

skydive

The Mag

June 2008



The British Parachute
Association Magazine



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It's been over eighteen months since I was able to post you such such a bumper issue – 92 pages! Nice one Ross at Warners (our advertising agency) for selling our product so well. All the advertising revenue is fed back into the magazine, funding extra pages in this and other magazines throughout the year.

The big story this issue is a new head-down women's world record, well done ladies! It's especially great to have a report from a British participant, Laura Kenyon. Her story follows on page 4. What I really like about it is, Laura didn't think she was ready for a head-down big-way but went away to train anyway thinking, well there is nothing to lose here. Nothing lost and an awful lot gained as Laura came back with a World Record!

That's our sport in a nutshell, all the opportunities are there for any of us to take advantage of. Being brave enough to go and throw your hat in the ring will, most often, produce the result you want. You can see this with the women's world freely record, with Brit Chicks FS records, with BPA members who apply for bursaries (page 49), 4-way teams who leave work and go full time skydiving (page 16), the big centre spread diamond, Carl Williams' story of starting his own dropzone (page 56), Tony Uragello beating people half his age (page 14), the success of our British VFS team (page 22), and 12-year-olds learning to fly before they can skydive (page 30).

It's all there, this wonderful sport of ours. It's yours for the taking and you can have as much or as little as you wish – your choice. Most often it is just being brave enough to take that first step into the unknown but desired territory.

Have a great season and make of it what you will.

Photo: Jim Stevenson



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Lesley

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The Mag
www.skydivemag.com

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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features

Women's World Record	4
<i>New freestyle record by Laura Kenyon</i>	
Storming Blocks	16
<i>Second instalment of the secret stuff</i>	
BPA Survey Results	18
<i>What the membership think</i>	
VFS Update	22
<i>Outbreak in the medals – again!</i>	
What Could Possibly Go Wrong?!	26
<i>Part two of foolproofing your kit</i>	
World Challenge	30
<i>World's best skydivers come to the UK</i>	
Back to the Future	42
<i>Diamonds are Forever by BJ Worth</i>	

regulars

Subscribe to The Mag	1
JM's Newsround	11
BPA Matters	38
Letters	49
Kit News	53
DZ Feature - Swansea	56
Club News	60
BPA Affiliated Drop Zones	80
Parachuting Societies	83
Diary	87
Classified Adverts	88
Advertisers Index	88



Photo: Andrey Veselov

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:

Danny Wood and Jason Webster by James Boole. The Red Devils are now incorporating wingsuits in their displays

SUPPORTED BY



Women's World Record



Jason Peters

The first time I heard about the Women's Vertical World Record was in December 2007 in an article written by Melissa Nelson emailed to me by a friend. I remember reading it and thinking, 'I'm not ready for a head-down big-way!...

'Am I?'...

As the winter progressed and the lack of skydiving kicked in, my thoughts moved to, *'If I go and I'm not good enough, I'll still be in Eloy in the sun with great load organisers and a fast turnaround.'* Then I found that some of my friends were going to be in Eloy at the same time as the record attempts, better and better. Whilst looking at flights I emailed Amy Chmelecki to check the dates and find out what she thought my chances were. As well as confirming the dates, she was very encouraging about at least trying out at the warm-up camp and taking it from there. Having found flights for £280 return I needed no more encouragement. In March, a month later I was there, at Skydive Arizona!

Warm-up Camp

After a couple of days of fun jumps and training head-down in the tunnel with Steve Curtis, it was time for the warm-up camp. With at least 27 girls registered for the record I was excited to see who would be there, and to start training. 17 women from a variety of countries turned up for the three day, 15 jump warm-up camp, making a great atmosphere on the plane. The detailed debriefs after every jump made the camp perfect for someone like me with no big way experience to learn the fundamentals, ie, **heads level!**

After the warm-up camp I was feeling more confident about making it on the attempt, even having a favourite slot of second floater/first stinger. However, there were still no guarantees and a lot of good flyers were turning up for the record attempts. The previous record was 18 so potentially there might not be many slots available.

Record Attempts – Day 1

Every day of the record attempts started at 7am with up to 30 women (from Hungary, Argentina, USA, Italy, Israel, Japan, United Kingdom, Russia and Austria) stretching in the hangar with Australian Greg Dore. Greg was there to help with any fitness issues and to film the B team.

On the first day, after the stretching, Amy gave an oxygen brief, as the attempts would be from 16,500 feet, and then came the selection of the teams. Even with the confidence I had gained over the warm-up camp, I was still stoked when I heard my name on the 24-strong A team. Now I just had to fly my slot and stay on heads level!

Day 1 saw a couple of different formations building out of a Skyvan and Twin Otter, initially based on a 6-way base, and then a 4-way base. The organisers (Amy Chmelecki and Melissa Nelson) with the help of Steve Curtis were working hard on finding the ideal formation with the right girls in the best positions, as well as debriefing every attempt. Although the day ended without a new record, everyone could see the progress.



Laura Kenyon by Norman Kent



Jason Peters

Norman Kent



Jason Peters

Norman Kent



Day 2

Day 2 saw a new formation that the organisers had been working hard at, and the first jump proved that their work had been worth it. Although not complete it had built well, and expectations were high. The next two jumps saw a couple of changes, and some good flying by all. Being in the centre of the formation and unable to see everything was frustrating, because with it building well and flying solid I did not know until I landed whether we had made the record. Spirits were still high and attitudes positive.

Then on the fourth jump, a 20-way attempt, I felt we must have it! The base and the first stingers had built fast and solid, and it felt good behind me... but only time would tell. We landed and everyone was excited, there was a feeling that we had it but then someone said that they hadn't managed to stay on the whole jump, and someone else said they hadn't got on till the end - did we have it or not?! It was up to the judges...

World Record!

It took judges Sarah Thompson, Scott Smith and Jami Palsch almost two hours to determine if the 20-way attempt was a new record. Once they finally emerged it became apparent that it was not a question of whether the formation had built, they had had to check whether one of the grips was legal (docked on an altimeter not an arm)... and it was! The 20-way was the new World Record! We were world record holders! The atmosphere was amazing! Everyone was hugging and laughing... and that was before the debrief, and the beers! It was awesome, the energy when we broke the record was the best feeling ever. Just being part of this attempt was amazing, but gaining a world record was overwhelming!

Day 3

There was still one more day to go, and a feeling that we wanted to try to beat this record too, especially to include some of the awesome women that were on the B team. We started with a 24-way, and the 20-way from the day before built really quickly, but we only built 21. The atmosphere on the plane every jump was electric, and the day's attempts for 24- and 23-ways were all close but at the end of the day the record still stood at 20.

Even though the record was not broken again, all the women were still elated, and it was time for a party!

Laura Kenyon, World Record Holder
Thanks to ruthwhiteyoga.com



Norman Kent



Norman Kent



Norman Kent





Women's Head-down World Record

20-way

21 March 2008

Skydive Arizona, Eloy





Jason Peters

"It's always inspiring to jump with so many talented women from around the world. It's an amazing group every time and so special since it is a rarity to jump with all these women at a single event. We come together to build a world record, we become a team and make new life-long friends along the way. There's a new generation of women in the sport and it was apparent here. We only had five veterans that had been on the two previous records, the rest were new talent!"

Melissa Nelson
Organiser



Norman Kent



Jason Peters

Participants

- Alana Fulvio
- Amy Chmelecki
- Cynthia Currie
- Gillian Parker
- Joi Silva
- Judit Forro-Hunter
- Kate Hoffstetter
- KFC Blanchette
- Laura Kenyon
- Meili Modini
- Melanie Curtis
- Melanie Johnson
- Melissa Nelson
- Olga Bakulina
- Roberta Mancini
- Sara Commandeur
- Sara Curtis
- Stephanie Nielson
- Stephanie Soria
- Stephanie Strange

Cameraflyers

- Greg Gasson
- Jason Peters
- Norman Kent

"I will forever look back on this event and all the people involved in making it happen with a huge smile on my face and a warm feeling in my heart. Being surrounded by so many positive, talented and determined women was such a beautiful experience. This event not only broke a new world record but it goes down for the record as my new favourite skydive."

Amy Chmelecki
Organiser



Jason Peters

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the home of indoor skydiving

Learning to skydive this summer? All AFF students receive 2 FREE minutes with every purchase at Airkix. Let us know at the time of booking your session if this applies to you

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Monday 16 June



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▶ **X-rated Nationals Rates**

We have some cheap and sexy rates for team training for the Nationals, contact the sales department on 01908 247772/3 for more details.

▶ **Airmix**

Airmix is a new and unique 3-way FS competition, designed for all levels of FS, with teams completing rounds in the tunnel and in-air. Read more in the 'skydiver zone' at www.airkix.com

▶ **Congrats**

Well done to all our competitors at the World Challenge, Volairkix, Frazer & Kurmet and Alan & Ross of the Bodykix Anvils.

▶ **Freefly Camp with Fabian Raidel**

Fabian Raidel will be here 15-17 July. For a relaxed approach to coaching and flying with a sure-fire progression, get on board.

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

To learn more about coaching and other forthcoming events and offers, please visit the 'skydiver zone' at www.airkix.com

Airkix is based in Milton Keynes (M1, Junction 14). For bookings and more information:

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

Kieron Hayes landing by James Batchelor



Safe Flight School – New Instructors



Kieron Hayes



Jim Harris

The Safe Flight School, Empuriabrava (SFSE) is very pleased to announce two additional franchises. BPA AFF Instructor Kieron Hayes joins the Safe Flight School, offering basic and advanced courses at North West Parachute Centre, Cark. Jim Harris, World Cup medallist of team *Outbreak*, is providing SFS courses at Skydive Spain in Seville. Both instructors have participated in the SFSE instructor rating course and bring a wealth of experience. The courses they provide will follow the modular structure of the SFSE course in Spain. Kieron and Jim have a number of courses running through 2008 which are posted on the website.

safeflightschool.com

Kieron Hayes – kieron@safeflightschool.com

Jim Harris – jim@safeflightschool.com

POPS World Record

Carey Peck and friends will attempt to break their own POPS World Record 113-way. They are aiming for a 120-way out of a Skyvan and five Twin Otters, at Perris Valley, 3-5 October this year. This is the site of the last two records, a 113-way in 2007 and a 110-way in 2005. Our own Pete Stone will be going out to the record attempt and the organisers are looking for more Brits.

Seven events in the US are planned run by the captains at their home DZs for talent-spotting and skills training. So far they have run 20-ways in Perris, 30-ways in Eloy and set a new Florida state record of 76. Events are arranged at Houston, Chicago and Canada. The centre 30-way for the record is specifically invited, ie, it will be a very experienced, reliable base.

carey.peck@lausd.net

SOS Records

On 6 April, a new Skydivers Over Sixty (SOS) World Record formation of 43 was set at Skydive Elsinore, USA. The same organisers are aiming for the world's first 60-way for Skydivers Over Sixty next year. A record attempt will be hosted in Florida at Skydive Deland, 15-18 January 2009. Jumps are from 18,000 feet with supplemental oxygen.

Russ Manhold
FlyCustoms@bellsouth.net

Round The World

Peterlee jumper John Hilliam has completed the first two legs of his round the world skydiving trip. With Ireland and Spain out of the way, John has set off on the third leg, to South Africa, and will go on to Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, USA & Canada. He aims to raise £10,000 for NACC (National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease) and is a third of the way there. Radio 5 is following his progress with live interviews and John's keeping a blog of his travels.

justgiving.com/johnhilliam
<http://roundtheworldskydive.blogspot.com>

Twin Beach Beech Boogie

Dunkeswell in Devonshire is holding a Twin Beech Boogie, 23-27 July, with Jan Wildgruber's Beech 99 flying in to join the Beech 90 King Air always based at 'The Well'. A helicopter and an Antonov complete the fleet. Tim Porter and Chris Lynch are organising a British head-down record attempt, with training and selection during 23-25 July. Dave Morris is organising formation loads and DJ Richie's taking care of the vibes. It's a beach party where the tent village has already been erected, you just bring a sleeping bag.

skydivethewell.com



Fun at The Well by Tom Hartland



The Well's Beech by Olly Denham



12-way over Sibson by Sarah Hall

12-way competition

After last year's success in producing a dive pool for 12-way, which was published in the US magazine, *Skydiving*, Dave Lewis is now running a 12-way competition. His dive pool is based on the 8-way pool, modified for 12-way. The meet will take place at Skydive Airkix on 19-20 July and has a twist in that the rounds have already been drawn, so teams can do as much practice as they wish beforehand. The cost will be £200 per team per round and there will be medals and entertainment on Saturday evening.

skydiveairkix.com
strollerweb.co.uk/12way.php

Book Review

Skydiving

By Lesley Gale
 Cost £6.99
 From amazon.com or ticktock.co.uk

Reviewer Chris Hollis
 One liner A colourful intro to the sport written with 'da kidz' in mind

Our very own editor writing a book? What's the story? (Excuse the pun!). Well, 'Skydiving' is one in a series of titles under the moniker of 'Xtreme Sports' including surfing, rock climbing and the like. The series is aimed at the younger reader as an intro to our sport and that's very much how it comes across.



Lesley has obviously taken her magazine style into paperback format as the style and format of the book is full of 'wow factor' photography. Aimed at the youth market, the text is very easy to follow and laid out in the colourful style we are all familiar with.

Lesley informed me this was 'aimed at 10 year olds' so I gave it to my 10 year old daughter, Niamh, to get her impression. After what can only be described as a 'quick flick through' it occurred to me why the photography is so important as I don't think she read too much text!

If she had, she would have found out various facts and figures from the basics of equipment to why Claire Scott is nicknamed Sparky! Sure, ten year olds who pick this up will love that story! (Sorry, Sparky).

The problem is in this country, skydiving is limited to 16 years or over. So, even if youngsters do pick it up, they might like the cool pictures, they might even read some fascinating information, but chances are skydiving will remain a lot of funky-looking people doing some cool stuff in a book, and not an activity that they'll think about pursuing, when the book is on the same pile as the old Spiderman comic books.

A bright and glossy publication that is perfect for its intended market or people that go 'Ooooh' at ALL the fireworks.



Airkix wind tunnel in Milton Keynes has started a Kidz Club, every other Tuesday evening, to teach youngsters to fly. Freestyle World Champion Yoko Okazaki will run the sessions, which are open to anyone under 16 and cost £25 (minimum of five minutes flying time). Kids will learn increased body awareness, stretching, setting realistic goals, flying with others, creating routines and being a team player. As the children improve they will gain more flying time in the session as they start to fly together and form teams. The first dates published sold out in 12 hours! More are now available on the website.

airkix.com



A 21-way head-down formation was built in Paraclete XP tunnel, in Carolina, USA, the largest such formation achieved in a wind tunnel. The relatively recently built Paraclete tunnel is powered by four 540 horsepower fans and has a flying chamber that is 16.4 feet in diameter and 51 feet tall.

paracletexp.com

RAF Falcons Stamps



Magnificent men and their flying machines will be featured in a set of stamps issued on 17 July this year, to commemorate the UK's first powered flight a century previously. The RAF Falcons are immortalised on the 48p stamp, captured over Biggin Hill in 2006. A one-armed parachutist, Robert Wyndham, adorns the 72p stamp, pictured about to jump an Avro 504 in 1933. Why the stamp designers chose Mr Wyndham is unclear since the Royal Mail's press release says 'What happened to Wyndham? We'd love to know as research into the life of the daredevil showman yielded nothing'. Can anyone help them out? Various other memorabilia are planned, including a set of postcards and the option of franked first day covers with a 6-way freefalling star postmark.

royalmail.com

New Chairman



The Royal Aero Club has a new Chairman, David Roberts (62) of the British Gliding Association, replacing Keith Segal who's standing down after two years. David was the natural successor having held the post of Vice-Chairman of the Royal Aero Club from 2006 and various other offices in aviation bodies.

royalaeroclub.org



BIRDMAN STREET GEAR 2008

- 1483: Leonardo da Vinci designs a parachute
- 1783: Louis-Sebastien Lenormand makes first skydive
- 1999: Birdman introduces first commercial wingsuit
- 2008: Birdman introduces street gear for skydivers

In summer 2008 Birdman launches the first jeans collection for skydivers, B.A.S.E. jumpers and adventurers alike.



Book Review

Philip's Guide to Weather Forecasting

By Storm Dunlop
 Cost £9.99
 From Bookstores or philips-maps.co.uk

Reviewer Chris Hollis
 One liner *A side-splitting page turner that will fly off the shelves. No, sorry. It's a book about weather.*

Skydiving is an outside sport. You must have noticed this. Therefore the weather plays a big part. I imagine then it was this link that lead this book landing on the doormat of Skydive Mag HQ for us to see what we thought.



Having an A in Geography and having been in close proximity to a few clouds once or twice obviously made me more than qualified for the task, so I waded in with gusto.

Mr Dunlop is an expert on weather. Whether the weather be hot, or whether the weather be cold, or whether the name Storm actually dictated his adult obsession is unclear. What is clear is this guy knows his stuff. Good pictures of the sky throughout this book and even one or two of the ground illustrate Mr Dunlop's evident passion for a bit of cumulonimbus.

'There are only ten types of cloud,' informs Storm. *'So identifying clouds should be no more difficult than identifying, say, ten different types of car.'* True. But not many of us can, can we, above *'Ooh, looks like rain...'* And when is he going to tell us if we can jump on (for example) next Saturday?

Well, after a lengthy description of pressure, clouds, humidity, cyclones, precipitation and the like, the actual nub of weather forecasting boils down to a basic chart in the last few pages consisting of what the clouds look like and what you can expect after that has gone. Which I guess is what us simpletons that like the odd plummet are really after.

Storm. Nice work my gladiatorial-sounding chum. Good as a school text book if your section on meteorology is missing, but lousy as entertaining waiting room fodder. My guide to weather forecasting? Open the window and have a look!

Aldo Comas by Mikie Burdon



EGM – Beautiful



Leo Dickinson by Mikie Burdon

A music video featuring skydiving can be found on YouTube, by filmmaker Leo Dickinson, cameraflyer Will Penny and a small team of experts. Aldo Comas, a Spaniard, fronts the band 'El Guisante Magico' (EGM). Aldo writes the music and lyrics, plays lead guitar, sings in English and is a talented freeflyer. He is the flyer/actor in the clip, and co-director – a large creative input from one man! The objective was to create magic in the sky, bridge the gap between fashion and flying and get people thinking. The emphasis was towards ultra stylish flying, not to show the intensity of our sport, but rather the beauty.

youtube.com – search EGM Beautiful

Da Vinci Parachute Claim

In April a number of newspapers reported Swiss adventurer Vietti Teppa's claim to be the first to land Leonardo da Vinci's parachute. The design was sketched by Leonardo in 1485 in his notebook, with the idea of helping people jump to safety from burning buildings. Five hundred years later, in the year



Leonardo's parachute



Vietti's parachute

2000, British pioneer Adrian Nicholas was the first to jump a replica of Leonardo's design. This had been constructed by his partner Katarina Ollikainen to be an exact match, using only materials which were available in medieval Italy. Launching from a balloon, the descent rate of the contraption proved to be slow enough to land safely, so the its design was vindicated. However, Adrian intentionally cut away Leonardo's parachute to land under a modern one. This was because of the risk of the heavy wooden frame of Leonardo's parachute landing on Adrian, potentially injuring him.



Adrian's parachute



Vietti's claim is highly disputable as the parachute he landed is not a good copy of Leonardo's. The parachute Vietti jumped from a helicopter was made of modern fabric and mosquito netting, with a shaped bottom. It had no rigid wooden frame, which is the design's essential structure. Removing the rigid frame removes the barrier to landing, the parallel and, hence, the accomplishment.

Wingsuit Comp

They say you can't teach an old dog new tricks but long time skydiver Tony Uragello and his team won the first Artistic Wingsuit Competition in Spa, Belgium during April. Team *Tony Suits* combined ex-pat Tony with teammate Jeff Noblikopf and Tristan, another Brit, on camera. Though the competition is called 'artistic' it is basically 2-way FS in wingsuits, scored on points. Teams build or launch a 2-way, then one person flips on their back and retakes the grip, or both flip and grip. This is very nicely animated on the website, which also has videos of the skydives. It was a very close meet but ended with *Tony Suits* taking gold virtually from the open mouths of *Phoenix Fly* (James, Kristina and Robert) and bronze medallists Birdman team (Jarno, Costain and Alex), *Fly Like a Brick*.



Artistic wingsuit podium

GET GEARED UP!

Aerodyne Research is one of the few manufacturers in the world able to equip a skydiver with a full set of gear, including the main and reserve canopies and the harness-container system.

Icon Harness-Container

A symbol for a new age in harness container evolution. The Icon comes standard with: Hip Rings, Stainless Steel Hardware, RSL, Mini Force 3-Ring System, and is AAD ready. Options on the Icon include: Chest Rings, Spacer Foam Back Pad, Pin Striping, Custom Embroidery, and more ...

Smart Reserve

The fastest most affordable reserve in the world! The Smart brings 30 years of experience into the design and with the high lift wing and advanced aerodynamics the Smart provides maximum low speed flight and comfortable landings. The Smart is certified under the US FAA TSO-C23d and the European ETSO-C23d.

