

SKYDIVE

THE MAG



December 2010
skydivethemag.com
The British Parachute Association Magazine

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

SKYDIVE THE MAG



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It may be winter in the UK, but Brits are still jumping their socks off, both here and abroad. There's something for everyone this issue, with almost every type of skydiving represented – and in the case of the incredible XRW project, sometimes two types together!

I've come to realise that it's you that makes the difference between an 'alright' Mag and a great one – yes YOU, I'm talking to every one of you! Particularly as I start to move the Mag forward and put my own twist on things, I'll need your feedback to let me know if you agree with the direction and to suggest improvements. I'm full of ideas but don't want to charge off blindly. Please feel free to email me with any comments – I don't bite. Assistant Editor Kirsty and I will also be at the AGM in January so come and say hello.

Also, many thanks to the numerous contributors to this magazine. In particular, if you want to see your photo published then we always welcome people sending their pics. I always pick the best from what I've got, so if you send it then it may or may not be used, but if you don't send it then it definitely won't!

Liz Ashley

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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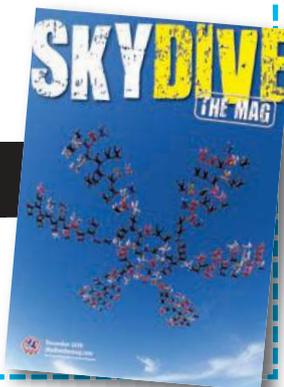
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*Fancy contributing to the Mag?
The dates you need to know for 2011*

Issue	To readers	Copy deadline
February	17 February	4 January
April	7 April	22 February
June	9 June	26 April
August	4 August	21 June
October	6 October	23 August
December	1 December	25 October

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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.



SUPPORTED BY



Cover photo 200-way sequential world record attempt, by Willy Boeykens



The end of each day would see some formation tracking or a tube jump, so that the flyers could blow off a bit of steam

Frazer Smith, on the Euro Sequential Invitational

CONTENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome	1
Subscribe	1
News Zone	5
BPA Zone	7
Bob Card	10

Bob Card



200-way Sequential	12
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200-way sequential



Wingsuit 25-way flock	18
Ladies Lodi Sequential	22
16-way, Empuriabrava	27
Extreme Relative Work	32

Extreme Relative Work



Kit Zone	37
Euro Sequentials	40
Safety Zone	47
Gavin Wood	53
Club Zone	55
Dropzone feature - Langar	72
BPA dropzones	75
Events Zone	77
Time Zone	80
Puzzle	80

*Rolf 'Kuri' Kuratle,
Babylon*

The most fun you will have
with your suit unzipped!



Photo By: Nik Daniel

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For the latest news, visit the News Zone at skydivethemag.com



Speed 8 Nationals



Speed 8 Nationals 2010, by Andrew Lapsley

The Speed 8 Nationals were held in September at UK Parachuting, Sibson. Six teams took part and the whole competition was completed in one day.

Teams of eight, plus one cameraflyer, exited the aircraft un-linked to build a complete random formation in the quickest possible time. Not only for flat flyers, free flying is also welcomed. The quickest time over the six rounds wins.

The competition was won by team *Octagasm*, which consisted of Grant Lancaster, Neil Stokes, Mark Rondel, Mark Briant, Alice Male, Joel Gluth, Georgina Impey, Chris McCann and Paul Scott, with Mark Harris on video.

Next year's event will be held at Chatteris on Saturday 3-Sunday 4 September 2011. All you need is FS1 or FF1 so get involved!

FS world record attempt Dubai 2013

Dubai will be hosting the next FS world record attempt in winter 2013. Dubai 500 will consist of a multi-year plan that includes a 253-way event in the winter of 2012 and the 500-way FAI world record attempt.

Jumps will be from 24,000ft out of multiple Hercules C-130 aircraft.

p3skydiving.com
skydivedubai.ae

Canopy Handling DVD

A Canopy Handling DVD has been produced using the Airkix Fund. The DVD is a training aid for skydivers who are working towards CH1 and CH2, and is to be watched with an instructor. It includes both point-of-view and outside-camera footage of a skydiver performing all the required CH exercises. Copies have been distributed to all BPA DZs, so ask your CCI.

BPA backs Lighter Later campaign



As this magazine went to press, the BPA had added the views and opinions of its members on how the Lighter Later campaign would affect our sport.

The Lighter Later campaign seeks to align our waking hours to the hours of daylight by shifting the clocks forward by one hour throughout the year. As well as reducing carbon emissions, the change would have clear potential benefits for sport and recreation, especially in the winter.

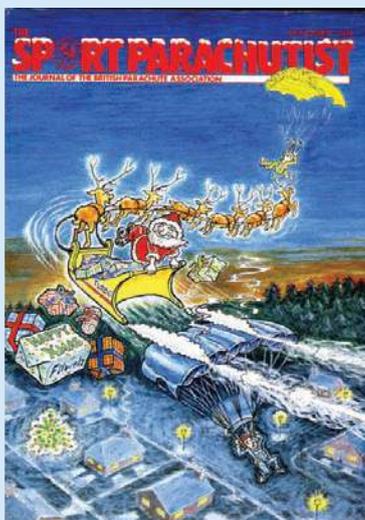
DZ Operators and BPA members were invited to send their comments ahead of the debate in the House of Commons taking place on 3 December. Check the website to find out if the campaign is successful.

lighterlater.org

New British record

Congratulations to Jeff Chandler for his new British record, scoring three consecutive dead centres on a 2cm accuracy disc. Jeff managed this impressive feat in Thalgau, Austria while representing GB at the fifth event of the World Cup Series.

Nostalgic cartoons for Christmas



Ex-skydivers John Partington Smith and David Waterman have published a nostalgic skydiving album, *Superfly Mal & Filwelz*.

The book celebrates old skydiving cartoons that appeared in *Sport Parachutist*, the BPA's magazine that was around in the '70s and '80s before evolving into *Skydive the Mag*.

John Partington Smith and Phil Wells contributed cartoons to the magazine, on anything from satirical character Superfly's antics to highly topical events. This publication is a tribute to their work, which highlighted the habits and customs of skydivers with intelligence and humour.

This is a non-profit venture and all proceeds from sales will go to Rose Charities, which supports communities to improve people's quality of life. Go to the website below and search 'Superfly Mal & Filwelz'.

blurb.com/bookstore
rosecharities.net

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BETTER GEAR BETTER VALUE BETTER SKYDIVES



Martin Shuttleworth >>

For the latest news from the BPA, visit bpa.org.uk
BPA office phone: 0116 278 5271
email: skydive@bpa.org.uk



AGM Day

Saturday 22 January 2011

BPA AGM Day 2011 will be held at the Hilton Coventry, conveniently located by Junction 2 of the M6. We look forward to welcoming members and their guests to a fantastic day, which starts with the exhibition of skydiving kit and services opening at 9.30, with the formal AGM at 10.30 (only full members may vote), and ends with the frivolity and fun of an evening's entertainment rounded off by a late disco. Best of all, attendance – and even car parking – is free of charge: you pay only for what you eat and drink.

And let's drink to this: we've pegged prices on pints of Boddingtons and Becks, and glasses of red or white house wine, to an amazing £2.50 each, with a re-usable voucher available to BPA members from the hotel on arrival.

If you need overnight accommodation and haven't yet reserved your room, you can do so online via links on the BPA website. Last year, the main hotel was fully booked by 8 December. The hotel may well be full again for this AGM, so please book

in good time to avoid disappointment. There is, however, a range of other accommodation nearby and details are on the BPA website.

The afternoon seminar programme will include a safety session on canopy collisions and how to avoid them by Brian Vacher, fitness for skydiving by Sarah Cannon, and a teambuilding workshop by the motivational expert and skydiver Jon Trevor. There will be Competitions and Communications open forums and a range of meetings including BCPA, POPS, pilots and judges. The draft programme on the BPA website will be regularly updated as it develops.

In the evening, there will be a cash buffet with party food. There will be no need to buy a ticket in advance, so just rock up and tuck in.

We're working on the evening entertainment shows, BPA FilmFest 2011 sponsored by Airkix, BPA's Got Talent and the Miss BPA 2011 drag contest. We're sure it will be a blast. As always, keep an eye on the BPA website for updates.



The 2009 BPA AGM

Nationals

A note from Steve Saunders

I attended the DZO meeting in November, where one item on the agenda was about the costs to DZs hosting some of our various discipline Nationals.

The opinion was some of the poorly-attended disciplines are not cost effective and, as such should be cut, OR paid for by the BPA so that they are run at no cost to the host DZ.

The fact that we have had our Sports Council grant cut to zero means that the only funds the Competitions Committee has to work with are those allocated year-on-year from BPA income (i.e. membership fees).

If we agree to pay for these competitions it would dramatically affect the funding for any team (in all disciplines) that meet the criteria to qualify for financial help.

There was a lengthy debate about this and the outcome was suggested to cut some disciplines. As Chairman of the Competitions Committee, I feel that decisions such as these should be put to the membership and not just to the committee.

This will be discussed at the next Competitions Committee meeting but I would welcome membership opinion because, it's your money we would be spending and it is your sport.

Do you want to remove some of our disciplines from the competition market? Or, as it's hard to reinstate disciplines, would you prefer to continue with all aspects of our sport with the hope of a resurgence?

Please respond with your opinions to the Competitions Committee or a specific Discipline Rep at skydive@bpa.org.uk.

Steve Saunders
Competitions Chairman

Special Resolution

Updated Articles

Pursuant to item 2 of the AGM Agenda, published on p7 of the October Mag, details of the proposed change to the BPA Memorandum & Articles of Association, to be put to a vote at the AGM, are set out below.

The existing Article 70 reads:

Notices

70 A Notice may be served by the Association upon any Member, either personally or by sending it through the post in a prepaid letter, addressed to such Member his registered address as appearing in the register of Members.

A Notice may alternatively be served by the Association upon any Member by facsimile copy but must be checked for legibility upon receipt and confirmed in traditional form within ten days of receipt.

- end of existing Article 70 -

Proposed addition to Article 70

Members may consent to receive by electronic means (as defined in the Electronic Communications Act 2000) Notices or communication of the placing of Notices on the Association's website, and members may communicate with the Association electronically. A communication sent by electronic means shall be deemed to have been duly served forty-eight hours after it has been sent.

The change, if adopted, will allow the BPA to place statutory company documents (such as notices of the AGM and other general meetings, Chairman's annual report, and accounts) on the BPA website and advise members electronically of their availability.

Members will retain the right to continue to receive this information in hard copy if they so wish.

A full update to bring the BPA Articles of Association into the 21st century has been drafted but is not yet finished. It will be put before a future AGM.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the AGM is entitled to appoint a proxy (who does not need to be a member) to attend and vote in their place. A form of proxy is available on request from the BPA Office.

Issued for and on behalf of the Council of the British Parachute Association Ltd, 12 November 2010.

News in brief

Lapsed members' survey

Craig Poxon, Development Chair, has carried out a survey of lapsed members by email to find out why they left the sport. As expected, the reasons were often personal, to do with changes in family, work, home or health. But the aim was to identify underlying issues to do with membership retention, and points have emerged that will be useful to future planning both for the BPA and dropzones. The survey results are at <http://bit.ly/BPALapsedMembersSurvey>

BPA safety system 'highly commended'

The BPA Dropzone Operations Safety Management System has been highly commended by a panel of top health and safety experts at the Safety and Health Practitioner / Institution of Occupational Safety and Health Awards 2010.

The system was developed by Stuart Morris - himself a Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner - of the North West Parachute Centre, in association with Tony Butler, BPA Technical Officer, and John Hitchen, BPA National Coach & Safety Officer. The judges said it was a great example of risk management rather than risk aversion - taking a high-risk activity and managing it better to reduce harm, with benefits for everyone.

Electronically yours

The Communications Committee plans to start a regular email for members in the alternate months when the Mag is not published. Martin Soulsby, Communications Chair, said: "It will fill a gap in our communications and, together with the BPA and the Mag on Facebook, shows how we're benefiting from today's technology."

BPA Office - holiday closure

The BPA Office will be closed on and from Friday 24 December, re-opening on Tuesday 4 January. The staff wish all members a happy holiday.

New ratings

Tandem Instructor

Gary Wainwright
Justin Everitt
George Clack
Adam Kloos
Marc Fletcher
Simon Rehill

Advanced Packer

Michael Jones (S)

AFF Instructor

Dave Pacey

BPA Council 2011

Twelve nominations were received for Council 2011. As this is fewer than the 15 seats on Council, the nominees will take their seats uncontested. They are, in alphabetical order: Paul Applegate, Adrian Bond, Kieran Brady, Alex Busby, Richard Head, Ian Marshall, Paul Moore, John Page, Craig Poxon, Steve Saunders, Martin Soulsby and Weed Stoodley. The new Council will take office immediately after the AGM.

Members of Council 2010 who are standing down after the AGM are, in alphabetical order: Christopher Beattie, John Horne, Paul Ledden, Andy Scott and John Smyth MVO.



John Smyth, BPA Chairman, announced to the October Council meeting that he would not be standing for Council 2011. He said he would like to remain as UK Delegate to IPC and as BPA Delegate to RAeC, that his passion for the sport and support for the BPA remained as strong as ever and he would go on supporting the BPA in every possible way. But he believed the time was now right for new blood at the helm. He said he was making the announcement so colleagues on Council and the wider membership were aware of his intentions ahead of his last Chairman's Review of the Year at the AGM in January, which he would follow with a personal valediction.

New Council members



In 2011, Council welcomes back John 'Geordie' Page, currently Vice Chairman of STC and a former Competitions Chairman, returning to Council after a couple of years' break. He is currently CCI of Skydive London.



The other new Council member is Alex 'Buzz' Busby. Since his first jump in 1989, Alex has gone on to be an instructor at Netheravon, RAPA and is currently the CCI at Tilstock. He is also a TI, CH and CP coach.

UKSL 2010 results

Rookie

	Nethers	Cark	Hib	Nationals	TOTAL
High Altitude Heroes	10	8	8	6	32
Raykipo	6	6	10	8	30
RAFSPA Typhoon	8	4	5	3	20
Information Overload	0	5	6	4	15
Herding Kat	0	10	2	0	12
Ch4os	0	0	0	10	10
Enigma Fource	0	0	3	5	8
4mula	4	3	0	0	7
AGC Fact	5	0	0	0	5
Incognito	0	0	4	0	4
The Badgers	3	0	0	0	3
Sky Rappers	2	0	0	0	2
Last Minute.com	0	2	0	0	2
Wedoanysshapesdotcom	0	0	0	2	2
Silver Fox	0	0	0	1	1
Abbasynthe	1	0	0	0	1
Shake Rattle 'n' Roll	0	0	1	0	1

AA

	Nethers	Cark	Hib	Nationals	TOTAL
Unagi	10	10	10	10	40
Slot Machines	8	0	5	5	18
Sirius	0	0	8	6	14
Old Skool	0	0	6	3	9
Funakat	0	8	0	0	8
RAFSPA Firefly	0	0	0	8	8
Kinetic 4	0	0	0	4	4

A

	Nethers	Cark	Hib	Nationals	TOTAL
Gr4vity	10	10	10	5	35
Eclipse	8	8	6	8	30
Tetris	0	6	8	6	20
Nimeton	4	5	5	2	16
RAFSPA Phoenix	5	3	3	3	14
Full Stop	0	0	0	10	10
Teson	3	0	4	0	7
Army Med Chicks	6	0	0	0	6
Fuegos	0	0	0	4	4
Faffdango	2	0	2	0	4
Luke Warm	0	4	0	0	4
Karma	0	2	1	0	3
Baby Blonds	1	0	0	1	2
Heads & Safety	0	1	0	0	1

AAA

	Nethers	Cark	Hib	Nationals	TOTAL
TLD4	10	0	6	2	18
Sonicnutz	0	0	10	6	16
Kaizen	0	0	8	5	13
Satori	0	0	0	10	10
Heat	8	0	0	0	8
Bodyflight	0	0	0	8	8
Escondido	0	0	0	4	4
Phobia	0	0	0	3	3
Cookie Monsters	0	0	0	1	1

Are you in a budding 4 way team?

Win Airkix Sponsorship

Airkix will be supporting a team in each category of 4 way up to the 2011 Nationals and you could win that support. We'll be running a free to enter 3 round tunnel competition that you can practice any amount of times before submitting your video for judging.

Join the 'Airkix Sponsorship' group on Facebook for all the information.

Fill the Slot

Wishing you had a team now?

Fill the Slot

If you are without team, no worries. Join our evening sessions on 12/13th January where we will help you find potential future team mates with similar aspirations and abilities. SonicNutz will be hosting the events and will help you find a team or a team find you.

The night, including flying, will cost you just £50 and once again see details on the 'Airkix Sponsorship' Facebook group.

Don't forget our regular events

Manchester:
Huckjam Freely night with the Bad Lieutenants
VFS Camps held by James Davies of the Bad Lieutenants
G'n'T Night Evening Freely fun, just for girls
Thursday Night FS Coaching with SonicNutz

Milton Keynes:
FS & FF Wednesday any level, any discipline, hosted by Andy Ford
Tuesday FS Skills Night 1-on-1 and team coaching with Andy and Sparky Scott

Bob makes a pool jump into a hotel, Limassol, 1972. No mean feat on a 'square' let alone a PC!



The late '60s was a time when parachuting was in a relatively early stage of development and equipment was mostly ex-military (stopwatches served alongside altimeters in determining the opening height). Parachuting was rightly regarded as an extreme minority sport and had little popular following on either side of the Atlantic. However, even then, a few farsighted people saw the enormous potential of sports parachuting as a means of developing character and leadership skills and predicted the popular appeal it would ultimately come to have. One of those people was Bob Card...

It was probably in the late '60s at the Army Parachute Centre Netheravon when I first met Bob Card. He joined the Army in 1958 aged 15, into what was then the Junior Leaders company of the Royal Army Service Corps - showing that his qualities as a soldier and future leader were already visible at this very early age. Posted to Malaya in 1964, he started his parachuting career at Kluang as a weekend activity. Such was his expertise and passion for the sport, that within two years he had been promoted to Cpl and posted to the Army Parachute Centre at Netheravon. Here his completely professional approach and calm assurance persuaded many young soldiers to persevere with what, to them, appeared to be the insuperable difficulty of progressing from a static line to freefall. While at Netheravon he had the honour of being the only non-airborne soldier invited to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Arnhem by dropping onto the original DZ with a number of wartime veterans.

