legs are tucked on the high-pressure air closer to the bottom of the flyer and deflected with the legs pointing toward the direction you want to move towards. The upper body has the elbow pressed on the airflow in the required direction of movement with the opposite arm extended to its maximum.

COMMON BACKFLY PROBLEMS

Spinning

▶ This can be caused by many problems such as an asymmetrical body position, or a loose-fitting rig. Try keeping heels wider and ensuring a straight spine as well as making an opposite turn input.

Drifting head first

▶ Keep the head back and increase drag by putting the arms higher above the head.

> **Remember at all times you are stronger than the wind!**

Wobbling

▶ Try relaxing arms and increasing fall rate slightly.

Difficult to move feet first

▶ Be stronger with arms above and behind head. Make sure heels are not touching.

Lack of visuals/eye contact

▶ Remember you can move your head and eyes! It's often easier to see behind than between your legs.

A coach jump or tunnel time can quickly spot these problems before bad habits develop.

USES FOR BACK FLY

▶ Recovery position for sit-fly and head-down
▶ Learning to back track
▶ Tandem camera
▶ Creative camera flying for FS formations
▶ Developing air awareness
▶ Having fun!

So what we looked over during this article is a way of learning to backfly and the importance of this key body position. It helps strengthen our awareness of air flow on our backs, which helps when we learn head down, it's the basis of back tracking and useful as a tool when we need to bail to a position which maintains a steady fall rate and can be used to take more creative shots for tandem students. And if you've not given it a go, maybe it's time you took a weekend to check out the dark side... ●

Ally Milne
UK/European record holder
BPA Instructor and FF coach
www.tryskydiving.co.uk

CYPRES 2

UNIQUE

TECHNOLOGY

V-CUT: Unique blade cutter - exclusively made in Germany by CYPRES !

QUALITY

Each CYPRES cutter is x-rayed and checked - since sales began in 1991 !

SAFETY

More than 200.000 cutters produced - none have ever failed to fire and cut the loop !

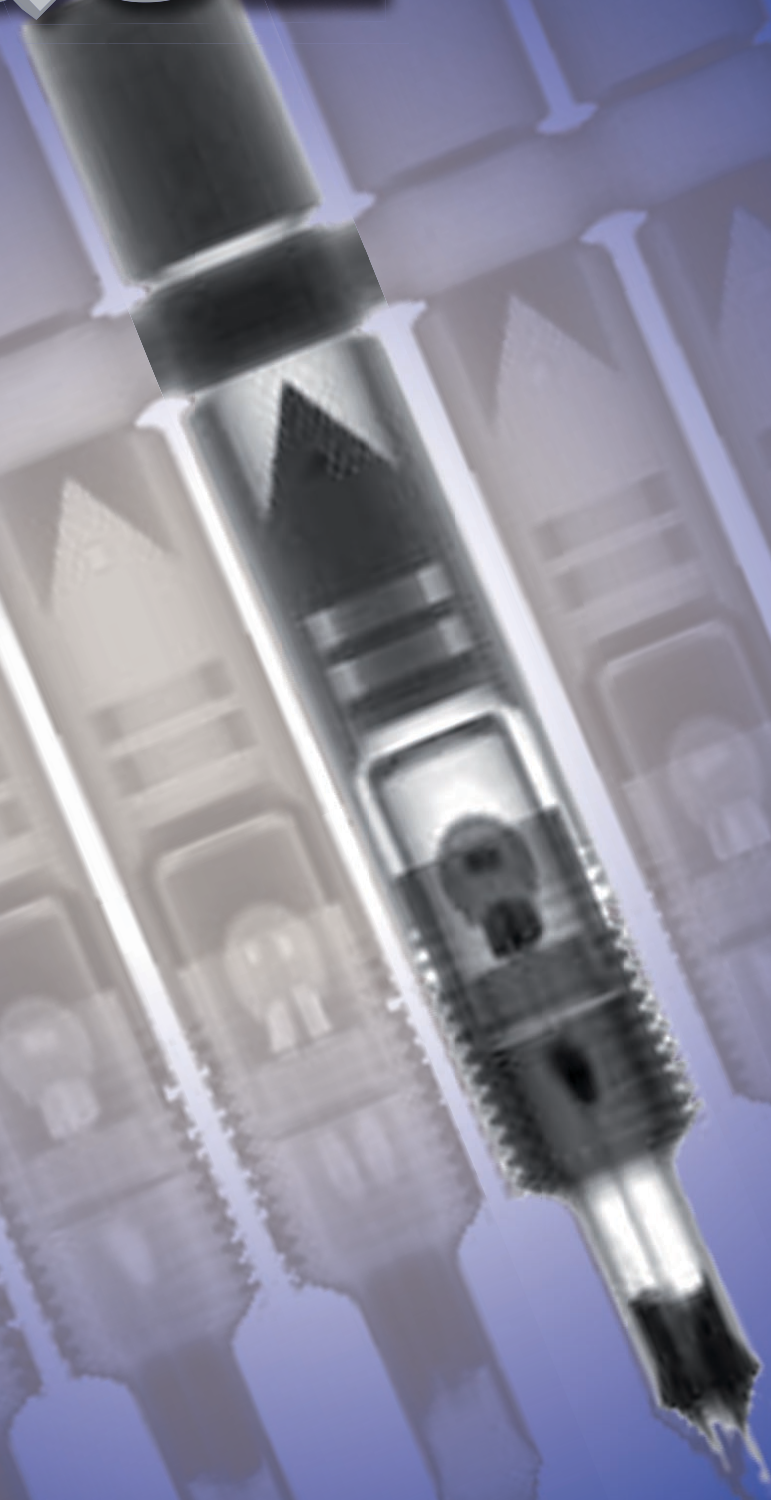


Photo shows x-rayed CYPRES cutters.

www.cypres.cc/cutter



> **As you make more jumps, the nerves disappear and are replaced with pure excitement**

Skydiving changed my life

BPA New Skydiver of the Year Joe Newrick recalls the excitement of his first jump and explains how much the sport means to him



Learning to skydive has been the greatest decision of my life. Very few people realise that every weekend the sky becomes a playground for hundreds of jumpers around the country, and now I can join them.

I have always wanted to learn to skydive, and while I was at school I decided it was going to be one of my main goals in life. I didn't want my only experience to be as a tandem student, I knew I wanted it to be a part of my life. So last year I booked an Accelerated Freefall course at my local parachute centre. I arrived for my day of ground school to help prepare me for my first jump. I met with my instructor and began learning about the basics of a parachute system, how to control my body in freefall and how to fly a canopy. I didn't sleep at all that night, I was too excited and nervous.

The time had come for my first jump. I kitted up and was checked by my instructors. I climbed into the plane and tried to visualise everything I was supposed to do on my first jump. This was my first time in a plane, and soon I was going to be jumping out of it! Once we were at 15,000ft we waited for the experienced skydivers to



leave. Now it was my turn. I shuffled down and tried to steady myself in the door. Both my instructors had a firm grip on me. Every part of my body was tingling, the excitement and adrenaline was almost too much to handle. Standing in the door I performed my count and jumped. At that point my mind just shut down, I was completely overwhelmed. I was told this could happen during my initial training, but those first few seconds after leaving the plane were a haze, it seems completely surreal. There is so much adrenaline, nerves and doubt that your mind just goes into overload.

This was the first leap I took in becoming a qualified skydiver. As you make more jumps,



the nerves disappear and are replaced with pure excitement. Over the next few months I managed to complete my AFF course and get my formation skydiving qualification (FS1). This is only the start of your progression in skydiving – there are so many different disciplines and achievements to be made. You can start to jump with friends, join teams and compete at any level you want.

Skydiving now dominates my life, it is all I can think about and I am at my local dropzone every weekend. I feel completely lost if I don't jump. Since qualifying in May 2011 I have made close to 200 jumps and won New Skydiver of the Year at the BPA AGM. I have made a whole new group of friends and they all feel the same way. Skydiving isn't a hobby, it is something that will take over your life.

Joe Newrick



STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Joe's story appears in the latest *Starter Mag,* a free magazine distributed by dropzones to students who have just done their first skydive. It explains how to get into the sport, evaluating the differences between Tandem, Static Line and AFF. There are also features on disciplines to try once qualified, such as FS, FF and wingsuit, as well as information and advice for total beginners.

The *Starter Mag* is available as a free PDF download at **skydivethemag.com/starter.** If you've got friends who might be interested in jumping, why not send them the link?

OPS MANUAL QUIZ

An introduction to the BPA Operations Manual forms part of the requirements for JM1. Each issue we'll ask relevant questions, and answer them in the wording of the Ops Manual.

Q1 Is it essential to wear an altimeter?

Q2 If you've got an audible altimeter, is essential to also wear a visual altimeter?

Q3 Are audible altimeters essential for any jumps?

Answers over the page

ADVICE tinyurl.com/Skydive-the-mag

Last issue we asked what advice you'd give yourself if you could travel back in time and meet yourself as a new jumper. Many people answered through *the Mag* Facebook page, and here are some of the best...

Andy Craig: Live the dream

Nikita Prokhorov: Save up more money before you start, learn about the sport before you start, and stock up your beer fridge to pay for your firsts!

Duncan Robertson: Get your FS1 out the way to stop people saying "why haven't you done your FS1 yet"!

Garrick Foster Taylor: Get a better-paid job!

Matt Brown: Forget the flat stuff and get on your feet!

Duncan Robertson: Take up CP earlier!

Robert Crazylegs Spour: Take up golf

Emily Doman: I'm fairly newly qualified. Definitely a better-paid job

Sadie Leanne Melling: Learn canopy control to prevent crashing into a fence, breaking both legs!

Leo Whitfield: Don't fight it; chop it!

Tom Williamson: Flare!

Ryan Briddon: To put numbers 09 14 16 38 46 47 on the lottery for 11 Feb '09 then enjoy retirement

Mike Lehan: Hang around the DZ even if you can't afford to jump much

Geoff Kent: 1. Don't give up the day job. 2. Ever thought of becoming a pilot?

Chris Smith: The tip on making a small fortune from skydiving is... start with a big fortune!

Mike Colthart: Listen

Peter Stone: When I had done 350 jumps I thought I was the dog's b*****cks and knew it all. Now I'm approaching 4,500 jumps I realise I'm only just starting to understand

Robert Rhyn: always have an open parachute over your head before you hit the ground

Anna Howerski: Go hard ALWAYS. Believe in yourself; you will get better – fact! Look after all your friends; we all need each other x

Rachel Gentle: Don't hire gear; invest in your own. And learn to pack ASAP – you need to understand how a rig works, not just shove it on your back!

Paul Morgan: If you take up this sport you will never have money, but you will be part of a small group of people that know what it means to be free... and that's priceless

Stu Taylor: Get on a progression course ASAP!

Denise McGrath: Stay current and relax

Owen Burbidge: There are a lot of people in the sport who think they know everything about everything. They don't. Seek out the best advice from people who know what they're talking about!

Janet Willcox: Not to be pressured into jumping very strong winds, just because I was the only girl and wanted to prove myself to the boys. Squares get you there, but in strong, gusty winds, round reserves and concrete really hurts you

Liz Telford: Never argue with your instructors, it will only give you a reputation as being a k**b!

Simon Maelzer: Don't try and copy your instructor's hook turn. He has 8,000-plus jumps and you only have 50. He landed coolly, I got taken to hospital in an air ambulance. And make sure you have insurance if jumping overseas. The helicopter ride costs $7,000 for 10 minutes in the air! I'm lucky to even be here!

Darren Chaney: Make your decisions early. If you get to the point where you think "I should be doing X about now", it's probably too late

PROGRESSION DATES



W for Wingsuits at the Z-Hills Christmas Boogie. Brit WS organisers Paul and Elana Cain and Spike and Jackie Harper make up the top left and top right of the formation. By Simon Repton

April

Saturday April 14
A/B licence briefs
Location: **Sibson**

Saturday April 14 - Sunday April 15
HEAT canopy course
Location: **Peterlee**

Sunday April 15
Packing class
Location: **Sibson**

Saturday April 28 - Sunday April 29
FS Roadshow
Location: **Peterlee**

May

Thursday May 3
B-licence day
Location: **Hibaldstow**

Friday May 4
Packing day
Location: **Hibaldstow**

Friday May 4 - Sunday May 13
Progression week
Location: **Black Knights**

Wednesday May 9
Packing course
Location: **Black Knights**

Saturday May 12
A and B licence briefs
Location: **Sibson**

Sunday May 13
Packing class with rigger Karen Saunders
Location: **Sibson**

Saturday May 19 - Sunday May 20
Top Gun Flight Safety
Location: **Netheravon**

Monday May 21 - Friday May 25
RAPS progression week
Location: **Netheravon**

June

Friday June 1 - Sunday June 10
Progression week
Location: **Black Knights**

Saturday June 2 - Sunday June 10
Student progression week – A and B licence briefs inc. packing course
Location: **Cark**

Wednesday June 6
Packing course
Location: **Black Knights**

Thursday June 7
B-licence day
Location: **Hibaldstow**

Friday June 8
Packing day
Location: **Hibaldstow**

Saturday June 9 - Sunday June 10
FS1+ Organising
Location: **Hibaldstow**

Monday June 11 - Friday June 15
Progression Week
Location: **Peterlee**

Saturday June 16 - Sunday June 17
Freefly coaching roadshow
Location: **Peterlee**

Saturday June 16
A and B licence briefs
Location: **Sibson**

Sunday June 17
Packing class
Location: **Sibson**

Due to copy deadlines this can never be an exhaustive list, and indeed many DZs arrange their progression dates around demand or bad weather instead. Check their websites, Facebook pages or give them a call for the latest dates and info.

A1 Section 6, paragraph 4.1
Altimeters must be worn by all Student Parachutists (other than Tandem Student Parachutists). Also, altimeters must be worn by BPA Licenced parachutists carrying out planned delayed openings of 15 seconds or more.

A2 Section 6, paragraph 4.2
The minimum instrument is a serviceable non-sensitive visual read-out altimeter, securely mounted in a suitable position.

A3 Section 6, paragraph 4.4
Tandem and AFF instructors must be equipped with an audible altimeter when carrying out Tandem and/or AFF instructional descents.



skydive academy
PETERLEE PARACHUTE CENTRE



UKSL 12-13 May
Peterlee

Training 4-way Teams receive a free camera slot all year.
Our own Cessna Grand Caravan the year round.
Second Grand Caravan standing by for UKSL.









Progression via Cat System and AFF. AFF Courses 8-15 Jun, 6-13 Jul,10-17 Aug
Licensed bar and newly built toilets, showers & bunk rooms.
Extensive indoor training and mock-up areas.
Our own Cessna Grand Caravan & Cessna 182 Aircraft.
Free FS & FF Coaching (two instructor slots per load). Kit hire available.
Free on-site WiFi, Ground Control, online manifesting & departure viewer.

Tel: 0191 5171234 email: SkydiveAcademy@aol.com
www.skydiveacademy.org.uk

Going BIG in Dubai

A WEEK OF WORLD FIRSTS AS THIS SUPER-EXPERIENCED TEAM PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN HUMAN FLIGHT

WORDS TAYA WEISS

Following a successful expansion project at Skydive Sebastian during the first weekend of the year, Raise the Sky's Project XRW partnered with Skydive Dubai during the last week of January for seven straight days of training with an expanded 13-person team. Over 30 training jumps later, the team had achieved goals never even imagined by most skydivers.

Project XRW is also dedicated to fundraising for Raise the Sky's Flying Dreams programme, which supports schools catering to low-income and underserved children. Flying Dreams facilitates skydivers visiting schools to inspire kids and help teach the next generation to believe in the impossible. At the same time, we remind ourselves to 'walk the walk' and make knowledge, learning, and safety our highest priority in expanding our horizons.

Led by a $1,000 personal donation from Jonathan Tagle, team members gave twice that to a Flying Dreams school in South Africa, the Pastoral Centre Preschool and Crèche. Over 300 kids, many of them orphans and all growing up in extreme poverty, will receive nutritional, emotional and educational support with this contribution – increasing the chance that they will grow up to change their community for the better.

Jumping at a non-stop pace, the team had to stay focused to move through multiple complex tasks. Communication was critical to safety and progress, both within and between the two disciplines. Jonathan Tagle and I co-ordinated the canopy pilots and wingsuit flyers respectively. We designated people to brief and signal to the pilot before and during every skydive. Planning each jump was a staged process beginning with mapping out slots and jump runs and culminating in dirt diving. On several jumps, the team landed on one of the fronds of the Palm with the assistance of a full ground crew from Skydive Dubai. It took a Twin Otter, a speedboat and a golf cart to make it happen. The results, and views, were spectacular.