Main Canopy

Aerodyne's flight line offers you a wide range of canopy types, to suit your style of canopy flying and experience. From the 9-Cell, high performance flight of the Mamba and Vision, to the consistent soft openings of the Pilot, or the multi-purpose versatility of the 7-Cell Triathlon.

***Starting at \$5.379 USD**

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*base price, excludes any options.



Aerodyne
Skydiving equipment

STORMING Blocks

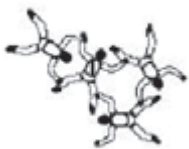


Continuing our series on block technique, this time Block 2

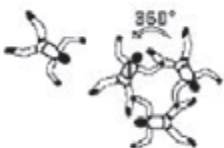
Inside Centre, Outside Centre & Tail form a right hand donut with Point side-bodying OC. On the key the donut spins backwards whilst Point flies around the outside before re-docking on Outside Centre, this time compressed. The donut must move backwards in a synchronised fashion – which means you have to move, pull, and stop in that order to get the piece spinning nicely. Point needs to stay close in the transition.

Most teams have Point being the solo flyer but some occasions favour Tail being the solo. It's down to the team's preference and available training time. *Bodyflight Storm* stick to Point being the solo, as described...

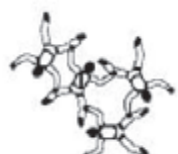
2



Sidebody Donut



(Inter)



Sidebody Flake Donut

Block 2 Sidebody Donut – Sidebody Flake Donut Block 2 – Exit and hill move

You can exit block 2 in a couple of ways. The method we use is Point inside the plane diving so that she starts on the top of the hill. Tail then moves to the front float position with Inside Centre diving from the back of the door and Outside Centre positioned inside the plane with her back to the pilot. This option is described below.

[Alternatively you can switch Point to the rear float position so that they start at the bottom of the hill. This would mean Outside Centre diving from the back of the door, with Inside Centre at front float and Tail positioned inside the plane with his/her back to the pilot.]



Point

- Stand inside the plane with your back to the pilot, sidebodied on Outside Centre.
- Stay close to Outside Centre and make sure that you leave with her/him – if you are at all late you will get pinged over the top of the formation on the hill.
- It's your key on the hill; look at the formation to ensure all grips are intact, key, then move left around the formation staying close, and end up compressed with Outside Centre.



Outside Centre

- Stand in the middle of door inside the plane with your back to the pilot.
- Raise right leg slightly to help Tail (who is front floating) reach your leg grip.
- Hold onto Inside Centre's leg grip with your right hand.
- Give the count and then do a head-stand out of the door.
- It's a very gentle move backwards on the hill, looking over right shoulder for Point to ensure the close.



Inside Centre

- Stand at the rear of the door, (rear dive) with butt inside and head outside whilst in a crouching position.
- Get your left elbow outside on the back of the door so you feel you can get out of the door easily.
- You need to leave early, so on 'set', commit yourself and step out with your left foot and really get your chest presented to the wind. You want to be very low to really weight the piece down.
- On the hill really stare down Point, and be aware that it is easy for the donut to slide down the hill away from Point.
- Be careful not to cut into the slipstream when you start the piece moving.



Tail

- Stand right at the front of the door with your head outside.
- Position your legs quite far apart so your centre is low – this allows you to pick up the leg grip on Outside Centre with your right hand.
- Keep both feet on the plane during the count. On go, power away from the plane aggressively (you don't need to go up, but you do need to go away), aiming for up and down line of flight.
- Push Outside Centre's leg up during the exit.



Camera

- Block 2 tends to come out quite steep for a 'roundish' exit.
- Good teams start the block very quickly so you need to be nice and close on exit.



Block 2 Build ➔

Point

- Build sidebodied on Outside Centre, slightly high so that you can see when the centre piece is built.

Outside Centre

- Build donut grip at 90° to Inside Centre keeping head on the outside of the donut.
- Arch into the build and during the block.

Inside Centre

- Arch into the build and keep arching through the entire move.
- On the build, don't crowd Outside Centre with your knee/butt, give them enough space to move forward to the build which will prevent the whole piece from backing up.
- Big head up and look at Point when on, ie, you've got your grip on Tail's leg.

Tail

- Be at about 90° to Outside Centre.
- Don't try and present your leg too much to Inside Centre.
- Arch into the build and during the block.



Block 2 Move

Point

- It's your key; make sure the centre piece is built, key it, then move up over Inside Centre in a forwards direction first.
- Once over Inside Centre, turn to your left so that you are skirting around the centre piece backwards.
- Bleed off the speed when you are next to Tail, and be stopped before you pick up grips with Outside Centre.

Outside Centre

- Move straight backwards, then pull Inside Centre's grip in towards you.
- Look for Point over your right shoulder and straighten legs to stop hard to help put the donut onto Point for the close.
- Keep knees pinched during the move to make the piece small.
- It's your key at the finish.

Inside Centre

- On key, pinch knees together and make a short move directly backwards.
- Then pull on Tail's leg grip to get the piece really moving.
- As you pull, change your direction from directly backwards to a backwards side-slide towards where Point was at the start.
- Keep your eyes on Point the whole time.
- Help stop the piece when Point is going to arrive back on the piece.
- Do not key the start or the end!

Tail

- Move straight back, then pull the grip in towards you
- Look for Point and stop hard, putting Outside Centre onto Point's grips.

Camera

- For training purposes, the coach generally wants you to keep the same heading through the dive so he/she can see what heading formations are building on and work out the degree of turn.
- Be aware of the burble from the individual flyer as they do their move.



Top Tip

Jump for the Judges

Make sure you take good solid grips on randoms and blocks. A stationary hand is no longer sufficient in the judges' eyes. You need to show the fingers and hand closed around the grip to score the point.

On block 2, regardless of the team's key continuity, the key always comes from the solo flyer (in this case, Point) at the start and from the person they compress (this case, Outside Centre) at the end. If the key comes from anywhere else it can attract the judges' attention and, despite it not necessarily being a bust, can still put doubt into their minds.

Block technique assumes left hand door continuity. Some photos are intentionally mirrored to show this.

All photos by Gary Wainwright



Survey Results

Looking to the future of our sport

A big thank you to all who took the time to complete the recent survey. This activity takes place every 2-3 years and is driven by the Communications Committee. In previous years we circulated a paper questionnaire. Although the response rate was far greater, the laborious analysis took an age.

This year we placed the survey online so we are able to review and analyse the data immediately. It also allowed us to ask twice as many questions.

We have a reasonable sample of data with 372 respondents, representing roughly 7% of the BPA Membership. Previous paper questionnaires yielded a 68% response in 2005, and 25% in 2002 & 2000. Ideally next time we would like this sort of response online, to combine the benefits of a high Membership opinion sample with greater data manipulation.

The survey will help the Council and its Committees to plan for the sport. You have said it's time to update the BPA website with a facility for online renewals (question 48). The Council plans to launch a new website later this year, and to phase in more online services including renewals in a four-stage programme.

As a note, question 1 shows an increase in the number of women respondents (at 17% compared with 13% in 2002 and 12% in 2000). We believe this represents the welcome increase in women in the sport, and hope to see the trend continue.

The survey published in these pages does not include the 'free text' comments as there are so many, but they are available for viewing if you go to the BPA website. I would like to thank all respondents for their comments as none were defamatory or silly, eg, 'hold the AGM in the Bahamas', enabling us to publish online all the free responses, unedited, including both bouquets and brickbats for the BPA.

Adrian Bond
Comms Chair

<p>1. What is your gender?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Male</td><td>82.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Female</td><td>17.5%</td></tr> </table> <p>2. How long have you been in the sport?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1 year</td><td>14.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>2 years</td><td>11.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>3 years</td><td>8.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>4 years</td><td>7.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>5 years</td><td>9.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>6-10 years</td><td>17.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>11-15 years</td><td>9.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>16-20 years</td><td>9.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>20+ years</td><td>12.7%</td></tr> </table> <p>3. What age group are you in?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>16-17</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>18-20</td><td>4.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>21-25</td><td>16.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>26-30</td><td>14.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>31-35</td><td>14.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>36-40</td><td>15.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>41-45</td><td>17.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>46-50</td><td>9.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>51-55</td><td>4.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>56-60</td><td>3.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>61-65</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>65+</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table> <p>4. Were you AFF or RAPS trained?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>AFF</td><td>46.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>RAPS</td><td>53.2%</td></tr> </table> <p>5. Did you convert from RAPS to AFF part way through? (or vice-versa)</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>21%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>79%</td></tr> </table> <p>6. Do you participate in any of the following activities?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Accuracy</td><td>6.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Camera</td><td>16.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Freestyle</td><td>1.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>CF</td><td>5.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Canopy Piloting</td><td>8.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Freeflying</td><td>19.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>FS</td><td>34.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Skysurfing</td><td>0.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Style</td><td>1.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Speed</td><td>1.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>VFS/VRW</td><td>1.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Wingsuit</td><td>4.9%</td></tr> </table> <p>7. Do you participate in competitions?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>36.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>63.4%</td></tr> </table> <p>8. Have you jumped at a non-Affiliated DZ within the last 12 months?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>45.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>54.8%</td></tr> </table>	Male	82.5%	Female	17.5%	1 year	14.3%	2 years	11.3%	3 years	8.4%	4 years	7.5%	5 years	9.7%	6-10 years	17.3%	11-15 years	9.4%	16-20 years	9.4%	20+ years	12.7%	16-17	0%	18-20	4.6%	21-25	16.8%	26-30	14.1%	31-35	14.9%	36-40	15.4%	41-45	17.3%	46-50	9.7%	51-55	4.3%	56-60	3.0%	61-65	0%	65+	0%	AFF	46.8%	RAPS	53.2%	Yes	21%	No	79%	Accuracy	6.4%	Camera	16.0%	Freestyle	1.3%	CF	5.5%	Canopy Piloting	8.2%	Freeflying	19.0%	FS	34.2%	Skysurfing	0.2%	Style	1.4%	Speed	1.3%	VFS/VRW	1.7%	Wingsuit	4.9%	Yes	36.6%	No	63.4%	Yes	45.2%	No	54.8%	<p>9. Are you happy with services provided by the BPA office?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>71.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>4.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Never used</td><td>24.2%</td></tr> </table> <p>10. Would you be happy for the BPA to consider making your contact details available for marketing purposes?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>1.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>68.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Dependent on type of product or service</td><td>29.8%</td></tr> </table> <p>11. Did you attend the AGM in January?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>35.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>64.2%</td></tr> </table> <p>12. If you did attend, how would you rate it overall? (1 poor - 10 excellent)</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>2.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>1.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>10.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>8.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>17.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>17.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>17.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>19.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>5.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>0.7%</td></tr> </table> <p>13. Are you aware that you can attend any BPA meeting?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>78.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>21.8%</td></tr> </table> <p>14. Do you ever read Council Minutes?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>62.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>10.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasionally</td><td>26.9%</td></tr> </table> <p>15. Do you know who your regional club rep is?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>39%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>61%</td></tr> </table> <p><i>[note: they are Adrian Bond (north), Paul Ludden (central), Martin Soulsby (south)]</i></p> <p>16. Do you have your own kit?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>86.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>13.2%</td></tr> </table> <p>17. If yes, how many?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>1</td><td>68.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>24.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>2.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>1.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>5+</td><td>3.1%</td></tr> </table> <p>18. Do you jump with an AAD?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>86.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>13.7%</td></tr> </table>	Yes	71.8%	No	4.0%	Never used	24.2%	Yes	1.9%	No	68.3%	Dependent on type of product or service	29.8%	Yes	35.8%	No	64.2%	1	2.2%	2	1.4%	3	10.1%	4	8.0%	5	17.4%	6	17.4%	7	17.4%	8	19.6%	9	5.8%	10	0.7%	Yes	78.2%	No	21.8%	Yes	62.6%	No	10.5%	Occasionally	26.9%	Yes	39%	No	61%	Yes	86.8%	No	13.2%	1	68.3%	2	24.8%	3	2.5%	4	1.2%	5+	3.1%	Yes	86.3%	No	13.7%	<p>19. Have you ever had an AAD fire?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>3.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>96.2%</td></tr> </table> <p>20. Do you jump with an RSL connected?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>47.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>52.4%</td></tr> </table> <p>21. Do you jump with an audible altimeter?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>81.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>18.8%</td></tr> </table> <p>22. Have you ever had to use your reserve?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>47.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>52.2%</td></tr> </table> <p>23. Do you always pack your main?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>50.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>11.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasionally</td><td>9.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Mostly</td><td>28.8%</td></tr> </table> <p>24. For your 6 monthly reserve repack do you use a</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Qualified packer?</td><td>29%</td></tr> <tr><td>Rigger?</td><td>71%</td></tr> </table> <p>25. Have you sustained an injury whilst parachuting in the last 3 years?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Never</td><td>73.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Once</td><td>21.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Twice</td><td>4.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Three times</td><td>0.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>More than three times</td><td>0.3%</td></tr> </table> <p>26. Should the BPA continue to provide insurance cover?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>87.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>12.9%</td></tr> </table> <p>27. Do you consider you have adequate access to safety information?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>82.0%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>5.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sometimes</td><td>12.1%</td></tr> </table> <p>28. Do you read STC minutes?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>53.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>19.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasionally</td><td>26.9%</td></tr> </table> <p>29. Do you believe the BPA should continue to fund competitions?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>78%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>22%</td></tr> </table> <p>30. Do you believe the BPA should continue to fund coaching roadshows?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>84.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>15.3%</td></tr> </table>	Yes	3.8%	No	96.2%	Yes	47.6%	No	52.4%	Yes	81.2%	No	18.8%	Yes	47.8%	No	52.2%	Yes	50.3%	No	11.3%	Occasionally	9.7%	Mostly	28.8%	Qualified packer?	29%	Rigger?	71%	Never	73.7%	Once	21.2%	Twice	4.6%	Three times	0.3%	More than three times	0.3%	Yes	87.1%	No	12.9%	Yes	82.0%	No	5.9%	Sometimes	12.1%	Yes	53.5%	No	19.6%	Occasionally	26.9%	Yes	78%	No	22%	Yes	84.7%	No	15.3%	<p>31. Would you be prepared to pay an increased subscription to fund more roadshows and competitions?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>31%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>69%</td></tr> </table> <p>32. Do you believe the BPA should continue to fund our national teams?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>68%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>32%</td></tr> </table> <p>33. Would you pay an extra £10 on your BPA subscription to assist with funding of our national teams?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>36.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>63.7%</td></tr> </table> <p>34. Do you believe the BPA should continue to publish a magazine?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>89.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>10.5%</td></tr> </table> <p>35. Do you use the BPA website?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>45.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>7.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasionally</td><td>47.0%</td></tr> </table> <p>36. How often do you visit the BPA website?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Never</td><td>4.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasionally</td><td>49.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Once a month</td><td>27.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>More than once a month</td><td>18.5%</td></tr> </table> <p>37. Do you find the content useful?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Very useful</td><td>27.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Slightly useful</td><td>50.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Poor</td><td>17.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Never use it</td><td>4.3%</td></tr> </table> <p>38. What pages do you find useful on the BPA website?</p> <p>216 answers, see BPA website</p> <p>39. Do you use The Mag website?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Yes</td><td>12.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>No</td><td>51.9%</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasionally</td><td>35.5%</td></tr> </table> <p>40. How often do you visit the Mag website?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Never</td><td>47.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Occasionally</td><td>42.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Once a month</td><td>7.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>More than once a month</td><td>2.2%</td></tr> </table> <p>41. Do you find the content of the Mag website useful?</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Very useful</td><td>12.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Slightly useful</td><td>36%</td></tr> <tr><td>Poor</td><td>8.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>Never use it</td><td>43%</td></tr> </table>	Yes	31%	No	69%	Yes	68%	No	32%	Yes	36.3%	No	63.7%	Yes	89.5%	No	10.5%	Yes	45.2%	No	7.8%	Occasionally	47.0%	Never	4.6%	Occasionally	49.5%	Once a month	27.4%	More than once a month	18.5%	Very useful	27.2%	Slightly useful	50.8%	Poor	17.7%	Never use it	4.3%	Yes	12.6%	No	51.9%	Occasionally	35.5%	Never	47.8%	Occasionally	42.5%	Once a month	7.5%	More than once a month	2.2%	Very useful	12.4%	Slightly useful	36%	Poor	8.6%	Never use it	43%
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42. What pages do you find useful on the Mag website?

93 answers, see BPA website

43. Do you download pdfs from the Mag website?

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No	73.0%
Occasionally	16.4%

44. Would you like more pdfs to be available for download?

Yes	35.8%
No	20.4%
Maybe	43.8%

45. Would you buy photos from the Mag website?

Yes	12.1%
No	59.7%
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46. Are you happy with the balance of content and advertising?

Happy	34.4%
Not bothered	41.4%
Too much advertising	13.7%
Don't mind more ads	10.5%

47. Do you believe there should be an official BPA web-based forum?

Yes	53%
No	47%

48. Would you use a secure online facility to renew your membership?

Yes	87.6%
No	3.5%
Maybe	8.9%

49. Would you like the online voting for Council elections to continue?

Yes	90.9%
No	0%
Maybe	9.1%

50. This is now your opportunity to comment or make suggestions (within reason please)

142 answers, see BPA website

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- FS Training for all levels by National Champions Tarn & Chris Hollis
- Wingsuit Training by 'Top Gun' Birdman Factory Team
- Unique AFF Courses incorporating Airkix wind tunnel training
- Bespoke training programmes generated to fit jumper's individual needs, with seamless transition between tunnel and free fall

Competitions

- UK's first 12-Way FS Competition – 19/20th July 2008
- Unique Airmix 'hybrid wind tunnel / free fall FS Competition' for all levels

ough

490 or visit www.skydiveairkix.com



VFS Update

Super-gifted freeflyer Jim Harris of *Outbreak* reports on this exciting new skydiving discipline about to undergo its first World Cup

Arizona Arsenal by Keith Fournier

It is now confirmed that 4-way VFS will be an official event at this year's UK Nationals, running alongside the traditional 4-way. The first FAI World Cup is scheduled for 26-28 October in Eloy. As is usual with new events, VFS will be tested at a World Cup and, if successful, may gain World Championship status.

Outbreak Vertical by Andy Lovemore



After the success of UK VRW winning the first European 4-way VFS competition last September (see *The Mag*, Dec 07) the team decided to continue training and competing together in 2008. There is one change in line-up, Mike Carpenter being replaced by the super-talented Mark Joyner, and with this change has also come a new name: *Outbreak Vertical*.

Outbreak Vertical

Outbreak Vertical is training hard in excited anticipation of representing the UK at the first official international FAI competition, in October.

The team's first training camp took them to Skydive Arizona in search of coaching from one of the world's top VFS teams, *Arizona Arsenal*, and the opportunity to take advantage of the awesome 14 feet diameter *Skyventure Arizona* wind tunnel. The camp ended with a 4-way VFS meet that attracted nine teams, included both senior and intermediate categories and used the larger 2007 dive pool (see *The Mag*, Dec 07).

VFS Tunnel Training

What became immediately apparent is the role wind tunnel training is going to play within 4-way VFS. One of the main reasons for this is that

dirtdiving VFS effectively is very difficult due to the use of two orientations, both head-up and head-down. As there are more head-down slots in the dive pool, generally the head-down flyers stand while the head-up flyers outface and bend over to represent the fact that they are the other way up (ground is above). This allows the head-down flyers a reasonable view of what the formations and moves look like but is of limited use to the head-up flyers as far as building an accurate picture. Sometimes it is useful to switch so that the head-up flyers are standing (ground below) to allow them to also build a good picture; however this of course just passes the problem to the head-down flyers.

This is where the wind tunnel comes in. Although the flying positions adopted in the tunnel differ slightly to those used in the sky due to the limited airspeed available, the tunnel solves the issue of dirtdiving effectively, allowing all team members to see the correct picture at the same time. In the words of *Arizona Arsenal* flyer Steve Curtis, 'the tunnel is a VFS dirtdiving machine'.

While half of *Outbreak Vertical* were still building the basic skills necessary to start training 4-way in the tunnel, such as flying static head-down and transitioning cleanly to and from head-up without

Eloy VFS Meet podium by Jay Southall



bouncing off walls (many wouldn't consider these skills particularly basic), other team members were ready to start banging out the points with Curtis and Sara Bennet of *Arsenal* filling the empty slots. During the period *Outbreak* were at Skydive Arizona there were at least three other teams training VFS in the tunnel at one point or another, including a French group. The opportunity to watch these teams was fantastic and has put even more emphasis on how important tunnel training already is to being competitive in 4-way VFS.

Competition 11

After an intense twelve days of sky and tunnel training *Outbreak* had the opportunity to compete in the 11th official 4-way VFS competition. Nine teams turned up but unfortunately two withdrew at the last minute. In the senior event there were four teams, including *Arizona Arsenal*, *Hybrid XP* (from the new 16ft Skyventure tunnel in North Carolina), *9Dag* and *Outbreak Vertical*. Three teams competed in the intermediate class. The competition was held over six rounds, each with a 35 second working time and the formations being drawn from the 2007 dive pool of 12 randoms and 12 blocks.