It was no surprise that within two years Bob had been promoted to Sergeant and posted to the Combined Services Parachute Centre in Cyprus where he remained for two years. During this time he was given the Freedom of Larnaca and awarded the British Empire Medal for services to parachuting.

There then followed a number of operational tours in Northern Ireland with what had by now become the Royal Corps of Transport. During this time, Bob rose steadily through the ranks to become Regimental Sergeant Major of 10 Regiment RCT, a unit that was responsible for most of the road movement in the Province. Nevertheless, he still found time to parachute and I occasionally jumped with him during that period onto the sports pitch in Lisburn. Once on a particularly windy day, I remember landing well clear of the barracks. Bob, on noticing the short spot, opened his parachute at an altitude which, although well below the recommended limit, safely got him onto the sports pitch. He was far too polite to ask where I had actually landed, but he had thoughtfully demonstrated a technique that from then on I was able to adopt when faced with similar conditions!



Bob Card

Commissioned in 1980, Bob was appointed as Commandant to the Rhine Army Parachute Centre at Bad Lippspringe in Germany in 1984 in the rank of Major. He immediately set about

Bob with Cpl Pat Heelan, WRAC. Taken by GQ Parachutes to advertise Dominator



Bob landing after a Relative Work jump in 1972, Cyprus. His eldest daughter, Karen, runs to meet him



a programme of modernisation to the aircraft and equipment at the centre. He introduced the new 6.5m aeroconical student parachute system, and raised money to purchase a second turbine Islander to take on the growing interest in parachuting that he encouraged. Each year he ran a major parachute competition in Germany, which included all the latest skydiving disciplines. The 1985 competition had a total of 265 competitors, 43 Relative Work teams and 229 Accuracy jumpers. The atmosphere was tremendous and student jumpers were able to meet and jump with world-class skydivers.

“ It was with a profound sense of overwhelming sadness and deep regret that I learned of the death of Bob Card... What a modest and humble man. It was my privilege to know him and have him as my friend

Col Sean Lambe

There was also a serious side to Bob's parachuting career, and that came from his determination to make the sport as safe as possible. He chaired the Army Parachuting Safety and Training Committee for many years. In Germany he and his close friend - German jumper Helmut Cloth - lost a mutual friend in a skydiving accident. As a result, Helmut set out to invent an effective automatic activation device. Bob was centrally involved with the trials and early development of Cypres, a revolutionary AAD, which since its introduction has saved many lives across the world of sports parachuting.

Inevitably, at the end of his career, Bob found himself back at Netheravon in 1989. Once again he pushed the boundaries of the sport, developing better equipment and introducing new competitive disciplines. He also offered the Red Devils a base at Netheravon when they lost their traditional home in Aldershot and once again he invited his old friends,

the original veterans of Arnhem, to jump into Holland on the 50th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden. Such was the enthusiasm and fitness of these old soldiers - some of whom were in their 80s - that they rapidly progressed from tandem to solo descents.

Over the years, like everyone who was fortunate enough to work with Bob, I came to regard him as a mentor and friend. He had a natural grace when dealing with people however recalcitrant, and he could always defuse a situation with a quiet chuckle. He was extremely modest about his extraordinary achievements and was a truly inspirational instructor who brought many people into the sport, including his own daughter Debbie who began jumping at 16 and went on to represent GB in Style and Accuracy at four World Championships. His expertise and dedication to our sport was internationally renowned and it is unlikely that the unique contribution he made over the years to parachuting can ever be repeated.

On retirement Bob enjoyed his time with his wife Carole, his two daughters, three grandsons and one granddaughter - all the time keeping a watchful eye on the skies over Netheravon from his garden. Wherever Bob went there were always blue skies, and no doubt the same remains true of him today, even though he is no longer with us.

**General Sir Michael Rose
Former President Army Sports Parachuting**

Dedicated to the BPA

John Smyth MVO, BPA Chairman, said the BPA Council had been deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Bob Card, who had been a former Chairman of Council and then a current BPA Vice President. John Smyth said that Bob Card had been an inspiration to so many within the membership, including himself, and would be fondly remembered.

For the full write-up and a gallery of more pictures of Bob, go to skydivethemag.com

Bob over Cyprus, 1972



My Dad, Bob Card

Mum, Karen and I have received kind letters and cards, all with the same sentiment about Dad; that he always had time to give, time to listen and would do his very best for any individual or just cause with quiet ease. He brought out the best in people, often without them ever realising.

With a dad whose job was almost a way of life, I was very lucky to have been so involved. With his permission, but probably against his real wishes, I began jumping while still at school aged 16. I am so glad I did, because it was the start of something very special we were able to experience together for more than 20 years.

Having to 'share' my dad with the parachuting world from as early as I can remember, I finally understood why it all meant so much to him and admired his dedication and determination to keep the sport alive and growing. He had great vision and he never gave up on his dreams - even if that meant very long hours in the office and less time in the air. He had enjoyed his 'skydiving days' in the late '60s, '70s and early '80s and channelled all his energy into improving parachuting wherever and however he could.

I have many wonderful memories of our parachuting times together: my first jump (he was not at all calm that day); our first demo; competitions together in the UK and abroad (him working, me jumping!); the funny times (having to tell him I had missed on a demo or thrown away my reserve handle and could he send me another one?); and those early competition starts, which started extremely early in our house studying the skies! Our time at RAPA was unique; jumping with military, UK and German civilians made for a fantastic DZ atmosphere, which Dad encouraged.

I thank my mum for her patience; she too shared Dad with the skydiving world but for much longer than I did.

Dad's short battle with pancreatic cancer was harsh, yet he was uncomplaining; he worried only about his family and friends, which is why he chose not to burden anyone unnecessarily with the knowledge of his illness. At his funeral the sun shone brightly with clear blue skies all day.

We would like to thank everyone for their kind donations to the Salisbury Hospice Care Trust (salisburyhospicecare.co.uk); without their exceptional care, Dad would not have left hospital to spend his last days in his own home with his 'girls' and for this we are forever grateful.

My wonderful Dad. I miss him every day and will forever.

Debbie Curtis



The Brits did
us proud out
in Eloy this
October for the

200-way Sequential



““ The last grip
wasn't taken until the
first pilot chute had
been released...

Two layers of disciplined tracking teams

British participants: Caroline Allen, Darren Birkin, Fiona Birnie, Neil Butcher, Simon Cathrine, Will Cooke, Brian Cumming, Liz Danby, Lesley Gale, Rob Gray, Ruth Green, Jo Hawley, Ian Hodgkinson (Milko), George Katsoulis (Camera), Heather Little, Tim Mace, Doug McLelland, Laura McLelland, Shell Meakins, Des Meyer, Ally Milne, Billy Payn, Andy Pook, Craig Poxon, Ros Pulham, Audrey Rowe, Paul Rowe, Maria Russell, Andy Scott, Paul Seymour, Martin Soulsby, Dave Stephens, Dennis Taylor, Steve Watson, Dave West

Photo by Willy Boeykens



Second wave deployment, by Willy Boeykens

With the cancellation of World Team's Thailand plans for a 252-way sequential in January 2011 there was a big void in the large formation schedule. With 100-way+ events becoming more common, something a little more special was required. Something beginning with the number 2. As the sequential record had been static at 139 for a couple of years, a 2-point 200-way was dreamed up, planned and coordinated by the P3 organisers.

Day one

Day one was affected by a heavy rainstorm before we met for the first dirt dive and then low-level cloud prevented any jumping until late afternoon.

All groups managed one jump and it felt positive despite us being three jumps behind schedule.

The plan for this first day was to build 58-ways. Six of the people from the bench flew a base for us and opposing whackers jumped with each other. This gave us realistic visuals for the 200-way and allowed us to be calm when learning our tracking groups with minimal traffic.

Exit timing proved to be particularly tricky. Even with only two- and three-plane formations there were several instances of a trail plane leaving so late that the occupants had no target to dive at and never got close to the formation.

Day two

More rain. More cups of tea in the morning, but three more jumps per group before the day ended.

Day three

Our first look at a 200-way skydive. Only 70 people had permission to dock initially. Two attempts from 16,500ft, one from cloud base at 14,500ft and the last jump, with permission for everyone to dock, was planned to be from 18,000ft. Except the pilots and DZ were feeling generous and our sunset lift was from 19,500ft. Wow. A couple of whackers built, a few had issues, but overall it was a good way to end the day.

Opening meeting, by George Katsoulis



Arizona isn't only famous for having Eloy; up the road is the Grand Canyon and over the state border into Utah is Monument Valley and Arches National Park.



We dirtdived. And we dirtdived. Skydive Arizona probably has the largest fleet of skyjump planes in the world. The nine-plane formation consisted of three Skyvans and six Twin Otters. Seven were theirs! And they still had another two planes running loads for their regular jumpers.





Each whacker debriefed as a unit but jumped from up to three separate planes.

Day four - completion!

On jump four of day four - completion. Just! The last grip wasn't taken until the first pilot chute had been released. Five of the seven cameraflyers snapped a photo in the fraction of a second before the outer wave reacted. Impressive.

Larry Henderson, a proud Texan, who was F plane captain, had presented everyone on F plane with a Texas flag bandana. Some wore them as neck scarves. Andy Scott, our man on the very outside, felt his loosen in freefall. He docked with one hand and grabbed for the bandana with his spare hand as it slipped free. He caught it. The photos of that completion show him 'waving the flag in celebration'. You couldn't have made it up. That is all. →

Photo by Willy Boeykens

Separation is a critical feature of every skydive. Tracking teams were used, often up to 12 people tracking in a staggered formation, preferably tracking close enough to touch before fanning slightly at 4,500 feet. Pull height for the first wave was 2,500 feet or lower. The signals for the staged break-off were three deployments and we were instructed to leave upon sight of the pilot chute.

Completion, by George Katsoulis





“ It came down to the last jump, of the last day as it so often does



Oh yeah!

The last day

To make the most of the daylight available, for the second day in a row, we met and dirtdived in the dark before dawn. We took off as the moon set and the sun rose. Jump one was a 1-point skydive that we completed and held for four to five seconds. It was smooth and boded well for the day. Jump two

was our first look at a two-point skydive. A couple of the whackers built both points but there were minor issues with other whackers.

However, at this point, all issues were major and more people were cut. There were no more second chances. The knife was harsh.

Lift three reached 18,000ft before the left trail Skyvan developed engine issues. One engine shut down and caused an immediate cancellation of the jump. The second engine shut down at 11,000ft and the pilot confirmed that he'd prefer to land the Skyvan without any skydivers in. The feeling was mutual for the people inside. To allow the pilot the most amount of control, the jumpers exited in ones or twos so as not to affect the CoG significantly - no 23-way speed stars.

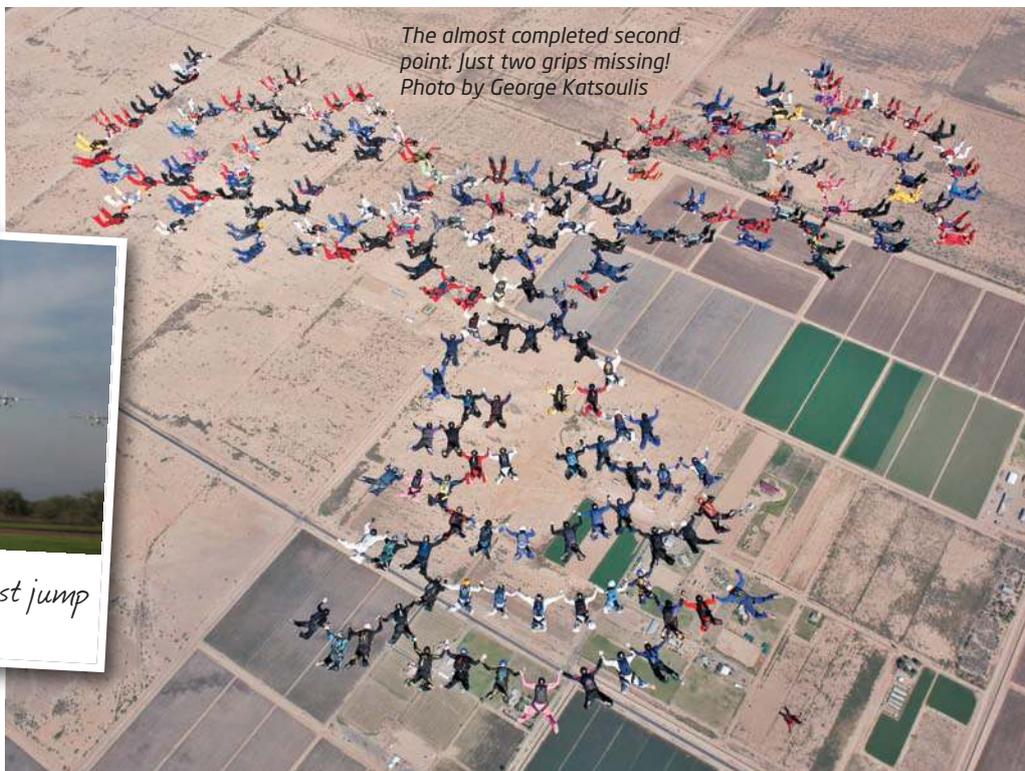
Jump three was so close. The first point was a bust as the last grip was taken a fraction of a second after the first person let go to transition to the second point. 200 grips... but not at the same time. The second point was missing two grips. Three grips out from a 2-point 200-way... and more people were cut. Airspeed had landed out by the hangar and Craig Girard and Andy Delk were substituted in.

So it came down to the last jump, of the last day. As it so often does. Sadly fatigue was evident after five days of sunrise-to-sunset jumping from altitude and the first point didn't build. There was to be no transition to the second point and the world record slipped away from us.

Brian Cumming



Base exit, by George Katsoulis



The almost completed second point. Just two grips missing!
Photo by George Katsoulis



The flyby, an Eloy tradition after the last jump of a big-way event.

FOR ALL YOUR SKYDIVING GEAR



Photo courtesy of KOB

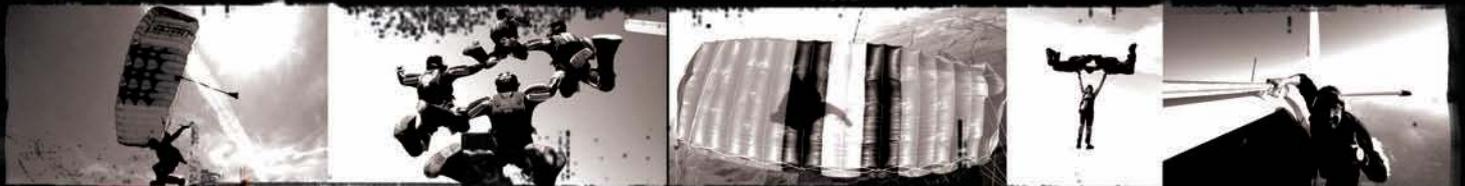
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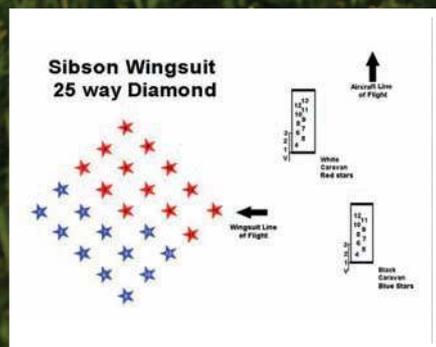
I can safely say that, of my 1,200 jumps, at least 1,150 have been in a sausage suit of some description. Wingsuiting is a completely different discipline for me – it's liberating. Most people say that their arms ache after a wingsuit jump; my face hurts after grinning for two minutes!

Mark Harris managed to gather together some experienced wingsuiters (and a few foreign dignitaries!) from all over the country for this event at Sibson in October. Unfortunately the weather didn't play ball on the Saturday, so it was left to just the Sunday to attempt the 25-way diamond flock.

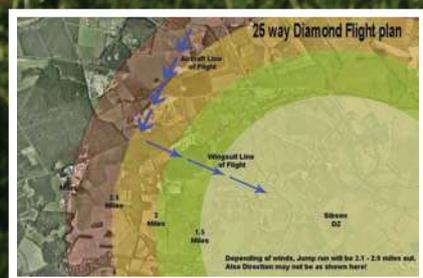
We were all assigned our slots on exit and we practised the run-out onto pre-marked spots on very wet grass! It was a two-plane load with the base in the rear aircraft, the idea being that the lead aircraft would exit first and have the height to be able to join the base as it came through from the trail aircraft.

I have done a few multi-plane formation loads on flat big-way jumps, so being the second floater on the lead aircraft put me at ease!

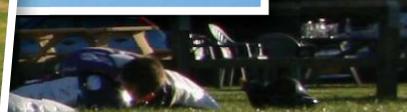
On jump one, the planes flew in formation with the correct distance between them, but unfortunately they were on level. This posed a massive problem for those on the lead aircraft; we found that we were below the formation as we were getting off the plane. I spent about 50 seconds of the skydive trying to get back up to the formation and the next 10 seconds figuring out how to get into my slot – fourth row in the formation. Break-off came, the jump was debriefed and the pilots were briefed on the vertical separation needed. The pilots had a learning curve of their own! The wingsuiting was part of a '25-way diamond' weekend and there was a group of 25 flatflyers building a diamond too. The pilots had to fly a tighter formation for the FS and then a wider-spaced



Slots were assigned for the two-plane formation load



Sibson DZ applied for a NOTAM to extend their airspace to three nautical miles, allowing the aircraft to run in perpendicular to the normal run-in, so the wingsuiters would not have to turn the formation



Flock on the ground and in the air, both by Mark Harris.

“ Just flying relative to the people right beside you is often not enough, you also have to look beyond them and on to everyone in the rows ahead

formation for the wingsuiters as the two-plane formation loads backed each other up. This different set-up needed between the planes for the wingsuit formation compared with the flat formation certainly made the pilots' job harder.

