

skydive

The Mag

December 2006



The British Parachute
Association Magazine



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The Mag

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We've been generally getting more letters lately, many on magazine content. One letter this issue is calling for people to write more educational articles. I couldn't agree more! We currently receive lots of event reports and very few items of practical use. Can I add my voice to Darren's and ask all you folk out there with valuable knowledge on skydiving to write it down for us. Your feature needn't come with photos, we will find suitable images to illustrate your content. Of course you can supply pictures with it, now there's a cheap way to get yourself in print!

We love working on educational articles, and the sport is progressing so quickly we could not print them quickly enough to keep up with the advancement of knowledge. I'd like to publish more of these and will make a commitment to this, especially over the winter months. Your help would be appreciated.

Don't forget to vote for our new Council, to steer the BPA through 2007. There is a booklet enclosed with information about all the candidates. These noble people volunteer to drive to Leicester six times a year, read interminable amounts of paperwork and sit in endless meetings on our behalf, for no remuneration. Thanks to everyone standing for election and please reward their courage by having the courtesy to cast your vote. A massive 10% of ballot cards last year were not included as they were filled out incorrectly, see page 31 to avoid spoiling yours.

I hope you enjoy your Christmas present from the BPA and its Communications Committee – the 2007 BPA Calendar is enclosed. Plan an extra special new year!

Wishing you a very merry festive season, whether you're getting your knees in the breeze or your chops around the hops.



Photo by Rhino

Lesley

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

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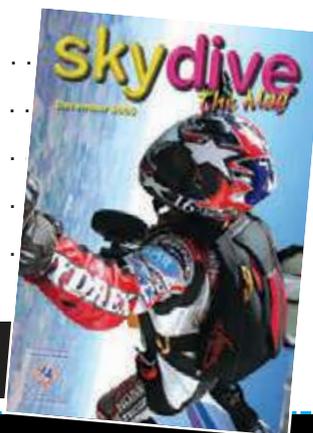
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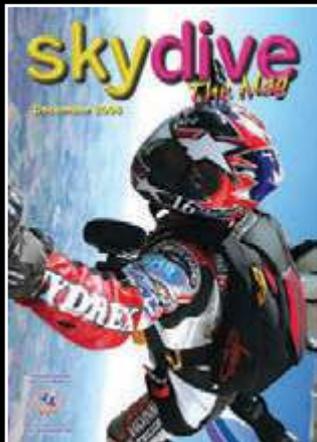
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Cover

Red Devil Andy Shaw jumps into Silverstone dressed in biker gear, by Tim De Souza



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The Mag

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

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

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

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PD



Henny Wiggers

This year the Performance Designs Factory Team have visited Italy, France, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden and Norway. The aerial adventures of Jonathan Tagle, Jay Moledzki, Ian Bobo and Shannon Pilcher were recorded by their cameraflyer, JC Colclasure and the well-known photographer Henny Wiggers. Here are Shannon's thoughts on how it feels to fly so close to such beauty...

On this trip to Norway, I felt acutely aware of the risks involved, more so than usual. And yet it wasn't enough to make me fearful or unwilling to execute the mission.

When we fly over the valley checking out the terrain, the most powerful feelings emerge. It's indescribable. It's magnificent. These giant rock walls reach straight up at us, their faces nearly straight down. The valley between, although nearly half a mile wide, appears narrow, tiny, in scale to the size of the walls. The tops of the granite islands are still capped with glacial ice and small frigid pools. Someone in the valley might never know they exist if not for the rushing waterfalls spewing randomly throughout the valley. It's June, by the way, and the valley is lush and green. So from above, it's white, steely grey, and deep green. What a picture!



JC Colclasure



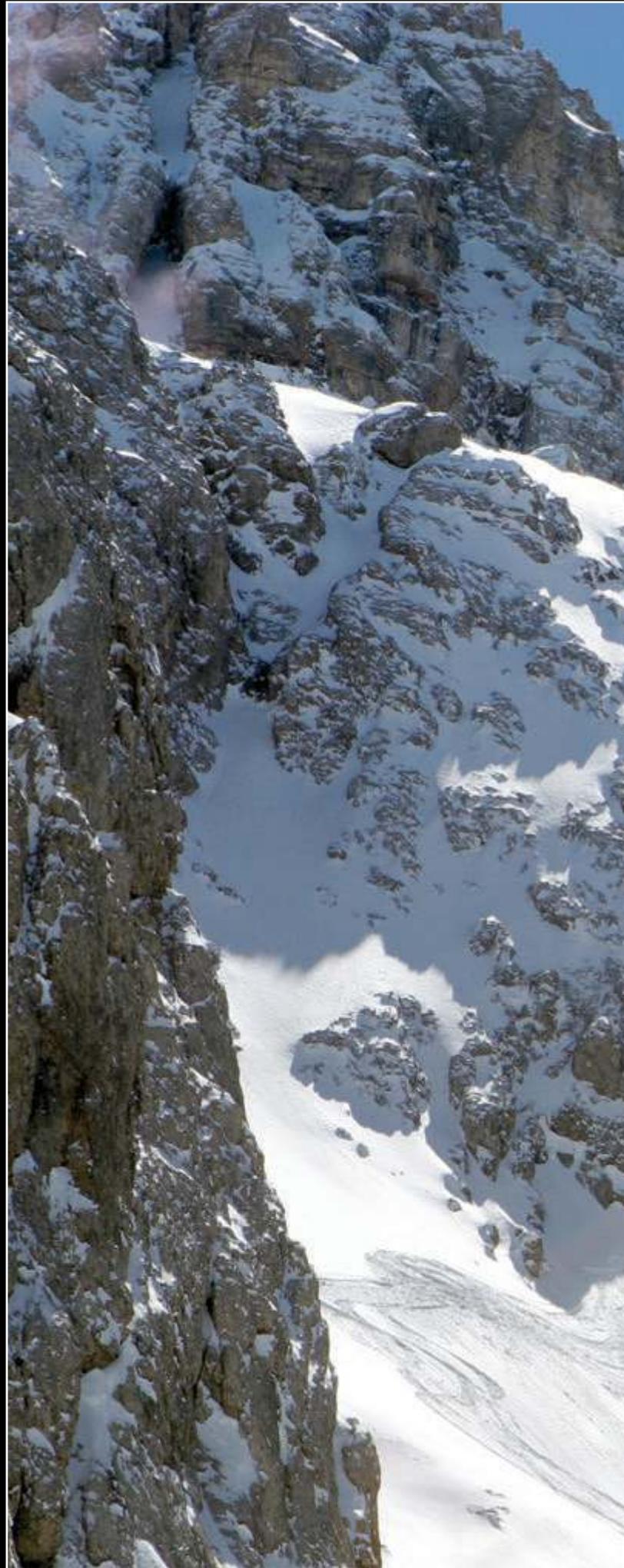


Henry Weigers



Now peer closer and we begin to discern depth in the walls. What appeared to be a small vertical fissure from the valley floor now causes a double take. Is that canyon I'm staring down at the same crack I saw from the ground? Incredible! I follow it from the ice above to its roots 4,000 feet below and confirm by landmarks that it is. We've struck gold! No fear in the world could stop me from getting out of this plane.

The door is open, the air is cold and I'm nervous. But I feel like a caged bird. For this brief moment and the next few minutes, I am completely lost in this flight.







It's not about ego, doing what's never been done, or claiming new expedition sites, or even leading the most aggressive run. It's truly about freedom and about feeling just a glimpse of whom God is and being one with His creation. The only thoughts that steal my mind away during the entire flight are those of gratefulness. Who am I that I should have this privilege? What scale, what beauty... it's limitless, endless...

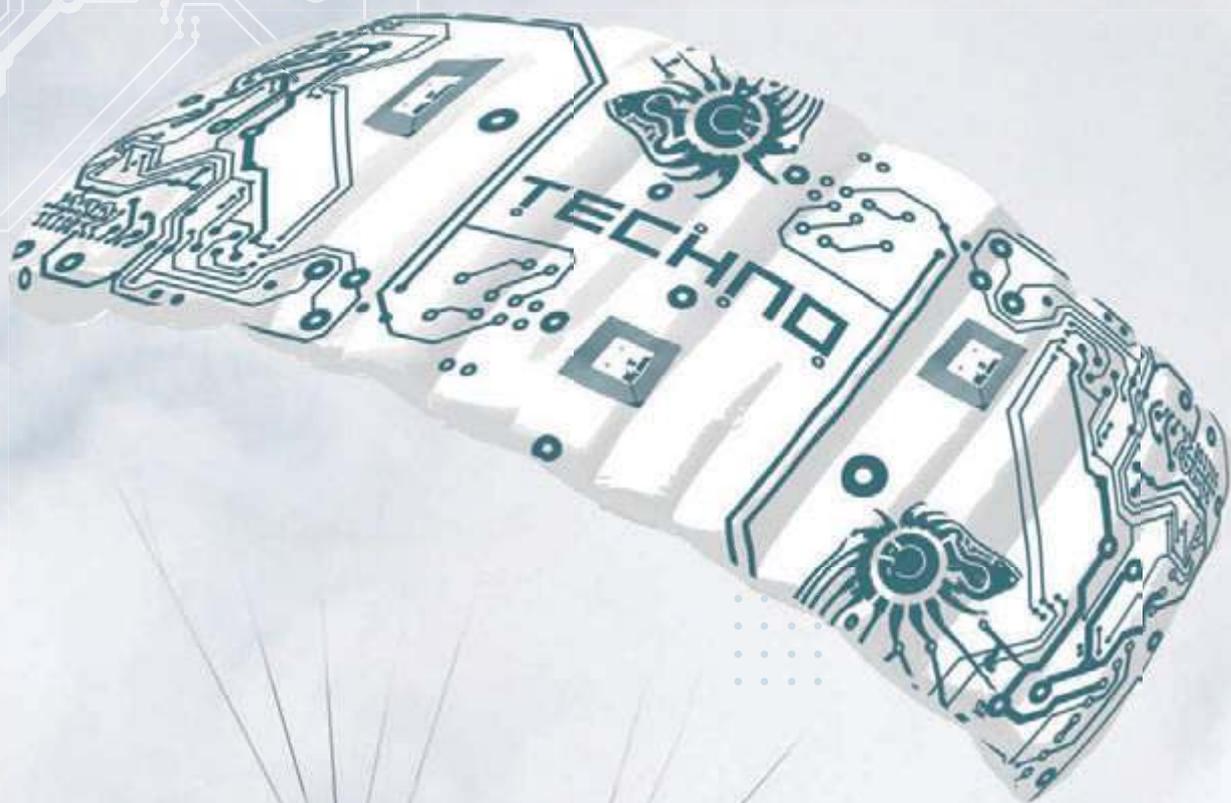
I'm flat blown away. I don't even see the trees and rocks that jut out trying to grab my wingtips. No, I just fly, my eyes set ahead, my mind lost in the wonder, wishing it wouldn't end. No, that's not true. In the moment, I mean, when we're genuinely 'in the now', we never think of the future; we never consciously or unconsciously ponder the next minute. Only when we burst forth from the mouth of the crack and glide toward the valley floor do we suddenly yearn to be back inside.

I think that's the part of the draw. It's not just chemical, ie, adrenaline. It's spiritual; it's being connected to the oneness, to the NOW. It's the purest form of not worrying about tomorrow. And in life, no matter what we claim, we often think on tomorrow. So it's in these snapshots, these capsules, that we get to feel God's plan for us, and it draws us back again and again, at all costs.

Shannon Pilcher







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Nominate Skydiver of the Year

IN MEMORY OF THE AWESOME TAZ CAUSER



Tamsin Causer's family has donated a trophy to be awarded annually at the AGM to the British Skydiver of the Year. This seems fitting as, had she still been alive, Taz would surely have been nominated for this, as the only person to participate in four successful world record formations simultaneously. (She was in team events setting records for 400-way FS, 151-way women's FS, 85-way CF and the mass drop of 960, in 2005 & 2006.)

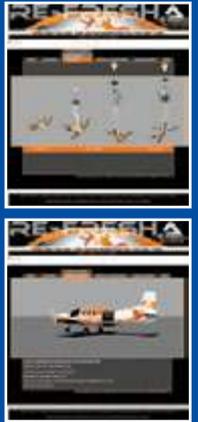
We invite every BPA member to nominate a Skydiver of the Year for 2006 (to be awarded at the AGM 2007). Email your choice to the Mag address below or the BPA, explaining the reasons why they deserve the trophy. All nominations, with their supporting emails will be passed to Council to choose a winner from those suggested. Please respond quickly as the closing date is imminent, **Tuesday 2 January 2007**, because a choice must be made before the AGM.

skydive@bpa.org.uk
skydiveroftheyear@skydivemag.com



E-Fli Interactive Learning

Re-Fresha has created an online student training aid, *E-Fli*, which provides a comprehensive electronic outline of the basics of skydiving. The virtual teacher covers ground training, aircraft safety and emergencies, equipment, freefall



manoeuvres, deployment, canopy control and malfunctions. It is targeted for use in conjunction with a qualified instructor but provides an excellent tool for students to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the sport. The website has won awards for innovation and creative excellence.

www.re-fresha.com

SOS World Records

A new SOS (Skydivers Over Sixty) World Record 39-way was set, 15 September, at Skydive Elsinore. Russ Manhold and friends plan to beat this at Florida Skydiving Centre in Lake Wales, 15-18 March 2007. Aircraft will be a Casa and a Twin Otter. The record attempts will be followed by the POPS Springfest (19-24 March), held annually, including competitions and fun jumps.

www.floridaskydiving.com
Russ Manhold:
flycustoms@bellsouth.net

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Kate Cooper and Carsten Jensen, who got married in Las Vegas in November. Their families set up a website as a present, containing lots of entertaining photos of them as kids.

www.kateandcarsten.com

Expat Tim Addison has finally married girlfriend Nikki after 18 years together!

www.taddison.com/WeddingAnnouncement.htm

Thai Sky Festival

The Thai Sky Festival, 5-18 March, at the beach DZ of Prachuap in Thailand will include World Team load organising, boogie and demo jumps from a C-130 Hercules, a BT-67 and a UH-1 Huey helicopter, 80-way sequential, a seafood festival and many parties.

www.thaiskyfestival.com

Wingsuit Crew



JC Colclasure filmed Jonathan Tagle of the PD Factory Team flying his wingsuit past a diamond stack during a crew skills camp at Perris Valley. Lots of planning went into the stunt, the timing and position of the wingsuit flyer's exit relative to the stack was crucial.

www.flight-1.com

JC Colclasure

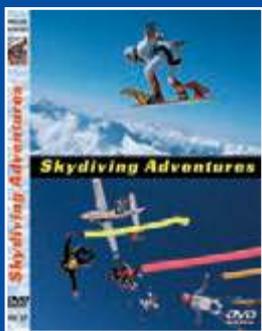
Birdmen Big-Way Camp

Scott Campos is running a wingsuit big-way skills camp, 10-14 May, in Eloy, from their fleet of aircraft. The aim is to focus on improving individual skills and preparing flyers for the planned big-way flocks at the AN-72 boogie in Cochstedt, Germany, 3-8 July. Early registration is encouraged.

loudiamond@dropzone.com

Mark Harris





Skydiving Adventures DVD

Reviewer Chris Hollis
Runs for 50 minutes
Cost 19.90 Euros
Content 4/10
VFM 5/10
Summary Mishmash of skydiving clips... and a tractor!

I should have known. The clues were there. The box shows freeflyers with a tube, the disc itself shows flat flyers in old fashioned frappe hats. *Skydiving Adventures* is an unusual mix of aerial antics with 16 separate segments which left me wondering who it was aimed at. The action leans towards freeflying with big-ways, tube dives, tracking and a section marked *Learning to Fly Free*. This is all good stuff but I doubt that any budding freeflyer is likely to buy a DVD of people learning head-down. You'll probably get more entertainment out of watching your mates in the bar at the end of the day! I was intrigued to see *Mountain Swooping* in Switzerland, as I've seen all this before on a separate DVD!

The eclectic theme runs through so much, I was wondering what would follow the tandems, mediocre FS and guy jumping on skis. Done brilliantly, I have to admit, but nothing new. (See *Travelling 3*.) It was, in fact, a Bavarian in lederhosen, landing a huge accuracy canopy in a tractor-driven trailer full of hay and two Bavarian girls who seem delighted to see him. And they say Germans have no humour! Hilarious.

Despite my misgivings, there are some impressive moments, Oliver Furrer's *Skysurf* section for one. You cannot doubt the guy's skill, his ability to spin is spectacular. Watch out for a mass base jump off a tower and one of the lowest pulls I've ever seen!

If push comes to shove, buy this for a non-skydiver to show how diverse the act of jumping has become. But if DVDs are on your Christmas shopping list, get a freeflying video for your dark-sided mate, a base DVD for your base jumping friend and leave your granny sleeping off her turkey in front of this.

Available from
info@skydivingmedia.com

Freefly Christmas Boogie

Avalore Freefly School has moved from Ocaña to Lillo and will be hosting a Freefly Christmas Boogie, Dec 24-Jan 1. Organising, coaching, tracking, swoop competitions, hybrid, swoop pond and formation Porter loads are on offer. All levels welcome, huge party planned for New Year's Eve.

www.avalorefreetfly.com



Avalore by Hans Bergeen

Swoop Ponds

Black Knights have completed the UK's first official DZ swoop pond. It is 100m x 15m and holds 3.8 million litres of water. There is space to increase it by 100m if required. For safety reasons BKPC have set a jump limit of 1,000. Look out for canopy piloting events at Cockerham.

www.bkpc.co.uk

RAPA has made their swoop ditch bigger to accommodate the first Canopy Piloting British Nationals (14-21 July 2007). The enlarged pond is 75m long x 13.5m wide x 1.6m deep. Available from February for swoop training; call the DZ to arrange.

0049 5254 982 2378



Black Knights' swoop pond by Danny Rowlands



RAPA's enlarged swoop pond by Stu Storey



Castellon drop zone

Spa Migrates South

Skydive Spa are organising two training and fun camps in Castellon, Spain, 22 Dec to 7 Jan and 16 Feb to 4 Mar. They will offer team training, FS and FF skills coaching and beach jumps. Accommodation is at a beach hotel, with fitness centre, pool, midget golf, tennis etc.

0032 8726 9906
info@skydivcenterspa.com

P3 4-Play

A focused 4-way event, 3-9 June '07, at Perris Valley, USA, will be run by Dan BC. This is a new style of camp aimed at experienced 4-way individuals with a minimum

10-point senior (AAA) average. You register in groups of 1, 2, 3 or even 4 and are trained in 4-way teams for several days (tunnel and freefall) before competing on the final day in a handicapped competition.

danbc@skydiveperris.com

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BRITS

Crank It Up

Empuria Airspeed Challenge

It wasn't long ago that British skydivers had to travel across the pond to participate in high level big-way events like the Arizona Challenge. This summer saw all of that change though when Europe laid out a red carpet for Airspeed's Craig Girard and Kirk Verner.

Europe on the Big-way Map

The season has seen Craig and Kirk build stunning formations at no less than **three** challenging big-way events across Europe, concluding most recently with one to top them all – the Empuriabrava Airspeed Challenge. Yes, you read that right – not Arizona! Not California! Or some far-flung tropical location that you need a small fortune to get to! Just a short flight away in sunny Spain at a drop zone that really does have it all!

The Empuriabrava Airspeed Challenge was derived from the success of its well known sister event in Arizona. This time though, Craig and Kirk joined forces with Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson, (known to many for his challenging events in the UK and his organising across Europe) and Spieli, a well known organiser from Germany. Between them the team delivered four days of top quality coaching, intense skydiving challenges and some pretty cool beach jumps. The dive engineering itself was phenomenal – delivering the type of video that has you squinting sideways with the pause button close to hand – wondering in awe why anyone would ever even dream such skydives to be possible! But somehow the talented team made those dives work – raising each person's performance just that little bit higher and making this an event that will surely go down in history as the one that really put Europe on the big-way map!



Arizona Challenge Formula

The event adopted the tried and tested Arizona Challenge formula; two days focused on complex multi-point 20-ways, followed by a third day of equally demanding 32-ways. The organisers used the first three days to assess each participant in a range of slots and learn how best to fly parts of the formation that were planned for the fourth 'Challenge' day. All the information gathered was then used to assign each individual a slot on the final formation; in

this case a 60-way that had never been built before and one that challenged the skills of every jumper who was part of the magic.

Patience, Discipline, Precision

What you quickly notice about an Airspeed event is the emphasis placed on core skills: patience, discipline and precision. Many of us have been on formations where we are told to respect the base, reference to the centre, put our bodies in



Bruno Brokken



Bruno Brokken

position, stop and then take grips. Such skydives are fantastic learning environments because they highlight points for improvement, show what happens when we forget the rules, and help us to improve our flying jump by jump. Generally though, such dives are designed to withstand trial and error. The *Airspeed* dives by comparison are a very different beast.

