

skydive

The Mag

December 2007



The British Parachute
Association Magazine



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

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This time last year my editorial announced our intention to publish more educational, informative and practical articles. I am very happy now to be able to look back over 2007's magazines and report we have succeeded. We have actually **tripled** the number of educative articles, from 11 in 2006 to 33 in 2007.

Very many thanks to the contributors of all these articles; both those who felt the urge and those who responded to my asking nicely. The Mag has improved immeasurably as a result. We have such a great pool of talent and knowledge that it would be a shame if this were not passed on. We now have real sharing of information through magazine features as well as the Coaching Roadshows and BPA AGM. Keep them coming!

We're thinking of running a full centre spread photo each issue, to bring back a little of the eye candy which has maybe been lost in the move to more informative pieces. Please send us your images for the centrefold as well as the cover. Even if they don't make the glory slots, good photos will find their way into print eventually.

Interest in the magazine is stronger than ever, judging by our mailboxes each morning. Not bad for a paper journal in this internet-focussed world. We'd like to develop The Mag website to be more useful too. There will be a Communications Open Forum at the AGM, come and give us your views, both for the present and the future.

Have a super cool Yule!



Jim Stevenson

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August 08	Sat 4 Aug	Tue 26 Jun

Lesley

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

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

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

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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.



Cover: BPA doctor
John Carter above Piombino
Beach Boogie, Italy by
Allesandro Andreotti

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VFS



Marcus Goodsell

At the 2006 US Nationals a test event was held in 4-way Vertical Formation Skydiving. With nine teams and 45 competitors it proved more popular than the traditional artistic freefly discipline. This year 4-way VFS (also known as VRW) was an official event at the US Nationals, VRW was introduced to the UK in the form of a demo event at the FS Nationals and the first European competition was held in Chalon sur Saône, France. In January the rules from the 2006 US Nationals were introduced to the IPC in the hope of it soon becoming a World Cup event. Does this signal the birth of the next big discipline in skydiving?

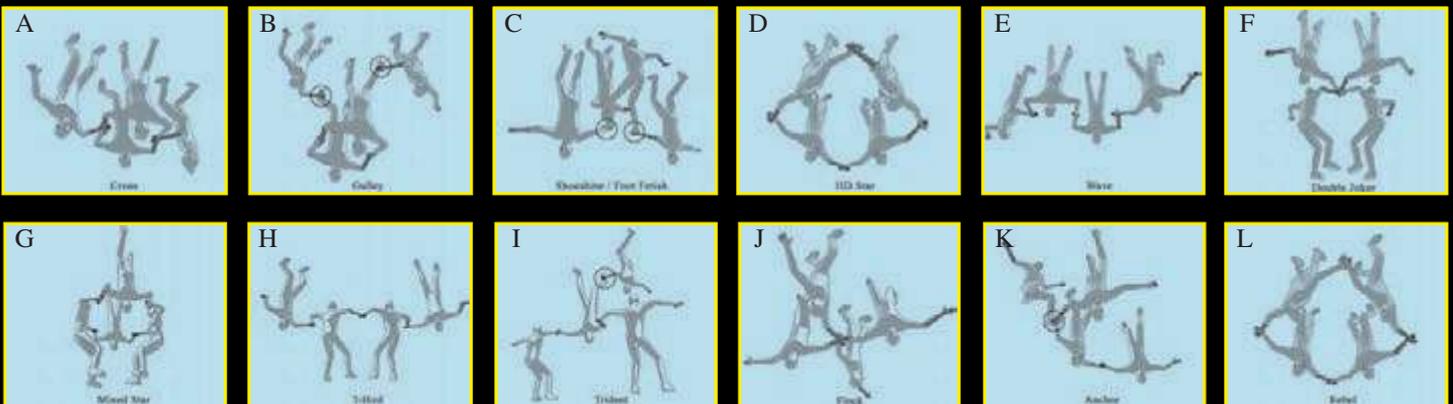
Why VFS?

Over the last ten to fifteen years, skydiving has seen the development of human flight in all possible orientations and positions. In the same way that skydivers moved away from the classic solo discipline of freefall style to go have fun with their friends and build a freefall formation, many have been attracted to freeflying from FS, wanting more freedom and more emphasis on fun. Of course, when skydivers first started jumping together

in a belly-to-earth orientation they struggled to pass a baton and, in just the same way, when skydivers first started to 'freefly' together they struggled to perform a spock (a head-down flyer placing a hand on the head of a head-up flyer).

However, over the years flat flying has been refined into a discipline where the World Record for the number of 4-way formations in 35 seconds is now 44 and the largest formation is a 400-way. So it comes as no surprise that freeflying has also moved on from the humble 'spock' to a point where the top 4-way VFS teams are doing 19 points in 35 seconds and the current world record largest head-down formation is 69!

Previously the only way for skydivers to compete in what are traditionally seen as 'freefly' orientations has been in freestyle or freeflying. Both of these are artistic disciplines that can be difficult to judge and often leave skydivers scratching their heads as to what is required or even unhappy with the results. A group of skydivers in the US led by team *Mandrin* wanted to create a discipline using these traditionally 'freefly' body positions that could be judged completely objectively and remove the element of uncertainty implicit in artistic skydiving. The result is 4-way Vertical Formation Skydiving, also known as Vertical Relative Work.



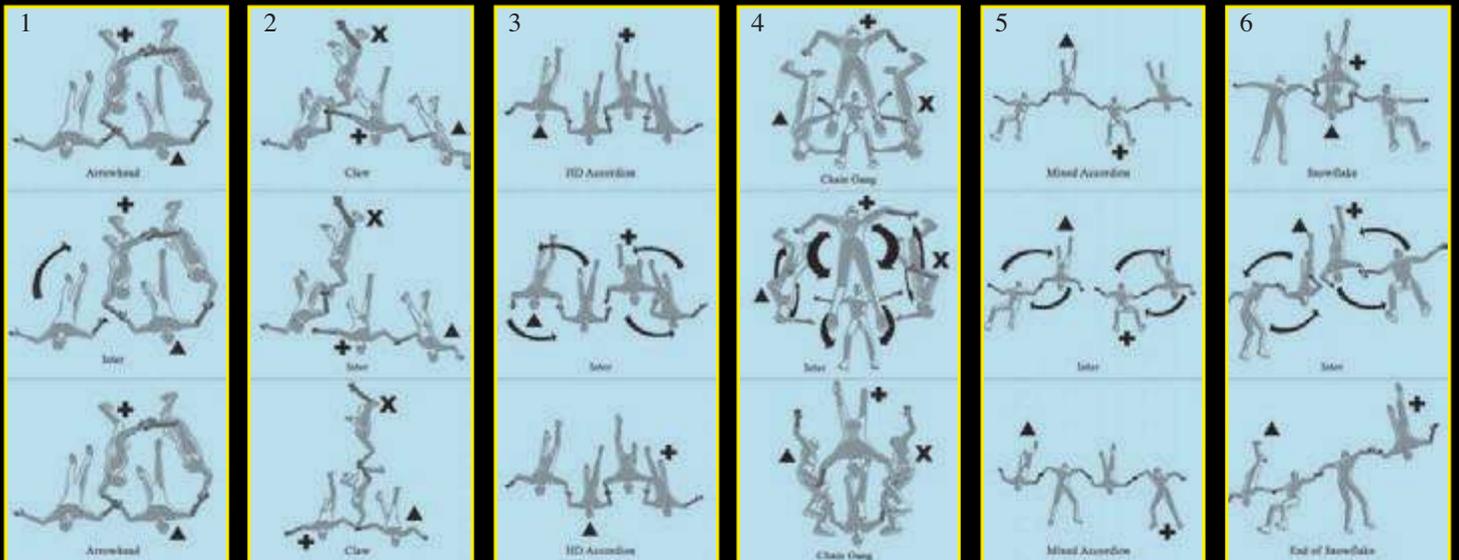


What is VFS?

4-way vertical formation skydiving is in many ways very similar to traditional 4-way formation skydiving. The 2006 dive pool consisted of six blocks and eight randoms and in 2007 that was increased to twelve blocks and twelve randoms. In the advanced category formations are drawn from the hat until four or five points (whichever is first) are drawn per round. There is also an intermediate category using a reduced dive pool from which three or four scoring formations are drawn per round. Competitions are currently competed over six rounds with a minimum exit altitude of 12,500 ft and a working time of 35 seconds.



Photos: Andy Lovemore





One big difference between VFS and traditional FS is that two orientations are used; both head-down and head-up. Just as with traditional FS, complete separation must be shown between points; however an interesting result of using two orientations is that a formation that involves both head-down and head-up flyers can be built in one orientation and then flyers can transition into the correct orientation whilst maintaining grips, a useful cheat at times.

Another clear difference is that not all of the formations are built with all flyers on one level; often the formations can have height as well as length or width. An example of this is where a head-down flyer takes a grip on the foot of another head-down flyer. This gives VFS a very three-dimensional feel.

Gear

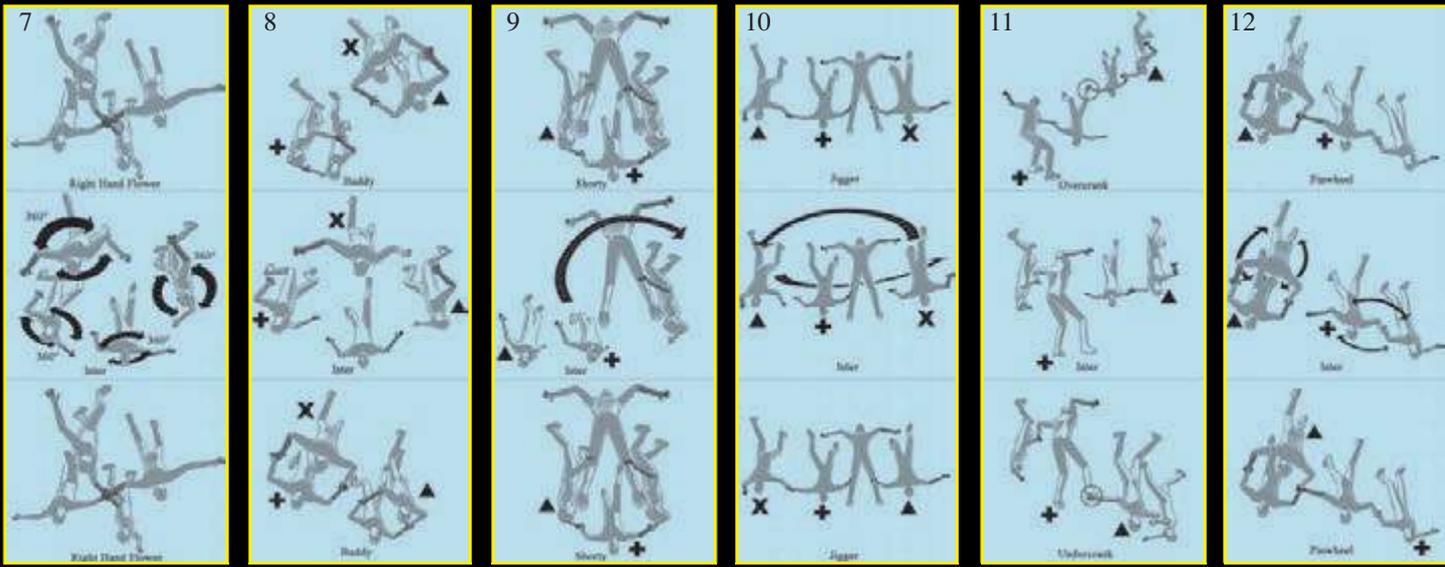
Not surprisingly it seems that the top teams have taken to wearing full-face helmets for added protection. With four people working fast in such close proximity and also performing transitions between head-up and head-down there is obviously an increased risk of getting a boot (not a bootie) in the head.

The suits seem to be much the same as the top flyers in the artistic disciplines are using. Well fitted with not much excess material flapping around that could make grip-taking tricky and reduce the efficiency of movement between formations. Many teams are using gloves of a contrasting colour to their suits to make grips ultra visible. Mirroring flat 4-way even further, the 2007 US national champions, *Mandrin*, also use arm and leg grippers.



Camera

Due to the three-dimensional nature of 4-way VFS the cameraperson's job is very challenging. The skydives are filmed from underneath with the cameraperson in a head-down orientation, chin on chest, and the camera mounted to further increase the angle. Just as with traditional FS all grips must be shown and in order to achieve this the cameraperson must be in the correct position relative to each different formation.



The First European VFS Championships

Photos: Wendy Smith



Gold for UK VRW (Andy Lovemore, Dan Parker, Mikey Carpenter, Andy Ford & Jim Harris)

There have been competitions running in the US since 2005, and VFS has already become an official discipline at the US Nationals. The Americans have definitely had a head start; however Europe is not about to let them get too far ahead! The first European VFS competition, The Trophée International Dubuisson, was held in Chalon sur Saône, France, 28-30 September 2007 and can probably claim to be the first international event in this discipline. Five teams entered; three French, one Belgian and one British. The competition aircraft was a Pilatus Porter.

The British team, imaginatively named *UK VRW*, was Dan Parker, Andy Ford, Mike Carpenter, Jim Harris with Andy Lovemore on video. Although the team had completed around 70 training jumps at Skydive Spain (Seville) and Hibaldstow, the boys hadn't jumped together for a month and arrived one day early to get some last minute training done. Unfortunately the sun didn't appear for two days and, although this provided a great opportunity for participants to brush up on go-karting skills, it also meant that the Brit team had to go straight into the competition having never jumped at the DZ or trained from the small right hand door of a Porter. This was especially challenging as the aircraft only had a small rear camera step and the best place for a VFS cameraflyer to exit from was the strut!

After the rain during the week Saturday morning appeared under a deep blanket of mist but it was clear it would burn off into a beautiful day and, as soon as visibility was good enough, the competition got going.

This being the first meet of its type in Europe none of the teams had a clue as to where they would sit in the order after the first round. The French were expected to be strong, especially on their home turf and with many well-known faces amongst their ranks. When the scores appeared it became clear that the competition was going to be closer than expected, *UK VRW* were placed third just one point behind both *170MAX* (max height of a team member being 170cm) and *All Gap Icarus*. The French weren't going to race away after all!

Over the following three rounds *UK VRW* pulled back that point and moved ahead of *170MAX* into a two point lead. In doing this the Brit team were scoring 7 or 8 points in time, the highest they had yet achieved and really rising to the competition. Round 5 saw a momentary lapse and there was some concern that the French would pull back the points; however it turned out that the UK maintained their advantage into round 6, the final one of the competition. The UK were back on the ball and pulled out a storming round, extending their lead further to end the competition three points ahead of *170MAX* and eight points ahead of *Jok'Air 5* becoming the first unofficial VRW champions of Europe!

Jim Harris

jim@outbreak-freefly.com



Trophée International Robin Dubuisson

	Country	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Ave	
1	UK VRW	UK	4	7	7	8	4	6	36	6.0
2	170MAX	France	5	6	6	7	4	5	33	5.5
3	Jok'Air 5	France	4	5	4	4	4	7	28	4.7
4	All Gap Icarus	France	5	3	3	3	5	7	26	4.3
5	Vertical Ineptitude	Belgium	2	4	3	1	2	3	15	2.5

Photo: Andy Ford

Make New Friends
 this year at Skydive City/Z-Hills, Florida's
 Friendliest Drop Zone.

photo by: Tony Hathaway



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December

Skydiveratings.com Courses
 7 - 9 - Coach rating course
 10 - 16 - AFF pre-course and AFF rating course
 18 - 21 - Tandem rating course
 22 - 28 - AFF pre-course and AFF rating course
 20 - Jan 20 - the Finnish Invasion begins - Turpa
 kiinni ja hyppaa
 21 - January 1 - Annual Christmas Boogie. Pirate
 Day on New Year's Eve again, walk the plank.

600 people attended last Christmas, be part of the
 best Xmas Boogie in the country!
 27-31 - Markku & Eric Big Way Camp - 40-60
 Ways Invite Only.
 25-Jan 7 - Skydive Saulgau from Germany is
 welcomed for the Boogie.
 31st - New Year's Eve Party & Pirate Day Bash.

January

Skydiveratings.com Courses
 Dec 31 - Jan 6 - AFF pre-course and AFF rating
 course
 11-13 - Coach rating course
 18-21 - Tandem rating course
 25-31 - AFF pre-course and AFF rating course
 5 - TK's Birthday - 16 Way Complexity Skydives.
 Bring some Jägermeister



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Hayabusa Attack!



Hayabusa win the Military World Games, by Danny Jacobs



At the fourth CISM Military World Games, Hayabusa Defence beat the Golden Knights to become Military World Champions and take their second world gold this year. It was a very close meet with the title clinched by just one point. The CISM (Conseil International du Sport Militaire) Military World Games is on a huge scale with lots of different sports, of which parachuting is just one. 4-way FS is run under unique rules. The dive pool has all 16 randoms but only eight blocks (4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 19, 21, 22). Each dive begins with a star (M) exit, then two randoms, then a block. The working time (35 seconds) starts at the first grip release or five seconds after exit, whichever comes first.



Photo by Mike Rust

Roy Janssen (left) of Hayabusa Defence commented: "After competing at the FAI World Cup in Russia, our Nationals in Belgium and the ESL Championship, we had one last training camp to prepare ourselves for the Military World Games in India. Since the CISM dive pool is different we spent 80 jumps to feel comfortable with it. We definitely needed to take the CISM training seriously, even if it looked kind of easy, compared to the FAI dive pool. The speed is much higher and there is a big chance to lose many points if something goes wrong. With the Golden Knights as our biggest opponents we couldn't afford to make any mistakes at all. We were more than curious to see us challenging each other for the first time.

"In round 1 we, together with the Golden Knights, set a new CISM world record of 33 points. In round 7 we broke the new record again but this time it was just in our name, with a score of 41 points. Also we set a new CISM world record for the highest average over eight rounds: 31.5.

"As you can imagine this first year as a professional team is like a dream come true. We are very happy with the progress and our scores. And this year we had to deal with lots of bad weather. We're looking forward to the new season and for sure the World Meet in Maubeuge."

www.skyleague.com
www.skydivehayabusa.com

Women's Vertical Freely Record

Amy Chmelecki and Melissa Nelson are organising the next women's vertical world record attempts in Eloy, 20-23 March 08. The aim is to smash the 18-way they set two years ago at Skydive Chicago. Training camps are 26-27 January and 18-19 March at Eloy.

w_v_w_r@yahoo.com



Melissa, Wendy (centre) and Amy

Photos by Wendy Smith

JM's Newsround

Peterlee Saved Again!

The future of Peterlee Parachute Centre looks good as objections to the proposed wind turbine which threatened the DZ have been sustained. This is the second time the dropzone has successfully defended its existence against plans to close it for a wind turbine. CCI Ian Rosenvinge commented "Very many thanks to all who made this possible, not least to BPA Chairman Eddie Jones who travelled down from Scotland to speak, then immediately afterwards up to Inverness! John Horne, who at short notice stood in for Robin Durie and travelled from the Borders & back to speak on behalf of the APA, and Tony Butler for coming up from the Midlands. The local speakers were great too, including (uninfluenced by ourselves) a very comprehensive and articulate presentation from the Oakerside residents. Hopefully this can be a catalyst to cementing our ties with the local community too." Peterlee has planning permission for a new hangar and ablation/accommodation block, which the DZ is now able to progress over the winter months.

www.skydiveacademy.co.uk

Porter at Perris

Perris Valley Skydiving in California has added a 10-place Pilatus Porter to their aircraft line-up. The primary purpose for the single engine, right-hand door plane is to accommodate Bodyflight Storm, Connexion and the other national teams training at Perris for the 2008 World Meet in Maubeuge, France, out of Porters.

www.skydiveperris.com

Headcorn Tunnel

Headcorn now has its own wind tunnel, actually located on the DZ. The 8 feet diameter portable structure will be there for the winter and permanently if there is enough demand. It comes with floodlights so you can fly at night and a powerful music system for your enjoyment.

www.adrenalinvvt.com
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

World Challenge

Application forms are now available online for the World Challenge, 29-30 March, at Bodyflight, Bedford. The format of 4-way FS and 2-way freefly, with a total prize fund of £20,000 will be the same as last year.

www.worldchallenge.info

Flying Youth

The Royal Aero Club Trust is once again offering grants of up to £500 for British residents aged 16-21 who want to progress in air sports or aviation. Application forms are available online, the closing date is 31 March 2008.