Results

Although *Outbreak Vertical* had very little training with the new line-up and could have opted to take part in the intermediate category, the team chose to compete in the senior, as this would be the same dive pool used at the World Cup later in the year. The whole event was dominated by *Arsenal*, posting a highest score of 21 and achieving an average of 15.67 over the 6 rounds. Comparison with the 2007 US Nationals' winning average of 12.5 demonstrates the relentless and rapid progression of this discipline. *Hybrid XP* also showed some incredible flying achieving an average of 11.67 and taking a very comfortable second place. *Outbreak Vertical* posted some reasonable scores but could not maintain it through the more difficult rounds and finished with an average of 4.83. This was just enough to stay ahead of *9Dag* by a fraction of a point and finish third in their first competition.

The Future

It is clear that to be competitive in 4-way VFS internationally will be a huge task, the US are years of training ahead of the Europe, wind tunnel practice is already a necessity and of course a lot of skydiving to go with it. The French have definitely got the bit between their teeth and are chasing the USA hard. *Outbreak Vertical*, as the UK representatives, intend to be hot on their heels!

Thanks to Steve Curtis and *Arizona Arsenal* for excellent coaching both in the tunnel and the sky.

Jim Harris

jim@outbreak-freefly.com

Outbreak Vertical by Jay Southall



Did you know?...

Skydive Arizona is giving away one hour of tunnel time to each nation which brings a team to the first ever VFS World Cup this October.

ELOY VFS MEET RESULTS

Team	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3	Rnd 4	Rnd 5	Rnd 6	Total	Avg
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1 AZ Arsenal	13	21	17	13	12	18	94	15.67
2 Hybrid XP	9	18	11	6	10	16	70	11.67
3 Outbreak	4	8	6	1	3	7	29	4.83
4 9Dag	0	5	4	4	6	9	28	4.67

VFS Meets 2008

Elsinore	USA	14-15 June
Paraclete XP	USA	23-24 August
Chalon sur Saône	France	26-28 September
Eloy, Arizona	USA	26-28 October

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What Could POSSIBLY Go Wrong?!

Part 2



Much of the article in the previous magazine (*Skydive* April 08) is just the tip of the iceberg as there are many other pieces of knowledge I would describe as 'not rocket science' and am going to cover more now...

Remember, one of the many things about our sport nowadays that distinguishes it from the pioneering days of the sixties and seventies is that equipment and techniques have evolved in all areas and are designed to be far more foolproof and easier to understand than ever before. It doesn't take the brains of an anaesthetist to understand how to use your equipment any more. Once obtained though, this knowledge dispels fear, and knowledge is power. And comfort. And confidence. And cheap, and often free. And all the more for you to learn about our wonderful sport. Embrace it, instead of perhaps being the fool that your equipment has to be foolproofed against.

Know What Wears Out

Know the elements of your rig which are prone to wear out; when, why and what problems are caused. Many parts of a rig have a finite life and won't always last until your next routine rigger inspection of your rig and reserve.

Parts Which Degrade

- BOC pouches lose elasticity and may no longer retain your pilot chute safely.
- Steering lines wear out.
- Grommets wear out and can be damaged
- Closing loops were mentioned last issue.
- Pilot chutes don't last forever – a worn pilot chute can affect deployment quality and its own ability to leave your back and lift your deployment bag in the first place.



A tandem malfunction, instructor Stuart Meacock cut it away and landed the pair safely under the reserve

Pilot Chutes



Some **wrong** features of a pilot chute

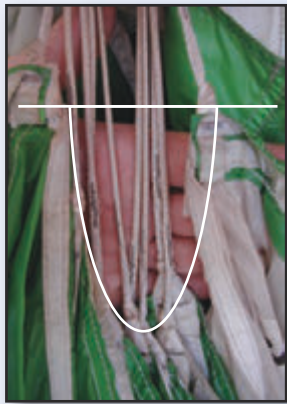
The centre line tapes shown above, which extend from the bridle attachment point to the pilot chute fabric just below the toggle (the red line), are too short. They should be at least as long as the reinforcing tapes that are on the mesh fabric. Also, beware that as kill-line pilot chutes age, the kill-line itself will shrink and prevent the aforementioned centre line tapes from being able to be fully extended on inflation. Thus the pilot chute will be less effective by reducing the amount of air that the pilot chute can hold.

Also, the hem of the pilot chute canopy fabric should be fairly level. It should be maintained at this level by the correct attachment of, again, the reinforcing tapes on the mesh and by the ripstop nylon fabric being good enough to hold its shape. Here you can see that the hem sags very badly below the ideal of the white line. Again, this will result in air spilling out of the pilot chute and much of its effectiveness being lost.

Every deployment starts with your pilot chute doing its job. Make sure you have a good condition pilot chute, without one it doesn't matter how good your main is.

Line Sets

Line sets do not last forever. Different canopies, various line materials and assorted geographical DZ locations can cause lines to wear out at varying rates in different ways, affecting both deployment and flight characteristics of your canopy



This canopy's A lines should all be the same length, ie, level with the straight line. However as the lines have aged, they have variously stretched and shrunk to be at the levels of the curved line. When it was relined the owner was astonished at the difference!

Know How to Undo Tangles

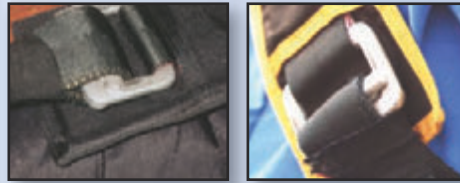
Line tangles can happen after any jump – most often caused by stepping through a line or series of lines after landing and subsequently picking up the parachute. This once basic knowledge is often regarded as some kind of black magic. All that is needed here is a bit of time to try and understand the concepts, and some practice – and you can practise black magic too.

Know the Specifics of your Rig

This applies whether it is a less common canopy or container at your DZ, so you know how to look after yourself if others don't. Or, if it's a common container and canopy and you get this knowledge, then you will be able to look after others as well as yourself.

Routings

The kind of things I refer to here are canopy folding methods, reserve static line and main bridle placements and routings, as well as routings of straps through chest and legstrap buckles and snap hooks, for example.



Incorrect hardware threadings, which will result in immediate unfolding and detaching of the legstraps and loss of the harness on deployment

Can you see the faults with the two rigs below? There are many different varieties of rigs and you might be called upon to get them all when you have received your B licence. Do you know when to ask, do you know what you are unsure about?



A pull-up cord left in and an incorrect bridle routing



Both RSLs are routed incorrectly – would you spot it or do you just know how yours works?

Know How to Fit Legstrap Elastics

It's easy, you know! Carry some spare elastic keepers. A loose strap in freefall is distracting at best and can be dangerous. On many occasions jumpers have spent time at deployment yanking on a loose legstrap that felt like a pilot chute handle.

Know the Colours of your Main & Reserve Canopies & Pilot Chutes

Know the colours of your main and reserve canopies, steering toggles and pilot chutes. If you know these colours you would much more quickly be able to identify a 2-canopies out or entanglement situation because you know what colours your own bits are. If the colours of items above your head don't match those of your reserve canopy, for example, you'd immediately know that whatever is going on it involves someone else's canopy. You would now call up your entanglement procedures, not your 2-canopies out drills.



Know your Reserve Documents

Check them after receiving them back from your rigger or packer. Indeed, it's their mistake if they've filled it out wrong but it's you that will suffer if the next DZ you visit doesn't allow you to jump your rig due to incomplete paperwork. Knowing what it should say and checking can help avoid that inconvenience. Have a look at your own paperwork and understand it; ask questions if you don't.

Reserve Docs Checklist

- Check all boxes are completed. There should be no blanks, these should be filled as N/A. Any 'crosses' in the tick boxes need to be justified by the packer if you want to be able to jump the rig.
- Check packing card **and** inspection sheet are signed and correctly dated with the same date.
- Check date of expiry of repack – it may be less than 6 months due to AAD battery or servicing dates for example.
- Read the comments box – these are added for your benefit.



Know How to Inspect your Main

You should know how to give your main a basic inspection. Do this once in a while to check for wear and tear before it becomes an issue. You'll become more familiar with your equipment, and that can't be a bad thing.

On a bad weather day try checking your main and rig. Not only will you pass the time you will learn loads about your gear. Most packing sheds have a canopy hanger, which you might be allowed to use to get up close and personal with your main canopy.

In Summary

The list could go on and on but none of it is rocket science. A little bit of interest and effort to acquire this knowledge will fill in the gaps in your understanding. You will find it complements other facets of the sport and allows you to become more confident in the sky and other related tasks such as jumpmastering and coaching too.

Modern gear is nonetheless very reliable and standardised compared with the old days but that little bit of effort to make your rig and skydiving career safer has surely got to be worth it.

Maybe the guy who jumps the old unfashionable but safe rig, who can nonetheless be relied upon to put it on correctly and who advises and helps you with your gear and notices your mistakes before you do, and can flight line check all those different varieties of kit, can pack it properly and reliably and helps keep you safe in the aircraft...

...maybe he has a lot of traits you should aspire to have, even though he blends into the background because he doesn't do anything wrong?

If I can be of any assistance please email me, when I hope you'll find I'm not quite grumpy old man the above makes me out to be.

Andrew Hilton

andrew.hilton@yahoo.com
BPA Advanced Rigger 179

Disclaimer: Don't try this at home – the pictures of poorly rigged kit in this article were set up to illustrate what **not** to do!

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Photo courtesy by David Gershfeld

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"This is great now I can fly my high performance canopy on a wingsuit jump" - David Gershfeld

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World Challenge

World's best skydivers come to the UK



Satori

4-way FS

Picture the scene: over 100 of the world's best 4-way skydivers coming to the UK to compete for a big money event. That, in a nutshell is the Bodyflight Challenge. What started out as a fun idea three years ago by Bodyflight boss Paul Mayer has grown into one of the highlights of the international 4-way calendar. The £5,000 top prize surely has something to do with this!

With 39 teams, the tunnel staff and judges were going to be busy! Competitors gathered in the hangar downstairs and listened to the briefing before starting their warm-up flights to dial in their respective wind speeds. The warm-up flights gave the teams and the tunnel controller a chance to finalise the team's ideal airspeed prior to round one.

World's Best Talent

Going into the competition, US National Champions *Airspeed Odyssey* were hot favourites, with multiple World Champion members Craig Girard, Eliana Rodriguez, Mark Kirkby and Andy Delk. The task of retaining the trophy would be no easy matter with a host of world class teams from France, Belgium and the USA all eager to spoil the party.

XL re-formed once again for this meet, and consisted of world class British skydivers Pete Allum, Steve Hamilton, Thomas Hughes with ex-*Airspeed*'s Brian Johnson, they looked in fine form. UK Champions *Bodyflight Storm* were flying the flag in AAA alongside a new UK team *Satori*, plus *Fusion*, British National Team at the World Meet 2008, plus a scratch line-up *South Parc*.

The pedigree of skydivers present

really was second to none. Looking around the room you couldn't fail to see how huge the reputation of this meet has become. Assembled before us were *Hayabusa*, Belgian winners of the FAI World Cup 2007, *Paraclete XP* from the USA, consisting of World Champions Kirk Verner and Andy Honigbaum competing with Paraclete tunnel owner Tim D'Annunzio and his son John. Top flight USA team *Perris Fury* were present looking to make it a USA one-two, but national teams in the form of *Arcteryx* from Norway and *Aerokart Mamba Pamiers* from France were also looking very skilled and keen to vie for the prize fund.

AA Class

As well as the big dogs, there was an 'amateur' category for AA class teams. The UK was well represented with seven AA teams competing alongside one from Belgium and *Team Future* from the USA. *Team Future* consists of twelve-year-old Kayla Tinucci and her young brother Justin aged nine plus their two tunnel coaches. Add to the mix AAA (senior) team *Aeon* with 14-year-old Ellie McCoy making World Champion teammate Gary Beyer look slow... and it is the future indeed!

As the meet kicked off, teams got used to the routine. Dirt dive the round, go up and join the queue to enter the flight chamber. Do your round, come out, prep the next dive and wait for your next flight. FS Co-ordinator Bryony Doughty did a great job of keeping all the competitors up to speed with the schedule and things ran fairly smoothly all day.

Halfway Point

At the end of day one, the scoreboard made for an interesting read, with *XL* leading by two points over *Airspeed*, just like last year's mid-point. Steve Hamilton commented that, although the scores were the same, the mood in the team was far more relaxed and upbeat than this time last year. This was good news for *XL* – not so good for the chasing pack but veterans *Airspeed* are used to the ups and downs of competing so can never be ruled out until the fat lady begins to warble.

The rest of the leader board showed the quality of the assembled international line-up with a multitude of high scores. UK National Champions *Bodyflight Storm* were using the meet as essential practice in their run-up to this year's World Meet with some quality flying. Newly formed UK team *Satori* were impressive all day, up there with some strong opposition – a fact made all the more amazing by *Satori*'s Outside Centre, Julia Foxwell, being unwell with a stomach bug all day, returning to her bed between rounds!

The strong UK contingent in AA were enjoying the meet with scratch team *S4* ahead of the chasing pack made up of some more familiar names to anyone who has frequented the Nationals for the past few years.

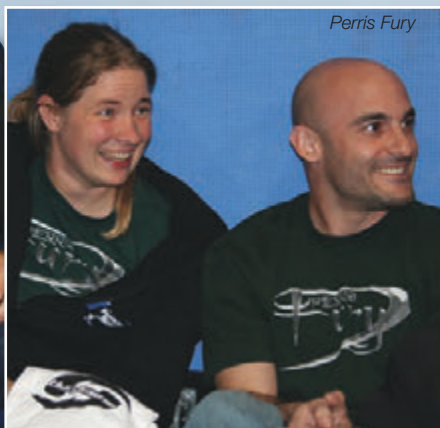
Sunday

Day two started bang on schedule and the now familiar routine was running well. Judging via the excellent Camscore system was beamed around the building to various big screens so wherever you were you could see the scores progress. Teams could also selectively view their flights via the new DZ TV system they have for debriefing at Bodyflight. Despite a few early bugs in the programme causing random freezes, the system looked good and, via a video game controller, was easy to operate with a little practice.

Teams not flying had plenty of opportunity to catch up with their friends or lounge around in the ample beanbag seating areas. Unfortunately the sauna, swimming pool and jacuzzi have yet to be finished but next year's competitors will be spoilt for choice!

Final Showdown

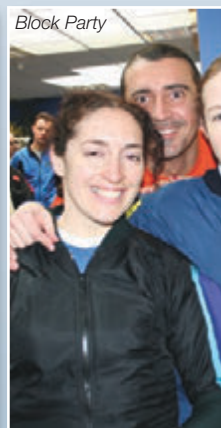
As the rounds progressed, it was a clear two horse race for the title between *XL* and *Airspeed*. *XL* showed some incredible flying to keep the World Champions under pressure. Some judging infringements in the penultimate round for *Airspeed* saw both teams with one round left and all square. Third place was shared by *Perris Fury* and *Arcteryx*. You couldn't have scripted a more exciting climax. Teams completed their final jumps



Perris Fury



Sonic-V



Block Party

and congregated in the hangar, all eyes glued on the big screen. Final round jumps were shown in reverse order. When it got to the final four, the third place battle was shown by the screen splitting in half with *Perris Fury* performing on one side, *Arcteryx* on the other. *Fury* won that battle and then the big showdown was screened. The head-to-head footage was brilliant – should definitely be used at the Nationals! *XL* were crisp but at this level all it takes is a tiny mistake and, when one block move was not as tidy as the rest, it was enough for *Airspeed* to take the title for the third year in a row by two points, scoring an amazing 28.3 average – their highest ever!

In AA class, *S4* continued their lead from Saturday and never let up, winning comfortably over *Phobia*, who are looking very impressive since stepping up from A class last year, with the girls of *Kaizen* just behind them in third. The kids of *Team Future* may have come last, but the freeflying skills of these stars of tomorrow are amazing – they had a great time scoring a zero on round 10 by showing off their knee-flying skills!

And Finally

UK teams no doubt benefit from the international competition exposure and with fourteen of the teams being all or part British it's looking up for UK 4-way. I know not a single skydive took place, so why's this worthy of a place in a skydiving magazine? The simple answer to that was on the faces of all competitors, staff and spectators at Bodyflight. Skydivers from all over the world love coming to the UK now; we have a facility and a competition that is second to none. It can only be good for the sport. Tunnels are to skydivers what punchbags are to boxers; an essential training tool. If it brings the world's best to our doorstep, long may the Challenge continue!

Chris Hollis
hollisc@tint.com



"This is our third time here and it has become my favourite competition. XL were incredible. Once again they pushed us to the absolute limit. I was also really impressed with Satori. I kept finding myself drawn to their dives on screen. The flow of the dives was really good."

Eliana Rodriguez, Airspeed Odyssey



Team Future



Fusion

"We had so much fun, it was our first time in this tunnel and it was a really good competition. I think we will come next year too – we have a lot of work to do so we'll take part in more indoor competitions to have more experience but also more fun!"

Justin Tinucci, Team Future



"Satori made a statement."
Craig Girard, Airspeed



Fortitudo





Freely

Anticipation was high when we arrived at the Bodyflight wind tunnel. Our mission: to judge the freestyle event and find the World Challenge Champions for 2008. I was seriously looking forward to seeing what the teams would conjure up this year in the massive flight chamber. The last two years' events were very inspiring and exciting.

The 2008 Challenge was for 'professional' and 'amateur' teams rather than the single category of previous years. With a total of £10,000 in prize money and seven other prizes from Boogieman tunnel suits to coached tunnel time there was a lot at stake.

Judges and Scoring

The judging team was made up of Johanna Horn, chief judge; Yoko Okazaki, double World Freestyle Champion; Al Hodgson, National Freestyle B Champion; and me, George Pilkington. There are nine rounds; three compulsory rounds of 35 seconds working time and six free rounds of 60 seconds, two of which are set to music.

Compulsories

The compulsory rounds are usually judged from video afterwards. This we find is the best way of ensuring correct scores.

The top teams can go very fast and I find that it is easy to be distracted pondering on whether the previous move was correct and by the time I am 'back' two or three further points have been turned... (try to keep up George!). The compulsories are five-point random rounds. The professional teams have points in all orientations while the amateur teams only have head-up and back-fly formations.

We watch the compulsories and score them. If the team has a 'clean' round then often the judges have the same score. If all four have the same score then we log it and do not review the round. More often than not the team will be 'busted' with an incorrect grip or placement of feet for example. If so, we review the flight on video and score it. With a lot at stake, this reduces the pressure on us and we can get it done correctly within half an hour.

The team that scores the most is given a score of 10. The lowest placed team is scored 3. The other team scores are scaled between 10 and 3 according to their actual score. This scale is applied to prevent a team just training for the compulsory rounds and running away with the event. This works very well and it is possible for a team to come back from a bad compulsory round.

Free and Music Rounds

The free and music rounds are judged 'live' from the tunnel's viewing gallery. This puts quite a bit of pressure on the judges because there is no possibility to rewind and have another look. Also there is not much time between teams to think about the flight that has just taken place - an empty tunnel is not a happy tunnel! So we watch the team and have about 20 seconds to score them before the next team are in - hard core!

They are judged on two criteria - artistic presentation and technical difficulty. 'Artistic presentation' is the judge's own mark for how he or she feels the team presented their routine. There are many things that make up this mark for me: synchronicity, fluidity, originality, humour, style and of course general coolness. 'Technical difficulty' is pretty self explanatory really. The harder the moves are, or the flight pattern is, the higher the score. Both criteria are given a score out of 10. All the judges' scores are added together, then divided by two (marks) and then by four (judges) to give a single round score of, say 9.2.

Amateur Competition

The winners were *Brothers Mamba* with 73.9 points who, to the judges' delight showed us once again 'the mamba' move that they invented for last year's meet. They also picked up some badly needed new suits provided by Boogieman as a prize. We look forward to seeing you and your new threads next year brothers!

Second were *Canopy Ground Launch* with 61.7 points, who'd travelled from Europe to compete.

They won half an hour of tunnel with coaching from *Bodyflight Mamba*, very nice. We'll be seeing you later then boys!

Third came *Gerontis & Jupiter*, made up of Dr John Carter and Tom, his son, aged twelve. They picked up some hardware and 30 minutes of coaching from *Bodyflight Mamba*. Tom is rock solid in sit and backfly. John carves the tunnel up nicely on his head or feet. Well done guys. Who chose the team name then?

Fourth were *San DZ*, a tunnel pro-flyer and a chick with only four hours' flying time! Impressive routines that were funny, very artistic and used all the skills available gave them 43.7 well-earned points. Good job guys. We hope you enjoy the coached tunnel time you won. Bringing up the rear were *Team Denmark*. All the way from Scandahoovia they lost out to *San DZ* by just .01! This was not down to flying ability but more to how they choreographed their routines as they were beaten by lesser experience.

Professional Event

This was won convincingly by home team *Bodyflight Mamba*. Fabien Raidel and Michael Mackenzie trained hard since coming second last year to *Arizona Blaze*, and it showed in their routines. Their free rounds were faster than last year, tighter and more controlled. Their exits were awesome, with both flyers coming down the tunnel from the top at warp speed, straight out of the door - ultra cool! Their compulsories were very precise with hardly any busts (unlike last year). In round 7 a collision cost them dearly in points but their lead was big enough to take it. Round 9 saw the team score the highest points ever awarded at Bedford with 9.8, after a truly inspired free round. A cheque for 5 grand and the gold medal were their well earned prizes. Nice one fellas!