Wingsuit videographers Mark Harris and Jeff Nebelkopf flew with every formation. In addition, Skydive Dubai sponsored a gyro-cam mounted in a helicopter and on a car, filming many of the jumps, operated by Fouad Dahdou and Chris Pope. After landing from a flock, the jumpers, ground crew and spectators had the opportunity to watch the raw gyro-cam footage on a large flat-screen TV. Jaws dropped. Even for those who had just been a part of the skydive, the experience of seeing it in this new way evoked an immediate, visceral, joyous reaction.

WANT TO PLAY?

One thing that the team behind Project XRW is very clear about is the difference between fly-bys and the development of XRW as a discipline. What we do is very well planned, controlled and focused on minimising the speed differentials between wingsuiters and canopy pilots. Fly-bys are not a way to learn XRW. The best method to prepare is to learn to flock with other jumpers in the same discipline.

So what does it take to get an invite to Project XRW? Mike Swanson, who joined the team in Sebastian and Dubai, put it this way: "Everyone who is doing this now has been in the sport a long time, and is a professional. And when things go wrong, they go wrong really fast. And it's amazing to see how fast they go wrong."

The best practice for XRW is a long, steady, dedicated progression in wingsuit formation flying or high performance canopy piloting, including flocking. There is no easy formula; you may have thousands of jumps and still not have achieved the right skill set to do XRW safely. If you have questions, seek out mentorship and advice from those of us who are active in the tiny XRW community, and don't take it personally if we suggest that you're not ready; it's just another reason to jump more and hone your skills.

***1** 3-stack with four wingsuits, by Jeff Nebelkopf*

TEAM EFFORT

This level of jumping benefited from the co-operation and input of a team far beyond the jumpers themselves: team manager Eli Bolotin; ground crew member Dan Dupuis, who spent his vacation time on the project; and the operations staff, manifest, packers and riggers at Skydive Dubai and the Skydive Dubai Desert Campus. With long days and long skydives – wingsuiters flew for over two minutes on each jump, and the canopy pilots got a constant workout wearing as much as 70 pounds of weight – the team slept well in sponsored rooms at the Habtoor Grand Beach Resort and Spa, walking distance from the dropzone. Not least, the team specially thanks His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum for his hospitality and vision. The week was a marathon, not a sprint. Every day was a game of patience, endurance and mutual support.

Because there is so much we don't know, every dive plan requires multiple attempts not just to attain perfection, but also to understand what is even possible. With the team gaining knowledge and confidence on each successive try, failure has to become part of the learning process rather than something to be ashamed of. In Project XRW, as in the schools we support through the Flying Dreams programme, not everyone starts out with the same level of talent or skill. To achieve our biggest goals, we have to put aside our egos and create a safe learning environment for everyone. When we do, we don't just make it look good, we reshape the way skydivers think about our sport, and the way kids think about their future. ➔

1



> There is no easy formula; you may have thousands of jumps and still not have achieved the right skill set to do XRW safely



2 4-way canopy diamond with four wingsuits, by Mark Harris



3 World's first Mr Bill rodeo transfer, by Jeff Nebelkopf



4 The Project XRW team, by Fouad Dahdou



5 Getting bigger... the flock builds to 10, by Mark Harris



6 The Project XRW team, by Fouad Dahdou



7 The organising team, by Fouad Dahdou



raise the SKY.org

PROJECT XRW 3D

SKYDIVE DUBAI







9

8 *Another world first: two canopy 2-stacks surfing two wingsuiters, by Mark Harris*

9 *A wingsuit-canopy co-ordination meeting! By Will Kitto*



Brit Mark Harris in his own words

"The biggest thing with the XRW for me personally has not been flying next to a canopy; it's the interaction between myself and the canopy pilot, in the same way as when you're in free fall you get the little eye contact, you get the communication between you and somebody in free fall. Well, having that with somebody under canopy – that was the one thing that really did it for me. I have been jumping for 17 years and this definitely feels new again.

"Skydive Dubai has definitely got some of the most stunning scenery. You look one way and it is dead flat, the sea, and then you've got the Palm in the middle of that. And you look the other way, you turn around to break off and you've got buildings right in front of you. I got caught up in one jump, just looking down and I was completely stunned by buildings stood up right in front of me!"



"Skydive Dubai has definitely got some of the most stunning scenery. You look one way and it is dead flat, the sea, and then you've got the Palm in the middle of that"

ACHIEVEMENTS

Mixed Canopy-Wingsuit Flocks
Tight 10- and 11-way mixed flocks over the Palm Jumeirah, one of Dubai's most famous landmarks.

The first ever 10-way vertical XRW flock.

XRW CRW
Three-stack of canopies with a wingsuiter docked underneath and others in formation.

Two 2-stacks of canopies flying side by side with a wingsuiter docked surf-style underneath each stack.

Mr. Bill Rodeo Transfer
A canopy pilot exited and deployed while holding onto a freefall jumper. Flying together under the single canopy, they met up with and formed an extended docked formation with a wingsuiter. The freefall jumper transferred from the canopy pilot to the wingsuiter's back and flew away in a rodeo configuration.

DATA ROUNDUP

Wing loadings well over 3.0 and sustained freefall speeds in the low 30s are numbers hard to imagine for most skydivers. Elite athletes are pushing the bounds of what is possible in the sport, and the details of how others may be able to participate are only now starting to emerge. In short, we do not recommend that anyone try XRW at home!

GPS: FlySight GPS units sponsored by Bionic Avionics helped the team to grow a pool of data, monitor wing loadings and track flight paths. The flocks seemed most comfortable when the vertical speed was between 30-35 mph.

Canopies: Performance Designs Competition Velocities, 71 square feet.

Front Riser Trim Tabs: A specialised tool to steepen the glide ratio of the parachute by holding down the front risers mechanically. Jonathan Tagle emphasises: "I don't recommend trim tabs at all – they are incredibly unsafe. They are just a Band-Aid fix that we are using currently, until we find a better system." At the higher wing loadings, the participants did not always need to use their front riser trim tabs. This is important, as the use of trim tabs can reduce the stability of the canopy.

Wingsuits: Tonysuit X2s, an advanced, highly pressurised suit requiring hundreds of wingsuit jumps to safely master.

Wing loadings: 2.5 to 3.2 on the most successful jumps. Even changing weight by a mere 2.5 pounds noticeably changed the performance of the flock.

WHAT CAN POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

Just in case you were starting to think it's easy...

Exits: For wingsuiters, flying larger suits and being very focused on watching and following canopy pilots that can be hard to see out the door creates a higher risk of a tail strike.

Approach: Collisions are always a danger, as in any formation flying. Wingsuit flyers aiming at canopies must have them visible at all times on the approach and take great care in being precise with their aim and flight path. Multiple wingsuits on approach towards canopies need to also be aware of each other to avoid a collision. Finally, high-performance canopy flocking comes with its own set of risks, and adding wingsuiters takes away much of a canopy pilot's range to use evasive manoeuvres.

Relative Work: A wingsuiter creates the same vortices that a canopy creates, and just as two canopies move towards each other when bumping end cells, a wingsuiter can get sucked into a canopy's burble, leading to injuries from contact with taut lines ("like a cheese slicer") and the possibility of a difficult malfunction for the canopy pilot.

It is very important in vertical formations to maintain wingsuit slots only at canopy pilots' body level – at the bottom of the formation – to make sure canopy pilots have clear 'outs' should they need to make evasive manoeuvres.

Surf-style docks could result in a premature deployment as the canopy pilot may engage in some aggressive handling of the wingsuiter's rig.

When flying smoke to highlight flight paths, chunks can fly off from smoke canisters without screens on them, risking hitting others in the formation because of the different positioning of wingsuiters relative to canopy pilots.

Breakoff: Wingsuiters flying in front of canopies have the potential to burble the high-performance parachutes, which can cause malfunctions.

Landing: For canopy pilots, the risks of landing very highly loaded canopies have been well documented. Trim tabs add another layer of risk. ●

Team

▶ Canopy Pilots:
Jonathan Tagle (Organiser)
Timmy McMaster
Billy Sharman
Mikeal Stevens
Wuzi Wagner

▶ Wingsuit Pilots:
Taya Weiss (Organiser)
Jhonathan Florez
Barry Holubeck
Will Kitto
Roberta Mancino
Mike Swanson

▶ Wingsuit Videographers:
Jeff Nebelkopf
Mark Harris

▶ Team Manager:
Eli Bolotin

▶ Ground Crew:
Dan Dupuis

10 10-way vertical flock. By Mark Harris

11 11-way mixed flock over the Palm. By Jeff Nebelkopf


Langar Boogie 2012
5-13 May
safe flight school empuriabrava
8-10 May
Learn to fly your canopy!
Call us to book a place
Beech 99 and both our Grand Caravans throughout the Boogie
Helicopter 9-11 May
Twin Otter 12-13 May
Organised skydiving for everybody - 9 days of awesome jumping!
Student Progression and FS Skills training week 7-11 May
Go Vertical 2-5 Jun
Organised Freefly!
15000 ft from the Beech 99
Go Vertical
Wingsuit Formations 2-5 Jun
Building up to big two-aircraft stuff!
UK Skydiving League 9-10 Jun
4-way competition
Dave Lewis' Pinch Jump 9-10 Jun
Organised FS for all levels - just turn up!
We are OPEN 7 DAYS
We operate TWO turbine aricraft
We have UNRESTRICTED ALTITUDE
Instructors and Coaches always available
Student progression training daily
Bar, Canteen, free camping, free WIFI
SKYDIVE Langar .co.uk
Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY
01949 860878
info@skydivelangar.co.uk
British Parachute Schools



PLANE GAMES

A bit of fun with a safety twist! Lean forward, cover a friend's alti with your hand (not the one that has your own alti on it!) and ask them what height they're at. Is it important to know on the ride to altitude? It is if your aircraft emergency drills depend on what height you're at.

If you're really low then your best chance may be to stay with the aircraft, but with a bit more height you could get out on your reserve. More altitude still and you could use your main. As a student you would follow your instructor's directions, but as an experienced skydiver you may be told to exit by the JM, or you may even be the JM. So if your actions would change according to what height you were at, are you aware of those heights as you pass them on the way to the top?

WHAT IF...?

The scenarios in this regular 'what if?' column are deliberately vague. There could be a number of different 'correct' answers depending on your experience and other information not contained within the question. However, following feedback at the AGM, it has been decided to reproduce some previously printed scenarios along with 'answers'... or at least things you might want to consider.

What If...

you are under canopy and think you can see an unmoving jumper off the dropzone in a tricky landing area?

Once you've had a think, see below for more ideas...

BPA statistics 1997-2011

The USPA magazine has an excellent safety section which includes American incident reports along with analysis of fatalities and their causes. I am often asked why I don't do the same in the BPA *Mag*, and the simple answer is that we just don't have the numbers to be able to do it. The USPA is far larger than us, and understandably has more accidents due to their sheer size. They averaged 21 fatalities per year for the last five years, so can write about them in every magazine. In contrast we typically only have one or two per year and, in fact, 2011 was the BPA's first fatality-free year since 1988.

All incidents on BPA dropzones are reported to the BPA, who collate them and try to identify trends. CCIs discuss pertinent incidents at bi-monthly STC meetings, and I receive all the incident reports myself. I then draw out particular lessons that can be learned from accidents and near misses, and publish those lessons as *Mag* articles or safety snippets.

The BPA's Technical Officer, Tony Butler, has compiled statistics that show the last 15 years broken down by total jumps, malfunctions or deployment problems, and injuries. An injury is anything that gets reported as such, from a twisted ankle to something more serious. As with most statistics, they can be read in many ways. We are definitely jumping more as the years go by, and the incident and injury rates seem to have improved over time, albeit with annual fluctuations.

Year	Total jumps	Malfunctions/ deployment problems	Rate of Mals/DPs	Injuries	Rate of injury
2011	**243,220**	**301**	**1 in 808**	**202**	**1 in 1,204**
2010	239,011	327	1 in 730	224	1 in 1,067
2009	**249,252**	**304**	**1 in 819**	**211**	**1 in 1,181**
2008	211,366	286	1 in 739	170	1 in 1,243
2007	**216,598**	**274**	**1 in 790**	**204**	**1 in 1,061**
2006	223,357	261	1 in 855	226	1 in 988
2005	**222,349**	**266**	**1 in 835**	**178**	**1 in 1,249**
2004	210,610	277	1 in 760	184	1 in 1,144
2003	**245,916**	**350**	**1 in 702**	**245**	**1 in 1,003**
2002	209,800	317	1 in 661	204	1 in 1,028
2001	**219,500**	**298**	**1 in 736**	**199**	**1 in 1,103**
2000	200,245	256	1 in 782	269	1 in 744
1999	**188,638**	**281**	**1 in 671**	**284**	**1 in 664**
1998	188,069	257	1 in 731	312	1 in 602
1997	**192,169**	**347**	**1 in 553**	**396**	**1 in 485**

Consider...

How can you best help them without getting yourself into danger? Are you first aid trained? Do you carry a mobile phone? If you land next to them, how much help can you be? Can you guarantee to land safely if you try to help – perhaps they're hurt because of a hazard such as power lines that you can't yet see? How might your answer differ if you have 100 or 1,000 jumps? Would it be better to land on the dropzone and alert the CCI who has the experience and manpower to respond appropriately? Can you describe exactly where they are and how to get there? While you're thinking about all this, are you aware of your own airspace and any other canopies or are you staring fixedly at the jumper on the ground? Is anybody else flying their canopy over towards them?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE INSURED?

Big-way jumper Steve Watson was on the first jump of an American holiday when a fast landing changed his travel plans.

"I couldn't go for my preferred landing area due to traffic, so ended up hot on the main landing area. I touched down towards the end of the grass, and started sliding on my feet. I would normally have dropped to my bum, tandem slide style, but was rapidly approaching a track at the end of the grass. I managed to continue to slide part way across the track but then my feet gained traction and I had to start running (like the Road Runner cartoon... beep beep!).

"I ran onto uneven wasteland on the other side of the track, and just as I felt my legs catching up with themselves (you know the feeling right?) and thinking I was going to stay standing up, my left foot must have gone into lower ground. I can't remember if I heard a crack, but I definitely felt it go, as the left leg just gave way under me, and I rolled.

"I remember thinking how odd it felt when it gave way, and what an weird-looking angle it was at when I came to a stop, laying on my right-hand side, with my left leg draped over my right.

"After they got me onto the golf buggy and took me back to the hangar, the DZ control guy 'suggested' I should go to hospital and get it checked out. He then asked if I wanted to make my own way there or should he call an ambulance; there was no hesitation in my reply!"

Suddenly things got serious

"When the paramedics got me into the back of the ambulance and started the morphine and oxygen, only then did they mention helicopters. Up until then, no one seemed to think it was that serious. It turned out that, because my knee was locked out straight when my foot went into the dip, all my weight got transferred through my femur into the top of my tibial plateau, and smashed it in several places. I also snapped my fibula but the doctor didn't seem too interested in that.

"A friend who watched it said "it didn't even look that spectacular". I was just unlucky with the terrain so, technically, not even a skydiving accident – more of a 'running' accident! ;)

"My insurance company has finally finished haggling and is paying the helicopter bill (or so they tell me!). They seem happy to have knocked 15 per cent off the original bill and are now paying $19,789 (£12,500), which still seems pretty expensive to me for a 56-mile helicopter ride. So, added to the $80,000 (£50,557) hospital bill, that's almost $100,000 (£63,200) and apparently there are still smaller bills arriving in dribs and drabs. So anyone considering visiting the USA for skydiving, without proper insurance, might want to think again!"

Steve wanted to share this story to show how it isn't only the horrific 'blood and guts' injuries that cost the big bucks. A lot of people think it has to be quite a spectacular or catastrophic accident for the bills to get big, but his experience proves otherwise, and also proves the importance of being properly insured abroad. Thanks Steve!