The Royal Aero Club Trust is also looking for a part time, unsalaried home-based volunteer for the role of Bursary Administrator to help the Trust's 'Flying Youth' scheme, outline above. Applicants should send their CV to Fred Marsh.

www.royalaeroclubtrust.org

Stolen Gear

The Irish Parachute Club (IPC) was broken into on the night of Tuesday 5 September 2007; 44 sets of gear were stolen. There were 23 complete systems of personal kit and club equipment including seven throwaways, nine static lines, a green Navigator rig, three AFF rigs, and a Big rig. All but two of the club's student rigs were taken but no tandem rigs are missing. Exact specs are on the website. Spread the word.

www.skydive.ie/downloads

IPC 00353 4697 30103

Rodger Killeen 00353 86 195 1429

mongoipc@hotmail.com

NZ Skydiving School

Courses for a diploma in Commercial Skydiving in New Zealand start on 14 January, 14 April, 14 July and 6 October 2008. The courses run over 32 weeks with lectures and practical elements. See page 33.

www.nzskydivingschool.com

Air Sports Live

Air Sports Live, the New Zealand Air Games will take place at Wanaka, New Zealand, 27-28 December 07. It will include ten sports including paragliding, skydiving, air races, helicopters and hot air balloons. Spectators are welcome, either at the event or online.

www.airsportslive.com

BA Ban Sports Gear

British Airways has implemented a policy to ban large sporting items as check-in baggage. They have banned surfboards, hang gliders, windsurfing boards and sails, canoes, kayaks, pole vaults and javelins. These items must now be booked on as cargo.

www.britishairways.com

Vol's Blanc

Swiss film-maker Lionel Charlet has produced a DVD in conjunction with the Swiss Air Force. It contains spectacular footage of FA-18s flying around the Alps – and a minuscule clip of them flying past Bruno Brokken under canopy (in the Ghost section – Extras). Our reviewers said the commentary was irritating but the aerial footage was breathtaking.

www.justplanecrazy.co.uk



Taking 4-way by Storm

Kate & Sparky of Storm by Gary Wainwright

Current national 4-way champions *Bodyflight Storm* are continuing with the same line-up of Sparky, Kate, Hannah & Sarah with Swoop on camera and coach Dan BC. They will compete at the 2008 World Meet in the female category. This is out of Porters, which have a door on the right, so *Storm* have to mirror their current continuity plan. They plan to do six camps in Perris, 1,000 jumps and over 20 hours training in the Bodyflight tunnel.

www.stormskydivingteam.co.uk

Sonic-V Booming



Sonic-V at the 2007 Nationals
(John McIver, Pete Spedding, Rob Frost, Ana Budjelan, Dave Honeybone & Helen Arnold)

Sonic-V have a new team member for the coming season and are moving right up to AAA. They won the 2007 4-way A Nationals and ESL in the same category. Ana Budjelan (Tail) has now left the team due to study commitments so *Sonic-V* have asked coach John McIver to join the team as player coach. They will train at Hibaldstow and Skydive Spain with a similar plan to this year but with the addition of the new blocks.

daveh@cnpprofessional.co.uk

Team Volairkix

Mike Carpenter and Andy Newell, formerly of freely team *Outbreak* (World Cup silver medallists and UK National Champions), have teamed up with Adam 'Killa' Mattacola (National Freestyle Champ and IBA tunnel instructor) to create the *Volairkix* freely team. They have also set up a new company, *Volare Concepts*, providing professional training in the sky and the tunnel.

The team intend to build on previous competition success and showcase new inspiring styles of flight. The team will be representing the UK at the 2008 World Championships in Maubeuge, France. The team will train at the Airkix wind tunnel and Skydive Spain (Seville).

www.volareproflight.com

CF World Record

A new 100-way world record was set on 21 November over Lake Wales in Florida. Organisers were Chris Gay, Mike Lewis, Brian Pangburn and Chris Balisky. Brits on the record were Gav McLeod, Ian Marshall, Maria Russell, Martin Robiette, Paul Speller and Doug Preston.



Pam Pangburn

www.cfworldrecord.com



Volairkix (Mike, Killa & Andy) training in Seville by Andy Uren

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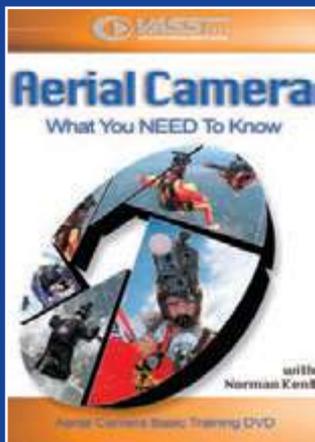
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DVD REVIEW

Aerial Camera What You NEED to Know

Reviewer Zuzana Tillner
 Cost \$99
 Content 10/10
 VFM 7/10
 From www.normankent.com

One line review

A great DVD – it truly has all you need to know.

My first impression is that the DVD is very long but with a lot of information. I like the way Norman Kent introduces camera flying – it is not about you and what you want to do, there is a technical framework. He emphasises the importance of good communication, having a plan and being safe. He covers all of the aspects of camera flying in great detail, from choosing a suit to shooting a film. It is easy to understand as all the relevant information is grouped into well thought-out chapters.

As the beginner is the target audience I would not recommend watching it all at once. It's perhaps too much; you can easily get lost in it. The first of the two discs offers a lot of examples of various equipment with Norman's own choice and explanation of why. It allows viewers to make their own decision which, for someone who has never tried it, could be quite overwhelming. The second DVD is more about flying. It explains all the different ways of shooting; from the exit all the way to deployment, depending on the subject being videoed. There are quite a few video clips to demonstrate what Norman is talking about.



Photo taken at the Mekong River Boogie by Wendy Smith

After the success of the Mekong River Boogie (the world's first boogie in Laos), the organisers, Stephen Northcott and Darel Davenport, are planning Vietnam's first boogie. It will be at Nah Trang, 23 February to 7 March. Aircraft will include MI-8/MI-17 helicopters and Antonov 26/2. Nah Trang is a picturesque seaside resort so beach landings, scrumptious food and 5 star accommodation are on offer. The Mekong River Boogie partnership aims to offer various skydiving events along the course of the beautiful Mekong River in Asia. Sponsorship packages are available, TV coverage is planned, a freely record is in the offing and a contract with the Vietnamese government offers exciting future developments.

www.skydivevietnam.com



Film and stunt crew of 'Mr Lonely' at Skydive Spain, photo by Peter Degerfeldt

Mr Lonely

Skydiving hits the big screen again, with the release of the movie Mr Lonely. Its bizarre plot switches between a Scottish commune of impersonators and a group of skydiving nuns in Panama who discover that, if they have enough faith, they don't need parachutes. The 'nuns' (Julia Foxwell, Julie Woodrow, Susan Farquar and Lesley Gale) were filmed on location at Skydive Spain, Seville, by Hans Berggren. The stunts were co-ordinated by Peter Degerfeldt and Allan Hewitt, who himself makes a brief appearance as a nun.

Happy Families

Stelio, Sebastiano, Conny and Dario Jotti

Well known Swiss organiser Dario Jotti now skydives with his whole family. Dario and Conny's two sons both qualified through AFF. Stelio now has 340 jumps and his younger brother Sebastiano has 140 jumps.

Ian Ridpath

Swooper Online

The staff at canopypiloting.com have updated their newsletter and made it into an online magazine. 'Swooper' covers all aspects of canopy piloting and the swooping lifestyle. It is available as a PDF download, with an option to print.



www.swoopermagazine.com

Got Any News?

If you have any news for JM's Newsround let us know, ideally with a high quality photograph.

editor@skydivemag.com

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Forthcoming Coaching:

▶ **FS and Freefly – Mick Nuttall**

2007 World Challenge Freefly Gold Medallist with Arizona Blaze. The only current dual World Record holder (400 way FS, 69 way Head Down). *December 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Spaces are limited, so call 01908 247772/3 NOW!*



Regular Events at Airkix:

▶ **Mondays with Volairkix**

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

▶ **Wednesday Night Coaching** (all disciplines)

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

▶ **Tues & Thurs Night FS Coaching**

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

▶ **Freefly Thursdays**

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

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

CF *Nationals*

22-24 September saw the 2007 CF Nationals being hosted at Target Skysports Hibaldstow. This was to be a selection year for the 2008 CF World Championships in three events: 2-way sequential, 4-way sequential and 4-way rotations.



Lost Boys by PD Smith



8-way speed was also on the agenda but, as this has now sadly been retired from international competition, this event would only be held if weather permitted. As the 8-way teams entering in previous years had been made up of 4-way competitors, and it seemed unlikely that all events could be completed in three days, no teams actually registered for the 8-way. There is also a 4-way speed Nationals event; as this is not an international event this is usually scored by the time for the initial quad build on the rotations jumps.

Friday

Despite a poor weather forecast some competitors arrived on Friday afternoon in the hope of getting some last minute training. Much to our surprise the rain eventually stopped and the cloud cleared enough to get one CF lift up, despite some very strong upper winds.

Saturday

Saturday morning saw three teams registered for rotations, two teams for 4-way sequential, six teams for 2-way sequential and two intermediate 2-way sequential teams. The normal plan would be to start with rotations but low cloud kept this on hold. As the 2-way sequential event has a flexible exit height due to the slower

descent rate, plus an option to shorten the working time, it was decided to start with the 2-way. During the Saturday we managed to complete three rounds of 2-way (the minimum required to verify the meet) and by early evening the cloud had broken enough to get in the first round of rotations.

Sunday

Sunday saw the weather deteriorate further and, during a day of much kit-on-kit-off and stand-downs, we only managed one further round of 2-way. With the forecast for Monday looking even worse it was starting to look like the rotations and 4-way sequential would not complete. With no reserve weekend planned, things were not looking good!

Monday

On Sunday night the DZ had released the Meet Director as jumping looked so unlikely on the Monday! However, a hole in the cloud started to appear and the rotations teams were put on a call. The Meet Director was hurriedly called back to the DZ and we managed to get in two quick rounds of rotations before the weather finally closed in for the rest of the day.

4-way Results

With all rotations teams capable of similar scores the event was looking very tight, right up until the last jump when *Lost Boys* had a very slow build on the quad and dropped from joint first to third. *Outcasts*, who had slowly improved

jump on jump, turned out winners in both speed and rotations – this despite having a cutaway on two out of the three rounds, fortunately both on occasions outside of working time.

4-way Rotations

- 1 Outcasts
- 2 CFUK
- 3 Lost Boys

4-way Speed

- 1 Outcasts
- 2 CFUK
- 3 Lost Boys

4-way Sequential

As weather had not permitted the height for 4-way sequential, no jumps were done in this event. There is therefore no result and no national team selected for next year's world meet. The 4-way sequential is scheduled to be held in 2008 at a date and location yet to be determined. Watch this space!

Senior 2-way

The senior 2-way sequential results were also undecided when we went to press due to some controversy over the scoring. It was decided that the scores would not be used and no medals would be awarded at the time. This issue would hopefully be resolved at the BPA Competitions Committee meeting of 27 November, while this magazine is being printed. Watch the BPA website or the next Mag for news.

Intermediate 2-way

This event had only two teams and the medals were awarded as follows.

- 1 Los Perros
- 2 Los Gattos

See you next year!

Mark Weaver

markswearer@btinternet.com

Photo shows Al Macartney of 2-way team Heat, by Titch Wibrew. Unusually, Heat competed in CF using Velocities (93 & 103) with HMA and Vectran lines, and used a removable deployment system

4-way Rotations & Speed



Photos: Blair Stent

Gold: Outcasts



Silver: CFUK



Bronze: Lost Boys

2-way Intermediate Sequential



Maria Russel

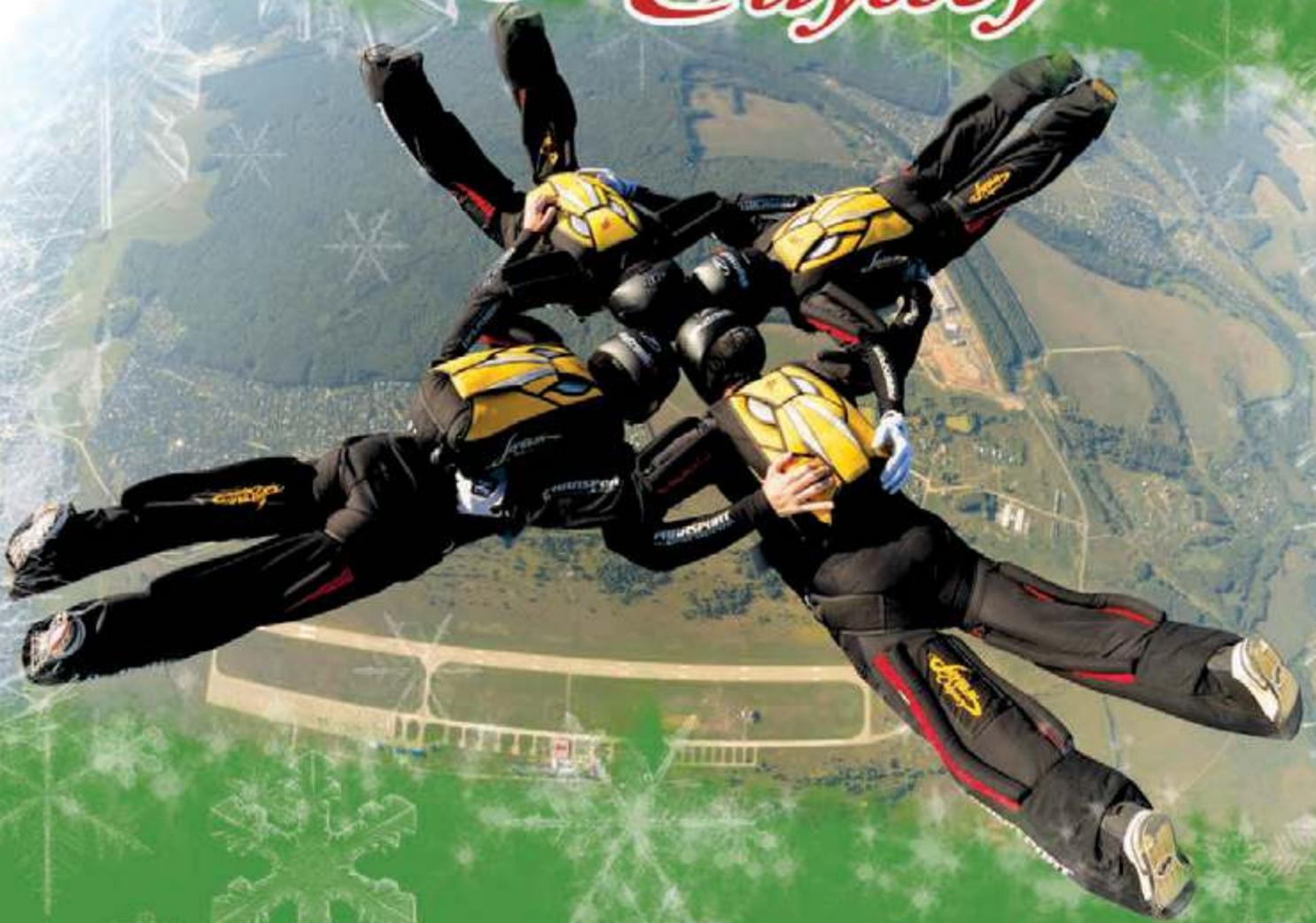
Gold: Los Perros



Blair Stent

Silver: Los Gattos

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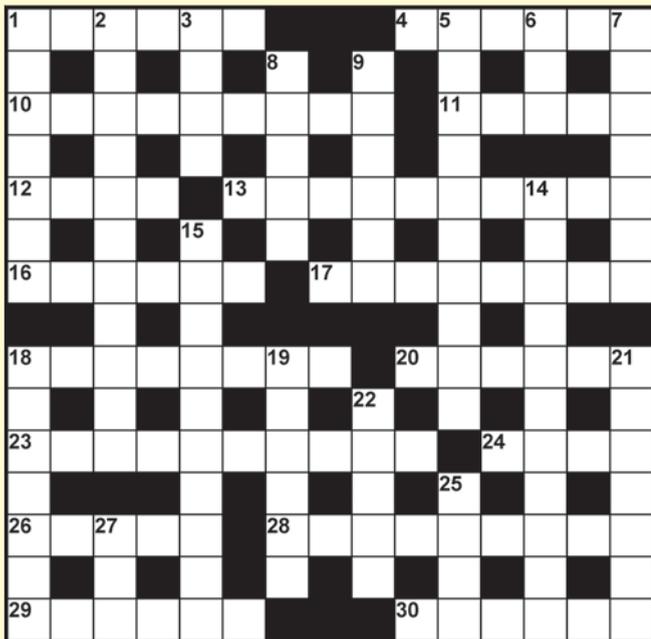


photo: Danny Jacobs

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Main (Cryptic)

Across

- 1,7 & 21 David Bowie in the role of a poor skydiver! (3,3,3,4,2,5)
- 4 Tablet of witch-hazel's beginning to be a sleep aid (6)
- 10 Race round back of clean space (9)
- 11 It picks up in the AM perhaps (5)
- 12 Sedgefield straddles this border (4)
- 13 In harmony with poetic Lamb's gamboling (10)
- 16 Boys ate noisily just before dark (6)
- 17 Upstanding, yet performing viler act (8)
- 18 It's inspired, full of life (8)
- 20 Fails to lead spades and no trumps with stag's partner (6)
- 23 Princess's fixed up and sent away (10)
- 24 Cash in one's chips around five in disreputable place (4)
- 26 Unhygienic irrigation contains white condensates (5)
- 28 Doctor tries stuffing penniless bum (9)
- 29 Tick coated in rinse conditioner (6)
- 30 Extent of outskirts of Lahore, Nanking and Tonopah (6)

Down

- 1 Approves having alien tokens (7)
- 2 Appears to have cooked nice pickles (11)
- 3 Aircraft salesroom loses odd bits (4)
- 5 It's troublesome when one gets involved with tart in Rio (10)
- 6 Cover pool with nothing taken out (3)
- 7 See 1
- 8 Appreciate space woman (5)
- 9 Feeble twitter spoken by the French nation (6)
- 14 Stern talk about 8 sinning (11)
- 15 Er, he leads one in Waterloo perhaps (10)
- 18 Sees about tail-less duck's charms (7)
- 19 Break out painting of the web? (6)
- 21 See 1
- 22 Birds changing direction, eg, endlessly reset (5)
- 25 Her electronic present (4)
- 27 Royal observer corps' jumbo carrier (3)

Reserve

Across

- 1,7 & 21 Sci-fi film starring David Bowie (3,3,3,4,2,5)
- 4 Soft (cut-away) handle
- 10 Intervening space: permission to pass
- 11 Communication device
- 12 Outer limit
- 13 Well matched
- 16 Nightfall
- 17 Upright
- 18 Lively
- 20 Abstains from
- 23 Sent off: organised a load
- 24 Fly downwards
- 26 High clouds
- 28 Buttocks
- 29 Short measure of time
- 30 Dimension

Down

- 1 Vouchers
- 2 Crises
- 3 Of the air
- 5 Annoyance
- 6 Helmet (slang)
- 7 See 1
- 8 Take pleasure in
- 9 Populace
- 14 Skydiving to the rear
- 15 Short delay
- 18 Entices
- 19 Get out of danger
- 21 See 1
- 22 Fowls (wild in Ireland)
- 25 Present
- 27 Large legendary bird

Solutions Across
 1 The man, 4 Pillow, 10 Clearance, 11 Radio, 12 Edge, 13 Compatible, 16 Sunset, 17 Vertical, 18 Sunset, 20 Doesn't, 23 Dispatched, 24 Dive, 26 Cm, 28 Foster, 29 Second, 30 Length

Solutions Down
 1 Tricks, 2 Emergencies, 3 Aero, 5 Imitation, 6 Lid, 7 Who fell, 8 Enjoy, 9 People, 14 Backsliding, 15 Hestiation, 16 Seduces, 19 Escape, 21 To earth, 22 Geese, 25 Here, 27 Roc



Don't Break the Circle!

The BPA is an organisation run by the members, for the members. We elect volunteers from among us to sit, unpaid, on BPA Council and make decisions on our behalf.



These are then put into action by the employed BPA Staff, along with ongoing administration. As a BPA Member, your vote is an important part of the circle.

PLEASE VOTE!

NEW! Online Voting
NEW! Electoral System
NEW! Council 2008

The vote for the 2008 BPA Council is to be run via the Electoral Reform Services (ERS). BPA Members will receive a voting paper and information through the post.

You can then vote:

1. by return post to ERS
2. or online.

This is the first time the BPA has tried online voting. The strength of the response, among other factors, will determine the future of electronic voting.

Note: If you have not received a voting paper by Monday 3 December please call the BPA Office.

Choosing the right

Andy Wright

CANOPY

Before choosing a canopy, there are a large number of different factors to consider...

Different canopy shapes, construction types, trims and loadings lead to different flying characteristics.

Individually, skydivers will choose different types of parachutes for different purposes.

Always make sure that you master the canopy that you're flying at the moment, before changing to a smaller one or faster type.

Experience and Currency

Generally a higher jump number will lead to more experience in flying and landing parachutes, but this does not necessarily mean that the amount of total jumps has an influence on better canopy control. By taking longer breaks from jumping, we lose some feeling for the canopy and for the judgment of ground references. It takes some jumps again, to feel and fly the same as before. Jumping regularly or training in blocks, will give you a great learning experience in shorter time. Judge your own experience objectively and ask experienced skydivers or instructors for their opinion.



Willy Boeykens



Swoop by
Tony Danbury

Exit Weight

The suspended weight is the factor that influences the wing loading, it has an obvious importance on the choice of canopy size. It's a mistake to link the total jump number with the wing loading. Obviously less experienced skydivers should use a less loaded canopy compared to higher experienced jumpers. The right choice depends on the individual pilot's ability to understand the canopy, to handle it safely and to react correctly in cases of emergency situations or difficult landings.

Generally, the wing loading for first time students shouldn't exceed approximately 0.8 lbs/ft. Beginners should gradually and progressively downsize to max 1.05 lbs/ft and stay with that canopy until demonstrating the skills to safely land the canopy in all situations. Further downsizing will get you into an area where even little mistakes can have painful results. Make sure that you have successfully managed your canopy in difficult landing situations before going smaller.

Consider experience, currency,
age & fitness



Age and Physical Fitness

Different types of parachutes show a different behaviour on opening. Some designs open slowly, others open faster. The faster the opening and the less progressive, the more physical stress on the jumper's body. Older bodies tend to heal slower!

Landing smaller parachutes in no wind conditions often ends up running or sliding off the speed. Not being able to run off the speed can result in a crash landing (we must also take the landing surface into account). Big and high cambered canopies fly less horizontally with more vertical speed on touchdown, which can result in a hard landing.