With jump two, the pilots gave us the vertical separation needed. Having now done one jump, all of us had a better idea of the sight lines that are needed to hold one's position in a non-grip formation.

I found myself low on the formation again (showing my inexperience) but managed to get back. I took a positive approach on getting to my slot on this occasion and just got on with it! I couldn't sneak in through the back of the formation, as there is little room for error in a wingsuit. You can't really hold in a stadium approach either as there are others

waiting to get into their slot... well you can, but if you fall low or go out of position it can be hard to find your way back in. My only option was to go high and slot in from above.

For most belly flyers this might seem easy, but in a wingsuit trying to fast fall and push forwards was really tough. I managed it just in time for break-off! I was grinning from ear to ear - the visuals getting there were some of the best I've ever had since I started skydiving!

On this debrief, a grid was laid over the formation, which gave us all the opportunity to really see how close we had to fly relative to each other to build the formation. Just flying relative to the people right beside you is often not enough, you also have to look beyond them and on to everyone in the rows ahead. →

Photo by Dave Haygarth

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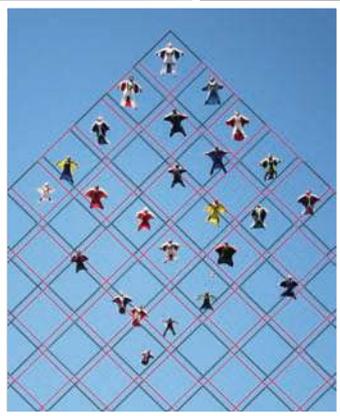
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Formation grid, by Mark Harris

Photo by Dave Haygarth



The grid is a very useful tool that allows you to see the bigger picture of the formation and the relevance of walking out onto the spots on the ground for dirt dives. As well as looking ahead to the front of the diamond, most slots will be part of horizontal and vertical lines, as well as diagonals in two directions.

Jump three had the planes too close together, although they did have the correct vertical separation. This left those on the lead plane coming out and over-shooting the base. This jump was a reminder of the closing speeds that you have in a wingsuit, as flyers from the two aircraft converged. It was a learning experience in caution - the lead plane flyers should have sat out to the side and let the base catch up, and then simply joined the formation as it came past.

On jump four the planes were in a perfect set-up and we were close to having everyone in the right slot. This jump proved that, with a bit more practice and a few more jumps, we were sure we could have built the formation. It made me realise that to be able to fly in this type of proximity, every flyer has to minimise all movement so there are no ripples further down the formation.

The event was one of the biggest challenges I have had in this sport for some time. Flying in a large formation is difficult in any discipline and they all come with hazards, but I do find it more difficult than FS big-way as it's so much harder to fly a non-grip formation and hold a position relative to those around you. I'm looking forward to next year, when I hope there will be a repeat attempt. In the meantime, to all of you budding flockers out there... keep the skills up, I know I will, and I'll see you in a wingsuit formation soon!

Special thanks go to Grant Richards and Chris McCann for hosting the event and to plane captains Mark Harris and Steve Such, and of course Dave Haygarth and Mark Harris for taking the fabulous pictures.

Rai Ahmed

“ To be able to fly in this type of proximity, every flyer has to minimise all movement so there are no ripples further down the formation



Freeflying females

Organiser Stephanie Soria
and our Brit, Anna Howerski,
bring us all the details from
the first ever Ladies'
Lodi Sequentials

Organiser, Stephanie Soria

It all started with a Facebook message titled: Ladies Lodi Sequentials. The response was more than just OK, it was an overwhelming 'yes'! The message was sent to girls solely in California, but turned into a confirmed list of women from countries across the world. With very large shoes to fill by calling it the Lodi Sequentials, we knew we needed to create an exciting and challenging event. The stage was set for 6-7 October to show our evolution in freeflying; we all knew it was our time to shine within this male-dominated sport.

My co-organiser Alana Fulvio-Bigley and I were paying tribute to our deceased mentor, friend and, in Alana's case, husband, Robby 'Bigz' Bigley. Robby began the Lodi Sequentials in 2005, now one of the world's premier and most sought-after freefly invitational events. He taught us almost everything we know about big-way freeflying. We felt we were finally closing the circle; he would be proud.

Brit, Anna Howerski, gets involved...

When you're told you have a chance to get on to a super cool sequentials event... your excitement is easily visible. When Stephanie Soria gave me the wild-card slot

for the event I was overjoyed to say the least. A month later I received the official invite. Reading the list of the girls who would also be attending, the excitement quickly changed to nerves. Amy Chmelecki, Melissa Nelson, Sara Curtis and Melanie Curtis among many others, all notable female skydivers. Eeek!

The two-day event started out the night before at IFly SF Bay tunnel where the majority of the women gathered for a 'huck jam', a free-for-all flight. Whatever anxiety or nervousness had built up over the weeks prior was dispelled when I walked in to see these amazing women flying everything from VFS to full-blown European movement. I was in awe of the progression that women had made in the last couple of years. I knew at that moment we were ready.

The stage was set for us to do 12 jumps over two days, all incorporating different styles, movements and levels. Alana and I decided to start out the event by splitting up the groups into two – one 8- and one 9-way – to get used to flying with one another. Launching 8- and 9-way chunks out of the Otter, the groups completed multi-point jumps, with some of the highlights being all out-facing rounds and burble hopping lines. After four jumps we felt very comfortable merging the two groups for 17-ways over the next eight jumps.

The first jump was intense for me. We managed to get all the way through the dive and build an out-facing round as the last point, even though our exit was not so awesome. After the jump Steph took me to one side for a stern talking to. Being the wild card I had to be on top of my game, but I started out nervous and stiff. I needed to get it together or that would be the end of my sequential experience.

So on the next jump I took Steph's advice, loosened up and managed to keep my slot. The last jump of that day was breathtaking. Steph had planned for us to jump into a ranch about 20km away – stunning. We all made it in just as our dytters ended the fun.



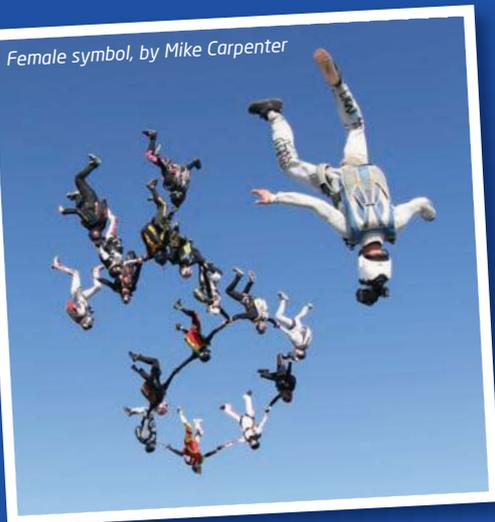
Over-under moves are new to Freefly Sequentials, only really starting this year. A triple over-under, by Mike Carpenter



We landed at a ranch filled with foals, ate Steph's home-cooked spaghetti and chatted about the amazing day we'd just had.

Day two was big-ways all day and the first jump set the pace. We launched an 8-way chunk that built into a 17-way flower quicker than we even expected – go ladies! We turned four smooth points and were on our way to the fifth when break-off time called us to split. The rest of the jumps followed with that same success, turning three points each time with the fourth point always just at arm's reach. Our goal on three of the jumps was to build the female sign, which proved to be more difficult than expected,

Female symbol, by Mike Carpenter





The wealth of fun that can be had with all this new knowledge is insanely exciting



The notoriously hard out-facing formation, by Mike Carpenter



The final jump - mixed rounds, by Mike Carpenter

but eventually we got it. We knew nothing was beyond our reach.

Alana and I opened the last jump up to the ladies to decide where they wanted to be on the skydive. I called out: "I need eight sit flyers, those who want it get over here"; girls were running for those slots. We did a 16-way opposite-way-facing flower, moved it into four consecutive lines, closed it behind the backs into two rounds and shook the ladies down to their sit. This completed with two head-up/head-down rounds that flew for what seemed like forever... it was beautiful. When we landed there was hooting and hollering by everyone, music to an organiser's ear.

After the tension of day one, I arrived at the DZ with a new attitude that seemed to help me a lot and the day got better and better. We finished with the coolest jump I have ever done, a 16-way dive, the last point being two side-by-side head-up and head-down rounds. I was overcome with joy when we landed; I

was so honoured to be part of such a cool jump with such amazing girls.

In two days I had learned so much. Alana really helped us understand the exits from limb to limb. Her husband Robby inspired a generation of flyers at Lodi and he would have been proud. These girls have such passion for skyflying and they are awesome at it. Steph not only created some amazing skydives for a group of girls that were also idols to her, but graciously gave people like me the opportunity and confidence to join in.

All in all, it rocked out! I feel like I have moved up to the big kids' school... the cool kids are cooler, the teachers are tougher, but the wealth of fun that can be had with all this new knowledge is insanely exciting.

Anna Howerski & Stephanie Soria

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Smiling ladies



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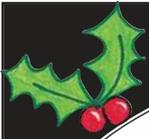
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There were Brits on five of the teams... improving international relations as always!

Photo by Bruno Brokken

Sweet sixteen

Beautiful Skydive Empuriabrava hosted the 16-way Trophy for a second year at the end of September. This fantastic European competition looks set to be an annual event



Photo by Bruno Brokken



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With two Twin Otters to play with, teams experimented with the number of floaters



The 16-way Trophy was dreamt up last year by Milko after the demise of 16-way over the last few years. It was limited to six teams, which ensured a smooth-running manifest and completion of the competition.

16-way is such a great FS discipline, combining the big-way skill of getting to the formation fast, with being happy to out-face at the drop of a hat, as well as being confident with large block moves.

The event ran over four days, with two days of practice before the competition started. All four teams returned from last year: the Belgian team *Waar is dat feeje* (Where's the party), multinational team *UFAGS* (captained by Ivan Coufal, with two British members), *Sore Point* captained by Milko and *Cupcakes* (as in 'suck it up') captained by Billy Payn. The two additional teams were *One for all* from France, captained by Patrick Passe, and another international team *Inner Rhythm*, captained by Pete Allum.

There were Brits on five of the teams... improving international relations as always!

Strike misery

Many of the competitors' travel plans were affected by the announcement of a Spanish General Strike, which resulted in delays, cancelled flights and multiple transport modalities. The Brits did not let this stop them, however, with a large contingent ending up flying to Beziers, with the dropzone kindly providing a minibus to collect them. Others were able to fly, but without hold luggage, so sent their rigs via Parcel Force. All arrived in one piece... eventually. However, this did impact on practice time, with most teams not fully complete until the day before the competition.

Practice rounds

Most teams managed a few practice rounds despite the delays and a few weather holds, with the main focus being on fast first-point builds and mastering the 16-way dive pool. With two Twin Otters to play with, teams experimented with the number of floaters (some had seven and eight floaters out), taking grips on exit then dropping them once in the slipstream and ensuring a tight diving side line up. None of the teams ended up fully launching pieces, finding that builds were quicker and more guaranteed with a tight, aggressive, free-flown exit.

Team *Cupcakes* were down to 15 at one point after one of the third-row divers hit her nose on the inside rail of the plane after a mistimed exit. Despite wearing a full-face helmet this still resulted in a cut nose, a lot of blood and facial bruising, making it a cautionary tale for anyone considering jumping hatless (as is permitted in Spain). Happily, she was able to resume jumping the next day.

Competition format

Rounds 1-6 were drawn from the IPC 16-way dive pool. Round 7 was a 32-way masterminded by Milko, with the top and bottom team joining together, then the second and fifth teams and the third and fourth to make things fair.

This round was awarded double points. Round 8 was a 16-way speed star. An extra 0.3 was given on each round to the team building the fastest first point. *UFAGS* and *Cupcakes* claimed the quickest build times, both using a free-flown exit, with scores of 14.94 and 14.95 seconds respectively. →



All photos by Mike Gorman



Rounds 1-5

Sore Point led from the start, posting some impressive scores, with *UFGS* and *Cupcakes* battling it out for silver. *Cupcakes* posted an 8 on round 4 and a 7 on round 5, which left them in second position. *One for All* maintained a comfortable fourth position throughout, with the Belgians battling with Pete Allum's *Inner Rhythm* for fifth and sixth. The atmosphere throughout the event was one of relaxed friendly banter, almost like a boogie, but with the structure of competition and the opportunity to do some great skydives with international friends.

Banquet

The DZ hosted a celebratory banquet in a nearby hotel on the Saturday night, with most of us entering into the party spirit with gusto! Most memorable were the French team entertaining us with some fine singing and the baring of their manly physiques!

Rounds 6-8

Cupcakes were unlucky and incurred two busts on round 6 and had a team member low on the 32-way in round 7 who managed to get back up just in time. This allowed *UFGS* to claim a few more points and second place after round 7. The 32-way round added an extra dimension to the event, with great visuals from the two Otters flying in formation. Dirt diving also took on a new meaning with explanations and discussions in French, Spanish and Dutch, nice to make new skydiving friends!



I thought it was wicked, a good mix of big- and 'little'-way skills. Having all your team in one plane and still having to skydive pretty snappy made it a good combination. What made it special? The people and the relaxed atmosphere. Would I go again? Hell yeah. Empuria Bravo!

Helen Arnold, Team Sore Point

A fastest build time of 16.61 for the 16-way speed star in round 8 meant that *Cupcakes* redeemed themselves but finished 1.2 points behind *UFGS* in third place. The event, in style, closed with the medal ceremony and team captain Milko was presented with the massive 16-way trophy for the second year running.

**Audrey Rowe
Team Cupcakes**



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Raising the sky

The Raise the Sky organisation conceived Project XRW ('Extreme Relative Work') in April as an exploration of wingsuit flyers in freefall and canopy pilots interacting in the air... all to highlight a charitable cause

Three docked pairs, by Phil Peggs



Phil Peggs captures his own shadow on the top of JT's canopy as Taya and Jeff prepare to dock

Building on the success of round 1 of the project's experiments, an expanded team gathered at Skydive Elsinore for four days in September to pursue this new kind of docking in the sky and fearless outreach on the ground. Wingsuiters Jeff Nebelkopf, Will Kitto and myself (Taya Weiss) wore TonySuit X-Birds. We were joined by PD Factory Team members Jessica Edgeington, Jonathan 'JT' Tagle and Ian Bobo, who flew 71 sqft Performance Designs Velocities with special trim tab risers to help maintain a steeper glide slope. The learning curve was steep and the results intense and beautiful.

XRW isn't easy. There are many risks involved with aiming wingsuits in freefall at canopy pilots in formation. We accept these risks because the potential outcomes are worth it, but managing the energy on a project like this is challenging for even the most professional and talented athletes. Our week together flying new configurations also ended up as a kind of extreme team-building exercise. By the end, everyone involved was convinced that we can make a difference not just to our sport by pushing the boundaries of our respective disciplines, but also to our communities by sharing our experiences in adrenaline management and teamwork.

The right equipment is critical and, for unplanned reasons, my new TonySuit X-Bird had its maiden voyage on my first attempt to fly with a canopy. Under normal circumstances, I would be flying a suit that already felt like an extension of my body, but I didn't have that option. So I pulled the suit out of its packaging, tried it on in the team room at Skydive Elsinore and thought to myself, *"Wow, this learning curve is going to feel like one of those dreams where you show up naked and unprepared to an exam"*.

The wingsuiters on the project all experienced an element of wonder and fear getting used to the mere idea (let alone the view) of sharing intimate airspace with someone flying a parachute while we're still in freefall. The canopy pilots said they were thinking (as we flew up to them and then kept hanging out there at 8,000 feet) - *"What are you doing here? Go pull, then*

come back and play!" Initially I had to picture (my canopy pilot) Jessica as a wingsuiter in my mind so I could focus on the dock.

On Tuesday morning, we went out on the first jump to try a surf-style dock. I felt like I had finally dialed in the approach; a long dive out the door towards the already-flying canopies. The morning air was smooth and cool, with none of the turbulence that happens later in the day. I pulled in my wings, hopped out from inside the Otter door and breathed deep as I extended my leg wing and swept my arms back for the dive. As I saw Jessica's canopy getting closer, I put out my arms and slowed down right next to her. I went immediately in for the dock, moving towards and underneath her from her right side and then hugging air to come up under her feet, flying blind. Next thing I knew, I was the 'surfee', and we were both yelling *"yeahhhh!"*.

““ Jeff and I (in freefall) took simultaneous hand docks with JT under his canopy, another first in the history of skydiving

I was amazed at how light it all felt. I was still flying the suit fully, but I wasn't in control of the steering. Looking up and to the left, I saw Ian surfing Jeff in the same configuration, and it was surreal. They were close enough that Jeff was making faces at me, and I was laughing so hard I thought I might shake Jessica off by accident. Jeff (who was the first wingsuiter to take a surf-style dock with JT in April) said: *"It was an amazing sight to see another wingsuit canopy dock up close."* It does feel surreal, like the scene in *Point Break* where the freefall portion of the skydive goes on for four minutes while



3-way hand dock, by Phil Peggs

everyone has casual conversation - except this was my life, and it was real.

At 4,000 feet, Jessica released me, and I flew away to open my parachute and land. The whole time during the break-off I was thinking about how she's my hero because she has the skills to land that parachute at a wing-loading that allows us to play together in the sky while I'm in freefall.

Some of the challenges we faced in making the docks consistent included the tight fit of my rig, her shoes slipping on the edges of my rig as she tried to tuck her feet under to take a grip, and the set-up of both the aircraft run-in and the three canopies flying together. To address the slippage problem, we affixed grip tape to the sides of my rig and the toes of her shoes; eventually all three pairs did this.

When we started communicating in the air - hand signals, smiles, and laughter - our docks got smoother. I grew accustomed to seeing her pink nail polish as she waved me in. →



Mixed flock, by Phil Peggs

It was definitely better to giggle about that than think too hard about the fact that her lines were a foot away from me in freefall.

Skydive Elsinore's Otter would first do a separate run-in for the canopy pilots. After Ian, Jessica, and JT had exited and deployed, the pilot would turn around for a second pass while the canopy pilots formed up, removed their sliders and trimmed their front risers. The wingsuit pilot does about 80 per cent of the work in the initial docking set-up and motion, so the wingsuiters would exit above and behind the canopy formation, diving down to their appointed targets.

