

skydive

The Mag



The British Parachute
Association Magazine



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December 2008

Winter woollies left at home

15,000 Feet



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If you're a BPA Member you'll soon receive (or may have already received) a voting card through the post, with information about the candidates for election to the BPA Council. This is the body of volunteers which runs our sport, and the people standing are offering to travel bimonthly to Leicester, have meetings, read a vast amount of paperwork, take action between meetings, and collectively make decisions.

Last year we had an election run externally and the number of valid votes increased by 92%. From a very consistent 670 voters on the previous four elections, suddenly 1,133 voted. This massive increase is fantastic, let's do it again. 1,100 voters is still less than a quarter of us. If you're a BPA Member and you didn't vote last year, shame on you!! It's heart-warming to me that 19 skydivers care enough about their sport to volunteer to give their time throughout the year, surely you can give ten minutes of your time to vote for them!

If you feel you don't care, well, why is that? I'm sure you would care if we could not skydive in this country any more, if jump tickets shot up to £30, if your dropzone was closed down, or if no-one could skydive on Sundays – yes? So you do actually care about the future of our sport. If you think your vote doesn't make a difference, you're wrong. In the last two elections, the difference between sitting or not on Council, was two votes. So you and your partners' vote could change who is sat round the table making decisions that will affect us all.

I'd like to thank all the candidates for their effort, heart and courage in standing for Council, and wish them luck.

Have a happy yuletide with fabulous festive feasting, and I hope you still fit in your jumpsuit come the new year!

| Issue | To Reader | Copy Deadline |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| February 09 | Sat 14 Feb | Fri 9 Jan |
| April 09 | Sat 4 Apr | Tue 24 Feb |

Lesley

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

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

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

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Holly Budge, the first Brit to jump solo in front of Everest, at 29,500 feet, photo by Wendy Smith



Cover:

Photo by Wendy Smith shows tandem instructor Tom Noonan and student Scott Deisel jumping in front of the peaks of Everest and Makalu, in a world first expedition organised by Brit Nigel Gifford, with the parachuting co-ordinated by Cornish Parachute Centre CCI, Dave Wood



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

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

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

On Top of the **WORLD**

Some said it couldn't be done, some said it shouldn't be done, but in October, a group of adventurers found skydiving at Mount Everest is not only possible but one of the most spectacular skydives in the world. An idea that was born in the mind of adventure logistician, skydiver and mountaineer Nigel Gifford, OBE, more than 12 years ago, finally became a reality when an international group of 41 skydivers jumped from 29,500ft in the Himalayas, in front of the world's highest mountain range.

More than a year of planning had gone into the expedition. Nigel had assembled a professional team of some of the most knowledgeable and compelling people I've ever met, doubtless thanks to his years of experience running High and Wild, his adventure holiday business for the daring.

Kathmandu – 22-24 Sep

The group gathered at the Yak and Yeti Hotel in Kathmandu and spent a couple of days getting to know each other and sightseeing, visiting places of worship and soaking up the culture. There were 69 of us, from 14 countries around the world. The clients numbered 34 jumpers and 22 observers, all with different backgrounds and motivations for being there. The one thing that joined us all was a sense of adventure and an excitement at being the first to do something.

Lukla – 24 Sep – 9,100ft

We flew into Lukla, which has the most amazing airstrip I've ever seen. You kind of bank through two mountains and then dive at this strip of tarmac that looks about five metres long and taxi towards a brick wall, at the last minute the pilot swings it to the right and stops – somehow! They land Twin Otters there all day long.

Trekking – 1 week – 15,000ft

We started out on our long trek up through the Himalayas and saw the most stunning scenery. It's like something out of a fantasy book; mountains, forests, rickety high bridges over the massive river and beautiful waterfalls. The first proper view of the five highest peaks in the world was breathtaking. We trekked for a week, staying in Sherpa Lodges, covering 40 miles, up and down the mountains, eventually climbing to 15,000 feet. GPS data gave our cumulative trekking elevation as 17,000 feet.

It is hard to describe how much harder everything seems when you're so high. It's intense. You need to take everything so much more slowly, which can be frustrating at times. We were extremely lucky, especially in such a large group, that no-one got AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness). The trick is to acclimatise slowly (hence the trekking), keep hydrated and listen to your body.

The Sherpas are incredible. They transported 52 barrels of equipment and luggage for 50 people, always getting to our destination way before us. They cooked, making really good food considering where we were. They are warm, friendly and extremely smiley. They really couldn't do enough for us and loved the fact that we were there to do something so sensational for their tourist industry.



*Tandem Instructor
Tom Noonan*



*Packer Mark Finch, Steve Hennessey, Lucie Fenton, Tom Noonan,
the 'old doctor' Phillip Hornblow, Naseer Alheyadi, Instructor Ralph Mitchell
and Hotel Tibet owner*

*Dave Wood, Cheri Johnson, freefall photographers Omar Alhelegan &
Wendy Smith and Project Director Nigel Gifford*



Shyangboche DZ, 12,350 feet, also shown in main picture, both by Jason Bryant



Lukla Airstrip, 9,100 feet, by Jason Bryant



Dave Wood, Omar Alhelegan, Andy Elson, Tom Noonan & Wendy Smith



Ruedi the Porter pilot



Dave Wood, Director of Parachuting Operations



Ryan Jackson, the 'young doctor'

Equipment

Strong Enterprises' Dual Hawk tandem system had already earned a reputation as a rugged workhorse in the high altitude conditions of Swiss Boogie's day to day operations and, with the addition of bail-out oxygen systems, the Military Dual Hawk was selected for the Everest adventure. Opening at 18,500 feet would require a large stable parachute, and the SET-400 proved to be the perfect match for the conditions.

For solo jumping Derek Thomas personally delivered a set of custom-built Javelin containers fitted with Performance Designs Navigator 260s and Navigator 280s. Jumpsuits were provided by Rajan Dulal (Nepali tailor), built with an outer layer of F-111 fabric and a full body fleece liner sewn inside.

Hard helmets were provided by Gecko and the bail-out oxygen systems were custom-built for the expedition by Summit Oxygen. MA10s and Neptunes were supplied by Alti-2, the AADs were Vigil and the camera rigs from Air Supply.

DZ Accommodation

In March 1999, the Guinness Book of Records bestowed upon Hotel Everest View the title of 'Highest Placed Hotel in the World'. It's at 13,000 feet, in Sagarmatha National Park in the Southern Khumbu region of Nepal. Built in 1968, the Hotel Everest View opened in 1973, with the intention of attracting wealthy Japanese tourists. Hence, the Shyangboche airstrip was built to receive private planes and helicopters but, after two tourists died of mountain sickness, the strip was closed down.

Shyangboche DZ - 1 Oct - 12,350ft

Shyangboche, which was to become our DZ, was bigger than I imagined but there really were no outs. It is surrounded on three sides by mountains; the fourth side is a 3,000 feet drop into the valley. No-one had landed a plane on it since 1992. For two months before we arrived a group of men had been flattening the dropzone, manually pushing an old rusty barrel along the length of it and securing loose rocks with their bare hands.

Porter Jumpship - 3 Oct

Unsurprisingly, the aircraft was delayed by red tape in Kathmandu. When the Porter eventually arrived with it, following so closely behind it was spooky, were white-out clouds. As a skydiver I've been watching the weather for years now and these clouds are something else. They move in so rapidly that you can literally pop inside to get a drink (in blue skies) and come out to complete cloud cover and can't see a metre in front of you.

Jump Programme

It was really difficult for Dave Wood to decide the jump order. Some of the clients didn't quite understand why the staff had to do test jumps. The fact was that this hadn't been done before. Dave decided to go with the experienced staff solos first, then a test tandem jump with a qualified skydiver before taking the inexperienced passengers. To my absolute delight I was asked if I'd like to be the first test tandem passenger - what an honour!

Familiarisation Jump - 4 Oct - 18,000ft

We got up super early and managed two staff lifts from 18,000 feet before again the clouds rolled. A weather pattern was emerging, of early morning blue quickly followed by white for the rest of the day. Wendy, Omar, Derek and Ralph jumped; then on the second load were Tom, Steve, Mark and Ryan. Everyone loved the jump and landed safely back. The general mood that evening for most of us was excitement, the jigsaw puzzle was coming together, it was all finally coming to fruition. Nigel and Dave's meticulous planning was paying off.



Dave and solo jumpers Simon Repton & Leigh Pretty



Tandem Instructor Steve Hennessey



View from the Porter by Wendy Smith

British Jumpers

Solo

- Holly Budge
- Simon Repton
- Chris Parsons
- Laurie Hindes
- Dean Edwards
- Leigh Pretty
- Ryan Jackson
- Martin Preston
- Derek Thomas

Tandem

- Lucie Fenton
- Kate Craig-Wood
- Jane Dougall
- Darren Thatcher
- Derek Cornelius
- Peter Baker
- Molly Beddingfield



Wendy approaching Shyangboche under canopy



Equipment sponsor
Derek Thomas



Solo jumper Laurie Hindes



Derek Thomas



Project Director
Nigel Gifford



Everest Jump – 5 Oct – 29,500ft

At 4.20am, we headed for the DZ in the dark. Gearing up was very calm for me – the guys truly are professionals. I think I was the least scared I've ever been before a jump – which was obviously helped by the fact that all I had to do was breathe, arch and check out the awesome view. The climb in the Porter to an altitude of 22,000 feet was awesome – the sun coming up over the mountains was a view I'll never forget. I don't usually get to see one sunrise but on that day I saw two! Ruedi the pilot is wicked – we were all happy to trust him with our lives. When he gave the 5 minute call all I had to do was check my goggles. The oxygen helps massively to clear your head and with Tom Noonan as the instructor I was in very safe and experienced hands.

We exited the plane and all I could see was the massive snow-capped peaks of the five highest mountains in the world. I'm not sure I can describe the feeling – it was definitely spiritual – truly wonderful. Although we were only in freefall for 6,000 feet it felt like time stopped. Seeing Wendy there too was so cool, we've been friends for years. As we opened I had tears in my eyes – and not from the cold (which it wasn't) but from the emotion. The year of planning had all been for that one moment – magical, complete satisfaction – the most amazing skydive. The view under canopy was the best yet, we were literally on top of the world.

Everest Jumps 6-14 Oct

Eight days of jumping saw a total of 22 loads. There was only enough weather window each day to do three to four loads so some people had to delay their flights and wait. Thanks to those people for their patience, I know they'll agree it was worth it.

Landing

Out of the group two people landed off. That day the clouds moved in so quickly that when the guys exited there was a clear dropzone but when they opened it was completely covered by clouds. Simon found the golden yak field on the top of the ridge but Carrie wasn't so lucky and landed the other side of the ridge, she didn't see the ground until about 20 feet. Doc Ryan was there within a few minutes and thankfully she'd only suffered a broken ankle, a lightly bruised back and a small cut. To me this incident showed the strength of the team to react quickly to an emergency and Carrie's bravery was empowering.

Summary

We had four film crews with us and 40 media agencies covering the event, which gave us worldwide publicity of over 500 articles and programmes including CNN, CBS, Channel 5, Sky, NBC Today and BBC Radio. Our thanks to Holly Budge who did an awesome job gaining media coverage in the UK. Overall the project provided fantastic positive promotion for the sport of skydiving, all over the world.

To transport all those people up the highest mountain range in the world and get them all skydived in front of it was truly remarkable. The energy, positivity and mentality of the entire group made it possible. It was a very special team that developed a strong bond, through dealing with the stresses of this extreme environment. I feel completely privileged to have been involved in such an awesome adventure. As one of us said, there are not many firsts left in the world, and now there's one less.

Going once, going twice..

Second Everest adventure, May 2009, see highlandwild.co.uk/everestskydive

Lucie Fenton
lucie@airkix.com



Kate Craig-Wood



Nigel & Steve



Neil Jones exits by Wendy Smith

highandwild.co.uk
everestskydive.com

Aerial photos by Director of Photography
Wendy Smith. Atmosphere photos by
Wendy Smith and Jason Bryant



Photo: Jason Bryant

Sponsors

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- Air Supply
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- Alti-2
- Sun Path
- Performance Designs
- Safe Flight School
- Strong Enterprises
- Summit Oxygen
- Vigil

Main photo by Wendy Smith



Lucie Fenton



Naseer Alneyadi

Fire at Bridlington

Suspected arson at Bridlington eliminated their hangar on 12 November. The oldest Cessna 206 in the UK, G-ASVN, was destroyed, along with all the club kit, including tandems, student rigs, plus some personal equipment too. If anyone left their rig in the hangar, please would they contact the management at Skydive Brid to discuss.

skydivebrid.com

Online GPS Wingsuit Competition

If you jump with a GPS you can enter an online competition. You upload your data and compare with other wingsuiters, to give the best flyers in the three areas of speed, distance and time. You need Paralog software but the free trial version is sufficient. 3D tracks of your flights can be viewed through Google Earth and compared with others. Interestingly, when we went to press, the leader on the speed board was Belgian Luc Maisin in an FS suit, flying faster than any of the wingsuits!

wingsuitcompetition.com/ppc

New German Record

A German record 200-way, organised by the ever-efficient Dieter Kirsch, was built over Eloy on 15 November.

8-way FS Project

Hannah Betts of *Bodyflight Storm* is working with coach Dan BC to put a high quality 8-way team together, do two fortnight training camps at Perris Valley, California and compete at Nationals 09. Hannah and Sparky are holding try-outs at *Bodyflight Bedford* on 7,8,10 & 11 December, to include 10 minutes of individual coach time and 10 minutes of 2-on-2. The selection philosophy is the same as for *Bodyflight Storm* – that the desire to learn, determination and a positive attitude are far more important than jump numbers.

4-way Kick-start

Hannah is also working with Dan BC on a camp to aid existing 4-way teams or those which may be being formed right now. The camp, including coaches from *Storm* and *Perris Fury*, is the first week in March, at Perris Valley. Dan will work with your team, setting a plan for the year, with specific targets to work towards to meet your stated goals.

Hannah Betts
hannah_betts@hotmail.com

VFS World Cup Judging Update



UK VRW by Andy Lovemore

At the first World Cup in VFS in which four teams entered, there were a few points from the competitors' meeting.

1. Overcrank – Undercrank (Block 11) will either be removed or inter turns increased to 360°
2. Right Hand Flower will be changed to just Flower, to allow it to be mirror imaged, which can only be done on the vertical.
3. The Trident is to be amended showing a definition of the inter and the grips.
4. Continuous grips are allowed in the Double Joker.
5. The World Cup next year will run in conjunction with the FS and will be increased to eight rounds.

More info should follow after the next IPC meeting in January.

Kate Charters, FAI Judge
charters@ingliston.fsnet.co.uk



Extreme Sportswoman of the Year

Claire 'Sparky' Scott was nominated as Extreme Sportsperson of the Year in the third annual Oxfordshire Sports Awards, sponsored by the BBC. There were 12 categories of award, chosen from over 100 nominations. A host of sporting celebrities, including Olympians, attended a gala dinner where the winners were announced from 26 finalists.

Sparky, five times World Gold medallist and World Record holder, is pictured with Anna Hemmings, twice Olympic Gold and six times World Champion canoeist

Mozambique Boogie Postponed

Exotic Sky Adventures' boogie in Mozambique has been postponed from February to later. Exact dates are still to be confirmed but the boogie will be launched in November 09. It will commence from Johannesburg and include an all African safari tour. Registration will open in January 2009.

exoticskyadventures.com

Hayabusa Win Military World Meet

Belgian team *Hayabusa* once again won the CISM international military 4-way competition, which uses its own set of rules. Each launch is a star and then the dives are all-randoms or fast blocks – *Hayabusa* scored a 30.5 average. They competed with new boy Weadong So in place of the old fox Luc Verstrepen.

skydivehayabusa.com
skyleague.com

Thruxton Reunion

A Thruxton reunion party was held in the Goodwood Suite Restaurant, organised by Jacqui Wright, ex manifester and rigger. It was attended by around sixty, including Micky Doyle, Dave Parker, Steve Eversfield, Rob Colpus, Rose Seale, Micky Boys, Malcolm Snook, Ted Strawson and other old faces you may recognise in the picture.

sailorsnook@yahoo.co.uk

Retro Gear

Rigger Examiner Andrew Hilton has been building up a collection of vintage parachutes with a view to preserving the history of the evolution of parachute equipment. Rounds, ParaCommanders (PCs), Parawings and early ram-air canopies are often been destroyed once they are regarded as obsolete but, once gone, these links to the history of our sport are irreplaceable. If anyone has any old gear that they'd like to go to a good home then Andrew would be very interested in looking after it. Even if they want to keep it, he would nonetheless like to know what still exists in the UK and offers to renovate and restore it to its original condition – for free! Contact him by email or through the BPA Office.

Andrew Hilton
andrew.hilton@yahoo.com



Malcolm Snook



airkix
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Merry Xmas from The Aircrew

The Perfect Gift

Airkix vouchers make the perfect Xmas gift for friends and family and why not let your loved ones know they can always buy you tunnel time too.

Fly with Santa

We have selected sessions in December where you can bring your kids, old and young, to fly with Santa. *Check the website for dates.*

Next Generation

Team MK; Meera (11) and Maya (9) are a product of Airkix Kidz Club and are now flying head-down.

Air-Sphereing

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For more information visit www.air-sphere.com

Regular Events

NEW for 2009 Freely Mondays
Kidz Club every other Tuesday
New dates coming soon, keep an eye on the website for updates.

Coaching with:

Sparky & Andy Scott (FS)
Andy Ford
Adam Mattacola
Euphoria
Yoko Okazaki
Samurai Freely

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 'pro-flyer zone' at www.airkix.com
Airkix is based in Central Milton Keynes (M1, Junction 14). For bookings and more information:

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

Maya 9 years



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session if this applies to you

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Meera 11 years



The Spirit of TEAM GB

The European Skydiving League, or ESL, is a series of meets held throughout the year with scores compared on the internet between different nations. If you've been in a BPA UKSL meet, chances are you were doing the same dive as any European teams that were competing that weekend. Once a year, 4-way FS teams gather at one dropzone to compete directly against each other and decide which nation wins the overall title of ESL Champions and the sword that goes with it – The Spirit!

To compete at international level, you would perhaps expect that all competitors have to be highly experienced and at the top of the tree. This is not a requirement for ESL, as all four categories from rookie to AAA are represented. This means that the ESL really is for everyone, regardless of experience.

This year, nine UK 4-way teams made their way to the scenic dropzone of Texel, a small island at the north of Holland with the aim of winning the coveted trophy, a sword called 'The Spirit'. The Dutch won it last year, and also took on the task of hosting the meet, making it the first time in the final's history the event hasn't been held at Spa in Belgium. Various routes and methods of transport were employed by the British delegation, including cars, minibuses, ferries and even a motorbike. By the start of the competition on the Friday morning the Brits were ready to go, with everyone from 'Team GB' in an upbeat mood and looking forward to a great competition.

Our main challengers for the sword were to be the host nation. Keen to defend their title, the Dutch had the largest contingent of any nation with 14 teams. Only the top two teams in each category are counted when looking at the final scores so our teams all had to do well and beat their respective opponents. Five other nations were present, but only the Brits and the Dutch had delegations with sufficient teams to challenge for the overall trophy.

Continental breakfast (if you don't like ham and cheese you're in trouble!), briefings and pre-jump preparation completed, the teams started jumping. The weather was fine after some pretty miserable conditions the day before, so everyone was keen to get the ball rolling.

We managed two rounds out of the fleet of three Cessna Caravans before rain stopped play midway through the third round. Texel had put some serious effort into the running and organisation of the competition with all teams being made aware of which aircraft they were jumping from and which emplaning point they should be at, very impressive.

The leaderboard was looking healthy from Team GB's point of view being 17 points ahead of the Dutch after two rounds.

In AAA, *Satori* were skydiving hard but were unlucky with some busts that kept them behind the *Texel Airport Team*, which was in fact the Dutch national 4-way team drafted in to support the finals and sponsored by the host dropzone. AA was dominated by UK teams *Phantom* and AA class national champions *Phobia*: nothing to choose between these two but *Phantom* just had the edge. In A class *Strangers* and *Unagi* were putting up a decent fight whilst rookie UK team *Innuendo* were finally skydiving at their true potential with a four point lead over all the other rookies, including our own *Zero Degrees* who were third.

We were on hold for the rest of the day before it was finally called when they realised it was raining all the way from the north of Holland to the south of France! Dutch hospitality continued into the evening as we enjoyed a few glasses of the appetisingly named 'Skum'.

Day two of the three day meet dawned drier but blowing like the proverbial hoolie. We dirtdived and waited around, with some skydivers amusing themselves with bad weather games such as Twister and the old favourite, human pyramids. The DZ management organised everyone to go to a local go-kart track in the still windy afternoon – only for the wind to come down within limits once the kart racing was halfway through!





Team GB wins The Spirit by Yolanda Zwijnenburg

Saturday evening saw a beautiful sunset over the island of Texel and all the ESL competitors struggling to complete round 4. As darkness descended, a team captains' meeting was called to see what we wanted to do, in the light of a poor forecast for the morrow. Call it and have a big party knowing there would be no jumps on Sunday – or carry on? Being in the lead and liking the idea of the former option, all Brit teams voted to sack it, but we were outvoted by our competitors so Saturday night's party went ahead, but with one eye firmly on the next day wondering if it was going to be jumpable...

...Which it wasn't. We may have saved some liver damage and rescued a few brain cells from an early demise but all in vain. The winds picked up and, despite one load (going backwards), the meet was officially called on Sunday lunchtime. After three complete rounds the Brits had done it – we finally had the sword in our grasp!

Individually, Brit teams scored two golds, two

silvers and two bronze medals. The podium was a sea of Union flags and Brit team T-shirts as we collected the sword and waved to our friends and competitors before embarking on our long and varied routes home.

The ESL remains one of the most friendly and stress-free international competitions on the calendar. As winners, the UK now has the task of hosting the 2009 finals, something I'm looking into now. In order for the finals to be a success we need to ensure that competitors from all over Europe attend in force. Hopefully we can promote the series of competitions throughout the year, keep the ESL alive... and retain that sword!

A huge thank you to all competitors for making the effort to go. You are all superstars. Also I must say a massive thank you to Helen at BPA HQ for organising the T-shirts.

Chris Hollis (pictured by Yolanda Zwijnenburg)
hollisc@tint.com



Photo: Wingnutz by Jim Stevenson

RESULTS

AAA

| | | Total (3 rds) | Avg |
|--|----------------------|---------------|------|
| | 1 Texel Airport Team | 73 | 18.3 |
| | 2 Satori | 63 | 15.8 |
| | 3 Pulse! | 62 | 15.5 |
| | 4 Pro-Team | 55 | 13.8 |
| | 5 NRG | 53 | 13.3 |
| | 6 Whooops | 51 | 12.8 |
| | 7 Wingnutz | 51 | 12.8 |
| | 8 Spa Excess | 45 | 11.3 |

AA

| | | | |
|--|------------------|----|------|
| | 1 Phantom | 53 | 13.3 |
| | 2 Phobia | 48 | 12.0 |
| | 3 Yottsus | 43 | 10.8 |
| | 4 Habanero | 36 | 9.0 |
| | 5 Mind your Step | 35 | 8.8 |

A

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|----|------|
| | 1 Fast Arrows | 50 | 12.5 |
| | 2 Tiramisu | 47 | 11.8 |
| | 3 Strangers | 46 | 11.5 |
| | 4 Empat Laki Laki | 40 | 10.0 |
| | 5 Serges Angels | 38 | 9.5 |
| | 6 Unagi | 32 | 8.0 |
| | 7 Cool Runnings | 27 | 6.8 |
| | 8 Fast Lane | 23 | 5.8 |

Rookie

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|----|------|
| | 1 Innuendo | 49 | 16.3 |
| | 2 Creeps | 44 | 14.7 |
| | 3 Zero Degrees | 40 | 13.3 |
| | 4 Crazy Dragons | 35 | 11.7 |
| | 5 Spa Eole | 28 | 9.3 |
| | 6 Blue Rebels | 19 | 6.3 |
| | 7 4igami | 15 | 5.0 |
| | 8 Murphy Mania | 13 | 4.3 |
| | 9 Army UK | 0 | 0.0 |

euro-skyleague.com

COMPETITIONS

The Competitions round-up for 2008 is one of great achievement on many levels and more to build on in the coming year. The Comps team formed at the AGM and outlined some key deliverables. First up, setting the competitions schedule for 2008, quickly backed up by an Action Plan and a series of coaching roadshows. During the year the committee met at regular periods to review progress and keep on track. The committee has been brilliantly supported by BPA staff, who have limited distractions to competitors and allowed full focus where it is needed – on the meet.