Elevation

Air pressure at sea level is higher than at altitude. The higher the elevation, the less performance your canopy will have on landing. For every 1,000 ft of elevation, we lose about 4% of performance. If you are jumping at a drop zone with 3,000 ft ground elevation instead of at sea level, the canopy loses about 12% of its performance. This is about one canopy size difference!

Landing Area and Location

Faster landings with higher loaded canopies need more landing space. Accurate landings are generally easier with a classical design 7-cell, compared to a small 9-cell (or high performing) canopy that flies a long way across the ground.

Normal landing areas on airfields offer a lot of space to land parachutes safely. Looking at an aerial picture



Consider location, landing area, winds & traffic

and studying the surroundings of the DZ will help you to find alternative landing areas in case of an emergency or off landing. The aerial picture of the landing area can also show us expected areas of turbulence, in different wind directions. Plan every landing respective to turbulent areas.

Traffic

Busier drop zones use bigger aircraft. This normally means more traffic over the landing area. First make sure that you're clear of traffic then fly your planned approach. In case your Plan A approach is not possible, remember your landing priorities and have a Plan B. Don't think of a Plan B in the last moment; think about it high up, or better still, on the ground before you jump. Stay attentive during your complete flight and landing.

Winds

Every location has its typical winds in strength and direction. Knowing about typical winds and possible changes in wind direction at the certain landing spot will help you to work out a Plan B for every landing approach and avoid last second decisions. The more difficult the wind conditions in the landing area, the more careful your approach should be.

Air Temperature

Cold air has a denser air pressure than warm air. In cold climates, canopies perform better than in warm weather.



Milko by Tony Danbury

Consider your purpose – flying camera, swooping, CRW, big-ways, accuracy all have different canopy requirements

Purpose

As there are different motivations for jumping and flying parachutes, there are different types of parachutes on the market. Most parachutes apart from student, CRW and accuracy parachutes are tapered or elliptical. In most cases parachutes with a higher aspect ratio will have a more elliptical shape and will be more responsive to pilot inputs. The smaller and more elliptical a canopy's shape is, the better piloting skills are required to safely land it. Some open slower, fly faster or produce more lift.

Think about your own motivation for flying parachutes and find the parachute that meets most of your requirements.

Reinier Bos

reinier@skydiveempuriabrava.com

Note: The opinions and suggested wing loadings are those of the Safe Flight School and not necessarily those of the BPA



Factor it in

Just as the factors here affect your choice of canopy, they also affect the performance of the canopy you choose. For example, if you're flying at a new DZ, at 1,200 ft elevation, 30°C temperature and you're not current, be aware of your limitations!

Safe Flight School (SFS) Empuriabrava

This article is an extract from the brand new SFS Canopy Piloting Manual
Thanks to Reinier Bos & Brian Vacher for the use of their fab material

www.safeflightschool.com

Willy Boeykens



Recommended Wing Loadings

Your classification as a canopy pilot in three steps

1. Use the purple, pale blue and indigo scales (total jumps, average over four years and average over two years) and determine the highest result.
2. At the height of the highest result, draw a horizontal line to the right. Where this line crosses the diagonal bar, read off your classification.
3. Next draw a vertical line downwards. Where you meet the X axis. Read off the next number to the right. This number shows your maximum wing loading.

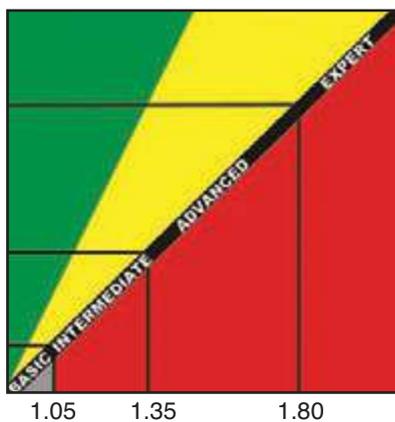
TOTAL JUMPS, ONLY IF CURRENT LAST YEAR
1500

AVERAGE JUMPS / YEAR IN 4 YEARS
250

AVERAGE JUMPS / YEAR IN 2 YEARS
300

600 125 150

200 25 50



Maximum loading

- OK
- OK if fit and if following a stepwise progression
- Exceeds sensible loading
- We consider <50 jumps as basic learning phase, therefore no loading higher than 1.05

For a detailed reference for your loading, see the appropriate charts

BASIC

Exit Weight (kg)

	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110
60	1.83	2.02	2.20	2.38	2.57	2.75	2.93	3.12	3.30	3.48	3.67	3.85	4.03
70	1.57	1.73	1.89	2.04	2.20	2.36	2.51	2.67	2.83	2.99	3.14	3.30	3.46
80	1.38	1.51	1.65	1.79	1.93	2.06	2.20	2.34	2.48	2.61	2.75	2.89	3.03
90	1.22	1.34	1.47	1.59	1.71	1.83	1.96	2.08	2.20	2.32	2.44	2.57	2.69
100	1.10	1.21	1.32	1.43	1.54	1.65	1.76	1.87	1.98	2.09	2.20	2.31	2.42
110	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
120	0.92	1.01	1.10	1.19	1.28	1.38	1.47	1.56	1.65	1.74	1.83	1.93	2.02
130	0.85	0.93	1.02	1.10	1.18	1.27	1.35	1.44	1.52	1.61	1.69	1.78	1.86
140	0.79	0.86	0.94	1.02	1.10	1.18	1.26	1.34	1.41	1.49	1.57	1.65	1.73
150	0.73	0.81	0.88	0.95	1.03	1.10	1.17	1.25	1.32	1.39	1.47	1.54	1.61
160	0.69	0.76	0.83	0.89	0.96	1.03	1.10	1.17	1.24	1.31	1.38	1.44	1.51
170	0.65	0.71	0.78	0.84	0.91	0.97	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.23	1.29	1.36	1.42
180	0.61	0.67	0.73	0.79	0.86	0.92	0.98	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.22	1.28	1.34
190	0.58	0.64	0.69	0.75	0.81	0.87	0.93	0.98	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.22	1.27
200	0.55	0.61	0.66	0.72	0.77	0.83	0.88	0.94	0.99	1.05	1.10	1.16	1.21
210	0.52	0.58	0.63	0.68	0.73	0.79	0.84	0.89	0.94	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15
220	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10
230	0.48	0.53	0.57	0.62	0.67	0.72	0.77	0.81	0.86	0.91	0.96	1.00	1.05
240	0.46	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.64	0.69	0.73	0.78	0.83	0.87	0.92	0.96	1.01
250	0.44	0.48	0.53	0.57	0.62	0.66	0.70	0.75	0.79	0.84	0.88	0.92	0.97
260	0.42	0.47	0.51	0.55	0.59	0.63	0.68	0.72	0.76	0.80	0.85	0.89	0.93
270	0.41	0.45	0.49	0.53	0.57	0.61	0.65	0.69	0.73	0.77	0.81	0.86	0.90
280	0.39	0.43	0.47	0.51	0.55	0.59	0.63	0.67	0.71	0.75	0.79	0.83	0.86

Canopy size (sqft)

INTERMEDIATE

Exit Weight (kg)

	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110
60	1.83	2.02	2.20	2.38	2.57	2.75	2.93	3.12	3.30	3.48	3.67	3.85	4.03
70	1.57	1.73	1.89	2.04	2.20	2.36	2.51	2.67	2.83	2.99	3.14	3.30	3.46
80	1.38	1.51	1.65	1.79	1.93	2.06	2.20	2.34	2.48	2.61	2.75	2.89	3.03
90	1.22	1.34	1.47	1.59	1.71	1.83	1.96	2.08	2.20	2.32	2.44	2.57	2.69
100	1.10	1.21	1.32	1.43	1.54	1.65	1.76	1.87	1.98	2.09	2.20	2.31	2.42
110	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
120	0.92	1.01	1.10	1.19	1.28	1.38	1.47	1.56	1.65	1.74	1.83	1.93	2.02
130	0.85	0.93	1.02	1.10	1.18	1.27	1.35	1.44	1.52	1.61	1.69	1.78	1.86
140	0.79	0.86	0.94	1.02	1.10	1.18	1.26	1.34	1.41	1.49	1.57	1.65	1.73
150	0.73	0.81	0.88	0.95	1.03	1.10	1.17	1.25	1.32	1.39	1.47	1.54	1.61
160	0.69	0.76	0.83	0.89	0.96	1.03	1.10	1.17	1.24	1.31	1.38	1.44	1.51
170	0.65	0.71	0.78	0.84	0.91	0.97	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.23	1.29	1.36	1.42
180	0.61	0.67	0.73	0.79	0.86	0.92	0.98	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.22	1.28	1.34
190	0.58	0.64	0.69	0.75	0.81	0.87	0.93	0.98	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.22	1.27
200	0.55	0.61	0.66	0.72	0.77	0.83	0.88	0.94	0.99	1.05	1.10	1.16	1.21
210	0.52	0.58	0.63	0.68	0.73	0.79	0.84	0.89	0.94	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15
220	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10
230	0.48	0.53	0.57	0.62	0.67	0.72	0.77	0.81	0.86	0.91	0.96	1.00	1.05
240	0.46	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.64	0.69	0.73	0.78	0.83	0.87	0.92	0.96	1.01
250	0.44	0.48	0.53	0.57	0.62	0.66	0.70	0.75	0.79	0.84	0.88	0.92	0.97
260	0.42	0.47	0.51	0.55	0.59	0.63	0.68	0.72	0.76	0.80	0.85	0.89	0.93
270	0.41	0.45	0.49	0.53	0.57	0.61	0.65	0.69	0.73	0.77	0.81	0.86	0.90
280	0.39	0.43	0.47	0.51	0.55	0.59	0.63	0.67	0.71	0.75	0.79	0.83	0.86

Canopy size (sqft)

ADVANCED

Exit Weight (kg)

	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110
60	1.83	2.02	2.20	2.38	2.57	2.75	2.93	3.12	3.30	3.48	3.67	3.85	4.03
70	1.57	1.73	1.89	2.04	2.20	2.36	2.51	2.67	2.83	2.99	3.14	3.30	3.46
80	1.38	1.51	1.65	1.79	1.93	2.06	2.20	2.34	2.48	2.61	2.75	2.89	3.03
90	1.22	1.34	1.47	1.59	1.71	1.83	1.96	2.08	2.20	2.32	2.44	2.57	2.69
100	1.10	1.21	1.32	1.43	1.54	1.65	1.76	1.87	1.98	2.09	2.20	2.31	2.42
110	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20
120	0.92	1.01	1.10	1.19	1.28	1.38	1.47	1.56	1.65	1.74	1.83	1.93	2.02
130	0.85	0.93	1.02	1.10	1.18	1.27	1.35	1.44	1.52	1.61	1.69	1.78	1.86
140	0.79	0.86	0.94	1.02	1.10	1.18	1.26	1.34	1.41	1.49	1.57	1.65	1.73
150	0.73	0.81	0.88	0.95	1.03	1.10	1.17	1.25	1.32	1.39	1.47	1.54	1.61
160	0.69	0.76	0.83	0.89	0.96	1.03	1.10	1.17	1.24	1.31	1.38	1.44	1.51
170	0.65	0.71	0.78	0.84	0.91	0.97	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.23	1.29	1.36	1.42
180	0.61	0.67	0.73	0.79	0.86	0.92	0.98	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.22	1.28	1.34
190	0.58	0.64	0.69	0.75	0.81	0.87	0.93	0.98	1.04	1.10	1.16	1.22	1.27
200	0.55	0.61	0.66	0.72	0.77	0.83	0.88	0.94	0.99	1.05	1.10	1.16	1.21
210	0.52	0.58	0.63	0.68	0.73	0.79	0.84	0.89	0.94	1.00	1.05	1.10	1.15
220	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.05	1.10
230	0.48	0.53	0.57	0.62	0.67	0.72	0.77	0.81	0.86	0.91	0.96	1.00	1.05
240	0.46	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.64	0.69	0.73	0.78	0.83	0.87	0.92	0.96	1.01
250	0.44	0.48	0.53	0.57	0.62	0.66	0.70	0.75	0.79	0.84	0.88	0.92	0.97
260	0.42	0.47	0.51	0.55	0.59	0.63	0.68	0.72	0.76	0.80	0.85	0.89	0.93
270	0.41	0.45	0.49	0.53	0.57	0.61	0.65	0.69	0.73	0.77	0.81	0.86	0.90
280	0.39	0.43	0.47	0.51	0.55	0.59	0.63	0.67	0.71	0.75	0.79	0.83	0.86

Canopy size (sqft)

All tables for 9-cell, ZeroP canopies at sea level. For 7-cell canopies, downsizing one size is acceptable. At elevated DZs, add 4% to the canopy size per 1,000 feet elevation

Fancy debriefing from your last team training session in a bubbling Jacuzzi? Or how about relaxing in a steam room or sauna after your flights?

Bodyflight Bedford is expanding. By spring 2008 the Bodyflight leisure centre will be open. It will feature a fully equipped gym; swimming pool complete with swim jets, bubble seats and fountains; a sauna, steam room, lounge area and a large mirrored fitness studio.

The Jacuzzi will have a large flat screen TV and DVD player installed next to it so teams really can de-brief their last sessions in luxury. There will even be water proof remote controls!

So now you can relax and let the bubbles massage you without feeling guilty that you should be working on your moves!

The leisure centre opening will coincide with the Bodyflight World Challenge which takes place on the 29th and 30th of March this year, one week earlier than in previous years.

You can enter your team into the World Challenge online – www.worldchallenge.info

Once again we will be running a 2-way Free Fly competition and a 4-way FS competition.

There will be again a massive £20,000 prize pot up for grabs – so what are you waiting for?

Enter your team today, and be one of the first to experience a decadent de-brief in our Jacuzzi!

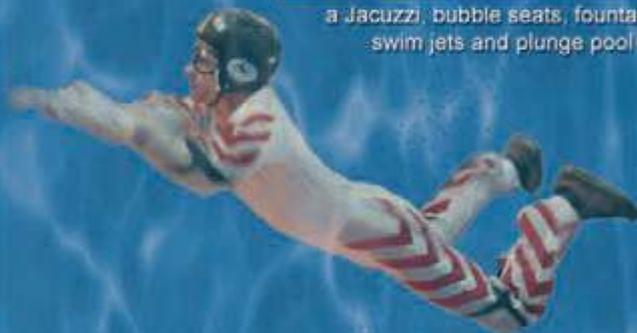
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Photo: Andrew Lovemore

50-way Hib Record



Brian Knight



Another year, another 50-way at Hib! With weather on our side what could possibly go wrong?!

Nothing, that's what!

We had a great turnout of jumpers that had been invited by email. Some people travelled a long way, from Scotland, Kent, London and all over the UK. We congregated on a lovely September morning, were warmly greeted by organiser Simon Cathrine, had our briefing and dirtdived our first jump. We had more than 50 people in the group, so it was organised on a rotation basis – that way everyone got to play. This was to many people's advantage by helping out with budgets after our big Nationals blowout!

Pre-planning

The whole event was well planned and thought out, the Skyvan had been booked back in February to add to Hib's three G92s; all we needed to do now was get our slots and jump. We wanted to make sure this was a success; after all we wanted to achieve our goal of a 50-way new formation record for Hibaldstow. It was very exciting! Last year didn't really happen due to the bad hand of weather we were dealt but it was clear this year was more to be better.

Slots were prepared in advance to help achieve the best and quickest build of the formation, Simon drew up about eight 50-way formations to choose from, then drew up second points which involved minimal movement. He said he imagined himself in each slot in each sector, then just used symmetry to build the pictures.

Jump 1 – built to 46!

After our first jump, we'd built a 46-way – so close to the record but just a little more work needed. Simon moved a few people around and we got back in the air. Jump 2 built to 46 again. We knew we were going to do this, we were so close and so keen and – hey – to do a walk up



Michelle Meekins by Brian Knight

46-way is a great achievement in itself.

Jump 3 – 50-way record!

On the third jump we built the 50-way, by 7,000ft!! Wooow!! This was fantastic! So calm and flat. Great discipline, a fabulous achievement and a new Hibaldstow record. As well as delighting us, the management were very pleased!

We tried for point number two but just ran out of time. Still, we had built the Hib record, we reached our goal. This was a 'first', ie, largest formation for at least twelve people – and Krzysztof Deskiewicz got his 1,000th jump too. Hannah Swallow even **gave us all beer** at the end of the day to congratulate us on the new Hib record. Nice one!

Safety

Aside from our great achievement, one thing I feel I must mention is how there was a lot of emphasis on safety and tracking throughout all of these dirtdives and jumps. It was key that tracking was talked about. Simon and Doug [McLelland] gave people opportunities to ask about their own tracking and they even ran a seminar to show the best position. A few people amazed themselves finding out that what they had thought was a good track position in fact could greatly improve. I know that a lot of people benefitted from the demonstration.

Early finish

We managed four jumps in total on the Saturday with an early finish due to the rogue weather that was on its way in for the Sunday. Of course this just meant we had more time to get ready for the 80s night and to get our fill of the hog roast and chocolate fudge cake.

David Buttevell



Let's party!

A lot of people made a right effort with their fancy dress; bald people all of a sudden had mullets and there were more shoulder pads than you could shake a stick at. Most excellent cheesy tunes and dodgy dancing ensued and we had a fabulous night. I will never tire of Wake Me Up Before You Go Go!

2008

The weekend was fantastic, and we hope we can repeat the success again. Simon is planning the same event for next year (along with the 28-way comp too and various skills weekends), he will confirm dates once he knows the BPA competition dates for '08. Keep a look out in the Mag, on Hib's website, via UK Skydiver and email. Simon aims to get two 50-way groups for 2008. Fabulous! See you next year then!



Simon by John Williamson

Shell Meakins
shellm1@yahoo.com



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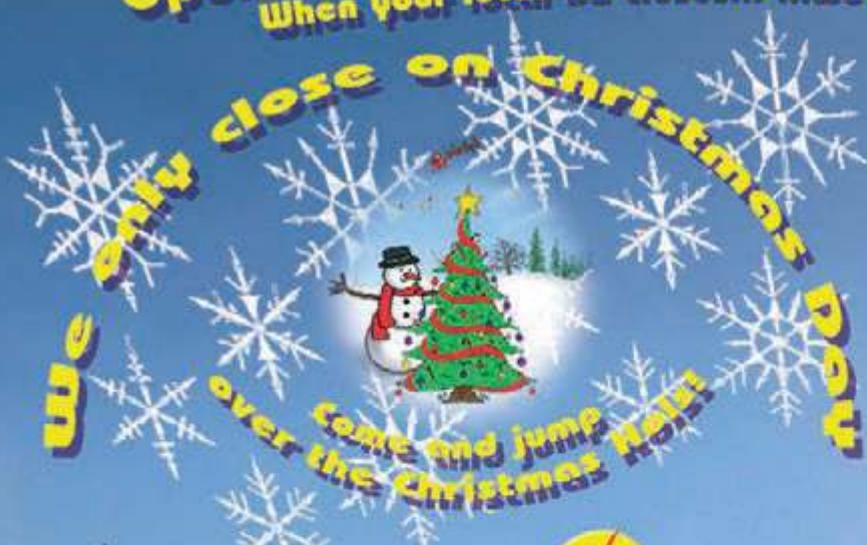
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Election of Council 2008

21 candidates have been nominated for the 15 seats on the BPA Council 2008. There will therefore be an election. This year's election is being independently administered by Electoral Reform Services (ERS). The ballot will open on Monday 26 November 2007 and close on Monday 7 January 2008. Election results, when received from ERS (scheduled 8 January) will be posted on the BPA website, subject to confirmation of this intention by Council on 4 December. The results will be formally announced at the AGM on Saturday 12 January. Members will receive candidate information and a ballot paper by post. Those who have not received their ballot paper by Monday 3 December 2007 should contact the BPA Office.

Vote Online

Members may vote either by post to ERS, or online via the ERS website. Instructions will be provided on the ballot paper. This is the first time the option of voting by internet has been offered in a BPA election. It is hoped that it will result in more people voting and fewer spoiled papers, because the online system assists the user in ensuring that his or her vote is valid. The nominees for BPA Council 2008, in alphabetical order are:

Paul Applegate
Sandy Barnett
Adrian Bond
Kieran Brady
Bryn Chaffe
Christopher Gilmore
John Horne
David Ibbotson
Eddie Jones
Paul Ledden
Ian Marshall

Paul Moore
John 'Geordie' Page
Craig Poxon
Grant Richards
Andy Scott
John Smyth
Martin Soulsby
Elizabeth 'Weed' Stoodley
Elizabeth Warner
Alex Wilson

BPA Office

Helen Lucas (pictured) has joined the busy Membership Services team at the BPA Office. Helen is the first point of contact for members e-mailing the Office and looks after magazine distribution both to members and subscribers. Helen maintains pilot records, and the classifieds, team contact and events pages of the BPA website. She also has responsibility for preparing for AGM day, including dinner ticket sales. Helen says she's really looking forward to meeting everyone at her first AGM.



Photo: Dave Lucas

The BPA Office will close at 5pm on Friday 21 December 2007 and re-open at 0900 on Wednesday 2 January 2008. Staff at the BPA Office wish all Members a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

New Ratings

Tandem Instructor

Alastair Milne
Christopher Southworth
Aaron Ellen
Rod McCrory
David Pratt

AFF Instructor

Andy Braye
Lee Read
Jason Webster
Claire Scott
Phil Hartree
Stuart Murtha

Advanced Packer

Neil Butcher (S)
Paul Jordan (S)
Stephen Thain (S)
Richard Green (S)

From the Chairman

Next year's BPA Council will make decisions that will affect every one of us. I believe that it is vitally important that we all should make the effort to vote, thereby giving the elected the authority to make those decisions on our behalf. The election is being run by Electoral Reform Services, which means that no-one from the BPA will see your voting paper. You also have the option to vote online which should make it even easier and quicker.