Decision-makers

The warm up days are a lot of fun and a time to get to know the people you are flying with. During this time it's not uncommon for the complexity of the dive flow to really play with your mind – but it wouldn't be a 'Challenge' if you didn't have to think! Critically though, the early days are designed not just to assess you for the Challenge dive, but to build up the significance of patience and precision to epic proportions. By the time you are part of the

Challenge, you are not just a skydiver – you are an active decision maker, aware of the impact of every split-second choice you make. Once you experience 60 people flying with that mentality you suddenly see what the organisers see: anything really is possible!

Wherever you are flying in the formation you decide when to dock. There is no urgency or necessity. Shape, pictures and levels take absolute priority. Is your slot inviting you in? If not, wait until it is.



Inside Flyers

As an inside flyer on a Challenge dive, you take responsibility for ensuring the correct early build of the formation. When you decide to dock, you are signalling to everyone behind you that it is ready to build the next wave. The base of the skydive is sacred – you are not just making sure it's built, you are watching it fly and letting it find its shape. You know that a bad decision from you will undermine the success of everyone docking behind and, ultimately, the whole formation. After you dock your job is to keep the shape of the base exactly as it was when you joined it. The team is reliant on your strength and focus.

Outside Flyers

As an outside flyer, you must have total respect for the work that has already been done. By the time it has built out to your slot the formation is about as delicate as it can get. A bad or poorly timed dock or a lack of precision can and will affect its core stability. You fly with a unique mindset, knowing that your job is not just to decide 'when' to dock, but 'whether' to dock. The fragility of the formation demands all your respect and that might even mean sacrificing your right to become part of it before break-off.

Crank Flyers

The Empuriabrava 60-way presented a unique challenge to the outside flyers. Imagine flying in two teams – a 60-way and a 4-way – both at the same time – both with equal importance. Each of you is flying a slot that is so delicate that getting it wrong could easily funnel the whole formation. Now imagine not really being able to see the 60-way and having to rely on someone else in the 4-way team to be your eyes (or being the eyes for someone else)...

The sidebody people are the eyes of the crank



Sixteen people (25% of the dive) were tasked with this dual challenge. The goal was to build four outfacing cranks onto an already outfacing connection point (which itself was part of an intricate formation build). When faced with a job like that, particularly when some people were flying virtually blind, you had to develop a sub-team plan.

The success of the crank depended on the quality of communication on the ground. It was critical that the whole sub-team understood how each person planned to fly their slot, what criteria was influencing each decision to dock, what language would be used to pass information through grips to each other and

what the recovery plan would be if the crank lost levels and risked funnelling.

For the outfacing people it was also about knowing how it felt to have it fly both correctly and wrongly, knowing what corrections were needed, if any, and using that information as a team to make the piece fly, jump after jump.

For the sidebodies (the eyes of the crank), there was a critical decision-making role on every jump. Sometimes the outfacing piece needed to be docked on quickly so that communication could be passed through the grips earlier. On other jumps it needed time to settle, and you could help most by sitting in your slot and



Bruno Brokken



Kate Burn outfacing as the formation nears completion
One third of the crank flyers were Brits!



Gustavo Cabana

Gustavo Cabana

We did it!
Smiles from Toni, Bailey and Kirk

waiting for the piece to be ready for you to strengthen it. The right decision for each scenario was critical. Once docked the sidebody's job was to be the eyes; watch the condition of the centre, predict level changes and communicate positively to ensure the whole piece continued to fly on level and remained symmetrical to the centre.

Faced with this kind of challenge, not one of the skills coached over the preceding days was wasted!

Teamwork

Ultimately though, from the first person to

dock on the Empuriabrava Airspeed Challenge to the very last, it was core skills, teamwork and positive attitude that secured the completion of complicated formations throughout the event. If the team stopped working together, you quickly appreciated just how delicate the design of the dive was, compared to the ones you find on a traditional boogie circuit.

Just Starting?

If you're just starting out though, or still developing your large formation skydiving skills, boogies, weekend load organising and big-way camps are the perfect place to

practice. The skills you build at events like these provide vital foundations for the future. These days, in the UK and Europe, you are definitely spoilt for choice.

Strong Skills Already?

If you are a proficient big-way jumper with strong skills already, or a very good team jumper seeking a challenge of awesome proportions, the Empuriabrava Airspeed Challenge is 100% where it's at!

Caroline Hughes
www.skydivechoreography.com

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BACKFLY

Backflying is now generally the first area taught to budding freeflyers, because the fall rate and control inputs are similar, though reversed, to those of belly flying.

Here, Skydive University provide a basic how-to guide to use as a starting point. Backflying is especially easy to learn in a wind tunnel as the visual reference of the wall is really useful.

Visuals

What makes backflying more difficult than other positions is the visual orientation. It's easier to gain visual awareness in a head-down position in comparison to the backfly position.

In sit-fly, the visuals are just the same as we see every day. The same applies to belly flying, which corresponds to almost the same visual orientation you get from the head-up flying positions. In head-down, the visuals are upside down, which make us somewhat confused the first few times flying in this position, but it's just the inverse of what we normally see in our everyday life.

In backfly, the visuals are quite different and it is hard to get used to them. We are not used to finding ourselves with this viewpoint, we tend to get easily tense, and can find ourselves looking at our legs or anywhere else that the visuals would look familiar. The backfly position should be the most relaxed of all; any tension would reduce the perception of the wind and make our flight unstable.

Training backfly

Firstly, we need to train on getting relaxed. Lie on the ground, close your eyes, breathe and relax. Try to feel your back touching the ground. Look at your legs and arms. Aim to present a nice box position and then look up, followed by closing your eyes again.

At the beginning it's good to jump with someone flying in a belly fly position, this will help as a visual reference during freefall. The first time we are flying we tend to look at our legs, which is okay to visually check the body position but after the check we should try to look straight up. Of course it is important to maintain altitude awareness and to wear appropriate warning devices.

The best place to improve backflying performance is the wind tunnel. There are visual references all around.

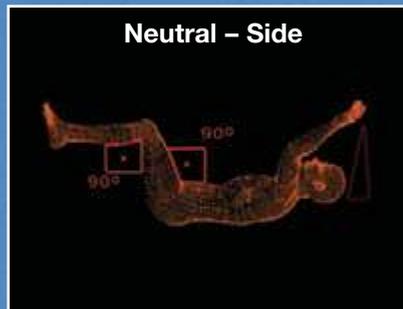


Lucie Fenton by Simon Ward

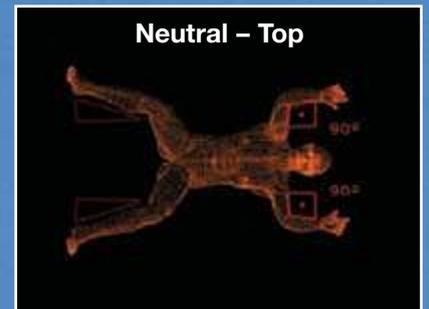


Backfly - neutral position

A good position to start in is by having your back slightly dearched, legs, thighs and torso at around a 90° angle. Knees apart, in line with shoulders, feet kept a little wider than the knees. Head straight, lying backwards but looking straight up. Arms slightly bent, and above the level of the head, where you can see them.



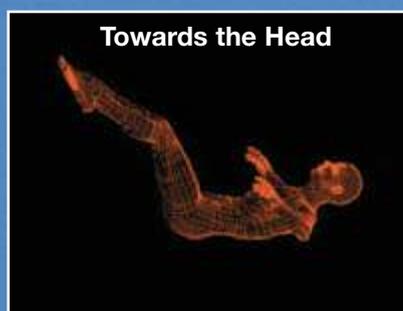
Neutral - Side



Neutral - Top

Forward and backward movement

To better orient ourselves in backflying, it's better if we use the terms 'towards the head' and 'towards the feet' instead of forward and backward. You can be looking in any direction when in a backfly position, so it's very relative which way is forward or backward. We can say that you're flying towards the feet and be very clear in which direction you are flying, regardless of which direction you are looking.



Towards the Head

To move towards the head
Straighten your legs, slightly bring your hands down, twisting shoulders down



Towards the Feet

To move towards the feet
Bend your legs in and straighten your arms out



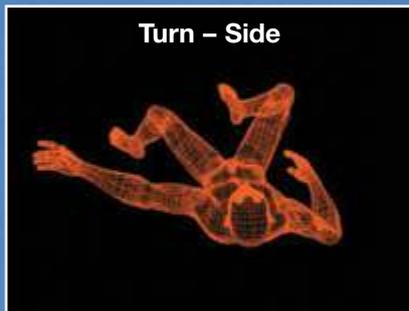
Nigel Holland by Ross Dagley-Cleworth

Graphics: Joao Tambor
Black Magick photos: Wendy Smith

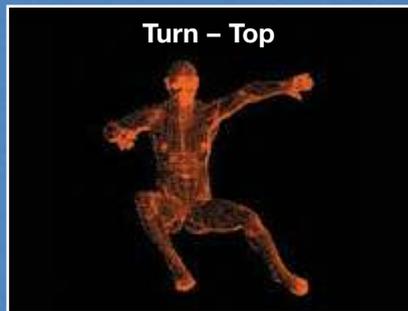


Turning

The best way is to use your arms and legs at the same time. You can twist the hips sideways, a little, and present the shins toward the wind, to the side you want to turn to.



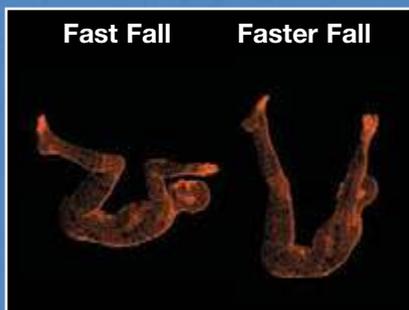
Turn - Side



Turn - Top

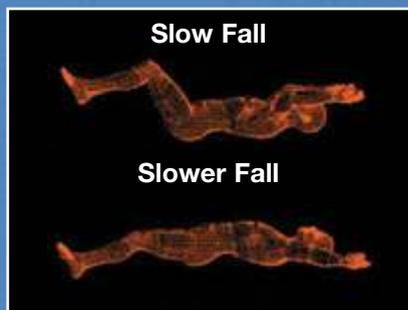
Upward and downward movement

Basic physics applies – decreasing surface area will present less wind resistance and therefore increase fall rate. The converse applies so getting bigger will decrease fall rate and move you upwards relative to other people in the sky.



Fast Fall

Faster Fall



Slow Fall

Slower Fall

To go down – bring arms and legs close to the torso or straighten them out and dearch your back more

To go up – straighten your back, slightly arching, arms and legs straightened out

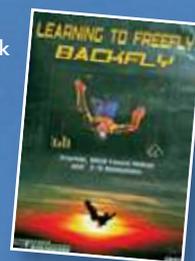
The Black Magick 4-way team, (Joey Jones, Thomas Hughes, Juliana Se, Joao Tambor) have trained all the FS 4-way pool on their backs and entered many competitions last year including the US Nationals, alongside the other teams flying on their fronts.

One of the most useful comments from the team was about the harness, the rig, and how much it can change the performance of backflying. Using a dummy harness for tunnel training, you realise that for sideslides and turns the legs and arms move the same way, with or without the harness. The torso moves differently – we need to twist toward the opposite direction, because the side part of the harness displaces a lot of wind sideways.

Freely friendly equipment

So a good container for freeflying needs to have main and reserve flaps that remain well closed during freefall. It's better if the container has a wide, flat and square shape. It should fit well. Leg and chest straps should be tight, and if possible use a belly strap, or a side strap.

For more information about backfly check out *Learning to Freely – BACKFLY* which is the first DVD in a series of six produced by Skydive University and 80visions Production. These DVDs were created to help anyone wishing to learn the art of body flight.



Joao Tambor & John Chisholm

LANGAR Boogie III

Two Grand Caravans and, because pilot Tony de Bruyn likes us so much, two Skyvans! And that was just to get things started!

The aircraft line-up combined with wall to wall September sunshine made the perfect recipe for the start to Langar Boogie II

CRew Dogs

The CRew dudes were in town for the first weekend with the goal of putting together a 16-way diamond. If successful, this would be a first for Langar, and over ten years since it was last seen in the UK. To join in the attempt we had visiting jumpers from the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway. Warm-up jumps commenced on the Friday and culminated in an 11-way kite – and that was an impromptu dive when the last two participants turned up just in time to make the lift! On the Saturday the crew dogs only managed to get on three loads but had plenty of fun, with a good wrap and some cutaways on jump 2. To rapturous applause, Paul Speller had the courtesy to bring Percy Kristersson's canopy back for him: it was still entangled round Paul when he landed. After swapping some slots around, a 9-way base built well, although it was descending too fast to allow further people to dock.

The first two jumps on the Sunday saw the formations flying better but small problems prevented completions and the base was still descending a bit quickly. For jump three Mark 'Plastic' Weaver, the formation pilot, upsized to a 176 Lightning (from a 160) and things improved. It took until the fourth and final jump of the day from the Caravan for it all to come together and the 16-way diamond completed! Nice work and well done! Our own Tony Danbury captured the moment beautifully.

Monday had the remaining canopy formation jumpers finishing off with a couple of fun jumps; a 9-way diamond from 8,000 feet, another 11-way kite from the Skyvan, a 6-stack flying side-by-side with a 5-stack to finish. It's amazing how easy it gets when the pressure is off!

16-way FS Competition

Three teams competed, headed up by Ian Matthews (Max VEN-Om), Dave Lewis (Sexidecimal) and Paul Housley (Where's my Tent?). Six rounds were planned over the weekend but, with the awesome lift capacity and complementary weather, it was all completed on the Saturday. It was a close competition between VEN-Om and Where's my Tent?, with VEN-Om taking the gold 28 points to 24.

Tom Scanlon (VEN-Om) had a premature deployment out of the Skyvan, leaving the rest of the team totally bewildered as to his whereabouts! Only when everyone had landed safely, packed and enjoyed a long lunch did Tom rejoin his teammates. At least he knows a bit more about canopy control with his extended experience, and the team got an extra jump out of it.

On Sunday the remaining teams pooled resources and, organised by Milko, went up for some additional fun jumps, providing some great practice for the following weekend's big-way extravaganza.

Freely

On the opening weekend Bullet Freely School organisers Al Hodgson and Steve Newman were accompanied by Rob Silver and Tim Porter of FreeJive – four times UK gold medallists. All coached lots of one-on-ones, resulting in the completion of several FF1s and even the odd coveted FF2. Al took the lead on loads of high quality tracking dives with some of the fastest, steepest action seen in the UK. Steve concentrated on the vertical work – when he managed to get out of bed after concentrating on his horizontal! Other freely action included Romany Tampion with a monster set of twists on a borrowed Sabre, kicking like a maniac until 1,000ft and then deciding to get off it. Phew. It looks like plenty of new blood is being tempted over to the freely dark side and their packers are better looking too (sorry, Shaggy and Ally, but you've got more than a bit of scrubbing up to do; plastic surgery, perhaps?!).





Tim Porter



Tim Porter



Matt Thomas's 500th jump by Dan Williams



CF photos: Tony Dambury



Success! 16-way diamond



Paul returns Percy's canopy

Canopy Landings

The most consistently entertaining swoop landings of the week went to cameraflyer Dedric Hourde with a couple of outrageous downwinders in amongst some more conventional demonstrations. Chris McCann walked away from a snapped brake line on a swoop landing at the start of the week that would have taken out a lesser being but then again, he is a man on the Mag 7. Talking about swooping, Mike Gorman's canopy class was well attended during the week with several students taking advantage of his expertise. All the usual suspects, and especially Andy Brass, leathered out a load of impressive landings. Martin 'Dangerpants' Reynolds got grounded for the day after attempting a downwind swoop into a 'Miracle Man' landing – and knocking Jim Bradwell clean off his feet (maybe there is a case for hi-visibility vests after all!) Whoops! Fortunately no real damage was done – and Martin's apologies were profuse. It was good to see Paul 'Poke It' Henderson making an appearance following his unfortunate recent injury. At least nobody was subjected to his near-naked Boogie I antics, so every cloud has a silver lining. Get well soon mate!

POPS Records

Organised by Billy Payn, Pete Knight and Simon Pollard, the POPS had their sights set on a British record, and surpassed themselves, see page 28.

Big-way Weekend

The final weekend didn't go off quite as well as hoped with disappointing weather both days. However, we still had over 100 flat flyers present, organised into two groups of 20 by Dave Lewis and Billy Payn, and two groups of 36 organised by Milko, Phil Curtis, Lesley Gale and Roy Janssen of 4-way team *Spa Hayabusa* for the Saturday. On Sunday, they followed up with bigger groups culminating in 70- and 80-way dives from all five aircraft.

Nicky Johnston was up to his usual standard at formation flying – when the Skyvan door was opened, the Caravan passengers could see the whites of the eyes of the (scared!) Skyvan jumpers! Thanks to him and all the other pilots (Tony de Bruyn, Michel Bossart, Jan Wildgruber, Paul Lewis, Dave Richardson and Angela Hickling) for an awesome job of formation flying.



Main photo: 80-way build by Willy Boeykens



And Finally...

The opening weekend witnessed about 2,000 descents and that was without the assistance of the awesome Beech, which only came into full use on Thursday. There is no quicker way to get to altitude without infiltrating the military and appropriating a Tornado. Over the boogie week, we did nearly 4,500 jumps on 217 lifts from 5 aircraft – not a bad week to finish the summer season!

It's a big thank you to everyone who attended the biggest and best boogie the UK has to offer. Hopefully the improved facilities and fantastic aircraft combined with the dedication of the pilots, instructors and staff will tempt you all back in the spring to kick off the 2007 season Langar style!

Mag 7



Gary Wainwright



Audrey's 1,000th by Willy Boeykens



Andy Brass by Gary Wainwright

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POPS Record

On the first weekend of Langar Boogie II, the British POPS gathered to attempt to beat our large formation record. As the existing record was 27, our target was somewhere in the thirties, and on Sunday morning we achieved a new record of 36, raising the bar by a third!

But the story starts much earlier... Pete Knight and Billy Payn offered to help with the POPS big-way record a year or so ago and, since then, have organised training and tunnel weekends, passing on their experience from world record skydives and bringing up the level of skills.

On some of these early weekends, participation was low, and Pete and Billy are to be congratulated for persevering. Gradually the numbers started to increase, so that more and more POPS were getting the benefit. Billy likes to put together formations with weak links so there is a strong emphasis in flying your slot and not just 'hanging on' to the formation.

Personally I found the tunnel camp with Milko very useful for the final approach, and particularly for building confidence about fall rate and stability with Milko pressing down and pushing and pulling me while I tried to remain in place.

A month before the record, there was a practice weekend using two planes. None of the formations completed but one built to 29. Now if that had been the plan it would have beaten the old record.



Back to the record weekend: Billy and Pete were organising the jumps and we started with 33 skydivers. After allocating slots and splitting into Skyvan and Caravan loads, we went up for the first practice. The base was slow to get together on this jump. Although the formation was building well, there were a couple of people low, and towards the end we had a problem that took out one side of the formation. The second jump was similar with someone low and traffic problems. The base built quickly though and continued to do so throughout the weekend.

Billy and Pete made a decision to split into two groups, each using both planes on the same lift, although one was a much smaller

formation. This was to improve currency and focus on skills. On the two jumps we did in this format, I was really pleased to have the challenge of flying the same slot, but from the trail plane rather than the lead.

Then the groups joined back together for one more jump on Saturday. This time there were no height problems, no traffic issues, and everyone flew gently into their slots for a 33-way record, held for seven seconds! I remember looking round to see who was out this time and there was no-one, just smiling faces all round. Yippee, we made it!

After the video confirmation we thought that it was 'job done', time to celebrate, the bar was calling. But we agreed to meet the next morning at 8.30am and promised not to celebrate too hard in the mean time.

We had gathered a few more by then, so we dirtdived a 36-way, this time using two Skyvans. For the first time in the weekend the

base turned a few degrees. The only one confused by this was Glenn Birchall, who made a last second dash to his correct slot – well done Glenn! The 36-way was built and lasted long enough to take the record. Like the previous jump, the flying was smooth and controlled.

We made one more jump on the Sunday which was the magic 40 – both the 'Phorty' of POPS and the fact that 2006 is the fortieth year since the founding of POPS. However, it wasn't to be. The challenge of the 40-way is still there for next year. Keep practicing POPS!

The 36-way held by POPS UK is the largest POPS national record after the USA. It beats the Aussie record of 32 and is also a European record.

I would like to thank the staff of Langar; our cameraman Brian Knight; Dedric, Eddie McBride and Jim Bradwell for additional video footage; and all the POPS who came. I especially thank Pete Knight and Billy Payn for all their time and effort over the last couple of years and ask them: "Next year, too?"