Looking onward to 2009 we have agreed all the league meets and Nationals (see your free BPA calendar), including a great achievement of the start of a 3-year Nationals series in FS and Artistics. Our Action Plan runs until June and includes support to teams attending the World Cup 09. Our roadshow coaches can further develop their skills to deliver even better coaching, under the guidance of Loughborough University, the top sport uni in the UK! The trial of this 'coach the coach' programme has started and we have

plenty of spaces in 2009. We've seen coaches go well above the call of duty and lay on a series of cracking events, with more planned for '09, including a focus on 8-way FS to turn this discipline round.

One area we need to improve on is looking after our event equipment – so we're looking for an 'equipment rep' to help with this, particularly for classics. Volunteers welcome – contact Martin Shuttleworth for more detail.

I'd like to say thanks to competitors, coaches, committee, DZOs, BPA staff and the judges for a great job – we are ONE BIG TEAM who can work together to get even better in 2009. Well done to all the new international judges and not forgetting the success stories of the 2007-8 Action Plan – well done!

*Andy Scott
Chairman of Competitions*

DEVELOPMENT



DZOs Meeting

The Development Committee held the latest of its occasional meetings for Drop Zone Owners and Operators (DZOs) on 11 November. Walcote Village Memorial Hall in Leicestershire proved a fitting venue for Armistice Day, making the two minutes' silence at 11am even more poignant. Most DZOs attended, together with several Council Members, staff and Lesley Gale, Editor of the Mag. Chaired by John Smyth, Chairman of Council, topics included flying and operational issues, European legislation, environmental management, insurance, medical forms and membership retention. John Smyth thanked all involved for a very positive meeting.



BPA Credit Card

The new BPA Credit Card now includes a skydiving picture (kindly supplied by Andy Ford), the result of years of persistence by Adrian Bond with the card provider, MBNA. We hope many Members will take out the card, which comes with great benefits (see page 87). The best part is that the BPA receives a small income from the card – support your sport and apply. (Existing card holders will receive the picture card when their current one expires.)

The Airkix Fund

The Airkix Fund, set up by the Airkix wind tunnel and the BPA to benefit skydiving, has generated £1,400. This will be used supporting safe canopy handling training; specifically by commissioning a series of short video clips (YouTube style) of CH1 & CH2 exercises. The clips will be widely disseminated via websites and dropzones. To this end, the Development Committee invites any Members interested in producing these videos to submit their proposal by 27 Feb 2009. The proposal should include a budget, storyboard and a list of all involved, including ratings. Contact Martin Soulsby for further info.

*Martin Soulsby
martin.soulsby@bpa.org.uk*

COMMUNICATIONS

New BPA Website Online



The website was created by our new web development company (Hayes Computing Solutions), the Communications Committee and a lot of work from the BPA office. The key difference is the new advanced database management system that will be used in the second website phase, of online voting and Membership renewal. The pages will be changed regularly, keeping it fresh. Feedback is important and we therefore ask you to respond with constructive criticism or even praise to web@bpa.org.uk

*Adrian Bond
Communications Chair*





170 years of Parachuting

Andy Scott (Competitions Chairman) and Paul Applegate (Riggers' Chairman) represented the BPA to unveil a commemorative plaque (pictured left) to John Hampton, who made the first successful parachute descent (from a hot air balloon) near Cheltenham, in 1838. The unveiling, in Montpellier Gardens on 3 October, was organised by the Cheltenham Civic Society. As part of the commemoration, the Silver Stars display team made a professional demo jump. The event was covered by BBC1's regional news

programme Points West, a front-page article in the Gloucestershire Echo and BBC Radio Gloucestershire. As Andy is a local, born and bred in Cheltenham, he was even invited back on the radio a week later as the lunchtime show guest.

AGM

It will be a memorable farewell, on Saturday 10 January 2009, to the Hinckley Island Hotel, home of BPA AGMs for the last decade. The formal AGM will start at 1030 followed by the presentation of awards and medals. BPA Chairman John Smyth's review of 2008 will look back on a spectacular year of achievements in our sport and raise our anticipation of the skydiving year ahead.

Various seminars and meetings are planned, including a presentation by leading US skydiving author and speaker Dan Poynter, and a discussion of the benefits of NLP for skydiving competitors. There will be open forums from the Council, Communications & Development and Competitions. There will also be an all-day exhibition of skydiving kit and services – around 20 exhibitors have already confirmed. It's free to book a space to promote anything for the safe enjoyment of UK skydiving (subject to availability, slots are limited). Contact the BPA Office.

The BPA has negotiated even better room rates than those published in the October Mag: £75 on Friday 9 January and £90 on Saturday (double room inc breakfast). Book on **01455 898 560** (Mon-Fri 9-5) quoting 'Hinckley-BPA'.

Feedback on last year's buffet was that you preferred a formal dinner with table service, so that's what we've got at 8pm. Tickets cost £26 and must be purchased in advance, from Helen Lucas at the BPA Office. Dinner will be followed by Celebrations Disco, open to all Members and guests, at no charge.

Dinner Dance Menu

Roast plum tomato and red pepper soup with basil croutons

Braised beef with red cabbage, green beans, horseradish creamed mash with a red wine jus

or Vegetarian tian of roasted Mediterranean vegetables

Classic lemon tart

Coffee

NEW RATINGS

Advanced Packers

Michelle Caldwell (S)
Dave Emerson (S)
Philip Gunton (S)
Mark Piper (S)
Kristopher Sheppard (S)
Lee Thomas (S)
Alan Westley (S)
Simon Asquith (T)
Dave Emerson (T)
Dominic Hines (T)
Bryan Poole (T)

Basic Instructor (BI)

Tom Pantall
Jared Morris
Danny Ball

Tandem BI

Dan Williams
Ben Bolton
Lee Thomas
David Charlton
Glen Staley
Leigh Birchenough-Richards

AFF BI

Susan Farquhar

CS Instructor

Steve Saunders
Derek Hopkins
Justin Everitt
Marcus Speed
Adrian King

Council Election 2009

19 nominations have been received for the 15 seats on Council 2009, so an election will take place. This will be independently administered by Electoral Reform Services (ERS), who have posted information on candidates together with voting instructions to BPA Members. You can vote online or by post. If any BPA Members (who are eligible to vote) have not received their instructions from ERS by 10 December, please advise the BPA Office. The election will close at **noon on Tuesday 6 January** and results will be posted on the BPA website on receipt from ERS on Wednesday 7 January. The new Council will take office on Saturday 10 January immediately after the AGM.

The candidates are:

Paul Applegate
Ray Armstrong
Sandy Barnett
Adrian Bond
Kieran Brady
John Horne
Paul Ledden
Ian Marshall
Paul Moore
Craig Poxon
Clem Quinn
Grant Richards
Steve Saunders
Andy Scott
John Smyth
Martin Soulsby
Weed Stoodley
Elizabeth Warner
Alex Wilson

Two Council Members 2008, David Ibbotson and Geordie Page, are not standing for re-election.

Disciplinary Decisions

Council has decided that, from 1 January 09, published reports on the outcome of formal disciplinary cases will, where the respondent(s) have been found guilty of a breach or other disciplinary offence, include the names of the offenders.

Festive Holiday

The BPA Office will close at 12.30 on Christmas Eve and reopen at 9am on Monday 5 January 2009. Council, Committees and staff wish all Members the compliments of the season and look forward to another great year for British skydiving in 2009.

FUNSHINE Boogie!



Take 20 freeflyers from all over the UK, some from Holland and one from Germany, world class coaches, a Dornier G92, the climate of Seville, some 15k 'Funshine Pie' and you have yourself a Funshine Boogie...

A boogie that has limited numbers, is more structured than a regular boogie but not as intense as a skills camp, the objectives were to jump for five days and be able to choose from head-up, head-down and tracking groups – each with their own assigned coach. With the emphasis on developing group flying skills, the coaches set aims such as accurate slot flying, building points, good exits and clean break-offs for the teams to achieve. Each jump was fully briefed and video debriefed, the learning came quickly and the groups developed at a remarkable pace.

The head-up groups led by Andy Lovemore were building 3-way points and flying neat slots. The head-down group led by Mike Carpenter was way ahead completing 4-way sequentials, which were being carved around at lightening speed by Alex Murphy. The tracking group led by the super-talented Jim Harris was flying tight formations – and all that was just Day 1!

The coaches switched groups throughout the five days and brought new aims and direction to their people. Being able to change coaches and alternate between groups kept the boogie 'Funshine Fresh' every day!

There was always a tracking group to jump on, and then back to a bit more head-down or head-up – whatever took your fancy! The coaches were also doing back-to-backs to get one-on-one coached jumps in to help individual progression. In less than four days jumping we hit our target of 35 jumps, thanks to a very efficient manifest and a pilot who tracks as well as he flies! The jumping was so good, there were not many people left in the Un-Irish bar after midnight most evenings, opting to store energy for the next day. 'Freefly Phil' Curtis did his first group sit-fly jumps, Sacha Chilton declared herself 'a freeflyer forever!' and Iain Ayres landed with one shoe after a fight with a hoop. Chris Brooks was the boogie's star of the show, completing his 600th jump in his first year as a skydiver, always smiling, and playing a key role in the success of the head-down group.

I had a great time organising and being at the boogie, helped massively by Jim Harris, Mike Carpenter and Skydive Spain who turned an idea into reality. If you want to join in the games, go to funshineboogie.com or skydivespain.com for fabulous further formulated fantastic funshine!

Mark Owen





Photos: Andy Lovemore, Alex Murphy & Mikey Carpenter



funshineboogie.com 9-13 May 2009



CF World Meet



RAPA display team jump into opening ceremony by Craig Poxon

We Didn't Come Last!

The British team for the thirteenth Canopy Formation World Championships comprised of Adam Johnson, Doug Preston, Gavin McLeod, Paul Speller, with me on camera. We headed out to Paracentrum Teuge in Holland and arrived to rain and low clouds. With no jumping going on it was a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and have a look around the dropzone, which has one of the largest, cleanest, most impressive rigging operations I've ever seen. I'd been told that Teuge has its own microclimate and the weather overhead can clean up whilst all around it is unjumpable. This proved to be true and a hole opened up allowing some of the teams a chance to do some practice jumps although, by the time our load got up, the ceiling had come down to around 4,000 feet. We jumped anyway and it was good to familiarise myself with the dropzone. The weather improved after this but we were not able to do any more as jumping was curtailed to prepare for the opening ceremony.

Opening Ceremony

The ceremony itself was mercifully short with quick speeches from MaryLou Laughlin (IPC Coordinator) and representatives from the dropzone and Dutch association. The boys from RAPA popped by in their new Kodiak (very nice!) and performed a demo. The delegations had formed a square around the stage and the demo had been briefed that the sides of the square would be cleared to give them a free run – but it wasn't! So in a wide open dropzone they did a demo into a very tight square! I was very impressed; good job lads! To celebrate the opening there was a free bar; I wish someone had told me it was only to be for an hour!

Accommodation

Everyone was being accommodated at the Mercure Hotel in Deventer, about 15 minutes coach ride from the DZ, with shuttles laid on in the morning and evening. The accommodation was good but having three to a room with one on a fold-out bed in order to reduce costs was a little cramped but, after some sweet talking with the receptionist, Adam managed to secure us another room. Good work fella! We then familiarised ourselves with the hotel bar, although not in too much depth as we had a 6am start!

Day 1

The first day of the competition dawned dry and bright and indeed the forecast for the competition was good. It needed to be! We had our work cut out as we were all competing in all disciplines; 2-way sequential, 4-way sequential and 4-way rotations. MaryLou Laughlin had approached Ian Marshall (UK Head of Delegation) asking why we hadn't submitted a second team in the 2-way since it was possible. It turned out that Gavin and Spell were eligible to enter a second team so they did, with Marshall jumping camera; this was cobbled together with a helmet from Henny, a temperamental video from Gav and a 'sight' from Rymans – aka a pencil!

With a record 20 teams registered showing the rapidly growing popularity of the discipline, the competition started with 2-way. I couldn't believe how apprehensive I was! I have well over 2,000 jumps in a wide range of disciplines and have filmed the boys a lot, but it is weird what stress competition can add. A small disaster struck on the first round. The regular canopy I use to film the guys was not available and the Spectre 135 I had

been trying was not up to the job, so the guys had provided a rotation-trimmed Triathlon 120 and a sequential-trimmed Lightning 126. The Tri had worked well when filming the 4-way rotations on the previous day and I assumed it would be okay for the 2-way sequential but, after exit, I set up a bit too far back and struggled to catch up with them. Some CRW cameraman like to sit back, take their wide-angle lenses off and zoom the camera in a bit, but I prefer to have a wide-angle and sit as close as I can. Normally I'd only have one camera but for such an important competition I had two, in case one failed or I was too close to be judged with a narrower field of vision. Struggling to catch up, the video was just too small to judge and we scored a zero! Nightmare!

In the bar the night before the boys had asked me what my goals were for the competition. I don't think I'd ever lost them a point in competition or practice and I wanted to continue that, along with staying safe and having fun... and I blew it on the first round! Epic fail! Oh well, just goes to show that 7Ps is still valid and, if you are going to make a change, round 1 of an international competition is not the place to do it. Fortunately, they have throwaway rounds in CF so I was very happy to discard that one! Lesson learned, from then on for 2-way I jumped with a 0.5x wide-angle on one camera and no lens on the other and used a sequential-trimmed canopy.

After a shaky start with 9 points, the second Russian team broke the 16 point World Record set by the US team at their 2007 Nationals – scoring 18 points!





British rotations team by Ronald Overdijk

Paul Speller, Ian Marshall, Gavin McLeod, Craig Poxon, Adam Johnson & Doug Preston

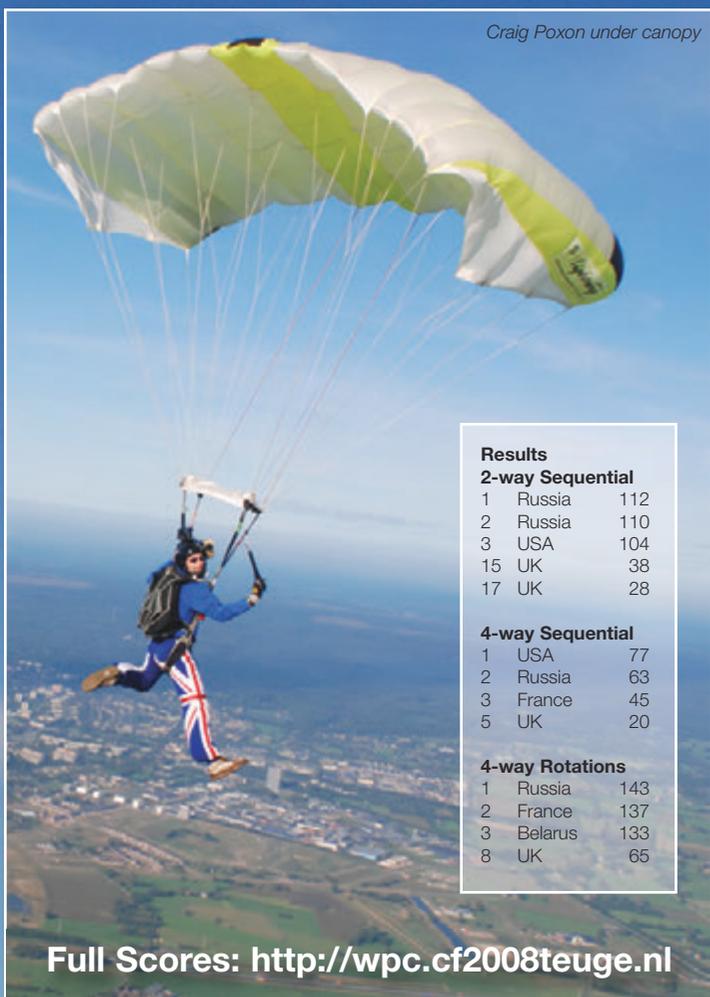


Paul Speller by Saskia Zegwaard/dragon2.nl
Don't try this at home!

Ian Marshall's makeshift camera by Craig Poxon

With 4 rounds of 2-way completed and lunch, competition moved onto 4-way rotations, the next most popular discipline with nine teams. After three rounds of rotations there were a couple of sequential, with just six teams in this event. The day ended with some rejumps including the second UK 2-way team who had had a camera mal (or two!) earlier on. A few beers on landing was a perfect way to end the day and ease the pain. After nine slider-down free-packed CRW openings with two cameras on my head, my neck was starting to ache! By the end of the first day, 46 loads had been flown from the three Cessna Caravans available.

Craig Poxon under canopy



Results

2-way Sequential

| | | |
|----|--------|-----|
| 1 | Russia | 112 |
| 2 | Russia | 110 |
| 3 | USA | 104 |
| 15 | UK | 38 |
| 17 | UK | 28 |

4-way Sequential

| | | |
|---|--------|----|
| 1 | USA | 77 |
| 2 | Russia | 63 |
| 3 | France | 45 |
| 5 | UK | 20 |

4-way Rotations

| | | |
|---|---------|-----|
| 1 | Russia | 143 |
| 2 | France | 137 |
| 3 | Belarus | 133 |
| 8 | UK | 65 |

Full Scores: <http://wpc.cf2008teuge.nl>

Day 2

The second day was bright again, after a night of rain. Arriving at the dropzone the British team were greeted with faxes of support from back home, which are always appreciated and boost morale. Thanks guys! Competition resumed with 4-way and 2-way sequential. The Swedish team, who had only trained for rotations and were entering a sequential team for fun, set a National Record of 5 points. The Brits also scored 5 with a really nice dive that they were very proud of considering the lack of training, block move and inverted T – not easy! There was a short hold after some of the Russians landed on the runway, which the airport manager didn't take too kindly to! After lunch, there were two more rounds of rotations with the Russians equalling their World Record of 21 points and the French very close behind them. Another round of 2-way sequential meant, at the end of the day, 16 rounds of the 24 had been completed.

Hence there was a very good chance the competition would finish on the third day. In the bar that evening, the competitors enjoyed watching the daily video edit masterfully compiled by local camerawoman, Saskia Zegwaard (who did the avidly-watched World Team '06 daily edits), all of which are available to watch on the official competition website:

<http://wpc.cf2008teuge.nl>



Aerial photos show British sequential team, by Saskia Zegwaard/dragon2.nl

Ground photos by Craig Poxon

Day 3

Again we were blessed with good weather. Three rounds of 4-way sequential and two rounds of rotations left us with one round of each of the three disciplines left to complete the meet. The Swedes had a wrap and cutaway during 4-way sequential, landed on a 45-minute call for their next jump and managed to repack in time! The competition finished on rotations with all the teams going up in all three aircraft and dropping in reverse order, 90 seconds apart. We were second out – penultimate position! For the final jump we were permitted to land near the buildings, in front of the Breittling Airsports World cameras covering the event for a TV series on Sky Sports in December. This gave rise to some entertaining landings! The second Russian team managed to do it again and broke their own World Record by 2 points with a score of 20! Amazing stuff. I managed to get a sneaky fun jump in with Matijn and Fonsz, the local cameramen. Ah, how sweet it was to be back in freefall again and with a canopy that took a lovely 800 feet to open!

Results

The judges had their work cut out to complete the judging but were able to declare the rankings by 8pm.

In the 2-way sequential it was Russia 1 and 2 in first and second place, with just 2 points between them, and the Americans some way behind in third. UK1 came 15th and UK2 were 17th, while Romania brought up the rear in 20th place with 15 points.

In the 4-way sequential, USA dominated and took gold followed by Russia in second and France coming an impressive third considering injury and team changes. UK were in fifth with 20 points, beating last place Sweden (the rotations team!) by 2 points.

In the 4-way rotations, Russia came first with 143, France were second with 137 and Belarus third with 133 – not bad for their first competition! The UK were eighth with 65 points, kept out of last position thanks to Romania who scored only 12 but were competing on Pursuit 215s!

There was a fair bit of partying back at the hotel that evening!

Aftermath

The next day there was some interest in having an 8-way competition. The Dutch and the British joined forces and scored 3 points on the one and only jump before the weather closed in. It seems as though the Teuge microclimate bubble had finally burst!

On the final day the bad weather continued initially but cleared up in the afternoon and there was a lot of demoing of the new PD Storm canopy going on. Doug, who usually jumps a 160 Lightning, had a lot of fun on a 107 Storm! He and Gav were concerned but entertained by the toggles pop-studded to the mudflaps which needed to be released during deployment!

The medal ceremony was held in the evening as the sun set. The competition closed with a superb banquet, with a wide variety of food and a local band, who put on a great show with the party going on until the early hours. Paracentrum Teuge pulled out all the stops to hold a world class event, all the more impressive when you know that earlier on this year it looked like there wasn't going to be a World Championships as no one had bid! The staff and volunteers put together an excellent meet with no external funding and should be heartily congratulated.

Craig Poxon
craig@poxon.org

Paul Speller, Christine Meijers, Ian Marshall & Gav McLeod





PIA Symposium February 8 - 13 2009

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Home or Away?



Where to Train?

When it comes to deciding where to train and get as many jumps in as possible prior to a competition, the decision usually depends on a particular coach's availability. The top coaches are from the best teams and the best teams are from the biggest DZs. For as long as I can remember, the choice has been east or west coast [of USA].

Factors Affecting Choice

In search of a DZ that can cater for our needs, 4-way and 8-way teams from around the world have travelled to the USA. It's not surprising when you consider the long list of demands FS teams have in order to make a training camp worthwhile:

- Cost
- Coach
- Aircraft
- Organisation
- Weather
- Wind tunnel
- Packers

Cost

Cost is the first consideration as your budget will dictate where you go and what you do. Consider:

- Exchange rate
- Car parking
- Flights
- Car hire
- Accommodation
- Insurance
- Coaching fees
- Jump rate
- Pack jobs
- Food
- And, of course, beer!

Coach

The value of a good coach can't be underestimated. They plan, organise, brief, manifest, observe, liaise and debrief continuously throughout the jumping day. They work hard but, like all masters of their trade, they make it look easy. A well seasoned coach will be able to coach two teams simultaneously, which can mean sharing the fee and saving some money.

Aircraft

Otter, Caravan or Dornier. Ideally you need to train out of the aircraft you will be using at the Nationals or the competition you are training for. If there is a choice, then make sure you involve the cameraflyer.

Organisation

At the centre of the organisation is the manifest. The manifest will need to be a well-oiled machine if you are going to do 12 to 16 jumps a day in a short period of time. It will also need a good CCI who will keep the momentum going when it's safe to do so. Most importantly, the DZ owners need to be fully supportive of your needs as an FS team.

Weather

We all know what is required here. Regardless of where you go you can expect some bad weather. Having a wind tunnel within range of a DZ can be a useful asset.

Packers

You will need a team of packers

that can meet your desired jump numbers. The quality of packers varies from DZ to DZ. You will need to check and if necessary bring your own.

Do your Homework

All the above factors need to be considered and are greatly dependant on your budget. To get value for your money you will need to do your homework and prep for the camp. You should already know the dive pool, have a good understanding of your slot and be fit enough for a camp.

Value for Money

Value for money is essential when the budget dictates every aspect of your planned camp. Making the right choice could save your team thousands. A 4-way team planning on a two week camp in the US, and aiming to complete 100 jumps would need to budget for about £14,000. A team with the same aim but going to Hibaldstow would need about £10,000.

Where to Train?

So, back to the original question, where to train? It's always been a 'no-brainer' but now things have changed and it's a question well worth asking. My current team *Satori* are based in the UK. From experience from this year alone, we have seen that these days there are fewer advantages to training away than there were previously. Cost, coach, aircraft, organisation, and

tunnels – now that Gary Smith has joined the list of world class coaches based in Europe, everything is here.