Regardless of your experience, I ask you to take the time to read the information on each candidate, and vote for whoever you think will do a good job for your Association in the coming year. Council members work on a voluntary basis, doing many hours of unpaid work on our behalf, the very least we can do in return is to take the time to vote.

Eddie Jones
BPA Chairman

Questionnaire

Every so often the BPA looks to you, the Membership, for feedback on key areas. This time we will be piloting an online survey (though paper copies are also available on request from the BPA Office). The information gathered is important and used by the relevant committees – so please contribute and help make a difference. Details will be included in the February Mag and on the BPA website.

Adrian Bond
Communications Chairman



AGM



The UK Skydiving League (UKSL) will be launched on AGM day. Chris Hollis, FS Rep, who designed the UKSL logo and will be presenting the launch, says it's an exciting development. The National Skydiving League (NSL) is well established in the USA, and from it has developed the European Skydiving League (ESL), in which the UK participated with great success for the last few years. We have already aligned our FS classifications – A (senior), AA (experienced intermediate), A (less experienced intermediate), and Rookie (beginners) – to the NSL/ESL classification, and now we're going to rename our FS Grand Prix as UKSL. Come along to find out more!

There will be an exhibition of skydiving kit and services, presentation of medals and awards, and a wide choice of meetings and seminars. For details, see the BPA website.

Stopover

To reserve accommodation at the Hinckley Island Hotel, tel **01455 898 560** (9am-6pm Mon-Fri) quoting 'Hinckley – BPA'. The rate is £88.50 per twin/double room or £70.50 for single, including breakfast and car parking, on Saturday 12 January. For the Friday night, it's £73.50 for a double/twin, £50.50 for single. Book early as rooms are limited.

Taste the World for £19.95

Tickets for the buffet dinner on AGM night cost £19.95 and are available from the BPA Office. The meal includes a main course and dessert (no coffee) with a 'Tastes of the World' buffet main course, influenced by culinary traditions from different parts of the globe (including vegetarian). Seating will be on round tables for 10-12. Bookings of 10-12 tickets purchased together can reserve a table but there will be no formal seating plan.

After dinner, there will be a disco/dance including the live band Run 4 Cover. There is no charge to BPA Members and their guests for the entertainment.

COMPETITIONS

FS News

Traditionally, the time between the FS Nationals up to the AGM is when teams reshuffle, old teammates part company and new alliances are formed. If you're looking for a team right now I strongly recommend the excellent article by coach Gary Beyer (*The Perfect Team*, Feb 06, www.skydivemag.com). Don't forget you can post on the team contact page of the BPA website to seek teammates (it's free!).

In 2008 the Grand Prix series, now re-badged as the United Kingdom Skydiving League (UKSL) will be run in conjunction with NSL meets elsewhere although the UK Nationals will understandably have its own unique draw. Free coaching will be provided at UKSL events, so up and coming teams can learn whilst obtaining invaluable competition experience. UKSL dates and locations will soon be available on the BPA website.

Looking back on 2007, I've had a steep learning curve as FS Rep and had a lot of fun, so a big thank you to all BPA officials, DZ staff and fellow competitors who've helped me out.

Chris Hollis
FS Rep

Photo: Brit competitors jump together after the World Cup in Stupino, by David Butterell

BPA *matters*

By Martin Shuttleworth

www.bpa.org.uk
0116 278 5271

Minutes of BPA meetings once ratified may be downloaded from the BPA website

AGM Special Resolution

Notice is hereby given that, under item 2 of the AGM agenda (page 34 of the October Mag), a special resolution will be put to the AGM to update Article 47 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of British Parachute Association Ltd. The existing wording and proposed revision are set out below. The wording of Article 48 (which it is not proposed to change) is also included for information. The purpose of the change is to allow a BPA-administered election to set a cut-off date for voting earlier than the start of the AGM. Article 48 already allows this for an externally administered election. The intention is therefore to update Article 47 to bring it into line with Article 48.

Existing wording:

47 Members shall vote for not more than 15 candidates and return their ballot papers duly marked to the [BPA] Office so as to arrive at the latest on the date prior to the date of the meeting or prior to the date of commencement of the Meeting or hand them to a properly authorised person at the Meeting. The 15 candidates (or if a lesser number be nominated, that number), receiving the most votes shall be announced at the Meeting and shall form the New Council.

48 Alternatively, the election process for Council may be conducted by an independent organisation such as the Electoral Reform Society or any such similar body, according to the agreed rules of said body and The British Parachute Association and subject to any changes said body may adopt from time to time.

Proposed new wording:

47 Members shall vote for not more than 15 candidates and return their ballot papers duly marked to the [BPA] Office so as to arrive at the latest on such time and date as the Secretary-General may determine. The 15 candidates (or if a lesser number be nominated, that number), receiving the most votes shall be announced at the Meeting and shall form the New Council.

48 [Unchanged]

From the Chairman

With the year coming to a close I, along with the rest of my committee, would like to thank all competitors for their efforts at competition both nationally and internationally. We would also like to thank all the hosting drop zones and judges. We have seen the first ever UK Nationals in Canopy Piloting.

Next year's UK competition dates are not yet decided, due to international dates not yet being available and the wish to avoid conflict. Dates will be published on the BPA website as soon as available. Finally I would like to thank the co-opted members of my committee on your behalf; Chris Hollis as the FS Rep, Clare Murphy for Speed Skydiving and Kate Charters, the Judges Co-ordinator.

Geordie Page
Competitions Chairman



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Skydiving Diploma

On a flight back from holiday, I experienced one of those frightening times in your life that, even if you don't believe in God, you pray! This flight even had hostesses shrieking! I promised myself from that moment that I would live life to the full. So I phoned up Netheravon and booked a skydive!



Brian Caswell on the job, videoing a tandem, photo by Stephen

In early June I completed my first jump, signed up for AFF, and qualified after 16 weeks. I noticed an advert for a school in New Zealand offering

200 jumps and a 'Diploma in Commercial Skydiving'. Some emails and phone calls later, I hung up my engineer's cloak, let my house, and flew out to NZ in January 07. I had 33 jumps and hoped to embark on a skydiving career.

What's the Diploma in Commercial Skydiving?

The 32 week course offers new jumpers the opportunity to gain a substantial start towards employment within the industry. Through close coaching, currency and professional debriefing, the learning curve is steep. The initial 20 weeks is held in purpose-built classrooms and teaching facilities on the outskirts of a small town called Methven. Director and main instructor Geoff Mundy is well respected worldwide, with a wealth of experience and a great passion for skydiving. The manifestor and instructor at the school are both former students.

What does the course include?

The course includes; A licence, packing, manifesting, customer services, first aid, sales, work ethics, market awareness, freefall camera, video editing, meteorology, FS training, spotting, accuracy and more. This is a diploma course so there are tests and assignments. It's the practical side that gels all the academic stuff together. Working daily in this environment brings you on so quickly.

Just when you think you're getting it, they up the ante, keeping you challenged. Half term gives you

a week off. Our course was one of the smaller ones, with two Brits, two Kiwis and a Yank. We toured the beautiful south Island and jumped the very scenic DZs. The highlight of the course for me was a week's freely coaching from JK, former *Babylon* member!

How much does everything cost?

The course cost me \$13,400, around £5,000. I divided this by the 170 jumps I would receive, effectively £27.50 each. Cheap in itself, before factoring in all the tuition, coaching and knowledge. Accommodation is very affordable; I shared a house with my fellow students. I ordered a complete system to be delivered to the school. Geoff usually secures an amicable deal.

The school provides a camera helmet to train with. If you're serious about making a profession out of skydiving, the school offers sound advice and good discounts on camera equipment.

Is there any work experience?

To complete the diploma, you do 12 weeks work placement at a DZ. I chose NZONE in Rotorua. This is an opportunity to gain experience working within a commercial dropzone and promote your newly acquired skills to a potential employer. I was lucky to be put on camera duties. In my final fortnight of the course, I was offered a contract to jump camera – and here I still am! The school has contacts with many DZs worldwide, particularly in Spain, USA and NZ where Geoff has strong relationships. All those on my course are all working now where they wanted to go for work placement (one USA, one Oz, two in NZ). All the jumping staff here at NZONE are previous students, 80% Brits.

Is there a similar UK qualification?

No. I did look, but couldn't find anything similar. I came to New Zealand as I couldn't find anything like this anywhere else.

How does it differ from a UK instructor course?

This course isn't about making you an instructor. In most countries you need 200 jumps or more before you can apply to train as an instructor. This course takes novice skydivers and through close and current day-to-day tuition brings you up to C licence standard. Currency is the key! 200 jumps in 6-9 months gives you a good platform to enter the commercial world of skydiving. Since you need at least 200 to jump camera this is where we typically enter.

Is it a good career change? Or a rip-off?

Personally I care very little about the diploma qualification. I came on this course as it was the only thing I could find that gives a broad and dedicated grooming into commercial skydiving. Everyone came with different expectations but all now work alongside skydivers much senior in years and jumps.

How do you feel on reflection?

It's slightly surreal to be here in New Zealand entering a new career just a year after my first leap from a plane! This course has launched me into the world of skydiving, where I realise there is so much more to learn and achieve. Whilst at times demanding, challenging and frustrating, the rewards of making a career out of your passion are unbelievable, and filming your customers' excitement is a daily reminder of the wonderful sport I now call work!

How can someone find out more?

Visit the website www.nzskydivingschool.com or feel free to email me with any questions.

Brian Caswell

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Training

on a Shoestring



Mandy Smith

So, you want to do 4-way but don't have much money? Do you bin the idea? Or do you train with the resources you have and have fun in the process?! Hell, yeah! Don't let money stop you.

Michelle Meakins and friends did a scratch team at the 4-way Nationals, spent very little but still learned, progressed and had fun! Here she gives some tips to encourage people who fancy competing but feel held back due to lack of funds.



Darren Birkh



At this year's Nationals 47 teams registered. How many spent BIG budgets on camps, tunnel, jumping and coaches? Don't get me wrong, having a big budget is a bonus – we'd all love to have one but the question is, should not having a huge budget deter you from competing? Hell, no!

Our Team

Block Party, a scratch team (admittedly with previous 4-way experience), decided to enter the Nationals in the AA category, yet without a training plan as we had no money to play with and were busy scuba diving, snowboarding, mountaineering, dancing and working! We just didn't have time to commit. We entered for the sheer enjoyment of competing and for the social part of the Nationals.

Our Budget

Brace yourselves, we spent a grand total of £111 each on our training (that even included a sandwich from Tesco's), and still came away with an 8.5 average having done NO jumps beforehand. We proved it was possible. We were neck and neck all through the competition with two other teams who had spent a lot of money training. We were buzzing!

In fact we only invested in 30 minutes tunnel time before the Nationals, to assess fall rates, mechanic some of the blocks and for me to try out a new slot (point). We had lots of fun at the tunnel and so looked forward to the Nationals, we were curious to see how we could do. We managed a scratch team personal best and were very happy! We proved that, even when you don't have much in the kitty, you can still compete, learn, progress and have fun!

Making a Low Cost Training Plan

Many excellent articles have been written about making a training plan (search 'training plan' at www.skydivemag.com). Here I've focussed on areas to save money.

Tunnel time

This is a great tool. It doesn't require good weather and you don't have to pack but it can work out expensive. Bulk time is cheaper but you have to pay a lot of money up front. Bulk time can be shared with another team to make it even cheaper. Split the cost. It is divided by four anyway remember – or do 8-way, it's cheaper!

Booking off peak time is good budgeting. Don't go silly though; booking way too much can cost you a lot. Maximising prep time can be far more beneficial to your budget. Arriving at the tunnel earlier, prepared with a dive plan, getting a good coach, and plenty of briefing and debriefing time will make the absolute most of your money. Book less time but get more out of it. Most teams book far too much time to be effective, especially if not everyone's tunnel fit.

Weekend Jumps

Find a DZ that can offer you team rates, commit to a specific number of jumps on a weekend and agree a deal. Some centres offer a free camera slot, find out. If you don't ask, you won't get!

Once you find an exit you can do consistently, just use that one to help you keep the rhythm throughout the rest of the jumps. This will give you confidence, keep the dive flowing and prevents you losing time with poor exits. See Gary Beyer's article *Training Smart* (Feb 07) and prepare just two exits; a long one and a round one. Again, maximise briefing time and debriefs to make the most out of the air time.

Training Camp

If you can't afford a full-on camp, book a long weekend to minimise holidays and travel costs but maximise jumps. Cost out the options of a few DZs in the UK and abroad, including flights, car hire, accommodation (house share is cheapest) and jump tickets to see which is best for your team. If going overseas, book well in advance to get cheap flights. Check your tickets, avoid being stung by exorbitant extra baggage costs!

Coaches

They are invaluable, with years of experience and competitions behind them but they aren't cheap. Perhaps you could share a coach with another team? This halves the fee and expenses. Doing 8-way has the same effect. Can you negotiate a cheaper day rate? Try the BPA roadshows, they offer free coaching from National Champions. If there isn't one at your DZ, ask your CCI to contact the BPA and request one. Find out if any tunnels offer free coaching on specific nights.

In Summary

Block Party had a great time at the Nationals. We went into it with an open mind and only one expectation – to have fun! It was purely a bonus that we achieved a great scratch team average. Who knows how we'd have done if we'd have had more money?!

Whether you are a seasoned competitor whose wallet is now empty or an FS newbie who wants to achieve a goal – give it a go. Find some teammates and get started, don't let a small budget put you off. You may surprise yourself with what you can achieve. Enjoy!

Shell Meakins

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Interview with Sparky & Andy

I asked top competitors Sparky (*Bodyflight Storm*) and Andy Scott (*Connexion*) for their thoughts on training on a budget:

What's more important – tunnel or jumping?

Both have their part to play in any training plan. Tunnel is a great tool for fast-tracking the muscle memory on blocks and helping build team communication and rhythm. However it isn't a complete substitute for jumping. You still have to train the exit and hill – many competitions are won or lost on the hill. Plus jumping is different from the tunnel in that you no longer have the walls to reference off. The ideal proportion of tunnel versus jumping will vary from team to team based on previous experiences. It will also vary depending on where the team are in their training plan. As you get comfortable with personal and team skills, the need to fly in the air will overtake the need to fly in the tunnel to learn – then you will use a tunnel more to keep ticking over or drill problem areas. In the beginning, *Bodyflight Storm* did a huge amount of tunnel. However as we got nearer to the Nationals, we didn't do any as we were really concentrating on the feeling of the jumps.

If your budget only allowed one, which would it be?

This would depend on the team. If it was a well established team who have done a fair amount of jumps together, you could maybe get away with just doing some tunnel. A less experienced team would need more air time, especially considering from a safety perspective. Remember you can always work on the team communication and rhythm through lots of creeping and walking of jumps. This is what we used to do before we had the tunnel!

How important are exits?

Exits and the hill moves are extremely important as they make up around 25% of your working time in 4-way and often set the mood of the jump. Get a good exit and the jump will get into gear much quicker than with a poor exit.

Would you recommend missing a year of competitions and saving up more for next year instead?

No. Competition experience is invaluable and plays a big part of any training plan. Just get everybody to buy into the same goals and expectations, and make them achievable with the limited resources you have. Competitions provide us with a measure of where we are in terms of our progress as well as give the opportunity to learn from other teams. If possible you should also incorporate competitions into your training plan, whether you turn up to compete at a Grand Prix or whether you do the same competition draw at your home DZ. And try sticking FUN as the number one reason to jump together and compete!

Any advice for people on a low budget?

Read up, loads of advice is available. Train your mind – get footage of competition rounds (loads of it free on line). See your slot – look at the mechanics of it round by round and see yourself in those moves. Don't underestimate the value of creeping. If you can't afford to make loads of jumps or spend lots of time in the tunnel, use the down-time to meet as a team and creep all the relevant randoms and blocks (depending on category) so that you get a good idea of the different pictures and the role you play on the team. You will also be able to work on the team communication and rhythm, making sure that the keys come from the correct person. Creeping is something you can do during the winter as well as in season and will help to kick-start your progression as a team. Remember there is help from the BPA – coaching roadshows are plentiful – use the free coaching to improve your skills

Creating an Artistic Free Round



Photo: Outbreak at the World Cup by Turnbleweed

Fresh from their silver medal winning performance at the Artistics World Cup, Outbreak spill the secrets of success. Andy Newell has written this fabulous article about putting an artistic routine together.

If you're a current competitor this will help you improve.

If you're a freeflyer looking to try competitions this tells you where to start.

Even if you have no interest in practising this discipline, the article is well worth reading as it throws light on the competitive dark side.



It seems that, despite the success of Brit freeflyers at the last World Cup, the majority of British skydivers still have very little understanding about freeflying or the artistic disciplines. Comments I regularly hear, such as "It looks hard but I have no idea how it's judged," or "The problem with freeflying is that it is purely subjective" lead me to surmise that many still regard freeflying as a purely peripheral discipline lacking both structure and direction.

Because of these common misconceptions it seems that many British skydivers feel that making a transition from the point-based competition structure of FS into the world of the artistics might be too big a leap into the unknown. After all we're all in skydiving to progress, so it's understandable that taking up a discipline that seems to lack direction might seem like making a bit of a risky investment. Apart from the fact that the majority of skydivers will see slower gains in freefly progression in comparison to FS, I feel that another big reason for a lack of interest in competitive freeflying is the fact that there are very few flyers who understand the competition structure, ie, what makes up a free routine?

What is a freefly free round?

Apart from the two compulsory rounds (two-way FS for freeflyers) the rest of an artistic freefly competition is made up from five free rounds (free routines).

The BPA competition rules for the artistic nationals (Sec 2.5.2) define the free routine as "a routine in which the moves are chosen entirely at the discretion of the team."

I would define it as an artistic demonstration of aerial skill and control, utilising creative camera work to grab the spectators' attention with the aim of involving them in the flow of the dive. It is essentially a piece of

performance art and, with this in mind, should affect the spectator or judge at an emotional level. It is also essential that the free routine should include the demonstration of technical ability as part of the performance, in order that its artistic production can be broken down and analysed.

How is it judged?

The myth that free routines are judged in a purely subjective manner comes from a lack of understanding and a misinterpretation of the rules. A free routine is judged on presentation (both the performers and the cameraflyer) and technical difficulty. A panel of judges is broken down to individually concentrate on these specific areas in order to increase objectivity and accuracy in regards to scoring.

Of course there will always be argument when it comes to teams being judged on their own artistic merit or individual style, especially when a team fails to keep up with the latest developments in the specific discipline. Despite this I believe that artistic freeflying is pretty much what it says on the tin:

Artistic – Free – Flying

Failure to combine these three elements within a free routine will probably result in disappointment.



Understanding the game

Things have certainly moved on since the conception of competitive freeflying in the 1990s. Old school free routines comprising of the performers falling down the tube, demonstrating purely technical tricks in front of static camera seems to be a thing of the past. The modern style free routines developed by teams like *Babylon*, contain a more powerful style of continual synchronised three-way movement (flying) and are structured to incorporate technical tricks within the flow of the dive.

A similar comparison could be made between street break-dancing (gymnastic dance routines confined to a small area accompanied with music) and Olympic standard gymnastic floor work (gymnastic techniques covering a large area as part of an artistic demonstration). Both disciplines show great control and flare but only in their respective environments. With this in mind it is important that a freefly team understand what they want to showcase before they start structuring their free routine.



The cameraflyer should interact with the performers in synchronised 3-way



Essential Elements

- A memorable start and finish
- Show something original
- Have continual flow
- Fly clean and strong
- Fly together, fly as a three-way
- Showcase the flight!
- Finish in time

Where do I start?

Research

Look at what's happening within the discipline and try to find footage of the latest developments. Look at what the top teams are doing and find a way to incorporate the latest techniques within your routine. If you decide to copy a particular sequence or trick try to add a twist to it. Make it yours.

What can you do already?

Try to plan and build your free routine around your existing strengths. Basically don't bite off more than you can chew. Use your existing skill base as a platform from which to launch new tricks, rather than trying to wipe the slate clean and remodel yourself on the current world champions. The beauty of the free routine is that it should be designed around your own unique style; embrace it.

How do I create a routine?

Start with a bang!

Start your free routine with a bang! Try to create an original entrance (exit) which will set the pace of the routine. If you can find a new trick or do something explosive from the outset then you will effectively grab the spectators' attention, then it is just a case of holding onto it and taking them on a journey.

Tips

The exit is a good place to create a presentation piece, possibly something complex but initially static, eg, head to head, a very difficult move to perform at terminal but surprisingly stable on exit.

Free flown rotational moves with no grips (eagles and carves etc) can be hard to control and may lead to separation on the hill because of the increasing speed and angle change.

Set-ups and keys

Break down the routine you have in mind and concentrate on the set-ups for each trick or sequence. As with all skydiving disciplines it is important that we have a solid foundation to start from. Slowing things down and setting up correctly allows us to become more predictable thus reducing confusion.

Think about using obvious keys to initiate tricks and sequences when training. These will become less obvious as the routine becomes more polished and will not noticeably detract from the flow of the dive.

Fly with the camera

Artistic freeflying is about three-way flying. It is important to include the camera as an integral part of the routine throughout the dive. Failure to do this will result in a static presentation and give an unwanted two-dimensional feel. Try to use as much of the sky as possible by having the cameraperson fly sweeping and integrated orbits with the performers. This type of camera integration will give the routine a better flow, help to hide certain static set-ups made by the performers and give the routine an element of speed.

Fly clean

Think about flying clean. The term 'flying clean' basically equates to the performers flying in a smooth and strong manner (gymnastic presentation) with little unnecessary movement. This also applies to the cameraperson, who should fly in such a way as to create a smooth image without camera shake.