Pete Shew

European POPS Record 36-way

Participants

Andy Page
 Angela Hickling
 Billy Payn
 Bob Connell
 Brian Laithwaite
 Caroline O'Hagan
 Charlie Bazley
 Dave Bentley
 Dean Radley
 Eddie McBride
 Elaine Cherry
 Fran Cheetham
 Glenn Birchall
 Guy Dickson
 Helen Vernon
 Henry Thompson
 Jill Riley
 Jim Bradwell
 John Knight
 Keith Johnson
 Keith Toyer
 Lin Brazier
 Mark Dyson
 Mark Longhurst
 Mark Wilson
 Neil Butcher
 Paul French
 Paul Rowe
 Pete Knight
 Pete Shew
 Pete Stone
 Roger Bancroft
 Ron Wands
 Simon Lovenbury
 Simon Pollard
 Tony Bradbury

Camera Team

Brian Knight
 Dedric Hourde

Stats

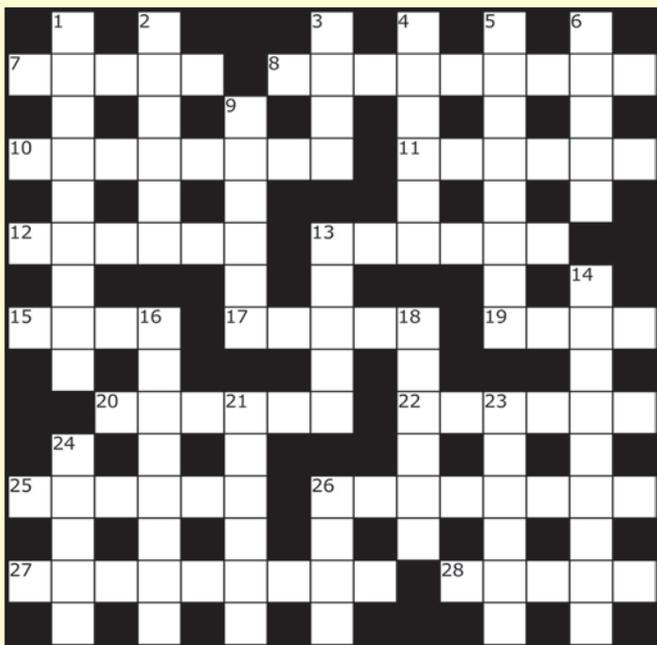
Total jumps: 51,022
 Average: 1,506
 Total age: 1,857
 Average: 52
 Oldest: 69
 Youngest: 40

Photos: Brian Knight

Puzzle

by Paul Boorer

5th November 2006



Dear BPA Members

It is with deep and heartfelt regret that I have had to tender my resignation as Chairman of your Association. I have recently changed career from full time skydiving to a full time barrister at law. I now have very little time to devote to the management of our sport and I cannot, with good conscience, continue in a role unless I am able to give it my full attention.

It has been my pleasure to serve as BPA Chairman for the past seven years and on Council for 15. During this time, our sport has undergone a massive transformation and continues to do so. I have very much enjoyed playing a part in the shaping of strategies designed to develop and enhance our sport.

This continued evolution presents some real challenges to your Council. I would ask that you give them your support in order that they can continue to do what is in all our best interests.

Yours sincerely
Chris Allen



Simon Ward

As Chris Allen has resigned (see right), the Vice Chairman, John Smyth, now becomes Acting Chairman until the next Council meeting on 5 December, when a new chair will be elected till the AGM in January. The new Council for 2007 will then elect a Chairman.

Main (Cryptic)

Across

7. Following church, I shall fill with dread (5)
8. A 'C' string, one on an instrument (9)
10. Theologian has own victory as the flags fly (8)
11. Zigzags taking right paths (6)
12. South African party which is most trustworthy (6)
13. In the event of a restarted game, swap a rook for a pawn and put everything away again (6)
15. Pacific clam is evolving (4)
17. Ascend the faces of Cho-Oyu, Lhoitse, Idris, McKinley and Blanc (5)
19. Drink feathers (4)
20. What's seen in keener gyms (6)
22. Rodent in good standing (6)
25. Jumping 23 is no place for arachnophobes (6)
26. The speed of skydivers is variable, after all (4-4)
27. You wouldn't want to fly from London to New York in it, coming back's fine (9)
28. Fifty first woman left flat (5)

Down

1. Pitch, yaw or what? Toss? (5,4)
2. Dive when gun is brandished in plane without a note (6)
3. Missile to be blown by the wind (4)
4. Bang the pan turning spring-loaded cover (3-3)
5. Modern one danced around five (8)
6. Details? (5)
9. Communicate with detective for people who make triggers (6)
13. Gunner in yard is damp (5)
14. It flies from the northern winter around beginning of October time (4,5)
16. Conspicuous man is eating iron tiepin's tip (8)
18. Ground lubber is an irritating follower (6)
21. Turbulence divined in tarot or seance (6)
23. Sailor to attain goal (6)
24. Brought up ill-behaved duke to follow page (5)
26. Butterflies from the east in remote surroundings (4)

Reserve

Across

7. Cool: terrify
8. Instrument: formation
10. To the lee: the wrong direction for landing
11. Pursues: separation manoeuvres
12. Least dangerous
13. Fold a parachute again
15. Not windy
17. Ascend
19. Unhappy
20. Vigour
22. Qualification
25. Mound: accuracy target
26. Terminal velocity (4-4)
27. Fast air current
28. Horizontal

Down

1. Disposable: type of deployment
2. Tumble, immerse
3. Fly before the wind: missile
4. Part of rig: ring-pull (3-3)
5. Progressed
6. Links up with
9. Cypres makers
13. Showery
14. DeHavilland aeroplane (4,5)
16. List of passengers
18. Separation of air flow
21. Revolving aerofoils
23. Aim
24. Prayed to the porcelain god!
26. Terror

Spread the Word!

Communications Committee and the Mag are producing some fantastic publicity to promote skydiving to the public. There are two colourful posters and a leaflet designed to tempt people to enquire about making a first jump. The new leaflet is the standard size to fit tourist information centres' and hotels' local information racks. Both the posters and the leaflets can be personalised with the local DZs contact details. Bulk copies can be brought by centres from the BPA office at minimal cost.



AGM and Dinner

As mentioned last issue, the AGM is Saturday 20 January 2007 at the Hinckley Island Hotel, Leicestershire, starting at 10.30am. The Competitions Committee will be holding an open forum and there will also be meetings for judges, POPS, display teams, pilots and the Drop Zone Defence Fund. The BPA website has the latest information on speakers for various seminars, including World Champions Team Airkix, canopy piloting and freefly. If you've a super seminar suggestion (no sales presentations please), share it and we might squeeze it in! The AGM and evening entertainment are free but formal dinner tickets must be bought in advance from the BPA office, cost £25. Alternatively, you can dine informally in or out of the hotel and join the (free) dance later.

Hotel room rates, inc breakfast and parking are £67.50 double/twin, £47.50 single on Fri 19 Jan, and £82.50 double/twin, £67.50 single on the Saturday. We're always on the lookout for other possible AGM venues but have never found anywhere of the same quality that can offer us as good an overall deal. Suggestions welcome.

Dinner tickets **01162 785 271**

Seminar information www.bpa.org.uk
Hotel room (quote BPA) **01455 898 560**

Royal Aero Club Medal

John Curtis received the Royal Aero Club Bronze Medal from Henrietta, Duchess of Bedford, in recognition of his services to parachute rigging, since 1964. A former chairman of the BPA Riggers Committee, John Curtis established the BPA Rigging Safety Manual, whose working practices are still followed today.



Fergus Burnett



BPA *matters*

By Martin Shuttleworth

www.bpa.org.uk
0116 278 5271

Minutes of all BPA meetings can be downloaded from the BPA website

Make Your Vote Count! Avoid these common mistakes



1. Personal details not included – **INVALID!**



2. More than 15 YES votes – **INVALID!**

3. Voting not clear – **INVALID!**



4. Not all candidates voted for – **INVALID!**

✓ CHECKLIST

- ✓ Before posting your card, check – have you:
 - ✓ Included your BPA number, name & signature?
 - ✓ Voted for 15 candidates or fewer?
 - ✓ Voted YES or NO for every candidate?

Council Election

There are 20 nominations for the 15 seats on Council 2007. A ballot is therefore being held. Information on candidates and a voting card are enclosed with this Mag. Please vote! Completed cards must arrive at the BPA office by **noon on Monday 15 January 2007**. The postcode on the voting card is different to usual, so Royal Mail can charge the BPA for the postage. It's free to vote! Election results will be announced at the AGM. The candidates are:

Paul Applegate
Adrian Bond
Sandy Barnett
Kieran Brady
Robin Durie
Ralph Fielding
John Horne
David Ibbotson
Eddie Jones
Paul Ledden
Ian Marshall
Mark Maynard
Paul Moore
John 'Geordie' Page
Grant Richards
Mike Rust
John Smyth
Elizabeth 'Weed' Stoodley
Elizabeth Warner
Alex Wilson

How Does Council Work?

All candidates volunteer to serve your association for a year, travelling to meetings, reading paperwork and making decisions. Their efforts, skills and time are unpaid, although travelling expenses are claimable. Once elected Council members in turn elect Chairmen for Council and the various committees, these are also unpaid positions. Council and BPA staff work together, the staff putting into effect the direction steered by the committees. By voting, we can all be involved and we are all responsible. Once your Council members are elected, please support their efforts and remember they are volunteers who have been chosen by the membership to do a difficult job.

Make Your Vote Count

Last year, 10% of ballot cards were invalid because they hadn't been filled in correctly. Make sure that your vote counts.

- You must vote YES or NO for **each** candidate – **don't leave any candidates not voted for as this will invalidate your card**. This is the most common mistake and is generally caused by people filling in most of the card, being indecisive about the last few and posting it without realising they have not finished voting for everyone.
- You can vote YES for **no** more than 15 candidates. Fewer than 15 is fine, but **more than 15 will invalidate your card**.
- You must **include your name, BPA number and signature or your card will be invalid**

If you spoil your card, we'll send you another one – just ask. Cards are logged when they are returned so we know who has voted.

Free Membership

A valid voting card will be drawn out of a hat at the AGM, the winner will receive a year's BPA membership.

Skydive Spain

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www.skydivespain.com



Photo: Mike Carpenter



Photo: Mike Carpenter



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Photo: Jay Southall

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- Shop on site
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- Competitive team training rates
- AFF Courses by BPA Instructors on a British owned DZ
External instructors encouraged to bring own students
- We welcome Skydive Spain students at our sister dropzone in the UK Target Skysports at Hibaldstow
www.skydiving.co.uk
- FS and FF Organisers & Coaches
- Birdman Instruction



**Spring Blow Out Boogie
24 Mar-15 Apr**

info@skydivespain.com

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UK Office: 0113 250 5600

TOP DZ IN EUROPE

Photo: Mike Carpenter



20 DEC - 10 JAN

Photo: Sarah Hall



• Nils Pedstrup from FunkFlyz 27 Dec - 10 Jan

• Boogie turbine aircraft - 3x G92s & 2x SMG92s all flying to 15,000 ft

• Freely Outbreak - British Gold medal winners available for coaching throughout winter

• Canopy Courses with Brian Vacher of Safe Flight School, 22-27 Dec & 29-31 Dec

• Simon Cathrine - FS organising/coaching, big way skills progression 22 Dec - 2 Jan

• Pat Hammond available for CRW coaching from 22 Dec - 1 Jan

CHRISTMAS BOOGIE

Nationals

8-WAY SPEED

THE COMPETITION EVERYONE LOVES!

From Skydive Sibson...

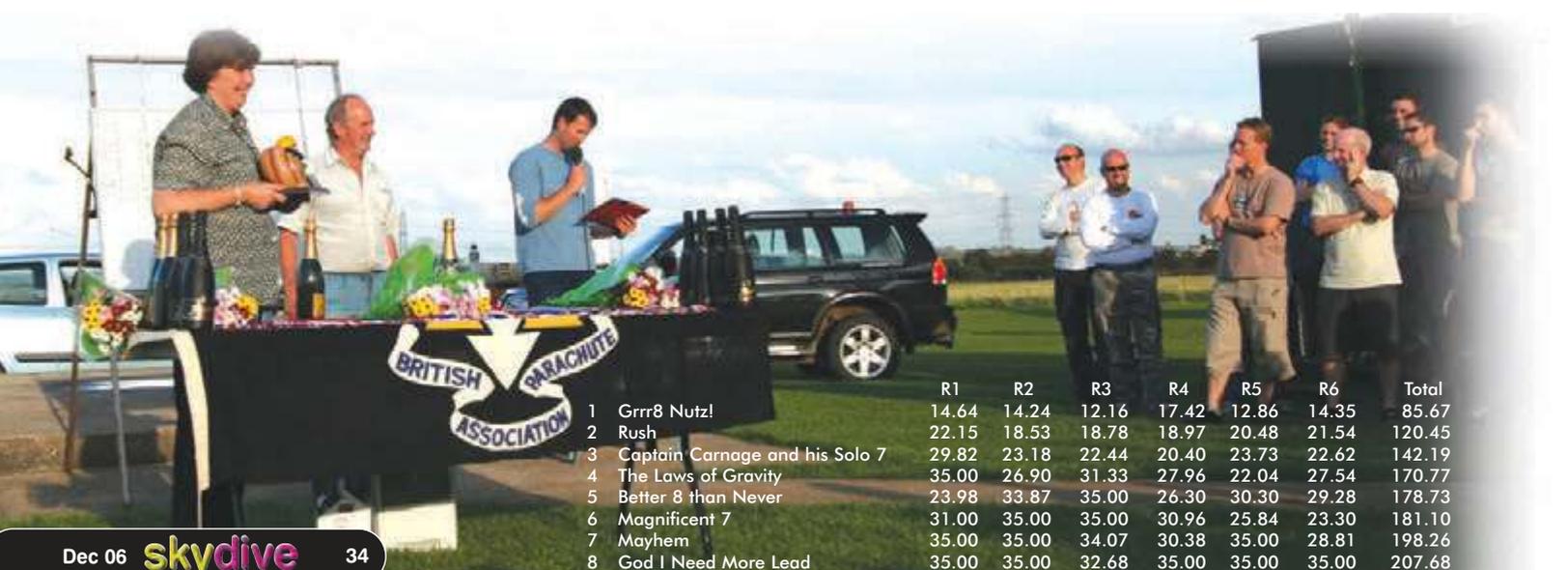
It was always going to be fun – time for everyone to kick back after the Nationals or just get a bunch of mates together for a giggle. There was some impressive flying from newbies and many freeflyers turning to the light. Eight teams entered and for the first time in many years, all six rounds were completed thanks to smooth manifesting, great judging and everyone's co-operation, not to forget Tony's fantastic flying of the Skyvan.

There was a last minute panic to find the trophy for the prizegiving, thinking it must have been lost in the fire! It was brought back to us the day before – phew! The Snail Trophy for the slowest team was returned

fully dressed in a mini fireman's jacket and helmet – no prizes for guessing who won it last year.

There's always a scratch team and this year it was made up of freeflyers and flat flyers of all different levels. They were very happy to win the Snail and are looking forward to giving it a new outfit. Mark's wingsuit team was planning on entering but unfortunately some couldn't make it – hopefully next year? Remember, Speed 8 isn't just for flat flyers. As long as you have eight people who can safely fly together, whether it be head-up, head-down or wingsuit, then why not try it? See how fast you can go!

Sarah Hall
Da Management



	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Total
1 Grrr8 Nutz!	14.64	14.24	12.16	17.42	12.86	14.35	85.67
2 Rush	22.15	18.53	18.78	18.97	20.48	21.54	120.45
3 Captain Carnage and his Solo 7	29.82	23.18	22.44	20.40	23.73	22.62	142.19
4 The Laws of Gravity	35.00	26.90	31.33	27.96	22.04	27.54	170.77
5 Better 8 than Never	23.98	33.87	35.00	26.30	30.30	29.28	178.73
6 Magnificent 7	31.00	35.00	35.00	30.96	25.84	23.30	181.10
7 Mayhem	35.00	35.00	34.07	30.38	35.00	28.81	198.26
8 God I Need More Lead	35.00	35.00	32.68	35.00	35.00	35.00	207.68



God I Need More Lead

All photos: Sarah Hall

From the teams...

Grrr8 go Nutz!

Sounds Grrr8, Wingnutz and friends joined to make Grrr8 Nutz! We were definitely focused on silly second points. We had an eight lane swimming race with tumble turns, a joined line doing a front loop, some over and unders in a circle, but the highlight of hilarity and surprising success was our 4-way rodeo built in a star. We intended to turn some points but I couldn't stop laughing enough to mount my steed with sufficient stability to turn! All credit to Woody on camera, staying with us all the way.

There was never a threat to the national record but the coolest vibes and beaming smiles all weekend said everything. What was that Steve Such? Don't tell the bird boys in case you lose air cred but you had some serious fun? Don't worry, your secret is safe with me. Thanks to Sibson for hosting a top weekend! And the shiny gold medal is rather nice too.

Caroline Allen
Grrr8 Nutz!



Gold - Grrr8 Nutz!

What a Rush!

We'd been talking about entering the Speed 8 since the last one finished but with some of the team moving to the other side of the world (was it something we said?) we hadn't really got a plan until just beforehand. Also, having spent the weeks before the FS Nationals practicing 4-way out of a Skyvan(!), we then tried to master 8-way speed out of a G92 – planning really isn't our strength! At least with a penalty line marked out in the Skyvan, picking slots was easy – smallest feet at the front!

Amazingly, by the end of the first day we were in second place. We thought about nobbling the team in front by getting them plastered, then realised we only needed to get Caroline drunk, but couldn't stop her talking long enough to get a drink down her neck!

Sunday was a case of "No pressure but...". I don't think I've been as n for the final round lift, since doing my AFF. Incredibly, we made it. Who'd have thought three years ago at my first Speed 8 Nationals, I'd actually be competing successfully, let alone getting a medal. Certainly not me!

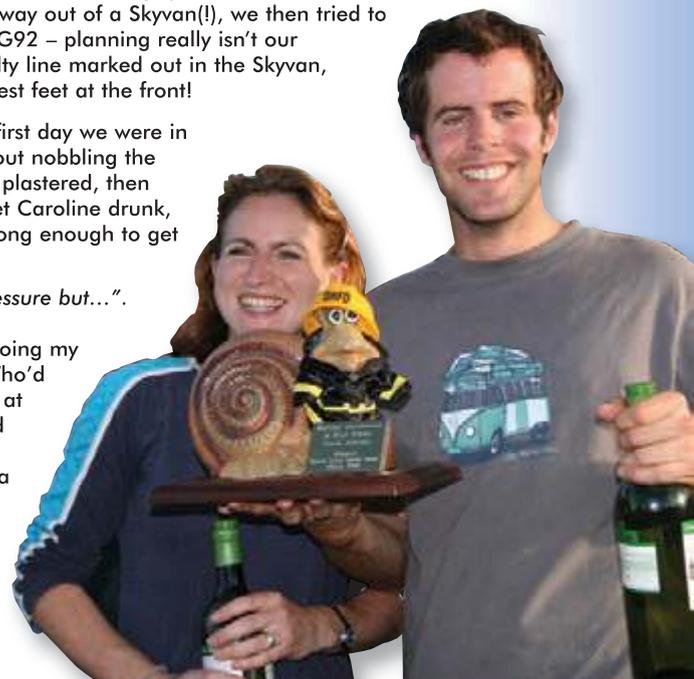
Alison Chaplin
Rush



Silver - Rush



Bronze & best second point - Captain Carnage and his Solo 7



EXITS



There are three parts to a good exit:

- **Timing**
- **Individual Presentation**
- **Group Presentation**

A great skydive starts with a good exit. Getting the whole group off the plane together allows you to get the jump off to a quick start. Launching the first point requires us to take up grips in the door. This often puts us in compromising positions. The key to getting a good launch is having balance and physically putting the formation on the air. Firstly, knowing where on the hill you want the formation to be, and then putting it there – no matter what!

To make all your exits work every time, everyone must achieve the following:

- Know exactly where the formation is to be in relation to line of flight.
- Be comfortable, balanced and stationary in the door.
- When lined up in the door, look at your opposite, establish your cross-referencing. Even if you cannot get direct eye contact, look in the direction of your clone. Then as the formation hits the relative wind you will have them in your sight.
- Know where you need to be as an individual, present to the relative wind as you launch, don't wait until you are outside.
- Use what you see to make the formation sit exactly where you want it.

Timing

Timing is getting everyone in the group out of the plane at the same instant. Good timing is achieved by having one person initiate an exit count. The person giving the count should use three ways to communicate:-

Audible

Give a loud verbal count, this not only communicates to others around you, but helps with your own rhythm. Not everyone is going to be able to hear your count, that is okay. Others will and everything we can do to help adds up.

Tactile

Give a shake that can be felt. Physical movement is a great form of communication. If you are giving the count, make your shake strong and clear so that there is no mistaking your intentions. If you are not the person giving the count, you should have a heightened awareness of the person who is. Feel every nuance from that person and from the group.

Visual

Along with feeling, the team members should look for movement from the key person. Heighten your awareness so that you see everything. The person giving the count also should communicate visually loudly, ie, vigorously. Be powerful in your communication, though not so much that you put someone off balance. Obvious subtlety is the key.

Individual Presentation

It is important to have both individual presentation and group presentation to the relative wind.