Deepseed
PRESENTS
ITALY 2012
Grand Turismo
THE ULTIMATE SKYDIVING HOLIDAY
Learn to skydive, AFF, FS coaching,
intro to freeflying, Canopy handling,
jump the Pilatus Porter, cheap accommodation,
excellent value for money, hot weather, cold beer
and heaps of FREE prizes! For more info, email us at
grandturismo@deepseed.com
Don't miss the experience of a lifetime!
Check out facebook /GrandTurismo2012
or www.deepseed.com/grandturismo
ALTI-2
Deepseed
Skydive Dedicated Hardwear
CYPRES 2
ALIMARCHE SKYDIVE FANO
VECTOR3
LARSEN & BRUSGAARD FLIGHT PERFORMANCE
Icarus FUCK YEAH!
Cookie





RIGHT BETWEEN THE SHORES OF **THE RED SEA** AND THE MONUMENTS OF **PETRA** ARE THE **BREATHTAKING** ROCK FORMATIONS OF **WADI RUM.**

STARTING THIS JUNE, FOR 3 WEEKS, **SKYDIVE DUBAI** IN COLLABORATION WITH **THE ROYAL AEROSPORTS CLUB OF JORDAN** WILL BE **JUMPING AT THE BASE** OF THE MAJESTIC **SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM.**

COME JOIN SKYDIVE DUBAI, AND ITS **TURBINE LIFT-POWER,** FOR **THE FIRST SKYDIVE JORDAN SUMMER BOOGIE.** AN AMAZING EVENT JUST MILES FROM **ONE OF THE WONDERS OF THE WORLD** AND FROM **THE SCUBA-DIVING PARADISE** OF AQABA.





SKYDIVE JORDAN

WADI RUM BAIT ALI LODGE
JUNE 8–30, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.SKYDIVEJORDAN.COM





RASCJ
نادي الرياضات الجوية الملكي الأردني
Royal Aero Sport Club of Jordan

SKYDIVE DUBAI

SD JORDAN

DESIGN /// FZSKY CREATIVE





CYPRES

Adjustable safety

Airtec of Germany, manufacturers of the ubiquitous CYPRES AAD system, are now offering new customers the option of increasing the activation altitude of their Cypres by up to nine steps of approximately 100 feet (30 metres) each.

The activation altitude is of course the height above ground at which the AAD will fire and cut the reserve closing loop if the jumper is still falling at a non-survivable velocity.

Since its inception the Expert Cypres has had the activation altitude safety net set at 750ft and this has served well, but now due to pressure from the marketplace the company felt it necessary to give the end user the option to increase this altitude if desired.

New CYPRES 2s will still come from the factory automatically set with the old 750ft setting and no doubt the majority of users will never change this. However, if the setting is increased it will remain until changed again, and will be noted on the CYPRES display to avoid confusion about the activation altitude selected.

The procedure to change the activation altitude is a foolproof one that needs to be carried out twice to affect the change. It cannot be done by mistake; you must really want to do it for whatever reason.

The company stressed that any decision to increase the activation altitude, and by how much, should to be taken by the user, preferably in consultation with the reserve and main canopy and harness/container manufacturers. Airtec are keen to point out that: "The higher the activation altitude, the more likely is a two canopy deployed scenario due to low main canopy activation."

Airtec went on to say: "Because of the variables involved, it is the user who bears all responsibility and consequences of his activation altitude setting. Airtec, the manufacturer of the CYPRES device, does not take any responsibilities thereof."

Talking maintenance

The turnaround time necessary for a routine four- or eight-year maintenance inspection for Cypres AADs has risen recently and is presently quoted as approximately four weeks.

So you might ask the question – Why does the CYPRES maintenance sometimes take longer than the usual two weeks?

Well, Airtec tell us that this delay is due mainly to two points. Firstly, the number of maintenance units is very high and it just takes a certain time for all units to pass through all the tests. Secondly, Airtec also have a very high demand for new units and those units also need to run through all those tests as well. As they have to work on both sectors simultaneously this all just takes extra time.

The company went on to say: "The regular scheduled two-week time-frame for the CYPRES maintenance consists of working and testing time. Many procedures require waiting periods (due to cooling/heating tests, chemical reactions, etc.). After dissembling the unit (opening the case, removing the pressure measurement technique and the electronics), all components are tested (temperature tests over several days with cooling and heating cycles, pressure tests with different pressure courses).

"Once the unit has successfully passed all tests and has been re-calibrated, the unit is reassembled (re-installation of all components, fixing and adhesion of the unit). The unit is then re-tested once more before it is certified and ready to return to the owner/user.

"A large number of tests are performed during the two-week period and it may be that a single component of the unit may not pass one test – if this situation did not arise from time to time, then there would be no necessity to perform the maintenance. In such a case, the component in question would be modified, repaired or replaced. As even the smallest modification may have adverse influences on other components, it is then necessary for the unit to go through the entire two-week maintenance tests again from the very beginning. This means that the unit would need to be at our premises for approximately four weeks before being ready to return to the owner/user.

"However, if a unit or one of its components doesn't pass this second maintenance cycle, the total time we require the unit for maintenance increases to approximately six weeks. Fortunately this happens very seldom. Even if Airtec does have to send the unit through the maintenance cycle once again after repairs have been carried out, the owner still only pays the flat rate price regardless of how much work needs doing to the CYPRES unit."

www.cypres.cc

SUNPATH STUFF





Amongst other things, 2012 is notable for being the 25th anniversary of Sunpath Inc, manufacturers of the popular Javelin harness/container system – have you been counting?

In this anniversary year, Sunpath will be giving away 25th anniversary T-shirts with new Javelins or Javelin Odysseys ordered in 2012. The T-shirts will also be available to order separately for $18.

Also now available as a no-extra-charge option on new Odysseys is the special 10th Anniversary Javelin Odyssey logo embroidered on the No 5 panel and ring cover.

Other news from Sunpath includes the introduction of a Javelin built specially for the classic canopy accuracy discipline. This Accuracy Javelin will feature a reserve container proportional to the jumper's weight with a main container large enough to hold an accuracy canopy such as a Para-Foil, Classic or PD Zero. The main ring placement, or canopy attachment point, is further back on the shoulder, which maintains the jumper in a more upright position under canopy, allowing them to more easily see a target directly below them.

The SPB or Sunpath Back Pad which was introduced in 2011 on smaller-size rigs, as reported in a previous Kit Zone, has proved to be very popular, say the company, and is now available on larger size containers.

www.sunpath.com

MOVING HOME

After 25 years in their old factory building, the guys at United Parachute Technologies UPT, formally The Relative Workshop, manufacturers of the popular Vector series of harness/container systems, and birth-place of the three-ring cutaway system and the throwaway pilot chute to name only a couple, have finally broken ground on the site of their new production facility in Deland, Florida.

The company tells us that the original planning started in 2008, but was delayed as UPT waited to hear whether the proposed air traffic control tower at Deland Airport/DZ would proceed. The effect of the tower to the local skydiving industry would have been devastating, and would have forced UPT and other skydive-related businesses to relocate, say UPT. Fortunately the tower was shelved by the Deland City Commission, which allowed the expansion plans of UPT to go ahead.

The company thanks the market for its patience and say that it is looking forward to a substantial reduction in delivery times in the future!

www.unitedparachutetechnologies.com

nzskydivingschool.com







progressive - proven - fun

- Diploma In Commercial Skydiving -

By Toni James

A Gap Year Experience that WILL

CHANGE YOUR CAREER

If you have your 'A License' or you're almost there, you now know the thrill of jumping out of a plane 12,000 feet above the earth, freefalling up to speeds of 120 mph, and landing on the DZ with 'reasonable' control under a large canopy. **Now it's time to take it to the next level.**

New Zealand Skydiving School will take you there with the **NZQA approved 'Diploma in Commercial Skydiving' and work experience** in the industry. New Zealand boasts the 2nd largest Tandem Industry in the world and our students have a **94% employment rate** in the Commercial Skydiving Industry.

Introducing our new World Champion Chief Instructor Gary Beyer (20,000+ jumps) who recently moved from Eloy Arizona, USA with his UK 4-way World Champion wife Emma Beyer and young family.

TRAINING INCLUDES (but not limited to)**:**

- Personal Coaching with Chief Instructor Gary Beyer
- **175 to 200 Jumps**
- 10 – 15 coached jumps
- **Classroom Lectures on Video Editing, Coaching, Meteorology and more**
- 12 weeks of work experience at a commercial dropzone
- **Discounted Equipment (based on new purchases)**
- NZPO (New Zealand Parachute Organisation) Licensing
- **Check our website for more information**



Take it to the next level and turn your hobby into a career!

UK residents can apply for a PCDL (Professional and Career Development Loan) and with a completion of the Diploma in Commercial Skydiving can apply for up to 3 years of Work Visas within New Zealand.

Contact the New Zealand Skydiving School today and start getting paid for doing what you love.

www.nzskydivingschool.com - admin@skydivingnz.com



FOCUS ON...
Tilstock DZ

SMALL IN SIZE, BIG IN CHARACTER, AND THAT'S JUST THE DZO! THIS SHROPSHIRE GRASS-ROOTS GEM IS WELL WORTH A VISIT

WORDS COLIN FITZMAURICE, DZ OWNER

HOW DID YOUR DZ BEGIN?
There has been skydiving at Tilstock since the early '60s under various guises, notably the Manchester Skydivers and the Manchester Freefall Club, and it is probably the oldest continuously operating civilian DZ in the UK. In 1987 Lyn George started the Sport Parachute Centre and I took over in 1995 when the name changed to just The Parachute Centre. Lyn is still heavily involved as Club Chief Pilot, looking after pilot training and all the flying aspects.

WHAT FACILITIES DO YOU HAVE?
The Centre clubhouse is undergoing a programme of refurbishment at the moment due in no small part to the enthusiasm of the members. Ange's Cafe is noted around the UK for the quality of her food but we don't have a bar at present, although there is a beer fridge, which is regularly restocked by various 'beer-fine' infringements. We have disabled access to the lounge areas and disabled toilets. A shower is available for the members and we have an indoor packing area and creeper pad. There is free camping on site.

WHAT DO YOUR KEY STAFF MEMBERS DO?
Whatever I tell them to! Seriously, we have an excellent team from the manifest/reception staff, the Tandem Instructors, the CSIs, riggers and camera flyers with a lot of crossover when required. We wouldn't be able to do it without the help freely given by our regulars and it's all well co-ordinated by the CCI Alex 'Buzz' Busby-Hicks. Steve Cooper looks after the Category System Student training and, of course, our team of pilots are indispensable.

1 Ann Fleming and Roger Hughes launch a 2-way, by Buzz

WHAT AIRCRAFT DO YOU USE?
At present, we have a Gippsland GA8 Airvan and a Cessna T206H Turbo 206.

WHAT KIND OF DZ DO YOU TRY TO MAKE IT INTO?
As everyone knows, we are closed on Sundays due to a local council planning restriction. We are also restricted in the number, size and type of aircraft we can use so we have to be a bit creative. We know that we're never going to be the biggest DZ so I try to make it as much of a fun DZ as possible, with a good social scene and regular parties! Occasionally we will get a turbine in, so watch this space.









HOW DO YOUR JUMPERS DEVELOP ONCE OFF STUDENT STATUS?

Progression is actively encouraged at Tilstock. FS1 and FF1 coaching is paid for by the DZ and is free to the student. We organise regular tunnel camps, progressing people through one-on-one to 4-way. I encourage jumpers to spend Sundays at other DZs which provide experience that it's hard to provide at Tilstock. By doing this they can bring back the skills they've learnt for everyone's benefit. It's exactly what I did as an early jumper, starting at the old Eagle Sports Parachute Club in Kent but travelling extensively and it seemed to work! We're always looking at new ways to improve progression and I'm open to ideas.

IN WHAT AREAS DO YOU OFFER COACHING?

FS and Freefly to Grade 1, with further coaching available by arrangement. We also run regular packing and Canopy Handling courses. In the near future we hope to be able to offer wingsuit coaching too.

WHAT EVENTS DO YOU RUN?

The canopy handling courses we have run to date are always well attended and more dates are planned. There are the monthly tunnel camps at the Manchester tunnel organised by Buzz, other tunnel camps with Danny Smith and we are also hosting BPA FF and FS Roadshows, CF coaching with *PH36* and WS coaching this coming season.

DO YOU FEEL PART OF THE BPA?

In general, yes, although that hasn't always been the case and I don't know of any DZO that hasn't had a run-in with the BPA at some stage! The BPA holds the fabric of UK skydiving together and it would be a lot more difficult to operate without it given the present and future challenges of European legislation. No one who has access to the various internet forums can avoid seeing the arguments against the BPA and the 'them and us' attitude. That hasn't changed in the 30-odd years I've been jumping and we didn't even have the internet then!

DO YOU HAVE UNI CLUBS?

Not at present but we're always interested to hear from university club organisers. Many DZs have discontinued static line progression, so we have much to offer.

DO YOU SPONSOR, OR HAVE ANY TEAMS THAT JUMP AT YOUR DZ?

We have a new rookie team starting this year and they will be getting a degree of sponsorship.

HOW DO YOU FEEL RUNNING A UK SKYDIVING BUSINESS HAS CHANGED?

Skydiving was always an expensive sport but the cost of flight tickets has actually come down significantly in real terms. People do expect more bang for their buck these days and rightly so. Tandems have made that possible for everyone but costs, such as fuel etc., have rocketed so the commercial side of the business is here to stay I'm afraid.

2 Club jumpers boarding the Airvan, by Buzz

3 (L-R) DZO Colin Fitzmaurice, CCI Alex 'Buzz' Busby-Hicks and Chief Pilot Lyn George

4 Packing in a Tilstock classroom, by Buzz

5 Paul Wood, by Barry Jones

DOES THE CLUB HAVE A GOOD SOCIAL SCENE?

In a word, yes. The Tilly parties are legendary, even going back to the Tilstock Boogies of the early '90s, which were the biggest events ever in UK skydiving and that record stands today. Even on a normal Saturday night there are often more than 20 people at the post-jump debrief (curry!). The Christmas party and Tilstock AGM are always well attended and we've started organising it now, so put December 8 in your diary!

WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR DZ?

The positive vibe. It can't be manufactured or forced and it has to come from the grass roots. The fact that our club jumpers will turn up at the DZ even though the weather isn't jumpable, just because they like being here is a testament to this.

WHAT ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA?

Being on the main A41, Tilstock must be the easiest DZ to find in the UK but satnavs still send newcomers off around the countryside! The local town of Whitchurch is full of pubs, restaurants, hotels and B&Bs. We're stabbing distance from the Snowdonia National Park and two major golf courses. There are walks to be walked and sights to be seen.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

Any expansion is limited by our local restrictions but we are always trying to improve facilities, equipment and training so, essentially, more of the same. ●

If Carlsberg located drop zones.....

turbine

JERSEY, ISLAND BOOGIE



SKYDIVE JERSEY

Sunday to Friday
19th-24th August

Beach BBQ Sunday
Pirate Party on Friday night

PIRATES
Ye Be Warned



ISLAND BOOGIE The Finist Boogie in the land !









Skydive Jersey is hosting its first turbine boogie for several years. With a turbine Finist booked, now is the perfect time to book your island get away. Jersey is located 100 miles South of England, a 1 hour flight, or a fast ferry crossing, will get you there. Pre- registration is required , and boogie is restricted to B Certificate and above. Visit this website for travel and accommodation advice. With Jersey's fantastic scenery and rich heritage, it's a great place to visit.

Jersey, where every jump's a beach jump.

Pre registration required at : www.skydivejersey.net/shop

Tel. 01534 747410

EasyJet, Flybe, BA, Jet2, Condor ferries

Shop with Skydive Jeresy, dealers for most parachute equipment manufacturers. Make great savings on new equipment and parts. **Order now for collection at the boogie!**

CLUBZONE

AFFILIATED DZs AVAILABLE TO BPA MEMBERS – HOW MANY HAVE YOU JUMPED AT?