In second place came *Volairkix*. Our national skydiving freestyle team flew very nicely indeed. Their routine was fast and fun and contained some very precise 2-way work. They took home a fat cheque for £3,000. Nice, Love ya work guys!

Third place went to *Skywalkers*. Good flying but not as precise as the above teams. A gong and a cheque for £1,500 will do nicely, eh! The final 'points mean prizes' place went to *Frazer and Kermit* with 500 quid! Not bad for a weekend's fun. *Bernd & Alberto* came fifth, taking home cool Gatorz shades for their trouble. Sixth were *Team Future*, who won some weight belts and a huge round of applause. *Bodyflight Zurich* and *Team Anvil* kept us entertained with their routines and went home with Cypres service vouchers and Parasport gloves.

World Class Facility

What a slick operation Paul and his staff run, and what a very good facility Bodyflight is. The event is now the recognised first world class meet of the year and it's held here in the UK. Nine rounds of freestyle, ten rounds of 4-way, guaranteed



completion. That's good for the UK, good for the sport and good for us! See you next year for another weekend of the same. Nice! And you never know, you may go home loaded!

One Last Thing

Team Future: Justin & Kayla Tinnucci, 9 and 12 years old from Colorado, USA. Head-up, head-down, sit and flat, these kids can really cut it. Sponsored by Go Fast and mum 'n' dad, they are the future. Their flying in the meet was very good but more impressive was the stuff they did afterwards. I watched them in the wind with 10 or 15 freeflyers. The tunnel was at full speed, for them it must have been like 200mph. They were on their head or on their feet, either way solid and relaxed. No collisions, no flailing and no corking. Very, very impressive. I know they will be back next year. Now they know what flying style we look for in the Bodyflight Challenge, they may well win in 2009 and, do you know, they may never lose again... Watch out world, there are some kids conjuring up a bit of tunnel!

George Pilkington
 pilkingtongeorg@aol.com

"It was challenging, it was exciting, we pushed hard, we did not give up and we focused!"

Michael Mackenzie,
 Bodyflight Mamba

"Tunnel rules! Very good organisation. I learned a lot from the World Challenges I competed in before, this one was very high level, there were more people and I hope more teams will come next year to see and be a part of it!"

Fabian Raidel, Bodyflight Mamba



Photos by Ross Dagley-Cleworth, John Williamson and 90percent

Bodyflight Mamba by Ross Dagley-Cleworth



Bodyflight Mamba



Team Future





4-way AAA

Gold – Airspeed Odyssey



4-way AA

Gold – S4

4-way AAA (10 rounds)

1	USA	Airspeed Odyssey	283
2	UK	XL	281
3	USA	Perris Fury	261
4	Norway	Arcteryx	260
5	Belgium	Hayabusa Defence	254
6	Russia	Skylight Barkli	242
7	France	Aerokart Mamba Pamiers	231
8	UK	Satori	229
9	USA	Paraclete XP	227
10	UK	Bodyflight Storm	226
11	France	Maubeuge Holidays	223
12	Russia	Kaktus Hunter	222
13	USA	Aeon	217
14	Belgium	Hayabusa Beta	211
15	Italy	EX3Mix	207
16	France	White and See	198
17	Norway	Fortitudo	195
18	UK	South Parc	185
19	Lithuania	Magic 4	182
19	Italy	Vertigo Eutelia	182
21	Denmark	Danish Blaze	178
22	Finland	Pro Team	176
23	UK	Fusion	171
24	Norway	X3M4S	170
25	South Africa	Springboks	166
25	Finland	Tigers	166
27	Austria	Alpen Glow	163
28	Denmark	Sequence	157
29	UK	Sonic-V	145
30	Hungary	Airmaggedon	88



Silver – XL



Silver – Phobia



Bronze – Perris Fury



Bronze – Kaizen

4-way AA (10 rounds)

1	UK	S4	171
2	UK	Phobia	155
3	UK	Kaizen	152
4	UK	Fend 4 Yourself	148
5	UK	Bacchanalia	135
6	UK	Block Party	128
7	UK	Escondido	126
8	Belgium	Phantom Force	96
9	USA	Team Future	86



Freely Pro

Gold – Bodyflight Mamba



Freely Am

Gold – Brothers Mamba



Silver – Volairkix



Silver – Canopygroundlaunch.com

Freely Professional (9 rounds)

1	Bodyflight Mamba	86.9
2	Volairkix	81.2
3	Skywalkers	76.6
4	Frazer and Kermit	73.6
5	Bernd and Alberto	73.2
6	Team Future	68.7
7	Bodyflight Zurich	65.7
8	Team Anvil	57.7



Bronze – Skywalkers



Bronze – Gerontis & Jupiter

Freely Amateur (9 rounds)

1	Brothers Mamba	73.9
2	Canopygroundlaunch.com	61.7
3	Gerontis and Jupiter	56.7
4	San DZ	43.7
5	Team Denmark	43.6

External Media Coverage

The Guardian, The Telegraph, BBC local news, Fox News, ITN, Yahoo.co.uk, The Metro. Transworld Sport and Brailing Airsports are both making TV programmes.



Boogiemans & friends



Former teammates
Craig Girard &
Thomas Hughes

World Challenge
Champions:
Mark Kirby,
Andy Delk,
Fabian Raidel,
Michael Mackenzie,
Eliana Rodriguez
& Craig Girard



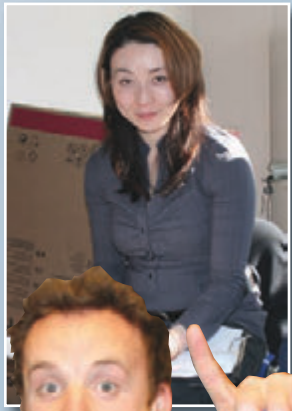
"This has become THE competition. It is the most challenging meet there is."

"I can't get over XL's performance. What those guys did is even more special than what we did – and we scored our highest ever. If any of XL are coaching you and you want validation, there it is, right there!"

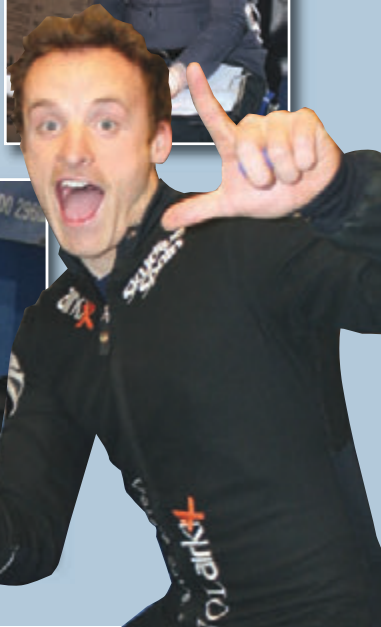
Craig Girard, Airspeed Odyssey

"It's really a pleasure to see competitors' efforts, seeing new moves, also seeing new people coming to compete. Hopefully tunnel events will grow and we'll can watch them on TV at home soon, as other sport competitions."

Yoko Okazaki,
Freely Judge



Craig collects his \$100 bet from XL's coach Doug Park



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- New bungees on deployment bag?
- Comprehensive advice on any rigging requirements?

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COMPETITIONS

Action Plan

Competitions Committee has agreed the next action plan for the period July '08 – June '09. This plan includes the last scheduled time we receive funds from UK Sport who have supported us so well in recent years. The plan has the following four headline points:

- Coach the Coach** – to develop our roadshow coaches' coaching techniques
- Support 2008 AA Champion Teams** – into senior category and get them to the World Cups 2009
- Coaching Roadshows** – continue to build on this excellent programme
- Judging Expertise** – maintain our high quality.

Updates on the Action Plan targets and expenditure will be available in the minutes from Competitions Committee.

UK Meets

We've entered the busy period where UKSL and Grand Prix meets and roadshows mean the membership have real access to coaches and advice free of charge. The great thing about this sport is the way knowledge is passed on so, if you're ever stuck, ask one of the more experienced jumpers, I'm sure they'll help you out.

World Meets

We now also head to the build up for the 2008 World Championships in various countries (see below) so best of luck to all the competitors. Messages of support can be sent to teams via the BPA office. The FS & Artistics World Championships are especially close by, in Maubeuge, France, 9-14 August. The UK delegation would more than welcome your patriot and vocal support!

World Championships 2008

Style and Accuracy	Lucenec, Slovak Republic	27 July–1 August	http://airportlucenec.lcdc.sk
FS and Artistics	Maubeuge, France	9-14 August	http://maubeuge2008.org
Canopy Formation	Teuge, Netherlands	9-14 September	www.fai.org
Canopy Piloting	Wonderboom, South Africa	18-23 November	www.fai.org

FS & Artistics Nationals Three Year Bid

The Competitions Committee has issued a three-year bid form inviting Affiliated centres to host the FS & Artistics Nationals for three years from 2009 to 2011. Andy Scott, Competitions Chairman, said "We believe that there is better potential for the successful bidder to secure sponsorship and media interest with the certainty of a home for the event for a block of three years. There can of course be no guarantees, but after consultation with centres, we have decided that it would be a mistake not to try to boost our sport in this way."

ESL Finals

ESL Finals have been confirmed at Texel in Holland, 5-7 September. We are looking for a strong UK squad of 4-way teams to finally win the overall champions' sword entitled the 'Spirit of ESL'. If you are in a 4-way team and interested in forming part of the skydiving legend that is Team GB, please get in touch with Chris Hollis.

First Ever British VFS Nationals

Hibaldstow, 23-25 August 2008

Rules, including entry forms and dive pools for this exciting inaugural event are available for download from the BPA website. With this discipline now being granted international status as an FAI approved World Cup this year and our BPA members already proving themselves on the European stage, this first British VFS Nationals is also the selection event for the British delegation competing in the VFS World Cup, Eloy, October 08.

Andy Scott, Chris Hollis & Weed Stoodley

Judges Seminar at RAPA

In April most of the UK judging team bundled off to Germany for a long weekend to update us on the rules and get some judging practice in fresh for the start of the season. Paul Moore had been kind enough to invite us back to RAPA, where we'd also gone for our pre-season training seminar in 2007. The weekend was again useful and enjoyable; Kate Charters did a great job organising. She also did a first class job on the CF and artistics training, as did Karla on the FS training, and Anne on the accuracy training. It is a great team-building weekend and the chance to share thoughts.



BPA judges seminar by Sue Moran

weekend and for her hard work co-ordinating the judging team throughout the year. And to Paul and his team for their superb hospitality and to the BPA for their contribution to our attendance.

RAPA is undoubtedly a fantastic facility and we were really fortunate to be invited back. Paul sorted everything from lifts to accommodation to transfers, and even organised good weather! So we got some practical training judging accuracy and CP. We all owe a big thanks to Kate for organising the

Ruth Cooper
Judge

"RAPA is the ideal venue because it means we can train in all events so it gives the judges an opportunity to look at disciplines they might not have thought about. The standard of judges within the UK is excellent, they are all dedicated to what they do and want to work to their best ability for the benefit of the competitor. I would like to thank them all for their continued support and all the hard work they put in to make sure we have one of the best judging teams in the world circuit. My thanks also to Paul Moore and his staff, for making us all feel so welcome, and Leslie, who made sure we were all fed and watered."

Kate Charters
Judges Co-Ordinator

GENERAL NEWS

The Airkix Fund

The Airkix Fund for the benefit of skydiving now stands at over £1,400. The Fund has been built up as part of a special offer by the Airkix wind tunnel in Milton Keynes to BPA Members. As originally intended, the arrangement was in place for a year and has now closed. The Development Committee is now in discussion with the Airkix wind tunnel about a possible new offer. Meanwhile, discussions about spending the Airkix Fund have focused on promoting safe canopy handling. Watch this space!

Going Down in History

What happened for the first time at Montpellier Gardens, Cheltenham, on 3 October 1838? Be there on 3 October this year and see the BPA unveil a plaque it is co-funding with Cheltenham Civic Society to commemorate the first successful descent by an Englishman, John Hampton, using a rigid parachute. He descended from a hot air balloon.

Martin Shuttleworth

Oxygen Regulations

Following a change in the Air Navigation Order (CAP 393) in 2007 which would have required the mandatory use of oxygen by everyone on board an aircraft when above 10,000 feet, the BPA has successfully negotiated an exemption for parachutists with the CAA which is as follows:

Parachutists will **not** be required to use oxygen provided that:

- A. Parachutists are not above FL100 for more than 30 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- B. Parachutists are not above FL120 for more than 6 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- C. The aircraft commander monitors these flight levels and time limits.
- D. If the flight level or time limits are exceeded the drop will be aborted and all parachutists will land with the aircraft.

Kieran Brady
Pilots Committee

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

NEW RATINGS

Advanced Packer

Simon Chipp (S)

AFF Instructor

Daniel Schmidt
Alastair Milne
Paul Dorward
Sally Uren
Simon Bristow
Jason Farrant

Tandem Instructor

Dave Hartley
Neil De Wit
Thea Follett
Derek Hand
Steven Davies
Duncan McGregor
Michael Outen
Dave Taylor
Russ Murphy
Simon Larcombe
Graeme Rose
Brian Dyas (re-evaluation)

DEVELOPMENT

BPA Media Coordinators

The BPA Development Committee welcomes Rich Rust and Becca Armstrong, who have offered their time and enthusiasm in the voluntary roles of joint Media Liaison Officers. Both are looking forward to taking a proactive role to help Members and the Association gain a higher profile within the different elements of media, be it local to national or even international.

BPA Media Matters Page

www.bpa.org.uk/media.htm gives a step-by-step guide to preparing a press release and how to hit the headlines for yourselves. With Rich and Becca now on hand to assist, be it for Members, teams, DZs, whoever, don't be shy. Give them a shout, you'd be amazed what can be achieved with a little teamwork! They are awaiting your contact, via the BPA office or on:



Becca Armstrong



Rich Rust

richrust@lineone.net
rebecca.armstrong@eonenergy.com

COMMUNICATIONS

BPA Online

The Council has appointed Hayes Computing Solutions Ltd of Norwich to build a new BPA website. Database and website technology has converged and, recognising the importance of online renewals, the Council has opted for a database-driven solution. Several phases are planned – new website, new database, online voting and online renewals. The Mag website will be updated as another phase. The new BPA website should hit the net later this year. Its look will be inspired by last year's winning competition design of BPA Member Tom Urbanski. The results of the first online membership survey in March 2008 (published on page 18) revealed a strong demand for more online services and the new website will provide these.

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BACK to the *Future*

In April, world class skydivers were challenged with complex 100-ways by renowned skydiver BJ Worth. The gig – Back to the Future at Skydive Spaceland in Texas.

The event aimed to build some intricate interlocking formations, harking back to the early days of big-ways. Such tightly-woven formations have not been used for recent big-way records as they are vulnerable to waves, which make flying the formation like riding a flying carpet! One jump ended with the most spectacular 100-way funnel! But there were no injuries or malfunctions at the event.

We made eleven 100-way jumps out of five Twin Otters, including a day where we made six 100-ways, not bad going! The group successfully completed a 100-way opposed diamond (we think only the second ever 3-digit diamond) on jump six.

We moved on to attempt a 100-way diamond, where everyone faces the same way – half the load will therefore be flying outfacing. Building this formation required an extra level of patience to ensure zero momentum docks, to minimise waves. The group relished the new challenge and we completed all the outfacing half after five attempts but a small wave took out one of the infacing jumpers as he was docking. The clouds then rolled back in and the 100-way diamond remained elusive!

Here's to more Brits at the gig next time when we try again!

Gordon Hodgkinson
gordon_hodgkinson@hotmail.com





Photos: Andrey Veselov www.skyphoto.ru



BACK
to the **Future**



100-way Opposed Diamond

Organisers:	BJ Worth, Tom Jenkins, Larry Henderson, Kate Cooper-Jensen, Roger Ponce, Jim Jenkins
Countries:	13
Brits:	4 (Calvin Blacker, Gordon Hodgkinson, Caroline Hughes & Craig Poxon)
Average jumps:	4,300
Most jumps:	14,273
Least jumps:	703



Photo: Willy Boeykens www.skycam.be

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- 1 x Islander (great for Hop & Pops)

Events:

Big way Skydiving with www.skydivechoreography.com
Come and join big ways With Caroline Hughes, Dave Lewis and Billy Payne.
Freely with groups organised by Dave Pacey, Ben Bolton and Andy Myers. Emphasis on Hybrid and Tube jumps.
Swooping run by Al MaCartney and Big Wes (using the new Nethers Swoop lane)
Wingsuit Flocking and introductions run by 'Wingin'it' Instructor Jack Harfield.

Got a Camera??

Download each jump onto the new Nethers Cametrix system which will show your footage by rotation on all the screens over the weekend!!

Got Kids??

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Lets Party

Live music at the infamous Nethers bar on Friday night. Saturday night party is 'Druid Night'! If you are short of a costume, you could always 'long spot' into Stonehenge, and grab one from a local Druid!

ONE More Thing.....

Watch out for the Nethers Morocco Boogie late November, early December. Details to be released soon.





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Letters

WORLD CHALLENGE

One of four letters on this subject:

I wanted to say how great the World Challenge indoor skydiving meet held at Bodyflight Bedford was. This has become a truly international meet, and a 'must' in every National team's diary. With thirty-nine 4-way teams this year and six judges from around the globe to boot, this is as world class as you can get.

The best bit in my mind, is, it's open to everyone, so it's the perfect training ground for our up and coming teams, they get to experience the whole set up and vibe of a world class meet. You get the whole 'wow factor' of rubbing shoulders with the top international teams. Along with all that, you get to actually watch these superb competitors do their stuff right in front of your very eyes, something that you can't replicate anywhere else.

Having indoor events like this is getting more and more popular, with the French tunnel and both the Eloy and Paraclecte tunnels hosting money meets too. I think it's safe to say that tunnels are without question an integral part of training for any up and coming skydiver, you only need to look at the standard of flyers coming up through the ranks to see that tunnels have had a positive effect on our sport, particularly true for the UK.

It would be nice to know that our governing body are looking at what their members are up to and supporting and encouraging more of these indoor meets, It can only look good for the UK to have a high class international meet like this.

Tarnya Hollis
tarynahollis@hotmail.com

BOUQUET FOR COUNCIL

I have just filled out my BPA renewal form and would like to thank Council for pulling off what I thought to be impossible – a reasonable reduction in this year's membership fee. Well done to everyone involved. I look forward to a similar, if not better reduction next year. Keep up the good work.

Reece Gilmour

BOUQUET FOR CF

Since I had about ten jumps and knew Pat Hammond from Chatteris, I wanted to do Canopy Formation (aka CF and CRW). When I finally downsized to a 170 sqft canopy I knew I'd do it soon and the first bank May holiday weekend, I was finally brave enough to kit up with a Lightning 160 and do some CF. To say I was scared of being close to someone under canopy is an understatement! Seeing someone spiralling down to you while you're flying under canopy is incredibly weird and actually having a conversation with someone while flying up there is one of the strangest things I've encountered.

I did four CRW jumps at Wild Geese, some with Pat Hammond and some with Ian Marshall. One 2-way and three 3-ways. They tried to convince me to do a 4-way but I declined. For now, I need to let this touching other people's canopies business settle in for a while first (but that's just me)! On the first 3-way I did, I ended up **sitting** on someone else's canopy! I'm still having flashbacks! Scary, educational, fun and totally different is how I can describe it.

I can thoroughly recommend to anyone out there with the requirements (B licence) and able to jump the wing loading that the CF people use to go and give it a go. The CF coaches running the coaching roadshows make something that seems so scary to people who haven't done it, feel so normal. From my perspective, if you get the opportunity, go and grab some nylon with these guys – it's just got to be done!

Sarah Neale
sneale@gmail.com

BURSARIES GALORE

The Royal Aero Club Trust recently approved sixteen bursaries to assist aviators in their chosen disciplines. Of the successful applicants, seven were BPA members. Considering the large number of applicants and disciplines from which to choose, I think it is an enormous credit to the BPA that its members received seven bursaries out of sixteen.

Jim Crocker
Royal Aero Club Trust Chairman
BPA Vice-President



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Paratec's new baby, the NRG



Things About Wings

Sunrise Rigging of Florida issued a service bulletin in March calling for a small mod to be made to one of the pin flaps of its Wings harness/container system.

This followed two incidents with the same jumper where a small diameter line became caught under the mid-flap plastic stiffener, resulting in a main malfunction, with the rogue line not able to release from the container. The bulletin recommends modifying the pin protector on the main container's mid-flap.

The bulletin goes on over three pages with pictures, to explain how a rigger should remove the tip of the plastic stiffener contained in the mid flap pin protector, and then re-sew the flap.

In an addendum the bulletin goes on to explain how the company would recommend the stowing of the main canopy's lines onto the container's D-bag by separating the final length of the line set into two groups and stowing these two groups into separate stows – one on the left and one on the right of the bag, leaving approx 12-15 inches of line unstowed to the risers.