Keep it simple

It is better to showcase a simple trick done well than a highly technical trick done badly. Highly technical tricks can also be high risk, so ask yourself whether it's worth including something that has the possibility of going wrong and detracting from the rest of routine.



Finish your routine

Finish in time. It is better to be a second or two under than not finishing at all! It is okay to go over the allocated 45 second time-frame in training as it is likely that the more you rehearse the dive the quicker you will get through it. If you are consistently going over time as the competition draws nearer don't be afraid to cut sections or tricks out if you need to.

Go out with a bang!

Your final move must create a lasting emotional impact on the spectator and show a definite end to the routine. As with the entrance, it is a good idea to showcase an explosive and memorable finale.

Andy Newell
Director: Volare Concepts
www.volareproflight.com



And finally, don't take it all too seriously!

Brit Chicks

The fabulous Brit Chicks – an all-female skydiving team raising money for the British Red Cross, smashing personal achievements, working together as a team and of course making 68 chicks British record holders!

Personal Journey

A year ago, I had just achieved my FS1. I remember a big-way camp was running that same weekend and thinking 'I want to do that'. The amazing smiles that I saw from people achieving goals made me want to follow in their footsteps. I went along to the 2007 AGM and saw Lesley Gale promoting the Brit Chicks. At the time I had around 80 jumps and my determination only grew stronger, I asked lots of questions, to people I'd never met before, about how I could be on this team. I started looking into coaching and had the fantastic opportunity of attending Caroline Hughes' big-way camp for beginners at Netheravon. That weekend my whole perspective on jumping changed. I went from an 8-way to a 30-way in three days flat, and I was completely hooked on big-ways! I knew my skills were limited and I had far to go but asking questions, and learning to keep my mouth shut (yes it is possible!) and my ears open certainly helped. After the invitation to join the Brit Chicks I knew this was my chance to prove to myself: 'I can do this'. On my 153rd skydive I became a British record holder! I know I am still a low experienced jumper but (reflecting on my own personal journey) having a good attitude, determination and excellent coaching (thanks Caroline!) will point you in the right direction to achieve your goals.

The Record Attempts

When we began the record attempts, the atmosphere at Langar was just outstanding. With everyone on the ground cheering and clapping as we boarded the aircraft, team spirit was at an all-time high. The third attempt for the record, after being so close on the previous jump with only one grip away, was filled with emotion. After we landed the chicks waited patiently as the captains started to view the video footage and stills. Had we done enough? Had all the hard work paid off? Was every grip perfect? It seemed like hours passed with not even a glimpse of a cheeky grin from one of the captains to give the game away. It was a very quiet time for the chicks whilst people packed and reflected on the skydive. We were called to discuss the jump, again no emotion whatsoever came from the captains whilst all sat down. Lesley Gale reiterated our goals for the Brit Chicks:

- 100% safety
- Raising money for the British Red Cross
- Sharing knowledge and skills
- Gaining positive publicity
- Setting a new women's British Record

...and, with the biggest grin, said "We did them all!" To say the room exploded was an understatement; it was a cacophony of screams, laughter, and tears of joy. Each and every chick had come along their own personal journey to achieve this record, and it was so much more than just a record. When we went back into the bar there was champagne waiting, cameras rolling, DJ Richie at the ready and a bar filled with people who helped us get there – what an experience!

The Party

The party to follow was in true Brit Chicks style! Thank you Rhino and his amazing skydiving band Grounded, the one and only DJ Richie playing all night, Zircon the fabulous auctioneer. Big appreciation to the Langar bar staff who served enough drink to sink a battleship – assisting the auction in raising over £1,600!

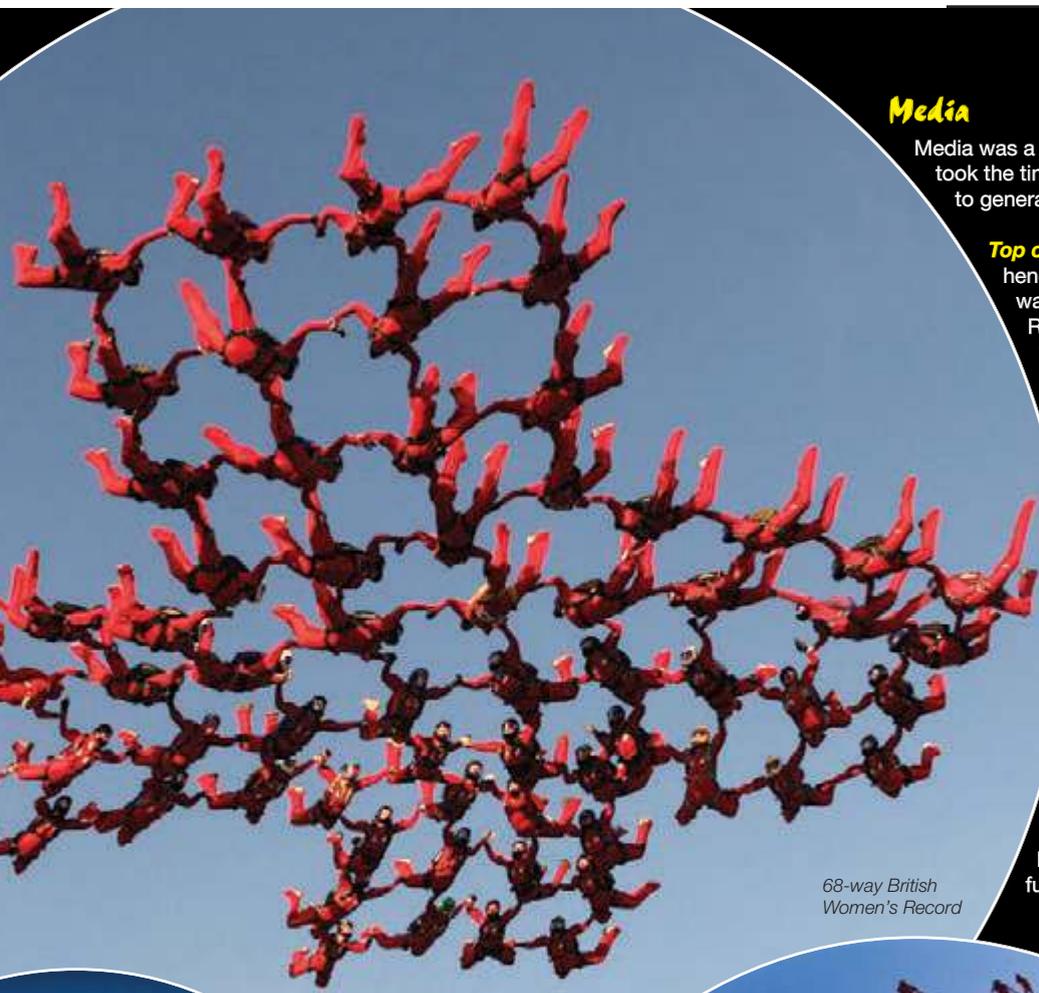
Conclusion

Not only has the Brit Chicks project raised over £42,000 for the Red Cross, it has been a fundamental stepping stone to show how records are achieved, even with jumpers with just over 100 skydives. To each and every Brit Chick, congratulations, we rock!

Sarah Churchill

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68-way British Women's Record

Media

Media was a huge success, well done to all the chicks who took the time to contact their local papers and radio stations to generate brilliant PR.

Top chick: Clara Melia who contacted Virgin Radio, hence their breakfast show presenter, Brian Murphy, was told live on air he was doing a tandem for the Red Cross! This raised over £2,000 and gave 15 minutes of prime time national radio.

Numbers

The average number of jumps was 1,200 and over a third of the record had less than 600 jumps. It was the largest formation for 55%, three of whom had not been on anything bigger than a 12-way! The lowest jump number was 120 (Jess French) and the highest was 8,200 (Kate Cooper-Jensen).

Fundraising

One of the main goals for the British Red Cross was to raise money for the British Red Cross. Every possible way of raising money was done! From waxing chests, bidding for a night out with a Brit Chick, an auction on a new Vigil 2, to online websites, justgiving.com and company donations. Even Freddy De Man paying £200 to be on a load full of chicks... which I think he enjoyed!

Top chick: Shona Blainey for her jaw-dropping pole-dancing.



Goodies

When we arrived at Langar, goodie bags were given out that were crammed with fab freebies, again thanks to the amazing team spirit and various chicks spending many an hour on the phone to companies.

Top chicks:
Vicky Tomlinson for her blag of Domino's pizza!
Ruthie Covell whose company, Parity, sponsored a Skyvan load!

Fundraising for the British Red Cross

Total Justgiving Sponsorship **£26,694**

September Activity

Virgin Radio tandem	£2,182
Auction Tony de Bruyn – date a Brit Chick (Conny)	£540
Vigil 2	£384
Jump with Bodyflight Storm	£250
Date with Zircon	£180
Mike Lewis – the first record photo (signed)	£300
Freddy de Man – jump with the Brit Chicks	£200
Pole-dancing (Shona Blainey & Cheryl Marks)	£260
Massage (Trish Jones & Ali Mayo)	£125
Bucket collection	£156
T-shirt and CD sales	£335
Collection for Kev Sargent's waxing	£131
Rhino for Lesley to keep party dress on next day	£100
Personal & corporate sponsorship	£430
Other	£239
Total September 07 fundraising	£5,812

Plus fundraising in May 07 **£9,660**
GRAND TOTAL £42,166



Brit Chicks thank all their supporters; a full list with photos, video and a daily blog can be found at

www.britchicks.org





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FS

Oh no, not the mantis again!!

Not at all, these are tips to improve and refine **any** flying style. Start with your usual body position... and just add Chris Hollis!

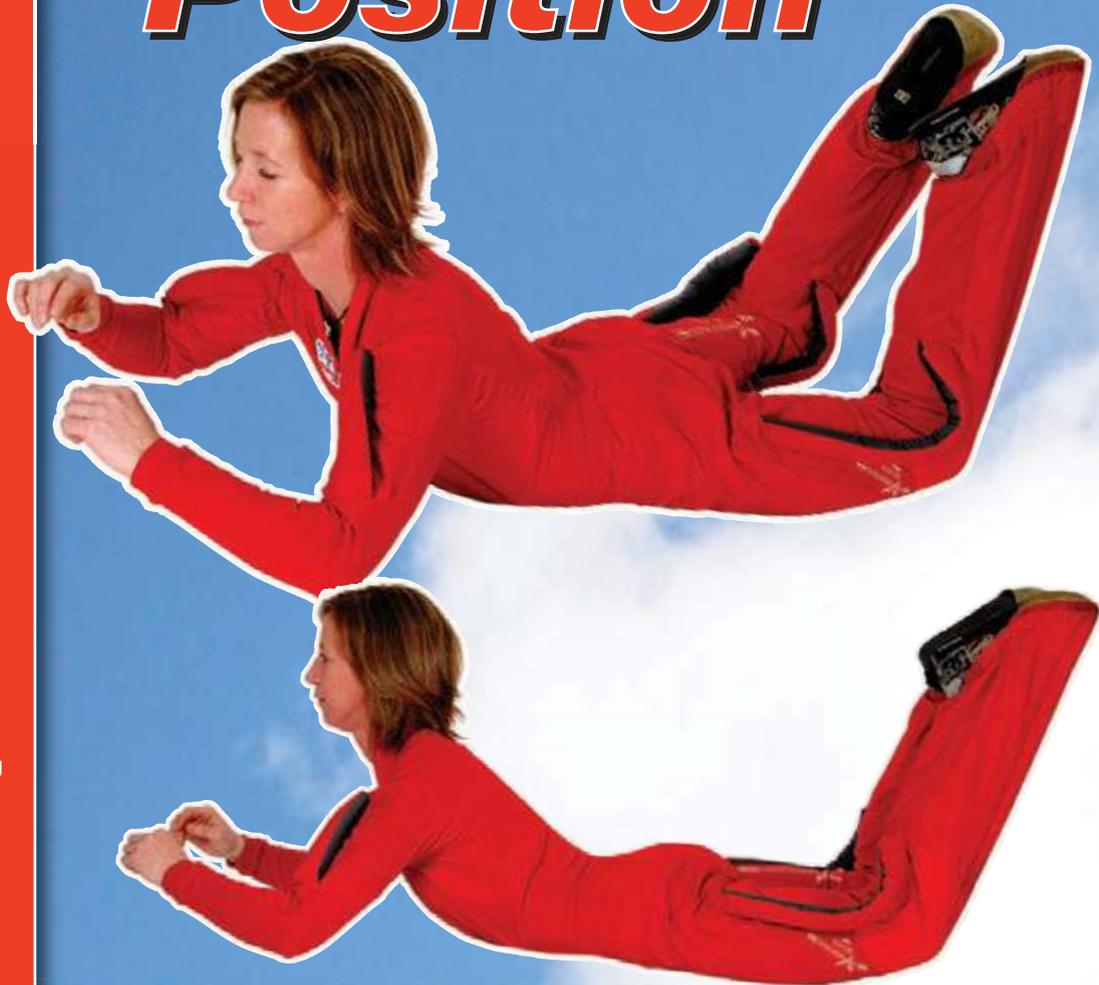
As a student, you are taught a stable, belly to earth position enabling you to quickly learn basic moves and be safe when deploying your parachute. Once you begin to learn about formation skydiving, it is worth spending some time on your basic flying position before embarking on bigger and better things. A good position is the foundation to all other FS skills. This article is aimed at any new jumpers embarking on FS1 – or anyone that wants to unlearn bad habits!

If you practise these tips, try and get in air video as this will give you all the feedback you need. Tunnel sessions are also handy for this type of exercise.

First of all, a quick description of what makes a good body position for formation skydiving. A lot of

people talk about 'mantis' and the emphasis on how important it is to fly like this. This is just a label, not the be-all-and-end-all! Your own size, shape and flying style will dictate how you fly. As long as you follow the guidelines here you can call your position what you like, it doesn't matter!

Body Position



A good basic FS body position is

Symmetrical

Spine straight, left and right sides both equal.

Comfortable

Your neutral position should take minimal effort to maintain. Snipers are taught a body position that lets their rifle point naturally at the target. If you are flying 'down the tube' (straight down) and working hard to stay there, chances are when you deviate from this to move, you'll find it harder than if you were relaxed to start with!

Stable!

Arching increases fall rate, stability and gives you a natural centrepoin to make turns more in-place. This arch always comes from the hips, near your centre of gravity.

You'll be *THIS* good!



Chris Hollis

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Common errors – and how to avoid them!

Error 1 – Legs too wide



This is one of the most common errors. Flying with your knees as wide as this will make it difficult or impossible to maintain an arch from the hips. This is due to the way your thigh bone swivels in your hips. Knees too wide invariably leads to your backside being too high. This will cup air and make turning in place hard. Keep knees roughly shoulder-width apart and make sure your hips are your lowest point.

Error 2 – Spine bent



Keep your spine straight during a turn. This makes your turn in-place. If you see yourself on video – watch to see the lines between your elbows and knees parallel to your spine stay the same. Turn technique should involve arm and leg input, but no twisting. If your 360s are more like graceful arcs, try this out next time you get a chance. Trying too hard to maintain eye contact will lead people to look round the corner, also inducing a twist, so keep your head forward and lock that spine out!

Error 3 – Too much movement

When coaching people, I try and get them to fly quietly, with no unnecessary movement. Again, this is more of an attitude than a conscious muscle effort. Being still and calm in your flying will enable you to concentrate on what grips you are taking, eye contact, block technique, etc; rather than fighting against the air just to stay in place. This calm flying style is also infectious; teammates and fellow skydivers will pick up on your vibe and hopefully take it into their own flying, leading to better skydives.

In conclusion

This article is not meant to turn out identical skydivers all flying like robots. As I said, your individual style is an essential part of your jumping. Just by incorporating a few basic guidelines into your own body position, you should hopefully see some improvements in your skydives and you'll progress faster and enjoy the whole thing much more!

Error 4 – Arms too far back



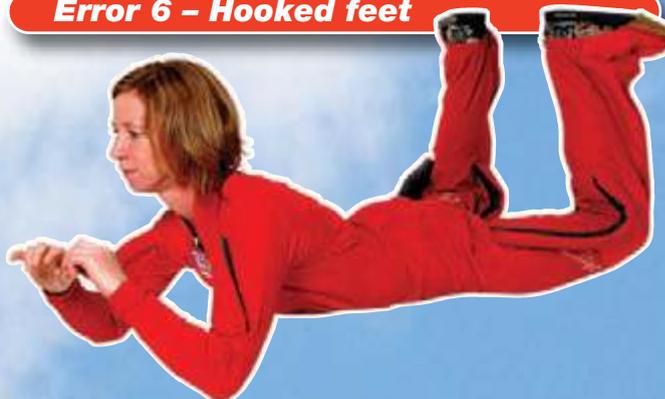
This is where the elbows are back and the hands are close to the head, described poetically by World Champion Emma Beyer as 'chicken wings'! (She used to fly like this!) Dropping the elbows to a position down and forward of your head will enable you take grips more easily. It will also make you arch with your hips, not your chest and, by altering your forearms, flying like this will enable you to control your fall rate better. Slow up by putting your forearms horizontal, speed up by raising your wrists like a drawbridge. Try it!

Error 5 – Tension



Being tense isn't so much a bad position, more a difficult place to start from. Relaxing your muscles and going with the air rather than fighting it will instantly improve your flying technique. Feel the air flow around you and try and maintain the position you are in without having to put major effort in.

Error 6 – Hooked feet



Got booties? Good. What are they for? Turning your lower leg into a more effective flying control is as good an answer as any. Like a sail on a yacht, the material needs to be taut to be most effective. The best way to make this happen is to point your toes. Failing to point your toes means your lower legs are less effective. It's also an indication that your knees may be slightly down, inducing a slight backward movement. Prevent this by keeping your arch on, pointing your toes and flying strong.

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Aerodyne Still Going Dutch



Kit News

by
Rob
Colpus



The London Fire Brigade team sporting their Aerodyne Icons

Tony Hathaway



Herman Landsman

Arnold Collenteur, Aerodyne's well travelled marketing rep for Europe retired from the skydiving equipment business for the second time recently, his post being taken by fellow Dutchman and all round good guy Herman Landsman. Herman, an AFF and tandem instructor with over 12,000 jumps and 28 years in the sport, has worked in drop zone management for many years at the Texel DZ in Holland. He's also well known for his Exotic Sky Adventures boogies and his team captainship of the 400-way world record-breaking World Team. Herman will tour events and competitions in Europe and Asia for the Florida based equipment company, and work with Aerodyne's dealers.

Atomic Modifications



Erik Aasberg

Parachutes de France, which now calls itself Aerazur, issued a Service Bulletin recently concerning their *Atom Tandem* systems built before 2002. The bulletin concerned an incident where an elastic band for line stowage was not inserted through the lateral grommets on the main deployment bag as it should have been. This

resulted in some suspension lines escaping and flying loose upon extraction of the bag. It was possible for these lines to wrap on the centre flap and, because of this, the company has issued the bulletin, which shows a modification to the centre flap to eliminate the chance of stray lines snagging. This improvement to the centre flap must be carried out by a qualified rigger at the next periodic reserve packing date. Later Tandem Atoms already have the new mod as standard.

0033 1 41 23 23 23

Don't Hold your Breath!

No wonder the folk at Parachutes de France changed their name recently – they probably want to hide. We believe they have broken a new world record within skydiving with an order for one of their *Atom* containers taking over a year (and counting) since order date till delivery. In the August issue of your favourite Mag we relayed their apologies; at that time they said that they very much regretted the long delays and apologised profusely to their dealers and customers, blah blah blah! They were at pains to reassure the skydiving market that they "intend to be back to normal with a renewed commitment to sport parachute products in the near future" – not that near then!

Should we still accept their apologies? I'm not so sure we should!

That's Inflation for You!

From the surfing world of Cornwall comes Gecko Headgear, a small company building lightweight helmets that are suitable for the skydiving market. Gecko has been nibbling away at the skydiving market for several years now and the latest incarnation of their open-faced helmet could also be of interest to skydivers. The company's new product is an open-faced helmet, built from GRP (Glass Reinforced Plastic), otherwise known as fibreglass. GRP has, apart from being cheap, the advantage of being lightweight and flexible, yet strong.



Gecko's GRP helmets with inflatable liners

The new helmet has an attractive shell design featuring moulded rib shapes on the surface and a neoprene forehead cover but by far the most interesting and innovative feature is its inflatable liner. The liner, which is constructed in the form of 25 small shaped pads is inflated by simply blowing through a valve, and then closing the valve to create a seal. It can be inflated to any fit; tight or loose; and can be adjusted while wearing the helmet as the valve exit is close to the wearer's mouth. I guess that skydivers will need to under-inflate the liner before take-off as the falling air pressure at altitude will increase the pressure in the liner. We wouldn't want a blow-out at 12 grand, would we?!

The helmet is available in two shell sizes; small (up to 56cm circumference) and large (57cm – 62cm). Both are adjusted through the inflatable liner. The helmet is available in a run of primary colours and a limited choice of 'camo' effects. The RRP in the UK is £79.99.

www.geckohelmeqear.com

News from Planet Neptune

Never ones to rest on their laurels (what is a laurel?) the Alti-2 company in the States, which in the past has given us the



The Neptune 2

Altmaster and Galaxy altimeters and the Neptune audible, has now come up with a new higher tech model of the Neptune called... yes! – the Neptune 2. The company tells us that the new model holds more data and has more customisable features – of course it does!