The weather is the weak link in the chain but as a team we have managed to do more jumps per jumping day here compared to the US. Recently on a camp at Hibaldstow we did 20 jumps in a day that started cloudy! DZs back home certainly have more of a make-the-most-of-it attitude when it comes to a parachuting programme. It's not out of choice, it's a necessity and comes from years of experience. It's also worth remembering that you lose at least two days jumping when you travel to the US.

Home Gets our Vote

4-way is all about being efficient. Not just in the air but in every aspect because of factors such as cost. So our vote is to stay at home.

Team Satori will be training in Hibaldstow and Seville between now and 2010. If you would like to train alongside us check out our training dates at www.skydiving.co.uk

Aaron Faith, *Team Satori*
aaronfaith@btinternet.com

Photo shows Aaron Faith over Hibaldstow
by Jim Stevenson

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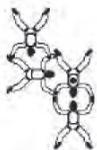
STORMING Blocks



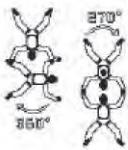
Continuing our series on block technique, this time Block 19

Block 19 Ritz – Icpick

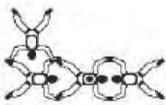
19



Ritz



(Inter)



Icpick

Ritz-Icpick requires the back piece (Tail and Inside Centre) to do a 360° backwards whilst the front piece (Point and Outside Centre) do just a 270°. On the key, Inside and Outside Centres 'open the door', i.e. move out to create a corridor for Tail and Point to drive towards each other. The initial move from the centres helps determine the distance that needs to be closed at the end of the block. Good eye contact is required so that too much distance or not enough between the Inside and Outside Centres on the close can be fixed.

Ritz-Icpick can be executed on the flat or as a vertical. We have described how we execute the block vertically with the front piece going under. If you want to avoid the vertical, Inside and Outside Centres simply create more distance on the first move.

Block 19 – Exit and hill move

On the exit both Point and Outside Centre are positioned straight down the line of flight. The move on the hill is much smaller than on the flat as Point already has the momentum from the exit which can sometimes throw them down the hill! As a result it is easier for the front piece to go over on the hill. Therefore the initial move out from Inside Centre and Outside Centre is much smaller plus Outside Centre plays a role in stopping Point short.



Point

- Stand inside the plane at the front of the door, with high grips on Outside Centre (similar to an A exit).
- On 'go' don't push out too far, go straight with Outside Centre.
- Really present to the relative wind, and assist Outside Centre to do the same.
- It's a very small move on the hill, aim to go sideways over Tail, and stop hard.
- Then really keep your eye on the back piece, and don't assist Outside Centre too much, let them finish their move to close the block.
- On the hill the front piece usually finds it easier to go over the back piece.



Outside Centre

- Stand at front of the door with chest facing slipstream (as for Point, it's similar to an A exit).
- Give Inside Centre your side before climbing out.
- Hold on rail with both hands.
- Exit line of flight, and then place Point over Tail but stop them short so that they don't slide down the hill.
- Then get eyes with Inside Centre before driving straight for the close.



Inside Centre

- This is exactly like a sidebody exit for you. Stand middle to rear of the door, inside, with sidebody grips on Outside Centre.
- Right foot back, left foot forward, chest facing front of door/relative wind!
- On the exit count, drive off your right foot and, as soon as it hits the air, get your left knee down to help anchor the formation on the hill as you would a sidebody.
- It's your key – make sure everyone is stable before you start! On the hill you do very little other than make a tiny move out at the start and hold eye contact with Outside Centre as long as possible. Your piece goes UNDER on the hill so, once the cross has been made, cup a little air.



Tail

- This is just like a sidebody exit.
- From the Otter, head-jam the exit and pick up both grips. From the Dornier sometimes there isn't quite enough room to head-jam so have the arm grip in the door and pick up the leg just out of the door.
- On the exit, go a little early, away from the plane and put yourself on a 45° angle on the hill.
- On the key, drive up the hill towards Outside Centre (rather than Point) and keep looking at the front piece to make the close.



Camera

- It's a long formation so I try to use the widest part of the frame to ensure all the grips can be seen on exit.



Block 19 Build ➡

Point

- Build straight in front of Outside Centre – do not try to cheat on the build as this will mess up the first part of the block move.
- Take high grips, and Outside Centre should double up on your grips.

Outside Centre

- Take high grips on Point (double up) and ensure they are flexible.
- Build on a lower level with Inside Centre on random.

Inside Centre

- Cup a little air as you go into the build; that way on the key, the vertical is already there.
- Be aware of making sure Point is securely on grips going into the build so you can anticipate keying quickly.

Tail

- Reference off Outside Centre to ensure you are in the right place and then pick up eye contact with Point ready for the block move.

Block 19 Move ➡

Point

- On the key, drive forward at about 45 degrees towards and underneath Tail – let Tail get height over you, you can just go straight through.
- Stop hard on the other side, really hold your ground at the halfway picture. Keep looking at the back piece, and see if you will need to allow more room for Outside Centre to come through, or if you will need to help close the gap.
- Start fixing any levels difference as soon as you can.
- Don't assist Outside Centre for the last part, let them move straight through to the close.

Outside Centre

- On key move out at 90°, help Point to drive through.
- Keep distance small between you and Inside Centre.
- Once Point is through, start driving straight to where Inside Centre will finish for the close, picking up eye contact with Inside Centre as soon as you can.
- Don't commit to giving your legs to Inside Centre too soon, ie, you should drive forwards and then offer your legs at the last minute when you can exactly determine where Inside Centre will be.

Inside Centre

- It's your key – cup a little air if you haven't already going into the build. On the key – 'open the door' for Tail, ie, make a small turn to the right about 45-90°. When doing this, think 'shoulders forward' towards Point, otherwise you tend to backslide, which takes your piece away.
- Your job is now pretty much done! Keep eyes with Outside Centre for as long as possible and, when you feel Tail start to turn you, just go neutral and relax. DO NOT headswitch and look for the catch as you will really restrict Tail putting you where you need to be!
- Stay neutral right to the close, the catch will almost be a surprise. Now, park up and hold your ground. Have strong hands on the catch as this is a 'red flag' area where judges will bust you if you have fumbling hands!

Tail

- Cup a little air and head towards Point
- Then rotate your piece (your legs will go over the top of Point) and stop it hard so that Inside Centre is facing Point, and almost alongside Outside Centre.
- Let Outside Centre rotate to close the block.

Camera

- During competition, position yourself so the block closes along the widest part of the screen so the judges can clearly see the cat grip in the middle.

Block described for left hand door continuity (ie, Dornier/Otter), hence freefall photos are mirrored

Storm photos by Gary Wainwright. Exit demo by Perris Fury, photos by Niklas Daniels



Top Tip

Work with your cameraperson to make a 'Best Of' DVD for 2008. No more than ten minutes, it should show your finest moments (exits, individual blocks, short skydiving sequences) and, if possible, complete skydives that show the team at their best. Watching this often in the off season will help keep your brain fine-tuned ready for the next!

Team News

The current Bodyflight Storm members (Hannah Betts, Sarah Smith, Kate Stephens, Claire 'Sparky' Scott and Gary 'Swoop' Wainwright) are taking a well-earned break following a very hectic but rewarding 18 months. When we formed the team in January 07, we set the goal of becoming World Champions in 2008 with a 20 average, 1,500 jumps, numerous tunnel hours and too many credit cards to mention later, we achieved our goal at the World Meet in France. The team would like to thank the BPA, Aerodyne, Bodyflight, Vigil, Skydive Perris, Skydive Weston, Larsen & Brusgaard and the very inspirational Dan BC for helping make this incredible journey possible. Also thanks to all our family, friends and the BPA Membership for being so supportive of our goal.

What Next?

Sarah has formed a new team with Laura and Lynne from *Fusion*, Julie Woodrow from *Boogie Pimps* with Adele Murray on camera whilst Hannah is putting together a new 8-way team (see page 10). Team members will continue to coach (freefall and tunnel) and will be running *Bodyflight Storm* tunnel camps and coaching projects similar to the *Fury-Storm* project run this year. For updates see: stormskydivingteam.co.uk

MIXED FORMATION



Craig O'Brien

It's incredible to think that the advances in technology and innovation in this sport mean two people in freefall could fly in formation with someone under canopy! Tim Rigby and Jeb Corliss were wearing wingsuits and doing ultra-slow freefall flight for several thousand feet, right next to Luigi Cani, piloting the smallest canopy that has ever been landed, a JVX-37.

The action, at Perris Valley, California, on Saturday 18 October, was filmed by a helicopter gyro-cam in close proximity from 10,000 feet down to 3,500 feet.

Luigi deployed right out of the door at about 50 knots. When on heading, he stowed the removable pilot chute and slider system, which took extra altitude because of the sensitive little canopy and over 80 mph of air drag to fight. He was keeping up with the plane's ground speed but losing altitude fast. He radioed, "Clear to exit" for Tim and Jed in the plane. Luigi flew at quarter brakes and, when the wingsuit team was close enough, he turned 180 degrees leaving them to chase. Then it was up to the wingsuiters to dive down and close in on either side of the canopy pilot.

The Beginning

In 2004, after setting a record for landing the world's smallest parachute, a VX-39, Luigi joined forces with a leading wingsuit flyer, Jeb Corliss, and flew relative for several seconds. Since then

the two have flown together on many occasions and were even able to dock briefly.

In February 2008, Luigi went even smaller and landed the NZ Aerosports JVX-37. Then he recruited Brit Tim Rigby, a skydiver, professional stuntman and a member of the Brand X Action Specialists stunt organisation.

Mixed Formation

Together, Luigi, Jeb and Tim finally managed to fly in close proximity for an entire skydive. Until then, Jeb and Tim had docked on Luigi many times individually and even together on him once but this destabilised the formation.

Catching the moment on film proved tricky. Trying to do so turned a whole jump into a one shot attempt. So the decision was made to fly in tight formation for an entire jump. In this way, cameraman Craig O'Brien could fly-by for shots for his own best timing.

All the Gear

The project used Stealth wingsuits from Phoenix Fly, designed by Phoenix Fly owner Robert Pecnik. Advances provided by the Stealth were key. Jeb noticed a 25% boost in performance with the Stealth over his previous S4 prototype (also designed by Pecnik). He declared the Stealth to be "absolutely incredible" and that "Robert Pecnik is a genius!"

The wingsuits had no problem matching the canopy's glide angle. The real challenge was to maintain lift and altitude without zipping past. Tim said the body adjustments were hard to describe but remembered rolling his hands forward a bit and dropping his knees slightly.

Centred as the anchor of the formation, Luigi wore 20 pounds of weight to increase the forward speed of his tiny 37sqft parachute. The weight was a major problem in landing the canopy, pushing his already ridiculous wing loading impossibly higher. Many designs were considered for the weight. After much debate over safety and environmental issues, Mark Anderson designed a belly-mounted sandbag weight. Before each landing Cani released the sand into the air back over the desert in a brown puff.

Photographer Craig O'Brien would exit thousands of feet higher, dive his faster wingsuit to catch up, then carefully time flying above and in front. At the critical moment, he'd transition to head-down for a high speed pass about 30 feet in front of the formation.

Communication through air-to-air radios was a great aid. Most importantly they could coordinate the exits between Luigi and the wingsuit flyers. The radios also allowed them to relate their location when out of sight, ask for adjustments to help each other, and inform each other about timing and execution of manoeuvres.

Initially planned for visual effect, smoke proved to be a perfect tool for the wingsuit flyers, as Luigi's smoke trail made a line of the perfect angle to follow into formation.

Risks

Flying smoke canisters burned holes in the leg wings of both Stealth suits, causing extensive damage to the fabric.

Luigi has over 200 hundred jumps split between the Icarus VX-39 and JVX-37; the latter is incredibly sensitive to turbulence. Many practice days were cut short or cancelled because of dangerous or unpredictable wind conditions. On a few occasions, the JVX-37 collapsed on landing, the result of unexpected air turbulence. Luigi slid and rolled out landings of up to 40 mph, injuring both shoulders on separate occasions.

He experienced five high speed malfunctions. One JVX-37 was lost during the project, floating away after a spinning malfunction, never to be seen again. NZ Aerosports had to rush manufacture a new one. On Luigi's first and 'most scary' malfunction, he deployed into an immediate high g-force spin. Unable to reach his cutaway with his right hand, he supported it with his left to pull the cutaway handle. After nine rotations in less than three seconds, Luigi's vision was narrowed and his legs were numb by the time he was saddled under his reserve.

Sponsorship & Support

ESPN sponsored a professional crew to film the Mixed Formation Project for a segment on their show 'E60', also providing a gyro-cam helicopter and other support. Special thanks go to Perris Valley Skydiving, who were truly invaluable in every aspect.

Sean Gunn



Jeb Corliss, Luigi Cani, Craig O'Brien & Tim Rigby



Craig O'Brien



Craig O'Brien



Kenneth Gadja

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PHOTO: JC COCLASURE

Up for the Challenge?

**Empuria Airspeed Challenge
25-28 September**

While the great and the good had been invited many months earlier, others – like me – had blagged our way on to the Empuria Airspeed Challenge for the first time. We were so excited to be there, having heard all about the funky big-way skydiving waiting for us. It had been an ambition of mine for a few years to get onto an Airspeed Challenge but, now it was happening, I was just desperate not to mess up!

The event provided a world class coaching line-up: Kirk Verner, one of the original 1994 members of *Airspeed*, and two of the current 4-way team, Craig Girard and Eliana Rodriguez. With the best part of 50,000 jumps between them, they seemed to know what they were talking about!

Most of us on the event had 4-way or 8-way team experience and many had done 100+ big-ways, but everyone approached the Airspeed big-ways with nervous excitement.

Rising to the Challenge

The format of the event was two days of 20-ways, moving up to 30-ways on day three and the final day doing the 60-way 'Challenge' jump. But these were no ordinary big-way jumps. These were Airspeed Challenge jumps. Building complex and delicate formations... followed by three even more complicated points! Large sections of outfacing slots which would not allow for a moment's lapse in concentration. Pressure to build that first point as quickly as possible, to get there faster, but still insisting on nothing less than a perfect dock!

Some dives were fantastic – we landed with feelings of elation at a job well done. Some were – well – funnel-tastic! With 18 of us outfacing on one 20-way, we managed a spectacular funnel, got back together quickly and then funnelled it again! Even for skydivers with bags of experience, these jumps weren't going down without a fight.

Jumping in Craig's group was a particular challenge. He didn't let anyone get away with anything! He seemed to have eyes in the back of his head, seeing everything. Each dive was scrutinised frame by frame, so that we could learn and improve as much as possible. There was no sneaking under the Airspeed radar!

And there were other more subtle challenges too. Watching one of the groups continue to jump despite the fact that even the Empuria staff judged it too windy tested our mettle. We were in Empuria, with *Airspeed*, other people were jumping but we weren't happy with the winds. We didn't fold to peer pressure and did what we had been practising back home all season – drinking teal

Going Bigger

The 60-way 'Challenge' on the final day was revealed. Three planes – two Otters and the Beech – took us up to 15,000ft and we completed on jump 3: a testimony to the quality of the jumpers! But then Craig explained that two (non English-speaking) people had taken the wrong grips: a testimony to the difficulties of multilingual communication! So we had to go back up again... only 59 of us... Then on jump five, the perfect 60-way picture was delivered!



Photo: Gustavo Cabana



Brits with Airspeed coaches by Jo Hawley

That Special Something

The thing that made these jumps so special for me is the way they united team skills and big-way techniques and, more importantly, team jumpers and big-way skydivers. The intricacy of the formations required not just the deft skills and discipline of team jumping, but the long dives, flying your slot and tracking of big-way. It's an event that appeals to both sets of jumpers and – as someone who dabbles in both – I loved it!

The organising was second to none right down to them saying "*The winds are strong. Who wants to keep jumping?*" rather than the more intimidating and all too common "*Who doesn't want to jump?*" I certainly didn't feel obliged to dare conditions I wasn't comfortable with.

It was also great to be jumping with fantastically supportive people with many years' experience and thousands of jumps, watching them do amazing skydiving, but also realising that no-one was perfect every time. I accepted that we are all learning all the time. That thought also made me feel a lot better when I didn't get things quite right!

Brits Hitting the Big Time

With a third of the participants from the UK, it was clear that big-way jumping is definitely back in fashion in Blighty. The quality of the British jumpers reflects both the high level of competitive flat flying in the UK and the great work that our big-way organisers do. Craig even said that the Brits were the best group – he wouldn't say best at what! – but we chose to believe it was the skydiving rather than the tea-drinking!





Photo: Gustavo Cabana

Photo: Gustavo Cabana

Last formation in a 3 point
31-way by Gustavo Cabana



Take the Challenge!

Waiting with some fellow Challenge newbies for our delayed flight home, we reassured each other that we really had just done our first (yes, we bought beer) Airspeed Challenge. None of us thought that we'd be able to say that just a season ago. We couldn't quite believe they'd let us do it! It goes to show, what you can do if you want it enough. So, if you like these pictures, get out there and take advantage of the team and big-way culture that just keeps going from strength to strength in the UK. Now is a great time to get a 4-way or 8-way team together and we really are spoilt for big-way opportunities on our little island. I look forward to seeing you across the other side of an Airspeed big-way.

Jo Hawley
Kaizen

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Speed Skydiving World Cup



Clare Murphy, fastest woman in the world

The speed skydiving World Cup series is over for 2008 and after four competitions the results are in. Clare Murphy (Female World Record Holder) came up trumps for the UK, winning the women's event and also giving the men a run for their money!

Out of the 21 competitors, both male and female, Clare is ranked on the GSDB (absolute) in tenth place. The fourth meet in the Speed World Cup series was cancelled due to bad weather. Hence Clare only managed to complete one event rather than her intended two. If the overall ratings were based on one event she would have been in sixth place.

Clare also proved that it's not necessarily about eating all the pies (Ian Marshall!) as she achieved her personal best meet result when two stone lighter! Her average speed from three jumps (each being the average speed taken from two ProTracks averaged over a vertical kilometre) was 268.01 mph, or 431.33km/h.

Speed Skydiving World Cup

The final ranking of the ISSA Speed Skydiving World Series 2008 is as follows:

Male

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-------------|---------------|
| 1 Christian Labhart | SUI | 463.46 km/h | (287.98mp/h) |
| 2 Marco Wiederkehr | LIE | 456.98 km/h | (283.95 mp/h) |
| 3 Arnold Hohenegger | AUT | 453.15 km/h | (281.57 mp/h) |

Female

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|-------------|---------------|
| 1 Clare Murphy | GBR | 431.33 km/h | (268.01 mp/h) |
| 2 Jeanne Cameron | USA | 421.51 km/h | (256.32 mp/h) |
| 3 Jessey Olson | CAN | 327.26 km/h | (199.01 mp/h) |

Speed Skydiving World Cup male winners Arnold (3rd), Christian (1st) & Marco (2nd)



Photos: Andy Fryer

Third ISSA World Cup Meet Casale Monferrato, Italy

Four rounds were completed on Saturday, putting Arnold Hohenegger in the lead, Olli Eerola second and Marco Wiederkehr third. On Sunday the last two rounds took place. On his last jump, Marco Wiederkehr from Liechtenstein did the fastest jump of the competition (464 km/h) but he missed the first place by 0.3 km/h. Congratulations to Arnold Hohenegger from Austria for winning his first single World Cup event!

Podium Speed Meet Italy

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------------|--------------|
| 1 Arnold Hohenegger | AUT | 443.59km/h | (275.63mp/h) |
| 2 Marco Wiederkehr | LIE | 443.29km/h | (275.44mp/h) |
| 3 Olli Eerola | FIN | 424.43km/h | (263.72mp/h) |

Fourth & Final ISSA World Cup Meet Västerås, Sweden – Cancelled

Due to heavy rainfall during August, the runway at Gryttjom became too waterlogged for their planes. So the dropzone temporarily moved activities to Västerås. Cloudy weather meant the highest possible jumping altitude was 2,750 meters (9,000 ft). The competition distance for the speed meet was reduced to 500 meters (between 2,200 and 1,700m). This gave a competition and a result but did not count towards the Speed World Cup series, as there was not enough altitude to record speeds over a full vertical kilometre. Hence, the results of this competition don't count for the overall World Cup ranking 2008.

Congratulations to Clare!

Note: The first two meets in the World Cup series were reported upon previously, see page 10 of Skydive August.

HAPPY



10TH

BIRTHDAY

BABYLON!

Babylon celebrated their tenth anniversary in September. Since their founding in Empuriabrava 1998, Babylon have continued to excel in freefly, becoming multiple World Champions and leading the way in freefly innovation.

The festivities consisted of a week of flying, 8-13 September. Having some special jumps in mind, Europe's best freeflyers were invited to join in the fun. Babylon had the pleasure to enjoy these jumps with Olav Zipser, Ippo, Nicolas Arnaud, Arno Fletcher, Stuart Meacock, and Stefan Klaus to name a few. A large contingent of French, Italian, Swiss, Spanish, Catalan, English, German and a few Aussies, turned up for the fiesta.

There were tubes (Babylon's gift to free flying), big-ways, tracing and tracking jumps – and the 'Bomb' was jumped for the first time in ten years (go to babylon-freefly.com for more info about the Bomb.)

Babylon's idea was to jump with the team and invited flyers for the first three days, to do high-level group flights. Then the last three days were to enjoy with everybody who came to party, let's boogie!

The days began, with a typical freefly start, around 10am; coffee, briefing and 'let the games begin!'. There was a relaxed pace of jumping with an hour lunch break enjoyed by all. Most days ended on a high note with beach jumps, lake skydives or a good group flight.

On the Wednesday, there was a beautiful sunset load to the lakeside restaurant 'Pantano de Boadella, Darnius'. Everybody relaxed while watching the sun set behind the hills, savouring a delicious three-course meal.

The next day it was 'game on' and the dropzone enjoyed free load organising by the entire school, over ten freefly load organisers! It was truly a remarkable sight to have the best European freeflyers together at the same time, same place; there were not enough loads in the day.

The last two days of the event, were blown out by the tramontana (the infamous north wind) – even our old friend the tramontana came to celebrate with Babylon!

On the last day of the event, Saturday, we had a big birthday bash. In a private location just outside of Empuriabrava, the guests enjoyed 'décor a la Babylon', a full Argentinian barbecue and top international DJs. With a turnout of 150 people, the celebrations went on to the early hours of Sunday.

It was a special week for Babylon and European freefly. Loads of jumps, laughs, smiles and good memories. Over the past decade there have been some remarkable achievements from Babylon, let's see what the next ten years will bring. Welcome to the next generation of Babylon Freefly...

A documentary is being made about the past ten years of Babylon. Including interviews, cool flying and a lot more, it's due to be released this winter. For more info and photos, check out the new website: babylon-freefly.com

Text and photos by Babylon





Visualising

In skydiving, as with other sports, we often talk about the importance of visualising and how we should build it into our preparation before a skydive. We are told we should be visualising our body positions, the jump we are about to do, how the skydive is going to go, etc, etc.

But do we really understand why we are doing this? Do we understand what the real benefits are to improve our game plan? If we don't truly understand the power of visualisation are we really maximising our time doing it? Or, are we just paying lip service to it because our peers do it and it seems to work for them?

It certainly worked for Julia Foxwell, who shot to the dizzy heights of World Champion with *Team Airkix* in 2006. Here, Foxy gives an in-depth guide to using the power of the mind to gain a competitive advantage.

What is Visualisation?

Visualising is an ideal method to increase success, as your subconscious mind doesn't differentiate between what you see with your mind's eye and your physical eye, if your visualisation is done in the correct way. Imagery is a way of creating a new reality. In other words, as far as your brain is concerned, you have actually physically practised.

Visualising in the correct way means it's absolutely essential to put emotion into your visualisation. If you don't mix real emotion into your visualising then your subconscious mind **can** distinguish between the two, so you will then dramatically limit the benefits of this amazing tool. In order to add emotion into your visualising you have to fully describe **out loud** everything you feel, smell, see, hear and touch. If you do not do this, you will find it difficult to trigger your emotions and really feel that you are in the place you are describing. This is an important part and I will touch more on this later.

The beauty of visualising is that it can be done at any time of day, and as often as you like. You can continue to practise whether you're ill, injured, skint or bored at work and you are therefore continuing to improve on your skydiving.

Visualisation is so powerful that it has been proven with many athletes in sports around the world that if the athlete has had a layoff through injury, and has spent time visualising, their skills have actually improved!