““ At break-off we all gained separation – some of us to pull, and others not to

Our average vertical descent speed during relative work, including descent speed while docked in pairs, was 33 miles per hour. Ground speed was around 50 miles per hour, taking into account a mostly crosswind flight path.

One of the primary challenges was docking not just one wingsuiter and canopy pilot, but coordinating three pairs simultaneously. Specifically, the canopy pilots worked hard to dial in their fall rates and spacing so that the pairs could try to fly together once linked. If they set up too far away from each other, our targets became more spread out and it was more difficult to manoeuvre into tighter flying positions after docking. If they set up too

close, however, any dock producing a turn or unexpected movement posed a safety hazard. Once docked, a pair's descent rate and glide ratio changed relative to unlinked pairs still attempting to get together, causing more potential separation. We learned a lot about the dynamics of proximity, and will continue to explore ways to make multiple docked pairs work safely in close range.

Together, we took XRW from a once-tested concept to an emerging discipline. All three pairs of wingsuit flyers and canopy pilots did simultaneous surf-style docks; a world first. Jessica Edgeington and I became the second pair of skydivers in the world and the first women ever to achieve the surf-style dock, as well as a rodeo-style dock where she knelt on my back as I flew my wingsuit in freefall and she piloted her PD Velocity 71. On the third day of training, we did a tight, unlinked flock led by Jessica, alternating wingsuit and canopy pilots in a 'V' shape. On our last day, Jeff and I (in freefall) took simultaneous hand docks with JT under his canopy, another first in the history of skydiving. While docked, we initiated a linked turn: probably the closest I'll ever come to swooping a Velocity.

After flying together all week, the leadership of Raise the Sky and the PD Factory Team initiated a long-term partnership to reach out to underserved youth all over the United States, for whom walking to school every day requires overcoming fears of neighbourhood violence or simple failure, that make XRW look tame. PD Factory Team members will talk to kids about all of the issues we faced during this round of the Project at Elsinore: leadership, teamwork, personal growth and the science behind skydiving. Of course, they will jump in to

schools whenever possible, since that's how they roll.

It's amazing how quickly some things go from being beyond imagination to some kind of normal. We switched gears on our last afternoon together to do a few unlinked, mixed canopy-wingsuit flocks. That was our idea of a nice, relaxing way to end the day. Everyone flew smoke. The canopy pilots set up in a wedge, and Jeff and I flew through the 'gates' of the two canopies at the back, pulling in directly behind Jessica, who was leading the formation. I looked left and saw Jeff in his X-Bird, in freefall. Then I looked ahead at a canopy in full flight and Jess waving us in closer as she grinned over her shoulder. Behind us, two more canopies and two more wingsuit pilots blazed a smoking trail. This unlinked, mixed 'flock' of seven flew in close proximity for more than a minute, yet another first in the history of skydiving.

At break-off, Jeff and I pulled forward and ahead of Jessica, enjoying our range before she took off the riser trims and we all gained separation – some of us to pull, and others not to.



Taya, by Anna Baddorf

So get ready for round 3! XRW isn't just a stunt. It may just be the next hot discipline.

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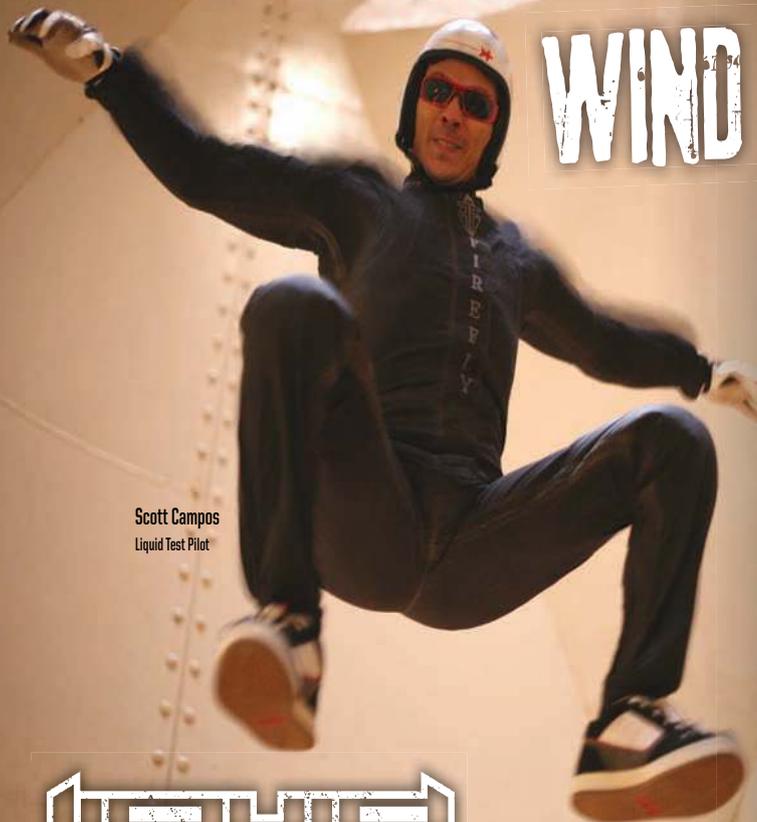
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Rob Colpus >>



The Sigma II in action



Vectran in tandem

"The next generation Tandem canopy" is how the guys at United Parachute Technologies (UPT) describe the latest version of their *Sigma Tandem main*, as developed with their neighbour Performance Designs.

The most obvious deviation from standard Tandem practice evident in the Sigma II 340 and 370 sq ft tandem canopies is the adoption of Vectran lines.

Vectran, which was first used for parachute suspension lines around a decade ago, is a gold-coloured liquid crystal polymer fibre that has very low stretch qualities, high breaking strength and low friction-induced shrinkage due to its thermal stability at high temperatures.

The new Sigmas also sport double channels on the slider to allow them to be collapsed like a regular sport main.

UPT claims that the new canopy with Vectran suffers less drag from the lines and slider, resulting in faster flight, has lower toggle pressure, therefore more responsive flight, and has a better flare, resulting in improved landing performance.

Additional bonuses are lower bulk, providing a smaller pack volume, and a quieter flight experience due to the collapsed slider. The company claim that Vectran lines lead to a decreased frequency of tension knots during deployment.

unitedparachutetechnologies.com

50 not out!

The US parachute equipment supply company Paragear Inc celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010.

Founded in 1960 by Lowell Bachman, a former 82nd Airborne Trooper, Pathfinder and Green Beret who died in 2008, Paragear has supplied everything from goggles to complete parachute systems from its base in Illinois for five decades.

They now sell parachutes and skydiving equipment to more than 150 countries around the world, and their annually-updated catalogue has become a market-standard reference book at dropzones and related businesses as well as skydivers' homes worldwide.

Happy birthday Paragear and here's to the next 50!

paragear.com

Quick cut mod

Sky Systems, those innovative Milliners from Deland in Florida, issued a service bulletin in October pertaining to their *Quick Release Helmet Cut-Away Chin Cup system*.

Apparently, during a quality inspection the company found a weakness in the handles of the cut-away device, which resulted in the product being less robust than originally designed or desired.

Consequently the Quick Release Handle was redesigned to a stronger spec. The new product (manufactured as of May 2010) can be distinguished by the black seal around the crimped end of the handle.

The bulletin states that Sky Systems Quick Release Cut-Away systems purchased between 1 January 2009 and 31 April 2010, must have the handle replaced by 31 January 2011.

The old handle can be replaced by the new version using the original hardware. Sky Systems will supply the new handle free of charge.

skysystemsusa.com

Clipped wings

Jari Kuosma and Birdman, the first commercially successful builder of wingsuits in any number, has ceased manufacturing and trading in the wingsuit business.

Their website states that Birdman training centres will continue as normal, as will their BMI instructor programme - ratings will be unaffected.

bird-man.com



Mount up!

New accessories now available for the popular *Go-Pro HD* mini camera include a padded Velcro and webbing wrist mount and helmet upside-down front mount.

Both of these new mounts allow the wearer to include themselves in the shot due to the point of view and the camera's wide-angle lens.

The new helmet mount is at the front rather than on top and features a multi-hinged arm, ideal for the skydiving narcissist, which allows the upside-down-mounted Go-Pro to be swivelled through many angles, including back at the wearer.

goprocamera.com

Material matters

If you're interested in how a major canopy manufacturer receives, checks, tests and controls the various fabrics, webbings, tapes and other materials that make up a modern sport parachute, then we recommend you check out Performance Design's blog at thepdblog.com/pdblog/2010/10/pdsreceiving-department.html.

The piece takes you through the whole procedure, including inspection for colour and imperfections, permeability/porosity testing, simulated wear and strength testing, and also includes photographs of PD's factory and equipment.

thepdblog.com



The G2 full-face helmet from Cookie Composites

New 'head'lines

Those energetic Boneheads over in Perris Valley, California have yet again released more new products into the already crowded helmet market – are you keeping up?

Their new *Optik 210* open-faced camera helmet features a concealed chin cup, which hides the ratchet ladder straps, and has mounting surfaces for a hypoxic and X-Shut camera mount. The company claims that the *Optik 210* is "a great all-around camera helmet with the ability to mount cameras either on the side, on the top, or both!"

Optik 210 has two internal audible pockets and BH's ingenious Thermal-Fit liner. The helmet comes in a choice of 10 colours plus the raw carbon look.



The *Optik 210*

Another innovative and original offering from Bonehead is a full-face carbon-fibre helmet called the *Revolve*.

The company's sales blurb describes the *Revolve* as being "unlike any other full-face helmet on the market because it's not just for RW anymore!" [That's FS for anybody outside America.]

The *Revolve* features an evolved version of the company's *Havok* helmet's unique flip-up feature, whereby the entire face flips open, leaving you with complete peripheral vision.

Bonehead claims that the altered and improved shape of the new helmet keeps unwanted wind flow outside of the helmet while still allowing full head movement. The visor locking mechanism enables the face shield to easily rotate over the top of the



The full-face *Revolve* is perfect for freeflyers

helmet with the push of a button, but only when you want it to, so it will not open inadvertently, "even during the worst funnel – making it a perfect choice for RW [FS], freeflyers, and tunnel rats alike", claim those Boneheads.

What makes the *Revolve* unique and unlike other full-face helmets on the market is the removable visor or face-shield feature, which allows the jumper to own an open-face and a full-face helmet all in one. By removing the visor (no tools required!) you end up with a sleek-looking open-face helmet.

The *Revolve* also features a mounting surface for a *Contour HD* camera on the left side and comes standard with dual internal audible pockets. Bonehead's Thermal-Fit liner is included, as is chin-strap closure. The visor's lens is coated with anti-fog from the factory.

Bonehead concluded by saying that this helmet was designed to accommodate "glasses, large heads and odd shaped noggins!". The *Revolve* is available in three shell sizes.

boneheadcomposites.com

From the Cookie jar!

Adding to an already very active skydiving helmet market is the new *G2* full-face from Cookie Composites in the land down under. The guys at Cookie have been developing their new baby with the help of the *Arizona Airspeed FS* and *Arizona Arsenal VFS* teams.

The *G2* has been designed with the following features, as requested by the boys and girls from Arizona, firmly in mind: a thicker visor for better protection, a visor-locking system that cannot fail and leave the wearer with an open face shield in freefall, a low jaw line (increasing peripheral vision and communication) and increased ventilation for long wind-tunnel sessions.

The result is a carbon-fibre helmet with very good peripheral vision due to its low jaw line and wrap around, injection-moulded polycarbonate visor.

The non-distorting visor, which was designed with the help of a motorcycle helmet manufacturer, is opened and closed via a secure anodised aluminium locking system, which is activated by simply pulling the visor forward slightly and rotating. The side-mounted locking plates are available in eight anodised colours and can be custom etched with a name or logo. The *G2* is locked firmly on to the wearer's head by a Velcro-less liner synching system at the chin and back of the head.

In addition to the usual air vents at the chin, the *G2* also has vents at the back of the helmet to allow the head to breathe when in a hot aircraft or the wind tunnel. Because of the shape of the visor, it's possible to wear glasses or sunglasses comfortably. And there's not a cork to be seen anywhere!

cookiecomposites.com



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Euro Sequentials

Ever since a 4-way head-down was flown through the 10-way round, back in early March of this year, the next Euro Sequentials has been a highly anticipated event. With Skydive Spain set as the hosts, it was time to see what else those freeflyers could do





“ When the load organisers turn up with a notepad full of dives, you know it's going to be tough!

Photo by Andy Lovemore



Invitational event



For those freeflyers who may not be in a team, but are interested in highly-skilled skydives, this is an event to set your sights on

At the helm again were the always-smiling Mikey Carpenter and Fabian Raidel, both with notepads full of their darkest of dirty tricks in vertical formations. When the load organisers turn up with a notepad full of dives, you know it's going to be tough.

So, the scene was set and the jumpers starting rocking up. A few changes had been made to the original line-up, but it still boasted flyers from *Babylon*, *Volare*, *Skywalkers*, *Kristal*, *Axis 21*, *Airkix VFS*, *The Bad Lieutenants* and some of Europe's other top freeflyers. But with freeflyers being freeflyers, there were some last-minute cancellations and the line-up was reduced down to two 10-ways, instead of the proposed 12-ways. However, this had the load organisers licking their lips, and mouthing the words "smaller but faster".

So there it was. Two 10-ways each accompanied by their world-class cameraman, busting out some awesome sequential freeflying. This time around, the over and under of the two head-down lines, which was a signature move of the last event, became a

regular occurrence - a way of getting from one point to another, with no emphasis placed upon the issue of the burble. This cemented the positive idea I had heard a short, fat, rat-like man once state: that "there is no burble".

It was clear that the first event back in March had shown the possibilities open to us now. With the load organisers clearly aware of this, the jumps became more technical and thus more challenging, this time with a lot more transitions and head-up flyers. The smaller formation saw us launching not only a 10-way head-down round out the door, but also a 10-way accordion and, more impressively, three separate groups - a 4-way, with two 3-ways either side. We launched at the same time, flying off the hill in unison before coming together to build the next point - absolutely mega! One of the jumps also saw us playing 3-way verticals: the three head-down groups again flying relative to each other to recreate the classic FS move.

The end of each day would see some formation tracking or a tube jump, so that the



Above: Three groups that had launched at the same time
Left: Two-group launch

flyers could blow off a bit of steam. The yellow cards stayed in the pocket, but Herr Raidel was throwing out beer fines faster and faster. These mostly went out to those who took on the head-up roles within the jumps. This would go on to highlight just how proficient one has to be to fly a sequential head-up slot.

As to be expected, the night time activities were almost as challenging as the day's. With the Bottrop wind tunnel laying on an all-expenses-paid dinner it was an awesome opportunity to kick back with a few margaritas and discuss the day's events. A little more than a few margaritas later saw one of the more controversial moments: Daniel Parker of *The Bad Lieutenants* betting two of his fellow team mates £400 that he could run a half marathon in 90 minutes. That is probably the fastest you have ever lost £400 Daniel, but Godspeed. Just remember the words of wisdom from Mike Carpenter: "If you can dream it, you can do it."

It is safe to say that the Euro Sequentials has become an event to put in the diary. For those freeflyers who may not be in a team, but are interested in highly-skilled skydives, this is an event to set your sights on. It is all too seldom that you get a big group of freeflyers and friends together to bust out some cool skydives and push the boundaries. I say - "more of it"! A massive thank you to Andrew Lovemore, Mike Carpenter and Fabian Raidel for organising the event; to those who showed their support; Skydive Spain, for hosting the event plus discounted jump tickets; Bottrop wind tunnel for the evening meal; *Sonic* for laying on the first jump on God's day; and UPT, Vigil and Aerodyne for their discount vouchers for equipment.

The next event has been laid down for March 2011. Mega.

Frazer Smith

Photo by Andy Lovemore





Skills camp

Following the success of the Euro Sequentials in March 2010, a limited-slot skills camp was held prior to the September event

The skills camp was targeted at the vertical flyer, with the aim of progressing VFS skills and larger sequential formation skydives. Load organisers were Mikey Carpenter and Fabian Raidel, with Andy Lovemore on outside video/stills and stepping in as a third organiser when needed. The requirements for the camp were for the flyer to be comfortable and confident flying 4-way VFS in both head-up and head-down slots.

So, from 9-12 September, 18 jumpers from six countries descended upon Skydive Spain in Seville for four days of intensive jumping in up to 35°C heat and clear blue skies.

On day one, we were split into a larger group of more experienced flyers and then two smaller groups. For the rest of the event, we were split into two groups that were loosely based around skill and experience level. The load organising was exceptional and both groups made some outstanding jumps. The high point for me in the less experienced group was a 7-point 9-way jump that included some challenging formations.

The more experienced group made some very impressive advanced jumps involving

separate pieces, lines and pods moving relative and transitions. The organisers also put together tracking jumps at the end of each day, which had multiple groups in tight formation flying relative and doing cross-overs - the perfect way to chill out after some quite intensive and demanding jumps.

Over the four days everyone completed the 28 jumps included in the event fee and more. A good time was had by all and a lot of progress was made. There are plans for another skills camp in spring 2011 - I will definitely be putting it on the calendar!

Paul Cooper

“ The skills camp was targeted at the vertical flyer, with the aim of progressing VFS skills



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Liz Ashley >>

Safety focus Toggle attachment



Dan Parker landing using his rear risers, by Liz Ashley

Just like changing a d-bag (see article by Andy Hughes on the following two pages), attaching toggles is another bit of rigging that doesn't actually require a full rigging qualification to do it.

However, it goes without saying that you need to know what you're doing! Some more experienced jumpers and packers wouldn't bat an eyelid at connecting their own toggles when hooking up a new or different canopy, while some people would never dream of attempting it. Although relatively

simple to do, there are lots of simple mistakes that can be made. The brakeline must be correctly routed through the correct slider grommet and through the guide ring on the riser. Then the line and toggle need to be securely attached to each other – this seems obvious but check out the photos opposite.



Correct toggle attachment

This was the first jump on borrowed kit, and the two photos show the exact moment that one toggle came off in the jumper's hand. In this case, the jumper chose to let go of the other toggle that was still attached, then fly and land the canopy using the rear risers.