Sunrise Marketing
www.skydivewings.com

Best known in the UK for its Next container system and Speed reserve, Paratec of Germany has now released onto the market a main canopy design of which it is very proud. Named NRG (reminds me of a 4-way team for some reason?) this 9-cell, all zero-P ram-air with 770lb Vectran lines is of trapezoidal shape, meaning that only the wing tips are tapered, leaving the centre part of the canopy rectangular.

Stefan Ertler of Paratec told us that the NRG is the first of an all-new redesigned series of Paratec main canopies using state of the art 3D design and flight simulation tools. *'The new canopy is designed to meet the requirements of beginner to intermediate experience but has also the potential to be a sporty alternative in the hands of an advanced fun pilot'* said Stefan. He went on to say that *'never before were we able to integrate such a wide performance envelope successfully into one single design'*.

This has been made possible by using the most modern design and flight simulation software, with its roots in the large aircraft industry. It generates all flight performance and design data from the inflated (flying) state of the canopy based on all imaginable wing load

factors and in-flight parameters, producing realistic figures for a canopy design. *'This way'* said Stefan *'our engineers were able to determine and meet any parameters required for the selected user group(s).'*

The NRG's panels are generated from the inflated state, which results in a realistic product based on realistic parameters, claims Paratec. The company claims that its new baby has a relatively high airspeed of 49 feet per second at nominal (ideal) wing loading. Speed-wise, this would put the canopy into the next higher category for performance but, due to its impressive slow flight ability and its hard to stall nature it will not overburden the inexperienced – yet in the hands of an expert this speed will generate nice long swoops and lots of flying fun in general.

Turn characteristics are moderately sporty with the canopy not overturning or having any tendencies to twist up. The pilot always stays at the centre of gravity. From deep brakes to full flight, the NRG answers with a gentle nodding instead of a radical surge. This comes from an aerodynamically well balanced aerofoil – a helpful characteristic for jumpers who misjudge their flare altitude and have to 'try again'.

Paratec's data indicates that the canopy's rate of descent ranges around 18ft/sec at full flight, giving it a *'moderate dive arc with easy recovery'*. Stefan enthused that *'it will help the low experienced gain knowledge during a canopy skills camp and will also satisfy the ambitious canopy pilot in terms of nice dives followed by long swoops on the weekend.'* Front riser and toggle pressures are apparently moderate, and rear riser pressure is light. Its flare is powerful during the complete toggle range preparing for tiptoe landings, even in nil wind conditions.

The NRG is available in six sizes from a 'projected surface area' of 97 to 194 square feet, which equates to 108 to 215 when measured flat. Paratec is keen to point out that the 'projected surface area' in square feet equals the inflated area of the canopy in flight. It is generally smaller than the 'flat surface area'. All flight performance data refer to this projected surface area, as it is the basis for all aerodynamic calculations during the design process. This is the surface area from which all realistic wing loads are calculated.

Avian Outfitters

Cypres 2 Recall

In April Airtec, the German manufacturer of the ubiquitous Cypres AAD system issued a service bulletin, which demands the recall of certain Cypres 2 units. The units in question are from the August to December 2006 production.

The reason for the recall is that earlier this year two unwanted activations were experienced in Australia. Nobody was hurt and both units were subsequently extensively examined by Airtec, who discovered that a defective sensor had caused the activation in both cases. As both of these units had passed the [more than 14 day] manufacturing testing process without any noticeable problems, Airtec had to assume that it is possible that there are more units of this production batch in the field with a similar sensor defect. As a precaution, the company has therefore decided to recall all potentially affected Cypres 2s for a preventive sensor replacement.

The bulletin asks Cypres 2 owners to compare the serial number of their Cypres 2 with a list, which can be found at www.Cypres-2.com. It is not necessary to open the reserve container, as it's easy to check the Cypres 2 serial number on the display. (See Cypres 2 User Guide.)

If your unit is affected, the company asks you to forward it to Airtec in Germany, or to SSK Industries in the USA. It assures us that all necessary work will be done as quickly as possible and free of charge, including return shipment.

As compensation Airtec will include a payment to the sum of \$70 US for each affected unit upon its return. Treated units will wear a sticker and have a certification. The company apologises for the inconvenience but feels that it's necessary to ensure its high safety standards.

Compliance date: effective immediately, before the next jump.

www.Cypres-2.com
www.cypres.cc



The Skyflyer 8, built for speed & distance



Those innovative Finnish avian outfitters at Birdman Inc were proud to introduce in March this year what they are calling their FlightGEAR Collection 2008. The collection includes seven different wingsuits and one tracking suit.

There are four previously existing but updated Birdman models for 2008 and three completely new wingsuits. They tell us they have dropped two previous wingsuits from their line-up, namely the old GTi and the Skyflyer 3. There are now three completely new wingsuits – called the Skyflyer 8, Skyflyer 8-R and Tengu. (In Japanese folklore the Tengu [ten-guh] is a supernatural creature with both human and avian characteristics.)

These are not aimed to replace any of the existing suits but are merely meant as an addition for wingsuiters who are specialising in speed and distance (the S-8 series) and flocking (the Tengu). They went on to say that all their suits are now built from a thicker parapak as default but customers can still choose a thinner ripstop polyamide if they prefer.

All seven suits have different wing sizes and configurations – from the very small removable wings on the impact hybrid tracking/wingsuit to the massive full, bi-convex ribbed wings of the Skyflyer 8, Blade and Tengu models. Birdman's so called 'bi-convex' wing design adopts the same principle to that used by Parachutes de France for its Techno series of reserves, where the top and bottom skins of the wing are sewn together for the trailing part of its chord (front to back). This creates more lift due to the convex teardrop shape thus created.

Birdman has printed a chart for jumpers to be able to access their experience level and choose the correct suit for themselves. The prices of the company's wingsuits range from 399€ to 1,200€.

Not content with seven wingsuit designs Birdman also intends to launch what it's designers are calling their StreetGEAR Collection 2008. They tell us they've set their sights on the fashion business so that they will have no peers in the skydiving industry (fighting talk – we'll see!). For this project they intend to introduce the first jeans and apparel collection especially for skydivers and other adventure sports people.

www.birdman.com



The Tengu, built for flocking



A Scarlet Starlet

A company by the name of Red Digital Cinema, established by Jim Jannard, the founder of the Oakley sunglasses company, will soon be releasing what a lot of skydivers with their fingers on the pulse are predicting will be the best camera for skydiving that has ever been built.



The Scarlet

Planned for an early 2009 release the company's new Scarlet shoots at 3K resolutions! In the past only film cameras used for motion pictures could shoot at resolutions higher than 1080, which is why most Cinema movies are still being shot on film. RED Digital on the other hand has built the Red One which shoots 4K and the Epic which shoots 5K!

The Scarlet is unique because it is very small – as tiny in fact as the side-mount cameras we use today, and it shoots to solid state cards with no moving parts. This means that there is no tape flutter when skydiving and it is much quicker offloading the footage with no ingesting necessary. More importantly it shoots up to 120 frames per second, which makes for breathtaking slow motion footage with no frame blending or artefacts. Motion picture cameras run at 24fps, NTSC runs at 30fps and PAL at 25fps. The Scarlet can shoot almost all frame rates between 5-120 giving the operator complete control over the image.

Check out: www.red.com



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Official government fuel consumption figures (MPG/Litres Per 100km) for the CLC-Class Range: Urban 36.7-19.9/7.7-14.2, Extra Urban 60.1-37.2/4.2-7.6, Combined 48.7-28.2/5.8-10.0, CO₂ 152-239. Model featured is a Mercedes-Benz CLC 180 K Sport at £21,020 on the road (including VAT, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, number plates, first registration fee and a full tank of fuel).



Carl Williams, CCI and DZO of the only drop zone in Wales, Skydive Swansea, talks to Lesley Gale...

How long have you been the DZO?

I opened Skydive Swansea in mid July 2007.

How did you step up from CCI to DZ Operator?

I think you're referring to my acting as CCI for Swansea Skydiving Ltd, a business that closed down in May 07. I believed I could carry on by myself and opened up under the new name [Skydive Swansea] as both the DZO and CCI. With fantastic support from my wife Sara, the BPA, Swansea Airport and Pete Marsden for an aircraft plus some well-placed instructors who live locally, I managed it! Being Welsh myself, I'm extremely proud of the DZ's location!

So it's completely new management?

Completely... just me, which is the way I prefer! Over the years I've generally worked for others and the chance to go it alone was to good an opportunity to miss. We have seven full time staff each weekend and about four visiting tandem instructors that I call upon when busy.

How is the scenery?

The views are totally amazing!! Any DZ close to a coastline is nice. Swansea drop zone is located on a large peninsular so there's sea on three sides, it is just stunning!

What aircraft do you operate?

We now have an Airvan based at Swansea Airport full time. It takes eight skydivers and averages 24 minutes to running in. The time passes quickly though taking in the views!

Has the Airvan changed the DZ?

Obviously it's slower than the Turbolets that were based at Swansea with the old company but, to be honest, it's perfect for me at this point in time. The lift capacity is ideal to get loads full and airborne. We have recently started offering a maximum of six per load to 12,000 feet in amongst the tandem loads, which has been well received and very popular, as the climb rate is faster.

Having the Airvan positioned here full time is far better. Last year we only opened on Sundays and had the extra cost of aircraft ferry fees every weekend. I had to be very careful and the weather would sometimes dictate if we would open or not. In 2008 we intend to open every weekend regardless of the Friday met.

Are your jump prices competitive?

Maybe we are a tad pricey at £20 to 10k or £24 to 12k in comparison to what other DZs can offer but the price of Avgas is on the way up at an alarming rate. Skydivers from Wales have to weigh up the cost of travelling against a few extra pounds per jump ticket. People are starting to support the centre more and more as, in the long run, it's a less expensive weekend to jump locally than travel.

What should visitors bear in mind?

Anyone is welcome, we love to see visitors! But please note that the DZ is cleared for AFF but not RAPS. There are two Parachute Landing Areas (PLAs) at Swansea Airport due to it having two main runways. Either PLA can be used, depending on the runway in use at the time according to wind direction, in order to not conflict with other aircraft in the active circuit. One PLA (the larger of the two) is for any category of jumper. The other has a 200 jump limit due to the proximity of taxiing aircraft/helicopters plus the PLA is smaller. It's a good idea to ring the DZ to check on the weather but being so close to the coast changes always happen as the day goes on.

Do you have any events planned?

Yes. The drop zone is one year old on 26 July, so we're having a birthday party! A full Welsh breakfast will be on the house, a free barbecue after jumping followed by... well that'll be a surprise for those who are there!

How are relationships with the locals?

Very good, there is so much going on in the area and I've started to link with other businesses via the website such as B&Bs, hotels, surfing schools, etc. Local charities such as the RNLI and the Welsh Air Ambulance have benefited via sponsored tandems, which has gone down very well with the local community. There is always more to do though and I'm very keen to help Welsh charities via tandem jumping, which in turn leads to people wanting to do AFF.

How many do AFF?

We're running midweek AFF courses once a month for four people. We're full two months ahead so I'm pleased with the interest.

Do you have many regulars or is it mostly tandem?

Regulars are small in number at the moment but are growing every month. No DZ especially a new one could survive without the revenue tandems generate but I'm keen Swansea doesn't become known as just a tandem DZ. We have a limit on the number of tandems that can be booked in each day, this then frees up flying time for our regular jumpers. Arranging lifts to 12,000 feet seems to be giving our skydivers what they want.





Swansea's stunning scenery by Nick Anthony

What are your aims for Swansea DZ?

I want to make Swansea a great place to visit and jump at, it has a small but friendly vibe at the moment which seems infectious and is encouraging people to come back. We all instil nothing more than any other DZ which is to have a great time but be safe!

Is there anything more the BPA and/or The Mag could do?

No, I'm very happy with the support the BPA has given in helping getting established and am grateful to the Mag for this article.

Are there good local attractions?

Swansea is close to having it all, I'd sum up the place by saying it's the equivalent of Blackpool in Wales! There is so much to do it would take another page to list! Wine Street, in the middle of Swansea (ten minutes from the DZ), on a Saturday is one of the best nightspots in UK – it has to be seen to be believed!

What are your plans for the future?

For now I'm very happy with what we have... but watch this space!





Home or away - we'll get you up there!

2008 Diary of Events

More events to be added please keep checking the website

May 30-Jun 1	Safeflight School Canopy Course with Jim Harris	Aug 23-25	British Nationals 4-way FS and new VFS event
Jun 14-15	Formation loads organised by Simon Cathrine	Aug 30-Sep 1	British National 8-Way FS, Artistic and Speed
Jun 21-22	Team Fusion FS coaching weekend	Sep 6-7	50-Way Challenge
Jun 21-22	POPS Meet		organised by Simon Cathrine
Jul 5-6	Canopy Formation Grand Prix		36-way intermediate organised by Skydive Choreography
Jul 5-6	UKSL 8 way		CF Nationals
Jul 12-13	28-Way Competition	Sep 27-28	8-Way Speed Nationals
Aug 1-3	Safeflight School Canopy Course	Sep 27-28	

Photo: John Williamson



50 way and now also 36 way formation organising

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Photo: Andy Ford



Photo: Andy Lovemore



Photo: Dave Livesey

www.skydivespain.com

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CLUB News



Mark 'Chainsaw' McGarvey
by Mike Murphy

Wild Geese

During March, 16 Geese and friends headed for the sun of Portugal for our annual overseas trip: ten days of partying, sun and a bit of skydiving. Everything was done to excess and a bit more at the Algarve Spring Boogie. On the partying side it was non-stop from dusk to dawn with some not returning to their accommodation until the next day, mainly as Mark 'The Chainsaw' McGarvey was wreaking havoc on the accommodation. Even the Germans gave up and moved 4 blocks away. As Saint Patrick's Day fell into the trip, we did the old man proud.

One of our hard core students Mark came out to do AFF, passing with flying colours, well done mate. With freeflying, FS, wingsuit and beach jumps everyone had a blast.

Even John McCourt couldn't keep away. John had been off skydiving due to an illness and was in hospital for tests. So he missed the departing Geese but, with regular texts and emails back to ward 24, John made a speedy exit and arrived out on the Friday! ... just in time to buy the round of drinks that he missed on last St Patrick's Day!

I applaud the staff of Skydive Algarve for their warmth, organisation and welcome – especially Norbert, Evelyn, Tobi and Mikey. This is how all drop zones should be run, nothing was too much trouble. Being very laid-back but putting safety first is a winning combination. If you haven't been you're missing out. We've already booked for next year!

Congratulations to Jade McAllister, Colin Stephenson & Rod McCrory for their first wingsuit jumps. I've been Club Rep for 2 years now so it's time to give someone else a go. Thanks everyone for putting up with my ramblings and good luck to the next rep.

Mike Murphy



7-way over Algarve
by Mike Murphy



Mike Murphy by Tobi

Achievements

First Freefall
James Beattie
Gemma Cummings
Chris Aloram
Cat 8
Mark McAllister
FS1
Stephen Carroll
Fi McCloskey
CH2
Andy McCorkhill

Netheravon

Rob Campbell's recent exped to Perris has certainly swelled the achievements list – congrats to all. Well done to KT for his first jump after a long layoff. He wisely chose to do a static line lob and landed in the pit. KT celebrated in his own inimitable style and he looked most fetching, once again, in women's clothing... Well it wouldn't be Nethers without a party and, with the Rocky Horror theme, there was plenty to be scared of – Chas, Ben and Dave! Just for a change the girls beat the boys hands-down when it came to showing off their underwear, and even Speedo Man made an appearance albeit disguised by a very interesting wig.

Congrats to Liz and Andy Goodall on the arrival of daughter Milly – seen at the DZ at the tender age of two weeks – how cool is that! Newly qualified tandem instructor Thea is keeping everyone entertained by skipping to the aircraft fully kitted up and telling the punters bad jokes – let's face it, she doesn't know any good ones!

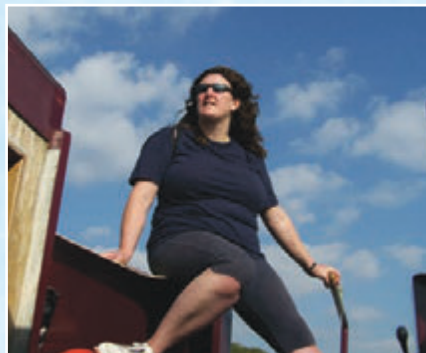
We're hopeful it will be a fantastic summer. As well as several Skyvan weekends, we're holding the **Solstice Boogie, Fri 20-Sun 22 June** and so far have a helicopter, a Skyvan and the AN2 booked. Keep an eye on our temporary website www.nethers.info

Kath Salisbury

Sooty & Smudge by Mick Tyler



Caravan formation load by Brian Knight



Surprise photo of Kath by Rick Boardman

Nethers Achievements

- First Freefall**
Sarah Churchill
Lucinda 'Margot' Blake
- Cat 8**
Michael Fraser
Chris Goddard
Francis Reardon
- FS1**
James White
James Allen
- FF1**
Max Mcleod
Dave Gill
Alex Burnet
Jess French
Lizzy Nicol
- CP1**
Max Mcleod
Marcus Speed

Jump Numbers

- 50**
Michael Fraser
- 100**
Jay Hunston
Ben Woolen
Tom Owen
Dave Gill
- 200**
Vince Blandford
Paul Winterborne
Jess French
- 400**
Tom Grady
Max Mcleod
Kim Mason
Charlotte Kemp
Mark Crinnion
- 700**
Marcus Speed
- 2000**
Andy Myers
Rob Campbell

Swansea

Now we are open all weekend! As the Airvan is now based here in Swansea with more spaces for experienced jumpers we've been busier. Paul achieved his A licence, Mike his FS1 and Adam his B licence and his first jump in Oz! Angus has got 100 jumps under his belt and Paul Sheehan has 400. CCI Carl has hit 7,900 so only a hundred to go for the big 8 – not to mention cracking his 2,000th tandem!

Photo: Tom Ramsden-Hare



We'll be having a DZ first year **birthday party, Sat 26 July** There will be a complimentary full Welsh breakfast before the day's jumping for club members and barbecue/beer in the evening.

Well done to Simon Larcombe for passing his tandem instructor course. Good Luck to H, retiring after 22 years in the Army (means we'll see more of him now!) and congratulations to Kat and Stu on their engagement (the DZ's first wedding... sorry Stu that's beer mate!).

The Airvan will go to 12,000 feet with 6 club jumpers, or 11k with 7-8. There are usually spaces on the tandem loads to 10k too. Looking forward to a cracking season... happy days!

Tom Ramsden-Hare



WWW.PERFORMANCEDESIGNS.COM
PHOTO BY: MICAH COUCH

THE CALM BEFORE THE

STORM



Phil Symons' first jump at Perranporth

Cornish



Phil taking up a dangerous sport

We welcome back Paul Floyd Jr to help Paul Yeoman during Dave and Ben's Everest recce in May, and club members should be able to get some much needed freely coaching. We're looking forward to seeing Shane and Ralph, to help us with our busy schedule of tandems.

Mark Finch completed his five marathons in six days in the Sahara desert, with temperatures reaching 55°C! Well done Mark and welcome back to -12°C at 10,000 feet!

It's nice to see Phil Symons jumping at Perranporth with his B certificate. During a recent blustery spell he joined some other nutters for some 'blow carting' on the airfield, a very windy experience.

We have some spectacular beach demos booked and a number of beach jumps at low tide – call for more details. The AFF school



Jan Thomas
Cornish photos by Ben Wood

continues to flourish with a number of new students in the system, all jumping at Land's End. AFF student Dave Lock, an ex British Power boat champion, said "Nothing compares to that AFF level one", welcome on board Dave!

We have an **Airvan** booked for **27-29 June**, check with the club regarding other aircraft for this year. We're hoping to skydive on Friday 27 June and finish with an evening beach jump (tide level to be checked), then our favourite beach bar, the Watering Hole.

Chris Wood

RAPA

The *Tigers* and *Golden Lions* have been here for 4 weeks of pre-season training. Everyone at RAPA wishes them all the best for the display season.

Team *Heat* visited our swoop pond for some CP practice and to help the BPA judges training seminar in April. The judges were here for three days to practise their shopping, sorry, judging skills prior to the Nationals. I don't think they were too impressed with the weather though, standing in the cold for hours watching the swoopers, that's judging for you! Martin 'Dangerpants' Reynolds also popped along and kept everyone entertained with his more than interesting landings – not bad for an unassuming optician!

For bad weather days we've now received twenty all-singing all-dancing mountain bikes which the staff are raring to be let loose on. Mark Tether, Dave Newton and Geordie have already been out to recce routes, getting well bogged down in the mud.



Paul Moore and Kate Charters brave the cold by Dave Newton



The Flying Tigers and Golden Lions by Kev Doust

All staff are busy preparing for the **UK Classics and CP Nationals, 10-13 July**, with training scheduled for 5-9 July. The infamous **RAPA Championships** follow, **14-19 July** culminating in the fancy dress party.

Well done to Iain Anderson for passing his Advanced Instructor course (break a leg!), and a big welcome to the new members of staff including Mark 'Hobbit' Scobie who is missing all his friends in the *Red Freds*, bless!