The Power of Learning

When a coach teaches you something new, such as a way to improve your body position or a different block technique or a change in your exits, do you nod and do what you have just been told? Or, do you truly take the time digesting the information to ensure it remains with you? In others words, if someone wanted you to repeat back, in your own words, what you had been told, would you just shrug your shoulders and say, "Well, I can do it, I just can't explain it", Or would you actually be able to describe it using your own words and understanding?

By describing what you have just been told, you 'find out' what you have digested about the new information.

It therefore allows you see what needs further clarification.

This in turn, will ensure your visualisation is most effective as you will be confident that you have the knowledge to visualise with conviction.

Become a Veteran Early

We all know that when we practise something enough, often enough, we will improve. The problem we have in skydiving is that the length of time we can practise our moves is extremely short. It can take years to become good at skydiving, particularly if you are short on funds, or time.

As the subconscious mind does not know the difference between what we are physically and mentally doing, when you have repeatedly visualised something, it actually feels like you have done it many times before. For example, if you properly and repeatedly visualise round 1 of the Nationals, when you are actually in the moment it won't feel as alien to you. This is because your mind and your body have practised that moment so many times, it feels like you have already been there.

When you visualise, its essential you become emotionally involved otherwise your subconscious will be able to distinguish between reality and fiction. To become emotionally involved you have to use all your senses to ensure that it feels as close to the actual experience as possible. Hear the engines cut as your team is getting into position, really feel yourself taking the grip as you walk towards the door, smell the jet fuel in the slipstream as you climb out onto the rail, look into your teammates' eyes and see them smiling back at you, sense your breath within your helmet, take those final deep breaths to slow down your

heart rate, remind yourself to be calm – this is the perfect time to put your mind in the optimum state without any distractions.

If you practise this properly, before you get to a dropzone, it will be a lot easier for you to put yourself back to that mindset as you will be familiar with the feeling of this. It will be something you have practised thousands of times before.

Not only that, but you would have practised everything with perfection. You are visualising exactly how you want it to go, which is faultless; therefore you are not building in any bad habits. A judge once watched a video of my team and made comments on how we looked. After that weekend we spent a month apart from each other and, when we all met again, the same judge was at the dropzone. She watched our skydives of that weekend and congratulated us on how much we had improved, saying, “*You girls have obviously been training hard since I last saw you*”. We all laughed together as all we had done since that meeting was visualised.

Types of Visualising

There are many areas within skydiving to perfect so, for ease of learning, it's recommended you break down each component. You will find your own methods on the types of dives to visualise but this is what I do:-

Firstly, I break down my visualising by going through various areas: blocks only; randoms only; exits; types of jumps (ie, 2 block, 2 random; 3 random 1 block; all random; competition dives) and varying the pace of jumps.

When visualising the blocks, repeat one block at a time (A slots and B slots, mirrored) until you feel you can move through the mechanics smoothly and no longer have a bemused frown on your face!

When going through these parts, keep asking yourself ‘am I calm?’, ‘am I emotionally charged?’ – keep breathing calmly and keep yourself in the ideal state of mind that you know is best for you to perform at your optimum.

How to Visualise

If visualising is new to you then don't expect to crack it straight away. Like with any muscle that hasn't been worked for a while, it needs to be trained regularly, over a period of time before you see the true benefits. Don't give up as, once you have mastered it, you will see your skydiving taking on huge improvements without even necessarily getting back in the air!

When visualising, make sure you are taking the time to absorb **everything**, from climb-out to track-off. Aim to see far more than you have ever seen in freefall. On climb-out, feel the rail in your hands, hear the blast of the slipstream as you're climbing out of the plane, feel your teammate picking up your grip and the added tension on your jumpsuit, look all around and see everyone still and in their positions, smell the olbas oil in your helmet as you take the final breath before the count. Feel the key that is made after the exit, watch your teammates making their move as you are making yours, see the rush of the leg going straight past your head when the block move is happening – in exactly the way you have planned it on the ground. It's vital that this emotion is brought into the visualising particularly as our sport is such a highly charged and mental sport.

One great way to visualise emotion is to describe the sequence in huge detail **out loud**. I recommend you don't do this one in the office, but when you are using all your senses it will dramatically heighten your awareness. Talk through absolutely everything and include all your senses in this. Imagine that you are describing the entire skydive to a blind person.

As well as visualising how the skydive will go, also visualise you achieving your team and individual goals. Your team may have a goal of achieving a certain average or placement at the Nationals. This is also something that's important to be visualising, as seeing yourself in that place is half the way to being in that place.

A number of years ago, I was in an intermediate 4-way team that had come last at the previous Nationals, and this particular year, we were going for gold in the intermediate category. Every morning before we trained we would mentally prepare ourselves for that day which involved some meditation and visualising. Whatever was the first skydive we were going to do that day, we imagined it was round 10 of the Nationals. We visualised exactly how the dive would go by one of us commenting to the rest of the team exactly how the jump was going from climb-out to track-off. We would all see our team performing our best-ever skydive, and tracking off smiling back to each other knowing we had just done the best we could do. We would then get on the ground, find out our score and that we had won the Nationals. We even visualised ourselves on the podium getting our gold medals and, as we did this every morning, we started to see and believe this even more.

Believe it or not, that year we did win the Nationals – in fact, we won the 8-way intermediate Nationals as well. The previous year we came last. I don't know how much of a part the visualising played in us achieving this goal but I'm certain it contributed to our achievement.

When *Airkix* was at the World Cup in Eloy, we came fourth (one point behind the team in third). We were watching the three teams go up to the podium; the Russians, who'd come third were standing on the podium along with the French

team who had placed second. Amanda Kemp took a picture just before the USA team took the first place position on the podium. She then gave us all a copy of the picture and said, “*That empty space is for us at the World Meet next year*”. We all put that picture on our walls, and visualised seeing ourselves on the top of the podium with the national anthem playing. Every time I visualised this, I felt my stomach turning with excitement. It gave me the motivation to do all the things I had committed to when away from the team, like my visualising, watching the ‘best-of’ DVD, keeping myself fit, etc, etc. Sure enough when the World Meet came along, the Russians were there third on the podium, the French were there second on the podium and we had the top slot coming first. Most people don't know how we beat the French and the Russians when they were still training more than us, and were so far ahead of us only nine months before. Part of our secret was our commitment to visualise, and through that visualisation was belief.

Methods of Visualising

Whichever type of jump you are visualising, here are some methods:

Walk through a skydive – in your living room, or an empty office room, keep your eyes open but really work to see and feel your teammates are with you. Keep your head up, take grips in the same way as if they were there, smile at them and communicate with them just as you normally would. Talk out loud what your move is, what you are looking for before the key, etc.

Be the cameraflyer – this will really help you see the entire formation, which in turn will help you understand when formations are complete, help with slot-switchers, and anything unplanned that happens within the skydive. If you can see clearly enough, you will see them happen before they have even begun. This type of visualising isn't quite as easy as we are less practised at seeing the formations from this angle. We spend far more time in formations, than standing back watching them. When doing this initially, start by visualising yourself and then branch out to the entire formation. Also, slow down the pace of the skydive to truly see everyone.

Close your eyes – whether this is when you're waiting for a friend to arrive so you have a few minutes to yourself, or you have ten minutes in a quiet room this is a great way to engage your muscles without actually using them. You will feel the sensory twitches being made when you are going through particular moves. Sitting down with your eyes closed helps improve the pictures in your head because you are not using your body.

Vary the speed – depending on what you're aiming to achieve when you are visualising, change your speed in how you go through your sequence. If you are drilling your learning for blocks then slow your visualising down so you have time to really take in all the technical details of the block. If you are aiming to improve your anticipation, speed up your visualising in order to anticipate the next move quicker. This is also a good way to start to feel what it would be like at a higher average.

Mental strength – if you want to be a champion, you need to act like one. Visualising what type of skydiver you want to be all starts in your head. Do you want to be more confident, particularly at competitions? Or, would you like to be stronger in freefall so the knocks in block moves don't affect you too much? When you're visualising your skydives also visualise the type of athlete you want to be, in order to up your game.

How Often Should I Visualise?

Like with most things, the more you do, the better you will become at it and the more you will get out of it. In the teams I have been in, we have all committed to visualising 10 minutes per day. When I have had a new slot to learn I have increased that to 20 minutes per day. It's a pretty realistic amount of time, in today's busy schedules and means you will keep on top of it. If you can do more, then even better!

In Summary

If you visualise regularly, this will give you greater confidence in your slot. It means you will be able to turn up to the dropzone and, no matter how long it has been since you last saw your teammates, you will feel like you were there only a few days before. Your previous learning will still be fresh in your mind, or in even greater detail. It will mean you can just get on with learning the skydive instead of reminding yourself what your move actually is. It will also mean that when you are in the skydive, in freefall, you can be thinking many moves ahead – just like a game of chess. This greatly reduces brainlocks, as you already know where you are moving to, instead of thinking on the spot. As you have built up so much anticipation because you know your moves well in advance it will help you move to the next point with greater snap and conviction!

Don't forget that this is pretty much the only part of our sport that is free, does not require good weather, funds in your pocket or other people to participate with, so there are no excuses!

Good luck! And if you have any questions, please contact me.

Julia 'Foxy' Foxwell (pictured left by Andy Vernum)

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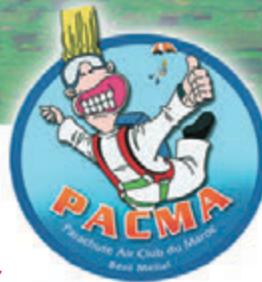
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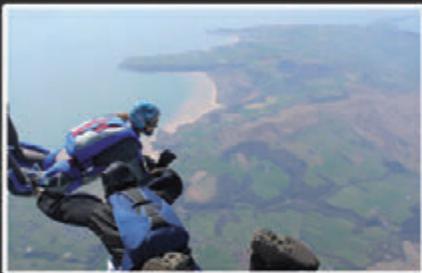
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Speed 8 Nationals

The story begins several weeks before the competition when someone said 'Anyone up for the 8-way Speed Nationals?' and so the cat-herding began. Skydivers tend to say yes – especially to beer or jumps – long before they have given the question any thought... Like... Do I have any money? Will my wife let me?

Hence ensued several weeks of repeated recruitment cycles to try and maintain a team of nine, which concluded over breakfast shortly before round one. And so, after a tricky pregnancy, *Ivan & The Terribles* was born.

In the Medals

Most of us drifted into Target Skysports on Friday night. I arrived at about 11.30pm and after a 'couple' of beers – respecting the gravitas of a national competition – staggered back to the bunkhouse at about 3.30am confident in the fact that: (a) most of the competition (*Get a Grip*) were either still in the bar or leaving just as late and (b) there were only two complete teams plus about five singletons desperately recruiting strays – we were safely in the medals!

The Hibaldstow Machine

Saturday dawned way too early and the low mist ensured that we had plenty of time for breakfast and for the hangovers to kick in. I'm pretty sure Ane Brentford won the hangover competition.

As usual, the efficient machine that defines Target Skysports pounced on the first weather opportunity. Jumping moved from nothing to full swing in no time. The 'no-show/no-grips' exit rules – no-one outside the aircraft and no grips – made for some interesting takes on 'presentation' to the relative wind and ensured long swoops for the last out. 8-way speed is a competition that easily accommodates a range of experience; newbies can be out first and do a fine job while the more experienced can race each other down, making for some fun rivalry within the team. There is no set formation for the Speed Nationals, you can build any 8-way you like, the clock stops when you join eight people together, they can even be head-up!

Manifest Mayhem

The combination of events presented many challenges to manifest; Canopy Formation (CF) exits at 7,000 feet, 8-way Speed at 10,500 feet. Because the CF guys are under canopy longer than your 'normal' skydive, jump-runs had to be offset for safety... add to that the need for categories to be synched with the same plane per round and you have a major manifest headache! 'H' and Amy Kitson did a blinding job juggling all the variables and all six rounds of the 8-way were completed on the Saturday with most of the CF complete too.

Silver! Umm.. Last!

Thanks to the low turnout, our inexperienced and very much scratch team can call ourselves National Silver Medallists for 2008; no complaints

there! However, it would be great if more people got involved in this competition – it is unique in its inclusiveness across discipline, ability, and experience. I plan to go again next year with whoever I can persuade to join me. I urge you all to do the same – put it in your diaries now!

Ivan Betts - National Silver Medallist!
Ivan.Betts@turner.com



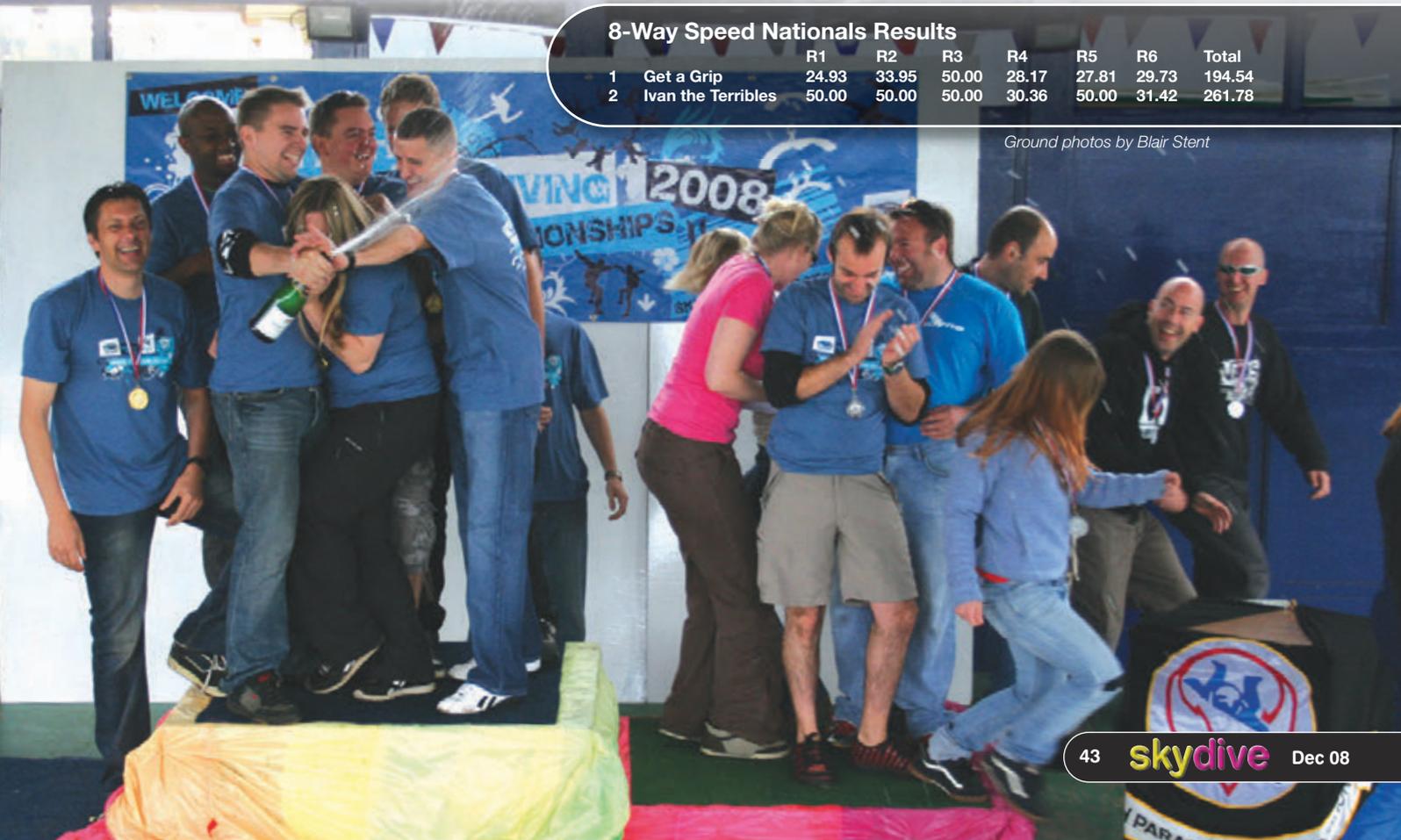
Winners, the Met Police team, *Get a Grip*

Don't Miss The Speed Nationals 2009 5-6 September, Skydive Airkix, Sibson Airfield

8-Way Speed Nationals Results

| | | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | Total |
|---|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1 | Get a Grip | 24.93 | 33.95 | 50.00 | 28.17 | 27.81 | 29.73 | 194.54 |
| 2 | Ivan the Terribles | 50.00 | 50.00 | 50.00 | 30.36 | 50.00 | 31.42 | 261.78 |

Ground photos by Blair Stent



World's LARGEST Flock

Skydive Elsinore 8-12 November

The phone rang and it was Mark Harris on the other end, from Spain "There's going to be a world record attempt for the biggest slot specific wingsuit formation. It's at Elsinore in November. There's lots of negativity about it being too ambitious and there not being the skill levels yet, they say it'll never work... Let's do it!"

Madcap? Foolhardy? Waste of time and money? Maybe – but whenever Mark phones with 'an idea' its going to be worthwhile whatever the outcome. Still, it was unknown territory, such a formation had never been done before. They said it wasn't possible...

Invitations Please!

There were qualifying camps and an online application to be completed in order to be considered for the event. The inclusion of a referee was essential in order to corroborate our details, so claims of glory and spectacle had to be real. Then it was a waiting game for the acceptance email. When this arrived it was accompanied by mild panic; was I really good enough to take part in this? Only time would tell. There would be 71 participants and a handful of alternates, with varying experience levels and jump numbers but all probably thinking the same thing.

Rules

In the weeks running up to the event Team Manager Taya Weiss sent out regular updates and information. These included 'The Rules'. What?! Rules?! But we're just wingsuiting, surely there's no need for rules!? Indeed the reaction to the rules was somewhat mixed but, like them or not, the message was very simple and very clear – this event is serious and, if you're coming, you'd better take it seriously too.

Arrival

The moment we arrived at the DZ there were big smiles and much laughter as we greeted old friends from around the world. Over the next few days the new faces we met would also join old friends in our logbooks. A huge 'fridge door' had been set up with 71 wingsuit- shaped magnets displaying how the formation would look. Each magnet had a name on it. Everyone searched for their selected position and stared in amazement at the shape and size of the formation, weighing up the complexity and difficulty of the task ahead. Wingsuiters from six continents had made the journey to be at this event and there was clearly an air of excitement and nervousness about the whole unknown nature of what lay before us. Well, we were soon to find out...

Commitment

5am wake-up calls greeted those staying near the DZ; even earlier for those travelling further. But everyone had to be on the DZ at 6am for coffee, muffins, bagels and dirtdives. Amazingly there were no complaints about the time, the cold, the lying on the wet grass; only the quality of the coffee – Jeff's coffee-making unfortunately did not rival his wingsuit flying abilities! People wanted to be there and so much wanted to be part of the event. There was a guy (Brian Drake) who was jumping with his leg in a cast and, even after he cut the top of his finger off in a washbag incident, he still wasn't going to stop! The long busy days took their toll on us and at any other event we would've sat jumps out or taken days off but no-one even suggested it. We all wanted the formation to succeed. It was mad, I was getting up earlier than I do for work and going to bed at a time that seven year olds would have scoffed at – this was serious – even the breweries were suffering with lack of sales!



Photo: Norman Kent





Photo: Scotty Burns

Discipline

The full scale formation had been simulated on the landing area by a series of painted dots (Flock – U symbols) and at 7am every morning we were all there standing or lying in the wet grass on our dots, kitted up and memorising the spacings we needed to achieve in the air. I was amazed that only one call was needed to gather everyone together and no-one was late. Messing around and chattering was marked by its distinct absence. Even on the ride to altitude the general joviality I've become accustomed to was missing. It was just quiet contemplation, concentration and did I see people with their eyes closed visualising the skydive – surely not this was just wingsuiting wasn't it?!

We had practised, practised, practised on the ground – line up in the mock-up; climb out and tighten up; inside signal; the count; the exit; and finally the formation – was this really wingsuiting? This was way too serious and something I'd only ever experienced on FS big-ways (it's probably the same for freeflying but I was never good enough to do anything big!).

Aircraft Line-up

The dropzones of Elsinore and Perris had worked together to provide four Super Otters on a clockwork schedule – incredible! It was so cool to see four planes being loaded, taking off and flying in formation together. A 'first' for me was sitting next to and operating the door in a wingsuit – we normally dwell near the cockpit wondering how far down the jump run we'll get out. But this time we had the planes to ourselves – there were no tandems to buzz but we were doing something way cooler.

Formation Blocks

The first two days were spent jumping in four smaller formation teams. These four blocks would eventually join together to form the main formation. Each block was led by a Team Captain who had to ensure that we were whipped into shape and ready for the 4-plane drop. Each block was a different shape and each had differing issues to deal with. The identical aim for everyone though, was to fly your slot within a box of three square metres. This actually spread the formation out as most were used to flying in closer proximity. The increased spacing reduced the 'breathing' effect – this is where the formation appears to move with a wave-like motion.

4-Plane Formation

Incredibly, right from the first 4-plane drop, the general shape of the formation was being built and the form of the 'stealth bomber' could clearly be seen from the ground. This was great and very encouraging. The jumps over the following three days were then making it stronger, creating cleaner lines. Plane captains moved people round in order to strengthen the formation and worked with flyers to improve swooping skills and general formation flying.



71-way flock by Linda Dee



The plan by Norman Kent

No Mercy

Day 1 was fairly easy going and poor performance was initially tolerated but the Team Captains were charged with getting their blocks right and day 2 saw the first of alternates given their chance to perform. Discipline and safety had simple rules and non-conformance was dealt with firmly and swiftly. This event was serious and – regardless of jump numbers, fame, big name, history or who you knew – if you weren't performing or if you violated a safety rule, you were out!

Success

The result of five days' jumping, total commitment, real discipline, months of hard work, organising, focus and belief from Jeff Nebelkopf and his team was the largest ever slot-specific wingsuit formation. It was dynamic without grips – 71 skydivers cruising through the blue skies of California imitating a stealth bomber. Break-off saw the two wings peel off to the sides and disperse leaving a perfect 35-way diamond to carry on across the sky – the visuals were spectacular and the feeling was awesome.

What's Next?

This was a unique experience and a huge learning curve for everyone involved – participants, organisers, plane captains, the dropzone, cameraflyers and skydiving in general. This will mean that the next formation, which I have no doubt will happen, will be even greater.

Organisers: Justin Shorb, Phil Peggs, Mark Harris, Taya Weiss, Jeff Nebelkopf & Ed Pawlowski

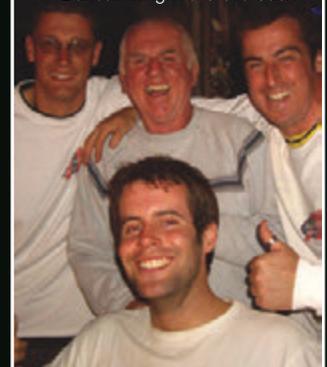


They Said it Wasn't Possible

...well it was! And it was a year in the making. Hats off to Jeff Nebelkopf – you can get some sleep now!

Duncan Wright

Brits: Mark Harris, Tony Uragello, Duncan Wright & Steve Such





*Flock over Lake Elsinore
by Matt Hoover*



Flock dirt dive by Linda Dee (compare with freefall photo above)



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Ed Leary



I first got talking to Ed Leary on a tortuous Sunday night train journey back from Headcorn to London some time in the mid eighties. It had been another long winter's weekend trying to sneak in a round canopy jump in the brief calm between over the top winds and darkness, there were a lot of weekends like that. Ed, I think, had just finished an MSc in electronic engineering down in Portsmouth and was spending his time between there, Headcorn and the comforts of home life, and his Mum's pampering back in Sidcup, not too far from where I found myself living. As a consequence we were destined to share a not uncommon existence of weekend-DZ-bum and southeast London curry-eating-genial-lager-lout. I went on to do a lot of highly enjoyable if not pretty rubbishy skydives with Ed who, it should be mentioned, went on to do some pretty decent ones without me!