Would you be confident to do this? Perhaps attending a canopy course would help to build this confidence? It's got to be better than trying it for



Right hand toggle is attached



Right hand toggle comes away

the first time under pressure! However there is always the option to cut away and use the reserve instead, as long as you make that decision high enough. The problem with an issue like this is that people may be reluctant to cut away what looks like a good canopy, and instead waste time and altitude trying to decide what to do. Some centres teach their students to "play it safe" by taking the attitude that "if it's not right, it's wrong" – so if you were taught that a broken brakeline means you do your reserve drill, then do not change this without discussing it thoroughly with a trusted instructor.

Close your eyes...

You're probably not wearing your skydiving gear as you're reading this. But imagine you are – stand up, and put your right hand on your main deployment toggle. Are you certain exactly where it sits, how far around your side and up your back? If you jump the same rig all the time then hopefully the answer is yes. Now imagine you need to do your reserve drills – put your hands to the right places where your cutaway pad and reserve handle sit. Is it different under canopy? Have you ever looked? They're probably a good six inches further up and, if you loosen your chest strap under canopy, remember your handles will become further apart as well. If you ever need to find them due to an incident *after* a good deployment, such as a canopy collision that requires a cutaway, you'll be running out of height and need to find them quickly – can you?

A few more to try... Imagine you need to disconnect your RSL in an emergency (if you have an RSL). Can you put your hand straight onto the release shackle or are you now unsure which side it is on? Some are on the right riser and some are on the left. Have you thought about when and whether you might want to disconnect your RSL during a jump? Now how about your knife – put your hand straight to it. Is it on the left or the right? On a legstrap (front or back?), on your chest strap, below your 3-ring? Again, have you honestly rehearsed situations when you think it might come in useful? Finally, if you wear a camera helmet, can you put your hand immediately to the release handle? Do you regularly think about your malfunction drill and how it may change when you wear a camera? Perhaps your plan, in the event of an entanglement of your main canopy with your camera, is to pull the camera helmet cutaway first, and then your main cutaway pad followed by reserve handle. So do you practise that or would auto-pilot take over and make you pull the main cutaway then reserve handle first, and forget to deal with the camera?

Next time you put your kit on, make sure you were right about the location of all those important bits of equipment. Run through scenarios in your head and make sure you have a practised plan for them all. Finally, consider trying this out on other people when they ask for a flightline check – can they immediately find their knife, their RSL etc, or do they have to stop and check which side it's on? They may feel a little silly on the ground but you could have just saved their life in the air.



Andy Hughes >>

'Next generation' deployment bags - a reality check



Recently, there have been a number of new deployment bags released onto the market, with magnets, tuck tabs, bungees and Velcro in almost every combination you can imagine. Many magazines and websites (including this magazine!) have published adverts and reviews, but there has been very serious discussion covering compatibility and the potential issues associated with them.

Changing the d-bag can be done quickly and easily by anyone who knows how, but it is imperative that the bag is compatible with the container to ensure proper functionality and reliable deployments.

A new generation of stowless and semi-stowless d-bags has arrived, prompting this article. BPA Rigger Andy Hughes aims to provide the reader with knowledge that can be used to make an informed decision on whether or not to buy into these new products.

Since the very first parachutes became available, opening characteristics were one of the big selling points. The equipment we use today is generally more sensitive than the large docile canopies of the last decade, but this extra performance requires the deployment systems to consistently control the canopy and lines through the deployment sequence.

Through the history of sport parachuting, there have been many different approaches to deployment systems. However the industry almost universally adopted the deployment bag, or 'd-bag', as the preferred deployment device because it can sequence the deployment without putting too much wear on the canopy/lines, is reliable, has little bulk and can be packed quickly and easily.

In terms of safety, having a properly controlled opening sequence is key. One of the fundamental properties of a staged opening is that the lines

must pay out gradually as the d-bag is extracted from the container, and must be fully extracted and tensioned BEFORE the canopy comes out of the d-bag. This criterion is far more important than avoiding bungee maintenance, because an uncontrolled opening may be hard enough to knock you out or cause internal damage to your body. Being forced to maintain bungees is a good thing because it forces us to keep our equipment properly functional as the components wear and the material's properties change.

These new bags are sold on the premise that they are able to mitigate the risk of opening with twists. Although a canopy deployment with twists is not ideal, it can be kicked out or cut-away easily enough. As skydivers we accept that the occasional reserve ride is a part of our sport; however, trying to solve 'the twist problem' with a system that allows unsequenced deployment is absolutely the wrong approach. →

KIT BITS

This new section will feature a different image each issue for you to 'spot the mistake' and improve your flightline checking skills.



The owner actually jumped this kit! Can you spot the problem?

Answer: The RSL is wrongly attached to the middle of the 3-ring release system. This could not only prevent the RSL from doing its job, but also stop the riser from releasing as intended in the event of a cutaway.

TOP TIP

Ask your rigger to watch you practise your reserve drills when you drop your rig off for a repack - it's got to get unpacked anyway!

Liz Ashley

The market has seen a number of container modifications that aim to improve deployment, including:

- magnetic riser covers
- riser deflectors in the main tray
- line stows placed centrally on the d-bag
- moving the d-bag/bridle attachment point
- open main tray corners
- pilot chute/bridle/bag design



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SAFETY ZONE

Smiling lines

On many popular canopies the 'A' lines are all the same length across the span of the canopy when the canopy is new. As the lines go out of trim, the outer lines have a tendency to shrink more than the centre lines because they are subjected to more friction, whereas the inner lines are subjected to more load, which helps to keep them long. During PRO packing of a canopy, when the nose of the canopy is straightened, an inspection of the relative position of the 'A' lines can give an idea of the trim of the canopy. If all the 'A' lines are in a straight line, the lines are in good trim. If the 'A' lines are taking on the shape of a smile the lines are starting to go out of trim. With tolerances of +/- one inch, these lines are already well out of trim! The bigger the smile, the more out of trim the lines.

Photos by Dave Major



Before reline - smiling lines



After reline - lines are in good trim

If your canopy has a tendency to twist, there are several basic questions to think about before considering changing to a different design of d-bag:

- How old are the lines – are they in trim?
- How old is the canopy – has the fabric lost its zero-porosity?
- Is the d-bag the correct size for the container, and does the canopy fit the bag?
- Are you leaving enough slack between the risers and last line stow?
- Does the way you pack promote even canopy inflation?
- What kind of canopy do you have – is the funky opening one of the design's characteristics?
- How does your body position change on opening (including the placement of hands on risers during the deployment sequence)?

Things to consider before buying a stowless bag

- If the bag relies on bag/canopy friction and canopy bulk to keep the lines stowed, be aware that pack volume decreases over the lifetime of a canopy and it has been shown that volume can vary as much as 20 per cent from canopy to canopy of the same make and model. Standard deployment bags are fairly tolerant of differing canopy size, whereas the fully stowless bags will not be secure if the canopy is mis-sized.
- What sort of lines do you have, and is the new bag tested with those type of lines? Large Dacron lines or stiff Vectran lines may not slide out of the pocket in the same way as HMA or Microlines. Also the extra abrasion/friction caused when the lines slide out of the pocket will wear the lines faster and may cause shrinkage on Spectra/Microline suspension lines

- Tests have shown that fully magnetic (e.g. mPod) bags can dump the canopy before the lines pay out due to the pilot chute's snatch force. These out-of-sequence openings can cause extremely violent opening shocks and malfunctions, particularly with zero-stretch line such as HMA. The weight of the canopy and size of the bag's mouth will greatly affect the tendency to release: lighter canopies (i.e. less than 100 sq ft) are less susceptible to premature canopy dump.
- Normal wear and tear can result in the bag's security weakening over time, so regular maintenance by a rigger may be necessary.

In the absence of the large manufacturers offering the style of d-bag you want, the question has to be asked: "why are these reputable manufacturers not offering this?" It may be the case that they simply haven't focused on developing a particular product or that there is such a small market that it is not worth pursuing; however it may be the case that this direction has not been taken for safety reasons or because there are better methods of achieving the end goal.

The moral of the story is simply this: before buying into 'cutting edge' gear, ensure that you fully understand the pros and cons of the design and be 100 per cent sure of its compatibility with your equipment. If you really want to jump novel, 'next generation' equipment from independent rigging lofts, the best approach is to have your container's manufacturer or an experienced rigger sign-off the equipment as "compatible and fit for purpose".

Andy Hughes

This article was compiled following concerns raised at the Riggers' and STC meetings held on 30 September 2010

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- 3 ... you track away from a jump but as you wave off you see another jumper directly beneath you, also waving off?

REPORT IN CONFIDENCE

These kind of safety articles rely on people sending me their stories – so please do!

Liz Ashley

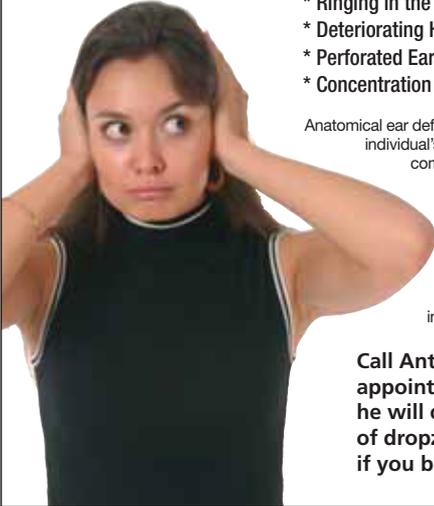
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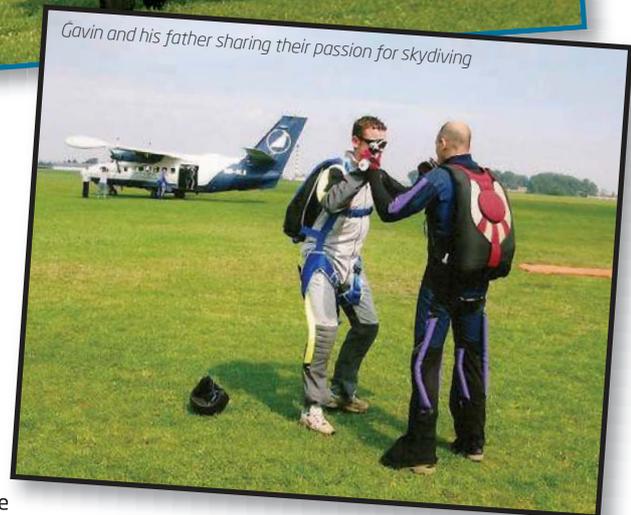
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Gavin and his father sharing their passion for skydiving

Gavin Wood

Gavin (Gav) was one-of-a-kind that's for sure and, in my eyes, he will always be a very special person. I can remember vividly the first time I met Gav - he instantly caught my attention. It was my first day at Tilstock and I arrived way before the scheduled 8am for my RAPS course. There was no-one else around apart from a random guy with a ponytail (who I soon found out was my instructor... sorry Kenny) and then this tall, good looking guy in just a vest and shorts walks through the club room. Instantly, I'm thinking hmmm this place could be interesting... haha.

It turned out he'd only been jumping a short time and came with his dad from Bala every weekend. In less than three months (if my memory is right), Gav progressed from novice to B-Licence skydiver and he already had a custom-made rig on order! Needless to say he won the Tilstock 'Student of the Year' award that year and he deserved it. When I met him, he was already a qualified skydiver and loving every minute of it. He'd already been to Cyprus once with his dad and was planning the next trip, among many others. He was unstoppable and very passionate about the sport.

Being the amazingly generous person that he was, he took me to Dubai to do AFF, all planned within just a few months of us being together. Gav never wasted any time - as soon as he had an idea it was already in action. And before long, I'd changed my whole life to spend more time with him. That's how huge an impact he had on my life.

On the surface, he had the perfect life doing everything that he loved. He was an avid football player and coach. He also loved kayaking and martial arts; anything that involved sports, fitness or an adrenalin rush. We used to go running around the whole of Bala Lake and he would motivate me all the way round and keep me going. I think he could have run around it three or four times and still have energy left!

But Gav also had a lot of problems, which he was in a constant battle with. His hopes and dreams of training as an engineer in the Army were cut short at a young age. He was in a serious car accident not long after joining the army, which he almost didn't survive. It took more than 12 months for him to recover and he had continuous problems ever since the accident. On many occasions he was in and out of hospital but he was so determined not to let it beat him. He had more reasons than anyone to feel sorry for himself but he never did. I got to know the depth of his problems while we were together and it's amazing that he coped as well as he did. His favourite motto was 'no fear'.

Gav kissed both of us in freefall one at a time leaving us both stunned, while he thought it was hilarious

My fondest memories of Gav are of our first jumps together. I remember doing a 3-way FS jump with Gavin and his dad not long after I qualified. Gav kissed both of us in freefall one at a time leaving us both stunned, while he thought it was hilarious. I, of course, didn't mind but his dad wasn't too impressed! Other fond memories are of Gav singing and playing his guitar. He was full of enthusiasm and energy, which came out in full force when he was singing his favourite song of the moment. He was a very charming, caring

and generous person who put his family and friends first at all times. I've never known anyone love their mum and dad as much as he did (he had 'mum and dad' tattooed on his arm in a heart-shaped symbol) and he was a very easy person to love back.

I will never forget you Gavin Wood and you will always have a special place in my heart.

Liz Boniface



Sadly, Gavin died in his sleep in September 2010

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DUNKESWELL

skydivethewell.com

Dunkeswell jumpers are obsessed with hybrids - Chris Lynch docks head-down, by Richard Wiggins



Bigger and better

ACHIEVEMENTS **AFF Grad** Ben Chambers, Nick Watkins, Steve Margison, Edward Crabtree, Jon Bryan, Simon Hope, Harry Smith **FS1** Shaun Butler, John Price, Red McManus, Julian Netley **FF1** Tim Gains, Lucy Eldred **CF1** Ben Woollan **CP1** Shane Hardwick **JUMP NUMBERS** **200** Neil Ewins, Ed Moss, Guy Wells **400** Paul Daley, Rob Grey **600** Lou Finch **700** Shane Hardwick

We've been busy here at The Well! The flat flyers got together for the annual Mike Wills weekend and did some commemorative formations in his memory. Everyone had a great time and we even converted a 4-way team to big-ways for the weekend.

We recently held the first Dunkeswell UKS Boogie, which was a huge success. It was one of the busiest weekends we've seen and the atmosphere was buzzing with world-class FS and freefly organisers, including Lesley Gale, Andy Lovemore and Chris Lynch. It was Lesley's first visit to The Well (yes - we beer-fined her). Chris Lynch had been here most of the week teaching his 'Wingtips' canopy course before the Boogie kicked off, which went really well.

We also had Jarno and Macca here organising wingsuit flocking, CRW organised by PH36, multiple helicopter jumps and hot-air balloon jumps in the morning and at sunset. We had the BPA Roadshow on the same weekend hosted by *The Bad Lieutenants*, which kept all the freeflyers even busier. The inflatable Gladiator platform and the huge sumo wrestler suits were hilarious, but it



Photo by Rob Franklin

did get bloody when Andy Montriou had his nose accidentally broken! A big thanks to Ryan Mancey who played an excellent guitar and vocals set. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food over the weekend - thanks Jen. We'd like to give a huge thank you to everyone (there's too many names to mention) for

all your hard work and effort to make it such a fun, awesome boogie.

If any of you jumpers out there have an FS or FF team and would like a great deal on jump tickets from our Black Beech 99 exiting from FL 150 we are offering very competitive team rates - please phone the office and ask to speak to Jason for more information. And speaking of our Black Beech 99, we're planning to have more events and boogies than ever before now we have such a fast permanent plane. So stay tuned and we'll keep you posted on upcoming events. We're having a Christmas party on 11 December with good food and mulled wine so come and join us if you're around.

We'd like to say goodbye to Leanne Milligan who has moved to London to pursue a new career; you'll be missed by everyone. We're planning to close for the whole of January but will be open again the first week of February so get down here and don't forget your thermals!

Maddy Heath Kelly

BRIDLINGTON

skydivegb.com

Down on one knee: Alec Flint and Sara Orton, by Simon Rehill



Runway art, by Bill Tiplady

Runway proposal

Well, it's been an eventful couple of months despite being plagued by sea mist and water falling out of the sky. Our dedicated RAPS students are progressing well and if the weather holds out for a few more weekends, we'll be getting the inevitable beers from the newly qualified.

The clubhouse became a venue for a local girl's hen party one Saturday, but unfortunately the hen couldn't do a tandem due to the awful weather. For some reason that didn't stop some of the regulars hanging around in a room full of ladies dressed as air hostesses.

Congratulations to Simon Rehill for getting his tandem rating at the beginning of October - all we need now is a bigger plane so Simon and Alec can do tandems on the same lift without squashing each other.

And finally, after weeks of talking about it, Alec got around to proposing to Sara by attacking the runway with a large mower then talking her into getting on the front for a tandem on the first lift of the day. With a crowd of people waiting on the landing area for the answer, everyone was pleased to hear it was a 'yes'!

ACHIEVEMENTS **First freefall** Chris Milnes, Rachel King, Tom Oates **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Steve Rothwell **200** Mick Cosgrove

Brendan Ireland

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UK PARA SIBSON skydivesibson.co.uk

(FS) for organising the event; we had jumpers from all over the UK, as well as Germany and Finland, attending. On a jumping front, the FS guys managed an inwards-facing diamond and were progressing well towards a 25-way outwards-facing diamond. [Turn to page 18 to find out about the wingsuits.] This will now be an annual challenge, so watch out for next year's dates.

Now we have come to the end of our first year here, Grant and I would like to say a massive heartfelt thank you to everyone at Sibson for all the support and friendship they have given us this year. A new DZ, new baby and lots of travelling were not a great recipe for a stress-free life. Since moving local to Sibson in June, life could not be better. Everyone has made us so welcome – we feel like we have been here years already. We hope you all have a great Christmas and New Year and here's to lots more fun, frolics and skydiving next year! Don't forget the Christmas party at the Paper Mills, Saturday 18 December and afterwards at the Phoenix Bar. This is our last day's jumping in 2010.

We will be re-opening in Feb and, from 1 April, we are open for four days per week. Look out for all next year's events on the home page of the website: skydivesibson.co.uk and check out the events diary.