Dave Newton

Achievements

Cat 8
Geordie Batey
FF1
Mark Tether
200 jumps
Gaz Marshall
1,500 Jumps
Dave Newton



Skydive Airkix

Achievements

FS1

Jon Dundee

Jon Dundee's FS1 dive with Tarnya Hollis, by Sarah Hall



Photo: Sarah Hall

Yoko & Axel (right) are coaching at Skydive Airkix, pictured sharing a beer with Zolo, Dave Geffin and Will Blackie

Lots of exciting things are happening at Sibson! The new building is now in progress so will be ready for the summer – parties galore! There will be a huge bar and restaurant area serving drinks and snacks throughout the day and evening meals later on.

A big welcome to world champions Yoko and Axel who are making Sibson their home and will be available for freefly and freestyle coaching. We also welcome Tarnya and Chris Hollis, available for FS coaching (tunnel and sky) for individuals or teams of all levels. It obviously works, congratulations to Jon Dundee who got

his FS1 after only 27 jumps and some tunnel training with Tarn, nice one Jon!

A final welcome to Top Gun, the Birdman wingsuit team. The UK members have based themselves at Sibson for one-on-one coaching and load organising. Get in touch (info@skydiveairkix.com) for any coaching information or via our brand new website, www.skydiveairkix.com

Skydive Airkix and Airkix Milton Keynes have joined forces to invent a new FS comp called Airmix, a unique combination of rounds in the tunnel and the sky, for 3-person teams. Check



The Insta-bar arrives at Sibson by Sarah Hall

the Skydiver Zone on our website for info.

Dave Lewis has organised a **12-way competition, 19-20 July**. He had good feedback and great results from playing with 12-way formations last year.

To add to our Turbolet is the sparkling new Airvan, which will be shared with Tilstock. It will primarily be used for midweek jumping and RAPS. Club membership is available for £25 which allows you to buy our fantastic priced tickets at £15, covers you for Tilstock membership and is a must for our members-only bar in the evenings. For an extra £75 you can even get 10 minutes in the tunnel – bargain! You'll also receive special offers for Skydive Airkix and Airkix Milton Keynes.

Special congrats to new cameraman Bruce Boxall-Hunt who is now a Guinness world record holder, as one of the highest number of people chained together running a marathon. 24 runners were linked, raising money for Clic Sergeant, a children's cancer charity, nice one!

Sarah Hall

Achievements

JM1

Thomas Parry

50 Jumps

K Wojciechowski

100 Jumps

Dave Lewis

Gill Lewis

400

Chas McNeil

500 Jumps

George Clack

600 jumps

D Lamsley

Sth Cerney

It's happening at South Cerney! Most importantly we've got access back to the large hangar, so indoor packing adjoining the classrooms is back! We've also moved the clubhouse and the AFF school into the hangar so it is definitely a hive of activity, and once again we have great views from the patio onto the DZ – great for spectators and barbecues.

We've started operating midweek and, fingers crossed, by the time this goes to print, the aircraft should be permanently based at Cerney. Congratulations to those who've achieved milestone jump numbers. It's great to see Dave and Gill Lewis beating some of the more experienced guys in the spot accuracy comps!

The centre staff ran an exercise out to California for 3 weeks, training 30 students. We hope to see them all at South Cerney soon!



Cowboy

Staff and regulars by George 'Backtracker' Clack

Black Knights



Photo: Mark Walton

Achievements

First Freefall
Alex Jollands
Jamie Endres
Cat 8
Mark Bradley
200 Jumps
Jon Bradley

After months of hanging around the DZ learning to pack and longing to jump, Holly Bee has at last completed AFF and is just waiting to finish off her consols along with her dad Keith. Well done both!

The office has seen a bit of a revamp with a new indestructible (or we hope it is) desk to keep customers at bay, Alison and Sue look super efficient!

First freefaller Alex Jollands had no choice about breaking the ice in the trough, whilst fellow achiever Jamie Endres saw his chance and made a run for it – but for how long?!

Video footage has been doing the rounds of Dunc in a very interesting groin-to-face dock –

triple points for that, I'm sure it will catch on! (Dean has been sighted doing some similar stunts.) The DZ has quite a few regular birdmen now and the early April blue skies were a perfect opportunity to go flocking.

Brian Vacher has been confirmed a **Safe Flight School** course for **18-21 August** – £50 deposit required to secure your place, just ring the DZ. The **Artistics Roadshow** is on **19-20 July**.

Remember that the DZ is now open full time and with the new load organiser programme on the website you can plan jumping days and see who else will be at the DZ at the same time!

Sam Davis

Cliff Lloyd

Cliff Lloyd, who had a special place in everyone's hearts after being such a big part of the DZ and the jumping community for over 40 years in the sport, was sadly taken away. Throughout his jumping career Cliff has jumped and competed in teams (*The Ravens* and the *Black Knights*) at many demos and always proved a very popular character amongst both newbies and oldies. He was an inspiration to all. Cliff was always the last man standing at a party, game for a laugh and usually dressed as a woman – with a pair of legs like that who can blame him?! Smiling as always right to the end, with Queen's *Another one Bites the Dust* playing at his funeral. Blue skies always Cliff, you'll be forever remembered by everyone with a smile.



Cliff by Chaos



Cliff joking as usual by Matt Walmsley

Mark, Dunc, Ian & VD ready to flock by Mark Walton





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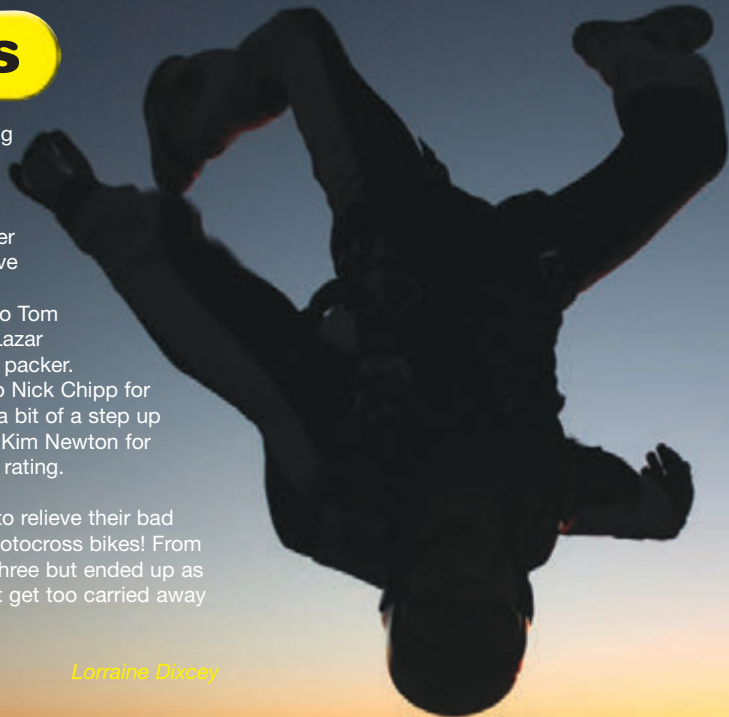
It's already proving a year of big change which will hopefully be a big success. Preparations for the busy season are under way, our other Nomad is returning and we have even more full time staff. A big welcome to the camera team to Tom Pantall and welcome back to Lazar Dimitrov, our seasonal Serbian packer. Congratulations and farewell to Nick Chipp for his new job as an airline pilot, a bit of a step up from the Nomad. Well done to Kim Newton for achieving her Rigger Examiner rating.

Half of the staff have decided to relieve their bad weather boredom by buying motocross bikes! From what started as one between three but ended up as one each, let's hope they don't get too carried away and end up in plaster casts.

Lorraine Dixcey

Achievements

- 300 Jumps**
Nick Chipp
- 500 Jumps**
Tom Pantall
- 3,500 Jumps**
Lloyd Quenby



Snow person by Lorraine Dixcey

Simon Chipp by Lorraine Dixcey

Hib

At Easter Stu Ferguson brought an unusual surprise that resembled an off-colour egg from the film Aliens. We were told it was in fact a pinata, laden with Easter goodies. DJ Del accompanied by Stu laid on impressive evening

entertainment, involving the use of a foam bat. Contestants were blindfolded, turned on the spot, then allowed to swing away at the previously mentioned alien egg.

Easter Sunday held a nice surprise for all, snowfall! Three whole inches! Snowmen, snowwomen and snowball fights took up most of the morning, along with blocking anyone left in their caravans by piling mounds of snow against their doors. Well done to Ryan May for persevering throughout the cold to gain his A licence.

The *Fusion* coaching weekend was well received, with Lynne Murray, Henry Chow, and Simon Cathrine coaching, plus Alan Thompson and Laura McLelland on video. Each took a group and went through walking, creeping and jumping, both for serious teams like *Equilibrium*, and fun jumpers. When the weather eventually stopped us jumping, *Fusion* took to teaching on the ground, giving out useful tips. Many thanks to *Fusion* – their next **FS coaching weekend is 21-22 June**.

Skydive Choreography, hosted by Caroline Hughes, paid visits including an invitational 14-way random challenge event. Our calendar includes **CRW for beginners**, **BPA Freefly Coaching Roadshows**, **Speed**, contact the DZ for details. Finally, there's a nasty rumour going around that a thin person who looks a lot like one of engineers has been located, any sightings are to be reported to Weightwatchers.

Mike Colthart



Chris 'Chocks Away' by Noel Purcell

Team Flux by Blair Stent



Lynne Murray and Phil James fusing by Noel Purcell



Achievements

- First Freefall**
Rachael Eyton
Matt Evans
Souk Chen Lee
Simon Spindley
- JM1**
Matt Brown
- 200 Jumps**
Lee Armstrong
- 300 Jumps**
Ant Hill
Chris Brook
Ben Cornick
- 800 Jumps**
Blair Stent
- 1,500 Jumps**
Dave Butterell

Snow man and woman by Blair Stent



Headcorn



Lucy Smith-Wildey by Alex Turner

Demo practice has been the usual carnage as experienced and non-experienced demo jumpers have been attempting to land in the small field. Dennis and Del have made quick recoveries. No-one has yet to qualify including Jane and Pete (who we nearly lost on one occasion!).

Midweek activity has significantly increased and we're now jumping 7 days a week! The wind tunnel is operating on weekday evenings and all day on the weekend. It is proving very valuable for AFF students and great fun for punters and their children as well. It is also being used for backflying and camera suit practice.

Gill Finch broke her leg in the States after a very unlucky landing. She got a helicopter ride out of it and is now recovering at home – we wish her all the best for a speedy recovery. It's big congrats to Lucy Smith-Wildey who successfully applied for a Royal Aero Club Trust bursary for young skydivers towards the cost of getting her FF1. Lucy is one of our youngest and has already achieved a huge amount – this is just another step in what we are sure will be a long, successful, happy and safe skydiving career.

Ruth Cooper & Alex Turner



Dave Hartley takes his first paying customer, by Alex Turner

Achievements

JM1, CH2

Helen Bishop
Alan Smith-Wildey

FF2

Bob Fish

50 Jumps

Helen Bishop

100 Jumps

Lucy Smith-Wildey

600 Jumps

Michelle Garwood

1,000 Jumps & CP2

Richard Parkin

Flynn Hughes,
2 years old by
Paul Higham



Wiggy by
Simon Hughes

Cark

George & Steve by Myles Ziebart

10 eager candidates arrived for Kieron's 2-day Safe Flight School canopy course – to low cloud and drizzle. With breaks for tea and lunch sadly only a couple of jumpers returned on Monday to make the best of a bad Easter. All participants said it was very worthwhile and looked forward to putting their new-found skills into use. More canopy courses will be run later this year, watch the website.

Katie, Miles and Tall Nick had their work cut out at their largest fundraising event yet for the university charity skydive appeal. Saturday dawned with sunny blue skies and we kept Chris busy at the helm of the SMG. Sunday saw all of the RAPS students completing their first and second descents. Big up to the student committee members; George for despatching all 7 lifts of RAPS students; Pete Dick and Dennis for talk-down and of course our ever-assisting packing team.

With repair work to Alpha Yankee progressing very well, watch out for her homecoming party – take advantage of the free beer supplied by Stu & Mike!

Sonic V, British National and European Champions in Single A are offering to provide

free FS coaching and WARP progression at slot costs. This is an opportunity to develop your flying skills through some of the most current FS jumpers in the UK. Dates are on our website, let us know if you would like to take up this brilliant offer!

Freefall Phil, the latest convert to AFF, has not had much luck on the weather front since his course but his continued daily blog update is a marvellous read and has kept many of the regulars entertained with his relentless enthusiasm for the sport, our staff and the centre. Your effort has not gone unnoticed and 'bring on the weather'!

FS teams are planning for the forthcoming **FS Grand Prix, 28-29 June**. *Equilibrium* spent a weekend training with us, *Cark's Commandos* are

making great progress and *Dance, Drink, and Funnel* are making the most of *Sonic V's* offer.

Forthcoming events:
Cark Week, 14-22 June,
BCPA Nationals in July
and our infamous
Sky Fest, 2-10 August.

Stu Morris

Achievements

100 Jumps

Sarah Garrett

Katie Hayes

200 Jumps

John Bradley



University charity skydive appeal by Steve Watkin



Charity pyramid by Steve Watkin

Achievements

CH2 & JM1

James Howland

FF1

Lou Finch

FF2

Justin Roberts

1 Hour Freefall

James Howland

50 Jumps

Paul Gardner

100 Jumps

Stefan Cocksedge

Rob Fone

200 Jumps

Tom Harding

300 Jumps

Jamie Garton

Dunkeswell



Vicars n tarts party by Guy Wells

Competition was fierce at our 'Tarts & Vicars' Easter party, resembling a fusion of Father Ted and Moulin Rouge! Our big-way FS skills weekend was a big success despite bad weather. Seminars held by Pete Stone were very well received and we even managed a few jumps in a brief weather window!

April saw helicopter jumps at Dunkeswell, the weather gods were smiling almost as much as the jumpers. The experience was definitely one to remember, not least for Rob Fone who, after completing his AFF at Dunkeswell not too long ago, did his 100th jump from the helicopter! Nice timing Rob! The chopper is based at Dunkeswell permanently, call for future dates!

We warmly welcomed the Safe Flight School as Brian Vacher brought the nil winds and blue skies of Spain with him, the two weeks were awesome! Everyone gained much confidence and had a great time becoming canopy pilots. Speaking of which, the swoop pond, although delayed due to planning conditions, is on schedule for midsummer and Brian Vacher's input is ensuring that it will be another tremendous addition to The Well's armoury of attractions.

In April the first BBQ of the season celebrated the King Air's first anniversary at Dunkeswell, in glorious blue skies. Long live the king! We were pleased to host Mike Carpenter and Adam Mattacola for our Freefly Festival over May bank holiday. Our already big community of freeflyers is growing incredibly rapidly and it's great to see so many jumpers progressing so quickly!

Pat Hammond is running **CF weekends, 6-8 June and 11-13 July** – just a taster of exciting things to come! On **10-12 October the BPA CF**

Roadshow offers free coaching. **Night jumps** and **night CF** are planned for Friday and Saturday.

Our **Twin Beech Boogie, on 23-27 July** is set to rock! For a full five days we have the two fastest-climbing aircraft in Europe, our Beech 90 King Air, permanently based at Dunkeswell and Jan's Go Vertical Beech 99. There will be formation loads, helicopter jumps and an Antonov for the novelty factor.

Tim Porter and Chris Lynch are organising a UK head-down record during the boogie. Training will be held on 23-25 July, contact the office to get involved. Dave Morris and others will be organising large formation skydives. From FS1 to super experienced, we have the coaches available to help you succeed.

DJ Richie, no further introduction necessary, is confirmed for the Twin Beech Beach Party on Saturday evening. To really get you into the 'beach' theme we are erecting a tented village, just turn up with your rig and sleeping bag, the rest is done for you! You can bring your own tent and there's free camping. Boogie registration is £15, includes beach party, top class coaching and a T-shirt. Call the office to register.

Lou Finch



Photo by Olly Denham



Rob Fone's 100th jump by Jamie Dunbar



Jez's face of concern when on the front of Stu, photo by Dylan Griffith-Jones

Swindon

more than happy to tell everyone, more than once. Brucie has done more jumps this year than the previous two combined, exceeding the 2,000 barrier. His threatened celebratory naked zero-G jump had to be cancelled due to more customers turning up so a 5-way was agreed. The plan was to include Luke and Rob in the formation but apparently they had other ideas!

Anne Lewis has finally gained her B licence and has been

Jez was more than happy to go on the front of Stu Albon before his tandem course but was upset when he couldn't track very far with the drogue up! Stretch finally owned up to being a computer geek but we forgave him after he fixed and speeded up everyone's computers, nice one mate.

Dylan Griffith-Jones

Achievements

2,000 jumps

Brucie

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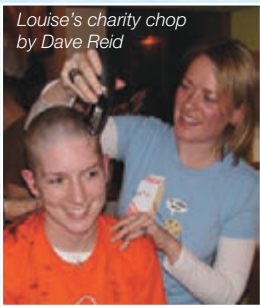
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Weston

World Champ Amanda Kemp has a great pool of coaches at the FS school. Teams are coming here en masse to jump the G92 and, with world class coaching, we may beat our record of 14 teams at the Nationals this year. Tunnel coaching is helping all levels, just give Amanda a shout on airkix_amanda@yahoo.co.uk.

Well done to Aidan and Geirdre on their FS1 dives. Done on the same day with Martin Soulsby, Darren Birkin and Phil Hartree there was true competition with this couple. Geirdre came out on top with a great 16 points whereas Aidan did 12. His excuse "I'm heavier than she is so had less time" ...priceless!

We have a new 8-way team to give *Blizzard* a run for their money (walk!). Moose has come out of retirement to join us. Originally called *Zimmers* but now renamed *Infuri8* (some of the team weren't happy) we're determined to succeed where *VNE* left off... at the bar! If you're a serious team don't get on the plane with us, we fart, talk loads and take ages to leave! It's our age y'know!



Louise's charity chop by Dave Reid

Louise Hughes has left us for a year to go travelling but not before she raised over £2,000 for Helen and Douglas House... by getting her

lovely long locks chopped off! At The Swan, attended by a huge turnout she sat quite happy as top donators Andy Ford and the Bradley twins, Victoria and Rebecca, started to snip! Louise's poor parents couldn't watch and left, so missed the champagne we bought her.



Tim Sheppard & Malc Knox by Mark Stone

Well done Louise. You can donate at justgiving.com/louisehughes-animals justgiving.com/louisehughes-children

We had a great 80s Easter party – funny how everyone found stuff to wear in their wardrobes! Scotty won the best prize for his Freddie Mercury outfit, it was spooky how good he looked. I think the ozone layer fell apart that night with the amount of hairspray used!

Congratulations to Amy and Dave on the birth of baby girl Phoenix. Weston is fast becoming a crèche – we hope the weather improves soon before any more babies appear!

We're now open every Friday from noon right through till Sunday evening. See our website for info on briefs or packing lessons.

Our **Scrambles is 14 June, Tracking Weekend 12 July and POPs 19 July**. We have the **Skyvan on 28-29 June** and then **every weekend 12-28 July**. We're **open all week, 21-25 July**, with the Skyvan here. I'm learning to fly this beast so make sure you fasten your seat belts and are ready for anything!

Don't forget the **UKS Boogie, Friday 25 to Sunday 27 July**. We have the Skyvan, Dornier and Jet Ranger helicopter, a band, DJ, hog roast, barbecue and bouncy stuff planned. Plus world class coaches, cheaper jump tickets, two free loads, prizes galore... it's going to be mega! You must register for the boogie to jump, just visit www.ukskydiver.co.uk

Ash Kemp



Eighties party by Amanda Kemp

Achievements FS1

Aidan & Geirdre
50 jumps
 Georgie Roles
 Georgie2
200 Jumps
 Doug Macilwraith
300 Jumps
 Laura Battarbee
400 Jumps
 Kate Morris
 Graham Wilkins
500 jumps
 Jenny Bouquet
600 Jumps
 Richard Head
700 Jumps
 Mark Stone
1,000 Jumps
 John Avis
1,900 jumps
 Phil Hartree

Old Buck

Grant is now jetting off to the

States to

do his Caravan conversion course and fly our new plane back! That means that, as you read this, our newly sprayed and jump-ready Caravan is operational and very busy packing in the lifts. It's going to be much quicker than our last plane, so come along and jump with us, we always like to see old faces and new visitors.



Old Buck's shiny new Caravan, by Grant Richards

If you haven't had a look at our new website www.ukparachuting.co.uk then what are you waiting for? There are some very flattering staff photos and write-ups to entertain you and the opportunity to sign up for our online newsletter. For fans of Facebook we have our own page [facebook.com/pages/UK-Parachuting/11100341458](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UK-Parachuting/11100341458) with the latest news, gossip and photos. Take a look and sign up as a fan.

We're sprucing up for summer, Veronica has been giving the manifest hut the once-over with a paintbrush. We just need to clean up behind her and remove the painted outlines of skydivers from the path. It looks a bit like a crime scene at the mo!

We're holding our first **Progression Week** of the year, **9-15 June**, just time to get your name down if you're quick! We'll have a wide range of coaching for all, including FS skills, with the chance to be on the

next UK Para record! Tim Porter will be around imparting freely skills. We have CP coaching from our very own Stu Murtha, fresh from his silver medal success at the Perris Valley swooping competition. More weeks are coming up, see website and Facebook.