Along with the new, so-called, Neptune Maintenance Utility, Neptune 2 features custom alarm tones; 2,500 summary logs; 200 detailed logs; 8 alarm groups; custom DZ and aircraft naming; and the ability to set measuring unit preferences independently. Like its predecessor the new unit is waterproof and is now, according to its inventors, easier to update and manage with the much lauded Neptune Maintenance Utility (NMU). The eight selectable alarm groups can be set to be freefall alarms or canopy alarms, and the tones can also be changed using the NMU. Also using the NMU facility the owner can create their own alarm names (up to 32). Canopy alarms can warn you as you approach a certain alarm altitude, and can be set to 'loud' (ie, freefall level) for those who want to hear canopy alarms when the unit is fitted to the wrist.

There are 200 detailed logging profiles in the Neptune 2 (up from 10 on the old model) and 2,500 summary logs (up from 200). The jump number is now 'attached' to the jump record, and you can now delete any jump number (not just the last one as previously). The 'Log' facility includes the DZ name (you can create your own DZ names with NMU - up to 32 names). The Log also includes aircraft type (you can create up to 32 different aircraft names). Time under canopy is now logged as well as freefall time and there is a jump odometer that you can zero.

The 'Climb' screen can be set to show altitude or time/climb rate etc (you can still toggle to the other screen of course). The Neptune 2 also features a completely updated menu structure with scrolling menus, an easy retreat feature, and ground functions. The unit has a 'Sleep' function with timer so you can tell Neptune 2 to 'sleep for x hours', this can be used for airline travel, helicopter rides, etc.

The new Neptune 2 software can be loaded onto existing Neptunes. To download the software and perform your own updates, you will need to follow the instructions found at:

<http://forum.altimaster.com>

No it doesn't yet make phone calls or take pictures!

www.alti-2.com

VIGIL – The Next Generation!

After four years in the skydiving market, and with 6,000 units 'in the field' and 25 claimed 'saves' to their credit, the Belgium company responsible for the Vigil AAD (Automatic Activation Device) has now released an improved and upgraded model - believe it or not called Vigil 2. After first suffering a



The Vigil 2

string of setbacks and teething problems upon the introduction of the original Vigil, those boffins at Advanced Aerospace Designs (AAD), through perseverance, hard work and not a little skill and talent overcame their problems and have now got to the second incarnation of their neat blue and orange device. In addition to the original features of the Vigil 1, ie, multimode choice, free cutter replacement in the case of a 'save', no mandatory scheduled maintenance periods and internal data memory, the mark 2 features a reshaped, slimmer and flatter main unit which is now waterproof, and a double battery system for which the manufacturer is claiming a 2,000 jump and minimum ten year lifespan.

The new control unit for the Vigil 2 features unscratchable sapphire glass in a redesigned slim metal housing. Advanced Aerospace Designs tells us that the new stainless steel cutter is built in the USA by a company which builds similar devices for NASA and features a circular-shaped cutting knife located in a slim bullet-shaped body with a smoothly machined and chamfered hole for the packing loop - the Vigil 1's cutter was sometimes prone to fraying a rig's closing loop if its nylon insert had been damaged in the packing process. (See Kit News Aug 07). The new power pack in the Vigil 2 features a double lithium battery and a 'Pulses Plus' component which ensures that there is enough capacitance available to fire the pyrotechnical cutter instantaneously when required. The flexible cables which connect the main unit, the control unit and the cutter are reinforced with kevlar which allows them to be tugged, twisted and pulled about during fitting or packing without affecting the connections.

The data from the last 16 minutes (16 jumps) stored in the unit's memory can be downloaded via the infra-red transmitter contained in the device's control unit via a communications port which can be purchased as an option. The Vigil 2 will also store the total number of jumps made with the unit.

AAD defends its sometimes questioned decision to go without a mandatory scheduled maintenance procedure by arguing that many high tech safety devices in today's world, such as air bags in cars, do not demand regular maintenance. The company argues that self-diagnoses which will warn the user if and when maintenance or inspection is required are an accepted practice in the electronics world. AAD point out that the Vigil's functions are assessed and controlled every time the unit is switched on and will then automatically switch off again if a fault is found. The company predicts a life expectancy for the Vigil 2 of twenty years. The Vigil 2 retails for around £750.

www.vigil.aero

www.vigil.aero/life-saving-list.php

BPA Housing Policy

The Riggers Committee of the BPA issued a Safety Bulletin in October concerning the condition of cutaway housings. The committee concluded that:

1. Housings should be inspected to ensure that the insides of the ends are smooth and will not damage the cable when extracted.
2. Cutaway housings should be secured to the container, either at the chest strap or under the confluence cover.

The bulletin went on to say that "If the end of the housing is not secured by a clamp, then a method similar to Relative Workshop's (now called United Parachute Technologies) 'Upward Float' housing installation should be employed."



UPT's upward float housing

[www.unitedparachutetechnologies.com/PDF/Support/Sport/09104\(cutaway-housing\).pdf](http://www.unitedparachutetechnologies.com/PDF/Support/Sport/09104(cutaway-housing).pdf)

The bulletin did not explain what prompted the reiteration of these well known principles.

'Sunset Swoop'

by Stuart Brown



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SURVIVAL *Secrets*

Why do people do stupid things when they are scared?

It has been said that danger is forced enlightenment. This is because, when we are at risk, we must be our highest selves in order to survive. The specific methods that get us through danger are no different from the skills that we need in our daily lives. Rarely however, do we make the connection between our heroic selves and the person that walks our apparently mundane existence. In truth, nothing in life is mundane. All our actions have consequences and our future is shaped entirely in the present moment. There is risk in everything we do.

Making the connection between our heroic self and our mundane lives is the key to enhancing our persona and improving the way in which we cope with all of life's challenges. When we begin to apply the principles by which we cope with physical danger, we begin to dissolve the imaginary barrier between our two personas. When we utilise the simple way of being that is the mind of the hero, we begin to expand who we are as a human being and realise our true potential in the world.

Here are the essential components of the hero's mindset. These are things that we already know but often forget to implement. As pilots have pre-flight checklists, we all need to reflect on these aspects of our experience to ensure our safety in all situations.

Breathe slowly, smoothly and completely

Remembering to continue breathing while under stress is the most important part of survival. Without the breath, there is no sustainability. Our bodies require the gifts that aerobic inspiration brings. New air provides more than just oxygen to the mind and body. It offers a new perspective, enlivened with possibility.

Take a deep breath in. Open your lungs to their fullest capacity. Hold the breath for a second so that you may control the momentum of the exhale. Restrict the throat to ease the rate of the expiration, slowly releasing the energy back into the world. Once the breath is back under control and the cycle of respiration is fluid we can flow with the moment, whatever it is.

Relax whenever possible

If you carry tension in your mind or body you will lose touch with the flow of the moment. Relaxing is as important as correct action, because all well-conceived actions are born from the calm state. From this place in ourselves, all answers are created.

We must store energy when we are not in motion, otherwise we will run out. By resting whenever we can, we are prepared to act when action is necessary. The metabolism is not a bottomless pit of energetic resources but a short-burst machine that requires recapitulation in order to act with optimum efficiency. Likewise, the mind also needs to store focus, sobering up to absolute clarity so that we may see the world as it is.

Pay attention to your surroundings

We have it within us to sharpen our attention when danger is near. When we let go of distraction and point our awareness to the world around us, we have the ability to perceive even the minutest of details even in a split second of appraisal. This level of awareness is exhausting, however, and requires constant refocusing of the attention. When we become mentally fatigued, our consciousness begins to fade.



Photo at Bewl Reservoir by Clare Winter

Focus on the moment

If we train ourselves to focus through regular centring practices such as yoga and meditation, we develop the ability to refocus our minds quickly and efficiently. When we find ourselves becoming ungrounded and fearful, we can take a deep breath and refocus our minds on the present moment, and our eyes on the situation in front of us. In circumstances involving real danger, seizing the moment to calm down and sharpen our awareness can be the difference between living and dying.

Remember that you are always in danger

When we are under prolonged stress, it is easy to slip into the belief that we are no longer in immediate danger. This is a function of the body's urge to calm down and rest, a task of the parasympathetic systems that heal our bodies. It is these times that we find ourselves in the most danger. Lulled into a false sense of security, we allow our sharp focus to become soft, and we become complacent. This is how accidents happen. When we are in dangerous situations, we must remember that we're always walking on a razor's edge.



Note: The opinions here are those of the author and not necessarily those of the BPA

Enjoy the flow of motion

Although dangerous circumstances require our respect and complete attention, this does not mean that we cannot enjoy the experience. In fact, in order to be in the 'Flow State', it is essential that we act with a sense of intense joy. Only in a positive frame of mind can we completely surrender to the experience. The secret key to surviving danger is joy, not fear.

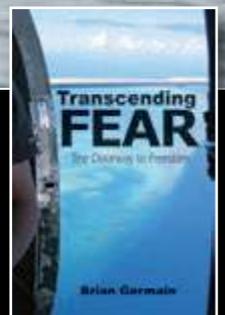
Trepidation disguises itself as prudence, but it is not. It is resistance to a flowing situation that requires the elimination of all friction if it is to function at all. Flow is disrupted by fear, as it causes us to freeze when we need to act; and

act when we need to stop. The only way to glide through real danger is to surrender to the experience, and simply love it. Love and fear are opposites, and cannot exist in the same moment in consciousness.

Although the contextual nature of stress is incredibly varied, the core solutions are always the same. By remembering how we perform in the face of physical threats, we can awaken the part of ourselves that knows how to negotiate our reality. Rather than falling victim to habitual patterns of coping, we can begin to step out of the part of ourselves that sees problems, into the perspective that sees only solutions. When we

walk the path in balance, we can rise to any challenge presented to us, and become the hero we were meant to be.

Brian Germain



brian@transcendingfear.com
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LETTERS

BPA Card Photo

I may be being pedantic but I was disappointed to see our 2007 BPA membership card depicting a background photo of a lone skydiver over USA. Are we so desperate that we cannot put something which is quintessentially English (GB/UK)? Even if this is not skydiving recognisable as in England then perhaps some other photo such as Stonehenge, Nelson's Column, The Victory, a steam engine or a country scene which says England such as the Cotswolds with a thatched cottage. Let's be a bit more patriotic with a card, seen around the world used for discount in many places and almost as an ID at times, proving one is an English skydiver. A small competition would be interesting. I vote for Stonehenge!

Jeff Chandler

jeffchandler@hotmail.com

The image was taken by a BPA Member (Gary Wainwright) and is a BPA Member (Marcus Beck). The image was chosen to meet the following criteria:

- The main colour of the image should be significantly different from the previous year's so that a glance will confirm currency
- To allow room for the wording on the card the 'interesting' area of the image must be less than a quarter of its size, at the top
- It should also be suitable when mirror imaged for the reverse of the card
- The rest of the image should be pastel and uncluttered so the information and ratings are clearly readable
- Ideally, be all-inclusive of skydiving areas, ie, not be specific to any discipline
- The principal 'voice' of the image should say 'skydiving'.

The BPA is a United Kingdom Association, ie, four home countries and the Channel Islands. 'England' is not inclusive of the Membership.

A call for images for next year is always included with the current card; everyone is welcome to take up this invitation.

Please email any suggestions to Lesley Gale,

editor@skydivemag.com by 4 January 2008.

Martin Shuttleworth

BPA Secretary-General

Proper Conduct

The Council election is approaching with 21 candidates standing for 15 seats. It is good to see so many BPA members taking an active interest in the Association and committing themselves to serve on behalf of the rest of us ordinary members and I hope this enthusiasm is shared by the majority of the membership.

Our votes are important as we are electing officials to work for the good of the association and to speak on our behalf. Therefore I hope that we do not see the repeat of any of the allegations of misconduct which followed the 2007 election. Many members expressed considerable unease following allegations that the result was leaked early and by the way that an elected official used the AGM to make a very negative statement about a fellow Council member. I feel strongly that Council members should be standing in order to have a positive impact on our sport and not to use the platform to run down or attack a fellow BPA member.

The actions of a few people can have a huge effect of the credibility of the Council so I hope that all candidates in 2008 act in a way that is beyond reproach and, by doing this, they help to restore its reputation.

Adrian Davies

adrian_davies@tiscali.co.uk



Keep it in the Family

Most skydivers with children know how easily they get bored with hanging around at the dropzone while their parent(s) have a great time. Often the choice is between taking them along and having them bored rigid and nagging to go home before the end of the day, or leaving them at home and missing weekend time together.

Tunnels can change that completely! Children learn to fly far faster than most adults. Any initial trepidation tends to give way within minutes to huge grins. In no time they can be as hooked as their parents. Flying in the tunnel for fun, or on a training camp, can now be a family outing as well. On the plus side, there is more freefall time, more skills development, more time spent with the family and much less guilt and conflict.

On the negative side, a keen 13 year old tunnel rat can empty your wallet at a rate of knots! Furthermore, they learn so fast and are so flexible that they can soon do things that their parents can't. The first time your child tells you that you were flailing, it hurts. When you look at the DVD and see that they were right, it hurts even more!

John Carter

drjohncarter@btinternet.com

Medical Forum

Since December 2006's Mag, the 2007 AGM and discussion, Kate (Stephens) and I have been rather busy and can only apologise for the slow start at getting the Medical Forum off the ground. Unfortunately, some contact data has also been lost. Thanks to Stu Ferguson of **UKskydiver.co.uk** we have now developed a closed forum on their website for the medical persons within our skydiving community.

To gain access to the forum, you will need to make contact with Kate Stephens, by emailing her on: kswales@hotmail.co.uk She will require the medical / paramedical organisation to which you are registered and a certification number, as well as your area of interest, eg, paramedic, orthopaedic surgeon, etc. By providing this information, we hope to be able to develop a database of special interest. In the first instance the medical moderator of the forum, Dr Paul Cain and Kate will have access to this information. I suggest that you indicate to Kate whether you wish to be listed on the forum, bearing in mind that the only access will be by other registered skydiving medics / paramedics.

Kate has kindly posted some topics for discussion, ideas originating from the meeting at the AGM. We would hope that, after a suitable length of time for response, that Paul would be able to draw conclusions and formulate a possible plan on how to take the issue forward. How we use and develop the forum, and disseminate information to the wider skydiving community is also up for debate.

Ruth Green

Consultant Radiologist

The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust



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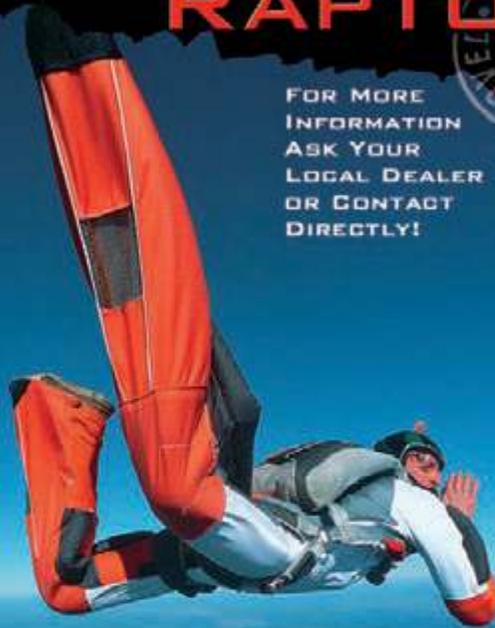
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Photos: Mark Harris - 05-660-2007

Club News

I have been at the Mag almost three years now and am proud to say that in that time the quality of the Club News section has improved dramatically. This has been aided by the leaps in digital photography and computer technology. We now get many more quality photos to choose from, making the end result much more visually interesting.



Your Club Rep has volunteered to represent your whole drop zone; it is a hard job to please everyone at the Club! You can make it easier by making sure you tell them your news, emailing them your photos (original jpeg please) and writing your achievements on the poster at your DZ. The better the photos you supply the bigger the slot your Club gets. If we work together we can carry on this trend to increase the quality of this part of the Mag.

Have a great Christmas and new year. See at the AGM, remember this year it's earlier than usual, 12 January. We'll have an exhibition stand and a magazine/communications open forum, come and say hello.

Lucie



Chatteris

Kim 'RoboRigger' finally had to let her boys go! Her wonderful Serbian packers, Lazar & Vlastamir, went home for the winter – after a suitable Chatteris send-off! Thanks for all your help, good luck, visit soon.

Our trip to Empuria went by in a 'hangover-jump-drink-sleep-hangover' blur, but we all had a great time. Some strange occurrences were John being seen without a tandem rig and Chris flat flying. Well done Emma on her 100th, we hope you enjoyed your Chatterite speed star! Congrats to Martin Jarvis on his first helicopter jump.

With regret I must step down as Club Rep. Due to other commitments, I'm unable to be there as often as I'd like, so the time is right for me to pass on the baton. Thanks to all at Chatteris for your wonderful pictures and anecdotes over the past two years. It's been a pleasure.

Fiona Law (pictured)

Ro, Ruth & Chris by Russ Smith



Lazar & Vlastamir's leaving do, photo by Lorraine Dixcey



Achievements

Cat 8, CH1

Rob Willey
Ryan Jones

CF1

Lazar Dimitrov
Bryn Chaffe

50 Jumps

Aiden Chaffe

100 Jumps

Emma Cooper



Achievements

AFF Graduate
 Julia Guasch
 Grayson Buckley
 David Nel
CH2, JM1
 Dave Worrall
Jump Numbers
50
 Chris Murphy
100
 Nate Cheeseman
500
 Glenn Fowler
1100
 Matt Abram
2300
 Dorian Harwood



Ruth & Richard by Dorian Harwood



Photo: Red Kite

Not even a broken plane can stop us and, no, the pilot didn't break it! Geoff organised a plane share with Weston for the Dornier on Saturday and on Sunday we've used Foxy Lady from Netheravon. Thanks guys!

When our pilot is on the ground he's helping Sandi with packing. Michael Van Der Vliet has only been here a short time but has his packing certificate already. How could you not be signed off when being taught by Sandi? How does she manage to make it look so easy?

The packing hangar's had a facelift with sofas added to make jumping more relaxing. The lounge has been freshly painted and some great beanbag sofas moved in. The

new office is well under way and the new bar is coming along slowly but surely.

Former S Club 7 member, Rachel Stevens, turned up to support her boyfriend on his tandem. The tandem instructors were gutted she didn't strap herself to one of them!

On another successful B licence progression weekend we learnt spotting, packing and canopy handling. There was also lots of coaching with many more Cat 8 jumpers working towards FS1. Thank you to all the coaches for their efforts and patience in passing on their knowledge to us newbies. The Christmas party is 8 December, bring your own mistletoe!

Kerstin Griep



Michael by Bob Spratley

Black Knights

Love was in the air with two tandem proposals in one day – and they both said yes! Chris Christo & Al Holmes also got carried away in the moment and were caught on camera in a passionate clinch!

Simon Cathrine kindly came to offer some excellent FS coaching. This proved popular so we expect to see some great new teams for the Nationals. Lee Rhodes packed himself a mal on a demo rig, the owner was last seen with a torch searching the marshes for his freebag! Nice one Lee, beers owed!

Steve Millard and his now famous leather Viper rig have been seen in the skies over Cockerham. Shocking news

– Ian Pringle has finally passed to the 'dark side'. He reluctantly took part in a horny gorilla during the Davies Cup – and actually enjoyed it!

Some escaped the awful British weather and headed to sunny Spain. The trip turned into a 'who can stoof up their landing' competition – look out for the sexy ankle and knee supports! Some good weather finally appeared back home and students jumped their socks off, resulting in great progression. Even Tony Lightfoot was seen doing an impressive gate swoop on one of his student lifts!

The café is under new management with Sandra, Carole, Christopher & Holly cooking up a treat for hungry customers. A huge welcome guys. See next issue for gossip from our Christmas party, 1 Dec, and an update on Al's secret DVD which he's been working hard on. Also upcoming is Neil Henshall's 65th birthday – but you didn't hear it from me! Here's to a great 2008.



Sam, SuperBond, Steve & Debbie by Alison Illidge



Two proposals in one day!

Danny Rowlands



Chris & Al

Achievements

First Freefall
 Adam McArdle
 Steve Williams
 Nick Simpson
 Dan Sutherland
 Mick Madeley
 Abraham Tavakoli
Cat 8
 Glyn Forshaw
 Shaun Phillips
 Rob MacKay
FS1
 Emma Kirkman
 Jo Middleton
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FF1
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 Steve Millard
1 Hr Freefall
 Dave Bloomfield
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Sibson

We held our last Beat the Clock just before the cold winter days hit us. Thanks to Sue who cooked up a great evening chilli to warm us up. These events were well received so we'll run more next year – tickets to 15,000 ft from £8!

We welcomed Rolf & Meike on one of their last stops on the BirdMan and Cypres tour, bringing lots of welcomed free goodies. Congratulations to Dean Smith who did his 100th BirdMan jump in his new matching suit and rig.

Well done Matt Everitt who had a fantastic 500th, one of the nicest head-up jumps I've seen for a long time. It's also great to see Brian Bielinski back in the air! Sarah managed a sneaky balloon jump over Sibson with Jerry White, getting some publicity shots for the Bristol Balloon Fiesta (see photo).

Andy Pye did his 200th jump, a fab FF1 dive, then went to Italy for an Atmonauti course with Marco & Gi. He was so good he's now been selected for the team!

We'll be closed over winter for refurbishment from 1 December. Plans for the new building include a large restaurant and bar, dayroom, shower/toilet block, all with full modern facilities. Our aim is to deliver a more upmarket eating experience.

A Turbolet will be based here next year! We reopen 1 March 2008, with some fun events throughout the year. If there's any event you'd like to see at Sibson we're open to suggestions. Contact skydivesibson@btconnect.com

Join Skydive Sibson's group on Facebook for up to date news. Merry Christmas and happy winter jumping, we'll see you next year!