Susie Richards



Donna Jenkins reads Skydive Mag, while riding Air at Alton Towers

silver and *Hedgehog* for bronze. Saturday night's entertainment began with a free BBQ, then Chris and Bryn pulled out all the stops for the quiz and charades. Thanks to Jo Hawley for superb organising and to everyone else who was involved. We hope to host another scrambles around April so look out for details in future Club News.

Well done to Andrew Pointer – the first student to qualify using the TAFF system. It has been a year of great change and fun here and we have plenty more planned for 2011; watch this space!

Lorraine Dixcey

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Jon Payne, Lisa Clark, Michael Clark, Stewart Ewing, Firat Erozkal **FS1** Nick Griffin **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Adam Gooch, Daren Murphy 200 Sandra Kempt, Conor O'Brien 900 Si Chipp 1,400 Val Slattery 1,500 Mark Price



Scrambles, by Si Chipp



25-way Diamond FS, by Andy Lapsley

Diamond 25 Challenge

We have had another great couple of months with some great jumping and fun parties. A special congratulations to all our AFF graduates, 11 qualifying since the last Mag, with six of them also gaining their A Certificate. As the jumping days will soon be getting shorter we are running lectures and packing lessons for JM1 qualifications; ring or email the office for dates and details.

Well done to Marc Fletcher who has qualified as a tandem Instructor; Paul Dorward is extremely happy as he's climbed another rung on the tandem ladder.

October saw Sibson's first Diamond 25 challenge. The aim was to get two 25-way diamonds, one wingsuit and one FS. The weather gods shined on Sunday and each discipline completed four jumps. A big thanks goes out to John O'Connell and James Graham White, our pilots for the day, for some great formation flying. Also thanks to Mark Harris (wingsuit) and Brian Cumming

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF Grad Paul Masters, Dan Dixon, Emily Plant, Dan Pestico, Robert McCulloch, Dawn Adams, Aaron McGee, Ben Marshall, Sam Hellier, Joe Mitchener, Nicola White **CH2 & JM1** Ian Martin **FS1** Gemma Harris **FF1** Katy Hearn **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Susan Lewellen 400 Emma Cooper 500 Derek Hancock 700 Sarah Neale 1,000 Steve Such, Richard Luxton, Andy Lapsley

CHATTERIS

ukskydiving.com



Scrambles geek, by Jon Trevor

Watch this space!

For those of you who don't know already, our Christmas party is 18 December at the DZ. We are having a fish and chip van, followed by my Christmas spiced crumble and, as usual, all the alcohol you can drink. The choice is fish and chips or real chicken nuggets and chips for £12 a head. If you'd like to join us, write your name on the list in the office with your menu choice or call the airfield and ask for me. We need final numbers/choices and payments by 5 December.

The scrambles weekend in October was a huge success, everyone completed all five rounds. Well done *Pinky and the Pebbles* for getting gold, *Shatteris* for



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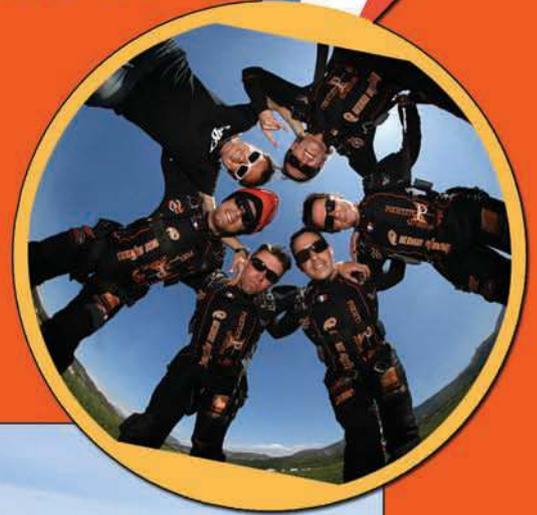


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HINTON

skydive.co.uk

Boogie plotting

Well, winter seems to be well on its way as the thermals and neck warmers have been dug out from the bottom of kit bags and lockers. This has not stopped anyone though; we have had a busy few months and it seems there is more blue sky so far than what we saw in August – long may it continue.

Some lucky jumpers got to go and do a hop-and-pop from an AN2, thanks to a lovely pilot (you know who you are). Sandi and Georgie were like little kids while getting kitted up! Oh and ‘my Martin’ – good packing skills – maybe you could help out on the next packing course!

We have said farewell to one of our favourite resident instructors, Chris ‘Pickles’ Ivory. He has moved to New Zealand to live the tandem instructor dream. Good luck Chris, hope you are having a fabulous time and keep in touch.

We are only closed for two weeks over Christmas – our last weekend of the year is 18 and 19 December, then we are closed for a well-earned rest. We will reopen on 4 January for the New Year. Hope you all have a good one and stay safe wherever your Christmas trips may take you.

Please keep a look out for plans for Tent City Boogie 3 in the summer next year – the lovely Ged and Kristin are already plotting loads of fun stuff for all!

Tally Ann Keith



ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Bob Shears, Charlotte Winton, Sarah Upson **JM1 & CH2** Chris Morris, John Foreman
JUMP NUMBERS 50 Max Valentine 100 Andre Parnell
2,400 Matt Abram 5,000 tandems Dave Luke

Photo by Andy Hyman



Guy Morris and his son Chris Morris, by Ian ‘Goobs’ Gooberham

HIBALDSTOW

skydiving.co.uk

A cracking year

As the season goes on, Hibaldstow still continues to provide 15,000ft goodness in ample supply, with good weather weekends and plenty of events. We’ve had the FS Scrambles 2, first-time formation loads and coaching from *Sonicnutz* and *Satori* for the flatflyers, and the *BLTs* showing what some of the best of British freely organising and coaching has to offer.

Well done to all who’ve joined us or got more qualified. Many thanks to Sally and all the other instructors for keeping an ever-ready eye on student progression; to Cobi, who recently got his FS coach rating; and cheers to Stu for helping keep them all entertained in the air and the bar antics.

There was end of season madness and masses of fun photos from our flagship event – Frostbite Friendly 10-way speed competition. We’ve also got a Christmas party to finish off the season, before Seville calls once again for the boogie mayhem at Skydive Spain.



Chris Brook, docking on to Blair Stent’s pilot chute, by Blair Stent



Lee Pugh... “Sometimes the job is just too much”, by Blair Stent

Since November, Noel took over as CCI at Hibaldstow. He is staying around to concentrate on his flying, and we thank him for all his hard work and wish him well. We’ve had a cracking year and, as we say goodbye to 2010, we can thank everyone who attended any of our events from Introduction to Big-way, Freely Scrambles, Fly Hard, UK Head-down Record and beyond.

Many thanks go to the organisers who have given up their time: Simon Cathrine, *The BLTs*, Billy Payn, Ronan Whelan and so many more. Thank you to you all for making Hibaldstow the dropzone it is. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Mike McNulty

ACHIEVEMENTS AFF Grad Rich Dunn **AFF Grad, Cat 8 & CH1** Darren Graham, Alex Rowlett, Evan Grant, Will Maxwell, Jordan Lowe, James Gray, Rich Cotton **FS1** Karl Peart, Sarah Russon, Kris Cavill, Fiona Gardiner **FF1** Scott Heathfield, Leah Pecon **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Carlton Reeve 200 Mark Maddison, Ryan May 700 Ben Cornick 1,200 Mike McNulty

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Milko organises a 30-way at Langar Boogie 2, by Tony Danbury

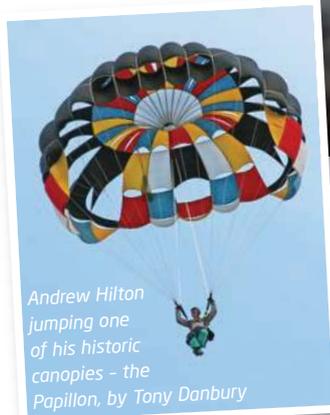
Night jumps have begun

While Langar Boogie II struggled a bit with the good ol' Brit weather, we all went hard at it whenever we could and it ended with a total of more than 2,600 jumps on 160 loads – 105 of which were in the Beech 99. We had our normal mix of every type of skydiving. Thanks to everyone for a great Boogie – more to come next May.

The Skydive Choreography Big-way Beginners weekend later in September made everybody happy with 8- to 11-way jumps organised by Kate Burn, Caroline Allen, Ian Taylor and Brian Cumming.

In mid-October, Dave Lewis and Billy Payn organised their 12- to 24-way invitational, which started with a two-aircraft formation on the Saturday and continued with a variety of dives throughout the weekend.

Our night jump programme has started again; we've got more booked for 18 December and 29 January. You need at least an FAI B Certificate for these and be using equipment with which you are fully familiar, with an AAD and an audible altimeter. We'll provide light sticks in with the jump price. Oh, and you'll need to jump during daylight hours on the same day, so get here early.



Andrew Hilton jumping one of his historic canopies - the Papillon, by Tony Danbury

LANGAR

skydivelangar.co.uk



Hoop jump, by Wes Guest

As ever, Langar is open and jumping all winter – even over the Christmas and New Year period. The only day we close is Christmas day itself, as the management think the staff should have one day off every year, whether they want it or not. See you here, then!

A bit of advanced warning – from 1 April 2011, all jumpers at Langar must have a functioning AAD fitted to their equipment, which must be switched on for all jumping. We don't believe this will have a major impact on many jumpers as most use an AAD anyway. If you need to ask any questions, contact our Chief Instructor, Rich Wheatley. You can email him at info@skydivelangar.co.uk.

Tony Danbury

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Ian Hales, Kame Bailey, Heeral Poria **FS1** Charles Smart, Dean Catterson, James Pritchard, Steve Ward, Mark Ward, Mike Watson, Grace Gimson **FF1** Lizzie Carroll, Paul Rimmington, Ben White, Paul Dewey **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Dean Catterson, Paul Wilcock, James Cripps 100 Jonathan Francis, James Pritchard 200 Charles Smart 300 Fran Sweeney 400 Lee Funnell, Emma Pilkington, Laura Hampton 500 Ryan Briddon, James Watson 1,000 Geoff Mills, Alli Burt 1,600 Blake Hooper 2,000 Martin Robiette **1hr freefall** Dean Catterson **60hrs freefall** Pixie MacLeod-Hodgson **24hr freefall** Chris Carroll

SOUTH CERNEY skydivesouthcerney.co.uk

Tenth birthday tandem!

It's been another good couple of months, with lots of jumps, the occasional braai (that's a BBQ by the way!) and Lance as smiley as ever. Congratulations to our achievers and George who is the newest member of our tandem team! Well done to Luke who is now a flying instructor. On a personal note, I would like to thank Stu, Geordie and Marcus for an amazing FS1 jump, Ralph for his dodgy camera work and Sarah Cannon for all her fab coaching.



Ann's 200th jump

Ann celebrated her 200th jump in true style... naked! She said: "I never even thought I would do one skydive, let alone making my way to 200, and achieving my C Licence is awesome. I am dead chuffed that Tom did this with me – we aren't the shyest couple by a long stretch and this jump proved it. The six cameramen free-flying around us was a highlight and just too funny for words!"

Happy birthday to Murphy, Cairan, Ralph and Pete who became even older at the start of October. An even happier birthday to Matthew Stevens who reached double



Matthew's tandem

figures at the end of October and celebrated his 10th birthday with his first tandem over in Spain!

ACHIEVEMENTS CH1 & Cat 8 Elena Sansiveri, Garry Dunn, Mark Demmery, Joe Baker **JM1 & CH2** Pete Price **FS1** Emma Bowles **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Ann Lewis 900 George Clack 1,000 Alex Murphy

On the random side, we've discovered that Marie-Anne's milk tart tastes amazing with hot chocolate. Murphy is apparently proud of me and Paul sent one of his tandem students to sleep under canopy. We hope you all have an amazing Christmas and happy New Year.

Emma Bowles

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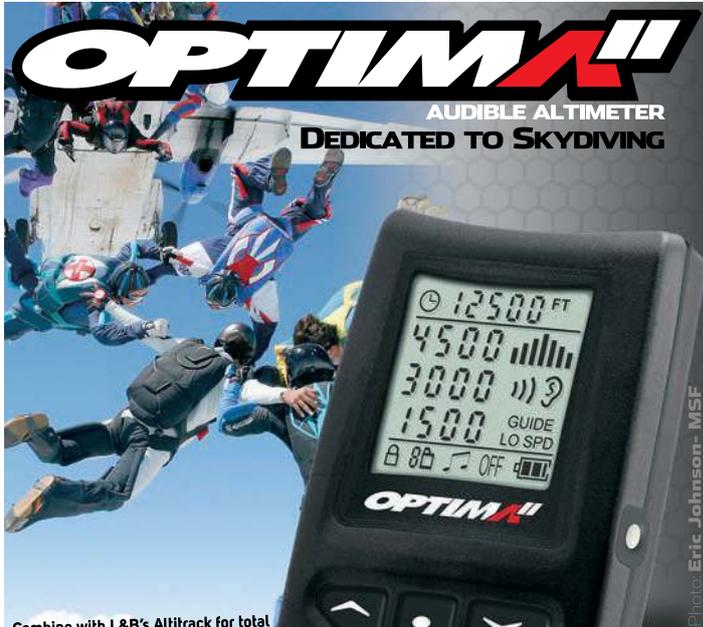
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CARK

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With the freshers' fairs in full swing, James, Karen and Cez, along with Matt, have steered their student clubs brilliantly, recruiting more than 85 first-timers. We have had to dodge the rain and frost with a few early starts to get our RAPS programme up and running. Sterling work by our instructors and a big thanks not only to the student committee members, but also to Dan Gauld and Gary Yerrill, our up-and-coming CSBLs.

After last year's devastating floods, we are making our annual pilgrimage back to the Hydro in Windermere for our Christmas party. In a beautiful location, the night is set to be another astonishing evening of talent recognition with the annual awards ceremony. Hope to see you there.

To all our achievers this year, well done, and if I've missed anyone, I apologise. I will recompense my sins in the bar at the Hydro! The centre will close this year on Sunday 12 December and reopen on Saturday 5 February 2011. On behalf of Mike, Kay, Stu and Martine we would like to extend our thanks to all our staff and club members for your continued effort and support throughout the year. May we wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year. For those of you journeying abroad at Christmas, have a safe and blue one. See you all in 2011.

Stu Morris



Mike on finals,
by Stu Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8
Don Tomkinson FS1 Cez
Kryzenowski, Simon Widdup
JUMP NUMBERS 100 Helen
Brookes 150 Luke Morris

Annual awards

HEADCORN

headcornparachuteclub.co.uk



Geoff Cowell's 400th
jump, by Wes Guest

Walk-up!

Walk-up Wednesdays are still very popular even though the cold weather is settling in.

Congratulations to Trigger and Sarah-Jane – the proud parents of baby Jonathon.

We had a fantastic end of season party thanks to our pilot and resident DJ Tizz. Finally, congratulations to Mary Barrett who successfully completed her doctorate.

Ruth Cooper

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 & CH1 James Stancomb, Trevor Richardson, William Hewetson, Anastasios Tzani FS1 Judy Wednesday JM1 & CH2 Liam Hamilton **JUMP NUMBERS** 400 Geoff Cowell 700 Tim Bittleston 1,300 Lucy Smith-Willey 8,000 Clem Quinn

Dave Wood, by Ben Wood

CORNISH

cornishparachuteclub.co.uk



Record month

Well the first season as a family-run DZ has seen lots of advances and changes, lots of new faces among the students at Bodmin, new landing area / facilities, our own aircraft and just recently a new addition to the family with our first ever AFF graduate becoming Mrs Jan Wood and another potential skydiver on the way – Oscar, due 20 January.

October saw a record month for lifts and tandems completed as we managed to complete our 500th tandem in a year (our target). Due to the extra lifts flying, our chief pilot (ex-skydiver) Steve Clarke clocked up his 2,000th hour flying... nice one old fella.

The new parachute centre facilities are almost complete, incorporating a new reception, packing hall,

upstairs office space and camera room.

The cold, clear days have offered up amazing views of the whole county, topped off by stunning sunsets. The Wood family would like to thank everyone involved at the club for your fantastic support and efforts in the running of a small but busy centre.

So here's wishing you a speedy recovery from the end of season bash, and a great Christmas and New Year. We will see you all for the new season on 5 Feb 2011.

Ben Wood



Ben & Jan's wedding,
by Dave Wood

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Serious beer weekend!

Johnny in Empuria, by Marcus Cornell

There have been lots of achievements racked up over the last month with Neil Banner's first freefall and Nicola Marr now on 10-second delays. Andy Pritchard is on 15-second delays and Ann Furmedge is only two jumps away from achieving her Cat 8.

Han saved her 100th jump for Tilly even though she had been off jumping in Vancouver. That's our girl! Johnny made the most of his trip to Empuria, reaching 200 jumps, getting his WS1 sticker and apparently buying the entire DZ's supply of wingsuits. Mike's 200th jump was 'carnage' (where's the video?) and Danny has now spent an amazing 46 hours in freefall. Well done everyone.

The Pirate Party was a massive success with lots of drinking, dancing and general piratey behaviour. A big thanks to Han and Ann for all of their work decorating the DZ and organising the party, and also to Johnny for bringing his band all the way over from the Isle of Man.

Alex 'Buzz' Busby, our CCI, has been elected on to the BPA Council for next year, which means we can now all drive him crazy with our suggestions. Congratulations, but do you really know what you've let yourself in for? Regan's Boogie was great, Hareth was rocking out afterwards doing the DJ-ing and even Mike had a little dance. Regan took the mic and sang *Angels*, getting us all singing the chorus.

Due to all the achievements big and small, the weekend was a serious beer weekend with lots of new faces wanting to try out the Caravan and see Regan. The turnaround in manifest was awesome, the girls (Ann and Liz) worked so hard and only took one jump each in the whole day.

Han Davies & Katy Tsesmelis

TILSTOCK theparachutecentre.com



Han Davies' 100th jump, by Dave Major



Pirate party!