BPA Affiliated DZs in the UK

1 Black Knights
Black Knights Parachute Centre
Hillam Lane, Cockerham,
Lancashire LA2 0DY
DZ: 01524 791820
T: 01772 717624
Mob: 07501 223151/2
info@bkpc.co.uk
bkpc.co.uk
Turbine Porter

2 Bridlington
Skydive GB
East Leys Farm, Grindale Road,
Bridlington, E Yorkshire YO16 4YB
T: 01262 228033
Mob: 07522 335713
info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
Cessna 206

3 Cark
North West Parachute Centre
Cark Airfield, Flookburgh,
Nr Grange-over-Sands,
Cumbria LA11 7LS
DZ: 01539 558672
T: 01229 889516
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

4 Chatteris
North London Skydiving Centre
Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea,
March, Cambs PE15 0EA
DZ: 01354 740810
T: 0871 6640113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

5 Cornish
Cornish Parachute Club
Perranporth Airfield,
Higher Trevellas, St Agnes,
Cornwall TR5 0XS
T: 01872 553352
Mob: 07790 439653
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

6 Dunkeswell
Skydive UK Ltd
Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell,
Devon EX14 4LG
T: 01404 890222
Mob: 07718 638000
info@skydive99.com
skydive99.com
Beech 99

7 Headcorn
Skydive Headcorn
Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn,
Kent TN27 9HX
T: 01622 891670
info@headcorn.com
headcorn.com
Cessna Caravan, Islander

8 Hibaldstow
Target Skysports
Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow,
Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648837
T: 0113 2505600
info@skydiving.co.uk
skydiving.co.uk
Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92 single turbine, Cherokee 6

9 Hinton
Hinton Skydiving Centre
Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley,
Northants NN13 5NS
T: 01295 812300
info@skydive.co.uk
skydive.co.uk
PAC 750XL

10 Jersey
Skydive Jersey Ltd
States Airport, St Peter,
Jersey JE3 7ZR
T: 01534 747410
info@skydivejersey.net
skydivejersey.net
Airvan, guest Turbines

11 Langar
British Parachute Schools
Langar Airfield, Langar,
Nottingham NG13 9HY
T: 01949 860878
info@skydivelangar.co.uk
skydivelangar.co.uk
2 Cessna Grand Caravans, guest aircraft

12 Netheravon
Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
T: 01980 628250
generalenquiries@netheravon.com
netheravon.com
3 Cessna Caravans, guest aircraft

13 Paragon
Paragon Skydiving
Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol,
Perthshire PH2 7TB
T: 01821 642454
billy.gollan@btinternet.com
paragonskydiving.co.uk
Cessna 182

14 Peterlee
Peterlee Parachute Centre
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery,
Co Durham DH6 2NH
T: 0191 517 1234
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
skydiveacademy.org.uk
Cessna 182, Cessna Grand Caravan

15 Reading
London Parachute School
Chiltern Park Aerodrome, Icknield
Road, Ipsden, Oxfordshire OX10 6AS
T: 0845 1307194
info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

16 Salisbury
Skydive Southcoast Ltd
Hangar 3, Old Sarum Airfield,
Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ
T: 01722 323628
info@skydivesouthcoast.co.uk
skydivesouthcoast.co.uk
Airvan, Cessna 206 and 172

17 The Silver Stars
Silver Stars
29 Regt, Duke of Gloucester
Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester
Gloucestershire GL7 5RD
DZ: 01285 868111
T: 07716 792942
info@silverstars.me.uk
silverstars.me.uk
Cessna Caravan

18 St Andrews
Skydive St Andrews
Osprey Road, Fife Airport,
Glenrothes KY6 2SL
T: 0845 189 5865
skydivestandrews@mail.com
skydivestandrews.co.uk
Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206

19 Strathallan
Skydive Strathallan
Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder,
Perthshire PH3 1LA
DZ: 01764 662 572
T: 07836 201953
kkbrady@btinternet.com
skydivestrathallan.co.uk
3 Cessna 206, guest Turbine

20 Swansea
Skydive Swansea
Swansea Airport, Fairwood,
Swansea SA2 7JU
T: 07779 019655
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk
skydiveswansea.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

21 Swindon
Skydive London
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm,
Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA
T: 01793 791222
info@skydivelondon.co.uk
skydivelondon.co.uk
Airvan

22 Tilstock
The Parachute Centre
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch,
Shropshire SY13 2HA
T: 01948 841111
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
theparachutecentre.com
Airvan

23 UK Para Beccles
UK Parachuting
Beccles Airfield, Ellough,
Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7TE
T: 01502 476131
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
ukparachuting.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

24 UK Para Sibson
UK Parachuting
Sibson Airfield, Wansford,
Peterborough PE8 6NE
T: 01832 280490
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk
skydivesibson.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

25 Weston
RAF 22 Training Group
Availability TBC

26 Wild Geese
Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh
Rd, Garvagh, Coleraine,
Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
T: 028 2955 8609
jump@skydivewildgeese.com
skydivewildgeese.com
Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs

Cyprus
Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58,
Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus,
T: 0035 724 744337
info@skydivecyprus.com.cy
skydivecyprus.com.cy
PBN Piston Islander

RAPA
Rhine Army Parachute Association
Flugplatz, Bielefelder Strasse,
33175, Bad Lippspringe, Germany
T: 0049 5254 982 2378
atgg-jspcloc@mod.uk
Cessna Caravan

Parachuting Societies

BCPA
British Collegiate Parachute Association
Sam Lee, BCPA Chairman
T: 07969 210201
mail@bcpa.org.uk
bcpa.org.uk
A community for university skydivers

POPS
Parachutists Over Phorty
Jeff Chandler, Top POP
1 Beaulieu Road, Boscombe Down,
Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7PD
T: 07779 580399
jeffchandler@hotmail.com
pops.org.uk

SOS
Skydivers Over Sixty
Contact: Niels Hansen
Flat 14, 21 Victoria Sq, Clifton,
Bristol BS8 4ES
nielshnsn@yahoo.co.uk





BRIDLINGTON skydivegb.com

Great expectations

Skydive GB is gearing up for the start of the busy season and the hardcore regulars are continuing to brave the cold weather, excluding Jay Targett and Ninja, who sought the warmer climates of Dubai. Congratulations to Jay who smashed the 100th jump barrier and came back with his FS1 – nice one Bomber!

George McGuinness has rounded up a bunch of merry CRW dogs and they are starting to look the part, canopy stacks, frappe hats and everything!

Jumping in the snow was an unexpected pleasure and the views over the coast of Bridlington were amazing. Watching canopies land became a new spectator sport and, between Mick Cosgrove and myself, we showed them all how not to do it!

The mighty Airvan has established her place in our hearts and is proving to be awesome. Bill Tiplady has invested a lot of time and effort into flying for the centre; he's so dedicated he even flew on his birthday. He apologised for having to leave early but thought it might be a bit rude not to turn up to his own birthday dinner. Thanks Billy, you're a hero!

A mention must go to Lofty Thomas who has recently been unwell but is positively on the mend. Nothing can keep an old-school skydiving legend down for long and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Congratulations to Andy Harris who finally came off the static line and onto freefall. I have no doubt that he will make an awesome freeflyer one day! It's amazing to watch students progress and a pleasure to be a part of that process.

Welcome back to Brendan Ireland in the canteen. You have no idea how much you've been missed; we've all lost weight since you've been gone. It's also a pleasure to see the lovely Ian Davies back in the air – about time too.

Skydive GB have great expectations for this year and we look forward to a productive, busy and enjoyable season with plenty of fun jumping, RAPS courses and tandems.

Sara Orton

***1** Alec Flint with tandem student Sophia, by Sam Orton*

***2** Alec Flint with tandem student Chloe, by Sam Orton*

Bodmin takes off

CORNISH cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

The Cornish skies have once again been filled with CPC skydivers (well a Cessna 206 full), with clear blue skies and light winds... on some weekends! In fact it was a record month for jumping at CPC in February!

It was also a fantastic start to the year at our student DZ, Bodmin. On our first day we managed six AFF Level 1s. Well done to Ali, Dan, Kelly, Zac, Kev and Tim; a great job done by all! There was also a Level 3 for returning Joe Robinson; good to see you back in the air.

Thanks to everyone involved; it was a busy day with lots more to follow, we hope.

Work continues on the outside of the clubhouse and, now we've taken on the canteen, it's looking all fresh thanks to Phil. Excellent work; thanks mate! Cheers also to Tim for his hard work behind the counter. Andy has provided us with some amazing posters, leaflets, flyers and canvas prints to turn it into a real DZ café! They look great and it's much appreciated!

We are now opening in the first week of each month at Bodmin for AFF and progression training. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather, and book some time off work!

Always good to see returning jumpers and friends at CPC although some, it seems, come not to jump, but just for a wild night in the upper deck – you know who you are! Here's to many more!

Ben Wood

HINTON skydive.co.uk



Flying pigs?

We are happy to announce the first graduate of the Canine Accelerated Free Fall Course. The idea came about after a number of club jumpers complained about having to leave their dogs at home on the weekends when they came jumping. Lilly the pug completed the course with flying colours, except on the first jump when she spotted a squirrel at the edge of the landing area and forgot to remove her rig before she could give chase. See the photo of her doing a practice flare. After the success of the canine course, another course catering specifically for cats is now in discussion!

A boogie for the end of the year is in the process of being organised and so far we can confirm a Concorde has come out of retirement. This 'once in a lifetime' chance to jump this legendary plane will be a real treat – freefly-friendly equipment only.

Record numbers of jumpers have come out of the woodwork to jump this early in the year. This has mainly been due to the unseasonal warm weather with tropical temperatures of well over 30 degrees at altitude.

And of course, we are very happy to welcome back the flying pigs to Hinton after they have been on a world freefall coaching course.

Sarah-Jane Peart

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF Graduate Damien Slade, Emily King, Dusan Garaj, Sebastian Bates FSI Philip Sparrow JUMP NUMBERS 50 Lee Waite 100 Gary Watson 200 Jonathan Maunder, Richard Madeley 300 Juls Klemp 900 Pete Wood

PETERLEE skydiveacademy.org.uk

Whatever the weather

Well midweek parachuting has been thwarted by strong winds in the early part of the year but this hasn't deterred the more stalwart amongst our numbers from coming to the fore; amongst them, Teesside University, encouraged by the ever cheerful Oli 'I'll wear my Bermudas, whatever the weather' Hudson. We welcome back Daniel Love too, after his recent injury.

The weekends have seen the return of some former regulars with Tony Cowan coming back from Australasia to relearn how to fly the Caravan. Bryn Chaffe has made an appearance in between jobs in Chatteris and Spain, and Lee and Jade Elliot have got ripped into instructing, briefing and dispatching, along with the recently qualified Nigel Peacock, for which we are very grateful; great to see them all!

The Parachute Regiment are beginning to make their presence felt too, with Darren Liddle, Keith Sharkey and Stephen Palmer now coming up regularly from Catterick. Sadly those midweek winds put paid to a families' tandem programme that the *Red Devils* were going to come up and run. Some students are endeavouring to defy the adverse conditions and have been battling their way through dummy pulls; notable mentions to James Perry and David Fusaro.

Tom Fletcher continues to put in an excellent shift, undertaking FS coaching with some great assistance from the regular jumpers. Two 4-way teams are emerging; *Team Element* (Piers Kittel, Oli Hare, Owen Burbridge and Tom Fletcher) and *Team Purple* (David Know, Keith Sharkey, Darren Strafford and Paul Finn). The centre has agreed to fund the video slots on their training jumps, which incidentally can be claimed by any 4-way team training at Peterlee.

FF coaching has taken a setback, with Tony Fernyhough currently on the ground having had an operation on his shoulder, but we have some CF coaching coming up with Chris Taylor, and the centre is continuing with the practice of funding up to two coaching slots per Caravan load. With our Cessna Grand Caravan, new manifest system and arguably the best toilet block in the Association we look forward to a great new season ahead of us.

Ian Rosenvinge





***1** Jackson by Ben Wood*

***2** By Phil Symons*

"jumpsuit makers to the stars"

Symbiosis Suits

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

www.symbiosissuits.co.uk

A full range of skydiving suits for every aspect of the sport:



"I received the suit today and to say I'm highly impressed is an understatement!" - Matt

"You just made the first Saudi female Skydiver a very happy person....." - Samar

"I received my LOPO suit recently and it is brilliant, very pleased with the service and workmanship." - John B

- Formation Skydiving
- Free Fly
- Style and Accuracy
- Canopy Formation
- Tandem
- Student training

LARGE STOCK LIST OF NEW AND USED RIGS AND CANOPIES ON OUR WEBSITE

Airtec
Icarus
Mirage
Sunpath
Aerodyne
Bonehead
Chute Shop
Sky Systems
Thomas Sports
Symbiosis Suits
Performance Designs





Run by Rob Colpus
(Kit Zone author)

"YES we mail order too"

www.thekitstoreltd.co.uk

The Kit Store Ltd

Headcorn Airfield, Kent TN27 9HX Tel: 01622 890 967 Fax: 01622 891 236
Email: symbiosis.suits@btinternet.com
Call, fax or email Rob Colpus for help or a brochure, or drop in to the Kit Store at Headcorn DZ at any time

BCPA

bcpa.org.uk

Doing the twist



BCPA Tunnel FF record (7-way), courtesy of Airkix

On the weekend of February 18-19, Airkix Manchester hosted the 2012 BCPA Indoor Championships, a long-running wind tunnel event but only the third year under the current name. With 16 hours of tunnel time flown by BCPA members, this year was the biggest ever. All 16 hours sold out within an hour of registration opening and this wasn't all taken up by 4-way teams; we also had the largest ever attendance, with 85 people.

As usual, FS and FF coaches from around the UK volunteered their time to the many teams, groups and individuals wanting to improve their flying skills. Without these volunteers the event wouldn't be what it is today, so a huge thank you to Steve, Jenny, Martin, Ben, Jonny, James, Joel and George for helping out.

An event which is normally dominated by flat flying, this year the BCPA Indoor Championships had more of a freeflying theme, with five entries in the FF competition and a new BCPA tunnel record set with seven freeflyers in the tunnel at once! The flatflyers weren't going to be upstaged though, putting forward a whopping 16 teams in the 4-way FS Competition. After three gruelling rounds, the long-running team from Durham University came out on top. Congratulations to Lucy Eldred, Tom Berryman, Harry Hill and Sarah Boyd!

The Tunnel Twister competition, often a highlight of the event, was spontaneously spiced up with a few new moves, including 'head' and 'testicle', in addition to the usual 'left hand' and 'right foot' etc. Four targets around the tunnel weren't enough, so 'tunnel rat's face' was also added to their amusement (and concern!). Special mention must also go to the 4-way Tunnel Twister attempt by *Team Eclipse* (who actually scored fairly well!), and Seb Mulder who, with zero jumps and just six minutes' tunnel time under his belt (done earlier that day!), managed to score 13 points, even beating some experienced skydivers! He has since gone on to complete AFF Levels 1-5 successfully in a single weekend, receiving high praise from his instructors. Nice work Seb! Congratulations also to Martin Roberson who won the very closely scored event with 21 points in his best round.

Looking forward, the event is booked at Bodyflight in 2013 and back to Airkix Manchester for 2014. We are open to suggestions to improve the event further, so please get in touch if you think of anything.

Finally I am happy to announce that the BCPA has found a new sponsor in the form of The Jump Shop. With DZ stores at Beccles, Sibson and South Cerney, and a great online shop at www.thejumpshop.co.uk, not only does The Jump Shop offer some great deals on everything from beginner packages to complete rigs, but they will contribute £250 towards entertainment at the BCPA Nationals 2012 event, and also contribute five per cent of the value of all purchases made with the reference 'BCPA' towards the event as well. Thanks to Damo for offering such a cracking deal and his ongoing support of the BCPA!

Sam Lee



Pic by Rod McCrory

CYPRUS

skydivecyprus.com.cy

After a month off, 2012 started with clear blue skies and warm weather, as you would expect in Cyprus. A change of CCI has seen the arrival of Martin White from Weston while Mark Bayada departs to civvy street (Iain Anderson now gets his rigging room back). Chief Pilot Ray Pinchen-Wilson has also departed so, on behalf of the club, many thanks to Mark and Pinch for all their valuable help over recent years.

Numerous club jumpers have continued to jump through the cooler months and, as the temperatures are warming up, more and more regulars are returning back. Over the last couple of months there have also been a few visitors from the UK escaping the freezing British winter.

ACHIEVEMENTS
FIRST FREEFALL
Ben Humphries
FSI Laura Child
JUMP NUMBERS
50 Neil Connell, Shaun Borley
200 Tom Hollands, Olly Child

Steve Thomas has been running wingsuit training days, some new flockers can be seen over the picturesque Larnaca Bay and Pelham continues to progress the ever-growing student fraternity.

4-way is currently proving popular and the possible re-emergence of the Cyprus Championships has been rumoured – now in the early planning stages. We're also holding the inaugural Cyprus Film Fest in June for the budding videographers on the DZ. Packing and FS progression days are also in the Club Diary, so a fun-filled forecast for 2012 is predicted in Cyprus.

Martin White



HAD A RESERVE REPACK RECENTLY?
DID YOU GET....?

- ❑ Thorough inspection, air, repack of reserve canopy?
- ❑ 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?