Finally an apology to Gavin for giving his photo credit to Aaron in the last issue. He risked life and limb in the path of a swooping Stu and didn't get a mention!

Vikki Forrest

Tim Porter – here for Progression Week



Achievements Cat 8

James Langdale
400 Jumps
 Damien Hewitt

Hinton

Achievements

FS1

Martyn Gray
Lee Petherick
Grayson Buckley

FF1

Adam Dean

JM1, CH2, 1 hr freefall

Martyn Gray

96 hours freefall

Geoff Wood

Jump Numbers

50

Martyn Gray
Lee Petherick

200

Richard Lumb

400

Pip Hollingworth

1,200

Matt Abram

1,800

Bob Miller



Photo: Matt Abram

The FS coaching weekend over Easter organised by Sandi and Kris was very quiet due to the weather. Well done to Brian Chaffin who stuck out the bad weather all 3 days for one coached jump. Thank you to coach Mickey Barron for making the effort to come, in spite of the forecast.

The Scrambles competition in April saw ten teams, who sadly didn't get to jump. Big thanks to Mike Browne for organising a clay pigeon shoot on the Saturday afternoon, it gave a lot of us the chance to do something we wouldn't normally do. Well done to Lucy Maycock who managed the double shot at the end, much to Mike's disappointment as he had to part with a high altitude ticket – we think that was a bet he wished he hadn't made! Thanks also to Geoff and Mike for the great party on Saturday – although our heads the next morning wouldn't thank them! The **Scrambles** are rescheduled for **14-15 June**. Come on down.

Well done to Martin Gray who has his B licence, FS1 and over 70 jumps since his AFF in December. Nice one Grayson who got his FS1 in just 40 jumps! Congratulations to Clare Murphy and Andy Fryer on their engagement, Clare proposed



Lucy Maycock wins a jump ticket from Mike Brown
Photo: Giulio Zicchi

on 29 February and has a huge diamond ring! Also congratulations to Steve Baldwin and Fran on the arrival of their little girl Freya, hopefully she'll be as good at packing as Jake!

The DZ will be closed on 5-6 July due to Silverstone but open as normal on 4 July, reopening on 8 July.

Sandi Keith

Tally shooting instead of scrambling
Photo: Giulio Zicchi



Tilstock

Things are looking up, our Airvan is finally here and flying. G-VANX flew its first lift in April with Andy Phillipson, Steve Smith, Steve Cooper, Mike Allsopp and visiting jumper Lucy Wildey. Tom Weston flew the lift with

Karl Blanthorne in the right seat. Andy Phillipson scored the 'first out of the Airvan' slot so he'll be buying the beer at the earliest opportunity!

Many of the regulars decided to leave the bad weather behind, jetting off to Seville, led by CCI Pat Walters. Unfortunately, the weather followed them and three days were washed out but they still managed lots of jumping.

Welcome back to Dale Hesketh, fully recovered after a year off due to a fairly spectacular landing at the end of 2006. Welcome also to our two new tandem instructors, Steve Davies and Andy Guest, former CCI and DZO at Dunkeswell. We're looking forward to working with them and the rest of the team. Steve decided to get straight in at the deep end with a malfunction on his second 'live' tandem... we're still waiting for the beer!

The Christmas party is booked for 13 December at Hill Valley Hotel in Whitchurch so let us know asap if you're coming. Yes, I know it's traditional to leave it until the last possible minute but, trust me, it's not helpful!

Colin Fitzmaurice



First to jump the Airvan – Andy Phillipson owes beer!



First Airvan lift
Photos by Dave Major

Peterlee

We're pleased to announce that Sue O'Connor, proprietor of the Aero Club Sports Bar, finally did her long-awaited tandem jump on Sunday 13 April – a major challenge as



Sue O'Connor in tandem with Ian Cessford, photos by Paul McCormick

she admitted to being 'terrified throughout the whole experience'. Oh and she thinks we're all mental! Sue agreed to do a tandem alongside her friend Richard Bradley who, after suffering an accident which left him paralysed, wanted to raise money for the Spinal Unit at the James Cook Hospital in Middlesborough. Richard did his jump the day before Sue – they have raised over £3,000 and are still counting! Well done to both of you, tremendous effort!

A new red quad bike has arrived to replace the stolen one. Colin D is banned from riding it (after parking the previous one in a dodgy place), and we're watching it like hawks to ensure we don't lose another one.

The Cessna 182 has finally got a door! It's taking a bit of getting used to as we're accustomed to having a big hole there. Even the pilots have needed to be reminded sometimes!

In April the Army Foundation College from Harrogate graced the bar and bunkhouses with 48 apprentices doing RAPS first jump courses. The instructors all commented about how, as soon as they landed, all of them quickly collected their canopies and ran back.

In case anyone has found cups of yellow liquid under the beds in the bunkhouses, it isn't what you maybe think it is. It's actually perfumed disinfectant to make the bunkhouses smell nice!

Nick Brown has been 'holding the fort' as ACCI recently and very successfully too. He's had some really great days with lots of lifts and the centre buzzing. Well done Nick, keep up the good work.

The centre is gearing up for summer and, now the light nights have arrived, the social side is picking up too. We're creating a DZ social group to organise activities and functions. If you'd like to be part of the organising, or you have suitable activity suggestions, or you'd like to go on the mailing list for events, email us at peterlee.dz.socials@hotmail.com. Everyone is welcome to get involved.

Sue Scott



G-PLLE has an in-flight door! Photo by Lee Saunders

Lee Saunders by Alan Thompson



Alan Thompson shows off his Katana, by Kev Dynan

Achievements

First Freefall
Ralph Weatherburn
800 Jumps
Lee Saunders
2,000 Jumps
Alan Thompson

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Langar



Thanks to everyone who turned up for the organised formation weekend with Milko and Caroline, despite the rubbish forecast. 32 people braved the cold at -32°C – respect!

In complete contrast, the Bullet Freely intermediate tracking weekend enjoyed perfect conditions, warm and sunny, with favourable winds helping the canopy ride home after



Siân Stokes



Al Hodgson

some long, long flights! Well done to the lesser experienced guys in Steve's beginner group – we hope to see you back for some higher level flying next time.

The usual suspects (with some new faces) joined Al's group and made some great tight fast dives. Manifest reserved the last load of the day for a 12-way – the Bullet Freely team at full strength leading a super-tight 4-way base into the setting sun. This was the first of three Bullet tracking events, each designed to push everyone a little further, although all levels will always be catered for. Check the diary for dates and events.

We had a great weekend for the BCPA Northern Meet. Everybody jumped on the Saturday, making over 460 jumps! All those without hangovers jumped on Sunday too! (T'was a good party...)

Tony Danbury



Langar photos by Milko

Achievements

First Freefall
Sam Todd
FS1
Andy Charlton
Simon Davis
Danielle Baker
FF1
Tori Nicols
1 Hour Freefall
Andy Charlton
12 Hours Freefall
Dan Williams

Jump Numbers

50
Siân Stokes
Andy Charlton
100
Tori Nicols
200
Steve Smith
500
Rai Ahmed
Jesse Karadia
600
Jo Hawley
900
Tim Aucott
2,300
Pixie
6,000
Chris McCann

Paragon

The spring sunshine brought out a batch of newcomers to the DZ. They make a lot of noise, jump about all over the place, eat constantly and leave crap behind them wherever they go. No, not students, we're talking prime lamb on the hoof here. Loads of them. We've already got a few earmarked for the barbeque!

Mike Paterson, Billy Gollan and Bobby Bayne all did static line jumps recently. Alice despatched them – it was Mike's first!

We are still short of tandem instructors. Anyone interested, give us a call. Massive congratulations to Billy Gollan who's done 1,000 tandem jumps!

The lovely Deanna had to get to grips with a new toastie machine recently after she wore out the old one. Ah the look on her wee face as she opened the box. How easy it is to please some folk!

Gavin Simpson has retired from skydiving after 23 years in the sport, 17 years of them as an instructor. He did his first jump at Fordoun in October 1985. He's decided to keep the little hair he's left with and is intending to enjoy his retirement working in his garden. Good luck Gavin. All the best mate. We'll miss you.

We're already planning this year's pilgrimage to **Empuria, 8-18 September**. Anyone who fancies joining us will be most welcome. Phone the DZ for information.

Bob Henderson



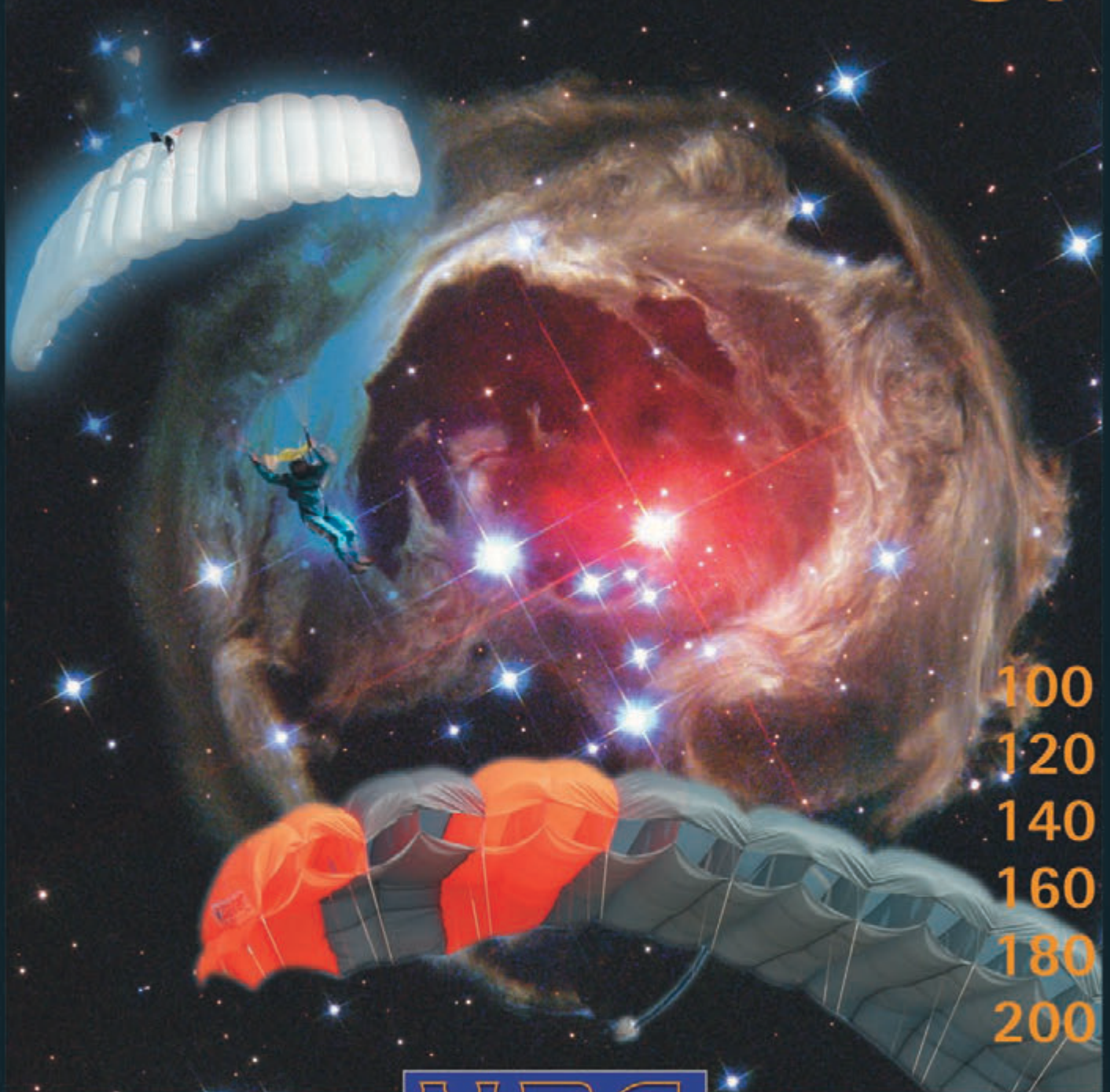
Gavin Simpson



Paragon photos by Lovely Deanna

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Photo: Marc Fletcher

BCPA



Easter Sunday meant only one thing – the start of this year's antics-filled foreign trip to Skydive Spain! The BCPA contingent numbered 60 strong, with 14 students starting AFF and 9 continuing their RAPS progression – ensuring a constant supply of beer fines for everyone to enjoy whilst we watched Andy Lovemore's renowned end-of-day bar tape.

Jumps were plentiful and varied – including big-ways organised by Jo

Burns, tracking dives, an inflatable dolphin jump, high altitude hop 'n' pops with some impromptu CRW – and even a 6-way naked jump for those determined to take advantage of the glorious weather!

In a more unconventional move, Sam and Woof completed their IS1s to the amusement of the dropzone instructors. Alf kindly spent an afternoon presenting CH2 and JM1 briefs, so many students are well on their way to B certificate. Thanks to coaching by Marc and *Outbreak Freely*, FS1s and FF1s were awarded. Roll on the next BCPA big-way record!

Don't forget to check the BCPA forums on UKSkydiver for the latest event news and league results. See you at the Nationals in July!



Stephen Hill



Louise Barnett

Ed Morley

Naked 6-way by Marc Fletcher



Red Devils

The team has been in California for a very successful team training with

most of the guys completing over 100 jumps. A big thank you to Karl, Hamo and the gang at Skydive Elsinore for putting up with us. While on team training we got to test out the brand new crew canopies called Storm, from PD. This year the team has decided to incorporate wingsuits on displays. So James Boole from Phoenix-Fly came out to Elsinore for a week to train 2 of the guys up on Vampire 2 wingsuits. To top off the training camp 7 guys put a display into the local baseball stadium with the crew bringing in a 2-stack with the Stars and Stripes. Duncan Murray failed to finish team training yet again due to a weak body – but the rest of the team are now ready to face a very full and demanding display season.

Duncan Murray



Danny Wood and Jason Webster practising display wingsuiting, by James Boole

POPS

I've been in Australia for the last three weeks, (as newly-retired people should be able to take advantage of such freedom of time) but you will be 'very sad' to hear that the weather has been

untraditionally unkind. The Aussie Top Pop, Robbo Robertson, has been pulling out whatever little hair he has left and become multi-denomination religious praying to every type of god for good weather to return for the World POPS Meet about to begin.

I'm looking forward to the two POPS Meets, 21-22 June at Hibaldstow and 19-20 July at Weston. Both DZs have camping facilities and accommodation available.

Carey Peck has asked me to remind everyone of the POPS world record formation attempt in the US in October this year. Various training camps have been held in America and more are planned. If you're interested, contact Carey at carey.peck@lausd.net

Lastly, a final plea for the POPS in the sun meet I have been attempting to organise at Empuriabrava for 11-12 October (and fun jumping for a week either side). Some are interested but so far the response has been too slim to go ahead. I'm putting a deadline of 22 June, the end of the Hibaldstow POPS meet, then I will decide whether or not to go. Please let me know if you want to come and play.

Dick Barton



POPS big-way base break-off, Langar 2007, by Dave Lewis

Photos: Ed Morley

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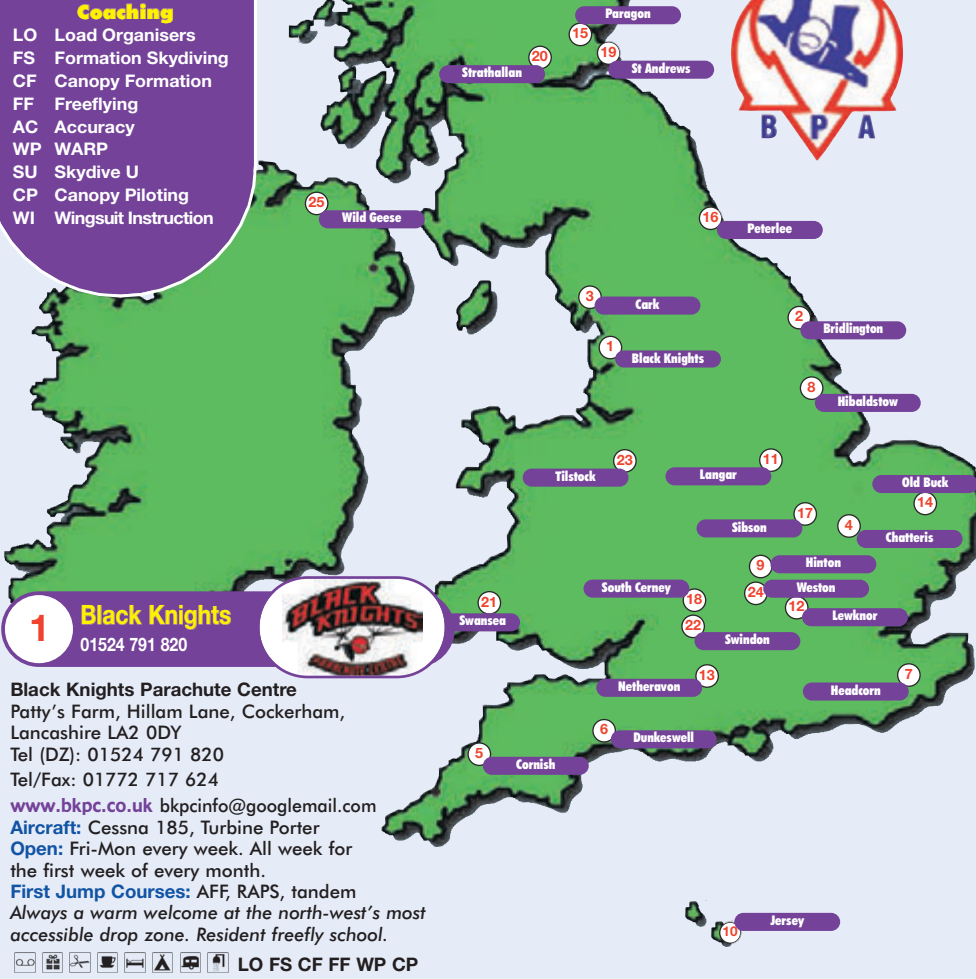
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 AC Accuracy
 WP WARP
 SU Skydive U
 CP Canopy Piloting
 WI Wingsuit Instruction

BPA Affiliated Drop Zones



6

Dunkeswell

01404 890 222



Skydive UK Ltd

Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon EX14 4LG
 Tel: 01404 890 222 or 07718 638 000
 info@skydiveukltd.com

www.skydivethewell.com

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Twin Turbine Beech King Air

Open: 8am-dusk, Thurs-Sun and bank hol Mons.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

For midweek operation please call the DZ first.

LO FS CF FF WP SU

7

Headcorn

01622 890 862



Headcorn Parachute Centre

Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX
 Tel: 01622 890 862 Fax: 01622 890 641
 info@headcornparachuteclub.com

www.headcornparachuteclub.com

Aircraft: Cessna Caravan, Islander

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

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

Come and join in the fun here at Headcorn!

LO FS CF FF AC WP

8

Hibaldstow

0113 250 5600



Target Skysports

Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow, Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
 Tel/Fax: 0113 250 5600 DZ: 01652 648 837
 info@skydiving.co.uk www.skydiving.co.uk

Aircraft: Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92 single turbine, Cherokee 6

Open: 9am-dusk every day.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

15,000ft on most lifts, host to the BPA FS and Artistic Nationals 2008.

LO FS FF WP SU

9

Hinton

01295 812 300



Hinton Skydiving Centre

Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley, Northants NN13 5NS
 Tel: 01295 812 300 Fax: 01295 812 400
 info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

Aircraft: PAC 750XL

Open: 8am-9pm at weekends.

9am-7pm Tuesday-Friday.

First Jump Courses: AFF, tandem

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FS CF FF AC WP

10

Jersey

01534 747 410



Skydive Jersey Ltd

States Airport, St Peter, Jersey JE3 7ZR
 Tel: 01534 747 410 Fax: 08708 313 107
 info@skydivejersey.net www.skydivejersey.net

Aircraft: Cessna 206, occasional turbines

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

First Jump Courses: AFF, tandem

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

LO FS CF FF WP SU

1

Black Knights

01524 791 820



Black Knights Parachute Centre

Patty's Farm, Hillam Lane, Cockerham, Lancashire LA2 0DY
 Tel (DZ): 01524 791 820
 Tel/Fax: 01772 717 624

www.bkpc.co.uk bkpcinfo@googlemail.com

Aircraft: Cessna 185, Turbine Porter

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

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

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LO FS CF FF WP CP

2

Bridlington

01262 677 367



Skydive Brid

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 Tel: 01262 677 367 or 07836 276 188
 Fax: 01262 401 871 info@skydivebrid.co.uk

www.skydivebrid.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Turbine Porter

Open: 8am-8pm, every day.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

FS CF AC WP

4

Chatteris

01354 740 810



North London Parachute Centre

Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea, March, Cambs PE15 0EA
 Tel: 0871 664 0113 Fax: 0870 787 4909
info@ukskydiving.com www.ukskydiving.com

Aircraft: 2 Nomads, Cessna 206

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

9am-dusk, Wednesday-Sunday in winter.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, rounds, tandem

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

LO FS CF FF WP SU

3

Cark

01229 889 516



North West Parachute Centre

Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, Nr Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7LS
 Tel: 01229 889 516 Weekends: 01539 558 672
 Fax: 01772 787 106
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk

www.skydive-northwest.com

Aircraft: PAC 750XL

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

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

Set in beautiful surroundings of the Lake District. We aim to make everyone feel welcome.