Ed spent a lot of long weekends at Headcorn. Those who were there will remember the time as a pretty tight-knit community of hard drinking, largely impecunious category progression students, with many nights down at The Bell, the revelry continuing back at the DZ in the ever salubrious Skid Row. At least that's how I like to remember it. Ed, it has to be said, was always something of a player, never a man to waste an opportunity for an entertaining evening, and invariably at the vanguard of events. On a rare occasion he retired to his pit rather than continue with the drinking and was subjected to the punishment of having his shoes set on fire by that Oscar Wilde of the DZ, Roger Shapland (he wasn't wearing them at the time, and they were desert wellies). Needless to say Ed found this quite amusing.

With gainful employment and a bit more cash we ventured further afield and the exotica of winter sunshine, clear air and continental beer lead us into the mountains and Ed to skiing and eventually snowboarding. The script remained pretty much the same with Ed's 'wouldn't say no' attitude leading to

excessive nights of haute cuisine followed by heroic days on the piste and the inevitable superficial flesh wounds. Then there were the skydiving trips to France. It should be mentioned here that Ed Leary was a founding member of *The Untouchables*, possibly the least successful 8-way ever to come out of the south of England!

Redundancy in the mid 90s led Ed to Sweden, with the burgeoning mobile phone industry and the relative riches to be had as an in-demand electronics engineer. It didn't change him though, he still stayed in a shoddy little flat with boxes of books for furniture. He never did have much desire for personal possessions (Roger probably did him a favour burning those skanky shoes), and was never profligate with his cash but don't get the wrong idea; Ed was always the first to the bar and didn't think twice about doshing the money on something or someone he enjoyed. He did indulge himself in books for instance and was probably one of the most erudite and widely read people to set foot on a dropzone – I know that doesn't say much but you get the idea! He knew his Tudors from his Plantagenets, his Yom Kippur from his Six-Day War and his Prokofiev from his Puccini. He was current with world events and politics and, as I have already said, was the most learned of drinking partners but it never stopped me arguing with him over something I knew nothing about. But he didn't mind, he was a good mate. He had cr*p taste in pop music though.

When not socialising Ed was pretty disciplined. He often worked long hours and as a consequence was never short of employers willing to give him a contract. He didn't drink during the working week and kept to a fitness routine involving weights, running, aerobics and the pursuit of aerobics teachers. Together with this he normally ate pretty frugally which no doubt explained his lean physique. It did not however explain his extraordinary capacity for food, Mr Leary was never a man to share a naan bread!

While in Sweden Ed continued his adventurous pursuits heading north on winter weekends for snowboarding and during the summer to the lakes and coast for wake-boarding and the occasional skydive. He nearly got married while out there but I think the fact that he just liked doing so much stuff just got in the way. Ed just really enjoyed doing the things he did, I don't think he wanted things to change.

As you may know Ed was killed while out in Empuria by a canopy collision. He really was having a ball at the time: getting coached doing head-down stuff, jeez he must have been, he was spending all that money! It was becoming a regular trip while he was working here in the UK.

I was asked to write this because I'd known Ed for a long time. It's taken me a good while to get round to it, it's a bit daunting and it's difficult to pay a good and true tribute to a life with just a dozen or so lines. But I have to say, once I started it wasn't so bad, I may not have done a decent job but I have mostly had a smile on my face while writing this. Hopefully if you didn't know him you will have got a little bit of a picture. Ed will be missed, he was a good principled man who people liked. He was never dull and had an enthusiasm and appreciation for many aspects of life. You can be sure that Ed wasted little time in life and had no plans to waste any in the future, a good lesson to us all I hope.

To Eddie Leary, a scholar and a skydiver, and a mate.

Mike Henesy
mikehenesy@hotmail.com



Round the World in 23 DZs

Why?

In 1977 when I was 26 I developed ulcerative colitis, an incurable disease of the colon. Following the eventual diagnosis most of my colon was then removed. In 2003 what remained of it developed bowel cancer so the rest of it was surgically removed. The cancer also infected my lymphatic system, so there is a possibility that it could recur elsewhere. In January this year I was told that if cancer did reappear they would not give me surgery but chemotherapy. I had had chemotherapy in 2003 but I had to stop it as it made me so ill. It was at this point I decided to do something which until then was just a pipe dream – to travel the world skydiving.

What For?

I decided to raise money for a charity called NACC, the National Association for Colitis and Crohn's disease. They help sufferers and fund research, see nacc.org.uk

Where?

I had no idea where to start! I set to work contacting people I thought could help (Lesley Gale was a big aid) and trawling the internet for a round the world flight ticket. It took about two months to get a route fixed. I needed to fit in places I wanted to go to with places the airlines actually went to.

Ian Bottomly, a friend who's a pilot for Logan Air/BA offered to get some free flights to Ireland – too good an offer to turn down! I also wanted to go to Empuriabrava to do Brian

Vacher's canopy piloting course. I had hoped to tie this in with the round the world ticket but it turned out I could not do this, so I split the trip into three stages: Ireland, Spain and the 'Rest of the World'!

Stage 1 – Ireland

10-14 April

I finished work on 9 April and the following day I was in Southern Ireland to visit the Irish Parachute Club. This was the only place on the entire trip that I was not able to get a jump in (due to weather). I then went to Wild Geese in Northern Ireland, better luck here, got three jumps in, all down to John McCourt who collected me from the airport and put me up for the weekend.

Comments: It's a real pity I did not get to jump at IPC. They have such a good set-up there with some nice aircraft. The guys from there certainly get around, I found IPC stickers all over the world especially in the States. I will try and get back there some day. I was really lucky at Wild Geese – within an hour and a half of landing at Londonderry Airport I was in the air again, this time with my rig on my back jumping from 13.5k. Thanks John!

Stage 2 – Spain

20-28 April

I wanted to do Brian's three-day canopy piloting course at Empuriabrava, as good preparation for all the strange DZs I was to visit. I learnt a lot and really enjoyed it, the six of us on the course all got on really well.

Comments: I highly recommend the course.

I learned so much about handling my canopy and planning the landing. It was certainly a good investment and well worth doing.

Stage 3 – Rest of the World

8 May – 12 September

On 8 May I left home for the longest part of my trip, I was not going to return again until 12 September, quite a strange feeling. I was heading initially for Cape Town and then generally east thereafter. The first couple of months of my trip would take me to places where the climate would be winter or heading into winter, particularly in Australia and New Zealand. The final two months the weather would get warmer as I

headed to the Americas. I managed to jump at every location I went to, the number of jumps depended upon the weather.

Comments: The experiences I have had in each and every place have been special. In all I went to five different continents and eight countries. To see the differences in scenery both on the ground and in the air was in itself marvellous. The change of climate moving from the UK in spring to Cape Town where the weather was heading towards winter was extreme. Some places I went to such as Cape Town had their own micro climate. In Australia the days were getting shorter and the weather was quite changeable. In New Zealand they were well and truly in the grips of winter, with plenty of frost and snow in the mountains. As I moved to South America and then onto the US and Canada, the scenery and climate changed again. The hottest I can recall was at Bay Area Skydiving, east of San Francisco where it was 106°F!

I still managed to jump in all of these places. A lot of the time, particularly at the smaller DZs they went out of their way to make sure I got on a load. In the USA particularly I did a lot more FS than I have done for a long time. I also took the opportunity to get a couple of coaching jumps to learn to sit-fly, which seems to be paying off. I want to write a book about the trip. I don't know how long it will take but it will give me the chance to put down in detail how it all got put together and places and people I met.

Lasting Impressions

The one consistent thing throughout my trip, no matter where I went, was the help I received from the skydiving community. This really is an incredible sport. There is a genuine bond between skydivers and I have an even greater respect for the sport now than when I started. I was so impressed that age is no barrier when skydiving, particularly in America. I was jumping with guys well into their 70s and they were having a great time.

Magic Moments

There have been so many special moments. A little boy called Max at Lake Wanaka in Southern New Zealand (his Mum and Dad run the DZ) gave me \$10 for NACC, which he had raised by selling chocolate at school! The first jump I made in the mountains over Queenstown in New Zealand, the scenery was so spectacular, it just blew my mind! A guy called Rodrigo Manzan in Brazil helped me out after a horrendous journey out of Sau Paulo, he was a friend when I really needed one.

The scenery on my journey has been so varied, going from the green countryside of Ireland, to the vast open spaces in South Africa and the mountains, glaciers and volcanoes of New Zealand.

Fundraising and Awareness

Fundamental aims of the trip were to raise awareness of colitis and Crohn's disease, to raise money for NACC and publicise its work. Money has been raised through the website I set up for donations justgiving.com/johnhillam





and off line through family, work colleagues, friends and neighbours. Up to now about £6,000 has been raised and money is still coming in, towards my target of £10,000.

BBC Radio 5 Live covered my travels and the local press where I live have been fantastic, in some cases producing full page features about the trip. As I have travelled around lots of the local press where I was jumping would also do a story.

To Sum Up

It's certainly been one of the best decisions I have made in my life to undertake this trip. I eventually got to 23 dropzones, did 125 jumps and travelled over one million feet in freefall. I have had so many good experiences and seen some fabulous places and scenery. It's made me more appreciative of the people in the sport and it's made me want to do more in relation to NACC, the charity. I am still trying to come to terms with the trip coming to an end, people said to me before I started out that it would change my life – we will have to see.

I kept a blog throughout, which contains pictures and all sorts of information about the DZs and places I visited:

roundtheworldskydive.blogspot.com

John Hillam
john.hillam07@sky.com

JOHN'S ITINERARY

| Airport | Arrive | Depart | Drop Zones Visited |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Dublin, Southern Ireland | 10 Apr | 12 Apr | Irish Parachute Club |
| Londonderry, Northern Ireland | 12 Apr | 14 Apr | Wild Geese |
| Girona, Spain | 20 Apr | 28 Apr | Skydive Empuriabrava |
| Cape Town, South Africa | 9 May | 16 May | Skydive Cape Town |
| Johannesburg, South Africa | 16 May | 19 May | Johannesburg Skydiving Club |
| Perth, Australia | 20 May | 2 Jun | Western Australia Skydiving Academy & Skydive Express |
| Brisbane, Australia | 2 Jun | 19 Jun | Skydive Ramblers and Byron Bay |
| Sydney, Australia | 19 Jun | 26 Jun | Sydney Skydivers |
| Auckland, NZ North Island | 26 Jun | 7 Jul | Skydive Taupo & Nzone Rotorua |
| Christchurch, NZ South Island | 7 Jul | 17 Jul | NZone Queenstown, Skydive Wanaka & SkydiveNZ Fox Glacier |
| Sao Paulo, Brazil | 18 Jul | 24 Jul | Skydive Boituva |
| Tampa, USA | 25 Jul | 5 Aug | Zephyrhills Skydive |
| Los Angeles, USA | 5 Aug | 14 Aug | Perris Valley and Skydive Elsinore |
| San Francisco, USA | 14 Aug | 21 Aug | Bay Area Skydiving |
| Dallas, USA | 21 Aug | 27 Aug | Skydive Dallas |
| Vancouver, Canada | 27 Aug | 11 Sep | Skydive Vancouver & Pacific Skydivers |



Thank You

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Title & cut-out photo taken over Wild Geese, Ireland, by John McCourt
Other photos taken over Queenstown, New Zealand, by Caleb Sciascia

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Dave, circa 1987, jumping with his sons Nicky (back left), Richard (front left) & Philip (front right)

David Johnston was born on 30 January 1944 in Donegal Town, Ireland where he spent his earliest years before moving to Pettigo. He joined the Army as a boy soldier in 1959 and, during his career in the Physical Training Corps, he reached the rank of Staff Sergeant, serving in various parts of the world before ending his army career in Ballykinler, Northern Ireland. David left Ireland in 1973 and then joined the Police Reserve and later the Ulster Defence Regiment, with the rank of Company Sergeant Major.

Dave was very talented, multi-skilled and excelled at whatever he attempted. While in the Army he became an athletics coach and was an accomplished gymnast and canoeist. He achieved Regimental Colours in squash, became a boxing referee and was a crack shot. He was also a talented mountaineer and successfully climbed Nepal while serving in the Army.

David made his first sport parachute jump in 1981 and he eventually took over British Skysports dropzone at Grindale, Bridlington in 1984, ably assisted by Lynne, whom he later married. He soon gained his BPA Advanced Instructor and Examiner ratings and enjoyed passing on his teaching skills to potential instructors. He took flying lessons from Jim 'Ginger' Lacey and quickly gained his PPL (Private Pilot's Licence) and became a BPA Pilot Examiner.

He ran a parachute demo team for the Save The Children Fund for several years. His most memorable display must surely have been his own double malfunction in front of The Princess Royal, Princess Anne! Fortunately, the trees saved him.

In 1986, Dave and Lynne hosted the multi-disciplined 'Malibu Nationals' at the 'old' Grindale centre. These were a great success. He then went on to host three more Classics and OF Nationals at that centre, before he moved his parachuting activities to Langar.

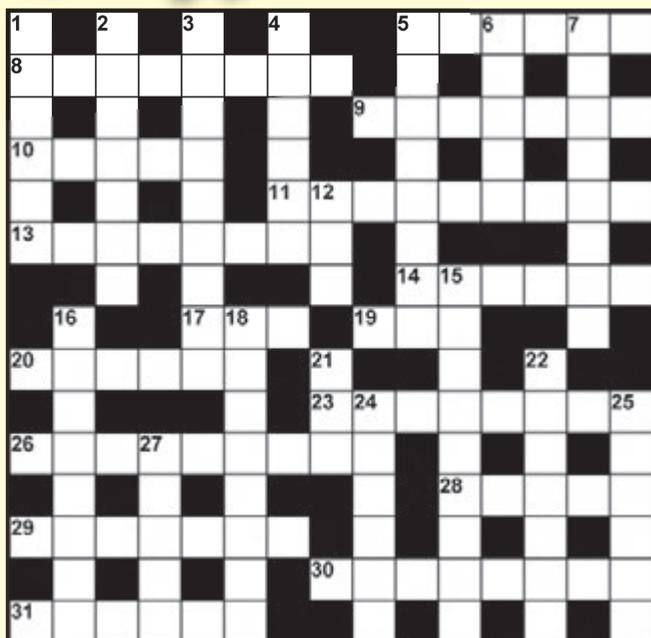
David then opened a parachute club at Catterick before relocating to the current site at Grindale in 1992, where he hosted further Classics and OF Nationals and several BPA instructor courses.

Dave had three sons from his previous marriage; Nick, Philip and Richard. It was while visiting Philip and Richard in Texas that he and Lynne decided to move out there, because they liked it so much. David and Lynne spent many happy years on their own ranch in Texas, where Dave reared deer and restored jeeps (see below).

In the summer of 2008, health problems forced their return to the UK; sadly David lost his battle against a blood infection on 5 October after undergoing surgery in August to amputate his lower limbs.

On behalf of his wife Lynne, and his sons; Nick, Philip and Richard; thank you to everyone who was part of David's life and helped create so many special memories. He will be sorely missed.

John Hitchen & Annette Williamson



Main (Cryptic)

Across

- Ape grips a gibbon's tail in tree tops (6)
- T Emin captures Queen with aluminium computer device (8)
- Escapes from battles running around lake (7)
- Steals unfinished list, putting foot in it (5)
- Saintly US dropzone (9)
- Drunken ET lost it. What a heel! (8)
- In a risk free manner and style, fashion holding it back (6)
- Unknown medic's diagnosis - dehydrated (3)
- Downwind of river at Olympic site (3)
- Vector, main perhaps (6)
- Working, Jenny and I go digging (8)
- Retribution: scavenge ancestor's possession (9)
- I run with horn? (5)
- Illuminated from where the sun don't shine (7)
- Two portions of minced meat on the side (8)
- Dangerous part of guns; 'a feature' (6)

Down

- Theatre seats aboard ship, unbelievable (6)
- Smuggle cars (7)
- Tempos in a variety of sepia and reds (9)
- Most recent city examination (6)
- Pass and then slip and fall (8)
- Dark worrying thing (5)
- The difficulties of accuracy jumps (8)
- One madly long period of time (3)
- 'Rouse, O dreamer, O wellspring of flights' (9)
- Straighten up and land (8)
- Tee off with rival, you'll have their blood (8)
- Small time 17 (3)
- Like busted alti, it's in bits (7)
- Cleaner vest hides anxiety (6)
- 1,000 zeros in 22 containers? (6)
- Pot of orange jam, shredded no more (5)

Reserve

Across

- Parachute
- Main station
- Air journeys
- Elevators
- Florida dropzone
- PD parachute: blade
- Not dangerously
- Not wet
- The downwind side
- Route
- Taking pleasure in
- PD parachute: retribution
- African animal
- Illuminated at night
- Someone on your side
- Dangerous

Down

- Loses lift
- All the (other) vehicles
- Aeroplane velocities
- Most new
- Total failure
- Between dusk and dawn
- Hidden traps
- 1,000,000,000 years
- Airfield
- A disappointment
- Having reference to
- Short time
- Not analogue
- The longest cells in the body
- Clothing for hands
- The 'erb

SOLUTION ACROSS
 5. Canopy
 8. Terminal 9. Flights
 10. Lifts 11. Sebastian
 13. Stiletto 14. Safety
 17. Dry 19. Lee
 20. Course
 23. Enjoying
 26. Vengeance
 28. Rhino
 29. Moonlit
 30. Teammate
 31. Unsafe

SOLUTION DOWN
 1. Stalls 2. Traffic
 3. Misspells 4. Latest
 5. Collapse 6. Night
 7. Pitfalls 12. Eon
 15. Aerodrome
 16. Comedown
 18. Relative 21. Sec
 22. Digital 24. Nerves
 25. Gloves 27. Ganja

CF Nationals

I finally decided to give CF a go last year, got the bug for it and spent a year following Pat Hammond and his stash of CF rigs around the country going to various roadshows and doing the Grand Prix circuit. Hence, my team turned at Hibaldstow raring to go for our first ever CF Nationals!

Luckily we got up there the day beforehand to do some practice jumps as, unknown to me, my reserve was out of date so thanks to the rigger there for putting a fast turnaround on the pack job! Most of the teams started turning up on Friday and we congregated in the bar. There, we had a meeting with the judges, discussed the rules, did the draw for the sequential events and of course had a 'couple' of drinks to get in the spirit of things.

One thing with CF is that, although the pool of CF jumpers in the UK is very small, the different type of competitions available to enter over one weekend can be a scheduling nightmare for manifest. A senior competitor can enter in five different teams in a combination of the intermediate and senior categories and, because of the nature of CF, a lot of them also tend to jump camera for other teams. Adding in time to pack, brief and debrief the jumps, this leads to a pretty hectic weekend.

Despite all this, and the fact that it was Amy on manifest's second weekend working, Hibaldstow put on a great effort and everything ran as smoothly as could be, despite not starting until around 11am each morning because of the lovely English weather.

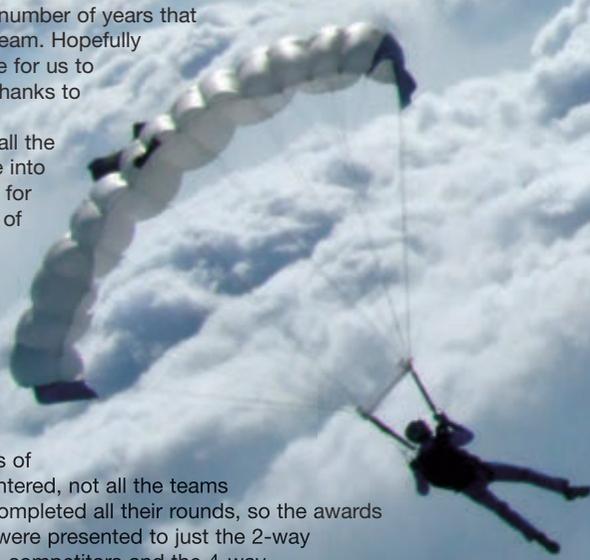
My team was called *Wave* – so named because of our comedy landings on Lightning canopies, we need to get up and give a quick wave to ground control and each other to indicate we've not killed ourselves! We only entered the 4-way intermediate speed and rotations, and we got all our jumps in on the Saturday. We achieved team personal bests of 2 rotations in time and got gold medals for both speed and rotations competitions which we are very proud of – despite the fact that we were the only team in each event!

This year was the first time for a number of years that there was a 4-way intermediate team. Hopefully next year there will be a few more for us to compete against. This is mainly thanks to the sterling efforts of the senior competitors: Pat Hammond and all the work he does getting new people into the sport, everyone from *Outcast* for their commitment and mentoring of the more junior CF jumpers, and the Langar boys for their willingness to jump with us newbies and patiently watch us chase them around the sky.

Due to lack of jumpable time and the combinations of categories entered, not all the teams completed all their rounds, so the awards were presented to just the 2-way competitors and the 4-way intermediates. The senior 4-way had to wait until the following day for their competitions to officially end.

Our first experience of the Nationals was a great one and we shall definitely be back next year. Grab Pat Hammond (pictured left) in the meantime and hope to see you there!

Caroline Dent, Wave
caroline.dent@gmail.com



RESULTS

SENIOR

4-way Rotations

- 1 Outcast
- 2 CFUK

4-way Speed

- 1 CFUK
- 2 Outcast

4-way Sequential

- 1 Outcast
- 2 Cellmates

2-way Sequential

- 1 Outcast Team Red
- 2 Heat

INTERMEDIATE

4-way Rotations

- 1 Wave

4-way Speed

- 1 Wave

2-way Sequential

- 1 Outcast BKPC
- 2 Outcast Social Hand Grenade
- 3 Outcast Team Black
- 4 Los Gatos





CFUK by Craig Poxon



Los Gatos by Blair Stent



CFUK after break-off by Craig Poxon

Main image is Team Wave – Pat Hammond, Caroline Dent, Martin Lee, Martin Gardner & Doug Preston as a guest, by Mark Skarratts



Photos by Olly Burgin





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Letters

Good Way to Get Started

I think that roadshows are the best thing the BPA has ever done to help people get into different disciplines. Over recent years we have run several very successful CF weekends. The main problem is, when jumpers go back to their own DZ they possibly have no-one to jump with or do not have suitable equipment, and some DZs do not offer CF.

Three of our recent roadshow students asked if I would take them to the Nationals for a bit of fun as intermediates. As I run several sets of kit (which Kim maintains for me) they were able to enter. There had been no time to get together so we decided to go on the Friday for a training day. As it happened they did manage to get canopies from America in time. I was a little apprehensive as they had never jumped these canopies, never been to a Nationals and only had low CF numbers but all went very well as they listened to the brief carefully, each jump was an improvement and they finished with a good result.

If any DZ is interested in having a CF weekend next year or any first time CF jumpers wish to take part, ring me on **01638 508168**.

Pat Hammond



Mark Skertratts

Eyes Have It

On 18 October, I jumped at Bad Lippspringe DZ from 5,000 feet, did a six second delay and (for whatever reason) lost my right eyeglass lens on opening. Off it went into freefall on its own – leaving me handicapped under canopy. Having been used to wearing eyeglasses for the last 35 years, I really had a hard time to navigate back safely. Anyway, when I was walking back to the tower I told what happened to Bill Sharp, the Master Rigger, who then turned around to Dave Fish saying, "You go and look for Ludwig's lens", knowing there is no way to find it on the massive dropzone!

Only later next day Bill Sharp was on the phone, "Ludwig, no kidding, your lens has been found – guess who found it? Dave Fish!!" It had drifted about 300 metres in freefall. I guess I have to buy Dave Fish a beer or two – thank you very much!

Ludwig Schmud D499

Thanks for the Tuffet

All the accuracy competitors who attended the two Grand Prix meets this year would very much like to thank the host dropzones; In May we were at Headcorn Parachute Club and at Black Knights Parachute Club in September. It was good to feel welcome at both these centres and we appreciate the fact that you allowed these events to take place at your dropzones. Once again, our thanks to the owners, CCIs, staff and club members and not forgetting of course our patient BPA judges.

Roger Flavell

(on behalf of the accuracy competitors)

Shoddy Service

I hope this letter may save some poor skydiver the trouble of making the mistake of dealing with Parachutes de France (PdF). My story begins in October 2006 when I travelled to Peterborough (Sibson) to get measured for a PdF rig. Benji Reffet, the sales rep, measured me and informed me that delivery would be three months so I should have the rig by January 2007. I had already filled in the application form (in July 2006) and, as extra cover, I had printed and brought with me a colour page of what I wanted the rig to look like, detailing the colours on the specific panels of the container.