Individual presentation refers to your body's position and attitude to the relative wind. Be sure you are aware of where the wind is coming from as you are lined up in the door and have a plan about presenting your body to it. Know at what angle the rest of the piece will be presented and what heading you will need to have.

Group Presentation

This refers to the presentation of the entire piece to the relative wind. When a group exits the plane, each individual needs to have their own space so they can get clean air for their individual presentation. If we don't get this clean air then we are immediately put in another burble and this will create a funnel. Basically it works like this, the point needs to jump up and away from the centre and the tail needs to drop down and away from centre. Imagine a piece of clear plastic set up on a 45° angle horizontal to the wing dropping down from the front edge of the door. If the front person goes up and the tail goes down then everyone will get clean air and the piece will fly.

Article from *Airspeed Coaching Newsletter*
www.airspeed.org





Main 8-way launch picture

shows good group presentation. You can see the line of flight is straight up the centre of the formation, which means no rotation. You can see the box out, where everyone has their own air to fly in and they are being strong to make sure the formation is flying nicely before they move to the first point. (8-way is a little different to 4-way, you typically launch a chunk, then transition to the first point.)

In the picture below, imagine a piece of clear plastic set up on a 45° angle from the aircraft wing, dropping down like a slide across the front of the door. This camera angle shows the inside divers are perfectly presented, exactly on the same piece of plastic. The outside floaters have a big dip in the centre, this could be due to the third floater not getting down and away, or from the point person, who needs to get his hips higher, probably a combination of the two factors.

In the 4-way launch below, each of the flyers are on different planes, not on the same piece of plastic. It looks like the inside centre had trouble getting out, maybe even hit the back of the door. Each exit is unique as for the position out the door, the 2-way on the left wants to be angled between 2 & 8 'clock. This formation over-rotated and they are at 10 & 4 o'clock.



Vertically Challenged by Alan Thompson

8-way launch photos: Connexion by Gary Manwright

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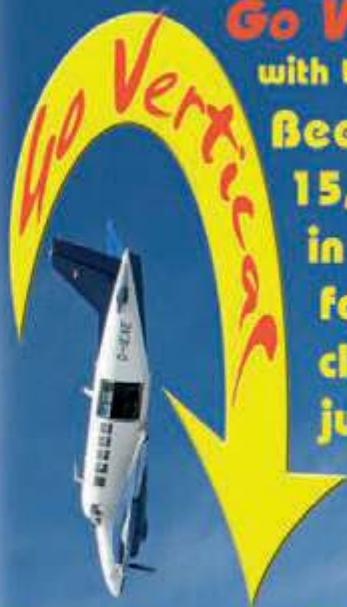
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SPAcial *Invitations*

Brits outnumbered Belgians on their home territory and of course did our best to make an impression on our hosts at Spa. We think they won't forget us, our nightly tent-moving antics, tree landings and being asked to leave the bar at eleven o'clock in the morning!



Edward Blaauw



Mellow Yellow

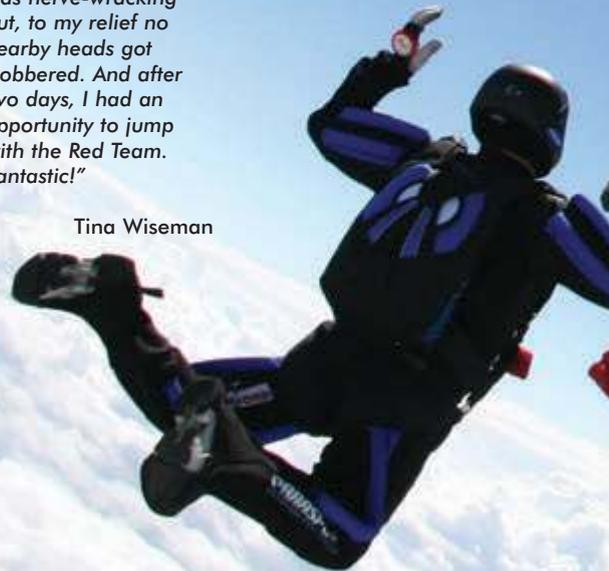
"Yellow Team had an eclectic mix of Europeans (oh yes – and me!). Luckily Dario Jotti organised in the international language of skydivers: English! The group included his 16 year old son, Stelio! Dario's careful guidance meant we were consistently getting 2-3 points on every jump, with every point being a new achievement for many. Trying an outfacing slot was nerve-wracking but, to my relief no nearby heads got clobbered. And after two days, I had an opportunity to jump with the Red Team. Fantastic!"

Tina Wiseman



Conny Jotti

Main photo: Willy Boeykens



Simply Red

"Our 48-way group was expertly organised by Milko, Roy (Hayabusa) and Eliana (Airspeed). On the final day we finished the event in style with a beautiful 48-way which is a new Spa DZ record. This helped the Leffe beer taste even better!

"Despite inclement weather, the vibe was kept high by impromptu seminars from Arizona Airspeed. This was an amazing opportunity to learn from world champions and quiz them freely. With top class organising and great hospitality, SPacial looks set to become one of the premier European events in the skydiving calendar."

Audrey Rowe



Gary Wainwright



Willy Boeykens



Luc Van Brissom

Out of the Blue

"Just when I thought big-ways couldn't get any better... along came Spa! I was in Team Blue, (led by Craig Girard & Kirk Verner plus Dave & Andy of Spa Hayabusa). The smaller 16-way dives were so much fun! They allowed us to do multiple challenging points and work on the techniques that would be needed as the dives grew bigger. I learned a lot from the event. Craig and Kirk's unique style really created a sense of team and we quickly found ourselves judging our own skydives – not by completions or even having grips – but on how much we had respected the integrity of the formation, followed the team plan and of course by the number of all-important 'cool points' we could gather from Craig along the way!"

Caroline Hughes



**Cost: £15 (max 35 words)
£10 extra for a boxed ad
£10 BPA website entry**

**Closing date –
Thursday 25 January**

Cheryl 01778 391 158
cheryla@warnersgroup.co.uk

COMPLETE RIG Javelin J1 (2000, 450 jumps) Jade/magenta with stainless, Sabre2 150 (2004, 200 jumps) Blue/yellow, PD143 reserve unused, Cypres 1. Excellent condition. Cost: £2,000 ono Location: Essex Contact: Karen kstryczek@hotmail.com 07967 588664

KAST

COMPLETE RIG Infinity container (2005), Silhouette 190 main, Smart 190 reserve, Expert Cypres 1. Container is red, black & white, hip rings, stainless hardware, mini risers, hackey handle. Size to fit 6ft+, medium build. Email or call anytime for pics/more info. Cost: £2,350 (offers). Location: Northern Ireland. Contact: Warren Howard warren.howard@biwater.com 07753 973512

WAHO.3

TEARDROP RIG Teardrop SF. Rig at Target Skysports Springo 120 (80 jumps), Speed 120 reserve. Container is TSE Cosmo skin with purple edging. Excellent condition! Cost: £1,000 approx. (offers) Contact: Chris Place chrisplace@ads1mail.newnet.co.uk 07771 540 978

CHPL

TELEMETERS One set World War 2 Telemeters and tripod in original box, optics perfect and available for inspection. Cost: £1,200 ono Location: Bristol 01454 320202 (Mon, Wed & Thurs am only).

MRQJ

COMPLETE RIG Javelin Odyssey, new Oct 2005, 200 jumps, main spectre 135 reserve, Aerodyne 120, Cypres 2. Cost: £2,150. Location: Newbury. Contact: Clive Swain swainclive@hotmail.com 07890 536831

CLSW.1

ATOM, RESERVE & CYPRES 2 Blue Atom container and Techno 128 reserve. Both DOM 1998. Cypres 2 DOM March 2004. Container built for a 135 main, currently has a 107 main attached. Freely-friendly rig at a great price. Pictures available by email. Cost: £1,000 (offers). Location: Glasgow Contact: David Pritchard david_pritchard05@yahoo.co.uk 07894875723

DAPR.2

JAVELIN ODYSSEY rig Spectra 170 (238 jumps) PD176 Reserve (no jumps). Medium size container freely friendly, Cypres, all documents. Yellow/blue/grey striping excellent condition. Cost: £2,000. Location: Nottingham Contact: Terry 07711 920373 or 01623 427471

TECO.5

SABRE 135, only 50 jumps (rainbow stripe). Phantom 145 reserve. Old Zerax Container (black) BOC. No Cypres but could be fitted. Kit last serviced and used 2000, hence desperately needs good new home! (Has been stored well.) Cost: £700 (offers) Contact: Sharon Leftwich Sharon.a.leftwich@jci.com +44 (0)7966 563201

SHLE

COMPLETE SYSTEM Vortex (2) Heatwave 150, Black (rainbow strips) 170 reserve, no jumps. System has less than 30 jumps. Cost: £1,000 (no offers) Location: Southampton. Contact: Alistair Christie alistair_christie@hotmail.co.uk 07932030889

ALCH.3

VELOCITY 120 For sale due to downsizing, only 140 jumps, excellent condition, tangerine. Cost: £600 ono Contact: Martin 07970787231

MARE.7

**WANTED!
Educational Articles**

As a non-competitive low experience weekend fun jumper I was unable to glean anything of value from the October Mag. It was filled exclusively with events with nothing of educational value or practical use. While it is warming to be updated on who's winning what, I suspect a large portion of your readership is made up of novices like me. I would therefore like to ask instructors and experienced jumpers out there to selflessly submit educational articles to the Mag for us low jump weekend warriors that don't know very much about anything (such as the feature on openings in the June Mag). I know that over the years numerous good quality educative articles have appeared in the Mag, but some are worth repeating or expanding on. Of interest would be small group exits, beginners' guides to basic 2- and 4-way formations, how to interpret aviation weather charts, how different control inputs affect the flight dynamics of a canopy and so on. Thank you.

Darren Spooner

Yes please experienced skydivers! We would love to receive and publish more educational articles.

For those on the hunt for knowledge, check out our website on www.skydivemag.com for an archive of previous educative articles, with a search facility.

Lesley

Medical Forum

There is a wealth of untapped medical and paramedical expertise within the skydiving community. Some of our medical members are already active at their home DZs providing valuable care and advice for the injured skydiver. I feel very strongly that we should consider the formation of a medical forum, so bringing together this expertise and providing a robust way forward to address medical issues in general within our sport.

After some discussion with Dr John Carter (BPA Medical Adviser) and several other skydiving doctors and paramedics, I composed a letter outlining some medical issues, eg, the provision of medical packs and, more importantly, the formation of a medical forum. My letter was intended to be posted to all doctors who are BPA members. However, it has not apparently reached all (apologies to those PhDs who kindly forwarded my letter to the relevant parties!).

Please would those who are suitably qualified and interested in participating in a medical forum email Kate Stephens kswales@hotmail.co.uk with subject 'Medical Forum'. She would forward my original letter, we then hope to gauge interest and set up a meeting. In addition, Kate and I will arrange an informal meeting at the AGM, to which all medical BPA members and interested parties are invited.

Ruth Green

Consultant Radiologist
The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust

Liveuary - Pat Hammond

I have read a few obituaries over the years. In the recent Mag I noticed that some Russian judges were amazed to learn that Pat Hammond is 70 and still one of our most active jumpers, so I thought I had better write a 'Liveuary' as Pat seems like he will go on forever! "E should be kapui", according to the Russians. I have known Pat since he came on a first jump course back in about 1987 at A1 Skydiving, he was too old to skydive then – but this is the life and times of Pat Hammond! He persevered because he'd found something he loved and, whilst we all thought he would give up and go away, he worked his way through the category system (on round canopies) and somehow became a Cat 10 jumper. Although FS was never his thing, he discovered canopy formation and, from then on, Pat has been like a drug addict convincing fellow jumpers to "Have a little taste". Pat is welcome at every DZ he visits and is always there to help out, muck in and make things go that bit more smoothly. He has been the handyman at Chatteris since its inception in 1997, most people think of Chatteris as 'The DZ That Pat Built'. He can turn his hand to anything, fix everything and, if ever there is a demo

or public relations work to be done, Pat is the man for the job. (Apart from when he blacked out half of Cambridgeshire but that is another story!)

And the secret of Pat's fountain of youth? Well, he has the most lovely wife you could wish to meet who stands back and watches with pride. I don't know what she feeds him on but it should be patented and sold to the rest of us seeking to fight off old age. (I hazard to guess a 50th wedding anniversary is in this story somewhere!) Everything about Pat's life is a story of success, fuelled by a love of the sport of skydiving that seems to keep him eternally young. I don't know how many CF trophies he's won but, if ever anyone should be nominated for a lifetime achievement award or services to UK skydiving, I for one would nominate Pat Hammond, and I doubt you'll find a single BPA member or DZ Operator who would disagree. After twenty odd years and at the physical age of 70 (I'm guessing between 18 and 26 mentally) we should all be inspired. Pat Hammond: skydiver extraordinaire and all round nice guy!

Dave Harrison

The Compensation Culture

Within any sport, adventure activity or daily working life, if we suffer an injury, we often look for someone to blame and want to claim compensation. The BPA insurance is no stranger to this with numerous claims each year, not only from ab initio students but also claims made by BPA members against BPA members. There is now an expectation that whenever something goes wrong we should claim from someone! We are arguably within a compensation culture which is having an effect on us all, including our insurers, be it car, home, travel or skydiving. More and more organisations within the UK are experiencing more claims and, as the BPA will agree, fear the really big claim that could just be around the corner. Surveys from personal injury lawyers across the country reveal a likely increase of around 20% over the next two years in personal accident claims.

Most personal accident claims are pursued under civil law for compensation. The existing culture is being driven by various factors:

- A persistent blame culture. Potential claimants believe that if they have been injured then someone must be liable. To win any such claim though, there has to be at least proof of negligence (negligence being a breach of duty to take care).
- A misunderstanding of the concept of personal responsibility. In civil claims this is referred to as 'contributory negligence', accounting for any personal negligence which contributes to the accident, injury or loss.

- Inaccuracies or no formal paperwork, inappropriate control systems, and a misconception of risk assessment which has led to risk aversion, rather than concentrating on good risk management.
- The growth of 'no win, no fee' lawyers supporting the low personal financial risk by claimants.
- Some insurers will not defend some claims as they feel it is more cost-effective to settle out of court. This can encourage claims.

The government has signalled its intent to change the current culture, with a Compensation Bill aimed at regulating claim companies and educating them on risk management. Our governing body, the BPA, is already actively managing risks, from the development of our Operations Manual, built upon over years to become our industry safety standard, to the introduction last year of club and display risk assessments. Risk management stems from the BPA, with Affiliated DZs being asked to proactively manage risks on a day-to-day basis. But this doesn't just fall on DZ operators, CCLs, weekend instructors or display team leaders. All BPA members have a part to play in managing the inherent risks we usually take for granted and, wherever possible, to help others do the same. Additionally we should become more aware of our insurance's limitations and liabilities, which is becoming more apparent since the AGM in January 2006. We should try to distance ourselves from a persistent blame culture and the potential myth – or reality – that the BPA insurance will always pay out!

Stuart Morris (MIOSH)

Media Exposure

It was great to see some positive press as a result of Airkix's recent successes. I'd like to say a big thanks to the Mag and especially Weed Stoodley. Following her fantastic article (*Making the Most of the Media*), I called hundreds of journalists and followed up with emails. Especially among regionals, interest was high (27 stories!) and, after some badgering, we even made three full page articles in the national press! While some of it was fluff it was encouraging that it was positive for a change.

Many regionals wanted to run follow-ups and asked to be kept up to date. Providing high resolution photos made a big difference. I phoned *The Scunthorpe Telegraph* after the Nationals (they didn't even know it was on!) and sent pics and a press release. Skydiving featured with a photo (*Bodyflight Rage*) on the front page, and a double page in the sports section. We all grumble about news of skydivers 'plummeting to death' but we can't really complain if we don't tell

them the good stuff. The BPA and Julian Storey did a great job getting coverage for our team in *Pilot*, *Today's Pilot* and *Loop* (thanks guys!). The UK Nationals, as our biggest annual event, seems like an obvious way to get stories out all over the country, every year if we could organise something. Coverage for medal-winning teams could be 60 individuals and their local papers for 4-way alone!

Not everyone fell over themselves; *The Telegraph* initially asked "Are you actually a sport?", and *The Guardian* said they never feature minority sports as no-one's interested! When I disagreed they said readers had never complained – but, if we did, they would pay attention. As Weed said, positive coverage counteracts bad press and demonstrates that we are 'actually a sport' (!) as well as a great recreational activity. Media exposure also brings in new participants and generates more funding. It's quite easy to do – but it's up to us!

Emma Beyer
www.teamairkix.co.uk

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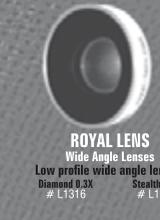
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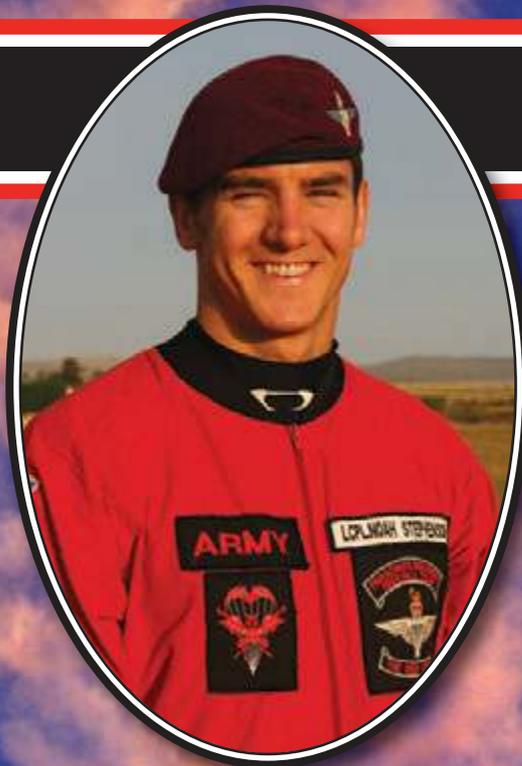
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Noah Stephenson



One of Noah's best known photos, used in the Daily Mail, Top Gear, Soldier magazine and many more

Main photo: Noah, centre, piloting a tri-hand downplane over Swansea, courtesy of www.dezines.co.uk



Noah joined the Army in 1994 aged 17 and served with the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (3 PARA) before joining the Red Devils in 1999. Noah left the team in May this year before taking a job in Iraq as a bodyguard. Tragically Noah was killed by a roadside bomb on 19 October 2006 while leading a vehicle convoy in Iraq.

If you didn't know Noah then you would almost certainly be aware of his work. Noah was an expert freefall cameraman whose awesome video footage appears on numerous Red Devils team films. His stills photography also features heavily on the Red Devils website and has featured several times in The Mag.

Noah was a true all-rounder who loved skydiving and was very proud of his time with the Red Devils. He was an awesome canopy and CF pilot and also loved FS and freeflying. In addition, Noah was a CSI, Tandem and AFF instructor. He could literally turn his hand to any skydiving discipline and be brilliant at it.

Although he was a man of few words, Noah was deceptively witty with a very dry sense of humour. In fact he was one of the most naturally funny people I have ever met. He chose his words carefully and delivered his wit with perfect timing to side-splitting effect – his 'lobster claw' and 'banana hand' gags are legendary!

Noah was the nicest, most genuine person you could ever meet. You could speak to anyone who knew him and they would not have a bad word to say about him. He was friendly, likeable, completely unflappable and extremely laid-back – almost too laid-back!

He was honest, helpful and nothing was too much trouble for him. A professional man at work and a caring, devoted husband and father at home, the world is a duller place without Noah. He will be missed by all who knew him; we feel that we have lost a brother. Anyone who knew Noah will feel as shocked and saddened by his death as we all are and our collective thoughts at this time go to Noah's wife Susan, daughter Lottie and step-daughters Amy & Emily.

He was a unique bloke whose immense popularity was shown at his funeral, which was attended by everybody in the army skydiving world in a packed church near Netheravon. The Red Devils have lost a close friend and the British skydiving community has lost one of its rising stars.

Marcus Orme and Billy Blanchard

Rest in peace Noah
Once a Red Devil, always a Red Devil

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photos by Joao & Tony Hathaway



Upcoming Events

Skydiveratings.com Courses for this month:

- 1-4 - Tandem rating course**
- 8-9 - Coach rating course**
- 12-18 - AFF pre-course and rating course**
- 22-25 - Tandem rating course**
- 26-31 - AFF pre-course and rating course**

2-3 - 4 Way Skills Camp with guest Eric Daren from Team Mandarin

2 - Saturday Night Jumps - B license required, jump ticket and \$5

9 - Canopy Skills Course hosted by Tunnelcoach.com. Come improve your skills with Sally and Martin. Contact sally@tunnelcoach.com to enroll. max. 10 people. \$60 and 5 jumps

16 - Jan 1 - Annual Christmas and New Year's Boogie stay tuned for all the details

23-24 - East Coast Challenge, rock-solid hardcore

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Photo: Rhina

Kit News

by Rob Colpus

Icarus Beget Daedalus



Photo shows Attila Csizmadia by Martin Ciesielski

Those of you familiar with the Greek myths will know that Icarus (he who flew too close to the sun) was the son of Daedalus (who didn't). Well, in the non-mythical world of canopy manufacturers the parental role could be said to be reversed. Icarus Canopies, which was founded by an eccentric New Zealand genius named Paul (Jyro) Martyn of NZ Airsports, has been with us for some time now, producing such popular canopies as the Crossfire and Safire range; whereas Daedalus Canopies USA, also founded by Jyro, has only recently swooped onto the scene. Daedalus Canopies exclusively produce top of the range very high performance and ground launch canopies for the dedicated pilot, whereas Icarus produce student, tandem and mid to top range canopies for the general skydiving world.