- ACHIEVEMENTS**
JM1 & CH2
 Han Davies **WS1**
 Johnny Galbraith
JUMP
NUMBERS
 100 Han Davies
 200 Johnny Galbraith, Mike Pritchard
 4,300 Danny Smith
 46 hrs freefall Danny Smith

NETHERAVON netheravon.com



Andy Myers, by Andy Godwin taken at 10am on 10/10/10

- ACHIEVEMENTS** First freefall Esme Gardiner **Cat 8** Paul Jefferies, Gav Topley, Scotty Cordery, Emma Rodell, Emma Birch, Daniel Harmer, Emma Berry **F51** Jason Franks **WS1** James Lee **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Jason Franks, Claire Louise Reynolds, Bev Lindsall 100 Chris Bryson, Don Macmillan, Will Arnold 200 Kiera Sidford 300 James Lee **1hr freefall** Matt Wellington

Rocking flight safety

The weekend weather was looking good, the Skyvan was booked... what could possibly go wrong? Nothing (for a change!) Thanks to Tony for flying and to Mike for organising the weather and the aircraft.

Thanks to Rick 'the Rock' Boardman for running another flight-safety weekend. Testimonials such as "I feel so much safer" prove what a great safety guy the Rock is! Rick's comment: "Most A Licence jumpers are anxious to learn more than just the basic briefings, so I'll be organising more next year."

Club members have been busy on the nuptials front - congratulations to George Easton and Teresa McGowan, and to Joe Bickerton and Kris Young. Lord Woof and Michelle Blakemore are now engaged - that promises to be the loudest wedding in history! Congratulations also go to Angela Kendal on the birth of son Simeon.

Elvis will be leaving the building to the sound of shattering hearts as Cossie completes 22 years in the Army and will soon be 'Mister' Costello. Thanks for everything you've done for the club; let's hope it's not the last we see of you, although with Aaron Faith organising the leaving do, we're expecting plenty to be missing in action for a while.

Want your pic in *Skydive Mag*? Drop me an email at kath@netheravon.com.

Kath Salisbury

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CLUB ZONE

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UK PARA BECCLES ukparachuting.co.uk



ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Joe Robertson, Ali Aljazera, James Page **FS1** Ran McDonald, Andre Paven **CF1** Steve Smith, Rob Belman **WS2** Greg McEntee
JUMP NUMBERS 200 Ian Watkins 500 Rob Belman, Mic Weams 1,100 Damo

Sgt Karl Reynolds, by Rob Belman



DON'T MISS! 11 DEC - CHRISTMAS PARTY
16-17 APR 2011 - BIG-WAY CAMP (BILLY PAYN)

Scrambles success

Andy Page,
by Sam Lock

What a fantastic year it has been, more tandems than before, more AFF than before and surprisingly even more club jumpers than before and we still have a few months to go.

The Scrambles were a resounding success this year with eight teams participating over two days. The competition was so close at the end that a jump off ensued between *Danger Awesome*, (Damo, Pam Hawes, Danny French and stand-in Rob Belman) and *No Idea Mate* (Aaron Ellen, Amanda Bradfield, Sue Llewellyn and Dave Wall). *Danger Awesome* came out winners.

October saw Sgt Karl Reynolds, a RAF Aircraft Engineer for more than 20

years, jump for Help for Heroes. He said: "I work in the Tornado Propulsion Flight at RAF Marham. I enjoy skydiving and thought doing it in full NBC kit including respirator would be a good twist over the standard tandem. The total raised at the moment is approximately £700 with more still coming in."

The final round of the Cadet British Championships was held at Ellough Park Raceway, Beccles, in October. The UK Parachuting Demo Team made a jump into the Sky-televised meeting in the morning followed by a flag jump by Andy Page in the afternoon (he fell over!).

Paul Newton

RAPA jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk



End of summer party costumes!

Until next year

We decided to say goodbye to the good weather by holding the infamous End of Summer party. Entertainment was provided by our very own Alex Pascoe and his band Orange Grove. Great music, combined with a delicious hog roast, ensured a great night that went on into the wee small hours.

This marks the end of another great season at RAPA. We saw success at the Army Parachute Championships with our 4-way team *Scharfe Flugel*, who won a silver medal in the single A category. Congratulations also go to Mark Ames for winning gold in the junior accuracy competition. We welcomed many new jumpers to RAPA this season, both experienced and newly qualified, and hope to see them all back, and more, next season. Until next year, have fun, stay safe and have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all at RAPA!

Dougie Macpherson



ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Tommy Rea **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Sam Stevens 300 Lee Harrison

BCPA

bcpa.org.uk

Get to the AGM!

Although the first couple of months of the new BCPA year have been relatively quiet, that hasn't stopped some universities from taking the opportunity to sneak up the leagues. They're already racking up respectable point totals so be sure to participate and join in on the competitive fun.

By the time you've read this the BCPA Freshers event at Langar will be a thing of the past. There is no doubt that the new freshers will have been initiated in the only way possible: by having a huge party and using all the glow sticks we can find.

Our next appearance will be at the BPA AGM in January. I urge all the BCPA members to try and attend. There are numerous seminars and lots of entertainment on offer. Even the highly prestigious BCPA will be hosting a seminar! If you can't catch up with us at the BPA AGM then be sure to come to our Tunnel Meet in February. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Ailwyn McGeoch

CLUB ZONE

For more news from all UK clubs, visit the Club Zone at skydivethemag.com

Colin on a tandem, by Rod McCrory



Happy campers!

With the days getting shorter and cooler the winter thermal wear has reappeared, the skies have favoured the regulars at the Wild Geese for long enough to continue an acceptable level of skydiving.

However, not happy with mere acceptable levels of skydiving, Wendy and Nadine headed over to the wind tunnel to polish up on 4-way skills. After two exhausting hours of tunnel time the girls weren't fit to jump the next day?!

With the new academic year beginning, the Queens University Skydive Club (QUBSC) had the task of recruiting new members. Back from his skydiving exploits in Spain, the Geese's resident freefly coach and QUBSC President Eddie Montieth headed up the task force and recruited record numbers (let's hope they can achieve record retention numbers as well).

If they say happy campers make a happy camp, then the camp at the Wild Geese was certainly a little happier as Instructor Gregor McKenzie was able to enjoy his new tricked-out Triumph Street Triple R.

Rod McCrory

WILD GEESE

skydivewildgeese.com



JUMP NUMBERS 100 Aaron Crosbey 500 Mark McGarvey 1,000 & 12hrs freefall Eddie Montieth

Mark's 500th jump, by Eddie Montieth

SWANSEA

skydiveswansea.co.uk

H trying out the latest craze... tandem water swooping!
By Tom Hare



Mini Boogie

Skydive Swansea says goodbye to H who has been instructing at Swansea since it opened in 2006, driving across to us every weekend from Kent to be here come rain or shine. H has decided to finally get a proper job a bit closer to home, so good luck mate, we all wish you well.

The only moment ever recorded that H actually smiled in freefall! By Dan Morgan



As of the beginning of October we surpassed our jumping statistics on 2009, so a really good year so far. Due to flying more hours this year we have had to bring an annual check on the plane forward so will now be open throughout the winter (weather permitting) with the exception of 18/19 December.

The Mini Boogie will be running again this year, 27-31 December, with a loud Hawaiian shirt BBQ night and free beer planned with Ryan Mancey / Shamus playing vibes. Thanks for a stunning year everyone, have a great Christmas and New Year and looking forward to 2011!

Carl & Sara Williams

ACHIEVEMENTS Cat 8 Paul Robinson
FF1 Adam George, Rob Light



Black Knights

bkpc.co.uk

Ready to party?

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part in the 'EFAW' first aid course which was held at the centre itself. We now have a nice list of qualified first aiders but hopefully we will never need to see them in action.

It's still a busy time at the BKPC, despite winter. We have had a special guest recently in the form of Lorna Bancroft from *Real Radio*, who took part in a tandem skydive for her local charity.

The clubhouse and facilities are all now fully operational. It's great to see new and experienced skydivers having a well-deserved beer at the end of the day, as well as having somewhere warm to go when the weather is not so good.

Well done to Rick Illidge on completing his AFF course and all of the consols. He now is the proud owner of his A Licence, so Jeff had better be careful as it seems his son will be just as good as him in no time at all, or is he better now? Also, congratulations to Christine Dawes who got her FS coach rating in October at BKPC.

We have a few spaces left for the Christmas party on 18 December, so if you are interested, Megan will be happy to take your deposit. For those of you that have already booked do not forget to choose your menu and hope you have your posh frock and suits cleaned and are ready to party. We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and look forward to plenty of blue skies in 2011.

Sharon Beeson & Megan Bee

ACHIEVEMENTS **First freefall** David Bolton, Ian Bradshaw, Katie Davies, Jenny Hayes, Darren Mageean, Helen O'Boyle, Dale Pascoe, Elliott Stone **AFF Grad** Gavin High, Rick Illidge, Craig Lawther, Terry Pettit, Andrew Taylor, Andrea Walker, Nick Walter **CH2 & JM1** Dave Butterworth **FS1** Patryk Zmuda, Stewart Vincent **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Clint Gaskell, Adrian O'Donnell, Stewart Vincent **100** Ann Berry, Dave Butterworth, Dave Simpson **200** Pete Williams **600** Ruth Morrison **7,500** Sandy McRobbie **2,000 tandems** Tony Lightfoot **1hr freefall** Stevie Burns, Dave Butterworth

PETERLEE

skydiveacademy.org.uk

Student city...

Well it looks like Peterlee has turned into Student City, where have they all come from? Our University Clubs are thriving. The University Club Committee Members are progressing too, with many having achieved their A Certificates over the summer. This influx of students is seeing the bar busy once again on a Friday evening. Maybe it's the great instructors we have here at Peterlee that has them so enthusiastic.

We have trialled the Cessna Caravan that we now hope to purchase subject to satisfactory finances being put in place. We are going to need it at this rate with the amount of jumpers we have these days.

We are now looking to recruit Oli Clark (now an FS coach), Nigel Peacock and Steve Wood as future CSBs. Tony Fernyhough has been recruited to offer FF coaching and Simon Minto is showing an aspiration to be an FS coach. So it's not just the uni students that are keen to progress.

After regular mentions in previous editions of Club News, you will be glad to hear that work on the new toilet and shower block has now begun! The track around the rear of the hangar is being resurfaced, and once that is in, it will be the sole access to caravan and camping areas rather than across the pan to the front of the hangars; with that area henceforth only being accessible to those equipped to parachute, or wearing 'yellow' vests in line with the 'Active Area' policies now commonplace at many airfields.

Lisa Stephenson is back in the air again after recovering from her trimalleolar fracture (with dislocation). She would like to thank all of the regulars for building up her confidence again. Oh, and she says to tell you all that you can have mani's and pedi's at £3 a go. Saz, also known as 'eye candy provider' and 'burger flipper extraordinaire' and her hubby Big Stevie have been helping Sue O'Connor to keep the bar buzzing and the food flowing.



Kev Dynan, by Blair Stent



Practising for the Christmas party! By Blair Stent

DON'T MISS: 19 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY

ACHIEVEMENTS **Cat 8 & CH1** Luke Burnley **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Piers Kittel **1,600** Dave Taylor **4hrs freefall** Oli Clark

New uni students - if you have any achievements that you would like to appear in *Skydive Mag* could you please put them on the noticeboard in the aero club sports bar. Please make sure that you put the qualifications down and not just Licence A, B etc. Any stories or pics can be emailed to musicalsue2@hotmail.com.

We've come a long way and seen a lot of changes to the centre this year. We've also seen some old friends move onto pastures new and we've had lots of new faces appear. Finally, Ian, Paul, myself and all the staff and regulars at Peterlee would like to wish the whole skydiving community a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Let's make 2011 our best year yet!

Sue Scott



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DROPZONE

FOCUS

We speak to the staff at BPS Skydive Langar

Owner/
Manager,
Dave
Hickling



Chief
Pilot,
Angela
Hickling

Director,
Ian 'Milko'
Hodgkinson



Chief
Instructor
and Rigger,
Rich
Wheatley

Electronic
and camera
pool
manager,
Tony
Danbury



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72 SKYDIVE

How did Langar begin?

Langar was cleared as a DZ by Dougie Peacock and Dave Hickling in late 1976 / early 1977 and the first official jumps at took place on 4 April 1977. It was originally run by Tom Sawyer, but after Dave Hickling had been CCI for a year or so, he bought out Tom's interest and ran the business as British Parachute Schools for many years with partner John Fletcher. It was originally a student DZ and home to several commercial display teams, sponsored by Barclaycard, Hitachi, Subaru, Jeep and Fuji Film, performing displays from Scotland down to Cornwall. Aircraft were all hired in back then, Cessna 172s, 182s and 206s and the DZ was closed on Tuesdays, when we had to go to Sibson to jump!

What facilities do you have?

We fly from 9am Monday to Saturday, 10am on Sunday, and we stop at 8pm or dusk, whichever is earlier. We're closed just one day every year – on Christmas Day. There's a canteen, bar and two day rooms in the Control Tower complex, along with the shower and toilet facilities – we're quite proud of our 24-hour constant hot-water system! The bar has an audio-visual system with video projector, multiple TVs and stereo speakers built in, as does our main classroom. There are now five classrooms altogether, which are also available for debriefing and can be used as team rooms. We have our very own Freefly School operated for us by Al Hodgson. We've got almost unlimited free camping space. There's a bunkhouse (of sorts!) and we've got free reliable wireless internet access, plus internet terminals if you have forgotten your laptop!

What do the key staff members do?

Just about every staff member is a skydiver, pilots included. Dave Hickling is owner and Managing Director, responsible for just about every aspect of the business. Milko is Director on behalf of Dave's business partner, Sally Woods, and ensures that we have plenty of good and interesting skydiving going

on. Angela Hickling is Chief Pilot, Rich Wheatley is Chief Instructor and Rigger, too. Tony Danbury runs the camera pool and looks after all our electronic stuff. We also have an indispensable support staff of AFF, RAPS and Tandem instructors, Pilots, re-fuellers, packers, admin, cleaning and maintenance people without whom the DZ wouldn't be what it is. All our people are key in some way.

What aircraft do you use?

We own and operate two Cessna Grand Caravans. We'll normally fly to 13,500 feet, but higher for multi-aircraft formations and special events. With a full load, time to altitude is around 15 minutes; faster when we take the aircraft light, as we will when necessary! We have various visiting aircraft for boogies and events – we like to have interesting extra jumpships whenever we can. Helicopters are a boogie regular these days.

What events do you run?

We run two nine-day boogies each year, one in May, one in September. We've been home to Go Vertical in the UK in recent years; it's principally a freely boogie using the Beech 99 (sub-10 minutes to 15,000 feet). We host events by Skydive Choreography and monthly organised stuff by Dave Lewis and his team. There are organisers and coaches on-site every weekend for most skydiving disciplines, and our staff members organise and coach during the week, too. We host BPA events, and instructor courses, and we have BCPA events, too. Langar is where the Brit 100 and various Brit Chicks Formation Skydiving records have taken place over the years. We now have night jumps several times a year and plenty of parties, too! Bonfire night is always a good one!

How do your jumpers develop once off student status?

We're lucky to have a number of very talented FS, FF and tunnel coaches. Having an on-site freefly school

Tight Beech exit at the Langar Boogie, September 2010, by Tony Danbury



Skydive Langar



Tony Danbury

Langar landing, by Willy Boeykens



Control Tower complex, by Tony Danbury

helps a lot. We also have accomplished wingsuit flyers, canopy pilots and CF coaches, so there is plenty of help and assistance available.

The most popular disciplines?

They all have a good following at Langar; freefly seems to be the one that catches the imagination, but we have a lot of FS, CP, wingsuit flyers and CF.

What kind of DZ is Langar?

Langar is a DZ for skydivers to skydive. Whatever discipline, whatever skill level, we'll do whatever we can to get you in the air safely and as often as possible. We clock up around 30,000 jumps every year, and over 80 per cent of those are done by experienced skydivers. It's a busy vibe, especially at weekends. There's a burgeoning social scene among the younger jumpers, particularly as we are home to the skydiving clubs from several universities: Loughborough, Nottingham, Birmingham, Leeds and others. Check out the Langar Universities Skydiving Team (LU:ST) on the web. Our University students are some of our most active skydivers! The Bar is open every night of the week!

Do you feel part of the BPA?

Dave Hickling has always done, and will always do, anything he can for the BPA membership; but to us the BPA as an organisation seems still geared to a 'small club' mentality and we feel it has failed to develop to meet the needs of what is now a large commercially-oriented sporting activity in the UK.

Tell us about 'your' teams

We support and sponsor freestyle team Al and Pixie MacLeod-Hodgson – and we're proud that they won silver medals in the 2010 World Skydiving Championships! Next year we are



Milko's 17-way at the Langar Boogie, September 2010, by Tony Danbury

planning to support an FS 4-way team in AA class and expect to have several other Rookie, A and AAA teams training here at Langar.

Tell us something we don't know

We not only have one of the largest hazard-free landing areas in the UK but Skydive Langar runs the airfield – we have control of all aviation activity.

How has running a UK skydiving business changed?

Back in the '60s and '70s things were a lot different. The instructor who trained Dave Hickling for his first jump had a total of 18 or 19 jumps. By contrast, several present-day staff members have between 8,000 and 15,000 jumps. One major change is that, back in those distant times, our masters, the CAA, were split into South and North branches, and the North CAA allowed certain clubs to operate very much against the wishes of the

South and the BPA. That made for some fun!

The best thing about your DZ?

It's always open and ready for jumping! We are very welcoming with a friendly atmosphere. If you're struggling to progress in skydiving, we've got the people who can help!

Tell us about the local area

Belvoir Castle, just a few miles up the road, is worth a look if you're into historic stuff. The National Water Sports Centre isn't far away, but you'd rather be skydiving, of course! There's also a Go-karting and Quad Biking centre on Langar Airfield, to fill in those bad-weather moments.

What are your plans for the future?