NO? YOU DO HERE

POINT ZERO

BE SAFE

While you wait reserve repacks available by appointment

Rig courier service available
Evening drop off/collection (ring first)

Point Zero Ltd, Hinton Airfield, Brackley, Northants. NN13 5NS UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: +44 (0)1295 810600 sales@pointzero.co.uk
www.pointzero.co.uk



CHATTERIS ukskydiving.com


Happy Days by Adam Gooch

Hello, goodbye

Despite the snow back in February there's been a lot of jumping, so all in all a great start to the year! The new upstairs packing area is almost complete; it will provide extra space for the club jumpers to relax, and pack of course.

Building of the new clubhouse should commence soon. It's going to be situated where the old 'blue room' used to be. We're really excited about it, it's going to be awesome, with a bar, gym and hot tub!

I'm afraid we're saying farewell to two of our full-time staff, Bryn and Ro. Bryn is off to work in sunny Spain; good luck out there, Chris will miss you a lot – the rest of us will miss you a little too. Ro has just returned from travelling in Thailand for two months, and is planning on returning to vet nursing during the week as well as doing part-time camera here at weekends, with a bit of 4-way camera too. We look forward to seeing you around! Welcome to Adam, Graham, Tim and Yo who are all either joining us full-time or changing positions.

Good news! We are still offering £16 jumps any day, including weekends. Also, if there's two or more of you planning to jump together all day, then our Wednesday deal might be of interest, with £13 slots – please see the website for more details.

The coaching deal has been very useful for pre-FS1 jumpers. If you'd like to gain FS1, give it a try, it's only £13 per slot (two slots) and £5 for the coach. We've extended our range of kit hire, and more rigs available equals more jumping!

Lorraine Dixcey

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT 8 **Robynne Haynes, Jakub Grymula** JMI and CH2 **Tim Freegard, Paul Bateman, Ross Andrews, John Payne** FSI **Christian Bote-Kwame** JUMP NUMBERS 400 **Antonio Val, Martin Jarvis**

LANGAR skydivelangar.co.uk

ACHIEVEMENTS First Freefall **Liam Corbett, Ben Mitchell, Christine Fleming, Tony Hancock, James Heyes** Cat 8/CHI **Trevor Allport, Chris Prior, Edward Karam** FSI **Albert Vidinaru, Tristan Hampson, Alastair Campbell, Sam May, Joe Wildish, Luke Thatcher, Scott Kirton** FFI **Luke Wigman, Albert Vidinaru, Grace Gimson, Jack Bradford, Ian Rutherford, Joe Wildish** WSI **James Pritchard** JUMP NUMBERS 50 **Ricardo Quail** 700 **Ross Lambert** 1,700 **Chris Cook** 1 Hour Freefall **Ricardo Quail**

Let's boogie

The National Women's FS *Team Bodyflight Aerodyne* have started their training schedule at Langar – if you have a team in training, contact Sian on 01949 860878 for rates and coaching info, or email: info@skydivelangar.co.uk.

Even if you're not into team stuff, we have coaches and organisers working hard every weekend, and instructors are available for students at all times, so if you're looking for somewhere to improve your skydiving, try us out! Dave Lewis, Billy Payn, Will Cooke, Fiona Birnie and Jake Diliberto keep the experienced guys and gals happy with organised stuff. Come and join in!

During the upcoming Langar Boogie, we're running progression programmes for students, flatflyers and freeflyers – there are no coaching fees to pay, just pay for slots – plus we've got Brian Vacher with his Safe Flight School. And, of course, there will be extra aircraft and plenty of organised skydiving for everybody throughout. And don't forget the parties!

For the wingsuiters, from June 2-5 we have four days (thanks to Her Majesty) of organised formations building up to 25-way flat diamond formation attempts – two-plane wingsuit big-ways! If you haven't done so already, you need to get your name down for this in advance – contact Ross Lambert by email (rossjlambert@hotmail.com) or find him on Facebook. Check out the details at www.skydivelangar.co.uk. Freeflyers get their Go Vertical event over the same weekend (with the Beech 99 to 15,000 feet) so the skies should be filled with interesting jumps!

Tony Danbury


Jill Judd's first jump post-FS1, by Sam Bemment

HIBALDSTOW skydiving.co.uk


6-way by Mike McNulty

AGM was a great a success for Skydive Hibaldstow; our very own Duncan Cockburn received the award for Instructor of the Year! Thanks to all the support from our regular skydivers and students for your attendance and a big thank you to Kris Cavill for the amazing stand there.

February started off well but, before you knew it, there was inches of snow and the view of the landing area disappeared under a white blanket. However, that didn't stop us from jumping, Stu from organising some great 6-way jumps and our students from achieving Cat 8s and FS1 qualifications – particularly Jack Wenbourne for achieving his A Licence in only 18 jumps! Along the way, our very own Blythe Davies and Ant Hill achieved the FS Coaching status. Well done to them.

Simon Cathrine took a weekend with our pre- and post-FS1 skydivers to get their skills

ACHIEVEMENTS FFI **Dave Argent** FSI **Paul 'Dodge' Rogers, Kristian Groom** Cat 8 and CHI **Charlie Code, Jack Wenbourne** JUMP NUMBERS 100 **Guri Melcher** 200 **Dave Argent, Tim Key** 300 **Kris Cavill**

shining, while Stu took some of the boys over to Seville for his stag weekend. On the last weekend in February we jumped over 50 tandems for the charity St Michael's Hospice. Congratulations to Stu Ferguson and Lisa on their marriage in March and also to our resident tandem instructor and camera flyer Wez and office receptionist Kerry on their marriage in April. Finally, congratulations to Karen Bain and James Swallow on being elected on the Council for the BPA.

Coming up in May: Skysaver week, 4-way with SonicNutz, Head-down record warm-up and 8-way scrambles with Dave West and, as usual, resident Stu organising FS.

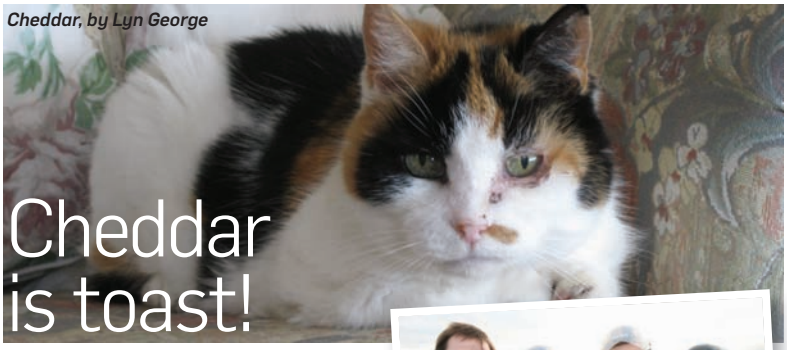
Kerry Foster


Professional Service
with a
Personal Touch!
AeroStore
CORP.
PARACHUTE SALES & SERVICE USA
Shop On Line Now For Best Prices!
www.aerostore.com
1-610-327-8555
Photo by Justin Carmody
JAVELIN Odyssey
MIRAGE
ICARUS Crossfire 2
CYPRES 2
Vigil
Performance Designs Inc.
VECTOR 3
Larsen & Brusgaard
120 North Charlotte Street, Pottstown, PA USA 19464
TEL: 610-327-8555 FAX: 610-327-8445


Come skydiving
in Australia
Visit the Ramblers Drop Zone at Toogoolawah
for excellent weather, aircraft, facilities,
accommodation, coaches,
student training and equipment.
Next Equinox Boogie
20th-28th October 2012
Check out our new website and find out why
Skydive Ramblers is Famous for Fun!
Email: skydive@ramblers.com.au
+61 7 5423 1159
skydive ramblers
www.ramblers.com.au
TOOGOOLAWAH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA


GA8 Airvan
SUPERIOR CYCLE TIMES
RELIABILITY • SAFETY
IN-FLIGHT SLIDING DOOR
WHAT'S YOUR NEXT ADRENALIN RUSH ?
The turbo-charged GA8 Airvan gives you the versatility to deliver large formations to 14,000ft. The large cabin sliding door allows easy exit for jumpers, while the quick cycle times result in the most economical solution.
Up to 9 Jumpers
14,000ft Formations
Tandems
Contact your Airvan representative
Kerry Ashcroft
Call +44 (0)7540 162002
airvan@btinternet.com
www.gippsaero.com
Find us on Facebook
Look for us at Friedrichshafen
April 18-21, 2012 | Stand #SD53
GIPPSAERO
A Mahindra Aerospace Company

TILSTOCK theparachutecentre.com



Cheddar, by Lyn George

Cheddar is toast!



Ann Fleming 200th jump with Eddie Milnes, Nicky Marr and Simon Davenport. By Alex Busby Hicks

We've had a few really good days since we started back on January 14. Unfortunately, we've also had some horrible low cloud, rain and wind that has tried to spoil our fun. However, we've not let the weather win, with plenty of briefs and packing practicals going on when we can't jump.

Dale Hamilton has recently gained his packing certificate after successfully completing his tangle test. If the bad weather continues it won't be long until the twister chair rears its ugly head again, and this time I'll be making sure that Edward and Robert (also known as Batman and Robin) are not allowed to play with any duct tape!

Our students have been making the most of the good weather days. Martin Price recently nailed his unstable exit and dive exit and we've had a lot of static line students back after the winter break. The FS progression is also continuing with Steve Parton successfully gaining his FS1 sticker. Lee Rhodes is now available for FF coaching, and FF and FS coaching is free to all club members working towards their FS1 and FF1 and the club covers the coaches' slot; pretty awesome really!

Our old friend and tandem instructor Martin Wilshaw has been back for a visit. He's recovering well after his car accident last year and everyone was really happy to see him. He managed to coincide his visit with our Isle of Man contingent, Johnny and Trish, who always bring Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and he even did a tandem brief for us. We are all looking forward to seeing Martin around the DZ more as his health continues to improve.

We've welcomed a new manifester, Michelle, who has replaced Sally who's still sunning herself in the Caribbean! We all miss Sally but we have her many colourful pictures to remind us of her! So far Michelle is doing a great job and is making me very happy as she covers for me so I can play in the sky!

Juliana Bergel is off to the Nicaragua boogie, meeting up with another Tilly originator Regan Tetlow. I'm sure they will have some great pictures for the next update.

And now some sad news; it is with deep regret that I announce the passing of Cheddar, the DZ cat. Cheddar worked at The Parachute Centre Tilstock for many years after being found on the airfield as a very young kitten. She lived in the bunkhouse and will be remembered fondly by many of the older jumpers. She retired in 1996 to live in Somerset with the Chief Pilot's Mother. After a very happy and active retirement she was taken from us very suddenly after a visit to the vet. She would have been 21 in May.

We're now open on Fridays, Saturdays, bank holiday Mondays and some Thursday dates are TBC. We are also taking names for the next packing course, which will be run on a Sunday. Call us if you'd like a place.

May 18-19
BPA FS Coaching Roadshow with Sarah Cannon, Brian Cumming and Joel Gluth
Date TBC
CF Coaching Roadshow by *PH36*

Ann Fleming

ACHIEVEMENTS FSI Steve Parton JMI and CH2 Adam Smith JUMP NUMBERS 200 Rob Wilson, Ann Fleming

CARK skydivenorthwest.co.uk

As we move into our 40th year of continued operation, preparations are under way for the celebrations. We've now confirmed most of our dates, with the main celebrations taking place in our open week in June, which starts with our summer ball on Saturday June 2. Dust off your party frocks, press your DJs, grab some champers and a hog roast sandwich and, knowing the British weather, don't forget your wellies. Oh, and canopies will be available all day!

Following the ball we have the BCPA contingent arriving and on Tuesday June 5 and Wednesday June 6 we have arranged two days of helicopter jumps. Capable of carrying five jumpers and coinciding with the Queen's diamond jubilee (a declared bank holiday), if you fancy a lob out of a chopper on your day off ensure you put the date in your diary.

Event dates
June 2-10 – Cark Week 1: With summer ball and heli jumps (June 5-6)
July 14-15 – UKSL 4-way FS Competition (registration open until wheels-off, Saturday 9.00)
August 2-10 – Cark Week 2: Big-way coaching, organised loads and beach BBQ

Warburton's, the well known bread maker, and their fearless staff led by their chief engineer, Steve Steward (happy birthday), arrived to erect Steve's banqueting suite for their tandem weekend and birthday celebrations. The marquee was erected early on Friday, and the goodies, such as the bucking bronco and hog roast, soon arrived. Saturday evening was a more than loud affair, with an amazing band playing some awesome tunes into the early hours. Along with approximately 1,500 Warburton bread buns, the roast and buffet were devoured, as you would expect on any DZ full of skydivers being offered freebies. Steve – many happy returns.

This year will see another facelift to the centre with new lecturing facilities being installed and the conversion of our existing lecture rooms to an on-site rigging facility. This is being developed to assist downtime of club and personal equipment. When up and running we should have at least one qualified rigger available on site every weekend. Congratulations to Simon Nath on passing the first stage of your riggers course and Gary Yerrill for gaining his CSBI.

Congratulations to all our most recent achievers. Keep your eye on our website and Facebook pages to keep up to date with our plans.

Stu Morris



ACHIEVEMENTS FSI Steve Steward, Scott Allender and Ali Woodhouse AFF Qualified Rob Cartlidge JUMP NUMBERS 1,600 Helen Shaw 1,800 Duncan (First Choice) Haynes

RIGS & THINGS
Paraservice



For all your skydiving needs!

Pay less... Skydive more!

PROUD SPONSORS OF PATRICK BOULONGNE
WINNER OF THE FRENCH NATIONALS SWOOP 2011

www.para-service.com
Email: info@para-service.com
Toll free: 1-877-TOP-RIGS
Phone: 1-239-282-8834
Fax: 1-239-283-6241

HARD TO BEAT



rainbow DESIGN

rainbow design gmbh

Flugplatzstraße 3 | D-16833 Fehrbellin | Germany
T: +49(0)33932-72461 | F: +49(0)33932-72463
E-Mail: info@rainbowsuits.com

www.rainbowsuits.com



Skycover is a specialist provider of skydiving insurance. We provide high levels of Personal Accident cover for skydivers at competitive prices.

Single jump cover is available for just £25*, and provides £100,000 of death benefit, one of the highest amounts available for skydiving in the UK.

Frequent jumper? For just £80* you can take advantage of an annual policy, covering you for each and every jump throughout the year.

***including insurance premium tax and administrator fee.**

sky diving insurance
skycover

Buy online at www.sky-cover.co.uk
Or call 0844 892 1515 for more information

*Subject to terms and conditions. Full details of policy cover can be found at www.sky-cover.co.uk
Sky Cover and Towergate Insurance are trading names of Towergate Underwriting Group Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.
Registered Number: 4043759

towergate insurance

Love is in the air

SIBSON skydivesibson.co.uk

ACHIEVEMENTS FSI Iain Martin, Paul Stevenson, Brad Dimmock WSI Derek Hancock
JUMP NUMBERS 200 Suzi Scott 400 Sam Lee 500 David Narey 600 Johnny Moore
Qualified as a Pilot Pete Grey Jump Pilot examiner Dan Rose



Nathan O'Conoll, by Sarah Hall

It appears that love is in the air at UK Parachuting Sibson. Following Chris and Lesley's engagement in the Maldives, Sarah Hall and Guy Martin are moving in together, as are Duncan Robertson and Nicola White, and I have now proposed to my long-suffering partner Joanne Dawson.

We've had a record February; last weekend alone we did 30 lifts. The RAPS and AFF programme really took hold and we started rattling through the levels. Yuri and Hendrick are now well on to freefall.

Grant and Tomo returned safely from their biker trip around the west coast of the USA. When we say safely, we mean that their livers are hanging on in there. Every day involved riding many miles on the Harleys, followed by half a glass of wine in the evening over dinner.

A few more changes around the DZ as promised; firstly, welcome to Karen and Steve Saunders. Karen is our new on-site rigger taking over the rigging facility. She is on hand every weekend now to take care of all your rigging needs. If you've dusted off your rig since last season then stop by to see Karen to get it checked over. We have a number of displays in the pipeline in the local area, including the East of England show. If you fancy becoming display qualified, get in touch with the office and we can sort it out for you. It's great fun and normally finishes with a beer at the show.

The B-Cert day was a resounding success; Guy Reynolds did an amazing job giving all the briefings needed. There's another one next month. Karen Saunders also ran the packing class on the Sunday.