Daedalus break their canopies down into two main groups, the J VX and the GL range; J VX being skydiving wings while GL stands for Ground Launch. The company claims that the new design parameters of their 27-cell cross-braced tricell J VX, including new materials, new nose section, a new cord height, no stabilisers, thinner profile, new trim, HMA line, etc, etc, make the canopy more efficient for the dedicated swooper. Daedalus claim that stabilisers do little more than flap and create parasitic drag, so they first experimented with ram-air stabilisers for solidity, but in the end found that no stabilisers at all were in fact preferable.

They say that the J VX is able to maintain more lift span-wise (side to side) over the wing which allows pilots to downsize and gain performance by reducing parasite drag! They go on to say "you can downsize to increase your wing loading with other wings such as PD's Velocity but you lose valuable wing area span-wise which reduces the amount of lift you can carry over the wing during the swoop". They continue "The best way to gain performance is to increase the wing size and the wing loading at the same time. However, the new weight control system being used worldwide by the

World Swooping Association which limits the weight a competitor can carry, makes it difficult to wear enough weight (40-60 pounds) to fly near the optimal loading with these types of wings. With a J VX you can wear less weight and fly a smaller wing, allowing for less parasitic drag and therefore improved performance". The company claim that recently a J VX pilot swooped 665ft in a competition in Europe flying a J VX79 Hybrid!

The J VX is available in three fabric types – all zero-P, all sail material or a half and half hybrid. Reportedly the J VX Hybrid, which has a sail material top skin, packs 10 square feet larger than a standard J VX made from all ZP. "The J VX made of all sail material is definitely not for small rigs, beginner swoopers or the unprepared" the company is quick to add. A J VX 85 for example, made from all sail material packs as large as a 135 conventional canopy. Despite its bulk Daedalus are very happy with their use of sail material for their swooping machines, "unlike standard zero-P, which has no UV rating and therefore breaks down relatively quickly, sail material lasts longer increasing the life of the canopy". The company claims that, after testing a J VX made of all sail material for 2.5 years, it had less porosity and more performance than a brand new canopy made from zero-P! The sail material does cost more than standard ZP which of course increases the initial retail price of the canopy but a sail material J VX does retain its value very well over time.

Daedalus tell us that some competition pilots have purchased 2 to 3 J VXs before they get down to the correct size and material type but because of the good resale value they were easily able to do this. They claim that many experienced pilots have underestimated the J VX Hybrid and 100% sail material version, thinking it cannot be that much more aggressive than a Velocity or Icarus VX – they find they are wrong, says the company. Daedalus also produce three models for ground launch only operations.

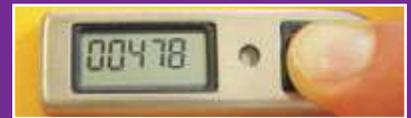
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Cypres2 More Features

Those ever restless Airticians over there in Germany have now introduced two more features to their Cypres2 AAD package.



The new 'Altitude Adjustment Recall' feature allows a previously used altitude adjustment to be easily reset at the beginning of the normal adjustment sequence. It's achieved by letting the button go after the value appears on the display. This feature is designed to make it easier for jumpers who have to regularly set a different altitude, because their drop zone is at a different elevation to their airfield for instance.



A 'Flight Counter' has also been added to the Cypres2 which is accessible by pressing the button immediately after the self-test has ended with a 0. This feature is designed to be useful to DZ rental gear or tandem owners. Both these new features are standard on new Cypres 2s or can be retro-fitted to existing units free of charge. The mods will be automatically added at a unit's next 4 or 8 year service date.

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Bedtime Reading

An up to date parachute riggers manual may be downloaded at www.faa.gov (search for parachute riggers handbook). Written by Sandy Reid, of Rigging Innovations in Arizona, this 330 page FAA 'New Testament' of rigging covers subjects from certification and responsibilities; regulations and ethics; design and construction of mains and reserves – round and square; harness/containers; AADs; materials and hardware; inspection and packing; rigging and repairs; to tools and machinery. Although aimed at the US riggers' market this handy tome, with its easy layout and coloured photographs will be useful and interesting reading to any skydiver who is keen to improve their equipment knowledge.

sandy@rigginginnovations.com

A Rigger's Proclamation



Cypres set-up in Voodoo container, label states for Airtec's AAD only, not the 'Johnny-come latelyst!'



The BPA's Riggers Committee has recently been wrestling with the thorny problem of whether any AADs (Automatic Activation Devices) may be fitted to any harness/container systems using any installation set-ups.

This situation has come about since the release of first the *Vigil* and then the *Argus* AADs onto the market, both of which use the same installation pockets and channels as designed and supplied by Airtec for their Cypres system. Airtec published instructions to riggers some four years ago, stating that their installation system was for the Cypres unit only and not for use with any other AAD. Clearly Airtec are now unhappy that their set-up system is being used by all and sundry.

Certain harness/container manufacturers then issued statements declaring that only those AADs which have been approved by them and tested with their product may be fitted in their harness/containers without infringing on the rig's integrity.

After much discussion the BPA riggers agreed that "Where AADs are to be fitted, both the AAD manufacturer and the rig manufacturer must be in agreement as to the fitting of the AAD, and instructions as to the installation/fitting must be available".

On the subject of Airtec set-ups being used, the riggers agreed that, if the harness/container manufacturer allows the use of Cypres set-ups and loops with other AADs, then they are doing so against the instructions of Airtec.

Relative Magnetism

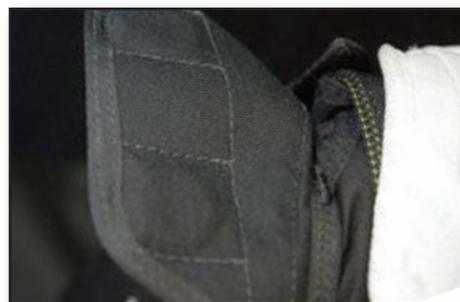
How many times have you seen someone's main riser covers flapping in the breeze because the stiffened tongue has slipped out of its pocket on exit or after donning the rig? Well now United Parachute Technologies, formerly Relative Workshop reckon they've solved this annoying and potentially dodgy problem for good – with magnets! The company have inserted small yet powerful magnets into the main riser covers of the rig which securely hold the two parts together until they are ripped apart by the deploying risers – but not beforehand.

The Florida-based company claims that the new idea also contributes to reliable on-heading openings because the tension on both covers is evenly distributed and the chance of a riser cover 'hanging-on' is eliminated. The company did point out that the strong magnets used in the design may adversely affect implanted medical devices, magnetic storage media and aircraft compasses (could be embarrassing!). The new feature is available on the company's *Vector* and *Micron* containers for an additional \$25 – good deal I'd say!

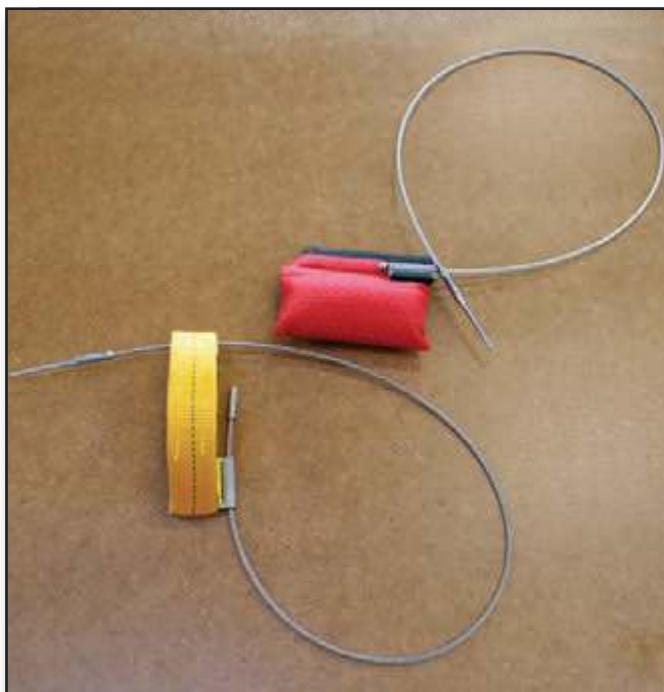
www.uptvector.com



Magnetic riser covers are now available on Vectors and Microns



A Nice Pad



Over the last several years the sport has seen a steady trend away from the usual metal 'D' reserve ripcord to a soft velcroed pad similar to the cutaway handle. The theory goes that a soft pad is less likely to be inadvertently dislodged, which could result in an unwanted reserve deployment. Whatever the validity of this argument one drawback to the soft pad has always been the fact that the cable is fixed rigidly to the pad, thereby creating a finite length of cable between handle and pin which cannot allow for any movement or flexing of the harness without the chance of the pin being moved.

Well now our inventive friends at Paratec in Germany have come up with the solution to this problem by developing a special cast stainless steel attachment point which is built into a soft pad. This attachment point allows the ripcord cable to run freely through the pad in the same way a cable runs through a metal 'D' handle, thus solving the flexibility problem and allowing for better inspection of a free running cable between pin and ripcord. This new pad is supplied as standard on the company's *Next* container system and their tandem rigs.

Paratec's new reserve pads with attachment points for the ripcord cable allowing it to run freely and giving the best of both worlds (pads and D-rings)

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Learning to Swoop?

I have 100 jumps and I'm interested in learning to swoop. I'm not going to do anything silly (stay out of the corner, people!) but I was wondering what sort of exercises I can learn and practise to improve my skills under canopy with this goal in mind.

The first thing to do is make sure you have completed the BPA Canopy Handling Progression System, CH1 and CH2. CH2 provides a number of in-air exercises for you to practise. Assuming you have these qualifications, the BPA then defines a high performance landing as anything you do to increase speed for the landing. In order for you to be able to attempt these types of landings you must have Canopy Piloting 1 (CP1). This system introduces some basic concepts for starting to build speed for your landings. Only work with a good, trusted CP instructor at your drop zone, who is also demonstrating consistent landings without being low.

It is also important to realise, as I'm sure you have already been told, that experience plays a role. It takes a long time to build up the pictures to understand how your canopy flies close to the ground. Have fun being aggressive with the exercises up high and train a number of safety inputs again and again. Focus on the in-air inputs rather than trying to be aggressive close to the ground. There are more than 40 possible inputs and each day we are learning more! Then ask yourself the question – what is too low? How do I know what too low is? How can I never be too low? You need to know the answer to these questions before attempting more advanced landings. Speed is the easiest thing to build under canopy, anyone can do it, the question is what you do with that speed.

Some safety inputs to try up high would be to slow down. This means discovering the slow range of the canopy, feeling how turns and lift are created within this slower range. It means slow down mentally so that you are relaxed and your brain can function. It means slow down to collect information about what the canopy does.

The second major safety input is to understand that you can change your pitch at the same time that you are creating roll and yaw. This means that you can start pulling up out of a turn, during the turn itself. To practice this up high start a turn with a toggle and, during the toggle turn, aggressively add the opposite toggle to attain lift. At the same time continue turning and understand that the turn (roll and yaw) does not have to be finished before you can start to change your pitch. Invest in good accurate instruments. Do not attempt any manoeuvre blind. With more aggressive landings, you need information which can only be given to you from a digital visual altimeter and a digital audible altimeter with a canopy mode.

Finally, read! The technical information is out there on the web (eg, www.safeflightschool.com). More importantly read about the mental aspect of stress and how the body reacts to stress to understand how to control all situations under the canopy. You can do much of the work on the ground even if you can't get to the DZ every day. Two books that are a must are *The Parachute and its Pilot* by Brian Germain and *Deep Survival – Who Lives, Who Dies and Why* by Laurence Gonzales.

If you are serious about this discipline then get good coaching from established schools such as the Safe Flight School, www.safeflightschool.com or Wingtips, www.wingtipscp.com. Remember that it takes just one mistake close to the ground to seriously injure or kill yourself, have discipline and respect for what you are doing.

Brian Brain Surgeon
info@safeflightschool.com

Dear Diver

The return of our skydiving problem page, by popular request



Background image by Lee Durant

Andy Wright by Willy Boeykens

Which Camera?

I am buying a new stills camera. I want it to be skydiving friendly so that when I reach a level where I can shoot photos in freefall I don't have to fork out for a new one. Can you give any advice?

There are two main choices to make: compact or SLR; digital or film. Compacts tend to be too narrow a field for skydiving. Because most people jump a wide-angle lens on their video to keep the skydivers in frame they need a wide-angle lens on their stills camera so they match as closely as possible. SLRs are the ones with interchangeable lenses and this is what I would recommend. If you can possibly afford it, go digital rather than film – I made the switch recently and love it! After this it basically depends upon your budget. Assuming you go for a digital SLR there are a few things to consider. You must be able to fire the camera remotely so you need to be able to plug in an electronic shutter release. Unless you spend big bucks (£1,800+) on the body there will probably be a 'crop' factor on the lens, so a 24mm lens will become about a 38mm lens, ie, not really wide enough for most people. Therefore you will need to buy a very wide lens, typically somewhere between 15 and 18mm.

What would I buy? I have the Canon 350D which is great for skydiving. However, the 400D has just come out and I would probably go for that if I were you. It's small and light with a high resolution and respectable frame rate (it will take three shots per second for about 27 shots). I would buy this now with the bundled lens (kit price approximately £550) and learn to use it. When you are ready to jump with it, invest in a better lens. The only downside of this camera is that it is so small and light it feels a bit plasticky when you are holding it – of course this isn't a problem in freefall!

Have fun! For more info, go to dropzone.com and check out the camera forum – this question gets asked all the time.

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Which Insurance?

I'm going away skydiving at Christmas, do I need special insurance? My house contents policy includes travel insurance, will this do? If not, where's the best place to get cover for skydivers?

Yes, as an absolute minimum you definitely need medical insurance just in case you have an accident. This will cover air ambulance and hospital bills (which will be tens of thousands) and get you home afterwards if you can't make your return flight. Your house insurance will not be sufficient as standard travel policies will not cover you for skydiving, although with a very few you can add it on as a high risk activity by paying an additional premium, it's worth asking the question.

There are a small number of companies which include or specialise in skydiving, eg: Axa Travel, Airsports, Backpackers, Columbus, Extrasure, Harrison Beaumont, MCIA Sportsplan, Nat West, West Mercier. There is no single 'best place' to go, it depends on your needs, just like buying any other sort of insurance. Shop around to get the best deal for your situation. The internet is a great first port of call but with something as specific as skydiving, often phoning is the best way to check out your options. Confirm that skydiving is included, check any limitations. We know of people who thought they were covered for parachuting only to discover the insurance company had a limit of five jumps per trip or 'did not include freefalling'. Make a checklist to make sure you ask all your questions. Eg, ask whether, if there is a claim, the hospital can bill the insurance company directly, or whether you have to stump up a lot of money for medical cover and wait to be reimbursed afterwards.

Depending on your plans in the next year it may be worth investing in an annual policy, covering you for all the skydiving trips you make. This can be either worldwide or excluding specific areas such as the US. You can play with excess amounts, cancellation cover and baggage level coverage to try and bring the price down. You can also tailor your baggage cover depending on what your home policy includes which can bring down the price – nothing magic or particularly special but it all helps. Some companies, eg Axa, offer a companion rate on the same policy which can reduce the rate even further.

www.etravelinsure.com does a very low priced annual insurance with – unusually – no extra premium for skydiving but if you do need to claim because of skydiving the excess is £500. You may or may not want to take that risk.

If you are going to the States there is an American company offering travel insurance cover including skydiving for non-US residents, see www.buyamericaninsurance.com. You can arrange on line either before or after departure to the US – but if you plan on taking out the cover when you get there, make sure you do! There's lots of flexibility and the prices seem very reasonable. Using a US company can be less hassle if you have a problem – you get an insurance card (a bit like any US resident with private coverage) and the doctor's office calls a toll-free number to verify coverage, then bills the insurance company directly. The US market is particularly expensive for medical treatment (although the quality of its care is very good) and many American hospitals will refuse treatment without proof of the ability to pay.

If you're travelling only within Europe there is a reciprocal health cover arrangement in place between countries which may provide free or reduced cost medical treatment. You can get a form at a post office or apply on line at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers for a free European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). The EHIC replaces the old E111, there is a leaflet *Health Advice for Travellers* which explains how to use it in the various countries. This is a sensible measure to add to your travel insurance, it does not replace it. It may cover or help with hospital bills (depending which country you are in) but it will not get you home and probably won't cover air ambulances.

The insurance market changes all the time so what was 2005's best deal may now be 'so last year', having been superseded by new policies. The information above is what has been fed back to *Skydive Mag* by BPA members, it is reported in good faith and we believe the information to be true. However the only way to find the best deal for you is to ring around the suggested companies as a starting point. Let us know how you got on and if there are other good deals out there for skydivers. Good luck with your insurance – we hope you won't need to use it!

Ooh Matron
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24

HOURS

1

MAN

640

JUMPS!!

Jay Stokes celebrated his 50th birthday by making 640 jumps!

The veteran skydiver did it to break his own world record of 534 jumps in 24 hours.

The pace worked out to one jump every 135 seconds!

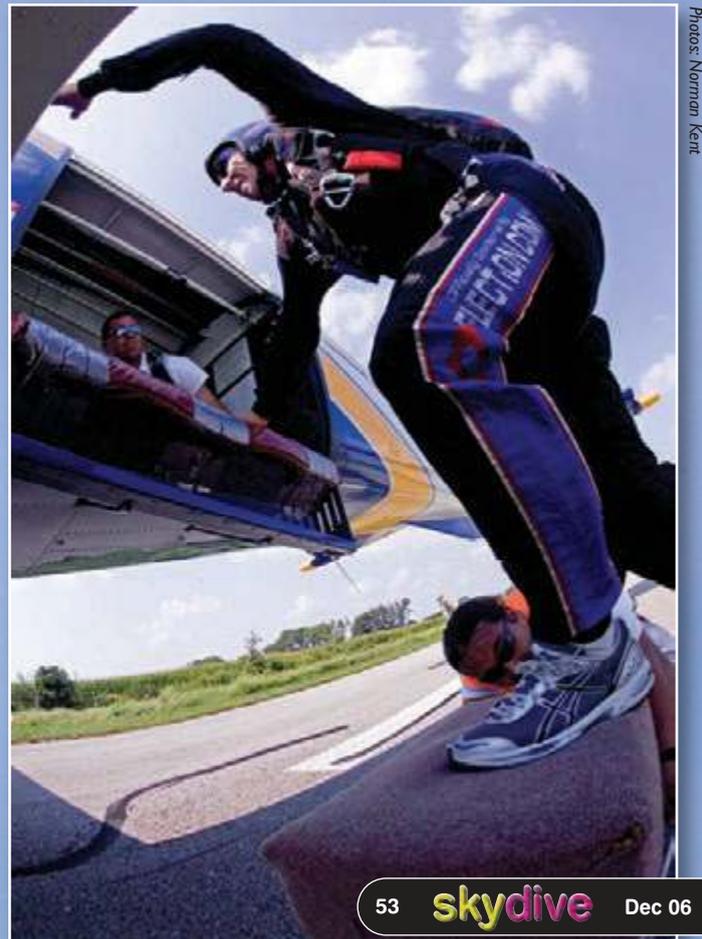
To accomplish this, the event was designed for maximum efficiency. The plane climbed to just 2,100 feet and after exit the pilot would nosedive back to earth to pick him up again quickly. When his canopy opened, Jay would pull down one of its steering toggles to go into a spiral to reach the ground in just 40-45 seconds.

When his feet hit the ground, he was met by two volunteers who stripped him of his rig as he ran to a third volunteer, who would belt on another one. By this time, the plane was ready to go, and another volunteer would push a block into place where Stokes could step up, grab hold of the plane with his left hand and swing inside.

Dozens of volunteers helped by packing his 23 rigs and flying three planes at Greensburg, midway between Indianapolis and Cincinnati.

"I feel a little bit tired, but I think I'll be okay" Jay said on Saturday morning at Greensburg Municipal Airport after finishing his feat at 8am. He almost didn't reach his goal after injuring his left quadriceps muscle around the 200th jump. *"I had a little bit of a problem with an injury and I wasn't sure if I was going to be able to continue but I worked it out."*

Jay took pledges and contributions for the record, hoping to raise \$60,000 for Special Olympics and the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which provides scholarships to the children of special operations soldiers killed in the line of duty.