Sarah Hall

Jerry White by Sarah Hall

Achievements

AFF Graduate, CH1

Tony Raucci

FS1

Emily Petch

Alex Barnet

FF1, 200 Jumps

Andy Pye

Jump Numbers

50

Emily Petch

200

Tim Hanlon

400

Jon Fox

500

Matt Everitt

600

Mick Thomas

800

Richard Luxton

2000, 24 Hrs Freefall

Yo Lee



Chris & Atmo Andy by Sarah Hall

Old Buck

An autumn highlight was our rescheduled Scrambles. *The Muff Bros* won with *Four Non Blondes* just snatching second from *Bellerophon*. Tomo will never let us forget his team had actually won after the first round! Getting the wooden spoon were *3 Men and a Lady*, who also provided the most entertainment when Susie lost her grip whilst climbing out and ended up doing a solo!

Nigel & Ben gained their FS1 in the competition, well done! The post Scrambles party was an enjoyable evening of pool and curry in the Ox and Plough. Thanks again to the Entertainment Committee, now preparing for the Christmas do.

Our AFF students made the most of the late summer and have progressed quickly. We are really pleased to have extra training capacity with a new AFF instructor on the permanent staff, fantastic stuff Stu!



Rob Ward's 3,000th jump by Adi Baldry

Congratulations Aaron who passed his tandem instructor course with flying colours, he's proving a great success. Steve Wickham & Barrie Bremner are our new regular cameraflyers, with Gavin Rixon nearly ready too. We've welcomed back Anders & Kasper who have been flying for us, thanks for looking after us.

Jane Canning is doing a tandem with 24 of Phil Canning's friends & family in

his memory. Phil was taken from her just days before their first wedding anniversary. Jane swore that she'd never do a skydive so we are really pleased and proud to help her do this for him now.

Tickets are still available for the Christmas Party, 15 December, contact jump@ukparachuting.co.uk It's going to be brilliant!

Vikki Forrest

Achievements

Cat 8

Adam Greenaway

Shaun Pascoe

JM1, CH2, FS1

Kev Harrison

Nigel Highfield

Dave Wall

FS1

Michael Wemyss

Ben Lawford

Jump Numbers

50

Rob Knox

Paul Wilson

Ben Lawford

200

Michael Wemyss

300

Gavin Rixon

3000

Rob Ward

1 Hr Freefall

Kev Harrison



Achievements

First Freefall

Alex Faye
 Lewis Atherton
 Clint Bacon
 Kevin Barfield
 Nathan Beck
 James Blanchfield
 James Brearley
 Nichola Broadfield
 Matt Brown
 Ben Bullock
 Henry Elliott
 Alun Evans
 Amy Feetham
 Lee Feetham
 Steve Garside
 Chris Harper
 Andrew Harrold
 Sarah Humpage
 Paul Kay
 Liam Kennedy
 Claire Lloyd
 Frances Lyth
 Chris Mitchell
 Wayne Morewood
 Edward Morrell
 Jonathan News
 Jason Oddy
 Harry Pangli
 Adam Perry
 Emma Rothery
 Steve Roy
 Steve Savoury
 Karen Spooner
 Terry Thorpe
 Dave Ward
 Steve Waring
 Sam Welply
 Matt Wilson

AFF Graduate
 Clint Bacon
FS1
 Kat Montgomery
FS1, 1 Hr Freefall
 Leanne James
Jump Numbers
50
 Wally
 Leanne James
100
 Chris Brook
 Dudley Nelson
 Dave Argent
200
 Andy Price
 Pench
 Paul Geary
 Adam Pencharz
1000
 Krzysztof Deskiewicz
 Steve Hogan
1200
 Dave Butterell
1300
 Blair Stent

Hib

Photos by John Williamson



50-way weekend

Chris Brook

We've been as busy as ever with 50-ways (see page 24), invitational freely, CF (see page 14) and the 8-way speed nationals.

The invitational UK freely group were aiming for large formations. Each member of the group (10 flyers plus 2 video) had 'homework' to complete beforehand. Each skydive was run by a different flyer. This gave variety in the formations, different styles of coaching and numerous orientations including head-down, head-up and tracking. Mikey Carpenter said that there's definite scope to increase the formation size successfully, with plans to meet up again at Skydive Spain. That evening saw a fantastic 80s party with outfits ranging from Miami Vice to roller-skating girls (fortunately without the skates!).

The 8-way speed nationals was run from 9,000ft and cumulatively scored as the fastest build times. Four teams completed five rounds, improving round by round. *Village Green Preservation Society* won with an overall time of

93.67 seconds. Nine seconds behind were *Better 8 Than Never*. A crate of beer for the funniest 2nd point went to *Village Green* for a horny gorilla.

Seven teams entered our scrambles competition. The idea is to bring lots of skydivers together of mixed ability for a surprise result. On Saturday 2 rounds were completed. *Flash Aaaaaah* and *4-Skin* took an early lead with the other teams within a few points of each other. On Sunday *Flash Aaaaaah* sealed the meet with a fantastic round 4 scoring 14 points. Many thanks to Susan Farquhar & Derrick Kent for helping to organise this event.

Scrambles Results:

1	Flash Aaaaaah	35
2	4-Skin	28
3	3 Teas & 1 Coffee	20

The best party of the year was over the Halloween weekend. Friday saw a packed bar with lots of hopeful jumpers. Sadly, weather on Saturday was extremely cloudy and only 4 of the 7 teams jumped. There is no name on the trophy this year – as much as we tried to complete round one!

It was great to see the expertise in some teams with low jump numbers. *Give Me 1 Minute* built a 10-way star in time with average jumps of 160! The party was a great success as always. The clocks went back an hour on Saturday night giving everyone extra time on the dance floor. DJ Paul Cooper played a mixture of electro house, old skool and trance for the assembled psychotic killer clowns, the fashion police, zombies, Little Bo Peep and all her dead sheep, Ugly Betty, Harry Potter and friends.

Congratulations to Adam Pencharz who did his 200th jump in style when the weather finally cleared. The quote of the weekend goes to Stumpy who, when asked about jumping on the Sunday, said "The spirit is willing but the flesh is still on the dance floor!"

Preparations are under way for another very busy Christmas Boogie in Skydive Spain; if you haven't already done so, plan your Christmas hols!

Mike Colthart



Vicky, Leanne & Jen



Scary Shell

Headcorn

We were extremely sad to see our final Let and fantastic crew leave. It's the end of an era – they did us proud. The upside is that our new Caravan will be flying full time, come down and try it out.



Jane Buckle by Simon Hughes

Walk-up Wednesdays were a huge success, Chris Shaw's load organising meant everyone had a great time. If interested and not yet on the email list contact us.

A big welcome to Jonathan, our new Islander pilot, who did a tandem in October. Congrats to Big Tony & Gill on their engagement – another drop zone romance!

Our other big news is that Headcorn has its own wind tunnel! It will be here all winter and permanently if enough demand. We hope to give a good deal to club members. It will be a great training aid and a fun thing for non-jumping days or whilst waiting to skydive. The potential is excellent! Phone the club for more details or see www.adrenalinvt.com

Thank you to all our friends in the skydiving community who supported me and Clem on our trek in Peru, we raised over £17,000 for the MS Trust!

Ruth Cooper



Clem & Ruth trek in Peru for the MS Trust

Achievements

First Freefall

Cai Dale

CH1

Clive Langworthy

Cameron Brook

Kevin Black

CH1, Cat 8

Lee Blackledge

JM1, CH2

Abby Medniur

FS1

Michael Cambridge

Janos Leszko

Mark Smith

Jump Numbers

100, 1 Hr Freefall

Peter Wilby

300

Maria Parrott

400

Al Redler

600

Clare Smith

800

Del Hopkins

7000

Jane Buckle



Achievements

200 Jumps

George Judge

300 Jumps

Stuart McDermott

400 Jumps

Declan Carlins

500 Jumps

Alun Griffiths

Stu McDermott by Alun Griffiths
(both Mr July!)

We've been very busy with lots of jump milestones, good jumps and happy tandems to end the year. We even made it onto the local telly, spiky hats and all! Regular cameraman Mally has stepped up to the mantle of CCI and tandem instructor in place of Andy M whilst he recovers from a sore knee – get well soon! Andy's been selected for chief tandem master for the Everest jump in 2008, nice one!

We recently acquired some freefly tubes and are looking to invest in a new plane... watch this space! We're planning a big trip to a wind tunnel, the AGM and Morocco in January. The Moroccan DZ we're visiting is at the foothills of the Atlas Mountains with cheap jumps and travel, Safe Flight School and BPA instructors so you can work towards FAI stickers! See Jersey@UKS for details. We should be open for jumping by Feb next year as usual. Life's a beach!

Simon Griffiths



Alun's 500th by Rachel De Coen

Sth Cerney



Tony Goodman by Simon Ward

After my stint in Cyprus it's good to be back in ole Blighty just in time for the cold! We wave a fond farewell to Steve who's done a fabulous 5 years as CCI of the team. I took over the reins in October.

As all new CCIs, I intend to make some changes, some big, some small. The main aim is to bring South Cerney to a standard to accommodate and please all levels. Whilst we are a military drop zone, all civilians are welcome. Just bring your FAI licence, or logbook and photo-ID to the guard room. Membership cards are issued on your first visit, this will be your future photo-ID.

We have secured a new aircraft operator for 2008 and will have a turbine Islander every weekend. We intend to operate from Wednesdays to Sunday. The changes will take time to implement; however, I envisage most in place for the beginning of next season. I hope you will take the time to visit and give us your opinion and suggestions.

Tony Goodman

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Photo: BaByLoN

Dunkeswell

The university term is in full swing, we welcome Bristol UWE and welcome back Plymouth. Both have introduced many first timers to RAPS. It's great to see such progression.

Thank you to Caroline Hughes for coming to load organise at the Skydivas Boogie, hopefully next year we will be blessed with some sunshine! The last POPS meet this year was held here and despite the weather gods they did get a few in on the Sunday, (see page 71).

Andy Montriu returned from Patagonia – in one piece! He went to attempt a base jump from what he believes is the highest cliff in the world! After days climbing he was beaten by bad weather. Seeing rocks being blown past him, Andy figured it wasn't the time to jump! Having obviously not seen a razor



Helen & Paul by Ceri Lewis

on his trip he was mistaken as a homeless Grisly Adams on his first day back! Ed, our pilot, is heading back to the States, he's been accepted into the USAF to become a fighter pilot. We wish him well and know he'll love flying exceptionally fast planes! He's been a real asset and will be missed.



Rob by Oily Denham

We are not closing as normal over winter, call in advance to check opening times. Have a great Christmas and new year. Wherever you're heading around the world, stay safe! Check out our new sport jumpers website www.skydivethewell.com

The Wolf

- Achievements**
First Freefall
 Gill O'Sullivan
Cat 8
 Louise Finch
 Sam Sturtivant
AFF Graduate
 Paul Wilson
CH1, 50 Jumps
 Louise Finch
CH2, 600 Jumps
 Carl Baines
 Craig Baines
FS1, 50 Jumps
 Fee Willard
FF2
 Oliver Castledine
Jump Numbers
100
 Dan Clarke
 Tom Harding
300
 Em Abrey
400
 George Clack
10,000
 Dave Howerski
12 Hrs Freefall
 Rob Waugh
48 Hrs Freefall
 Pete Stone

Tilstock

Achievements

- First Freefall**
 Craig Powell
 Mike Pritchard
100 Jumps
 Kevin Harrison
500 Jumps
 Dave Gordon
900 Jumps
 Steve Smith



Dave & Danny by Simon Wilkinson

Ria did the right thing spending the summer in Peru, coming back just in time for winter. Welcome back Ria, we missed you. Congratulations to our Airvan pilot, Tom, who found a 'proper job' in the UAE. Hopefully, he'll continue to give us the benefit of his Antipodean humour during his time off, when he's not watching the cricket.

Farewell to Tony & Helen Lightfoot, come back and visit us. James Doyle moved to Denmark just so he can jump the Skyvan over the boarder in Germany. We welcome all new members; both our 'homegrown' and experienced jumpers who visited and stayed. 2008 will be rocking!

Our AGM and Christmas party is 8 December at the Hawkstone Park Hotel, contact Liz for tickets.

Colin Fitzmaurice

Peterlee

We lost the use of our Airvan for a few weekends but thanks to the awful weather at Bridlington we used their Porter! A massive team effort produced one of the best days of the season, 18 lifts! Big thanks to Nicky & Clair at Brid.

We said goodbye to David Leonard, who's been a constant presence here for years and was always on hand to give a brief or let Uni students rob his footage for their freshers video! He's been a great instructor and a brilliant stand-in CCI, our loss is Slough's gain, we wish him well.

We are closed from Sunday 23 December to Friday 18 January for the festive season.

Adam Pencharz



Photo by Alan Thompson

Achievements

- First Freefall**
 Mandy Tydd
 Jonathan Baines
50 Jumps
 Jon Brown
50 Jumps, 1 Hr Freefall
 Tim Key
1000 Jumps
 Paul McCormick

We've been having quite an Indian summer and the university clubs have taken full advantage. A resurgent Sunderland Uni deserve special mention as they came from behind to seriously challenge the dominance that Newcastle have enjoyed over previous years. Their pink hoodies certainly brighten up the place!

The TA produced some excellent student progression, in particular Jonathan Baines who trained on the Saturday and did his first freefall the following Friday, impressive! Rob Bartrop celebrated his 2,000th flying hour with a tandem, he's considering AFF and we're considering welcoming him to our end of the plane!

The planning application for the new bunkhouse and toilet block has been submitted. Charlie Mayo worked very hard on the current bunkhouses and they look much better fitted with new roofs and even curtains, (but we're still looking forward to the new ones!).

Cornish



Achievements
AFF Graduates
Russell Studt
Phil Symonds



Russell Studt by Ben Wood

Mark Finch by Ben Wood

Perranporth Airfield, home of Cornish Parachute Club (CPC) was sold to JAG Communications company but is still business as usual. Tony Arthur changed roles from airfield owner to manager, he's a big supporter of the club, which means the future looks bright for us.

Tammy is the second lady skydiver to graduate AFF here and achieve B licence at Land's End. She's keen to jump at Perranporth especially now she has her first rig. We hope she has many soft openings and happy landings.

The club is looking forward to the winter sun skydiving trips to Seville in Spain; 26 Nov to 10 Dec and 7-17 Jan. We are closed between 25 Nov and 2 Feb. The CPC staff would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year for 2008. Special thanks to Steve Clarke our Club Chief Pilot and Ben Wood the cameraflyer for their excellent work this year and Geoff & Mike at Hinton for loaning us the Cessna 206.

Chris Wood

Paragon



Mike's 400th by Bob Henderson



Walter's 3,000th taken by Jackie

The frosty mornings are upon us now but we've had a spell of beautiful autumnal weather. It makes you glad to be alive looking over Perthshire from 10,000 feet on a crisp clear day. Thank goodness for Damart!

The Empuria pilgrimage was a great success, everyone had a ball. Walter did his 3,000th jump, Mike did his 400th. Mike & Bob Bain won the award for jumphogs, Tina plucked up the courage to do her very first tandem, Ryanair made a fortune from everyone's excess baggage and Deanna finally got her baked beans! What more can you ask for? Except that... ahem... I proposed to Tina on the night of her tandem and she said yes! Must have been the adrenaline rush!

We're looking for a tandem instructor and someone to jump camera. If interested ring the DZ. Our Christmas do is 15 December, at the Inchture Hotel. Yes folks, they actually agreed to let us back! All welcome, phone us for details.

Bob Henderson

Tina's tandem by Empuriabrava staff



Achievements
First Freefall
Connie Green
400 Jumps
Mike Paterson
3000 Jumps
Walter Gillan

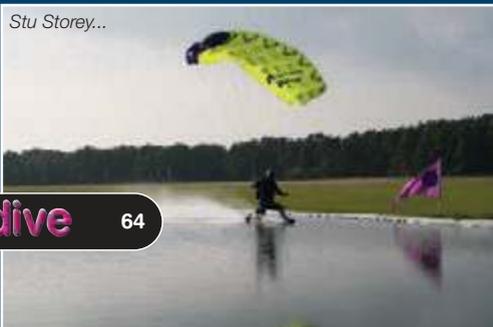
RAPA

Achievements
Cat 8, CH2, JM1
Steve Ripley
FS1, 100 Jumps
Lowrens De Beer
Gaz Marshall
Mitra Soroush
Paul Wright
CP1
Ian Lyons

JSPC staff brought home hordes of medals from the Armies and Nationals. Steve Cox went to the junior FAI Style & Accuracy Championships in Croatia. He was doing very well until, sadly, he had to withdraw due to an injury. He showed true commitment by continuing for a while, despite having a dislocated ankle! Well done to Mary Devine & Mark Tether for gaining their FS coach ratings.

Our second advanced course was true to form, the weather couldn't match our enthusiasm. The most exciting event was the off-landing onto the Sennelager training area. Caused by a combination of a nameless 4-way taking exceptionally long in the door and a not-so-great spot by yours truly, oops! Everyone learnt something from the experience, like, how to buy a crate of beer.

Stu Storey...



Looking good...



Oops...



Milko & Adriana Mila by Gary Wainwright



Langar

Achievements

- First Freefall**
- Dave Jones
- Campbell Murdock
- Cat 8, CH1**
- Olly Gibbs
- Ben Fry
- Wes Thompson
- Susan Lewellen
- Ben Hardy
- Ben Rhodes
- FS1**
- Jen Cooper
- Carl Pickering
- Jackie Woodward
- FS1, 50 Jumps**
- Tori Nicols
- Ed Landamore
- FF1**
- Mark Collins
- Graham Nicholas
- Jump Numbers**
- 50**
- David Mees
- 100**
- Henry Cressey
- Jenny Buckle
- Holly Blake
- 200**
- Happy Harriet
- Romany Tampin
- Eddie Prowse
- Sam Bemment
- Graham Nicholas
- 300**
- Donna Williams
- Wayne Glenn
- Jane Robinson
- 400**
- Lucy Allen
- 500**
- Chris Cook
- 600**
- Mark Coleman
- Mikee Outen
- 700**
- Gareth Thomas
- 1000**
- Fat Leigh
- Dave Godley
- 2000**
- Pixie
- 5000**
- Gary Wainwright
- 48 Hrs Freefall**
- John Baggaley

Fortunately, Boogie II saw some of the nicest jumping weather all year. We made over 3,500 jumps over the week, with 1,000 on the last Saturday, along with a new *Brit Chicks* record (see page 40). The other five organised groups, including the POPS, had some great skydives. *Bodyflight Storm* put on three days of 4-way coaching for anyone wanting to improve skills. Swoop, the better looking member of *Storm*, looked after the budding camerapeople with his scary camera wings lecture.

The university season is again upon us. *LUST* has grown again and now covers eight universities. Over 100 students have been trained since the start of the season and two achieved Cat 8 within a month! Over the summer BCPA jumpers set a 15-way record, they hope to improve on that soon.

It's winter, the days are short and we're making the most of 'em! Join us for night jumps, 19 Jan, 16 Feb & 23 Feb. If we can't jump on Saturday night we'll go for it on Sunday instead. You need at least your FAI B certificate, so get it sorted and join us for some scary fun.

Lisa Grzeskowiak, (née James) former BPA Instructor of the Year returned to the skies after becoming a teacher and getting married. Congratulations to Shaggy & Helga who tied the knot, he did take quite a while making his mind up "No, no, no, no, no, YES!" (Only joking!) Congrats to Paul Lomax on becoming a dad.

Milko & Gareth Thomas



Organised group at Boogie II, photo by Dave Butterell



Big-way group at Boogie II, photo by Dave Butterell

The RAPA demo team's seen plenty of action, my favourite was the jump into Bielefeld, charmingly described by Iain as 'surrounded by razor wire! The swoop pond's earned its keep with a growing number of canopy pilots travelling to use it. We have plans for more improvements over winter. The European Swoop Tour is interested in hosting events here and hopefully the canopy piloting nationals will come back to us.

Ian Lyons

Looking like a ****!



Holly Blake's 100th by Gary Wainwright





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Netheravon

Nethers 48-way record, photo by Gary Wainwright



Ryan & Lucy by Polly Hall

Congrats to Lucy & Ryan on tying the knot, best wishes from us all for your future in New Zealand. Well done Sian & Pete Mac on the arrival of Tara, a new granddaughter for head honcho pilot Nick O'Brien. Also, a very well done to the Nethers chicks involved in the excellently organised *Brit Chicks* 68-way record. (See page 40.)

Thanks Rolf Brombach & Meike Buchholz who've been on the road since February with their BirdMan tour, visiting DZs all over Europe, finishing at Netheravon. First flight courses were made by Dain Thorne, Allan Weston, Phill Elston & Mick McPhee. Rolf ran an informative seminar about formation flocking.

Thanks Liz Ashley for running Wingin' It through a second successful season. Having concentrated so far on first flights, with more than 50 fledglings, Liz plans to change focus in 2008 to more coaching, load organised flocking, and specific

weekends for particular experience levels.

The events season finished with two consecutive Skyvan weekends. On the first Caroline was assisted by Milko, resulting in the high experience group completing a 48-way, the largest ever formation over Nethers. The second had 60+ registered for big-way beginners II. Saturday was filled with seminars from Caroline. Sunday started with single aircraft loads culminating in a two-plane formation load 38-way attempt. Thanks to Dave, Billy and all who organised with

Skydive Choreography throughout 2007. An especially huge thank you to Caroline for your patience, hard work and commitment! Bigger and better things are planned for next year, see the spangly redesigned website www.netheravon.com

We are closed 11 December to 26 January for the festive season, merry Christmas and blue skies for the new year!