Well done to our very own Pete Grey (uncle Pete) for qualifying as a private pilot. Pete has been at Sibson for about 100 years and used to be a camera flyer, until having a serious car crash a few years ago. Pete has been on the mend ever since and now helps out on DZ control when he is well enough. Pete we all love you and extend our thanks and, of course, wish you well on your next hospital visit in April.

And finally, the rumours are true! There's going to be a static line accuracy competition for our regular jumpers; minimum entry is A-certificate. The format is that you will be despatched from the aircraft in normal static line gear and judged by the instructor on body position and grace, and given a score out of 10. You can redeem your poor exits by landing accurately on the 30m target, again judged out of 10. The highest score wins a prize and a real trophy! £10 registration fee and then £20 for the jump; excess proceeds go to Help for Heroes. Call or email the office to register.

Events:
May 26-27 – FS Scrambles
29 June - July 1 – Safe Flight School with PD Team Member Brian Vacher
July 4-8 – British Collegiate Parachute Association (BCPA) UK Nationals
July 23-29 – UK Parachuting Sibson BOOGIE
September 8-9 – FS Speed 8 and CF Nationals

Paul Dorward

NETHERAVON netheravon.com



Never say never at Netheravon

Not even a massive military exercise could stop Netheravon jumpers from skydiving. From February 17 - March 4, the dropzone upped sticks and moved to Middle Wallop Airfield and the kind hospitality of the Army Aviation Museum. Along with fun jumping, there was a very successful FS Coaches' Certification Course run by Mark Bayada and, on Sunday February 26 , Ed Moss, Paul Aubrey-Rees, Sean Hughes, Jack Bradford and Ben Lawford qualified and are now ready to help new Cat 8 skydivers improve and advance.

That same weekend, the APA took delivery of three new i-bird wingsuits. The i-bird has smaller wings and adjustable inflation and sizing zippers, making these suits perfect for all shapes and sizes of wingsuiter and can be used safely by first-flight students. With several WS coaches regularly on the DZ, these suits will play an integral part in Netheravon's progressive, safety-based approach to wingsuiting – although there was a bit of a bun-fight to see who could try them out first!

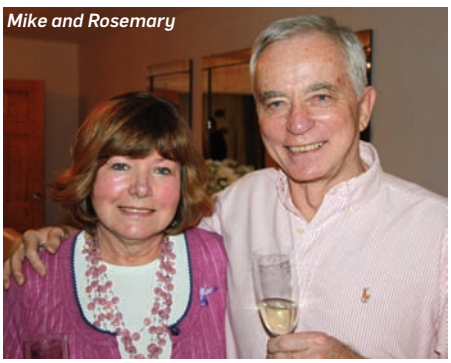
Airkix Euphoria (sponsored by the Army) were also in action on their first training weekend of the year. They've branched out to include Alex Dand and Andy Godwin as *Euphoria Free Style*, as well as Dave Pacey, Paul Capsey and Andy Myers as *Euphoria Freefly*. *Euphoria*-run coaching weekends are held throughout the year.

With 2012 being the 50th anniversary of the APA, keep an eye on www.netheravon.com for details of celebration events. Along with the Skyvan and 60-way for the Jubilee weekend, we have the anniversary boogie on June 30-July 1 and finishing up with the 'Golden Ball' on October 20 – yes, the ball is back!

The end of an era

After eight years as Commandant of the JSPC and three years as Secretary of the APA, Mike Smith has decided to retire. Over the years, Mike has steered the dropzone through numerous transitions and leaves Netheravon as one of the biggest and best DZs in the country. His passion and commitment to Netheravon has been immense and he takes with him the thanks and best wishes of all club jumpers past and present. We suspect, however, that now he is released from the confines of the APA office, we will be seeing more of him in the air. Rosemary Smith, Mike's better half, has also decided to hand over the reins of the canteen and is looking forward to enjoying time off with Mike. Thank you Rosemary for keeping us all fed and watered over the years. We look forward to sharing a brew with you on the other side of the counter.

Elana Cain and Kathryn Salisbury



Mike and Rosemary

Opening Shock

RED HOT Package DEALS

Men & Womens Apparel
Closing Pin Necklaces
Stickers and DVDs

DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME



Skydiving
Is Not For Pussies



LIVE LOVE SKYDIVE

GRAVITY POWERED

OpeningShock.com
1-760-223-3553 USA

PROTRACK

AUDIBLE ALTIMETER & FREEFALL COMPUTER

Skydiver Trusted Since 1998

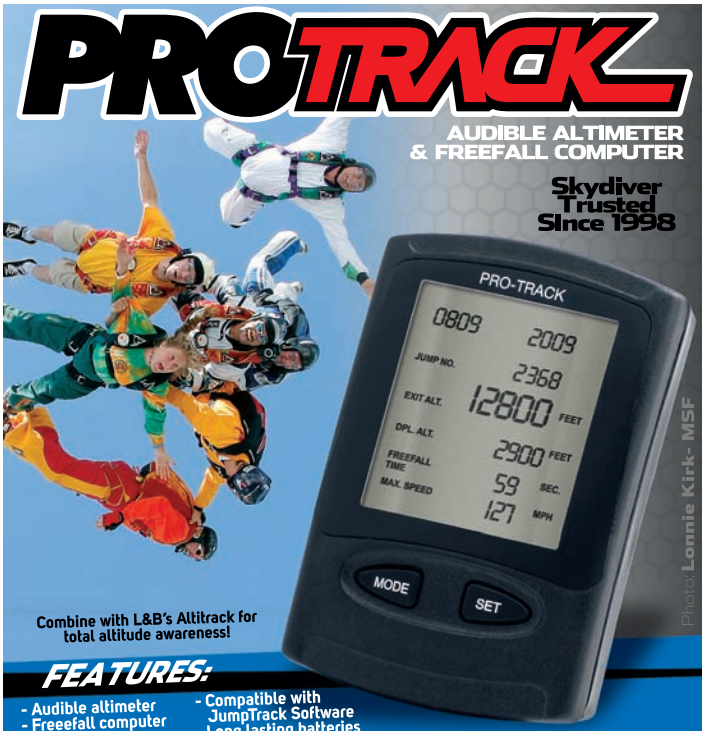


Photo: Lonnie Kirk- MSF

Combine with L&B's Altitrack for total altitude awareness!

FEATURES:

- Audible altimeter
- Freeefall computer
- Digital accuracy
- holds 9,999 jumps
- Detailed freefall info for the last 200 jumps
- Compatible with JumpTrack Software
- Long lasting batteries
- 1, 2 or 3 warning alarms
- Logs exit & deployment altitudes
- Calculates freefall speeds
- Sensitivity settings for wingsuit & BASE

FLIGHT PERFORMANCE

LARSEN & BRUSGAARD
www.L-and-B.dk

Ledreborg Alle 28 • 4000 Roskilde • Denmark • +45 46 48 24 80 • Fax » +45 46 48 24 90 • l-and-b@L-and-B.dk

Skydive Netheravon

APA Boogie on 30 June-1 July

3 aircraft, balloon jumps and a raffle with top prizes to include a GO Pro and Neptune N3 Altimeter.



- 1st Class facilities
- 3 Cessna Caravans
- Huge indoor packing area
- 4 classrooms all rigged for debriefs/presentations
- Biggest DZ in the UK
- Special rates for team trg
- Excellent canteen and bar facilities
- Free bunk house (first come first served)
- Camp site



Tel: 01980 628250 Email: generalenquiries@netheravon.com

www.netheravon.com

HEADCORN

headcorn.com

ACHIEVEMENTS JMI CH2 Michael Morton JUMP NUMBERS 500 Craig Crosbie
ONE HOUR FREEFALL Rob McIlvenny TWO HOURS FREEFALL Simon Beech

Busy start to 2012

As winter slips further behind us, Headcorn is emerging with more life and progression from its skydivers than ever, promising an epic 2012! A few tandems were lucky enough to be jumping in the snow over a very scenic Headcorn, with a few fun jumpers enjoying the rare sight as well.

The Islander, a trusty workhorse for 31 years, has served Headcorn well but by now will have made its final flight for us. However, the Caravan is soon to be joined by a new addition – a five-seater Turbo 206. Charlie Wakeham's 100th jump went down in total style with big-way carnage, which was thoroughly expected and didn't disappoint!



Tandem instructor Clem Quinn with tandem Natalie Hook, Adam Hughes on video duties

After much work by Pete, running around with various coloured wires (rather disturbingly), the electronic manifest is now up and running and a total success. Headcorn offices have been totally refurbished and next on the agenda is the on-site accommodation, which will hopefully be ready for the summer party season. Some of Headcorn's core skydivers have been committing many hours of tunnel time to progress their freeflying skills. With the high-level coaching of Adam 'Killa' Mattacola, this will ensure that freeflying at Headcorn is going to be alive and stronger than ever in 2012 and beyond.

Our resident skydiving legend, Chris Lynch, gave one of his 'Wingtips' canopy handling seminars. Chris is looking to do more in 2012 on all aspects of canopy handling, so watch this space. After a bit of ill health, we're pleased that Headcorn's new receptionist, Jo Hunter, is now back at work and looking forward to completing her AFF with Auntie Jane.

The opening of Wings Bar is now very much imminent. Jo Hunter and Adam Hughes' engagement party will kick it off (should be a very civilised evening that one!). Skydive Headcorn/Air Affair's annual Deland, Florida trip with Simon Hughes is set to leave a lasting impression on the States, with 34 skydivers arriving with nothing but jumping, partying and lots of fun on the agenda! So come down and check us out, we look forward to seeing you very soon.

Ruth Cooper and Simon Beech



Flying start for 2012

SWANSEA

skydiveswansea.co.uk

We've had a great start to the year so far and have been ticking over nicely. Everyone is learning all there is to know about our new plane and there's relief as to how well the heater works; a few of the days would have easily stopped the French from playing rugby! Swansea has seen quite a few new faces appear; everyone is always made to feel welcome and there's plenty of lift capacity for them now. There have been a few memorable skydives so far, with Ben Jenkins and Kris completing their 400th and 500th jump on the same skydive, which was a great success.

Whilst finishing early to watch the Wales/England game in the local pub, Mikey announced to all that he considered Handsome Rob's hair to be too long and was in need of in for 'a trim'. Next day he turned up with clippers in hand but unfortunately, no one mentioned that Rob is a bit of a jujitsu fanatic. After a five-minute ruckus, it ended with Mikey's hair all over the floor as he was given a number one haircut by Rob. Ten out of ten for effort though Mikey!

It's great to see John Syms back in the sport after a seven-year lay-off and Mike McPhee is working hard each month training AFF newbies. That said, the next training days are April 20 and May 18, so we'll be open on both those Fridays from midday onwards. Kris and Andy Woodward are now in full swing, coaching anyone who has just got their A licence towards FS1, and a big well done to Anthony Andrewes for joining the camera team recently! Mikey is now officially the beer fridge manager and a special well done to our Angie, who brought Halle into the world in January!

Finally a behind the scenes thank you has to go to Paul Millward and Sara for working on our new database and manifest system. It started as a good idea but has turned into an epic in its complexity, but we hope to have it up and running by the end of March. PS. The Morgan Hotel has been rebooked again this year – Dec 8, so put it in your diary now and, if last year was anything to go by, it'll be a good night.

Carl Williams

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Loren Green FS1 Justin Underwood

BECCLES

ukparachuting.co.uk

The season begins

ACHIEVEMENTS FF2 John Aldiss
Packing Certificate Andy Parker
Cat 8 Dinger Bell

It's been fairly quiet the last couple of months at Beccles, which is usual after Xmas, but as the weather is warming up so things are starting to pick up too. The first event of the year was FS coaching day, held on Sunday Febuary 26; everybody who came along got free coaching and had a good day. We will be looking to run others at the end of each month, so watch out for the dates in the *Mag* and the Beccles fun jumpers Facebook page.

Rick Thompson will be sending out email flyers on Sundays, with information on weekday tandem lifts. Slots are always available so, if you're not working, come along and get some midweek jumps in. Make sure Rick has your email address so you can receive this info. There are a few lockers left to rent in the hangar for the year and at very reasonable rates; if you'd like one, come and see me and I'll sort you out.



Team Fiasco

Congratulations to Amanda Bradfield and Sean Thompson who have been offered places on the *Satori FS* academy.

Several people have asked me about a UK Para snowboard (or skiing if you must) trip next year. I'll put a notice up in our clubroom so get your name up if you think you'd like to go and I'll look into dates, prices and location.
Mike Wemyss



SKYDIVE SEBASTIAN

SKYDIVE OVER THE FLORIDA COASTLINE

FULL TIME SKYDIVING

AND FREEFLY SCHOOL

LEARN TO SKYDIVE IN A WEEK!

BEACH JUMPS

FREE CAMPING FACILITIES

TEAM ROOMS

OPEN YEAR ROUND

iFLY WIND TUNNEL ACCESSIBLE

COACHING AND ORGANIZING FOR EVERY DISCIPLINE AND SKILL LEVEL

WWW.SKYDIVESEBASTIAN.COM

EMPURIABRAVA APARTMENT TO LET

ONLY 5 MINUTES WALK FROM DROP ZONE

Sleeps 6/8 persons with 3 Double Bedrooms, large living/kitchen area, balcony overlooking Sant Maurici lake & includes UK TV, Satellite,VCR, DVD, Stereo, Video Library & Nintendo WII

For details See Our Web Site:
www.mauriciapartment.biz
Or Contact:
Tel:
+44 (0)7721 011615 (Anytime)
+44 (0)1844 345566(Evening)
Email:
enquiries@mauriciapartment.biz



Skydiving &
Sport Scuba Diving Medicals

Dr Margaret Clamp
MC Occupational Health
The Corner House
Rectory Road, Colwick
Nottingham NG4 2DU.
Mobile: 0780 2850084
Email: mclamp@doctors.org.uk

£50

Life Insurance &
Disability Cover

For Skydivers



sports FINANCIAL SERVICES

Online Enquiries: www.sports-fs.co.uk
or Call a Consultant: 0844 579 1006

WILD GEESE skydivewildgeese.co.uk

Going wild

The year started off with some pretty awful weather, probably the slowest January/February I can remember, but the days are getting ever longer and the weather is starting to warm somewhat. Here's hoping for an action-packed skydiving season.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Nick Spiller on receiving his advanced packer certificate, and also a big well done to Pete Lehane who returned from Nethers as the latest addition to the instructor's ranks with his CSBI. A further mention also needs to be extended to the latest 4-way team to emerge from Wild Geese (or at least half of it). The all-female and aptly named *Well Wild* are called so not because the ladies are 'well wild', but because half of the team originates from Dunkeswell and the other half from Wild Geese. Good Luck Wendy and Nadine; you'll get plenty of support from the Geese.

Top tip for the coming season – at break off from any formation, jump, turn and track like your life depends on it!

Blue skies and mega swoops.

Rod McCrory



1 Frank's casual exit 2 Pete Lehane CSBI

SWINDON skydivelondon.co.uk

A year on the wagon

365 days without alcohol for £20. Stupid I know, but Mark Benson and I had bet that the first person to drink owes the other one £20. The main reasoning for me, as everyone at Redlands knows, is that Markie is the tightest person known to man; it took six attempts on my stag do but we finally managed to get him to buy a round and he's always first out the taxi and last to the bar. But fair play to him; one year! Shame though that in one month he put back on all the weight he lost – his lovely partner wishes he never drank again!

The baby boom has continued as Dunny and Anna, Pieter and Donna, Luke and Leonie and myself and Mel are all expecting – a 4-way team has been entered into the 2028 World Championships; flat or free has yet to be decided though! Crazy has had a little boy called Blake, named after his twin and favourite character from *The Inbetweeners.*

Dan Morgan still hasn't forgiven me for the last issue of the *Mag,* but you can't let the truth get in the way of a good story. Most importantly, Skydive London has again conquered Snowdon, this time in four teams.

Team Whippet was of course the fastest and, with Matt Attridge as team leader, we managed to fit in an extra mile or so on the ascent. Some people may say we got lost for the third year running, but we still made it to the top first.



DZ does Snowdon, DZphotos.co.uk

All teams managed to get to the top in 65mph winds, sleet, snow and driving rain, whilst Maddy and Anna Palmer somehow managed to end up in a cake shop in Dolgellau. The walk took six hours and good fun was had by all – no one missed Crazy, who was at home being the best dad in the world. There's a video on Youtube; it's 13 minutes of your life you won't get back, but search Skydive London Snowdon for a giggle. All 23 people had a great time and it was a poor display on the drink front, as plenty was left over.