Photos: Norman Kent



Hayabusa win AAA by Willy Boeykens

Like the plot of a Hollywood road movie: by land, sea and air, eight teams from the UK journeyed to continental Europe in September to compete in the European Skydiving League (ESL) finals at Skydive Spa in Belgium.

Now in its fourth year ESL finals had over 30 teams from eight countries, the event was a lot bigger than the national competitions of most of the countries attending. Due to the size and strength of our nationals, Britain has led the way this year, being the first country in the world to have all four categories represented.

European Skydiving League

ESL is the European competition subset of the American (now international) National Skydiving League (NSL). NSL publishes a competition draw every weekend, that any country can use and the scores are posted on www.skyleague.com so teams can compare their performance worldwide. Not every team competes at the same time so the league is more of a guide than the equivalent of the Barclays Premiership.

Friday - Six Rounds

On the first day, Friday, the Brits in rookies and A class were showing their anticipated form, sitting in the top three. By sunset, after six rounds, *Phobia* were leading the rookies with *Murphy's Law* lying third, in the thick of a real scrap for the silver medal. There was a similar story in A with *Wingnutz* in first and *Escondido* in the hunt for a medal. In AA, *Damn Zebra* were sitting in third with *Vertically Challenged* and *Polaris* not far behind. First and second places were held by two previously AAA teams that had moved down to fill the AA class slots for Belgium. The sole UK AAA class team *Fusion* were on form but in a field with the



Phobia win the rookie event, cheered by *Murphy's Law* in silver



national teams of Belgium and the Netherlands they were out of the medals and in a best of the rest competition.

Saturday

A beautiful Saturday morning saw the jump order reshuffled to allow the top teams to be scored last. This added to the drama as everyone saw their rivals being scored live on big screens, with the Finnish-developed HSS scoring system. All the UK teams put in dogged performances. *Murphy's Law* in rookies capitalised on a poor round by Dutch team *Whoops* to rocket them into second place with a 9-point advantage going into the last round.

Final Rounds

The final rounds for the top five teams in each class were scored after everyone had jumped, allowing all the competitors to watch on the big screen, in the packing hangar, with a beer. Team GB's *Phobia* took gold in rookies with *Murphy's Law* taking silver. In A class *Wingnutz* added the ESL gold to their UK Nationals gold.

The Spirit

The Spirit trophy is awarded to the overall best nation, calculated by adding the highest two scores for each country in each category. The Spirit was won by Belgium who boxed clever, making sure that they had two teams in each category. If one of our UK national medal-winning teams had attended, we could have had a good fight for the sword!

Prizegiving & Party

Saturday night saw the prizegiving and party, usually a sedate affair – NOT! Beer fuelled cheers as prizes were awarded, each the loudest and most heartfelt you've ever heard! Teams beamed with pride as they



Wingnutz win A class



Phobia by Alan Thompson



Fusion by Dave Butterell

adorned the podium to receive medals and the traditional 'cupboard doors'. *Wingnutz*, *Phobia*, *Murphy's Law* and *Damn Zebra* all took their turn, with the gold medallists getting shiny trophies plus free jumps and coaching from *Spa Hayabusa*.

When team *Spa Hayabusa* took to the winners' podium for the third time in three years it signified the end for their current line-up (Sven and Bruno are leaving), so there were a few tearful eyes. *Hayabusa* set a new Belgium record average and were rewarded for their efforts by being ambushed with buckets of water by *Spa* locals.

One missing prize was the 'best dressed nation', which would of course have gone to Team GB, sporting their BPA squad T-shirts. These proved to be the envy of the party and became black market currency for shirt-swapping and other dodgy deals throughout the night, as the superb Belgium beer was consumed by the gallon.

Sunday - Open Forum

Sunday saw the usual open forum where competitors who manage to make it up voice opinions on the meet and suggest how to take ESL forward. Next year's venue for ESL is decided, with the idea of it moving around each year - but people usually have such a good time at *Spa* they want to come back! This year with *Spa* again being favoured it was decided that interest from DZs in each participating country would be investigated to see if a suitable alternative is available.

During this meeting Willy Boeykens announced that he is standing down as the main co-ordinator. We wish him luck in his new ventures. Thanks to all the organisers especially Willy whose hard work lead to the largest ESL yet. Also to the Skydive *Spa* staff who ran the comp run very well. Thanks to team *Optic* who encouraged the British exodus following their pioneering ESL win in 2004. And lastly thanks to all of Team GB, your efforts ensured that the UK has a valuable presence in skydiving in Europe. Fantastic!

Doug McLelland
Fusion

AAA Class

			Ave
1	Spa Hayabusa	Belgium	20.5
2	NMPV	Belgium	17.4
3	Punky Fish	Netherlands	15.9
6	Fusion	UK	10.9

AA Class

1	Spa Bad Donut	Belgium	12.7
2	Spa Good Donut	Belgium	12.1
3	Damn Zebra	UK	10.9
5	Vertically Challenged	UK	9.9
6	Polaris	UK	9.3

A Class

1	Wingnutz	UK	12.9
2	Spa Excess	Belgium	11.3
3	Mind Your Step	Netherlands	10.7
4	Escondido	UK	10.3

Rookie

1	Phobia	UK	11.7
2	Murphy's Law	UK	10.0
3	Whooops	Netherlands	8.6

Full results: www.skyleague.com



Hayabusa get a drenching, photo by Willy Boeykens



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Club News

Weston



Photo: Tim Aucott

I'd like to give recognition to my Club Reps for all their hard work this year. It is a thankless job sometimes so well done to you all for volunteering and doing such a fab job. Please continue to support them by writing up your achievements on the drop zone posters and giving them your news and photos.

There is a new trophy to be presented at the AGM this year. The Taz Casuer Skydiver of the Year Award will be suggested by you. To nominate someone simply send an email to skydiveroftheyear@skydivemag.com or the BPA office (skydive@bpa.org.uk), including your reasons why you think your chosen skydiver should win. The recipient of the award is to be decided by Council from those candidates nominated by BPA members (please include your full name and BPA membership number). Closing date for entries is **2 January '07**.

Wishing you all a magical Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Lucie



Leila, Paul, Suzie & Mike by Andy Ford

Peterlee

- Achievements**
- First Freefall**
- Wesley Chatterje
- Cat 8**
- Charlie Mayo
- Alex Anchor
- CH1**
- Charlie Mayo
- Alex Anchor
- CH2, JM1**
- Sam Lee
- IS1**
- Adam Pencharz
- Jump Numbers**
- 50**
- Sam Lee
- 300**
- Andy Brumby
- 900**
- Glen Staley
- 1000**
- Mal Richardson



X Factor judges get into character for the show

The Peterlee X Factor went down a storm with Joe 'Freddie, Dolly' Keely winning by a landslide. Three judges (Dave as Simon, Mel as Sharon and Pench as Louis), were even better than their real life counterparts. They commented on each contestant before the audience's favourite three went through to the final. Tom 'Toot Toot' Hartland brought his guitar, performing an acoustic version of an unprintable title (something to do with gentle then hard), which opened a few eyes but

went down a treat. Kev & Alan had a polished version of *Bright Eyes*. Lisa & Jane ripped up *These Boots Are Made for Walking*. All other acts – Matt, Glen, Ant, Catherine (crazy dance routine), Richie, Mal, Howard and even yours truly seemed to go down well. Stu hosted a tremendous evening. Thanks to everyone.

Congrats Ross Sibbald who's just announced his engagement! Rumour has it he's moving back to the North.



Top host and organiser Stu Ferguson

Photos: Paul McCormick

There's definitely something in the Northern air as Lee Lee Saunders has proposed to Jade. All the best to Lee, soon returning to Afghanistan, take care dude.

We're only open on weekends in December & January. We close 18 Dec-12 Jan for Christmas and 20-21 Jan for the AGM.

And finally, my own good lady said yes!

Paul McCormick



Greg Simmonds is happy to finally pass Level 5!

A pirate party organised by Alana O'Sullivan revealed some very interesting costumes and our end of season party saw everyone dressed smartly and looking sexy.

Congrats Chrissie Messer & Mike Hayes, expecting their first baby, and Roger Flavel for breaking the UK SOS record with a 5-way!

The Scrambles saw mostly bad weather but, with a bouncy castle and inflatable jousting pole, most skydivers seemed to mask their disappointment. 16 teams entered, 2 rounds completed, with Charlie's Angels winning.

Well done to Greg Simmonds for Cat 8. He started AFF but repeated level 5 fifteen times! Determined not to be defeated he did a few hours in Bodyflight and returned to breeze his AFF!

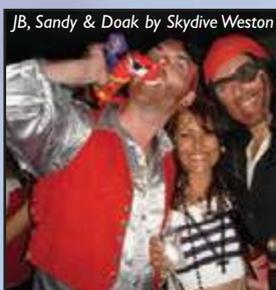
By Jonathan Ashe



Leonie & Jon



Mike & Cathy



JB, Sandy & Doak by Skydive Weston

Lots of people have worked hard to make Weston an exciting, vibrant DZ, thanks guys. We wish everyone a fantastic Christmas and an awesome new year. Expect more great things when we reopen, Sat 3 Feb.

Nigel Holland

Anna the hook-er by Jonathan Ashe



Weston Achievements AFF Graduate

Nina Pedersen
Reece Gilmore
Justin Sandercoe
Dave Leesmith
Anna Price

Cat 8

Tim Green
Amy Huxtable
Ivy Kochanska
Reece Gilmore
Justin Sandercoe
Joe Rossiter
Dan Glaister
Greg Simmonds

CH1

Amy Huxtable
Ivy Kochanska
Reece Gilmore
Justin Sandercoe
Sean Astley
Joe Rossiter
Greg Simmonds
Sean Astley
CH1, CH2, JM1, FS1
Aaron Binks

Martin Heywood-
Wakeman

Nick Etchells
Henry Harrison
Amy Poskitt

FF1

Andy Suett
Leila Neathercoat

Jump Numbers

50
Amy Huxtable

100

Andy Suett
Aaron Binks

Jenny Harrison

Cat I've

200

Paul Cockton

300

Leila Neathercoat

700

Nick Whiteley

800

Anita Donaldson

Hinton



Come back soon Pickles! Photo by Dorian Harwood

As the cold weather arrives we say goodbye to the sunshine followers. Pilot Chris Rica bid us a fond farewell. Catherine Glenister has taken over and what a sterling job she's doing, despite strange looks from male tandem passengers stating the obvious, "The pilot's a woman!". Chris 'Pickles' Ivory, tandem and now AFF instructor (congrats!) is spending the winter down in Queenstown, NZ. Joel Keith, one of our youngest, is off to work at Lodi, CA. Good luck Joe!

Building work on the new DZ Sports shop and Point Zero rigging workshop continues, it's really beginning to take shape. A visit from PD wasn't blessed with weather but Baz still got to jump the teeny weeny Velocity – and, yes, he's still in one piece!

At the annual Bavarian Beer Festival the bar guys from The Crewe did an excellent job – you know how to keep skydivers happy! Bad weather the next day was most welcome!

Sandie Keith

Achievements AFF Graduate

Neil Billington
Matt Seago
Gary Grainger
Chris Murphy

Cat 8, CH1

Gary Grainger
Jason Walsh

FS1

Rob Franklin
Hayley Baldwin

50 Jumps

Jason Walsh

Vikki Geddes

200 Jumps

Gary Aldwinkle

700 Jumps

Matt Abram

Winner Joe and Eric celebrate in style!



Alan Mackay lands at Kingsmuir airfield



Many people have progressed well taking advantage of the last of the summer sunshine. We've had our usual collection of parties with some awful karaoke from Graeme Mackay and bizarre antics with a large Coca-Cola fridge! Who'd have known you could put a 100kg object 10 feet up on the manifest roof in less than 45 seconds?

Congratulations to Darren, expecting his first child at the tender age of 24. Did he really lick the lizard? There are many welcome new faces. I can only

assume they've heard of our legendary drinking ability and well stocked bar and have arrived to have a shot at emptying it! We have good events planned including a Christmas social, 16 Dec, and a New Year Scrambles, date tbc, check out www.kingsmuirskydivers.co.uk

Graeme Mackay

Achievements

First Freefall

Frank Goodall
Greg Law

50 Jumps

Robbie Kerr

200 Jumps

Jonathan Smullen

1000 Jumps

Graeme Mackay

Ed Murdoch

1 Hr Freefall, FS1

Oliver Farzin-nia

12 Hrs Freefall

Graeme Mackay

St Andrews

Shorts? In October? In Scotland!



Photos: Ed Murdoch



Richie as Cher



Lisa & Jane

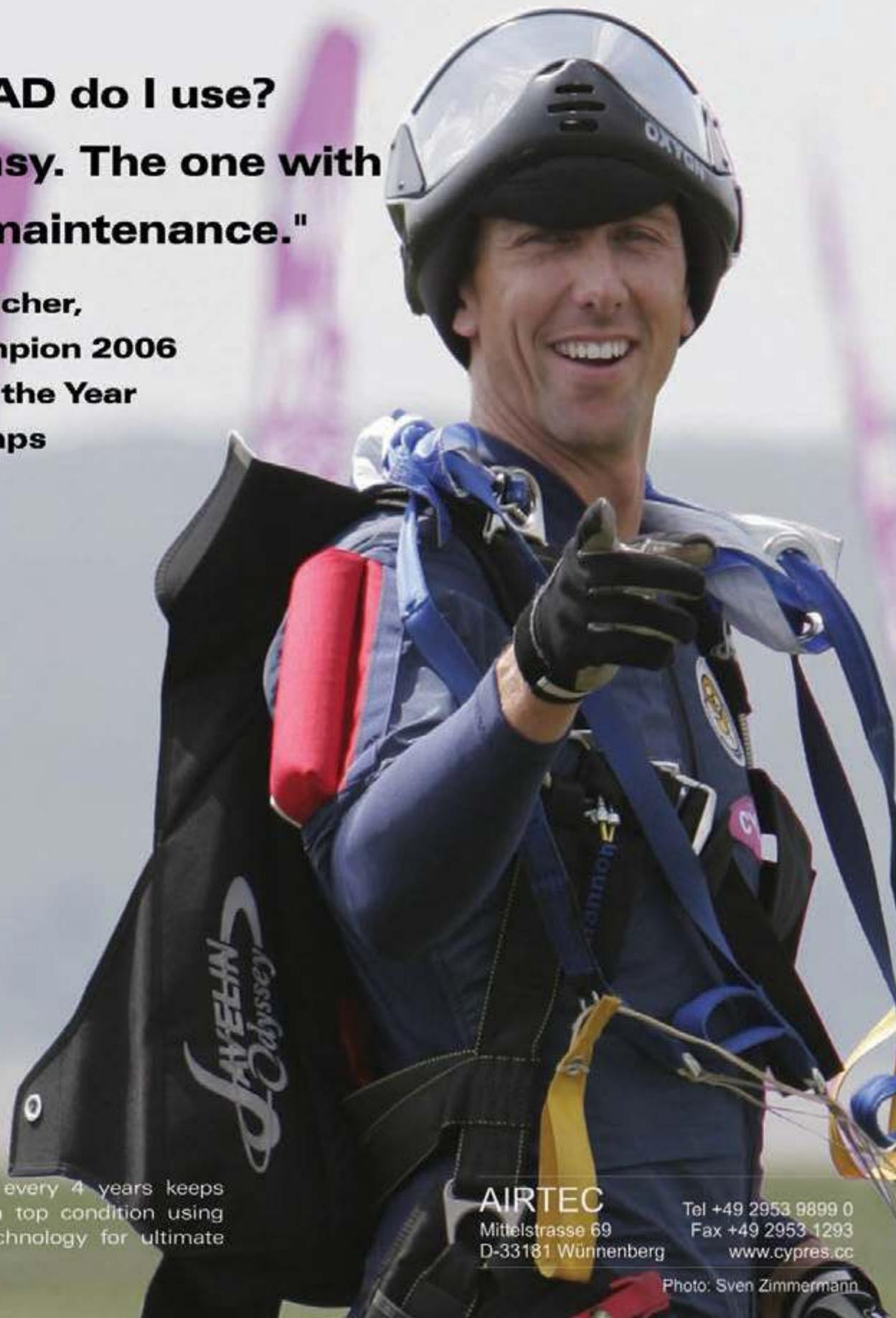
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Photo: Sven Zimmermann

Strathallan



Photo by Steve Studders

It's great to see our third Cessna 206, we now feel spoiled for choice! Calum's got a lovely new rig, it's so small and camouflaged that we keep losing it!

The Portugal Christmas trip is gaining momentum with many already signed up. If jumps in the warm Algarve sun with your friends sounds like your cup of tea, contact Eddie before it's too late!

It's nice to see Errol back in action, it was good having you all here. Stirling Uni have started a skydiving club, we welcome lots of new faces. Remember about our cut price progression after the first jump.

Congratulations Unai for his first tandem with a paying student, he was grinning like a Cheshire cat and took great delight in telling her when he landed that she was his first.

The Domanski family had a wee go in the wind tunnel. It did the trick as they are now all flying belly to earth, grateful thanks to the team at Bedford for this miracle.

Adelle Collins

Achievements

First Freefall

Barry Hyde

Cat 8

Kieron Elliott

CH1

Abe Hills

Iain Higgins

Kieron Elliott

FS1

Ally Pringle

FF1

Craig Maxwell

Stephen Kynaston

50 Jumps

Iain Higgins

200 Jumps

Ally Pringle

300 Jumps

Kenny Shaw

Alan Embleton

Unai delights in his first!



Calum Grant

Wild Geese

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1

Catherine McGinnity

Mark Redmond

100 Jumps

Mark McGarvey

600 Jumps

Rod McCrory



Joe & Mick, I wonder what happened next!

Photos: Mike Murphy

The thermals are out and being put to good use. Anyone who has been in our 206 without a door will know what I mean! It's getting regular use midweek with the Caravan flying at weekends. We're very busy, get down early, the days are getting shorter!

Welcome back to Fergie returning from Empuriabrava, rumour has it he's bought a pair of the aforementioned thermals. Huge congratulations to Edward Monteith for his Irish Wings in just 8 jumps!

Practical Magic await with anticipation their new kit and jumpsuits from America. Christmas is coming! The Queens 4-way team continues to improve and grow in confidence with every jump. Queens Uni attracted loads of students at their Fresher's day. Well done to Connor, Marty, Alison, Jade and Co for your hard work. Welcome to the new students, don't be afraid to ask for help - we were all there once!

All are welcome at the Algarve Spring Boogie, 15-24 March, see Mike Murphy or John McCourt. I for one am counting the days - are we nearly there yet?!

Mike Murphy



Francis & Paul

Bridlington

After an eventful summer Bridlington has finally reopened its doors. The response from the regulars has been fantastic, it's great to see so many old faces back after the break. Nick Johnston returns as CCI and Clair Armstrong joins us behind-the-scenes. It's nice to have a woman's touch around the place - everyone's commented on it! The bar and clubhouse have been redecorated. A new menu and a spruce-up for the canteen sparks the end of the packed lunch era.

Tim Morley went from tandem student to solo skydiver in little over a week! Dennis Rowlings, a former Brid jumper, returned to the skies over Grindale after 21 years!

We're hoping for a new aircraft next season too, check out: www.skydivebrid.co.uk



Brid's day room with the woman's touch, photo by Gareth Thomas

Achievements

AFF Graduate

Tim Morley

200 Jumps

Clair Armstrong

400 Jumps

Gareth Thomas

Del Hand



The Mag welcomes Gareth, Brid's new part owner and Club Rep, photo by Lee Durant

Gareth Thomas

61

skydive

Dec 06

Achievements

First Freefall

John McNulty
 Dave Tighe
 Andy Myers
 Chris Smith
 Steve Watkin
 Debbie Williams
 Richard Cross
 Holly Prest

Cat 8

Frank Barlow
 Richard Dixon
 Gary Thornton
 Carl Ian-Ross
 Martin Dunn
 Aidan McQue
 Rich Burnett
 Dave Tighe

FS1

John Bradley

FF1

Alex McMullen
 Marcus Wray

Jump Numbers

50

Frank Barlow

100

Nicki Rowlands
 Wayne Jones

200

Mike Valentino
 Collinson

Sam Davies

1000

Steve Springer

3000

Jason Snailham

10,000

Phil Cavanagh



Avalore by Hans Berggren

Black Knights

After weeks of secret earthworks, undercover water relocation and thorough testing by Phil Cavanagh, the swoop pond is finally ready. The 350 ft monster contains 3.8 million litres of water and is conveniently located for splash-down next to the experienced landing area. Steve Springer has dramatically tested the surface tension, giving his rig a thorough wash! If you'd like to come and play with the pond please speak to the office staff first. For obvious safety reasons there is a 1,000 jump limit. Stay tuned for related events next year! Thank you Amelia Walters and Alan Holmes for helping, you guys are stars!

We now have deep shag pile carpet in the hangar. Anyone suffering with dodgy knees, you can now have attractive carpet burns instead!

Lancaster Uni Freefall Society's new president Al Wheatland is already doing a smashing job with a full RAPS course in the first week of term and a record 56 new members! Goodbye (again) to Valentino Smith, off to operate ski lifts in Austria and Mark McCurrie who is moving to Wales as he is starting a job - in Curry's of all places! Frank Barlow has had more ups and downs than most but has finally qualified Cat 8! If you know Frank you'll understand why we felt the need to say a big 'Well done!'.