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Turbine Porter

2 Bridlington

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info@skydivegb.com
skydivegb.com
Cessna 206

3 Cark

North West Parachute Centre
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DZ: 01539 558 672
T: 01229 889 516
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
skydivenorthwest.co.uk
PAC 750XL

4 Chatteris

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March, Cambs PE15 0EA
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T: 0871 664 0113
info@ukskydiving.com
ukskydiving.com
Twin Otter, Nomad

5 Cornish

Cornish Parachute Club
Perranporth Airfield,
Higher Trevellas, St Agnes,
Cornwall TR5 0XS
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cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk
cornishparachuteclub.co.uk
Cessna 206, guest aircraft

6 Dunkeswell

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skydivethewell.com
Beech 99

7 Headcorn

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8 Hibaldstow

Target Skysports
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Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN
DZ: 01652 648 837
T: 0113 250 5600
info@skydiving.co.uk
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Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92 single turbine, Cherokee 6

9 Hinton

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PAC 750XL

10 Jersey

Skydive Jersey Ltd
States Airport, St Peter,
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01534 747 410
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skydivejersey.net
Airvan, guest Turbines

11 Langar

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info@londonparachuteschool.com
londonparachuteschool.com
Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan

13 Netheravon

Army Parachute Association
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01980 628 250
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14 Paragon

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15 Peterlee

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Airvan, Cessna 182

16 Salisbury

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17 Skydive Sth Cerney

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Finist SMG

18 St Andrews

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19 Strathallan

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3 Cessna 206, guest Turbine

20 Swansea

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21 Swindon

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Airvan

22 Tilstock

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23 UK Para Beccles

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24 UK Para Sibson

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01832 280 490
skydive@ukparachuting.co.uk
skydivesibson.co.uk
Cessna Caravan

25 Weston

Skydive Weston
RAF Weston on the Green,
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skydiveweston@fsmail.net
skydiveweston.com
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26 Wild Geese

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

BPA Overseas Affiliated DZs

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Cyprus Parachute Centre
CJSATC, BFPO 58,
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PBN Piston Islander

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Parachuting Societies

BCPA

British Collegiate Parachute Association
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www.ukskydiving.com

EVENTS ZONE

For more event details, visit the Events Zone at skydivethemag.com

Safe flight school



Holly Heathfield

Almost every skydiver has heard of the Safe Flight School, so now's the chance to get involved if you haven't already. The aim of the Safe Flight School is to improve the skill and safety of your canopy handling so you can make best use of your parachute and land safely on every jump.

The basic 'beginners' course isn't just for new jumpers; the courses are modular and designed to relate to your experience level. Brian Vacher will be running the courses in Empuria and Jim Harris will be teaching the Seville course.

December 2010 10-12 Empuria, Spain 17-19 Seville, Spain	March 2011 11-13 Empuria, Spain 18-20 Empuria, Spain (Advanced) 25-27 Empuria, Spain	May 2011 6-8 Empuria, Spain 20-22 Empuria, Spain
January 2011 28-30 Empuria, Spain	April 2011 8-10 Empuria, Spain 15-17 Empuria, Spain 23-25 Hibaldstow	June 2011 24-26 Empuria, Spain 27-29 Empuria, Spain
February 2011 11-13 Empuria, Spain 25-27 Empuria, Spain	July 2011 8-10 Sibson	

safeflightschool.com

Women's CF World Record attempt



It won't be as big as the world record, but it will be more attractive!

The canopy formation world record of 100 was achieved over Florida in 2008 and the female world record attempt is set to be just as exciting. Organised by the world-renowned Mike Lewis, the women from all over the globe will attempt 36-way and possibly even bigger formations over Z-Hills, California on 12-18 February 2011.

Any female CF skydivers interested can get in contact with Mike Lewis at dewcrew2@aol.com.

skydivecity.com

KEY

BPA EVENTS
CANOPY PILOTING
FORMATION SKYDIVING
CANOPY FORMATION
STYLE & ACCURACY
BOOGIES/FUN
FREEFLY & SKYSURF
WINGSUIT
UNCLASSIFIED (inc POPS)

DECEMBER

6-10 Ramblers Learning Curve Camp
Ramblers, Australia • ramblers.com.au

7 BPA Council Meeting
BPA Offices, Leicester • bpa.org.uk

9-10 Wingsuit Course
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

10-12 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

11 Christmas Party
Tilstock • theparachutecentre.com

11 Christmas Party
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

11 Christmas Party
Dunkeswell • skydivethewell.com

11 Christmas Party
UK Para (Beccles) • ukparachuting.co.uk

15-19 Freely Tunnel Camp
Bedford • volare-freely.com

17-19 Safe Flight School
Seville, Spain • safeflightschool.com

18 Christmas Party
BKPC, Cockerham • bkpc.co.uk

18 Christmas Party
Chatteris • ukskydiving.com

18 Christmas Party
UK Para (Sibson) • skydivesibson.co.uk

18 Night Jumps
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

18 Christmas Party
Peterlee • skydiveacademy.org.uk

18-Jan 2 Christmas Boogie
Seville, Spain • skydivespain.com

18-Jan 2 Christmas Boogie
Z Hills, USA • skydivecity.com

24-Jan 2 Christmas Boogie
Eloy, USA • skydiveaz.com

25-Jan 2 Christmas Boogie
Empuria, Spain • skydiveempuriabrava.com

26-Jan 2 Party In Perridise Boogie
Perris, California • skydiveperris.com

26-Jan 2 Xmas Feelgood Boogie
Ramblers, Australia • ramblers.com.au

27-31 Mini Boogie
Swansea • skydiveswansea.co.uk

27-Jan 3 The Invasion
Skydive Sebastian, Florida • skydiveseb.com

JANUARY 2011

5-17 International Championships & Gulf Cup
Dubai • eaa.ae

14 Student Refresher
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

14-16 Freely Tunnel Camp
Bedford • volare-freely.com

22 BPA AGM
The Hilton, Coventry • bpa.org.uk

28-30 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

29 Woolly Jumpers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

29 Night Jumps
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

FEBRUARY

7-11 BPA Inst's Course (CSBI, TBI, AFFBI, Adv)
Chatteris • trudy@bpa.org.uk

11-13 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

12-18 Women's CF World Record Attempt
Z Hills, USA • skydivecity.com

FS Tip

When spinning a cat 360° from the tail slot, wait until you have crossed the 180° point before head switching

Pete Allum

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EVENTS ZONE

14-18 BPA Instructors Course (CSI)
Chatteris • trudy@bpa.org.uk

14-18 PIA Symposium
Reno, Nevada USA • pia.com

18-20 Freely Money Meet
Eloy, USA • skydiveaz.com

24-27 40-way Meet
Perris, California • skydiveperris.com

24-March 5 Belize Boogie
San Pedro, Belize • skydivebelize@gmail.com

25-27 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

26 Safety Day
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

MARCH

5-6 Pinch Jump
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

7-12 International Skydiving Championship
Beni-Mellal, Morocco • pacma.ma

11-13 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

11-20 March Madness
Skydive Sebastian, Florida • skydiveseb.com

18-20 Safe Flight School (Advanced)
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

21-26 Skysavers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

25-27 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

APRIL

2-3 Pinch Jump
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

8-10 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

13-17 SOS World Record Attempt
Elsinore, California • rudolf-albrecht.at/SOS

15-17 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

15-24 Easter Boogie
Z Hills, USA • skydivicity.com

16-17 Big-way Camp
UK Para (Beccles) • ukparachuting.co.uk

22-24 Easter Boogie
Eloy, USA • skydiveaz.com

22-25 Kickstart Easter Boogie
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

22-30 Skysisters 3
Toogoolawah, Aus • skysisters.com.au

23-25 Safe Flight School
Hibaldstow • safeflightschool.com

25-29 Skysavers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

MAY

6-8 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

7-8 UKSL FS 4-way
Netheravon • netheravon.com

7-8 Accuracy Grand Prix
Headcorn • headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

7-15 Langar Boogie 1
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

20-22 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

28-29 FS Scrambles
UK Para (Sibson) • skydivesibson.co.uk

30-June 6 Skysavers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

JUNE

5-18 Freely Camp
Aerograd Kolomna, Russia • toratora.nl

11-12 UKSL FS 4-way
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

17-19 Classics Nationals
Peterlee • skydiveacademy.org.uk

18-19 Solstice Boogie
Netheravon • netheravon.com

20-24 Skysavers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

24-26 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

SOS World Record Attempt

The SOS 2011 World Record Attempts will be taking place beginning on Wednesday, 13 April and running through Sunday 17 April.

Skydive Elsinore, California will be the event location. With a Sky Van and two Twin Otters, John Hamilton, the SOS Record Attempt organiser along with Marty Jones will be coaching and organising the bench team.



The current SOS World Record of 48 was set in Deland, Florida

The current SOS World Record is 48, set in Deland, in January 2009 (there was one UK participant!).

The goal for the 2011 record attempts is to not only break the existing record, but to attain the elusive 60 over 60 (60 skydivers over the age of 60).

A mandatory practice day will be held on the Wednesday, (13 April), with four jumps and video debriefs. Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 will be record attempt days. Each day, there will be three jumps done from 16,500ft with supplemental oxygen.

With discounted tunnel time for SOS on the Tuesday for you to refresh some skills needed for successful big ways, this is not to be missed by our 'more mature' skydivers!

rudolf-albrecht.at/SOS

27-29 Safe Flight School
Empuria, Spain • safeflightschool.com

JULY

8-10 Safe Flight School
UK Para (Sibson) • safeflightschool.com

11-15 Skysavers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

16-17 UKSL FS 4-way
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

17-24 CISM Military World Games
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil • rio2011.com.br

24-31 Sibson's 40th Birthday Party
UK Para (Sibson) • skydivesibson.co.uk

30-Aug 5 Army Parachute Championships
Netheravon • netheravon.com

AUGUST

1-5 Skysavers
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

1-7 FS/Artistics World Cup
Saarlouis, Germany • fai.org/parachuting

6-7 8-way Speed Competition
Netheravon • netheravon.com

6-7 CF Grand Prix
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

13-15 FS 4-way & VFS Nationals
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

13-15 Artistics Nationals
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

18-28 Style & Acc World Championships
Kikinda, Serbia • events.fai.org

20-22 FS 8-way & Artistics Nationals
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

20-22 FS 4-way & VFS Nationals reserve
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

27-29 FS 8-way & Artistics Nationals res
Hibaldstow • skydiving.co.uk

SEPTEMBER

3-4 8-way Speed Nationals
Chatteris • ukskydiving.com

3-11 Langar Boogie 2
Langar • skydivelangar.co.uk

24-26 CF Nationals
Netheravon • netheravon.com

30-Oct 2 CF Nationals reserve
Netheravon • netheravon.com

Top Tip

Small person, large canopy, strong winds? If you're not happy you don't have to jump. Stay within your own safety limits, not someone else's

Al Macartney

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Skydive Morocco	+21 2647 0000 10	pacma.ma	28
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Sunrise Manufacturing	+1 813 780 7369	skydivewings.com	62
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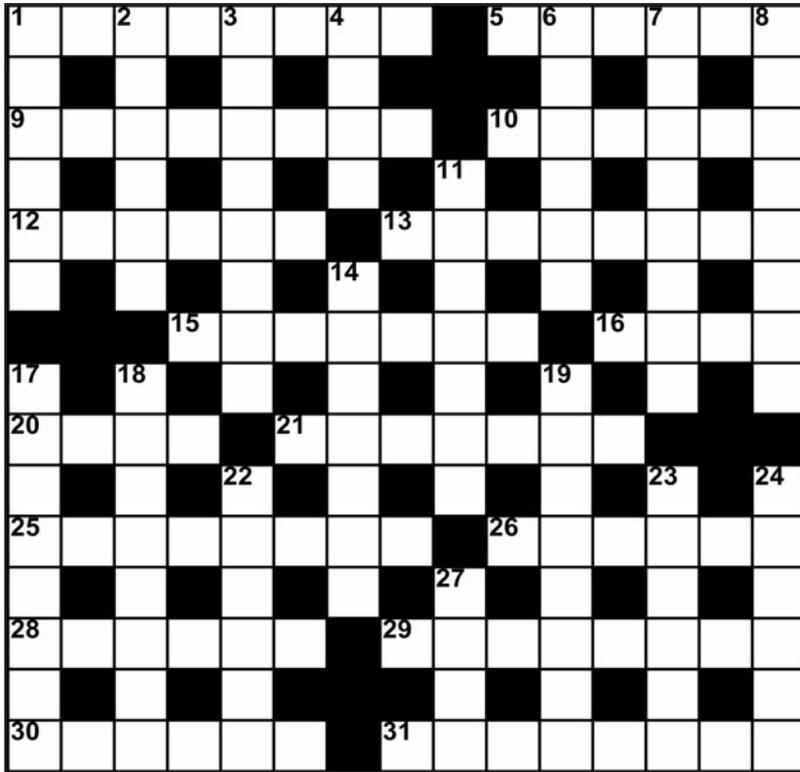
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 2-way VFS/Freefly Open and Advanced
 1-way Open Best Trick**

8-way Open: Free tunnel meet for the 1st 10 teams to register!

PUZZLE



Paul Boorer >>



MAIN Cryptic

Across

1. Try out on final vehicle (8)
5. Had a turn, as was appropriate (6)
9. Has charge of threshing lost corn (8)
10. Temper's reflected in games (6)
12. Quietly excited about a small thing (6)
13. Pass over doctor if ten-all (8)
15. It provides connection in Lady Gaga's show (7)
16. People on this are rarely sea-sick (4)
20. Old friend is a gem (4)
21. EMI turns in scalper for a spell (4,3)
25. Gleans cryptically ones preferences (8)
26. View of snake treatment (6)
28. Get out of throwing WI rave (6)
29. Windoze's buggy, move to something cheaper (8)
30. Pastry is in the hand (flaky) (6)
31. Contents of decree persecutes idlers (8)

Down

1. Scrape up some extra lessons (6)
2. Where to skydive? (Give us another clue) (6)
3. Type of weapon disturbing trio in involved aria (3-2-3)
4. A barrister, Kilroy perhaps (4)
6. Punt is capsized by these controlling actions (6)
7. Last name upset Ian Longbottom initially (8)
8. Originates from development of dense CDs (8)
11. Corruptly declare "Not guilty" (7)
14. The seasons for jumps (7)
17. Was a fan of congregation holding low note (8)
18. Migrating Incan, Ada becomes a North American (8)
19. Unleashing US canine creates a problem (8)
22. Without energy it's still different (6)
23. Mechanism of French sin (6)
24. Outrageous Queen's lodgers? (6)
27. Entrance one of Jim Morrison's band (4)

RESERVE Quick

Across

1. Train by repetition
5. Made to measure
9. Levers, knobs, etc.
10. Outdoor games
12. Light particle: old 4-way formation
13. Continuous tone from audible alti (4,4)
15. Jump for a crowd
16. Fly to the ground
20. 8-way formation; Zipper and ____
21. Audible alti made by the Cool & Groovy Fridge Co (4,3)
25. Inclinations
26. Proportions of wing
28. Exemption from regulation 27 Airfield
29. Use a smaller canopy
30. From Denmark
31. Training trollies

Down

1. Summings-up (of training)
2. Northamptonshire DZ
3. Type of missile (3-2-3)
4. Parachute material
6. Gives data to a computer
7. Computer interface: Highest speed
8. Goes down
11. Became less cloudy
17. Came after
18. ____ Tees: 8-way formation
19. Small difficulty
22. People who exit later
23. Gadget
24. de Havilland aeroplanes

ACROSS 1. Flat line 5. Fitted 9. Controls 10. Sports 12. Photon 13. Flat line 15. Display 16. Hand 20. Dial 21. Time out 25. Learnings 26. Aspect 28. Waiver 29. Downstair 30. Danish 31. Creepers
 DOWN 1. Recaps 2. Hinton 3. Air-to-air 4. Silk 6. Inputs 7. Terminal 8. Descends 11. Cleared 14. Springs 17. Followed 18. Canadian 19. Nuisance 22. Diver 23. Device 24. Others 27. Door

TIME ZONE



Jackie Smith >>

Welcome to our new Timezone contributor – skydiving legend Jackie Smith. She'll be bringing you classic shots from yesteryear.

About Jackie



Accurate girl power!

Jackie Smith was the first person in the world (male or female) to score ten consecutive 0.00cm on an electronic measuring device in 1978 becoming Britain's first Gold Medallist in Sport Parachuting. Because of Jackie's perfect score the disc size was reduced to what it is today. Jackie also won numerous silver medals at World Championships and was also the first female in the world on a military team and the first female to join the Parachute Regiment Free Team, the *Red Devils*. She was on the first ever army 8-way and first ever *Red Devil* 8-way. Jackie is a familiar face at Netheravon and is a keen photographer.

20 years ago



British Royal Marines world record 24-stack

It was August 1986 when the Marines put together a 19-stack (their first attempt at the world record – short of the American record at that time of 23). Then followed a 23-stack that everyone thought was 24 and caused euphoria for a few minutes until they had a headcount. Seven more stacks were built with two 22s and a couple of 23s. However, after a media frenzy (read about this on the *Skydive Mag* website) the lads went back into the fray and built the world's first 24-stack (which still stands as the world record). Dunkswell buzzed!

To read more about this story, go to News Zone at skydivethemag.com

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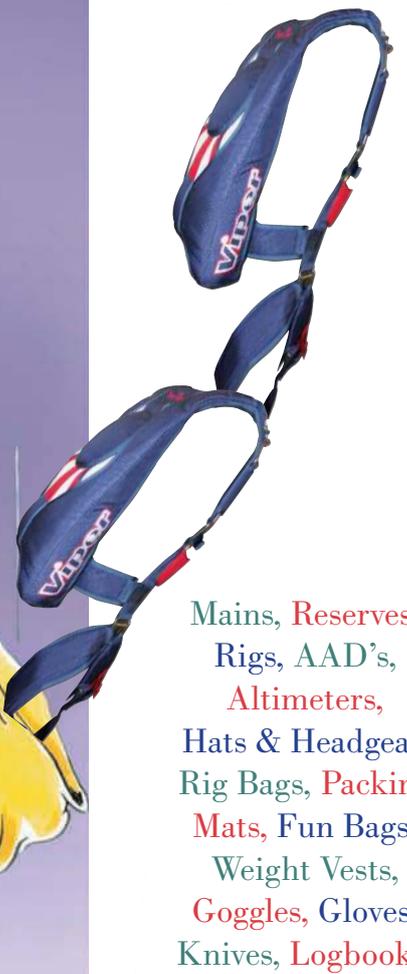
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