All was fine until January 2007 came and my rig didn't. I persistently called Mr Reffet and, after about two weeks of trying, I got through only to be told that it would be May 2007 before the rig would be ready, due to quality control problems at their factory. I will not go into the levels of disappointment or anger I felt at not simply this stage but all subsequent stages in this story, as it will become monotonous.

I waited a further five months and, after a similar pointless few weeks of trying to contact Mr Reffet in May, was told that the rig was still not ready and my order would be handled via their UK agent Phil Curtis of Air Supply. To his credit, Phil has been the only person that has looked to resolve this situation. As far as I can gather he's been stuck between a rock and a hard place when dealing with PdF.

After a few more weeks of pulling teeth, Phil found out that the order would be ready July 2007. July arrived we were told October – can you see a pattern here?! Eventually, November 2007, thirteen months after order, the rig arrived. Unfortunately my happiness was short-lived as the colours of the panels and piping were wrong. Okay, I said to myself, it's not horrible (not what I ordered and after such a long time I'd expect them to get it right but it's here now) so we'll see if all else is okay. Imagine my despair when the harness did not fit (leg straps too short by a good seven inches) but the main D-bag was split down both seams!

Obviously, this was unacceptable – and to think the reason it took so long was that PdF were having quality control

issues and did not want to release unacceptable products! After long discussions with PdF via Phil, they agreed to fix the problem but insisted I get re-measured by Phil, who travelled across the country to pick up the incorrect rig and take new measurements – which were within 1cm of the originals!

Discussions with PdF via Phil to acquire a temporary container proved fruitless. It was Phil who was able to acquire a temporary loan to keep me in the sky – I appreciated this extra mile from Phil, making up for PdF's lack of customer service.

PdF Sales/Production head Ed Delahaie (Erik) stated (promised, no less!) that the rig would be ready by March 2008 – which arrived without the rig! After much conversation and various promised dates the Atom finally arrived on 26 September, exactly 23 months after ordering!

On a positive note, I am really loving it and think it looks great. Would I buy a PdF rig in the future? Unless I had some pretty damn good assurances on timescales – no.

Even though I really do think the Atom Legend R is a fantastic container in design, functionality and aesthetics, it cannot excuse PdF's incompetence. The customer service is non-existent and the inability to organise production so it takes almost two years to produce one container is ridiculous. I suspect their sponsored skydivers don't have to deal with this attitude.

If a company could produce a similar container (function and looks) it would probably put PdF out of business which would more than likely be a good thing for all unsuspecting skydivers out there.

In conclusion, I don't have an axe to grind – on the contrary I feel that I have been very understanding. I just feel it is truly unacceptable that, in this day and age of competition and with skydiving being a minority sport in which small manufacturers fight to keep afloat, that one company is causing this much pain to its customers without seeking to resolve problems. Accountability must be paramount in any company and sadly this is clearly not the case at Parachutes de France.

Chris Christou



**4-Way
Season
Kick Off
Camp**

**Perris Valley
March 09**





How many teams have started training 4-way with no real plan, just bumbling along and hoping for the best? Sound familiar?

Well now's your chance to learn the proven method of 4-way progression developed by the famous Dan BC, who brought teams like Synchronicity, Airkix and Storm from a low average to World Champions in the shortest time possible! Dan, along with members of STORM and FURY will be running a camp in the first week of March 09 for teams who want to gain a solid 4-way foundation, develop a clear plan, and learn the correct progression techniques to ensure they reach their goal by the end of the season, be it a 5 average or 25!

Interested?
Contact Hannah (Bodyflight STORM)
hannah_betts@hotmail.com

Photo: Willy Boeykens



London Parachute School



**Martin Harris,
DZO of LPS talks
to Lesley Gale**

How long have you been jumping?

Strangely enough I started at LPS back in 1991, trained by Pat Slattery, jumping rounds and went through the whole progression system that way. I didn't actually jump a square until jump #79, back then when sex was safe and skydiving was dangerous there really wasn't any AFF or tandem in the UK. The sport has come on leaps and bounds – it's great to see British teams not just involved at world level but actually winning convincingly and the increase in disciplines so we don't all just flat fly any more.



Tell me about your partnership with Chris Francis

Chris was the owner and CCI and became a great friend through jumping. He really was my mentor and helped me through the tough times when confidence falls, convinced me that I would make a good instructor and taught me everything you need to know about running a successful DZ. I purchased 50% of LPS in 2002 as Chris's other interests were taking up a growing amount of his

time, I (stupidly?) gave him rather a lot of money. Unfortunately Chris's health failed him – for such a fit and healthy guy and being an ex RAF PTI this came as a shock. Following some soul-searching he decided that he no longer had the time and sold the remaining LPS share to me in 2007. We're still in close contact and I know that he is always there to help me out – it's one of those friendships borne out of a shared love of the sport that will endure.

Is 'London Parachute School' actually near London?

Geographically LPS is the closest DZ to London, based 1 mile off Junction 6 of the M40. That makes us within an hour's travelling of anywhere in the western hemisphere of our capital city.

You're the only UK DZ without a clubhouse, why?

LPS does not have full planning permission and (with the usual NIMBY issues) is unlikely to do so as we are based on green belt land, so we are true 'grass roots' skydiving still. This actually appeals to a lot of people because there is always direct interaction between the staff, jumpers and spectators. We have had a couple of people return to jumping after a number of years as they said LPS was 'just how it used to be', personally I take that as a huge compliment and a testament to the great attitude of everyone involved in LPS.

How do you operate with no buildings?

Simply put the DZ office and kit store is based in a 7.5 ton truck. It does mean that on breezy days everyone is outside – but aren't the government complaining that we don't get enough fresh air any more?! We do have proper flush toilets and we're currently negotiating with the landowner to allow us to improve them. I actually find it easier to operate this way as everything you need is literally within 15 feet of you – like the catering

wagon with its tea and bacon rolls. We are looking to purchase a single-decker bus to provide some shelter, this does however mean talking to the landlord again and seeing the pound signs appear in his eyes.

You run another business too, tell us about that

I have an IT support company, the one that pays the bills! It ensures that I'm way too busy to worry about anything.

How do you manage to keep both businesses going?

With a great deal of assistance from Rachel my (some would say) better half and from the staff in both organisations. The DZ couldn't run without Jo in the office during the week and the people on the DZ at weekends. I have seen an increase in receding follicles since taking over the DZ full time – is that age or stress? I guess we will never know.

No DZ can run without a good crew, especially those who put in time that they do not necessarily get paid for, and LPS is fortunate enough to have a lot of those people. This means that as a DZO you can function knowing that the right people are in the right place at the right time without you having to worry – though people could always pack and walk to the plane a bit faster!

Do you have many regular club members?

We have people that we do not see for months or in some cases years at a time, then they rock up and shake hands all round, get a docs check and get on the plane. With the advent of the new airframe I can see us growing this side of LPS and probably having a few more parties.

I hear rumours of another aircraft on the flightline?

We have operated G-AYRU from Nethers for the past three years, which helped us grow; many thanks to Robin. Following its sale we have been greatly assisted by Headcorn supplying us with UB. However as LPS grew it became time to look for a larger airframe but, as we operate to a maximum of 28 days a year, this is not an attractive prospect for a turbine operator. We were put in touch with the owner of a suitable airframe by one of our AFF graduates (thanks Rob) and after months of discussion, site visits and a flight test day the owner is satisfied that LPS is a safe place for his plane – so from opening day 2009 we will be operating a Cessna 208 Grand Caravan.

What difference will the Caravan make?

Mainly, more slots for experienced jumpers. Traditionally LPS students graduated and then moved onto a larger dropzone to learn more. Now LPS will have the ability to supply that. It also means I should be able to get in the air more and do some coaching, which I'm really looking forward to – yes, horrifying isn't it, a lesser-spotted Harris jumping!

How long will it be based at LPS?

We have confirmed for all of 2009 and, subject to a good run, would look to continue into 2010 and beyond.

Are you worth a visit?

Definitely, we may be small and bijou but the atmosphere is fantastic, everyone soon gets to know everyone and has a great deal of fun.

How did you gain the Red Cross sponsorship in '07?

A phone call from a PR agency who wanted a national female record red cross over London! I had to explain on multiple occasions why that was not possible, then it was a case of managing their expectations and sorting out the desired publicity. As it transpired the British Red Cross got an 11:1

return on investment – and that's without allowing for the funds raised by the Brit Chicks, overall that actually exceeded the investment put in by the British Red Cross!

What was your involvement with the Brit Chicks project?

Sitting in the middle and making sure that all parties were singing from the same hymn sheet. Without your and the Brit Chicks captains' hard work it would never have been possible. It was a pleasure to work alongside such experienced people and I gained a lot of new knowledge – about display procedures from Jane for example. I met a lot of people that I had heard of but had no previous interaction with. The people at all levels were phenomenal, working towards a common goal, and the dedication of all the girls was unbelievable.

Do you have links with other charities?

We are increasing our support of various national charities and organising the entire jump sponsorship programme for them nationwide, this helps the other DZs as well because we negotiate a flat rate across the country so everyone gets the same deal.

Have you done much film or media work?

The list for this is really endless. The first was *Drop The Celebrity* for LWT, this involved getting a Hercules from South Africa, putting a sound studio pod inside it and then tandeming the celebrities out the back as they were voted off. We've worked with Sky, Discovery and Channel 4 on multiple occasions including Jack Osborne's *Adrenaline Junkie*. Most recently was the tandem for Channel 5 prior to the Everest jumps, it was amusing to listen to Jane Dougall describing how worried she was over the phone, then seeing the smile on her face on landing! We staged the Nivea 50 over-50s jump at Weston for the ad campaign, those lilac jumpsuits looked great! Oh, and the lovely Katie Melua just did a tandem here!

Why do you like that sort of work?

It's always challenging, the outlandish requests made by a production crew – then it's up to me to either find a safe way to give them what they've asked for or convince them that another way would be better. I have never been on two shoots that were the same. The personalities and situations are so varied that it will always be fun.

How are your relationships with other dropzones?

LPS has a good relationship with all the other DZs. I don't think that it can be any other way as we are such a small community, especially at the DZO side of things. Generally I find that if you have an issue such as an aircraft failure then everyone will do all they can within their power to help.

Could the BPA and/or The Mag do more for your DZ?

Simple answer this one, more promotion of the sport within the UK, we are still losing too many to European drop zones. I know this is partly due to weather but there is a huge pool of people who want to jump in the UK, as demonstrated by the tandems coming through.

What are your plans for the future?

A full time permanent home is the way forward but this is an issue with planning authorities and NIMBYs. Other than that, more of the same and keep everyone happy as best as we can. My target when getting involved with LPS was to keep it running, as I always left with a smile. Now I would like to see it grow but keep the same approach. With the new airframe we can run progression days for early freefall students and other events to promote the centre – the future is very bright over here and, as normal, I'm wearing shades!

Main photo shows Katie Melua in tandem, by Dorian Harwood

Small photo shows LPS's new Cessna Grand Caravan

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A Helmet InFUZION!

Those talented milliners at the UK-based 2K Composites (2KC), have released yet another new camera helmet design onto the already bulging skydiving camera helmet market. Named 'Fuzion', their new design is a very cool-looking, multi-functional camera helmet.

2K tells us that the Fuzion can be integrated with the Zkulls TM quick-release camera mounting system and Quick Mount release system. These may be fitted on the flat top or side (or both top and side) of the Fuzion for stills camera and camcorder use. Both cameras can be removed easily, enabling you to jump the helmet safely without cameras, thus negating the need for two helmets – handy when travelling.

The Fuzion comes standard with 2KC's new button cutaway system, which releases the chin cup. It has room for two audibles and is compatible with the Cameye II camera remote switch and LED. The helmet is made from glass fibre and comes in a range of seven colours in either matt or gloss finish. It's available in three different shell sizes to accommodate every head size from the small to the extra large shell suitable for the 62cm and above sized head. The guys at 2KC inform us that they've updated their website, so please take a look.

Fuzion – 2kcomposites.com
Zkull TM – Rcb-lab.com



by
Rob
Colpus
Kit
News

Tough Optics

A small UK company called Oregon Scientific has announced the launch of a new 'all-action camera', the ATC5K. The ATC5K is designed to record up to two hours of footage in the toughest environments. Designed with adventure sports in mind, the camera is waterproof up to ten feet and shock resistant, therefore able to survive harsh treatment. It's fitted with a new 1.5" colour LCD screen, photo capture function and can expand to 4GB of memory (original onboard memory is 32MB).

The ATC5K, which measures 4.5 x 2 x 3", runs off two AA batteries that you can just replace when they run out, no battery charger necessary. It can be used as a webcam when connected to a PC and as a viewfinder when connected with TV/PMP. It works as a digital camera too, so you can save space in your gear bag. With the remote control (which is included) you can capture all the action from a distance too. The LCD colour screen allows instant preview and playback, without any PC or TV connections, although it can also be played through these media via the USB/RCA cables supplied.

The company claims that its new baby is perfect for air sports such as skydiving, water sports like windsurfing and kayaking, and also ideal on board bikes, skateboards and all types of racing because the camera is shock resistant. The video recordings will also include full sound, so you are able to create your own running commentary if you feel so inclined. Mounting grips and straps of different length are included, which allow you to attach the ATC5K to a skydiving or racing helmet, handlebars, skateboard or whatever you choose, with little hassle.

oregonscientific.co.uk



All Change!

After nearly three decades in the Florida sunshine, Sunpath Inc, makers of the ubiquitous Javelin harness/container system have moved from the place of the company's birth, several hundred miles north to the state of North Carolina. Obviously the move has increased the company's delivery times somewhat for their popular product, delivery as at mid October was quoted as 30 weeks, but, once the dust has settled, this should be whittled gradually back to normal.

sunpath.com

More Benny for your Penny

SkySystems of the USA, who's given us the Factory Diver, Oxygen and Hurricane helmets to name but a few, has now launched a lower price 'entry level' open-faced helmet onto the market for all those newbies who would prefer not to look like a style-less geeky lump-headed student any longer. Called 'the Benny', this rugged helmet design is built with a high impact ABS shell that will 'take a beating but not break the bank', according to those guys from SkySystems.

It comes with an easy to change liner, so you can replace it or resize in a few minutes. Unlike some other economy helmets on the market, the Benny was completely designed and built for skydiving, with a special channel for the routing of the goggle strap, and closed ears to block wind noise and the cold. There is space in the liner for audible altis and all hardware is stainless steel. Benny can also be ordered as a 'half shell' if desired. Colours available are black, smoke, desert, olive green or matt (stealth) black.

skysystemsusa.com



Sam, Sam

The Photographer Man...

Every Day was the Best Day

Infectious, enthusiastic, creative, truly gifted, one of a kind, genuine, caring, honest, had time for everyone, kind, generous, a true professional, talented, gorgeous, passionate, inspirational... just some of the words that people have been using to try to describe Sam since he died. He's all of those, and so many more.

Sam had the energy and enthusiasm of a seven year old in all aspects of his life. He wanted to try everything, see everywhere and share it all with those he loved. Some of you might remember the 'Gravity Slut' T-shirts he made with the catchphrase "no armchair, no television, no vicarious existence" – he really lived like that. He was always on the go, and always happy and positive about it.

We didn't get long together in the great scheme of things but we did manage to squash a heck of a lot in, as you should. We got to share so much, lots of new experiences and new places, but we had so much still left to do.

We had known each other for a long time but met properly at an AGM a few years back. Being a bunch of tight skydivers there were loads of us sharing a 'family room' with various people sprawled on the floor wherever they could fit. As is traditional on such occasions I had had slightly too much to drink and managed to trip over Sam in the dark, cutting my face on the way down but not really minding (thanks to the numbing effects of the alcohol). Completely clueless, I then stole this poor naked man's sleeping bag and mattress and went straight back to sleep, leaving everyone else a bit confused and Sam rather cold. Bizarrely he managed to see the funny side of things the next morning and carried on trying to chat me up! We fell head over heels and got married just over a year ago in the field at the back of our house. It was a truly beautiful day, every aspect. Sam looked absolutely effortlessly gorgeous as always. He has the most sincere, infectious smile and cheeky eyes on the best of days but that day he just shone. I felt so so proud and privileged to become his wife.

One of my favourite little stories about Sam was from then as well, not quite sure why, it just sticks in my head... He was helping the barman set up and giving him the low-down on the order of the day. Before he cracked on with his next job Sam reassured the guy that if he had any problems or questions he could, "come and find me, I'm the bride". I'm not sure how reassuring this big burley bloke actually found it but it still makes me smile at least!

Lots of people have said that your wedding is the best day of your life but, for us, every day was the best day, every day was wonderful, and



new and exciting, no matter how boring or mundane the task in hand was.

He promised me that day that he would look after me always, promised he would always be with me. And I know he will, in my heart, and in my thoughts. Sam Bailey made me the person I am today, just by him being him and us being us. At the risk of sounding really cheesy he really did rock my world.

After Sam died, I felt like the most unfortunate woman on the planet, but I also felt like the most privileged because I had the love of the most wonderful man I have ever known by far. And for that I am so grateful, and so lucky.

Love you baby, Ting Ting x

Sarah Bailey

Blue Sky Love Affair

So, when did Sam's love affair with blue skies begin? It probably originated in the womb – my pregnancy was confirmed the day the Americans landed on the moon. At a very early age he could identify anything that flew – either feathered or fixed winged. Parachuting came next, instigating a competition amongst his playmates; attaching homemade parachutes (made out of his dad's underwear) to their Action Men before launching them from the balcony to the bottom of his garden 50 feet below. Try as hard as he could he never did manage a splashdown in the swimming pool next door.

His original avowed intent to become Britain's first astronaut was however put to one side with the realisation that he could combine work with play, eating with travel, with just a click of his camera. What a hard life.

Karen Bailey (Sam's mum)





Justgiving

A webpage has been set up for Sam at www.justgiving.com/sambailephoto for anyone who would like to leave a message and make a donation to the Lincolnshire & Nottingham Air Ambulance Service in Sam's memory.



He'll Never Pull That Off!

One of things that made Sam stand out was that he had interests outside of skydiving. One of his main interests seemed to be food. He would amaze us all with his passion for food, and the vast amount of it he could eat. His other main hobby seemed to be his hair. Skydiving is hard on your hair at the best of times, yet Sam always seemed to keep his looking immaculate.

Recently, Sam had started to combine his skydiving with his love of photography, and the results were outstanding. Sam being Sam, he had to do everything in his own unique way. He would exit the aircraft crunched up into the most unlikely position, and I remember looking at him on many occasions and thinking, 'he'll never pull this off'. Yet the photographs he produced were always extraordinary.

I think that's how I'll remember Sam – pulling off some seemingly impossible skydive with a big cheeky grin from ear to ear. Either that or having 'just one more beer' in the pub.

Sam, we will miss you more than you know. Although, wherever you are, you're probably grinning and wondering what all the fuss is about.

Dave Grzeskowiak (PD)

All-Encompassing

I can't honestly remember when I first met Sam. He seems to be one of those people that was always around: I guess that's because he was so all-encompassing. When I think of Sam now, it's of him sat around a table polishing off whatever food was laid out, a big grin on his face and a fork in one hand. (As Sam said, "There's always room for ice cream: it melts and fits into the gaps in your tummy.") Either that, or sat on our dining room floor after a night of Hoegaarden.

He loved good food, good company (God knows why he put up with us!) and good wine. Sam was into so many things. Camping, concerts, theatre. Wakeboarding on New Year's Day and being so cold that he nearly passed out and needed Sarah to help him out of his wetsuit! Nearly drowning while white water rafting and yet still coming back for more.

It would be easy to say that I wished we had done more of this, that or the other, but we shouldn't have to do more than we did. I just wish we all had the chance to do it for longer. Much longer.

Lisa Grzeskowiak (Mrs PD)

Fantastic Memories

What a giggle, a fun packed seven years! Sam, us two, Ric, Gus and Weed all started jumping around the same time and built the most amazing friendships. We were known as the 'Check it out' gang, all jumping and socialising together every weekend with our only plan for skydiving: to have fun! With this attitude of no-pressure we began to gain some skills and, as most of our jumps involved tracking with Sam as the 'rabbit,' we began to gain a reputation for fast tracking with plenty of funny moments 'smoking' the various World Team suit wearers from around the dropzone, you know who you are!

Our fondest memories of Sam are from a Christmas holiday we all shared in Wales which was an eating and drinking fest. Knowing how much Sam loved his food Andy & Tilly set themselves a challenge 'to put a stone on the Bailey'; almost four years later he was still trying to lose it! Wales provides many fantastic memories including the image of Sam enthusiastically chasing a sheep across the open countryside, not sure what he would have done if he had caught it... but he was single then!

One of our happiest moments was Sam and Sarah's wonderful wedding when we were honoured to be Sam's 'Best People'. Their wedding did not follow the standard format and was a magical day.

We have amazing memories but do feel our time with Sam has been cut short. Along with the loss of Gus in May, our group of friends has been hit hard, the loss of two great people. Sam was a true friend and in his memory we will continue to have good times with our wonderful friends. We'll always love and remember Sam, we miss him lots.

Amandy (Andy Brass & Amanda Higgins)

Always Bright and Sunny

An unusual person, Sam: he was the newest member of Langar's camera pool and, despite being a professional photographer of some standing, was happy to spend time, effort and money to show that he could produce the goods to a high standard. He proved just that and added his own personal flair to the job. A true professional – good at what he did, with humility too. On top of that, he was simply a nice guy, always bright and sunny. Everybody who met Sam, even for just a short time, didn't forget him. And we won't.

Tony Danbury



Thank You for the Support

Sarah would like to say thank you to everyone for their support and good wishes, and a particularly huge thank you to Bodge It & Scarper and Associates (you know who you are) for manning up, making everything possible and making recent weeks that little bit more bearable. You're all ace!



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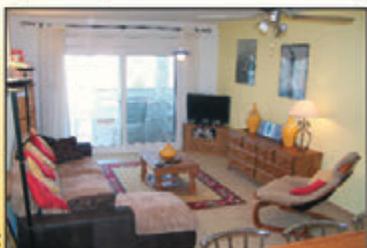
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CLUB News



Portrush Bay demo by Mike Murphy

The rebranded 'Shamrock Challenge' took place at Wild Geese for the first time. Occasionally it felt like the Irish Parachute Club had taken over, so many had journeyed north. The teams were led by Ronan Whelan and Gordon 'Go-Around' Hodgkinson, scourge of anyone in a 206 trail plane! The Red Arrows were performing a helix manoeuvre in the distance at the Portrush Airshow, this coincided with run-in. Pointing this circular movement out, on jump run... you can picture the outcome of that hand signal yourself!

While everyone deserves praise for the success the event was, special thanks must go to Gordon Hodgkinson. The effort he has put into Irish skydiving, in events and skill development, both north and south, has been

phenomenal. Before 2007 the all-Ireland formation record was 16, now it's 51 and here was an event based around multi-point 15-ways!

The Shamrock Challenge coincided with one of the jewels of the Wild Geese display calendar, the Portrush Airshow. Always good for the joke that we are put on hold by air traffic, so the Red Arrows can fly in to perform our warm-up act. While the Saturday display was an interestingly breezy affair, Sunday saw perfect conditions, with glorious sunshine allowing Mike Murphy to get some fantastic shots as we approached the beach over the water. The end of the demo season has yet to bring his usual cry for attention that this will be his last. Is this anything to do with the lure of continuing displays with Mark 'Chainsaw' McGarvey?!

RAPA

Achievements

First Freefall

Gav McLelland
Andrew Hambley
Andrew King
Jason Davies
Gav Dickson
Bradley Baker
Taff Williams
James Kavannagh
Robert Jenkins
Ash Hammond
Lee Churcher

Cat 8

Gaz Chapman

FS1

Des Desmond
Paul Fish
Scotty Findlay
Geordie Batey

200 Jumps

Des Desmond

The start of September saw the last advanced course complete about 25 jumps each. Big thanks to Matty Heptinstall for relaying the finer details of 'how to do your own tattoo'.

Nina Engle hosted a canopy piloting course in September. Numerous turned up for a birdman course. As well as our faithful Islander and brand new Kodiak aircraft, the German Military came to visit with a Dornier and a Piper Cub, which you could just about squeeze in and out of. We organised a couple of chilly night jumps in October which resulted in quite a few crates of beer. Doc, we're still waiting for the hole to be filled in that you created with your nose!