Kath Salisbury & Liz Ashley

Achievements Cat 8

Garry Dunn
Lee Anne Waters
Adam Palliser
Darren Waile
Spencer Stone
Simone Hibbert

FS1

Nickie Harrison
Alex Lioubine

FF1

Steve Lewis
FF2, 700 Jumps
Becky Austin

Jump Numbers

100
Martin Preston
200
Ray Norton
Steve Lewis
300
Pony
Ed Bowyer
500
Keith Clarke
900
Tom Canty
1600, 24 Hrs Freefall
Dave Pratt
4000
Mark Whitehead
8000, 48 Hrs Freefall
Jeff Chandler

Rhino congratulates Swoop on his 5,000th



Photo: Gary Wainwright (Swoop)

Lucy's hen night



Ann, Ely & Kim by Howard White

The summer was wet but September and October were busy and we'll complete our busiest year! Eddie Robson & E1 both gained A licences. Steve Baker came back from Spain with FS1 after only 30 jumps. The tunnel may have something to do with this but it's still a great achievement in such a short time.

By popular demand the one and only Nate Cheeseman is back in the skydiving saddle. Russell Barnes is still AWOL (assumed to be in bed) and Mark Benson arrived at the DZ after finally getting a pass from the missus. Claire Potgieter is sending back weekly emails from South Africa and is about to go solo as a pilot, we may have a new edition to our pilot portfolio.

Jeze has been to France with Freddie for some fun jumping, Freddie's didn't go too well - we wish him a speedy recovery! A big thanks to Andy Naude, he's leaving the *Red Devils* and going back to 3 Para, good luck!

Dylan Griffith-Jones

Swindon

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1

Eddie Robson
Emma Green

FS1

Steve Baker
200 Jumps

Joel Gluth

600 Jumps

Dylan Griffith-Jones

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Ray and his colourful tandem by Clair Armstrong



Bridlington

Achievements

First Freefall

Luke Bowers
Jackie Weddle
Matthew Turner
Danny Bartlett
Rob Ward
William Gallagher
Mike McNulty
Tom Morton

Cat 8, CH1

Dave Dunn
Claire Atley

CH2, JM1, 50 Jumps

Baz Copeland

CP1

Simon Rehill

IS1

Steve Perkins
Amanda Van Wyk
Baz Copeland
Kris Ridley
Alec Flint

100 Jumps, IS1

Ollie Thornton

200 Jumps, IS1

Andy Harrison

400 Jumps

Clair Armstrong

We've had a fantastic summer with lots of student progression. My first RAPS student got Cat 8 – well done Dori, I knew you could do it! Nicky's new rigging room, is keeping both our advanced riggers busy. Our new DZ shop is finally finished and looks great. Mikey 'Cuckoo' McNulty has taken over cleaning duties, the lad's constantly hoovering. Our electricity bill is going to be enormous but the place has never been so clean!

We held a style competition, well done those who made the IS1 grade, the video gave us a laugh at beer o'clock!

We have a new driving range – guys, stick to skydiving because your golf is pants! The QE2 passed by our beautiful Yorkshire coast, those lucky enough to be in the aircraft had panoramic views, thanks to Danny always polishing the Porter windows!

We're organising night jumps for Friday 21 March for those wanting to scare themselves and a spring blow-out mini boogie, 18-21 April, with lots going on including 4-way scrambles. Come and enjoy the fun.

Clair Armstrong



Photo by Ian Chick

10-way snowflake by Neil McLaren



Cark

Achievements

First Freefall

Myles Ziebart
Lewis Frith
AFF Graduate
Christian Cann
Tom Povey
Lee Owen

Cat 8

Lee Jackson
Dot Riley

200 Jumps

Karen Pickering
Tom Garner

We have a new glitter ball in the recreation room with a couple of additional lights, cheers Darren & Neil. The regulars' jaws dropped when James Beattie, Sheffield United striker, walked onto the DZ. With squeals from Katie & Amelia in the canteen, James was heard to whisper to Pete (the unhinged) 'Ensure I land safely and there's a drink in it for you!'

With global warming having a serious affect on Morecambe Bay we were drenched in warm weather and flooded with AFF students. A big up to Kieron & Ian who's marvellous efforts have seen another 3 AFF graduations and 2 Cat 8s within a month.

Katy (Snow White) and her merry band of committee members (Dopey, Sleepy, Grumpy, Tall Nick & Harry the Chocolate Eclair Thief) were on the freshers-gaining trail along with Becky & Matt. All did a sterling job in recruiting. With our packers maxed out and more bungees than even A J Hackett could imagine, all the students jumped, some many times. Congrats Myles Ziebert, their first student onto freefall and in only 6 jumps! Thanks all committee members for your proactive leadership and continual hard work.

Dot Riley had an expensive weekend, with Cat 8 on one day and her first cutaway on her brand new rig the

next! It's great to see Helen Shaw back with us after her operation. Not to be outdone her husband Brian also had an operation on his wallet when he purchased a classic dream car, a green MG, the envy of all the Grange Ramblers Association.

Many regulars are visiting Portugal over Christmas, Ellen Nath has the details. Those going, be careful and have loads of fun. See you all at the Christmas Party.

Stu Morris

Wild Geese

Achievements

Cat 8, CH1
Eimmer McGoven
Cat 8, CH1, CH2, JM1,
50 Jumps, FS1
Catherine McGinnitty
300 Jumps
Martin McLaughlin



Skyvan exit by Mike Murphy

Brian Vacher made a welcome return to hold the first canopy piloting course in Northern Ireland. Ten jumpers with between 40 and 1,000 jumps took part, everyone learnt new skills and a different approach to just landing a canopy. We plan to make the course a regular feature.

With the intake of freshers at Queens Uni it looks good for a productive year of new blood. Congratulations to Drew & Beverly Galloway on their baby girl, Erin. Drew is our chief pilot and there are rumours that Cessna are currently working on a baby seat for the Caravan.

11-20 March 2008 is confirmed for the annual trip to the sunny Algarve Spring Boogie. This year looks like being the busiest yet, don't miss out, get booked now!

Mike Murphy

Jo by Mike Murphy

Lewknor

Achievements

CH1, Cat 8
Quintin Van Zyl
Cat 8
Max Hill
Jan Kolhof
Ulrike Koerner
200 Jumps
Terry Purcell

Sadly, we have reached the end of another great season at LPS. Despite the weather we still managed some excellent weekends with brilliant jumping. It's been a good year for students, especially the last few weekends

when Jan, Max, Quintin & Ulrike all got Cat 8, and Katrina finished her consols. Congratulations to you all.

The turbine Islander has been confirmed for one weekend a month next season. After already seeing it in action it will be well worth joining us for, we can't wait. Thanks to everyone for their hard work over the year and here's to 2008!

Tracy Curling



Quintin, Martin, Ulrike, Mark & Katrina by Tracy Curling

St. Andrews

Achievements

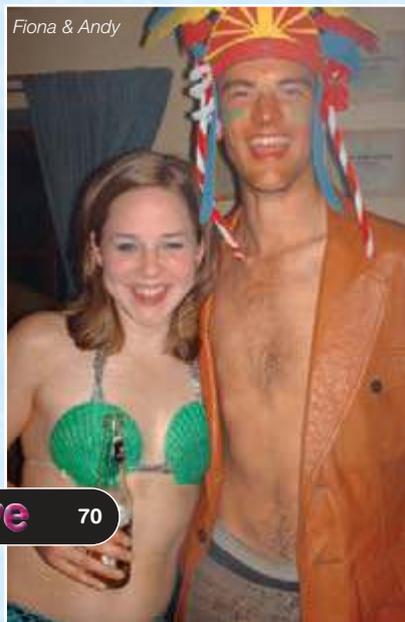
First Freefall
Dave Agnew
Stevie Burns
Simon Milligan
Cat 8, 50 Jumps
Rosie Miller
FS1
Euan George
Jump Numbers
50
Tom Valentine
Frank Goodall
Tam Anderson
100, 1 Hr Freefall
Joshua Caird
Danny Mitchell
300
Louise Runciman
400
Alan Mackay
1 Hr Freefall
Fiona Millar

Late summer saw some amazing progression in sunny St Andrews, and we've only had one visit from the paramedics! The overhaul of the bunkhouse is almost complete, with most of the building re-roofed and all the rooms re-plastered and painted. They look much better with new carpets and there's no longer a small river in each room!

The students are well and truly back, with the usual rowdy parties. The Halloween party was spectacular with some very unusual costumes, including the full Village People, and Tom in a devil dress and red fishnets!

Graeme Mackay

Party photos by
Samantha Stuart



Fiona & Andy



Tom in a dress!



Darren, Elaine & Martin

We had another successful season with over 90 displays! Highlights included a Thames water jump for the prestigious Red Bull Air Race in London's Docklands; the final round of the British Touring Car Championship at Thruxton (for Seat), World Superbikes at Brands Hatch (for Oakley) and the Oceana Air Show in Virginia, USA.

We've done a record amount of tandems including a few celebrity charity jumps, by comedian Al Murray, Sky presenter Phil Clarke and model Danielle Lloyd. The team also completed two TV projects, one with ex Welsh rugby superstar Jonathan Davis doing AFF Level 1 shown on S4C and ITV presenter Philippa Tomson doing her tandem on Tyne Tees. The guys have worked extremely hard and are looking forward to a well-earned break.

Duncan Murray



Danielle Lloyd's tandem, photo by Jay Webster



Red Devils

Brands Hatch demo, photo by Jay Webster

POPS

The last POPS meet was at the friendly, scenic DZ at Dunkeswell. Saturday was a wipe-out but Sunday was better. By 2pm we had managed to complete the 2007 Hit 'n' Rock (Pete's Pot Trophy) and round 1 of our 'all canopy' accuracy competition. Pete's Pot went deservedly to Niels Hansen, who's been trying to get his name on it for many years. The accuracy gold went to yours truly with Ian Topps being a very

close runner-up. Mike Wyeborn won the bronze, marking his active entry into POPS this year all the more rewarding.

Our thanks to CCI Jason and his team who made us really welcome. My personal thanks to Sadie Sutcliffe (PUP) who drove her Dad, Colin, down from Yorkshire, even though he was unable to compete due to his broken leg! My thanks to all attendees that made the meet so successful on a 'suspect' weekend.



Niels finally wins Pete's Pot, photo by Stuart Clapham



POPS meet at 'The Well', by Stuart Clapham

The big-way attempt at Langar Boogie II failed to crack our 36-way record. Thanks to Pete Knight & Billy Payn for their patient, determined efforts and BPS for their help and organisation. The story's not over yet!

Congratulations to Pete Shew for his certificate for meritorious service from the SOS, for providing and managing the world POPS website. This has only been awarded four times before so is a great honour.

We're planning two UK POPS meets for 2008; in June at Hib and July at Weston. We hope to hold a 'sunshine' meet in Spain, probably October. The next big event is the POPS World Meet, Toogoolawah, Australia, 25 April - 3 May 2008. Competition will be fierce. Follow the links on www.pops.org.uk to World POPS.

Dick Barton

BCPA

The BCPA is evolving. We now have two separate leagues; achievements and competitions.

The competitions league has two components; a monthly FS and FF video submission, with draws released at the start of most months; plus the original event competitions. This should encourage participation while recognising that people cannot always attend the events. The monthly submissions also allow us to present a more competitive persona to university unions, hopefully resulting in an increase in funding.

The achievements league awards points for event attendance and progression (first freefall, A licence, FS1, etc). This allows younger clubs with fewer experienced members to compete as well.

Other major changes include an increase in the eligibility status from 3 to 4 years, allowing more experienced members to continue supporting newbies. For more information, see the BCPA rules on www.ukskydiver.co.uk (BCPA forms & documents section).



BCPA 3-way, Francis, Nicky & Chris

Kath Rybinski (pictured)



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LO FS CF FF WP SU

7 Headcorn

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www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

Aircraft: Beaver (winter), Let 410 (summer), Islander
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8 Hibaldstow

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

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www.skydivebrid.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Turbine Porter
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First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

FS CF AC WP

4 Chatteris

01354 740 810



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info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk
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3 Cark

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Fax: 01772 787 106
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk

www.skydive-northwest.com

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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 Jersey

01534 747 410



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11 Langar
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www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk
Aircraft: 2 Cessna Grand Caravans, Skyvan occasionally
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16 Peterlee
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www.skydiveswansea.co.uk
Aircraft: Airvan
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LO FS CF WP

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LO FS CF AC WP

17 Sibson
01832 280 490



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13 Netheravon
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Open: Monday-Saturday 10am-7pm, Sunday 10am-6pm.
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23 Tilstock
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19 St Andrews
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www.paragonskydiving.co.uk
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kbrady@fsbdial.co.uk
www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk
Aircraft: 3 Cessna 206, Turbine (for various events)
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First Jump Courses: RAPS, rounds, tandem

LO FS CF FF AC WP

25 Wild Geese
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Fax: 0049 5254 982 2740

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

Contact: Marc Fletcher, BCPA Chairman
The BCPA aims to promote skydiving at
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POPS UK

9 Mansion House Mews, Pickwick Road,
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Tel: 01249 701805 or 07860 559112
dbarton@fsmail.net www.pops.org.uk

Contact: Dick Barton, Top POP
A society of skydivers over forty. We hold
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Contact: Niels Hanson
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HEAD RUSH 08
02/02/08 - 10/02/08

SPRING BOOGIE
17/02/08 - 24/03/08

DIARY

DECEMBER 07

- 1** **Christmas Party**
BKPC, Garstang Country Club www.bkpc.co.uk
- 1** **Christmas Party**
Cark, Storrs Hall www.skydive-northwest.com
- 4** **BPA Council Meeting & EGM**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 7-9** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 8** **Christmas Party**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 8** **Christmas Party**
Peterlee www.skydiveacademy.org.uk
- 8** **Christmas Party**
Headcorn www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk
- 8** **Christmas Party**
Tilstock www.theparachutecentre.com
- 8** **Christmas Party**
Hinton www.skydive.co.uk
- 10-14** **Rigging Course**
RAPA, Germany bsharp2440@aol.com
- 12-14** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 14-16** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 15** **Christmas Party**
St Andrews www.kingsmuirskydivers.co.uk
- 15** **Christmas Party**
Old Buckenham www.ukparachuting.co.uk
- 15** **Christmas Party**
Paragon www.paragonskydiving.co.uk
- 15-16** **FS Tunnel Camp**
Bodyflight, Bedford www.bodyflight.co.uk
- 17-23** **Freefly Skills Camp**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 19-Jan 6** **Christmas Boogie**
Seville, Spain www.skydivespain.com
- 21** **Christmas Party**
Dunkeswell www.skydivethewell.com
- 21-26** **Christmas Boogie**
Tortuga, Italy www.skydivetortuga.com
- 21-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 21-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 21-Jan 1** **Christmas Boogie**
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivecity.com
- 21-Jan 6** **Christmas Boogie**
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 22-Jan 1** **Holiday Boogie**
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com
- 22-Jan 6** **Christmas Boogie**
Castellon, Spain www.skydivecastellon.info
- 24-Jan 3** **CF Skills Camp**
Seville, Spain 01638 508168
- 26-31** **Feel Good Boogie**
Toogoolawah, Oz www.ramblers.com.au
- 26-Jan 2** **Mexico Beach Boogie**
Puerto Escondido www.skydivechicago.com
- 26-Jan 2** **Desert Boogie**
Namibia www.desertboogie.iwarp.com
- 27-28** **New Zealand Air Games**
Wanaka, New Zealand www.airsportslive.com
- 28-30** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Seville, Spain www.safeflightschool.com

- 28-Jan 7** **Holiday Boogie**
Sebastian, USA www.skydiveseb.com
- 29-Jan 6** **African Freefall Convention**
South Africa www.africanfreefall.com
- 29-Jan 6** **Party in Paradise**
Hawaii www.hawaiiskydiving.com

JANUARY 08

- 2-4** **Advanced Canopy Piloting Course**
Seville, Spain www.safeflightschool.com
- 7-11** **Rigging Course**
RAPA, Germany bsharp2440@aol.com
- 12** **BPA AGM**
Hinckley Island Hotel www.bpa.org.uk
- 12-13** **VFS Scrambles**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 16-18** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 18-20** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 19** **Peterlee Reopens**
Peterlee www.skydiveacademy.org.uk
- 19** **Night Jumps**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 19-20** **Wingsuit Flocking Skills Camp**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com
- 20-22** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Seville, Spain www.safeflightschool.com
- 25-27** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 25-28** **Everglades Boogie**
Clewiston, USA www.skydivefl.com
- 26** **Netheravon Reopens**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 26** **10-way Speed Meet**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com
- 26-27** **Women's Vertical World Record Camp**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 26-Feb 9** **Skydive Samana 2**
Dominican Republic www.exoticskyadventures.com
- 28-Feb 15** **Texel in the Mountains**
Elsinore, USA www.paracentrumtexel.nl

FEBRUARY 08

- 1-3** **Freefly Money Meet**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 1-10** **Carnival Boogie**
Castellon, Spain www.skydivecastellon.info
- 2** **Cornwall PC Reopens**
Cornwall www.cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
- 2-10** **Head Rush**
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 2-10** **Wingsuit Boogie**
Beni Mellal, Morocco www.pacma.ma
- 8-10** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 9-10** **Freezefest**
Crosskeys, USA www.skydivecrosskeys.com
- 11-15** **BPA Instructor Course**
Netheravon 0116 278 5271
CSBI/TBI/AFFBI/Adv trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 13-17** **Puerto Rico Freefall Festival**
Arecibo, Puerto Rico www.xtremedivers.com
- 15-17** **Mae West Boogie**
Sebastian, USA www.skydiveseb.com

- 16** **Night Jumps**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 16-17** **BCPA Valentine's Meet**
Bodyflight, Bedford www.bodyflight.co.uk
- 16-Mar 24** **Spring Boogie**
Algarve, Portugal www.skydive-algarve.com
- 18-20** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 18-22** **BPA Instructor Course**
Netheravon 0116 278 5271
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- 20-22** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 20-23** **PIA Symposium**
Barcelona, Spain www.pia.com
- 22-24** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 23** **Rumble Seat Meet**
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com
- 23** **Night Jumps (Reserve Weekend)**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 23-Mar 3** **Boogie in Belize IV**
San Pedro, Belize www.skydivebelize.com
- 23-Mar 7** **Vietnam Boogie**
Nah Trang, Vietnam www.skydivevietnam.com
- 24-Mar 1** **Island Style Boogie**
Hawaii www.flitesolutions.com

MARCH 08

- 1** **Sibson Reopens**
Sibson www.skydivesibson.com
- 7-9** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Seville, Spain www.safeflightschool.com
- 7-9** **Luuu Boogie**
Sebastian, USA www.skydiveseb.com
- 9-23** **Thai Sky Festival**
Prachuap, Thailand www.thaiskyfestival.com
- 14-16** **BCPA Southerns**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 14-16** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 15-23** **Easter Boogie**
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivecity.com
- 15-24** **Australian Nationals**
Picton, Oz www.sydneydivers.com.au
- 18-19** **Women's Vertical World Record Warm-Up**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 19-21** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 20-23** **Women's Vertical World Record Attempt**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 20-24** **Easter Boogie**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 21** **Night Jumps**
Bridlington www.skydivebrid.co.uk



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21-24 **Easter Boogie**
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28-30 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

29-30 **World Challenge**
Bodyflight, Bedford www.bodyflight.co.uk

31-Apr 6 **Go Vertical**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

APRIL 08

3-6 **Z Team 60-ways**
Zephyrhills, Florida www.skydivecity.com

4-6 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

4-6 **SOS World Record Attempt**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com

5-27 **Freely Adventure**
Eloy, USA www.toratora.nl

16-18 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com

18-21 **Mini Boogie**
Bridlington www.skydivebid.co.uk

19-20 **VFS Competition**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

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

25-27 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.safeflightschool.com

25-May 3 **POPS World Meet**
Toogoolawah, Oz www.ozworldpops2008.com

MAY 08

1-4 **Big-way Camp**
Perris Valley, USA www.skydiveperris.com

1-4 **Canopy Piloting Course**
RAPA, Germany www.safeflightschool.com

2-4 **BCPA Northerns**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

3-4 **Bridge the Gap**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com

3-11 **Boogie I**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

10-11 **VFS Scrambles**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

12-14 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

12-16 **BPA Instructor Course**
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17-18 **Freely Film Festival**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com

19-21 **Canopy Piloting Course**
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21-23 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com

23-26 **BCPA Scots**
Strathallan www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk

30-Jun 1 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Hibaldstow www.safeflightschool.com

JUNE 08

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

11-13 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com

14-15 **VFS Competition**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com

21-29 **Gap Vector Festival**
Gap, France www.parachutismegap.com

22-29 **Extreme Sports Week**
Voss, Norway www.ekstremesportveko.com

23-25 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com

27-29 **German Swooping Open**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.swooping.de

JULY 08

12-18 **Slovakia Boogie**
Slovakia www.boogieclub.co.uk

19-27 **4Fun Summer Boogie**
Soulac-sur-mer, France www.toratora.nl

21-26 **Safe Play Week**
Voss, Norway www.skydivevoss.no

23-27 **Spanish FS Nationals**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

28-Aug 3 **Go Vertical**
Voss, Norway govertical@skydivevoss.no

AUGUST 08

9-14 **FS & Artistics World Meet**
Maubeuge, France www.fai.org

16 **End of Season Party**
Voss, Norway www.skydivevoss.no

SEPTEMBER 08

5-7 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.safeflightschool.com

13-20 **Go Vertical**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

13-21 **Boogie II**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

17-19 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com

OCTOBER 08

3-5 **Chicks Rock Boogie**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com

11-19 **Equinox Boogie**
Toogoolawah, Oz www.skydiveramblers.com

15-17 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com

18-19 **Sky Rats Open**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com

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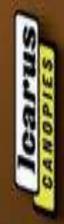


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