Keep checking the website for news and we wish everyone a great Christmas! Our party is 2 December at Garstang Golf & Country Club, see you there.

Rob McVey



Naked Chefs by Mark Walton

Paragon



Achievements

First Freefall

Ryan Fisher
 Fardeen MacKenzie
Cat 8
 Abe Hills

Alice survives this year's Empuria trip Photo: Chik Adams

We're back jumping at Errol again following our summer at Strathallan, many thanks to all at Strath for your hospitality.

The annual pilgrimage to Empuria was a success. The Spanish sunshine turned us normally blue Scots some rather fetching shades of red but never mind, winter's here - soon be back to normal!

Plans are taking shape for our Christmas party, call the DZ for details. Anyone who's attended previous events be assured we'll be on our best behaviour this time! Honest!

Bob Henderson

Tilstock



Photo: Steve Smith

Party season is upon us! At the Christmas do many prestigious and not-so-prestigious awards will be given out. Tony L is the only contender for the 'Take up Golf' award! (Ask him about his 40 yard T-shot.) The most hotly contended title is the dubious 'Crater of the Year', there are too many to list, yours truly included.

RAPS students have been progressing. Well done Louise & Liz. Simon owes beer for his 4,000th. Helen tried to keep her 200th quiet but got a dunking anyway, and Tony got one just for being there!

Ron's been working in-tent-ly to create the New Acme Parachute Club, membership is exclusive and currently stands at one. Moral, don't use tent waterproofing spray on your canopy!

Wishing you all a very drunken Christmas and an even merrier new year. Blue skies

Paul Morrison

Achievements

CH2, JM1

Louise Whitby

JM1

Liz Boniface

200 Jumps

Helen Lightfoot

4000 Jumps

Simon Davenport

Chatteris



Photo: John Stevens

Well done to Lloyd Quenby on his AFF instructor rating! Congratulations to our pilot, Simon, on 1,000 flying hours and on retiring his particularly hideous home-dyed jumpsuit. We wish Aiden Chaffe the best of luck as he heads off to the sunnier skies of Spain to pack. Goodbye also to Robert Fiuza, who returns home to Serbia.

It is with a heavy heart and great sorrow that I bear the sad news that Bounce, our 'friendly' DZ cat, has passed on to the great drop zone in the sky. Spotted sleeping on your canopy, harassing small dogs and children, or terrorising any static line student naive enough to approach him, he'll be sorely missed.

Fiona Law

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1

Andrew Pugsley

100 Jumps, CH2, JM1

Si Chipp

600 Jumps

Lorraine Dixcey



Andy Crawford

Blue skies Bounce!

Skydive London

Di by Dylan Griffith-Jones



Brucie was a cover model for aircraft magazine, Aero, as they did an article on the Airvan – which you should really jump out of sometime Brucie! Di (pictured above) was a page 3 model for the Wallace and Gromit Campaign, she took up skydiving after doing a tandem jump for the charity.

South Africans Claire & Pieter finally found out how to land on the DZ (even after Stu Livett's coaching!) and are now experienced skydivers, congratulations! Anne & Russ are progressing well, Anne is now getting in the door the right way and is our new resident packer. Jez the Kiwi did his 1,000th jump which as normal at Redlands didn't go to plan, sorry guys.

A big thanks to the Red Devils tandem instructors who've been helping out. Geordie & Brucie travelled to Hinton for a proper skydivers party, the Oktober Beer Fest. Most survived although some are still suffering shock.

Dylan Griffiths-Jones

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1
Pieter Potgieter
Claire Potgieter
50 Jumps
Mark Benson
1000 Jumps
Jez Cooper



Di, Claire & Anne before the Oktober Fest

Dylan Griffith-Jones

Netheravon



Ryan Marcey

The weather was awesome for our third Skyvan weekend. Thanks yet again to Caroline & Billy for organising us into some form of shape(s). Who'd have believed this time last year that we'd be capable of 30+ way formation loads?! We have high hopes for 2007 when the new Caravan arrives! Big thanks Graham, Ryan & Dedric for the fab DVD.

The social highlight of the year was the Autumn Ball and Film Festival. Thanks to all who entered and congratulations to the winners: Gav Tuckley's *Fred's Out-takes* in third, Sooty & Tom's *Summer Holiday* in second, but victorious by a mile were Gerry (for the second year running!), Lucy & Ryan with *The Packing Box*. DVDs of all entries available, proceeds going to Wiltshire Air Ambulance. It was great to see everyone donning their glad rags, particularly Robin – nice shoes mate!

After Sharky's delicious food, a highly

35-way by Ryan Marcey



entertaining magician was followed by an absolutely spectacular fireworks display, set to film soundtracks – a huge thank you to Trev Hookings.

Caroline, our load organiser extraordinaire, rewarded outstanding members of the gang, with Jason Legg getting a Brian Vacher canopy piloting course, and Lou Gower & Trev half price Wings vouchers.

Thanks to Liz Ashley for running a wingsuit weekend. Well done Alun, Paul, Woody, Jay,

Thea, Ivan, and Becky for their first wingsuit jumps, for those who forgot to ring the bell, we haven't! Liz has many more demo wingsuits for 2007, hopefully to be combined with several Skyvan weekends – hint, hint Robin!

Congrats Pokie, Thea, Dibby and Ian, successful FS coaches on KT's course. Speaking of KT – best wishes to you and Lee for a speedy recovery following your little mishaps!

Kath Salisbury

Achievements

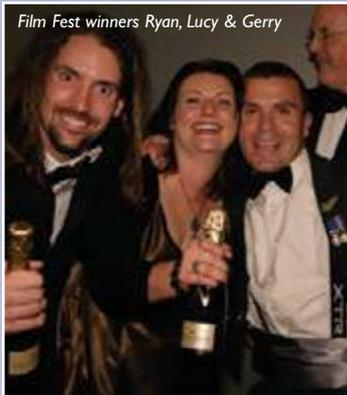
First Freefall
Andy Myers
Lee Read
Cat 8
Andrew Sharpe
CH2, JM1, 50 Jumps
Lizzy Man
Tom Fortune
CH2, JM1, 100 Jumps
Paul Rowland
FS1
Julian Deverell
Ian Turner
Alex Milne
Tom Fortune
FS1, 200 Jumps
Angela Kendall
Jump Numbers
50
Sarah Churchill
Alex Milne
200
Ben Bolton
Tony Vine
Adam Austin
300
Steve Dove
500
Ian Lyons
Wez Westley
800
Pam Snow
900
Tash Higman
1000
Paul Housley
1200
Liz Ashley

Party shots by Graham Harrison

Caroline sorts out the boys



Film Fest winners Ryan, Lucy & Gerry



Billy gets the girls



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Photography by Mike McGowan, www.funairphotos.com

Headcorn

We're sorry to see our Let crew disappear until spring. The good news is that it means the Black Beaver(!) is back – with Cap'n Jim at the pedals. Chris Lynch has run really successful Wingtips courses and swoop seminars. Del Hopkins, Flying Buddha and skygod extraordinaire says, "It started with a written paper on CP1, followed by detailed video footage and Chris giving explanatory presentation. He gave a real understanding of what happens to your canopy when you do a riser turn, and explained why you need to start with basics and work your way up. If in doubt why, ask Alex! The theory was followed up by several jumps with Chris videoing and debriefing landings."

We had over 30 people at our autumn bowling night – well done to Penny & Simon for being the best bowlers – hot stuff! Congrats to Alex Hopkins who celebrated his 15th birthday by doing a tandem at Empuria.

See the new year in with style! The club will open New Year's Eve and New Year's Day with a party in Wings to see in 2007. It's optional black tie (gives us gurlies a chance to put a posh frock on for a change). Bring a plate of food to share for the buffet. Put our masked summer ball in your diaries – 23 June '07.

Ruth Cooper



The Black Beaver returns to Headcorn

Mark Maynard with tandem student by Simon Hughes



Bowling night antics by Ruth Cooper

Achievements

- Cat 8**
- John Jackson
- Cat 8, CH1**
- Ben Samuel
- Cat 8, CH1, 50 Jumps**
- Will Ramsay
- Jill Hewett
- Graeme Gentry
- JM1**
- Olly Dodd
- JM1, 50 Jumps**
- Gill Finch
- JM1, CH2**
- John George
- FF1**
- Wendy Foster
- CP1**
- Jane Buckle
- FS1**
- Jackie Whyte
- FS1, 100 Jumps**
- Emma Blenkard
- Jump Numbers**
- 50**
- Davina Mackenzie
- Noah Woodman
- 100**
- Russell Leach
- Avril Hardy
- Paul Newton
- 300**
- Steve Searl
- Peter Collins
- Al Redler
- 500**
- Michelle Garwood
- Del Hopkins
- 600**
- Rich Cole
- 800**
- Tilly Attewill
- 1900**
- Barry Smith

Dunkeswell

Achievements

- Cat 8**
- Dave Honeybun
- 200 Jumps**
- Emily Abrey
- Phil Stenning



Dave Honeybun by Timmy D

Dunkeswell continues to go from strength to strength under Jason's watchful eye. Plans for next season are coming along, with a new building on order! We are looking forward to a bigger packing shed, teaching suite and plenty of room for club members and visitors to while away those long summer days. Plans are also progressing towards new aircraft. Hopefully with it will come an influx of experienced jumpers to help our students along. We had great pleasure in welcoming back Plymouth Uni – that's where all their grant money goes! The end of season party is booked for Sat 9 Dec, contact us for info. We'll be closed from 16 Dec for four weeks to prepare for next season.

Dawn Horrell

AFF graduate Jan over Sennan Cove by Ben Wood



Achievements

- Cat 8, CH1**
- Jan Thomas
- Peter Jardine
- 2500 Jumps**
- Ben Wood

Cornish

We were deeply shocked and saddened to hear the news that long standing club member Bob Hazel passed away suddenly in September. He will be greatly missed by everyone here.

CPC has graduated its first AFF students. We'd like to thank everyone for keeping the club running smoothly. In particular, Chrissie for keeping the boys in check, the pilots for running a reliable show and Kev Gibney for camera and DZ control.

We wish Vanda, one of the airfield owners, a speedy recovery after a slippery shower caused several broken bones. The food just isn't as good without you!

Plans are in the pipelines for trips to warmer climes and the wind tunnel, contact Ben. We'll open again 1 Feb, we look forward to welcoming everyone back!

Lucy Wood

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It's winter, the days are short and we're gonna make the most of 'em. We're planning night jumps on Saturdays near full moons. You need at least your FAI B Certificate, call us for dates and join us for a bit of scary fun.

Ally Milne's plan for world domination is progressing with the formation of the Langar Universities Skydive Team – LUST! The growing student army is 150 and includes members from Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicester and Warwick Universities. LUST meets at Langar Wednesday afternoons for progression, fun jumps, briefings, accuracy competitions, tracking and FS. The bar is open afterwards of course – unless they're off to visit Bodyflight!

Shaggy (Owen Martin) has gone to live with his girlfriend in Australia after umpteen years of packing – sterling work, lad. Thanks and good luck, Shagster!

Tony Danbury & Milko



Langar

It's behind you! Great geek Swoop but you're late mate! Willy Boeykens



Night jumps planned at Langar

Max VEN-OM by Gary Wainwright

Achievements

- Cat 8, CH1**
Duncan Murray
Cara Finn
- CH2**
Duncan Murray
- FS1**
Eddie Prowse
Sam Bemment
- FF1**
Steve Ward
Colin Bell
Anthony Went
Dain Thorne
James Watson
Russ Cobham

FF2, 500 Jumps

- Angry Matt
- Jump Numbers**
- 50** Duncan Murray
- 100** Peter Harries
- 200** Kelly Williamson
Steve Ward
Donna Williams
- 300** Will Cooke
Amelia Walters
- 400** Dan Williams
Martin Cartwright
Colin Bell
- 1000** Audrey Rowe
Fiona Robinson
- 1400** Pixie
- 1100** Tom Hartland
- 1500** Martin Robiette
- 1 Hr Freefall**
Ross Thompson
Eddie Prowse
Sam Bemment
- 24 Hrs Freefall**
Pixie

RAPA



Costa del Rapa by Lee Durant

Life here at 'Costa del Rapa' picked up tempo in September, we flew 27 out of 30 days and did 2,700 jumps!

Thanks to the lads from 28 & 32 Eng Regt who rebuilt and extended the swoop ditch to a whopping 75m long x 13.5m wide x 1.6m deep to accommodate the British Canopy Piloting Nationals next year. Available in Feb 07 for swoop training or carp fishing, call to arrange. As Kevin Costner says in *Field of Dreams*, 'If we build it they will come!' We had a lot of fun acting like Smeegle relocating the 30 fish back into the swoop pond.

Welcome to new staff Gogs 'I'm Just Cuddly' Orrock and Ruan 'I'm Just South African' Smit. Farewell to Smarty & Kenny Guest, both gone back to military duties, somewhere sunny I believe.

Iain Anderson



Photos: Stu Storey

Swoop ditch extended for the first British Canopy Piloting Nationals, in July next year



Achievements

- CH2, JM1**
Salmon Sutterby
Gogs Orrock
Coxy Cox
Gerrart Van Oene
Meike Lohman
- 200 Jumps, FS1**
Ed Provost-Lines
Tony Toner
- 100 Jumps**
Salmon Sutterby
Gogs Orrock
Coxy Cox
Tiny Parkin
- 1000 Jumps**
Stu Storey
Mark Tether

Lots of students have progressed, especially those who've hung around to find out more about the sport or learn to pack in their downtime. A special mention to Jimmy Graham, who got his Cat 8, then took an advanced course to get his FS1 on jump 32!

Thanks to our guest TIs who helped us to jump a record number of students. Flaky, Si, Aff, Ian & Barrie, it's been great to get to know you and we look forward to your return.

A big welcome back for our fully fixed Nomad and pilot Thomas. Our 'old' pilot Adrian popped in to visit and ended up flying the Cherokee! It was great to see you Adrian,

hope you enjoyed your busman's holiday. Mark Bayada visited to run our first Canopy Piloting course, with valuable one-on-one coaching. We hosted a BPA course and saw two of our cameramen qualify as TIs, congratulations Adi & Alf. It's still kinda strange to see you in your tandem gear but I'm sure the novelty will wear off and the students will return to looking more apprehensive than their instructors!

We let Tomo and Grant out for a well deserved day off, on a motorcycle track day!

Fortunately they both returned intact despite Tomo locking his keys in his van!

We are starting the VOTE GRANT campaign. Grant has done a fantastic job on Council and we want to see him back, so make sure you all VOTE.

16 Dec is our last jumping day and Christmas party, call for tickets. We close for Christmas 17 Dec to 27 Jan, some of us will be in Perris. Thanks to everyone for such a good year, have a fantastic festive season and I hope Santa brings you lots of skydiving goodies.

Vikki Forrest



Achievements

- Cat 8, FS1**
- Jimmy Graham
- 200 Jumps**
- Susie Hayne
- 300 Jumps**
- Barrie Bremner
- 1 Hr Freefall**
- Stephanie Snow



Tomo's day off, by Grant Richards

UK Para

Barry, Emily & Midge by Chris Hines

Sibson



Ryan, happy to get Cat 8, by Mark Harris

After a successful 35 years of business, Sue & John Meacock are retiring, the Peterborough Parachute Centre will be sold on to new ownership. Stuart plans to remain as CCI but Alex will be leaving to pursue another career.

We had a successful Speed 8 comp (see page 34). On a bad weather weekend, one of our teams ran a hilarious 4-way creeper pad competition, same rules apply, no plane required!

Congrats to Ryan Madgwick who completed AFF and his Cat 8 (see the grin in the photo!). Jon Fox managed an 11-way for his 300th jump (briefly 12 when the camera docked!), impressive for a mixture of freeflyers and flat flyers of all levels.

Sibson will close in December and reopen in the new year with its new owners, whoever they may be. Everyone wishes Sue & John all the best for their retirement and thanks them for all the fantastic years at Sibson.

Sarah Hall

Achievements

- Cat 8, CH1**
- Ryan Madgwick
- CH2, JM1**
- Dean Smith
- Rai Ahmed
- FS1, 200 Jumps**
- Mark Baker
- Liz Cass
- FS1, FF1**
- Lee Lambert
- Jump Numbers**
- 100**
- Dean Smith
- 200**
- Derek Hancock
- Rai Ahmed
- 300**
- Jon Fox
- 600**
- Jo Bell
- 1200**
- Mike Evans
- 1 Hr Freefall**
- Tim Burn

Jon Fox's 300th by Sarah Hall



Cark

With the refurbishment of the recreation room complete, everyone's been making full use of the new facilities, some falling asleep on the beanbags and others staying up till silly hours surfing the net on the wireless network.

The rescheduled 4-way Grand Prix completed in a day, with 10 teams. *Milo's Crew* (Sarah A, Chris M, Tony S and Karen P) scored just 8 points over 6 rounds and so received the inaugural 'If We Had Only Had Another Thousand Feet Trophy'. The remaining teams' expertise showed with plenty of double figure scores. *Fend for Yourselves* had a great round one after changing half the team, scoring 12! Congratulations to the winners: *Vertically Challenged* (AA), *Escondido* (A) and *Phobia* (rookie).

The universities have kept Steve, Keith & Pete working hard so our students could maximise the mild weather conditions. With many progressing to dummy pulls, Trish has had her work cut out repacking the club kit. Thanks Trish and able assistants Karen, Ellen & Robbie.

Halloween party saw many scaring the living daylights out of all the big and little kids on the airfield. The free beer soon evaporated while the boobs 'n' bottoms competition organised by Sarah & Katie left a few club members dazed!

On a sad note the centre has lost a vibrant member of our freefly group, Andrew Stockford, most know him as 'Stocky'. His sudden loss was a shock to us all, and our sincere condolences go out to Andy's family, relatives and friends.

Stuart Morris



Spectacular view of Cark taken by Fletch

Achievements
AFF Graduate
 Gary McGovern
Cat 8
 Katie Hayes
FS1
 Sarah Garrett
 Simon Whittle
 Andy Robson
200 Jumps, FS1
 Rob Powell



Stu & Cameron by Mike Briggs



Escondido Jnr



Milo's Crew by Blair Stent



50-way weekend by Brian Knight

We hosted BPA courses where our very own Hannah Swallow achieved her AFF rating and Kiwi Lee his TI, well done both.

Our autumn Scrambles was a huge success with nine teams completing three rounds. The bar tape was interesting! Eventually *Two Hats* won and kindly donated the slab of beer to the runners-up! Big thanks to all who made the effort (some drove up from Kent!) and to Simon Brentford & Kaz Bain for organising.

Our progression days are still super popular, with H ensuring everyone steps forward. We see the return of the uni clubs Leeds, Hull and York. H has travelled to each to give presentations, evidently successful as we've loads of full RAPS courses with more to come.

All credit also to those uni regulars who've put in time and effort.

The Halloween 10-way speed had seven teams enter and, after some not-so-frostbite jumping on the Sunday *Kicking and Screaming* won. Saturday's party was awesome, nearly every one in fancy dress, with a Scooby Doo and gang keeping the vampires, ghouls and mummies in order. The evening do was dedicated to happy newlyweds Simon Brentford & Ane and Noel & Liz, we wish them all much happiness.

Rich Baldwin became a proud father to a baby girl. Sadly he's decided that the time has come to hang up his jumpsuit, a great loss, he'll be missed.

Mike Colthart



Newlyweds Liz & Noel, Ane & Simon by Claire Murphy



Lizzie & Kiwi Lee by Emily Handley

Target

Achievements
First Freefall
 John McGarry
 Clive Taylor
 Darren Bailey
 Russell Farr
 Danny Moore
AFF Graduate
 Katie Platts
CH2, JM1, FS1
 Ryan Moores
CH2, JM1
 Emily Handley
Jump Numbers
50
 Jack Waltham
 Lee Armstrong
200
 Derek Atkinson
 Lizzie Compton
700
 Andy Wesley
 Rob Harwood
1000
 Lee Barraclough
1300
 Derrick Kent
1 Hr Freefall
 Ryan Moores
12 Hrs Freefall
 Andy Wesley

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Red Devils

Photo by Noah Stephenson

This season the Red Devils really have gone from strength to strength! More display bookings, a higher number of target audience spectators and a better standard of dynamic display package. Highlights included a water jump into the carnival at Swanage Bay, night jumps into the Military Academy at Sandhurst, several skydives at the Oceana Air Show in Virginia USA and two at Silverstone –

including one with Andy Shaw dressed in full motorbike racing gear! The successes have increased demand, with an unprecedented number of display enquiries for next year.

We were shocked and saddened by the death of ex teammate Noah Stephenson in a roadside bombing incident. Our tribute to Noah is on page 45.