A big welcome to three new members of staff: Andy (trying to relive his youth) Clark, Alex (why dig in when you can check in) Pascoe and our new aircraft engineer Graham Payne. Here's to a successful 2009.

Dave Newton



Enviably aircraft line-up



Dave Newton & Mark Tether watch Des's first camera jump



Bill Sharp lands in tiny area

Wild Geese



Mike Murphy



Thumbs-up to Gordon Hodgkinson for his sterling work improving Irish skydiving, photo of Gordon by John McCourt



Shamrock Challenge by Mike Barrett

Achievements

- First Freefall**
- Aaron Hughes
- Ryan Finlay
- Matt Williams
- Cat 8**
- Ciaran Wilkinson
- FS1**
- Nadine Bibby
- 300 Jumps**
- Nick Spiller
- Alison Owen
- Eddie Monteith

Ciaran Wilkinson, leader of the drunken rabble that goes under the name of the Queens University Belfast Skydive Club, got his Cat 8 and, along with James Beattie, Joel White and Paul Brennan, was responsible for an intake of 50+ new RAPS jumpers, nicely done! Alison Owen stars in the achievements list for the third time running.

Congratulations to two of our ever-present skydivers, Francis Mullin and Jade Allister, who tied the knot on 20 September. That being a Saturday, Francis ensured he still got a jump in by leading a display into his own wedding. Another Mullin on the manifest board, that may take a while to get used to.

Martin McLaughlin



Warwick Uni by Ash Kemp

Weston

Sunset over Weston by Mike Hayes



Our Scrambles saw the largest number of teams ever (14) but unfortunately the weather didn't play ball and only 9 teams jumped. A shame as we had Amanda (*Airkix* and *Elan*), Chris Hollis (*Wingnutz*) & the *Bodyflight Storm* girls here. The weather kept us in the hangar so we decided a 4-way trolley meet was the next best thing – followed by 8-way speed! Even a simple trolley meet

became very competitive! The Oktoberfest party made up for the lack of jumps, with great food from Sharron. Looking at the state of people, it was a good job the weather was poor on Sunday!

We've been very busy with AFF and RAPS from Imperial, Brunel, Warwick and Kingston universities. It's good to see all these new students enjoying the Weston

scene and helping deplete our bar stocks!

Steve and I would like to say a big thanks to everyone that has helped out and worked at Skydive Weston this year and of course to all the skydivers. We have again increased our membership and jump numbers in all areas and so are looking at extra options for next year, watch this space!

Next year we have a **UKSL meet on 24-25 May** and Brian Vacher will return in June with his Safe Flight Canopy School. Other events will be posted on our website and Facebook page. Have a great Christmas and we hope to see you in the new year.

Ash Kemp

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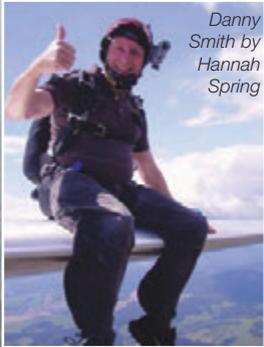


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Tilstock



Danny Smith by Hannah Spring



Wilko by Paul Lewis

21 September saw the first canopies over Tilstock on a Sunday for fifteen years, since we lost our planning permission. Another local airfield gave us the green light to take off there and drop at our own DZ. We did six lifts that initial Sunday and it was a great success without any of the logistical problems we anticipated. Now we know it works we're planning to operate most Sundays from March through the summer but it's wise to call the DZ before turning up.

Congratulations to Mike Allsopp for a bronze medal in his first competition (beer!) at Netheravon, and to all our regulars who've managed to keep progressing despite the abysmal British summer. Roll on spring!

Colin Fitzmaurice



Matt Goodman by Dave Major

Achievements

- First Freefall**
Terry Watson
Matt Challinor
- Cat 8**
Simon Hartland
- FS1**
Hannah Spring
Christine Dawes
- 1 Hour Freefall**
Dale Hesketh
- 100 Jumps**
Dale Hesketh
Hannah Spring
- 400 Jumps**
Jules Bergel
Mike Allsopp

Tandem student Martin Wilshaw screams, by Paul Lewis

UK Para

Grant's continued his coaching days, running 4-ways to 14-ways including speed. Everyone has been taking part and it's proved fun, and of great benefit. Jumpers have also been taking advantage of Gav Rixon (in his dreams!) and thanks to all his fab coaching we now have quite a large regular group of FS1 skydivers. Steve Wickham has achieved his coach rating and will also be passing on his wisdom to the baby skydivers. Well done to you too Wickham! Our youngest ever AFF student Alex Gilbert also got his A licence, after doing level one for his 16th birthday. Congratulations! Yet another of UKPS's homegrown has joined the camera pool, nice one Jeff Baker.

Keep checking the website (ukparachuting.co.uk), there will soon be a 'club zone' to update you. UKPS branded items are available to buy on the website now (T-shirts, baseball hats, beanies, etc).

Neil Moore finally completed his first tandem. Neil has Downs Syndrome and is a friend of one of our regulars Ian 'Taff' Watkins. He's frequented many of our socials and has been desperate to jump since his first visit last year. Quite the action man, Neil skis and does half marathons & triathlons, so to get the okay to do a skydive was fantastic. Andy Page took him, Taff followed him out, and he absolutely loved it. When's the next one Neil?!

Now the darker nights have set in there is a special offer to get you up early to make the most of the day! From now till spring, weekend 'early bird' loads (wheels off before 9am) are the bargain price of £15!

Grant finally made an honest woman of me! We went off to Tuscany 'on holiday' and did it on the QT – let's face it, we didn't want a load of rowdy skydivers there! We did celebrate with a small party in the local on our return. Thanks Tomo for 'decorating' our house!

Tickets for the Christmas Ball are on sale (£25). UKPS have also booked a table for the AGM dinner, if you'd like to join, contact Grant or Tomo. Grant has put himself forward for the BPA Council for the fourth year running. Don't waste your vote – vote GRANT RICHARDS!

Susie Richards



Neil Moore's tandem with Andy Page by Rob Silver

Achievements

- Cat 8**
Elliot Clapp
Keith McCarthy
Peter Watson
Simon Fisk
Gary Butler
- JM1**
Tony Perkins
- FS1, CH2, JM1**
Chris 'Stretch' Durbin
- 50 Jumps**
Erin Cunningham
- 200 Jumps**
Tony Perkins
- 300 Jumps**
Jon Reed
- 400 Jumps**
Steve Howes
- 500 Jumps**
Barrie Bremner
John Midgley
- 600 Jumps**
Damian Hewitt



Jon Reed's 300th jump by Rob Silver

CFUK exit over Old Buck, by Craig Poxon



Cornish

Tandem with Ross Houlston filming, photo by Ben Wood

Dave has returned from an amazing adventure in Nepal. The aim: to go to 29,500 feet and skydive in front of five of the biggest mountains in the world – success! It was an outstanding advert for the sport of skydiving, worldwide. Only the staff will ever know how special this small team of professional skydivers were. The following all played a huge part in the success and I congratulate everyone for their dedication, professionalism and, above all, the friendship during the expedition:-

Wendy Smith and Omar Alhegelan – very experienced professionals who did most of the camera flying.

Derek Thomas – provided brand new equipment from Sun Path Inc, USA, Great kit! Glad you enjoyed the jumps.

Steve Hennessey – made his 14,000th jump in front of Everest, as a tandem instructor. He has over 10,000 tandems but this jump was a bit special.

Tom Noonan – Director of tandem operations at Strong Enterprises in the USA; we used only their Dual Hawk tandem system.

Ralph Mitchell – made the first tandem at 29,500ft over the Himalayas in front of Everest. He raised over £1,000 for charity by jumping in shorts at 29,500ft!

Ryan Jackson – our official doctor, great job Ryan! His general help throughout the adventure was much appreciated.

Lucie Fenton – PR at a different level, a very high level indeed! All the clients appreciated your help.

Mark Finch – a multi talented packer with a difference. Mark runs a very successful surf and diving shop in Cornwall, when he's not packing tandems and helping on the DZ! Great job, no mals!

Andy Elson – world renowned balloon pilot who assisted the staff and helped Neil Greenwood with the oxygen life support system. Andy, thanks for your help and company during the trip, it was great.

76 jumps were completed, with oxygen, from altitudes between 19,000ft and 30,000ft. The airfield and landing area was at 12,350ft above sea level. The Pilatus Porter PT6 with two pilots from Swiss Boogie in Switzerland was fantastic. Henry and Rudy the pilots, I take my hat off to you both, for your excellent work in the mountains. The Porter is an amazing aircraft and probably the only one in the world that could do the job at this altitude.

Back home, Ben Wood and Andy Montriou did a fantastic job with AFF at Dunkeswell and tandems at Perranporth. We thank all the staff at 'The Well' for their assistance while Dave was miles away. Phil Symons reached a major milestone with his 200th jump at Perranporth, congratulations Phil, nice jump.

Dave Wood and Paul Yeoman want to say a personal thank you to a few special people who've helped the Cornish Parachute Club: office manager Chris Wood; instructor Ben Wood; chief pilot Steve Clarke; club pilot Simon Williams; Geoff and Mike from Hinton; Ralph Mitchell; Ryan Jackson; Shane Wood; Ross Houlston; Mark Finch; Phil Symons; Dave Lock; Ian Marshall; Steve Saunders; and Andy Montriou.

The airfield owners are working with the local Council, hoping for a move forward for the airfield and CPC.

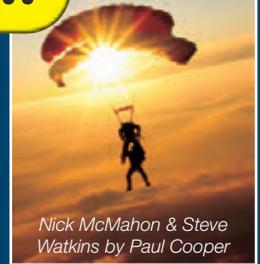
Chris Wood

Everest group by Dave Wood



Dunkeswell

Early October saw cloud base hop 'n' pops banish the winter blues – good preparation for the return visit of the BPA CF roadshow. A fantastic turnout gave an enormous 123 CF descents over the weekend! Record numbers gained their CF1 stickers and well done to Jenny Latham who did a 5-way stack at NIGHT for her 200th jump before heading off to Oz for 6 months! The fridge was bursting with beer as most people made their first plunges into the night sky! Although Chris Taylor quickly realised that looking for a reserve free bag at night was not easy!



Nick McMahon & Steve Watkins by Paul Cooper

One event that we wish had been at night (so we didn't have to see it) was UWE students Potter and Paul, getting their lily-whites out to do a naked jump! No particular reason – students just like getting their kit off! Well done guys, we hope your nether regions have thawed out now! Welcome back to Exeter and UWE Unis.

It's been great to see Scooby getting out from behind the wheel of the bus and in the air – bring on the FS1! Congratulations to Chris Nelson who did a 14-way for his 500th jump at 7.45 am and to Lou Finch who did a 10,000ft hop'n'pop, to celebrate her 200th skydive – we really do jump dawn to dusk at The Well! Massive congratulations to Rob 'FreeFly Freddy' Stimpson on his FF1!

We close 15 Dec – 9 Jan for the festive season and wish everyone a very merry Christmas and blue skies for 2009, we hope to see you all in the new year! Watch out for our sizzling events diary, the highlight being the Twin Beech Boogie 2009!

Lou-Lou

Achievements

CF1

Adam Searle
Mark Scarratts
Stefan 'Potter' Cocksedge
Ross Houlston
Michael Cambridge
Danny Reynolds

CH1

Freddie Saul
Suzanne Richards

JM1, CH2

Dan Goldie
Si 'Scooby Snax' Ward
Dan Guest
Sarah Law

FF1

Rob Stimpson

50 Jumps

Dan Guest

100 Jumps

Sarah Law

200 Jumps

Mal Cowton

500 Jumps

Martin Lee

Chris Nelson

1 Hour Freefall

Dan Guest

Dan Goldie

Fraser Corsan



Photo by Si 'Scooby' Ward



Skydive Airkix

The Let is back! The engine and prop repairs went well, worth the wait, it's flying better than ever – 11 minutes to 13,000 feet! We ran a few events to celebrate, including BOGOF where members bought a ticket for £20 and got one FREE! Skydive Airkix members also took advantage of the free coaching offer in October, many thanks to our coaches – Tarn, Chris, Axel and Yoko. Keep an eye on our website for offers and news skydiveairkix.com.

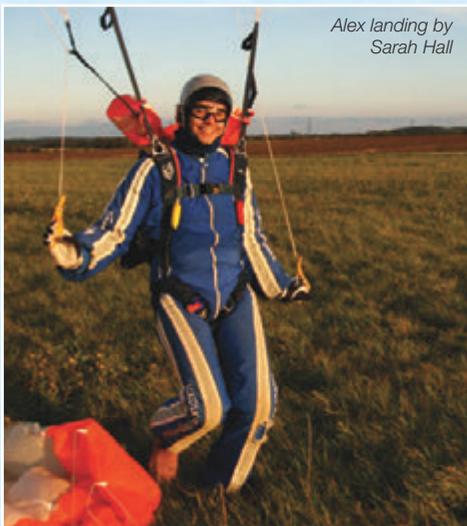
Skydive Airkix membership is pegged at £25 – and current members get a cool 20% discount. Enhanced membership for an extra £85 gives you 10 minutes' Airkix tunnel time. Our members' evenings at the tunnel are going well, with cheaper rates and last minute offers. Get in touch with Sarah to be added to the tunnel mailing list: camera@skydiveairkix.com. Coaching is available or you can just fly with your friends.

Congratulations to Vicky Finch who has a massive 2,000 jumps! Good luck to Tim Hanlon, off to New Zealand for 6 months, hope you return next year – bring Rob Oakly back too, we miss him! Welcome to Chris and Kelly McCann who've joined our team, along with baby Sam, the new staff entertainer!

Sarah Hall



Coach Tarnya Hollis by Sarah Hall



Alex landing by Sarah Hall



Tim Hanlon by Sarah Hall

Lewknor

LPS GOES TURBINE! We have secured the use of a Cessna Grand Caravan for 2009 and will be running in quickly at 12K. There will be plenty of slots so maybe we can get some teams forming and jumping at LPS? With faster turnaround and climb times 2009 looks to be a spectacular year!

Tom Levin and Rob Dobney both completed their AFF; Max Hill, Damian and Graham Goulson have CH1 and are working hard toward CH2; and we even convinced Katrina to get in the plane... and then jump out of it as well!

2008 seems to have been the 'year of the tandem' but we have not forgotten RAPS

and AFF – we have 2 new smiling AFF graduates. The AFF programme is to be extended for 2009 due to the new plane and, if you are good and the numbers work out, I may even reduce jump ticket prices – but don't hold your breath C Buse!

The Christmas party is at the Lambert Arms on 6 December, music and everything already laid on – but we do need your food orders asap!

Those that had the pleasure of meeting our disabled 88 year old tandem student Sylvia Chauvet will be sad to know that she recently passed away – however before she did she called the office and asked us to convey her thanks and appreciation to everyone she met, who made both her tandems spectacular experiences.

Martin Harris

Photo by Dorian Harwood



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Photo: Bruno Brokken

Bridlington

We were all deeply saddened by the passing of Dave Johnston after a long illness. Strange to think we won't hear his voice around any more, we'd all grown very accustomed to the Irish lilt in the clubhouse. Our thoughts are with Lynne and Nick.

On a positive note, we've had an extremely busy time with a stream of AFF jumpers, thanks to Chappy (Ian Chapman) for coming to help. We've had some memorable tandems; Robin Bouton, 76 years young, jumping for charity and putting the nervous youngsters to shame. Peter Horobin, 70, became everyone's firm friend after waiting the entire previous weekend for the weather. Some of the regulars even went to his birthday bash. Steve 'The C Licenced Ninja' Perkins has been busy picking up camera helmet bargains, to everyone's jealous amazement and filming absolutely everything. Thanks to all our regulars for their help and support this year. Here's to a great 2009!

Ryan Lee Brown



Shaun Douthwaite - Consol Exit by Simon Rehill



Steve 'The Ninja' Perkins and the GasVan (RIP) by Clair Armstrong



Chappy swoops it in by Ryan Lee Brown

Achievements

- First Freefall**
 Philip Senior
 Andrew Smith
 Chris Haley
 Jordan Kield
 Dan Thompson
 John Findlay
 Richard Lawson
 James Poulson
 Jozefa Hawaleqicz
 Karl Richardson
 Bernard Kivehan
 Rich Oliver
- AFF Graduate**
 Shaun Douthwaite
 Gavin Dickinson
 Karl Richardson
 Rich Oliver
 Kev Lawson
- CH1**
 Shaun Douthwaite
- 200 Jumps**
 John Halton

St Andrews

St Andrews is back to its usual bustling self with all of our travellers back for the winter. We've been a bit unlucky this autumn. First we were

forced to close for 2 weeks by our landlord, so we had to postpone the BPA Artistics Roadshow until next spring and then we got an entire year's worth of wind and rain in a month!

To brighten up spirits we organised a 4-way scrambles and Halloween party. Somehow in early November, we managed glorious sunshine

and no wind for a whole weekend and did 2 rounds on the Saturday. Winners, *Sex, Drugs 'n' Sausage Rolls*, won by just 1 point over second place *Horse Virgins*, while *FLEM(S)* gave a respectable performance for third.

As only 3 teams turned up early enough on Saturday to enter the meet, they all got a suitable beer-based prize which led us nicely on to our Halloween party. There was a great mix of costumes, with 2 supermen, a smurf, a leprechaun, several witches and werewolves and even an appearance by Jesus! Our next social is our Christmas meal on 6 December, which we'll be busy enjoying as you read this.

Graeme Mackay

Party time by Ewan Cowie



Achievements
 700 Jumps
 Darren Rose

Dirt dive by Billy Robertson





Heather & Bill's charity tandem by Lee Rhodes



Duncan fires up the PAC by Ellen Nath

Cark

October began: blue skies and sunshine. Eager regulars scrawled their names at manifest to capture a place on the PAC before the nights

started to draw in. Capt Haynes, fresh from his Atlantic crossings, was happy to fill the awaiting taxi. Duncs, thanks for the cover!

One of the keenest was AFF student Luke Morris (yep another Morris in the air!) gaining his AFF qualification in the minimum of 8 jumps thanks to Kie and Ian.

Myles, Katie and Nick, along with Cerys, Steve and our local uni rep Guy from Cumbria, did brilliantly in gaining 24 static line students at Freshers' Week. The entire group jumped on Sunday and we progressed 6 on to DRCP. Bad weather the following weekend left the Cumbria crew a little disappointed. But, as with any student programme, an evening's alcoholic entertainment compensated: cocktails, pizza, beer, good music, plenty of drinking forfeits... and a few sore heads!

Jim Scott went home pleased with his CF1. He searched high and low to find a fourth to complete the stack. Mr McGuinness of course stepped up to the mark and, within a minute of exiting at 8,000 feet, Jim had his 4-stack. Nice to see all you guys from north of the border, thanks for your continued support.

Halloween was unfortunately washed out. Gusts over 50mph cancelled the speed competition organised by Dave H and Helen. But the show must go on and, with enough water lapping into the recreation room to float Noah's Ark, the brave donned Halloween costumes and partied. Wendy as ever topped out with her fancy dress, all the way for the USA, paying more in import duty than the costume cost... oops, don't tell Mick! Wendy and Sara, thanks for the cocktails and Pete, try not to drink so much through your nose next time!

In conjunction with the major skydiving players, we're

Achievements

AFF Graduate

Stuart Cave

Cat 8

Ann Berry

Mick Madeley

Ian Eveleigh

Peter Williams

Mat Jennings

Carl Marsh

FS1

Brian Berry

Christine Dawes

FS1,100 Jumps

Hannah Rossall

100 Jumps

Katie Myerscough

200 Jumps

Rick Hamnett

Mark Ryall

Black Knights

The artistic roadshow with Mikey Carpenter and Dan Parker went well despite bad weather on Saturday. Still, everyone did some serious backfly practice – on the floor! The sun did shine (a bit) on Sunday letting everyone try out their new positions.

Huge congrats to Chris Christo, now the proud new father of a baby girl and, after a long agonising wait, his rig finally arrived! Its first outing was a cool tracking dive with Al Holmes.

The DZ saw a rather special tandem student, 17 year old Heather Reece. Heather suffers from cystic fibrosis and has a tube permanently in her arm, which renders her unable to skydive. Due to an infection the tube had to be temporarily removed – so Heather took full advantage, taking to the skies and raising a whopping £15,000 in just 6 weeks for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. HUGE congrats to Heather, her 25 cheering team and Billy for looking after her.

PC 'Donut Eating' Bradley has at last got into the RAF (we're not sure how with that Burnley accent) – good luck Bradders and please bring those dishy guys to the DZ in uniform, Raybans and preferably a Hercules! Here's to a mega 2009 and sun-filled skies.

Sam Davis



Chris Christo & Al Holmes take Chris's new rig out, photo by Lee Rhodes

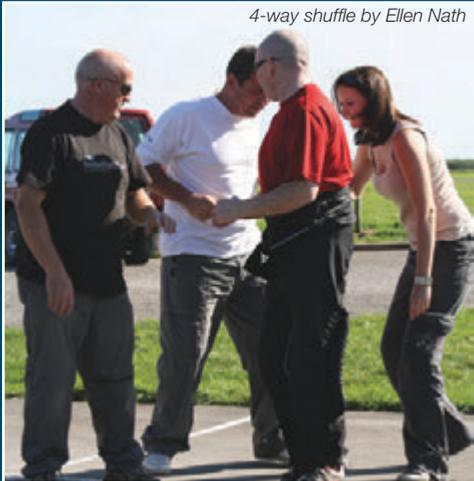
Phil loving his job by Lee Rhodes



Ken White's 82nd birthday tandem raised thousands, photo by Stuart Lee



Bacchanalia turning points by Neil McLaren



4-way shuffle by Ellen Nath

developing a full diary of 2009 events from 1-on-1 to multi aircraft big-ways. If you want something including let us know and we'll do our best. We're also organising themed evenings and alternative experiences. Register on our website to keep updated – you snooze, you lose!

Stu Morris

Achievements

AFF Graduate

Luke Morris

CF1

Jim Scott
Steve Watkin

50 Jumps

Paul Callear

50 Jumps

Fraser Dootson

200 Jumps

Gary Yerrill

2,000 Jumps

John Howard

3,000 Jumps

Steve Nolan



Love is in the air for Paul Baker who proposed to girlfriend Kelly after his tandem (inset), photos Titch Wibrew

Nethers

We held a very successful Scrambles meet and were delightedly surprised to see 12 teams, who all did 4 rounds. The scores were very 'scramblesesque', with 3 points separating the top 6. Eventual winners were Team TWAT (Trev, Woody, Alison & Tim, geddit?) – whoever would've thought that Trev would come up with such a name? They were very happy to receive all their jump tickets back. Second placed DILLIGAF were delighted to get half their money refunded for coming second. The Scrambles will now become annual, come back next year after Nats.

The competition was intersected with an S-Party; costumes included schoolgirls, superheroes, santas, Sparty & Scary Spice, a shower (Trev obviously) and even a suicide bomber – whose marzipan was in high demand! The most surreal costumes were the dozen or so Si Bristows everywhere you turned – as if one isn't already (more than) enough?! People will do anything to curry favour with the Meet Director!

Thanks to Pam Van Cam for organising the Halloween party – the bar was wall to wall ghosts



Team TWAT take gold by Mike Ehlas

and ghoulies along with the odd improvisation using loo roll! Remember the gallery on netheravon.com when uploading your photos.

Well done to Martin Preston who took part in the Everest adventure, exiting at 29,500ft, pulling at 17,500ft and landing at 12,500ft – I bet that was fast!

Kath Salisbury



John Bagwell takes son Jake on a tandem, joined by grandad Eric

Achievements

Cat 8

Lucinda Blake
Nathan Parry
Max McCleod

First Freefall

Anna Newey

FS1

Danny Roberts

CP1

Rob Millin

Jump Numbers

50

Gary Dun
James Garton

100

Alison Gale
Nicola Travis
Vikki Parsons

200

Martin Preston
Danny Roberts

300

Jo White
Curt Goodison
Michael Fraser

600

Jack Harefield

800

Chaz S-G

900

Rob Millin
Ian Ridpath

60 Hours Freefall

Jeff Chandler

Swansea

Skydive Swansea has been nominated as a finalist in the Swansea Bay Tourism Awards 2008 in the Best Activity category. Congratulations go to Paul Sheehan for his 500th jump, Rebekah Jones & Ricki Davies for passing AFF, and Lee Pugh for his 3,000th – we're still waiting for the beers mate!