We look forward to another successful season and hope no one else gets pregnant, and that Griggsy doesn't dob everyone in again!

Dylan Griffith-Jones

ACHIEVEMENTS FSI **Andrew Griggs** JUMP NUMBERS 300 **Em Green**

Blue sky thinking

The start of our year did not go exactly to plan; the plane got stuck in France on three occasions due to the weather! It may look nice on the ground, but the snow sure didn't do us any favours, but once Christophe managed to get to the UK and up to the dropzone, it was all systems go.

Nice weather seems to bring a big smile to everyone's face, so let's hope the smiles continue throughout the season with lots of skydiving and Saturday night events, including a spit-roast BBQ on Easter Saturday April 7.

BLACK KNIGHTS bkpc.co.uk

The open weeks start in April and we look forward to welcoming new students attending the RAPS and AFF courses. For those wanting to progress their skills, we have plenty of instructors willing to help coach you in the different disciplines and, from mid-March, we'll have a new resident Freefly coach. Congratulations to Jack Felstead on renewing his advanced packing cert. We hope the skies remain kind so we can achieve lots of good skydiving.

Sharon Beeson and Megan Bee

harrison beaumont
Insurance

Insure your skydiving equipment

Whilst at home, in storage, in use and in transit

FREE* WATER BOTTLE WITH EVERY POLICY SOLD ONLINE

UK or Abroad?
Specialist Travel Insurance

OVER 50 ACTIVITIES COVERED FREE

Single trip from £11**

Buy online at
hbinsurance.co.uk

call
0844 875 3506
Quote: SDA2

Find us on Facebook

Harrison Beaumont Insurance Services Ltd are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Registration Number 303968. Registered office: Globe House, 24 Turret Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP41DL. Registered in England & Wales. Registered Number 4582221. *One bottle per policy, new business only. The offer is only valid for policies sold online. **Excludes Insurance Premium Tax and admin fee. H1194 (0312)

Service & Repairs

28 High Street
Whitchurch
Shropshire.
SY13 1AU
01948 662179

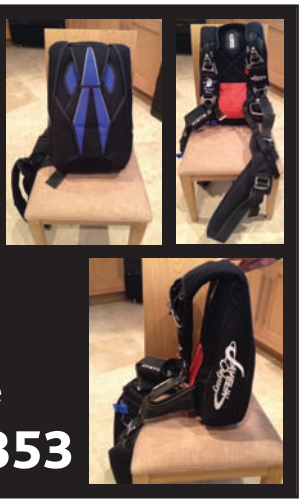
Dodington's Sports Instruments

FOR SALE

Three complete Javelin Odyssey containers for sale, with Katana mains and PD reserves. No more than 20 jumps on the mains.

For further information please

Tel: 07703 574353



SIMPLE BRILLIANCE

SOLO II

AUDIBLE ALTIMETER

Photo: Norman Kent

Combine with L&B's Altitrack for total altitude awareness!

FEATURES:

- Audible Altimeter
- Digital accuracy
- 1, 2 or 3 alarms
- Water-Resistant
- Small, compact, comfortable
- Accessories available
- Easy to use
- Reliable altitude awareness
- Loud alarm sound
- State-of-the-art components and firmware
- Set & forget technology

FLIGHT PERFORMANCE

LARSEN & BRUSGAARD
www.L-and-B.dk

Ledreborg Alle 28 • 4000 Roskilde • Denmark • +45 46 48 24 80 • Fax » +45 46 48 24 90 • l-and-b@L-and-B.dk



Will Cooke on a 2-way sunset jump, by John Baggaley

April

April 5
BPA BPA Riggers and STC meetings
Location: **BPA offices** · bpa.org.uk

April 7 - April 8
A Speed Coaching Roadshow with Mike Lovemore
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

April 17
BPA BPA Council meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

April 20 - April 22
A Liquid99 Freefly weekend,
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

April 21 - April 22
A *Euphoria* coaching weekend: tracking
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

April 21 - April 22
FS *Kaizen* 4-way skills camp
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

April 23 - April 27
BPA BPA Instructor course (Tandem, AFF, Pre-Adv)
Location: **Hibaldstow** · bpa.org.uk

April 23 - April 29
B/F Paris Peronne Boogie with Dave Lewis
Location: **Paris** · parachute-peronne.fr

April 28 - April 29 (moved from 21-22)
BPA BPA FS Coaching Roadshow
Location: **Peterlee** · skydiveacademy.org.uk

April 28 - April 29
FS FS Scrambles
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May

May 3 - May 6
FS P3 Big-Way Camp
Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

May 4 - May 7
FS Patrick Passe 32-way Sequential
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 4 - May 7
WS Wingsuit Competition
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 4 - May 7
U BCPA Dunkeswell
Location: **Dunkeswell** · bcpa.org.uk

May 4 - May 13
B/F Open Week
Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

May 5 - May 6
A Speed Coaching Roadshow with Mike Lovemore
Location: **Cark** · bcpa.org.uk

May 5 - May 13
B/F Langar Boogie 1
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

May 8 - May 10
CP Safe Flight School
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

May 10 - May 13
FS P3 100-Way Camp
Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

May 12 - May 13
S&A Accuracy Grand Prix
Location: **Headcorn** · headcorn.com

May 12 - May 13
FS FS99 with Pete Stone and A Liquid99 freefly weekend
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

May 12 - May 13
FS UKSL FS 4-way
Location: **Peterlee** · skydiveacademy.org.uk

May 14 - May 18
BPA BPA Instructor course (CSBI, AFFBI, TBI & Advanced)
Location: **Strathallan** · bpa.org.uk

May 16 - May 20
FS P3 200-Way Camp
Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

May 18 - May 19
BPA BPA FS Coaching Roadshow
Location: **Tilstock** · theparachutecentre.com

May 19 - May 20
U Flight Safety Weekend
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 19 - May 20
FS Simon Cathrine's Introduction to Big-way
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

KEY

BPA BPA EVENTS
CP CANOPY PILOTING
FS FORMATION SKYDIVING
CF CANOPY FORMATION
S&A STYLE & ACCURACY
B/F BOOGIES/FUN
A ARTISTICS
WS WINGSUIT
U UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)



As insurance brokers to the British Parachute Association we are specialist providers of bespoke and market leading insurance cover to drop zone centres

For more information contact:
Mark Seels on 0161 245 1228 or
Jamie Ingham on 0161 245 3651 or
Email: skydive@jelfgroup.com
Kabel House, 15 Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN

Jelf | Manson
Your business. Our focus.

iic investor in customers

www.jelfgroup.com

JIB068-03.12

SPEED MATTERS...

VISO II

VISUAL ALTIMETER



Combine with L&B's OPTIMA II for total altitude awareness!

FEATURES:

- Visual altimeter
- Digital accuracy
- Datalogging for review
- Back-lit face
- Hand or wrist mounted
- Accessories available
- Long lasting batteries
- Playback of jumps
- Water-Resistant
- Freefall speed measurement
- Standard or Metric

FLIGHT PERFORMANCE

LARSEN & BRUSGAARD
www.L-and-B.dk

Ledreborg Alle 28 • 4000 Roskilde • Denmark • +45 46 48 24 80 • Fax » +45 46 48 24 90 • l-and-b@L-and-B.dk

THE JUMPSHOP
Simply The Best Parachute Equipment



Altimeters & Log Books • Books, DVDs & Gifts
• Complete Parachute Systems
• Gloves & Goggles • Jump Suits & Clothing
• Skydive Bookings • Skydiving Gear Packages

Buy online or visit one of our three DZ stores
Alternatively, give us a call or drop us an email

www.buyskydivegear.com

M: 07939030339
E: buyskydivegear@thejumpshop.co.uk

A1 skydiving

2nd-hand skydiving equipment sales

Located just off the A1 at Sibson Airfield

GOOD PRICES PAID FOR YOUR USED GEAR!

Call 07984841513
Email a1skydiving@gmail.com

CYPRES
unlimited guarantee

May 21 - May 25
BPA BPA Instructor Course (CSI)
Location: **Strathallan** · bpa.org.uk

May 21 - May 25
U RAPS Progression Week
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

May 25 - May 28
WS Wingsuit Formation Camp
Location: **Perris, California** · wingsuitworldrecord.com

May 26 - May 27
CF CF Roadshow
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

May 26 - May 27
FS FS Scrambles
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

May 30 - June 10
FS Aussie National Record '12
Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

June

June 1 - June 3
CP Safe Flight School
Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

June 1 - June 4
U BCPA Scots On Tour 2012
Location: **Cark** · bcpa.org.uk

June 1 - June 10
B/F Open Week
Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

June 2 - June 3
FS Hinton Scrambles
Location: **Hinton** · skydive.co.uk

June 2 - June 5
FS 60-Way Invitational Weekend
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

June 2 - June 5
A Go Vertical and WS Wingsuit Formations
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

June 2 - June 10
B/F Cark Week 1: Organised loads, student progression, BBQs/beer. Helicopter 5-6 June
Location: **Cark** · bcpa.org.uk

June 7
BPA BPA Riggers and STC Meetings
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

June 9 - June 10
CF CF Grand Prix
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

June 9 - June 10
A Speed Coaching Roadshow with Simon Brentford
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

June 9 - June 10
FS UKSL FS 4-way
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

June 14 - June 17
FS Euro Bigway Girls
Location: **Prostejov** · dropzoneprostejov.com

June 16 - June 17
BPA BPA Freefly Coaching Roadshow with *Volare*
Location: **Peterlee** · skydiveacademy.org.uk

June 16 - June 17
FS Escondido House of Dock and WS House of Flock
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

June 16 - June 30
U BCPA Tour
Location: **Elsinore** · bcpa.org.uk

CYPRES 2
highest reliability

June 19
BPA BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

June 19 - June 24
B/F Vector Festival
Location: **Prostejov, CZ** · vectorfestival.com

June 22 - June 24
A Liquid99 Freefly Weekend
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

June 23 - June 24
FS 28-way Competition
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

June 28 - July 8
U 11th World POPS Meet
Location: **Teuge, Holland** · pops-nl.com

June 29 - July 1
CP Safe Flight School with *PD Team* Member Brian Vacher
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

June 29 - July 8
B/F Open Week
Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

June 30 - July 1
FS Euro 8-way Meet
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

June 30 - 1 July
B/F APA Summer Boogie and *Euphoria* Skills Camp
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

July

July 4 - July 8
U BCPA Nationals
Location: **Sibson** · bcpa.org.uk

July 5 - July 8
FS P3 Power Play
Location: **Perris, California** · p3skydiving.com

July 6 - July 8
A Liquid99 Freefly Weekend
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

July 7 - July 13
FS A Armed Forces Parachute Championships
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

July 14 - July 15
U Flight Safety Weekend
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

July 14 - July 15
FS UKSL FS 4-way
Location: **Cark** · skydivenorthwest.co.uk

July 18 - July 22
B/F Cypres Cup and Boogie
Location: **Prostejov** · dropzoneprostejov.com

July 20 - July 29
B/F Sibson Boogie
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

July 21 - July 22
FS Hibaldstow 4-way Cup
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

July 23 - July 27
FS Euro Big Way Camp
Location: **Poland** · bigways.eu

July 23 - July 29
B/F UK Parachuting Sibson Boogie
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

July 24 - July 29
B/F Twin Beech Boogie
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

July 27 - August 5
B/F Open Week
Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

July 28 - August 5
B/F Picnic Boogie
Location: **Lapalisse, France** · lapalisse-aero.com

CYPRES 2
24 hours waterproof

KEY

- BPA BPA EVENTS
- CP CANOPY PILOTING
- FS FORMATION SKYDIVING
- CF CANOPY FORMATION
- S&A STYLE & ACCURACY
- B/F BOOGIES/FUN
- A ARTISTICS
- WS WINGSUIT
- U UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)



Don't get stuck behind a caravan on the way to the BEECH !!!

Skydive 99.com



The Aviator Coffee Bar & Restaurant

2012 Events visit

www.skydive99.com / FB skydive UK Dunkeswell

Tel: 01404 890 222

Skygear UK ltd

for all your rigging & gear needs



August

August 1 - August 4
A Vertical World Record
Location: **Skydive Chicago** · skydivechicago.com

August 2
BPA BPA Riggers and STC Meetings
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

August 4 - August 5
BPA BPA FS Coaching Roadshow
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

August 4 - August 12
B/F Cark Week 2: Organised loads, student progression, BBQs/beer
Location: **Cark** · skydivenorthwest.co.uk

August 7 - August 11
CP CP 2012 World Games Test Event
Location: **Cali, Columbia** · fai.org

August 11 - August 13
FS FS 4-way & A VFS Nationals
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

August 14
BPA BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA offices** · bpa.org.uk

August 18 - August 20
FS FS 8-way and A Artistics Nationals FS FS 4-way and A VFS Nationals Reserve
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

August 21 - August 26
B/F AN28 Boogie
Location: **Magdeburg, Germany** · strollerweb.co.uk

August 25 - August 27
FS FS 8way & A Artistics Nationals Reserve
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

August 26 - September 2
FS FS & A Artistics European Championships and World Cup
Location: **Prostejov, Czech Rep.** · fai.org

August 31 - September 9
B/F Open Week
Location: **Black Knights** · bkpc.co.uk

September

September 1 - September 2
CF CF Roadshow
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

September 7 - September 9
FS ESL Finals
Location: **Moorsele, Belgium**



September 8 - September 9
A High Experience Freefly Sequentials
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

September 8 - September 9
FS 8-way Speed and CF CF Nationals
Location: **Sibson** · skydivesibson.co.uk

September 8 - September 16
B/F Langar Boogie 2
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

September 12 - September 16
A HD record and Sequentials
Location: **Dunkeswell** · skydive99.com

September 15 - September 17
WS Wingsuit World Record Camp
Location: **Perris, California** · wingsuitworldrecord.com

September 19 - September 23
WS Wingsuit World Record
Location: **Perris, California** · wingsuitworldrecord.com

September 22 - September 25
FS 16-way Trophy
Location: **Empuriabrava** · skydiveempuriabrava.com

September 27
BPA BPA Riggers and STC Meetings
Location: **BPA offices** · bpa.org.uk

October

October 6 - October 7
FS FS Scrambles
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

October 9
BPA BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA Offices** · bpa.org.uk

October 13 - October 14
FS First Time Formation Loads
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

October 19 - October 20
FS 12/24-ways
Location: **Langar** · skydivelangar.co.uk

October 20
B/F APA 50th Anniversary Ball
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 20 - October 28
B/F Equinox Boogie, Toogoolawah
Location: **Toogoolawah, Australia** · ramblers.com.au

October 27 - October 28
A *Euphoria* Skills Camp
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

October 27 - October 28
FS Hibbleween Speed Meet
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

November

November 17 - November 18
A *Euphoria* Skills Camp
Location: **Netheravon** · netheravon.com

November 22
BPA BPA Riggers and STC Meetings
Location: **BPA offices** · bpa.org.uk

November 28 - December 8
U FAI World Parachuting Championships and 2012 Mondial
Location: **Dubai** · fai.org

December

December 8
B/F Xmas Party
Location: **Hibaldstow** · skydiving.co.uk

December 8
B/F Xmas Party
Location: **Tilstock** · theparachutecentre.com

December 13
BPA BPA Council Meeting
Location: **BPA offices** · bpa.org.uk

December 22 - January 6
B/F Empuria Christmas Boogie
Location: **Empuriabrava** · skydiveempuriabrava.com

KEY

- BPA BPA EVENTS
- CP CANOPY PILOTING
- FS FORMATION SKYDIVING
- CF CANOPY FORMATION
- S&A STYLE & ACCURACY
- B/F BOOGIES/FUN
- A ARTISTICS
- WS WINGSUIT
- U UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)

SKYDIVE HIBALDSTOW

NEW! PRIZES UP FOR GRABS...

EURO 8-WAY MEET

4-WAY CUP



APRIL

2-6	Skysaver Week
5	B-Certificate Progression Day
6	Packing Course
6-9	Formation Foundry Weekend
7-9	Safe Flight School Canopy Course
14-15	Flock and Dock #1 & FF Scrambles
21-22	Kaizen 4-way Camp
28-29	Spring Scrambles

MAY

3	B-cert Day
4	Packing course
5-7	8-Way Scrambles
7-11	Skysaver Week
12-13	Sonic Nutz - 4-Way
19-20	Simon Cathrine's Introduction to Bigway
	Head-Down Record Warm Up
26-27	BPA CRW weekend

JUNE

7	B-cert Day
8	Packing course
9-10	Freefly coaching with Frazer Smith
	Speed Skydiving BPA Coaching Roadshow
	FS1+ organising weekend
16-17	Escondido Flock & Dock #2

POINTS MEAN PRIZES...