Marcus Orme

POPS

The World POPS Meet in Eloy hosted 150 skydiving POPS from 14 countries plus the usual entourage. As a nation we were thin on quantity with only 3 jumpers – thus eliminating us from the 4-way! We added to the quality however with Hettie & Pete Best, JOES 1 (Jumpers Over Eighty Society) and Mabel Swift, JOES 2. Pete was presented with the USA SOS Meritorious Service Award, a singular honour, it has only been presented twice before and never to a non American.

Events were run efficiently, professionally and quickly with two Twin Otters, a Skyvan and a DC3 for the comps and a Beech for fun. Launching 4-way with camera out of a DC3 was novel to say the least!

Niels Hanson gained a creditable silver in the 4-way Scrambles and was on the Arizona state record 16-way. Cheryl Stearns (USA) won Classic Accuracy, Geoff Gordon (Australia) was first in Sport Accuracy and Josef Luszczki (Poland) won the Hit 'n' Rock with an impressive time of 5.79 seconds – equal that some of you PUPS! National 4-way went to US team Arizona POPS Speed with 60 points after 3 rounds! The team in second had 13! A clue to the USA's success may lie in their name! The new World Top POP was voted in, Ian 'Robbo' Robertson from Australia, who'll host the next World POPS Meet in Toogoolawah about April 2008.



SOS 16-way Arizona record taken by John Young

I'm still keen to have more attending our sunny Cyprus POPS Meet, 14-28 May 2007. I need confirmations by the AGM. More 2007 events at: www.pops.org.uk
 Congratulations to all on the POPS UK record 36-way and our thanks to the organisers, a great achievement that really got the Aussies gritting their teeth! (See page 28.)

Dick Barton



Brit active jumpers at the World Meet.
 Photo: John Young

Golden Lions

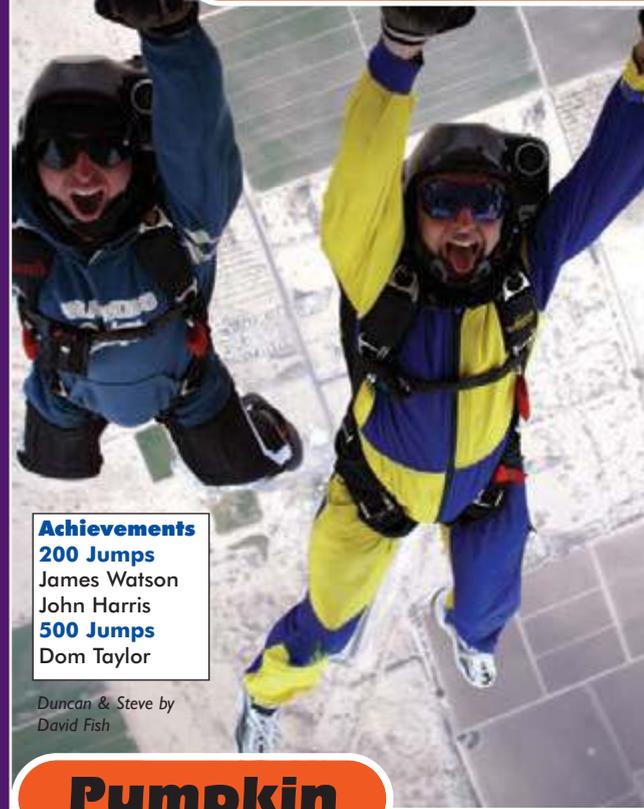


Golden Lions try to keep a straight face by Kev Doust

It's been a hectic season with 60 memorable displays and epic journeys the length and breadth of Scotland. We are strengthening our team with the additions of Gogs Orrock and Ruan Smit, shortly returning from RAPA and raring to get demo-cleared. As always a big thank you to Kieran and the gang at Strath for helping to make it all possible and keeping smiling even when we left them with no plane!

Nige MacGillivray

Non BPA Affiliated centres



Achievements
200 Jumps
 James Watson
 John Harris
500 Jumps
 Dom Taylor

Duncan & Steve by
 David Fish

Pumpkin

Back in October 2000, Martin Williams of PhD Skydiving formed Team Pumpkin, a social club to encourage his students to continue after their overseas AFF, by finding like-minded people back in the UK. You earned your T-shirt with your Cat 8 but most TPs go on to far greater achievements. The aims of Team Pumpkin are: to stay safe, be bad and have as much fun as possible! TP has a lot to answer for, not least a few wedding bells! Members can be found the world over but, as Martin no longer runs PhD there are no new members joining, so this will be the last Club News – boo hoo!

In the final words of El Capitaine: "TP achieved its aim and when the time was right we walked away but, most importantly, no-one was carried away. Thank you to all in TP for your confidence in me as an instructor that on many occasions turned into genuine friendship. I look forward to jumping with you again, just for fun."

As Admin Wench, I get the very, very last word! Once a Pumpkin, always a Pumpkin! TPs can continue to use me to exchange news, pictures, hot gossip and flog your pink canopies! Thanks a lot for the memories and the continuing friendships!

Ros Jinks

Pumpkins at Sibson



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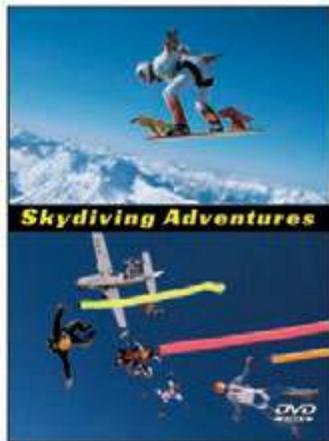
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- CF Canopy Formation
- FF Freeflying
- AC Accuracy
- WP WARP
- SU Skydive U
- CP Canopy Piloting
- WI Wingsuit Instruction

BPA Affiliated Drop Zones



6
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 Tel: 01884 250 480 or 07718 638 000
 Fax: 01884 250 480
 jasonfarrant@btinternet.com
www.skydiveukltd.com
Aircraft: Cessna 206
Open: 9am-dusk, every day by arrangement.
First Jump Courses: RAPS, tandem
 For midweek operation please call the DZ first.

CF SU

7
Errol
01821 642 454

Paragon Skydiving
 Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol, Perthshire PH2 7TB
 Tel: 01821 642 454 Fax: 01821 642 656
 billy.gollan@btinternet.com
www.paragonskydiving.co.uk
Aircraft: Cessna 182
Open: 9am-6pm Saturday, 10am-6pm Sunday, all year. 9am-7pm Wed-Fri in summer for courses & tandems only.
First Jump Courses: RAPS, tandem
 Nice friendly DZ, beautiful scenery, barbecue every Saturday night so come along and chill out.

FS CF WP

8
Headcorn
01622 890 862

Headcorn Parachute Centre
 Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX
 Tel: 01622 890 862 Fax: 01622 890 641
 headcorn@btconnect.com
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk
Aircraft: Beaver (winter), Let 410 (summer), Islander
Open: 9am-dusk, Tuesday-Sunday. 1pm-dusk on Monday in summer.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
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LO FS CF FF AC WP

2
Bridlington
01262 677 367

Skydive Brid
 East Leys Farm, Grindale Rd, Bridlington, E Yorks YO16 4YB
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 Fax: 01262 401 871 info@skydivebrid.co.uk
www.skydivebrid.co.uk
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4
Chatteris
01354 740 810

North London Parachute Centre
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9
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 Tel/Fax: 0113 250 5600 DZ: 01652 648 837
 info@skydiving.co.uk www.skydiving.co.uk
Aircraft: Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92 single turbine, Cherokee 6
Open: 9am-dusk every day.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
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LO FS FF WP SU

3
Cark
01229 889 516

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 Tel: 01229 889 516 Weekends: 01539 558 672
 Fax: 01772 787 106
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www.skydive-northwest.com
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5
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01872 553 352

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 Tel: 01872 553 352 or 07790 439 653
 cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
www.cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Aircraft: Cessna 206, guest aircraft by arrangement
Open: 9am-dusk on Sat. 10am-dusk Wed-Fri & Sunday.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

WP FS CF

10
Hinton
01295 812 300

Hinton Skydiving Centre
 Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley, Northants NN13 5NS
 Tel: 01295 812 300 Fax: 01295 812 400
 info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk
Aircraft: PAC 750XL
Open: 8am-9pm at weekends. 9am-7pm Tuesday-Friday.
First Jump Courses: AFF, tandem
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11 Jersey
01534 747 410



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States Airport, St Peter, Jersey JE3 7ZR
Tel: 01534 747 410 Fax: 08708 313 107
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21 Strathallan
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kbrady@fsbdial.co.uk
www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk
Aircraft: 3 Cessna 206, Turbine (for various events)
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12 Langar
01949 860 878



British Parachute Schools
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www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk
Aircraft: Cessna 206, 2 Caravans, Skyvan occasionally
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LO FS CF FF WP CP

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22 Swindon
01793 791 222



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info@skydivelondon.co.uk
www.skydivelondon.co.uk
Aircraft: Cessna 206, Islander
Open: 8am-7pm Mon-Sat. 9am-6pm on Sunday.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
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13 Lewknor
0845 130 7194



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The Byre, Woods Farm, Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3AE
Drap Zone located off Junction 6 of M40
Tel: 0845 130 7194 Fax: 0845 130 7195
info@londonparachuteschool.com
www.londonparachuteschool.com
Aircraft: Islander, Cessna 206
Open: 9am-dusk at weekends.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
LO FS CF AC WP

18 Sibson
01832 280 490



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Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
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www.skydivesibson.com
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skydive@theparachutecentre.com
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First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
LO FS WP

14 Netheravon
01980 678 250



Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 678 250 Fax: 01980 678 275
apa@netheravon.com www.netheravon.com
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Fax: 01953 861 031
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
www.ukparachuting.co.uk
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First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
LO FS CF FF WP CP

20 St Andrews
01334 880 678



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Kingsmuir Airfield, Saint Andrews, Fife KY16 8QQ
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skydivestandrews@mail.com
www.skydivestandrews.co.uk
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jump@skydivewildgeese.com
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FS FF WP SU CP

RAPA

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Tel: 0049 5254 982 2378 Fax: 0049 5254 982 2740

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First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

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LO FS CF AC WP CP

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UK BASED

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Perthshire PH6 2ND
Tel/Fax: 01764 685 316
Mobile: 07803 041 348
scotty@activeskydiving.co.uk
www.activeskydiving.co.uk
Contact: Scotty Milne
Courses: AFF, tandem, FS coaching
Location: Spain, USA

Airwaves International Skydiving School

40 Plantation Road, Hextable,
Kent BR8 7SB
Tel: 07802 472 566
Tel (France): 00 33 619 605 997
mail@aiskydive.com
www.aiskydive.com
Contact: Rod Bartholomew
Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem,
progression
Location: France, USA

British Collegiate Parachute Association

Long View, High Road,
Londonthorpe NG13 9RU
www.bcpa.org.uk
chairman@bcpa.org.uk
Contact: Marc Fletcher, BCPA Chairman
The BCPA aims to promote skydiving at collegiate level. We run regional and national events for over 40 affiliated university clubs. The BCPA provides a community where university skydivers can find like-minded people to jump and socialise with.

Freefall Experience

Duke of Gloucester Barracks,
South Cerney, Cirencester,
Gloucester GL7 5RD
Tel: 07779 019 655
will@tffe.co.uk
www.tffe.co.uk
Contact: Carl Williams
Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
Location: UK

Parachute Training Services

11 Godwyn Close, Abingdon,
Oxon OX14 1BU
Tel/Fax: 01235 529 570
doug@paratrg.demon.co.uk
www.paratrg.demon.co.uk
Contact: Doug Peacock
Courses: RAPS, progression courses
Location: UK (Hinton Skydiving Centre)

POPS UK

Turnpike Cottage, Old Hadenhuish Lane,
Chippenham, Wilts SN14 6HH
Tel: 01249 651909
dbarton@fsmail.net
www.pops.org.uk
Contact: Dick Barton, Top POP
A society of skydivers over forty. We hold regular national and international meets at host parachute centres.

Royal Navy & Royal Marines Sport Parachute Association

Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Wilts SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 678 540
skydiveandski@hotmail.com
Contact: Phill Elston

Red Devils

Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Wiltshire SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 628 211
Fax: 01980 628 349
rd@reddevilsonline.com
www.reddevilsonline.com
Contact: Nick Vischer
Courses: Tandem
Location: UK (Netheravon)

SOS UK

Flat 14, 21 Victoria Square, Clifton,
Bristol BS8 4ES
Tel: 0117 973 8341
nielshsn@yahoo.co.uk
Contact: Niels Hanson
A society of skydivers over sixty.

OVERSEAS

The BPA takes **no responsibility** for training or advice given by these drop zones as they do not necessarily operate under the BPA Operations Manual.

SPAIN

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PO Box 194, 17487
Empuriabrava, Spain
Tel: 0034 972 450 111
Fax: 0034 972 450 749
info@skydiveempuriabrava.com
www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

Skydive Spain

Apartado de Correos No 66,
Bullolus de le Mitacion,
Seville 41110, Spain
Tel: 0034 687 726 303
info@skydivespain.com
www.skydivespain.com

USA

Freefall Adventures, Florida
400 West Airport Drive,
Sebastian, FL 32958, USA
Tel: 001 772 388 0550
Fax: 001 772 581 2694
skydivemik@aol.com
www.ffadventures.com

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2091 Goetz Road, Perris,
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DIARY

DECEMBER 06

- 2** **Christmas Dinner Dance**
Garstang Golf & Country Club www.bkpc.co.uk
- 2** **Christmas Party**
Peterlee www.skydiveacademy.org.uk
- 5** **BPA EGM & Council Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester 0116 278 5271
- 6-8** **Boot Camp**
Airkix Tunnel www.airkix.com
- 8-10** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 8-10** **Psycho Carnival**
Sebastian, USA www.skydiveseb.com
- 9** **Christmas Party**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 9** **End of Season Party**
Dunkeswell www.skydiveukltd.com
- 11-17** **Freefly Tunnel Coaching**
Bodyflight, Bedford www.bodyflight.co.uk
- 13-15** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 16** **Christmas Party**
UK Parachuting www.ukparachuting.co.uk
- 16** **Christmas Social**
St Andrews www.kingsmuirskydivers.co.uk
- 16-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivecity.com
- 20-Jan 10** **Christmas Boogie**
Skydive Spain, Seville www.skydivespain.com
- 21-Jan 1** **Holiday Boogie**
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com
- 21-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 21-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Lake Wales, USA www.floridaskydiving.com
- 22-Jan 1** **Holiday Boogie**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 22-Jan 7** **Spa Coaching Camp**
Castellon, Spain info@skydivecenterspa.be
- 23-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 24-Jan 1** **Avalore Christmas Boogie**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 26-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Cuautla, Mexico City www.skydivecuatla.com
- 26-Jan 7** **Christmas Boogie**
Vrsar, Croatia www.adrenalinsport.cz
- 27-Jan 1** **Desert Boogie**
Nambia www.desertboogie.iwarp.com
- 27-Jan 4** **USPA Collegiate Champs**
Lake Wales, USA www.floridaskydiving.com
- 28-31** **Christmas Feelgood Boogie**
Ramblers, Oz www.ramblers.com.au
- 28-Jan 3** **Itaparica Boogie**
Itaparica, Brazil www.skydiveitaparica.com.br
- 28-Jan 10** **Cross Keys Invasion Boogie**
Sebastian, USA www.skydiveseb.com
- 29-31** **2-Way Freefly Adria Cup**
Vrsar, Croatia www.adrenalinsport.cz
- 31** **New Year's Party**
Bodyflight, Bedford www.bodyflight.co.uk

JANUARY 07

- 1-6** **PD Challenge**
Sebastian, USA www.pdchallenge.com
- 1-7** **Team Fury FS Coaching**
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com
- 2-6** **Phoenix-Fly Wingsuit Boogie**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 12-14** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 12-15** **Svensational Freefly Camp**
Nagambie, Oz www.skydivenagambie.com
- 13-21** **Head Rush Freefly Festival**
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 17-21** **Great White Northern Boogie**
Lake Wales, USA www.floridaskydiving.com
- 19-21** **Uwe's Annual Country Jam**
Sebastian, USA www.skydivesebastian.com
- 20** **BPA AGM**
BPA www.bpa.org.uk
- 24-28** **Tunnel Coaching**
Bodyflight, Bedford www.tunnelcoach.com
- 24-Feb 23** **Jump for Joy**
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 26-28** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 27-28** **Team Fury Tunnel Camp**
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com

FEBRUARY

- 2-4** **Pink Mafia Circus Edition**
Sebastian, USA www.skydivesebastian.com
- 2-4** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 5-9** **PIA Symposium**
Reno, Nevada www.pia.com
- 10-19** **Boogie in Belize III**
San Pedro, Belize www.skydivebelize.com
- 10-24** **EET Boogie**
Peru www.aerofer.com
- 16-18** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 16-Mar 4** **Spa Coaching Camp**
Castellon, Spain info@skydivecenterspa.be
- 22-Mar 4** **4Xtremetime Boogie**
Beni Mellal, Morocco www.4xtremetime.com
- 23-25** **Australian CP Nationals**
Sydney, Oz www.sydneydivers.com.au
- 23-25** **FF World Record Tryout Camp**
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com
- 24-25** **Freefly Money Meet**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 24-Mar 31** **Algarve Spring Boogie**
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 26-Mar 2** **Learning Curve Camp**
Ramblers, Oz www.ramblers.com.au
- 28-Mar 11** **Umm Al Quwain Boogie**
United Arab Emirates www.boogieclub.co.uk

MARCH

- 2-4** **Lei You Luau Boogie**
Sebastian, USA www.skydivesebastian.com

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KEY

BPA
Canopy Piloting
Formation Skydiving
Canopy Formation
Style & Accuracy
Boogies
Freelyfly & Skysurf
POPS
Speed Skydiving
Unclassified

5-18 Thai Sky Festival
Prachuap, Thailand www.thaiskyfestival.com

9-11 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

15-18 SOS World Record Attempt
Lake Wales, USA flycustoms@bellsouth.net

18-20 Advanced Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

19-24 POPS Springfest
Lake Wales, USA www.floridaskydiving.com

21-23 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

23-25 March Madness Casino Night
Sebastian, USA www.skydivesebastian.com

24-30 200-Way Sequential
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivecity.com

24-Apr 15 Spring Blowout Boogie
Skydive Spain, Seville www.skydivespain.com

31-Apr 1 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

31-Apr 9 Australian Nationals
Sydney, Oz www.sydneykydivers.com.au

APRIL

4-8 Easter Boogie
Lake Wales, USA www.floridaskydiving.com

4-9 Easter Boogie
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com

5-9 Easter Boogie
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

6-8 Easter Boogie
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

7-8 Bodyflight World Challenge
Bodyflight, Bedford www.worldchallenge.info

9-15 Go Vertical
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

13-15 Birdman European Tour
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

16-18 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

21-29 Skysisters
Ramblers, Oz www.skysisters.com.au

26-29 Rocky Point Boogie
Puetro Penasco, Mexico www.skydiveaz.com

29-May 1 Euro POPS
RAPA, Germany www.pops.org.uk

MAY

5-6 4-Way Grand Prix
Cark www.skydive-northwest.com

7-9 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

10-13 Birdman Big-Way Skills Camp
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

12-20 Langar Boogie I
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

14-28 Sunny Cyprus Meet
Cyprus www.pops.org.uk

16-20 Beach Swoop Boogie
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

19-20 Freelyfly & Classics Grand Prix
BKPC, Cockerham www.bkpc.co.uk

21-23 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

26-27 Turbine Madness
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

26-Jun 3 CF World Record Selection Camp
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

JUNE

2-3 4-Way Grand Prix
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

3-9 P3 4-Play
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com

6-10 Go Vertical
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

9-10 CF Grand Prix
BKPC, Cockerham www.bkpc.co.uk

11-13 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

18-20 Canopy Piloting Course
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

18-23 Freely Euro Record Attempt
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

23 Masked Summer Ball
Headcorn www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

23-24 8-Way Grand Prix
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

23-24 POPS Meet
Hibaldstow www.pops.org.uk

JULY

3-8 AN72 & Wingsuit Boogie
Cochstedt, Germany www.mdskydive.de

5-8 P3 Power Play
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com

7-8 4-Way Grand Prix
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

14-21 CP & Classics Nationals
RAPA, Germany jsplc-comdt@atgg.mod.uk

20-29 World Freefall Convention
Rantoul, USA www.freefall.com

21-22 CF Grand Prix
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

25-28 King Of Swoop
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

28-29 8-Way & Freely Grand Prix
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

AUGUST

4-12 F5 & Artistics World Cup
Stupino, Russia www.fai.org

11-17 Karlovy Vary Boogie
Czech Republic www.boogieclub.co.uk

18-20 4-Way F5 Nationals
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

25-27 8-Way F5 Nats & 4-Way Reserve
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

25-27 Artistics & Speed Nationals
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

1-3 Artistics, Speed & 8-Way F5 Nats Reserve
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

1-9 Style & Accuracy World Cup
Osijek, Croatia www.fai.org

8-16 Langar Boogie II
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

8-21 USPA Nationals
Chicago, USA www.skydivechicago.com

21-24 100-Way Camp
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com

22-23 8-Way Speed & CF Nationals
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