Swansea will be open every weekend throughout winter and will operate 27-31 Dec (last year it was quite mild so fingers crossed for much of the same). We've had a truly incredible year and I just want to thank all the staff for their hard work. Being nominated for the Tourism Award is a reflection of the effort put in by everyone, so well done and I'm looking forward to 2009!

Carl Williams

Team HEAT stack their Velocities by Mick Tyler





WWW.PERFORMANCEDESIGNS.COM
PHOTO BY: RICKSTER POWELL

7 CELL STYLE WITH 9 CELL ATTITUDE

STORM

We bade farewell to Michael the pilot in style with a big party and BBQ. The Hinton girls made a huge effort dressing up as pilots though I don't think I've ever seen pilots wearing dresses that short! We welcomed the new pilot, Rich Evans, at the same time, why he dressed up as a gorilla we'll never know! The beers flowed till very late with plenty of sore heads next day to prove it. Thank you Pete Jones for the tunes and those who cooked! The next party is for Christmas on 13 December, keep an eye out for the fancy dress theme on our website/posters. Hopefully the new bar in progress will be ready in time!

Congratulations to Bob Miller who completed his 2,000th skydive in true style by lurking a tandem. We wish Chloe Vickers a speedy recovery after an injury when landing, don't be a stranger, drinking tea all day at the DZ is very underrated! Dave Gould continues to make a good recovery, thanks for all the good wishes. A huge thank you to Ray Armstrong who is helping out in Point Zero during Dave's absence and Matt Abram who's been a star ensuring that customers continue to receive a great level of service. Well done to those who also took part on the advanced packing course, their new qualifications have been a blessing at this time.

Our last weekend of the year is 20-21 December, then we close for the festive season, reopening on 6 January.

Natalie Keith

Hinton

Ian Gooberman, Martyn Gray & Mike Frost by Andy Hyman



Achievements

- FS1**
Paul Dorward
Darren Walsh
- FF1**
Nikki Malan
- 50 Jumps**
Luke Elliot
- 100 Jumps**
Kerstin Griep
- 200 Jumps & 2 Hrs Freefall**
Brian Chaffin
- 200 Jumps**
Tom Urbanski
- 1,500 Jumps**
Matt Abram
- 2,000 Jumps**
Bob Miller

Photos: John Lintern



Farewell to Michael



New pilot Rich Evans by Matt Abram



New childcare facilities!

Achievements

- FS1**
Phil James
Matt Brown
Rob J Simpson
Chris Handley
- BS1**
Blair Stent
- FF1**
Charlotte Fletcher
- JM1**
Phil James
- CH2**
Phil James
Mick Thornley

Jump Numbers

- 50 Jumps**
Jess Slater
David Grimes
- 100 Jumps**
Matt Brown
Mike McNulty
- 300 Jumps**
Charlotte Fletcher
- 400 Jumps**
Kath Rybinski
- 500 Jumps**
Scott Mackenzie
- 600 Jumps**
Brian Cumming
Chris Brook
- 1,500 Jumps**
Andy Wesley
- 2,000 Jumps**
Simon Cathrine
- 4,000 Jumps**
Noel Purcell
Steve Murphy
- 1Hr Freefall**
Phil James
Mike McNulty

Hib

Simon Cathrine from *Fusion* organised a highly successful FS coaching weekend, check the achievements list for FS1s! We had a great



Noel 'jowling' (caught freeze frame shaking his head) by Blair Stent

weekend hosting our last Nationals of the year, the CF & 8-way Speed, see pages 43 & 54. Our second scrambles event saw a fantastic turnout and was very well run with many comments about dive pools, judging etc! Teams *LARJ*, *Geary's Bitches*, *Barely Touching*, *Neptunes Kiss* & *Scrambles Eggs* all had a fab time, completing all 4 rounds (for once!), with *LARJ* winning.

Skydive Choreography were once again making big patterns in the sky, this time more difficult than usual! Another well attended event saw multi aircraft lifts going up all weekend.

Our annual Frostbite Friendly saw a good turnout of 5

teams, with only the met letting us down. An interesting team name was *Simon Where's Your Medical?* ... something to do with Simon Cathrine's 40th birthday – welcome to the old farts' club!

We welcome back Steve Rossall who did his first jump in 2 years and the infamous Lee Love, who did his first in nearly 3. Congratulations to John Fletcher & Catherine Harrison, who'll soon be introducing a new skydiver to the world! H managed to return from a well earned holiday in Australia without smuggling any Singapore Airlines girls in! We have a new 'part-time' manifester, Amy Kitson, who's performed very well in following Lucy

Herrett's sterling work. Amy's still smiling but I'm sure we'll cure her of that!

Don't forget, it's warmer in Seville.....

Mike Colthart



Stu Ferguson's Autumn Falls by Blair Stent



Mike McNulty



Ruthie Covell



Kath Rybinski & Amy Kitson



Jane Henderson



Simon Where's Your Medical?

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CAMERA TRIGGER
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CAMERA TRIGGERS WITH
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L1333
L1334
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L1331



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L12450



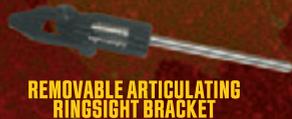
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Langar

Achievements

First Freefall
Liam Reilly
Graduated AFF
Martin Simmonds
Jonny Castell
Simon Mottram
Karen Nielson
Andy Schofield
Guy Whitton
Jerzy Kobrynski
Kamil Mika

Cat 8
Shaun Haynes
Martin Simmonds
John North
Stefan Fedtschyschan
Shane Hunt
Russ Fairclough

CH1
John North
CH2
Tim Gaines
Simon Goodall

JM1
Simon Goodall
FS1
Blake Hooper
Tim Gaines
Sam Lee
Jennie Hewitt
Martin Simmonds
Dan Guest
Rhys Easton

FF1
Ally Milne
Wez Thompson

Jump Numbers

50
Tim Gaines
Sam Lee
Emma Bramley
John North
200
Laura Hampton
Henry Cressey
Pete Harries
300
Matt Denton
400
James Watson
500
Wayne Glenn
600
Matt Sweeney
700
Ian Taylor
Andy Pike
Angela Hickling
1,300
Fiona Birnie
2,400
Craig Poxon
7,000
Dean Fisher
1 Hour Freefall
Emma Bramley

Freefall and presentation photos by Gary Wainwright



Bob Connell celebrates 30 years by Brian Knight



Ally Milne receives his 24 hours freefall certificate from his dad, Scotty



Chris Arrowsmith raised £3,000 for charity



Pixie bunny by Richard Minns

Chris Arrowsmith asked us to help him raise money for the National Autistic Society – by doing back-to-back hop'n'pops! When we started jumping at 12:30 his target was 12 jumps but, with lifts taking just 4 minutes each, he actually managed 13. He raised £3,000, completed his first jump in the UK, downsized canopies and did his 200th skydive! Chris then did the Great North Run the following weekend. Makes you tired just thinking about it!

Sophie Cook has gained her FS Coach qualification, come and get your WARP jumps here! Congratulations to Bob Connell, who celebrated 30 years in skydiving with

an 8-way, and Dean Fisher who's just clocked up 43 years and 7,000 jumps. Or was that 7,000 years and 43 jumps? Incidentally (forgive the pun) Dean recently had his first malfunction in 21 years – but then your rig must wear out eventually, I suppose.

The university season is in full swing, and the Langar Universities Skydiving Team or LUST, as they wish to be known, is gaining new members fast. Some of the little devils must be skipping lectures they're progressing so quickly!

On a sad note, many of you will be aware that Sam Bailey, the newest

member of our camera team, died as a result of injuries sustained from a too-low high-performance turn. A great loss to us all, especially, of course, his wife Sarah who instructs for us. There is a Justgiving page for Sam in support of the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance (justgiving.com/sambaileyphoto).

Slightly more happily, Wez Thompson recently got away with a similar incident with 'only' major leg injuries – get well soon. Take care, people. It's the ground that's the limit, not the sky.

Tony Danbury

Chatteris

Achievements

Cat 8
James Addison
Cat 8, FS1, 50 Jumps
Antonio Vlachopoulos
CF1
Rowena Owen
300 Jumps
Lazar Dimitrov
500 Jumps
Nick Chipp
900 Jumps
Tom Pantall
2,000 Jumps
Lorraine Dixcey

4,000 Jumps
Lloyd Quenby
8,000 Jumps
Mike Rust
8,000 Jumps
Gary Small
12 Hours Freefall
Tom Pantall
24 Hours Freefall
Lorraine Dixcey
48 Hours Freefall
Lloyd Quenby
96 Hours Freefall
Gary Small

Photo by Lorraine Dixcey



Headcorn

James White exits over Bewl Water



Achievements

AFF Graduate

Steve Street

Cat 8

Natalia di Pietro

FF1

Rory McManus

FS1

Chris Anderson

FS1, 100 Jumps

Jamie Turner

Craig Crosbie

CH2, FS1, 50 Jumps

& 1 Hr Freefall

James Dodd

300 Jumps

Lucy Smith-Willey

400 Jumps &

6 Hrs Freefall

Maria Parrott

500 Jumps

Al Redler

1,000 Jumps

Rohan Beal

Del Hopkins

Big Tony

Headcorn photos by Simon Hughes



Dave Coveney's 70th birthday present

In September we were really pleased to celebrate a special birthday of one of our long-time regulars and a thoroughly great guy, Dave Coveney. Dave was overwhelmed by the generosity of his skydiving friends, who donated the longest strip of jump tickets we've ever seen outside the office. Dave says a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed. We are really sorry that Jackie and Dean left us in November, emigrating for Australia. Wings threw a wonderful leaving party for them, with a Mexican theme and karaoke. Good luck guys – we will miss you.

Clem went for a 10 mile run – yes, Clem!! – together with Maria Parrott. He raised £315 for MS while Maria ran for Bliss, which provides vital support and care to premature and sick babies across the UK. They did really well running in the rain. See justgiving.com/clemrun Speaking of Clem, he's standing for Council, make sure Headcorn is represented, vote Clem! (or Wiggly will 'ave a word!)

Ruth Cooper



Wiggly showing off his weapon

Swindon



Ann Lewis's bikini jump by Howard White

2008 at Redlands continues the trend – again it's proved our busiest year, despite the UK's best attempts to ruin everything with the weather.

We're very sad that Geordie Page is leaving Skydive London, it's been a great 3 years and I for one will miss being told off by Geordie, who's been a wonderful CCI since we opened. We wish you well and hope you'll stay in touch. Anyone wishing to buy a caravan ask Geordie.

Ann clocked up 100 jumps and celebrated with a bikini jump – in October! Brucie dug out a Borat mankini (everyone has one in the office drawer!), deciding this was the perfect opportunity to try it out. The photos speak for themselves! We thank Martin for somehow missing Ann's face and just filming her chest!

The Eddie-Brucie saga continues with each one trying to out do the other. Eddie managed to write off Brucie's car, apparently a 1.8 automatic, rear-wheeled drive was too powerful for the bone dry conditions causing it to head backwards toward a tree. Brucie, while driving Eddie's car, decided that running a diesel engine on petrol was the way forward... for about 5 yards, before the car stalled. £615 later Brucie and Eddie have agreed not to lend each other anything again and Brucie is banned from fuelling the Airvan.

Andy Parkin took an AFF course to Deland and young James went along. James is now best friends with Bill Booth and will tell you about his trip if you have a spare 3 hours. We suspect James will be going to the USA for a year or two – do it!

Team *Sexual Chocolate* is reunited after Luke's month-long trip of Europe, I missed you dude, good to have you back. Luke had a mal on his 500th jump and dropped both his handles after Howard packed him a 'slight twist'. Pieter still hasn't learnt to pack but at least he been turning up. The search for my Mothercare-sponsored baby blue jumpsuit has been scaled down after a ransom note arrived. Claire, Babs and Tim are cruising through RAPS and we hope to have them all qualified by 2009, as long as Tim & Claire manage to stay off the trampoline at 2am.

Dylan Griffith-Jones

Achievements

First Freefall

Babs Burnell

Claire Briggs

Tim Price

100 Jumps

Ann Lewis

Eddie Robson

500 Jumps

Luke Ingram

900 Jumps

Dylan Griffith-Jones



Brucie's mankini by Howard White

Peterlee

Special congratulations to Kirsty Richardson, who's grasped the challenge and become the latest AFF graduate from Peterlee (beating me!). Those who know Kirsty are aware of how much this means to her, so a very well done to her from everyone, and don't forget the beers Kirsty! Chris McDonald could have graduated too on the same day had he not gone absent without leave!

We're a hive of activity with the university students back. Between them and the Harrogate Army Foundation College, Peterlee is seeing 2 courses most weekends.

Ian R had a very useful meeting with Easington Borough Council. Now that the wind turbine battle has been won, the centre is finally able to move forward with development plans. The days of the old blue toilet blocks and bunk houses are now numbered (YAHOO!), with work on the new toilet



Lisa boasted she could eat the whole can of squirry cream, by Mal Smith



Lucy Eldred by Mal Smith

Achievements

- AFF Graduate**
Kirsty Richardson
- Cat 8**
Steve Wood
- FS1, 50 Jumps**
Tom Derbyshire
Oli Clark
- 100 Jumps**
Colin Daley
Trevor Garrett
Harry Wheatcroft
- 200 Jumps**
Matt Dunk
- 600 Jumps**
Andy Brumby
- 900 Jumps**
& 12 Hrs Freefall
Kev Dynan
- 1,000 Jumps**
Lee Saunders
- 1,500 Jumps**
Mal Richardson

and bunkhouse block beginning in spring. There has also been an agreement for the airfield to purchase an extra 6 acres of land directly to the west of the runway which will give a much greater overshoot area.

John Hillam returned after his round the world skydiving trip. Making 125 jumps at 23 dropzones in 8 countries, he raised £6,270 towards his target of £10,000 for Colitis and Crohn's disease. See page 50 and donate at justgiving.com/johnhillam

Sue Scott



John Hillam at Sidney Skydivers Club



Peterlee witches on tour in Barcelona by Sue Scott



Kirsty Richardson and Paul Dorward by Sue Scott

Now is the time for looking back on the year and making plans for the next. I was hopeful that having two dates in the calendar set early for our UK POPS meets that we would attract larger numbers. In reality, the forecasts accurately predicted dreadful weather and only the old faithful showed up to give it a whirl. We managed a basic competition and to award the trophies. My thanks to all those who battled through 2008!

For 2009, Russ Manhold is still canvassing for the SOS world record attempt, USA, mid January. UK record-wise all the elements are there for success: the skills, organisers, facilities and ambitions. The time and place to start pulling all those things together to make it a reality is at the POPS AGM, held in the afternoon of the BPA AGM at Hinckley, Sat 10 January.

Niels Hansen is collecting names for the UK SOS big-way training and record attempt, contact niels_hansen514@hotmail.com or 07981982931. Or Pete Stone on pete_stone@msn.com.

POPS

Dick Barton



POPS record training by Brian Knight

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LO FS CF FF WP SU

7 Headcorn
01622 890 862



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info@headcornparachuteclub.com

www.headcornparachuteclub.com
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8 Hibaldstow
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2 Bridlington
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4 Chatteris
01354 740 810

NLPC

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9 Hinton
01295 812 300



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3 Cark
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5 Cornish
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www.cornishparachuteclub.co.uk

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First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem

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WP FS CF CP

10 Jersey
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Aircraft: Cessna 206, occasional turbines
Open: Every day, hours vary with tide, call first before visiting.
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Stunning views jumping onto the beach in St Aubin's Bay. Good deals with local hotel.

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11 Langar
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13 Netheravon
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14 Paragon
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FS CF WP

15 Peterlee
0191 517 1234



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enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk
www.skydiveacademy.org.uk
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FS CF WP

16 Sibson
01832 280 490



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LO FS FF CF WP CP

18 St Andrews
0845 189 5865



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20 Swansea
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22 Tilstock
01948 841 111



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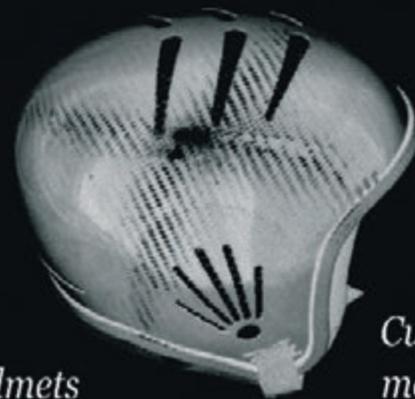
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First Jump Courses: AFF, RAPS, tandem
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FF FS WP SU CP

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Parachuting Societies

British Collegiate Parachute Association

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bcpa@ukskydiver.co.uk

Contact: Ed Morley, BCPA Chairman
Tel: 07817 803805

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

Contact: Dick Barton, Top POP

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DIARY

DECEMBER

6 **Headcorn Christmas Party**
Headcorn
headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

6-8 **Kutabai Boogie**
Lillo, Spain
skydiveilillo.com

10-12 **Canopy Piloting Course**
Lillo, Spain
skydiveilillo.com

12-14 **Tunnel Camp**
Paraclete, Raeford
paracletexp.com

13 **UK Para Christmas Ball**
Applewoods, Banham Zoo
ukparachuting.co.uk

13 **Tilstock AGM & Christmas Party**
Hill Valley
theparachutecentre.com

20-Jan 4 **Christmas Boogie**
Empuriabrava
skydiveempuriabrava.com

22-24 **Canopy Skills Course**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

22-Jan 4 **Holiday Boogie**
Eloy, USA
skydiveaz.com

17-Jan 4 **Christmas Boogie**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

26-Jan 1 **Christmas Feelgood Boogie**
Ramblers, Australia
ramblers.com.au

26-Jan 4 **Christmas Boogie**
Proenca, Portugal
paraquedismoportugal.com

27-Jan 4 **African Freefall Convention**
Mafikeng, SA
africanfreefall.com

27-31 **Mini Welsh Boogie**
Swansea
skydiveswansea.co.uk

27-Jan 4 **Holiday Boogie**
Perris Valley, USA
skydiveperris.com

JANUARY 09

1-4 **Free Fury Coaching**
Perris Valley, USA
frikken@yahoo.com

3-4 **Freefly Scrambles**
Perris Valley
travis@freeflymegacenter.com

11-20 **Team Training Camps**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

21-25 **California State Record**
Perris Valley, USA
jen@square1.com

9-11 **Kirk Verner 4-way Tunnel Camp**
Paraclete, Raeford
paracletexp.com

10 Jan **BPA AGM**
Hinckley Island Hotel
ww.bpa.org.uk

15-18 Jan **505 World Record Attempt**
Deland, USA
flycustoms@bellsouth.com

17 **Hib Reopens**
Hibaldstow
skydiving.co.uk

17 **Peterlee Reopens**
Peterlee
skydiveacademy.org.uk

FEBRUARY

7 **Night Jumps**
Langar
bpslangar.co.uk

8-13 **PIA Symposium**
Reno, Nevada, USA
pia.com

11-15 **Puerto Rico Boogie**
Puerto Rico
xtremedivers.com

14-15 **Valentine's Money Meet**
Eloy, USA
skydiveaz.com

14-17 **Team Training Camp**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

16-20 **BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)**
Netheravon
trudy@bpa.org.uk

20-22 **Safe Flight School Course**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

21-22 **Freefly Money Meet**
Eloy, USA
skydiveaz.com

23-27 **BPA Instructor Course(CSI/Pre-Adv)**
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trudy@bpa.org.uk

28-Mar 1 **Safety Weekend**
Hibaldstow
skydiving.co.uk

MARCH

1-15 **Thai Sky Festival**
Prachuap
thaiskyfestival.com

7 **Night Jumps**
Langar
bpslangar.co.uk

10-15 **Para-Ski World Meet**
Donnersbachwald, Austria
fai.org

12-15 **Team Training Camps**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

14-29 **Spring Blow Out Boogie**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

21-22 **F5 Coaching**
Hibaldstow
skydiving.co.uk

26-29 **Z Team**
Zephyrhills, USA
blskyguy@aol.com

30-Apr 3 **BPA Instructor Course (AFF/Tan)**
Langar
trudy@bpa.org.uk

APRIL

4-5 **World Challenge**
Bodyflight, Bedford
worldchallenge.info

9-12 **Easter Boogie**
Perris Valley, USA
skydiveperris.com

10-13 **Kick-Start Easter Mini Boogie**
Langar
bpslangar.co.uk

11-26 **Team Training Camps**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

17-19 **Safe Flight School Course**
Seville, Spain
skydivespain.com

18-19 **Scrambles**
Hibaldstow
skydiving.co.uk

22-26 **Texas Record 152-ways**
Spaceland, Texas
bigways.com

27-May 1 **BPA Instructor Course (AFF/Tan)**
Hibaldstow
trudy@bpa.org.uk

30-May 3 **P3 Big-way Camp**
Perris Valley, USA
jen@square1.com

MAY

2-10 **Langar Boogie 1**
Langar
bpslangar.co.uk

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| 9-13 | Funshine Boogie | 17-21 | BPA Instructor Course(CSI/Pre-Adv) |
| Seville | skydivespain.com | Langar | trudy@bpa.org.uk |
| 2-5 | Carnage (CF, Fun FS, FF, Hybrids) | 22-24 | 8-way, Artistics & Speed Nats Reserve |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk | Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |
| 9-10 | Rookies Competition Prep | 29-31 | Skydive Choreography |
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| 11-15 | BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv) | 30-Sep 6 | World Cup (FS & Artistics) |
| Strathallan | trudy@bpa.org.uk | Prostejov, Czech Republic | |
| 16-17 | Top Gun Wingsuit | | |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk | | |
| 16-17 | Jump A Reserve | | |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk | | |
| 18-22 | BPA Instructor Course(CSI/Pre-Adv) | | |
| Strathallan | trudy@bpa.org.uk | | |
| 23-24 | UKSL 4-way FS | | |
| Weston | skydiveweston.com | | |
| 29-Jun 1 | Safe Flight School Course | | |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk | | |
| 28-Jun 8 | Team Training Camps | | |
| Seville, Spain | skydivespain.com | | |

JUNE

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| 6-7 | skydive Choreography |
| Hibaldstow | skydivechoreography.com |
| 7-13 | World Air Games |
| Turin, Italy | |
| 13-14 | CF Grand Prix |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |
| 15-19 | Euro Big-way Camp |
| Ostrow, Poland | big-ways.pl |
| 20-21 | UKSL 4-way FS |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |
| 27-28 | 28-way Comp |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |
| 27-28 | Accuracy Grand Prix |
| Black Knights, Cockerham | bkpc.co.uk |

JULY

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| 1-5 | Big-way Camp |
| Cerfontaine, Belgium | 4xtremetime.com |
| 2-5 | P3 Power Play |
| Perris Valley, USA | danbc@skydiveperris.com |
| 4-5 | Freely Scrabbles Meet |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |
| 11-12 | UKSL 4-way FS |
| Skydive Airkix, Sibson | skydivearkix.com |
| 16-26 | World Games |
| Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei | |
| 18-19 | CF Grand Prix |
| Black Knights, Cockerham | bkpc.co.uk |
| 23-25 | Classics & CP Nationals |
| RAPA, Germany | jspcl-cmdt@atgg.mod.uk |
| 24-Aug 3 | Irish Boogie |
| Irish Parachute Club | skydive.ie |
| 25-29 | Big-way Camp & Irish Record |
| Irish Parachute Club | skydive.ie |

AUGUST

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| 8-10 | 4-way FS Nationals |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |
| 8-10 | VFS Nationals |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |
| 10-14 | BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv) |
| Langar | trudy@bpa.org.uk |
| 14-16 | Canopy Piloting Comp |
| Skydive Pink Klatovy, Czech | pinkskyvan.com |
| 15-17 | 8-way Nationals & 4-way Reserve |
| Hibaldstow | skydiving.co.uk |

KEY

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

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bursaries, BPA members were awarded almost half of the bursaries (7 out of 16).

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Dave Ruffell, Member Team Connexion 2005/2008
For coaching of all levels e-mail dave@sunshine-factory.com



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