Hibaldstow 4-way cup 21-22 July

Euro 8-way Meet 30 June - 1 July

Our new flagship 4-way PRIZE meets are the perfect way to warm up for the nationals Check out our website for more details

ITS SCRAMBLES TIME!

Never competed before?

Well now's the time - we have Scrambles in 4 & 8 way FS and Freefly, so just register, get put in a team and have some fun.

All welcome!

2012 SKYSAUER WEEKS

April 2nd - 6th
May 7th - 11th
June 11th - 15th
July 2nd - 6th
Aug 6th - 10th

£18 experienced jumps Monday - Friday

ESCONDIDO FLOCK & DOCK

What is it?

School of Dock is aimed at low experience FS jumpers

House of Flock offers wingsuit instruction, coaching and organising.

THE 15K EXPERIENCE
THE UK'S HIGHEST SKYDIVE

FACEBOOK: BECOME A FAN OF 'SKYDIVE HIBALDSTOW'
DZ: 01652 648837 / OFFICE: 0113 250 5600 / INFO@SKYDIVING.CO.UK
SEE FULL DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS IN OUR EXPERIENCED SECTION ONLINE

WWW.SKYDIVING.CO.UK

Skydive Spain



19 Team Training Specials
Apr 21-29, May/June 26-05,
Oct 13-21, Nov 10-18

AFF 7-day Residential Courses
Apr 24-30, May 22-28,
June 04-10, July 10-16,
Sep 11-17, Oct 16-22,
Nov 13-19, Dec 11-17

TrackDayz
May 19-20, June 09-10,
Sep 29-30, Nov 17-18

Freefly Essentials
(Small Group LO)
Nov 09-11

Funshine Boogie
June 13-17,
October 03-07

Seville Sequentials with Volare
May 02-05
Mike Carpenter from Volare wants to get 7 sequential flyers together for 5 days of MAD fun..! The focus of the flying is to build challenging and safe groups. For more info contact us.

Need an aircraft for your DZ or event..?

Wingglider have a fast turbine fleet including 4x Dornier G92.

www.wingglider.co.uk

Skydive Spain, Aeródromo La Juliana, Bollullos de la Mitación, Sevilla
Tel: (+34) 955 766 056 **UK Tel: 0113 2505600**
info@skydivespain.com **www.skydivespain.com**

Skydive Spain
SkydiveSpainOficina

ADVERTISER INDEX

A1 SKYDIVING	+44 (0)7984 841513	a1skydiving@gmail.com	74
AERODYNE RESEARCH	+1 8138 916 300	flyaerodyne.com	83
AEROSTORE CORP	+1 6103 278 555	aerostore.com	64
AIRSPORTS INSURANCE	+44 (0)1983 298480	airsports@bhpa.co.uk	80
BEV SUITS	+1 6102 856 994	bevsuit.com	76
BRITISH PARACHUTE SCHOOLS (LANGAR)	+44 (0)1949 860878	skydivelangar.co.uk	46
CHUTING STAR	+1 7704 454 000	chutingstar.com	9
CYPRES	+49 2953 989 947	cypres.cc	35
DAVE COX (Maurici apartment)	+44 (0)1844 273200	mauriciapartment.biz	70
DEEPSEED	+64 7376 7136	deepseed.com	49
DODINGTONS	+44 (0) 1948 662179	jwojda46@aol.com	72
DR MARGARET CLAMP	+44 (0)7802 850084	mclamp@doctors.org.uk	70
DZ SPORTS	+44 (0)1295 812101	dzsports.com	18
FINCH GROUP (EXTREME PLUS)	+44 (0)845 6760700	extremeplus.co.uk	76
FREEFALL UNIVERSITY	+44 (0)2078 702505	freefalluni.co.uk	2
GATORZ EYEWEAR	+37 2603 0000	gatorzeyewear.com	80
GIPPS AERO	+44 (0)7540 162002	gippsaero.com	64
HARRISON BEAUMONT	+44 (0)1473 384830	hbinsurance.co.uk	72
JELF MANSON INSURANCE	+44 (0)1612 280444	jelfgroup.com	74
JUMP-TANDEM	+42 072 417 5175	jump-tandem.cz	13
KIT STORE	+44 (0)1622 890967	thekitstoreltd.co.uk	60
LARSEN & BRUSGAARD	+45 464 824 80	L-and-B.dk	62, 68, 72, 74
NETHERAVON	+44 (0)1980 628250	netheravon.com	68
NZ SKYDIVING SCHOOL	+6 433 029 143	skydivingnz.com	53
OPENING SHOCK	+1 760 379 4050	openingshock.com	68
PARA GEAR EQUIPMENT	+1 8476 795 905	paragear.com	24
PARA-SERVICE	+1 2392 828 834	para-service.com	66
PARATEC	+49 683 773 75	paratec.de	31
PERFORMANCE DESIGNS	+1 3867 382 224	performancedesigns.com	21
POINT ZERO	+44 (0)1295 810600	pointzero.co.uk	62
RAINBOW DESIGN	+49 3393 272 461	rainbowsuits.com	66
RAMBLERS PARACHUTING	+61 754 231 159	ramblers.com.au	64
SKY COVER	+44 (0)844 892 1515	sky-cover.co.uk	66
SKYDIVE ACADEMY (PETERLEE)	+44 (0)1915 171234	skdiveacademy.org.uk	39
SKYDIVE EMPURIABRAVA	+34 972 450 111	skydiveempuriabrava.com	10
SKYDIVE HIBALDSTOW	+44 (0)113 250 5600	skydiving.co.uk	78, 79
SKYDIVE JORDAN	+96 279 7300 299	skydivejordan.com	50
SKYDIVE SEBASTIAN	+1 7723 885 672	skydiveseb.com	70
SKYDIVE UK LTD (DUNKESWELL)	+44 (0)1404 890222	skydivethewell.com	76
SPORTS FINANCIAL SERVICES	+44 (0)844 579 1006	sports-fs.co.uk	70
SUNRISE MANUFACTURING	+1 813 780 7369	skydivewings.com	62
SUN PATH	+1 910 875 9002	sunpath.com	6
SYMBIOSIS SUITS	+44 (0)1622 890967	thekitstoreltd.co.uk	60
THE JUMP SHOP	+44 (0)7939 030339	thejumpshop.co.uk	74
THOMAS SPORTS EQUIPMENT	+44 (0)1262 678299	thomas-sports.com	84
UNITED PARACHUTE TECHNOLOGIES	+1 38 6736 7589	uptvector.com	13
VIGIL	+32 2 732 6552	vigil.aero	28

AIRSPORTS

Insurance for all skydiving, air/activity sports, worldwide travel cover for competitions, equipment & personal accident for work and play.

CAN YOU AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT?

For further information on all our policies, please contact Jacqui Prince

Tel/Fax 01983 298480 (24 hours) Email: airsports@bhpa.co.uk

48 Alexandra Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 7JT



ARCHIVE UPDATE

Back to the future

Part of the BPA 50th celebrations involved appointing two BPA archivists. They kicked off their project at the AGM, and here they explain how you can now get involved

One of the challenges with an undertaking of this sort is the hushed expectation that we can move from virtually nothing after 50 years, to significant progress within a fairly short time. At the moment we are still pondering the enormity of the task, but as Lao-tzu so presciently remarked, the longest journey must begin with a single step. Having been off and running for over two months now, we are starting to get a feel for the scale of the effort required and the potential range of content for inclusion in the Archive. The intention is to deliver this content via the internet, either as part of the main BPA website or as a separate site in its own right.

MAG ARCHIVE

The cornerstone of the Archive will be digitisation of the different incarnations of the BPA magazine, and the intention is to make the content text searchable if possible. Please don't assume this will obviate the necessity for human contribution. Firstly, the digitisation will take a while to achieve and secondly, the content will not necessarily overlap with personal recollections and photographs, so if you have something interesting, please get in touch.

DZs PAST AND PRESENT

We are currently looking at a range of other content. Images and video naturally feature, as do DZs past and present. We would particularly appreciate your help with information concerning DZs. There is a downloadable spreadsheet available on the Archive page of the BPA website bpa.org.uk/bpa-archive-project/ containing a list of over 100 known DZs. Please advise us of any errors or omissions and additional information you may have.

PEOPLE IN THE SPORT

We are also producing biographies of key figures that have played a pivotal role in our sport during the last 50 years. One area we need to include is jumpers who are unfortunately no longer with us. Although names are useful, we would really appreciate your own involvement if you knew and jumped with them, as this will bring their stories to life in a more meaningful way. Please think about putting together a page or two to preserve their memory and achievements if you can.
The BPA Archive project has a budget and the continuing full support of Council, who have placed the initiative under the aegis of the Development Committee. The aim of the Archive is to preserve the history of the BPA and sport parachuting from inception to the present day. It is intended to provide not only a source of reference to members but also an interesting and evocative look at the sport as it has developed over the last 50 years.

PLEASE HELP THE PROJECT

Whilst the Archive is being created for you, the members, we can't do it without your help and input. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, from suggestions to images or documents, please contact us. Also, if you have any unwanted artefacts or even vintage rigs you would like to donate we would like to hear from you. A number of members have donated some unique historical material to the BPA over the last few years for use in any future archive project. This has now become an invaluable asset and we look forward to hearing from everyone who would also like to contribute. ●

Archivists: Andrew Hilton & Graham Spicer
E-mail archive@bpa.org.uk



1960s jumpers: John Meacock, Brian Angel, Des Smythe, Dick Wallace, Johnny Balls, Helen Flambert, Charles Shea-Simonds, (Unknown) and Ray Hechel at Thruxton, by Dave Waterman

The first 8-way



We go back in time to 1970 to bring you a *Mag* cover shot and accompanying article by Charlie Shea-Simonds

8-way today:

A normal weekend activity; a Nationals competition with a dozen or so teams entering; accessible due to large, fast-climbing aircraft; can be done with under 100 jumps; over 12 times smaller than the current national record 100-way; even the head-down record is now 28.

8-way in 1970:

A ground-breaking event that took nine months of training; made the cover of this magazine; limited by smaller, slower aircraft; average jump numbers 590; WAS the national record; head down not practised intentionally back then!

Charles Shea-Simonds

Saga of the first British 8-man star

Just after midday on Saturday, 17 October 1970, eight members of the Royal Green Jackets Free Fall Team left a Skyvan at 12,500 feet and formed an eight-man star over Dunkeswell Airfield, South Devon; the first British eight-man star.

The few words above coldly report the facts and give no idea of the preceding nine months of patient effort, personal expense and at times near despair experienced by each and every member of the team. The origins of the achievement can be traced back to the four- and five-man stars put together in late summer 1967 over Thruxton in which four members of the team were involved; John Beard, John Harrison, Jim Crocker and Terry Hagan. The closing of Thruxton broke up the existing group who went their individual ways to find jumping where they could. During 1968 lack of drop zones and aircraft almost forced one or two to an early retirement from sport parachuting but during 1969 John Beard's visit to the States and participation in an eight-man star (thus qualifying him to wear the coveted Bob Buquor Memorial Star Patch) re-kindled the flame. Enter another character in the story; the Short Skyvan, that stubby but functional 15-place, fast climbing aircraft, the performance of which spread like wildfire amongst British relative workers. The end of 1969 and the beginning of 1970 saw the initial training and the sorting of the "wheat from the chaff". Plenty of jumpers had shown sudden interest in the idea but not many were able to dedicate themselves whole-heartedly to the many weekends of practice and frustration that followed. Because of this, the team more or less chose itself when Tony Unwin, Guy Sutton, Mike O'Brien and John Shankland joined the four already mentioned to make the eight.

During the months that followed the team steadily gained experience as their appointed trainer John Harrison quietly coached and cajoled them to the more polished relative work involved when a star builds up above a four-man. Articles on star work in American magazines were studied avidly and a comprehensive debrief followed each attempt where red faces often revealed the bad guys responsible for bursting the group apart!

The first really serious attempt came about early in September when the Royal Navy generously provided two Wessex helicopters of 846 Squadron from RNAS Culdrose for a week. Unfortunately the weather couldn't have been worse and the team, now joined by Mark Miller and Charles Shea-Simonds (cine and still photographers respectively) and a news crew from ITN sat around for four days while the jump, flying and news stories got more and more unbelievable in the telling. Finally the Friday dawned clear and crisp, but it needed two or three jumps to clear away the bad weather blues and get used to a new aircraft. The day finally closed after six descents which had included two four-man, two five-man, a six-man, an awful throw-away jump and the furthest out spot of John Beard's chequered career, about both of which the less said the better! Although the week had ended without success it had raised team spirit to a new determination to finally crack it over the weekend of 17/18 October when the Skyvan was next due to be at Dunkeswell.

Saturday 17 October was designed for parachuting with clear blue skies and virtually no wind. John Snelling, piloting the Skyvan of South West Aviation, arrived and the team climbed aboard after the usual last minute briefing. The warm-up jump of the day resulted in a very fair 7-man which broke on entry of the eighth—a promising start. Jump No. 2 was not so clever—only a four-man, and it resulted in a well deserved sharp admonishment from the team trainer.

After repacking the team are once again sitting in the plush seats of the Skyvan as it climbs at an incredible angle towards the sky. About ten minutes later John Beard, spotting initially from alongside the pilot's seat gives the thumbs up signal for John Shankland to open up the door and the team move back towards the gaping expanse of nothingness that is the tailgate. A couple of corrections and the team dive out in pairs hot after John the Base and John the Pin. The base get together quickly as the remaining six start to close in; viewed through the bullseye sights of the two photographers it is already looking good. Three and four close into their slots and break wrists and the remaining four are already on the same level moving in relentlessly. It suddenly happens, effortlessly and smoothly; all eight are there! To the cameramen it looks like a coloured cover of *Skydiver* magazine; beautifully symmetrical and almost unreal. One of the team is counting heads from within the star; having reached eight he starts a recount in excited disbelief! At 3,000 feet that fabulous seven second creation breaks precisely apart as the eight track away to find an individual plot of sky for canopy deployment. Brightly coloured nylon is all around as eight voices shout out the release of tension and the thrill of achievement. "We've done it . . . we've bloody done it!"

No doubt in the future more stars and bigger stars will be built but there'll only ever be one FIRST BRITISH EIGHT-MAN STAR.

The team was, in order of entry:

John Shankland	D 651	306 descents
John Beard	D 401	675 descents
Mike O'Brien	D 288	650 descents
Jim Crocker	D 493	780 descents
Guy Sutton	D 663	350 descents
Tony Unwin	D 187	635 descents
Terry Hagan	D 469	575 descents
John Harrison	D 316	750 descents
Photographers:		
Mark Miller (cine)		250 descents
Charles Shea-Simonds (still)	D 192	633 descents

7



VES BETTER GEAR BETTER VALUE BETTER SKYDIVES BE



If a better fitting rig could improve your skydiving performance, wouldn't you have to know more?

Consider Tiffany Lamb. With a rig that finally fit her 5 feet and 98 pounds (and tons of competitive energy), she moved to the top of the podium, earning gold medals at both the 2010 and 2011 US National Championships in Freestyle, and medaling at the World Championships in 2010.

Check out an Icon this weekend and unleash your potential champion. And we still don't nickel and dime you like the others, **fully loaded for $2,750.**

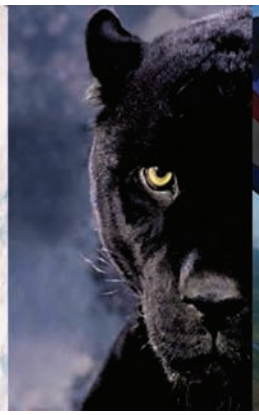


Aerodyne Research, 1405 Flightline Blvd, Unit 20. Deland, Florida, 32724. USA. Tel. 813.891.6300 Fax. 813.891.6315

FLYAERODYNE.COM

Skydive
THOMAS SPORTS
TS

....your
mission
is our
mission.





Panthera Onca 2012

Tel. +44 (0)1262 678299
www.thomas-sports.com
mail@thomas-sports.com

TDS
VESTRI ABSENTIS EST NOSTRUM ABSENTIS

THOMAS DEFENCE SYSTEMS

ISO 9001-2008