LO FS CF FF WP

5

Cornish

01872 553 352



Cornish Parachute Club

Perranporth Airfield, Higher Trevellas, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0XS
 Tel: 01872 553 352 or 07790 439 653
cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk

www.cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

Aircraft: Cessna 206, guest aircraft by arrangement

Open: 9am-dusk at weekends. Open most other days in summer, call for details

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

A small but developing club with friendly staff, nice facilities & fantastic views of the Cornish peninsula.

WP FS CF CP

11 Langar
01949 860 878



British Parachute Schools
Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY
Tel: 01949 860 878 Fax: 01949 860 012
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk
Aircraft: 2 Cessna Grand Caravans, Skyvan occasionally
Open: 9am-8pm (or dusk) every day. 10am start on Sunday. Office open every day, 8.30am-6pm.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
Lots of aircraft, always lots of jumping, busy every day – midweek too!

LO FS CF FF WP CP

12 Lewknor
0845 130 7194



London Parachute School
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Drop Zone located off Junction 6 of M40
Tel: 0845 130 7194 Fax: 0845 130 7195
info@londonparachuteschool.com
www.londonparachuteschool.com
Aircraft: Islander, Cessna 206
Open: 9am-dusk at weekends.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
 LO FS CF AC WP

13 Netheravon
01980 678 250



Army Parachute Association
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 678 250 Fax: 01980 678 275
apa@netheravon.com www.netheravon.com
Aircraft: Cessna Caravan, Turbine Islander, Piston Islander
Open: Wednesday & Friday afternoons from 12pm. Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays 8pm.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
Military and civilian jumpers are very welcome at Netheravon.

LO FS FF AC CP WI

14 Old Buckenham
01953 861 030



UK Parachuting
Old Buckenham Airfield, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1PU
Tel: 01953 861 030
Fax: 01953 861 031
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk
www.ukparachuting.co.uk
Aircraft: Cessna Caravan
Open: Every day.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
 LO FS CF FF WP CP

15 Paragon
01821 642 454



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

FS CF WP

16 Peterlee
0191 517 1234



Peterlee Parachute Centre
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH
Tel/Fax: 0191 517 1234
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
www.skydiveacademy.org.uk
Aircraft: Airvan, Cessna 182
Open: 8.30am-8.30pm weekends & bank holidays. 1pm-8.30pm Wed & Fri, weather permitting
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
15 minutes drive from Durham city, 25 minutes from Newcastle, centrally located for NE England.

FS CF WP

17 Sibson
01832 280 490



Skydive Airkix
Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280 490 Fax: 01832 280 409
skydivesibson@aol.com
www.skydiveairkix.com
Aircraft: Turbolet 410
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LO FS FF AC WP SU

18 South Cerney
01285 868 259



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Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney, Cirencester, Gloucester GL7 5RD
Tel: 01285 868 259 Fax: 01285 861 344
info@silverstars.org.uk www.silverstars.org.uk
Aircraft: Islander, Airvan & Cessna Caravan
Open: Wednesday-Sunday 9am-7pm
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
Military and civilian jumpers are very welcome. Photo ID is required. Call or check website for prices.

LO FS FF CF WP CP

19 St Andrews
0845 189 5865



Skydive St Andrews
Kingsmuir Airfield, Saint Andrews, Fife KY16 8QQ
Tel: 0845 189 5865
skydivestandrews@mail.com
www.skydivestandrews.co.uk
Aircraft: Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206, Turbine (for special events)
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LO FS CF FF WP SU

20 Strathallan
07774 686 161



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Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LA
Weekends: 01764 662 572
Tel: 07774 686 161 Fax: 01236 732 461
kk.bradly@btinternet.com
www.skydivesthathallan.co.uk
Aircraft: 3 Cessna 206, Turbine (for various events)
Open: 9am-9pm weekends & bank holidays. 5pm-9pm Fridays in summer.
First Jump Courses: RAPS, rounds, tandem

LO FS CF FF AC WP

21 Swansea
07779 019 655



Skydive Swansea
Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea, SA2 7JU
Tel: 07779 019 655
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk
www.skydiveswansea.co.uk
Aircraft: Airvan
Open: Weekends, weekdays by appointment
First Jump Courses: AFF, tandem
A friendly club with stunning coastline views on three sides.

LO FS CF WP

22 Swindon
01793 791 222



Skydive London
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm, Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AA
Tel: 01793 791 222 or 01384 351 050
Fax: 01793 791 133
info@skydivelondon.co.uk
www.skydivelondon.co.uk
Aircraft: Airvan
Open: 8am-7pm Mon-Sat. 9am-6pm on Sundays.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
 FS CF AC WP

23 Tilstock
01948 841 111



The Parachute Centre
Tilstock Airfield, Whitechurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA
Tel: 01948 841 111
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
www.theparachutecentre.com
Aircraft: Cessna 206, Airvan
Open: 9am-dusk Fridays & bank holidays. 8am-dusk on Saturdays. Closed on Sunday.
First Jump Courses: RAPS, tandem
A small but friendly dropzone serving Manchester, Liverpool, Wales and the West Midlands.

LO FS WP

24 Weston
01869 343 201



Skydive Weston
RAF Weston on the Green, Bicester, Oxon OX25 3TQ
Tel: 01869 343 201 Fax: 01869 343 194
skydiveweston@fsmail.net
www.skydiveweston.com
Aircraft: G92 Dornier
Open: 12pm-8pm Fri. 9am-8pm Sat. 10am-7pm Sun.
First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
A friendly drop zone with some of the largest facilities and best equipment in the country.

LO FS FF WP

25 Wild Geese
028 2955 8609



Wild Geese Skydive Centre
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road, Garvagh, Coleraine, Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
Tel: 028 2955 8609 Fax: 028 2955 7050
jump@skydivewildgeese.com
www.skydivewildgeese.com
Aircraft: Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan
Open: Dawn-dusk w'kends, 9.30am-5pm w'kdays.
First Jump Courses: RAPS, tandem
Friendly atmosphere, fantastic views of north coast, excellent facilities, no restrictions, plenty of local entertainment.

LO FS CF WP

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Photo: Andrew Lovemore

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0035 724 744 337



Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58, Dhekelia Garrison, Cyprus
Tel: 0035 724 744 337
Fax: 0035 724 724 330
info@skydivecyprus.com.cy

www.skydivecyprus.com.cy

Aircraft: PBN Piston Islander

Open: 7am-1pm weekends. Midweek by arrangement.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
Please contact the centre before visiting to ensure availability. Equipment available for modest hire charges.

FS FF WP SU CP

RAPA

0049 5254 982 2378



Rhine Army Parachute Association
Flugplatz, Bielefelder Strasse, 33175, Bad Lippspringe, Germany
Tel: 0049 5254 982 2378
Fax: 0049 5254 982 2740
jpscl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk

Aircraft: Turbine Islander, Dornier G92 on call

Open: 9am-7pm (or dusk) every day, February to November.

First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
Lippspringe DZ is the only BPA drop zone on mainland Europe and it has a swoop pond.

LO FS CF AC WP CP

Parachuting Societies

British Collegiate Parachute Association

Long View, High Road, Londonthorpe NG13 9RU

www.bcpa.org.uk

chairman@bcpa.org.uk

Contact: Marc Fletcher, BCPA Chairman

The BCPA aims to promote skydiving at collegiate level. We run regional and national events for over 40 affiliated university clubs. The BCPA provides a community where university skydivers can find like-minded people to jump and socialise with.

POPS UK

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

Tel: 01249 701805 or 07860 559112

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

Contact: Dick Barton, Top POP

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

SOS UK

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

Tel: 01179 738341

nielshnsn@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: Niels Hanson

A society of skydivers over sixty.

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Photo: Matt Abram



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Brackley, Northants NN13 5NS

Tel: 01295 812101

Email: sales@dzsports.com

DIARY

JUNE

- 5** **BPA STC Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 6-8** **CF Weekend**
Dunkeswell www.skydivethewell.com
- 6-8** **Europa Cup**
Rijeka, Croatia www.parawcs.com
- 6-8** **Speed World Cup Heat**
Carolina, USA www.speedskydiving.com
- 7-8** **BPA Artistics Comp Roadshow**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 7-8** **FS 4-way UK Skydiving League**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 7-8** **FF2 Plus**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 9-13** **BPA Instructor Course (AFF Tandem)**
Weston trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 9-15** **Progression Week**
Old Buckenham www.ukparachuting.co.uk
- 9-11** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 9-14** **Swoop Camp**
Stockholm, Sweden www.skydive.se
- 11-13** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 13-15** **Leather Trousers Record Attempt**
Gmunden, Austria www.flugring-traunsee.at
- 13-15** **Speed World Cup Heat**
Utti, Finland www.speedskydiving.com
- 14** **Scrambles**
Weston www.skydiveweston.com
- 14-15** **VFS Competition**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com
- 14-15** **Swoopmeet**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.swooping.de
- 14-15** **Scrambles**
Hinton www.skydive.co.uk
- 14-16** **Formation Loads**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 14-22** **Cark Week**
Cark www.skydive-northwest.com
- 16-20** **Polish Big-way Record Attempt**
Poland www.skydive.pl
- 20-22** **Solstice Boogie**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 21** **Summer Ball**
Headcorn www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk
- 21-22** **Fusion Coaching**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 21-22** **POPS Meet**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 21-22** **Classics Grand Prix**
BKPC, Cockerham www.bkpc.co.uk
- 21-29** **Gap Vector Festival**
Gap, France www.parachutismegap.com
- 22-29** **Extreme Sports Week**
Voss, Norway www.ekstremспортveko.com

- 23-25** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 23-27** **Freely Camp**
Stockholm, Sweden www.skydive.se
- 25** **BPA Council Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 27-29** **Europa Cup**
Bled, Slovakia www.parawcs.com
- 27-29** **German Swooping Open**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.swooping.de
- 27-29** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Seville, Spain www.safeflightschool.com
- 27-30** **Atmonauti Race Cup**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 28-29** **FS 4-way UK Skydiving League**
Cark www.skydive-northwest.com
- 28-29** **Skyvan Weekend**
Weston www.skydiveweston.com
- 30-Jul 4** **SOS European Record Attempt**
Dädalus, Germany www.fallschirm-eisenach.de

JULY

- 3-6** **Mission Impossible 4**
Cerfontaines, Belgium www.4xtremetime.com
- 3-5** **Mission Impossible Freely**
Leopoldsbuurg, Belgium www.4xtremetime.com
- 5-6** **CF Grand Prix**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 5-6** **FS 8-way Grand Prix**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 5-6** **Advanced Tracking**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 9-13** **BCPA Nationals**
Cark www.skydive-northwest.com
- 10-13** **Classics & CP Nationals**
RAPA, Germany jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk
- 11-13** **CF Weekend**
Dunkeswell www.skydivethewell.com
- 11-13** **Nordic Freely Championships**
Stockholm, Sweden www.skydive.se
- 12-13** **Skyvan & Tracking Weekend**
Weston www.skydiveweston.com
- 12-13** **Swoopmeet**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.swooping.de
- 12-13** **28-way Competition**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 12-18** **Slovakia Boogie**
Slovakia www.boogieclub.co.uk
- 12-26** **Aerograd Kolumna Trip**
Russia mattnomorems@hotmail.com
- 14-18** **Learning Curve Camp**
Ramblers, Australia www.ramblers.com.au
- 14-19** **RAPA Championships**
RAPA, Germany jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk
- 15-17** **Fabian Raidel Tunnel Camp**
Airkix, Milton Keynes www.airkix.com
- 18-20** **Europa Cup**
Altenstadt, Germany www.parawcs.com

- 18-20** **Speed World Cup Heat**
Casale, Italy www.speedskydiving.com
- 19-20** **12-way Competition**
Skydive Airkix www.skydiveairkix.com
- 19-20** **POPS Meet**
Weston www.skydiveweston.com
- 19-27** **Skyvan at Weston**
Weston www.skydiveweston.com
- 19-20** **BPA Artistics Comp Roadshow**
BKPC, Cockerham www.bkpc.co.uk
- 19-20** **Tracing Intro**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk
- 19-27** **4Fun Summer Boogie**
Soulac, France www.toratora.nl
- 21-26** **Staff Play Week**
Voss, Norway www.skydivevoss.no
- 22-26** **Swedish Championships**
Stockholm, Sweden www.skydive.se
- 23-27** **Spanish FS Nationals**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 23-27** **Twin Beech Beach Boogie**
Dunkeswell www.skydivethewell.com
- 24-Aug 2** **Style & Accuracy World Meet**
Lucenec, Slovakia www.fai.org
- 25-27** **UK Skydiver Boogie**
Weston www.ukskydiver.co.uk
- 26** **First Birthday Party**
Swansea www.skydiveswansea.co.uk
- 26-27** **Netheravon Closed**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 26-Aug 3** **Atmonauti Pro 5 & Airshow**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 26-Aug 4** **Irish Boogie Week**
Irish Parachute Club www.skydive.ie
- 28-30** **Irish Big-way Record Attempt**
Irish Parachute Club www.skydive.ie
- 28-30** **Canopy Piloting Course (Adv)**
Empuriabrava www.safeflightschool.com
- 31** **BPA STC Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk

AUGUST

- 2-10** **Northwest Sky Fest**
Cark www.skydive-northwest.com
- 3-8** **Gryttjom Big-way Camp**
Stockholm, Sweden www.skydive.se
- 4-8** **FS Week**
Headcorn www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk
- 4-9** **Go Vertical**
Voss, Norway govertical@skydivevoss.no
- 4-10** **Summer Boogie**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 8-10** **Europa Cup**
Belluno, Italy www.parawcs.com
- 9-14** **FS & Artistics World Meet**
Maubeuge, France www.fai.org
- 11-15** **BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)**
Hibaldstow trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 14-18** **Atmonauti World Record Attempt**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 15-17** **Brit Chicks CP Course**
Langar www.safeflightschool.com
- 15-17** **Canopy Piloting Comp**
Czech Republic www.pinkskyvan.com
- 15-22** **The Armies**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 16-17** **CF Grand Prix**
Langar www.bpslangar.co.uk

- 18-21** **Canopy Piloting Courses**
BKPC, Cockerham www.safeflightschool.com
- 18-22** **BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Pre-Adv)**
Hibaldstow trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 19** **BPA Council Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 19-21** **Canopy Piloting Seminar**
Czech Republic www.pinkskyvan.com
- 22-23** **FS Skills Camp**
Czech Republic www.pinkskyvan.com
- 22-24** **Europa Cup**
Zeel Am See, Austria www.parawcs.com
- 22-24** **Atmonauti Race**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 23-25** **4-way FS Nationals**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 23-25** **VFS Nationals**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 23-25** **8-way Speed**
Netheravon www.nethers.info
- 24** **Summer Ball**
Dunkeswell www.skydivethewell.com
- 29-31** **Atmonauti A-RW4 World Comp**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 30-Sep 1** **Artistics & Speed Nationals**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 30-Sep 1** **8-way Nationals & 4-way Reserve**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

- 5-7** **ESL Finals**
Texel, Holland www.euro-skyleague.com
- 5-7** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Weston www.safeflightschool.com
- 5-7** **Speed World Cup Heat**
Stockholm, Sweden www.speedskydiving.com
- 6-8** **8-way, Artistics & Speed Nats Reserve**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 6-8** **50-way Challenge**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 8-14** **Canopy Formation World Meet**
Netherlands www.fai.org
- 8-12** **Learning Curve Camp**
Ramblers, Australia www.ramblers.com.au
- 12-14** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.safeflightschool.com
- 13-14** **Swoopmeet**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.swooping.de
- 12-14** **Canopy Piloting Course**
Seville, Spain 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
- 22-Oct 6** **Everest Skydives**
Everest, Nepal www.highhandwild.co.uk
- 25** **BPA STC Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 25-30** **MaGiA Boogie**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 26-28** **Europa Cup**
Locarno, Switzerland www.parawcs.com
- 27-28** **CF & 8-way Speed Nationals**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 27-28** **FS Scrambles**
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Tony Suits	28
001 813 788 7112	www.tonysuits.com
Volare Concepts	29
0044 (0)7961 926 011	www.volareproflight.com

OCTOBER

- 3-5 Chicks Rock Boogie**
Elsinore, USA www.skydiveelsinore.com
- 3-5 POPS World Record Attempt**
Perris Valley, USA www.thepops.org
- 4-5 Swoopmeet**
Fehrbellin, Germany www.swooping.de
- 4-5 Beginners Big-way Skills**
Langar www.skydivechoreography.com
- 6-10 Pre-Nox Learning Curve Camp**
Ramblers, Australia www.ramblers.com.au
- 7 BPA Council Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 10-12 BPA CF Roadshow**
Dunkeswell www.skydivethewell.com
- 10-11 Night Jumps**
Dunkeswell www.skydivethewell.com
- 11 APA Autumn Ball**
Netheravon www.netheravon.com
- 11-12 POPS Sunshine Meet**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 11-19 Equinox Boogie**
Ramblers, Australia www.ramblers.com.au
- 15-17 Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 18-19 Sky Rats Open**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 18-25 USPA Nationals**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 25-26 Halloween 10-way Speed**
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
- 26-29 VFS World Cup**
Eloy, USA www.fai.org
- 29-Nov 2 Halloween Boogie**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com
- 31-Nov 2 Halloween Boogie**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

NOVEMBER

- 3-7 BPA Instructor Course(BI/Adv)**
Chatteris trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 7-9 Italian FF Record Attempt**
Marche, Italy www.atmonauti.com

- 7-14 German Record Attempt**
Eloy, USA
- 7-16 Team Mong Boogie**
Lake Wales, USA www.floridaskydiving.com
- 10-14 BPA Instructor Course (CSI, pre-Adv)**
Chatteris trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 10-14 Learning Curve Camp**
Ramblers, Australia www.ramblers.com.au
- 12-14 Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 14-15 Cafress Open Competition**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 14-23 Canopy Piloting World Meet**
Pretoria, S Africa www.fai.org
- 15-16 Wingsuit Big-way Invitational**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 20 BPA STC Meeting**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk

DECEMBER

- 2 BPA Council Meeting & EGM**
BPA Offices, Leicester www.bpa.org.uk
- 10-12 Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain www.skydivelillo.com
- 13 Tilstock AGM & Christmas Party**
Hill Valley www.theparachutecentre.com
- 20-Jan 1 Christmas Boogie**
Empuriabrava www.skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 24-Jan 4 Holiday Boogie**
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com
- 17-Jan 4 Christmas Boogie**
Seville, Spain www.skydivespain.com
- 26- Jan 1 XMas Feelgood Boogie**
Ramblers, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

KEY

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

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VECTOR RIG FOR SALE

Mainly Black Vector 3. Hip rings, BOC, only 30 jumps, with Cypres2 never fired, new battery needed. Very well looked after. Main: Icarus Beta 145 (Orange, Purple, Green) 150 Jumps Similar to Sabre 150. Reserve: PD126R Unused. All in amazing condition £2500 (offers accepted) Area: Colchester, Essex Contact: David Messiter Tel: 07887 824366

DUAL HAWK TANDEM SYSTEM

Strong Tandem System for sale. Dual Hawk tandem system very good condition in black with student harness also V.G.C. Dual Hawk master 425 reserve (no descents). Icarus 400 main (85 jumps) Royal and white. Cypres (t) 2 pin D/m 1999 (life ex sep 2011) Needs the 8 year servicing. A very nice system for sale due to under use. £3200 (offers accepted) Area: Weston on the Green, Oxfordshire Contact: Steve Scott Tel: 01869 343201 Fax: 01869343194 Email: skydiveweston@fsmail.net

FULL JAVELIN RIG

Javelin J1, BOC, Rings, Charcoal/Silver/Magenta (DOM:10/96), Sabre150 Main (70 Jumps), PD153 Reserve (0 Jumps), Cypres (DOM: 09/96). In excellent condition. Also black Z1 Helmet (XL), frappe hat (M), Tony suit and Dytter all in as NEW condition. Can e-mail photos if required. £1700 (offers accepted) Area: Oxford Contact: Vaughan Sprowell Tel: 07900 058712 Email: vaughan@skydive19.fsnet.co.uk

COMPLETE RIG

Javelin NJ (97) Excellent condition, black with green flaps, Stiletto 120 (95) & Transfair R reserve (96) with Cypres (02). Cost £1,200. ALSO Heatwave 120 main (98) Cost £200 & Decelerator 120 reserve (01) Cost £200. Jumpsuits: Bev suit £110 & Tony suit £80 to fit female 5'9" size 10-12. + misc gear - Pro-tecs, gloves, gear bags, Barigo wrist altimeter, goggles etc. Sensible offers considered. Area: Headcorn, Kent Contact: Ken Gregory Tel: 01227 831119 Email: ken@intakeengineering.co.uk

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

I am in dispute with the Days Inn, Perris, USA concerning Visa debits. I would very much like to hear from anyone else who has cause for complaint with this hotel. Contact: John Tel: 07983 417 151

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