

skyDIVE

British Parachute Association skydivethemag.com October 2016

SINCE 1964

the mag



INSIDE: BPA NATIONALS AND MONDIAL HIGHLIGHTS JUMPING WITHOUT A PARACHUTE WITH LUKE AIKINS HOW TO FLY YOUR CANOPY DOWN A MOUNTAIN COMBINING PARENTHOOD AND SKYDIVING GOING WITH THE FLOW PLUS ALL THE LATEST NEWS, REVIEWS AND IDEAS

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Cover: Ally Milne flies his Valkyrie 75 alongside Andy Ford's Hunter wingsuit. Wearing 52lbs of sand, this gives him a wing loading of 3.74, believed to be the highest ever landed in the UK. By Mark Harris

Welcome: Maria Russell, who won bronze in Female 4-way at the last World Championships with Kaizen in 2014, and has now won the same medal at the 2016 Mondial with NFTO. By Simon Brentford

WELCOME



By Andy Godwin

What a busy summer! Twelve months ago, I wrote about how all the news from different disciplines had inspired me to try something new and start learning how to fly head down at last. I said that Tim Gaines' quote in last year's VFS Nationals article gave me hope: he said that head up is easy to learn but hard to master, while head down is hard to learn but then easy to master.

Mastery may still be a way away, but I am currently buzzing with the excitement of finally being able to fly head down for a whole jump. Yes, I know all the new kids on the block seem to manage this in their first year or two in the sport whereas it's taken me 16 years of jumping to get there, but nevertheless it's the biggest thing to happen in my skydiving this year. It feels like a whole new world has just opened up and there's so much to learn. I've got that 'beginner thrill' again and can't stay away from the DZ and tunnel. See you there!

Liz Ashley

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NEW: SPEED RACES





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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.

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 CI.

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CONTRIBUTE

Anyone can contribute to *Skydive the Mag* and we welcome news, articles and photos from everyone, regardless of experience.

Deadlines you need to know:

Issue	Copy deadline	To reader
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To submit photographs for the 2017 BPA Calendar, please email them to editor@skydivethemag.com by October 31 2016.

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BPA members get *Skydive the Mag* free as part of their membership. Also, if you take out a magazine subscription and subsequently join the BPA as a full member, your magazine cost is deducted from your BPA membership fee so you don't pay any extra. If you are not a full BPA member and would like to receive the printed *Skydive the Mag*, check out subscriptionsave.co.uk/skydivemag. You can also subscribe over the phone on +44 (0) 116 278 5271.

APPS

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE THE MAG APP:

Apple: tinyurl.com/skydivethemagapple Android: tinyurl.com/skydivethemagandroid

BPA members can access either version of the App free of charge for tablets or smartphones; simply give the BPA members-only login details when prompted. The details can be found in the BPA eNewsletter or on the address label that came in the post with this mag!

DOWNLOAD THE SKYDIVE STARTER TABLET APP:

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Skydive Starter is the BPA's dedicated magazine for new and future skydivers and this free interactive digital edition for both Apple and Android tablets offers more than ever before. If you're a skydiver, this is the perfect answer to all those non-skydiver friends and colleagues – download it today!

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SWOOPTACULAR TELEVISION

British skydiver Max Bruffell competed in the nationally televised third annual Swoop Challenge in Copenhagen, Denmark. The competition combines extreme speed, precision and freestyle tricks

prior to landing on an inflatable platform in the water – miss it, get wet! The 16 finalists compete through two competition rounds in front of approximately 100,000 spectators, displaying their best combination of freestyle moves.

Competitors are judged on the turn, the trick and the landing. This year's winner was Curt Bartholomew of Alter Ego, and the entire event was yet another spectacular showcase of our sport to the non-skydiving public.





By Mark Norman



By Rob Lloyd

WOMEN ON WINGS

Women from all over Europe descended on Teuge in the Netherlands for a European Big-Way Record attempt which surpassed all expectations. Female skydivers from 15 different European nations made a series of butterfly formations, and then 'flapped the wings' with sequential formations. Seven different records were set over the course of the four-day event, with each day toppling records set on the previous day: a 46-way two-point European Record on day one, a 46-way three-point European and World Record on day two, a 50-way two-point European Record on day three, then a 56-way two-point European Record as well as a 56-way three-point European and World Record on day four.

By the time the final record was set on the last day, there were nine women representing Great Britain and Ireland: Ros Ayling, Martina Taylor, Lesley Gale, Maddy Heath-Kelly, Freddie Huntley, Lucy Mason, Ruth Green, Ana Budjelan and Lizzie Attwood (not shown in the photo). 'Women on Wings' was formed by Lesley Gale and Marloes Swarthoff to set European (and now World!) Records. Next year, the plan is to go bigger and better, with the organisers hoping to gather 120 European women in Teuge to build on this year's success. Interested women should visit the Eurochicks Facebook page for information on how to get involved.



CALENDAR 2017

The BPA Calendar 2017 will be included free with the December 2016 issue, and we are looking for submissions of great skydiving photography. You don't need to have ever sent us anything before – we'd love to see your best shots. The calendar is printed in landscape format rather than portrait and usually features a wide range from every skydiving discipline. Email or file-share your selection to editor@skydivethemag.com by October 31 2016.

THIRTY YEARS AND STILL A WORLD RECORD

1986 saw the Royal Marines achieve a 24-stack CF World Record over Dunkeswell, as well as a 22-stack Night World Record. Thirty years later, nobody has had either the skills or the courage to break it, so it still stands! A full 250 skydivers from past and present gathered at Dunkeswell in August 2016 to celebrate not only the 30th anniversary of the World Records, but also 50 years of skydiving on the airfield.

The Royal Marines Free Fall Parachute Display Team ceased to exist more than 21 years ago, so a reunion seemed to be in order. On the Saturday, the old members and the younger members of the RNRMSPA got together to attempt a 16-way star which built to 15. That's not bad when you think that a couple of them had only done four jumps in the last 13 years (but they did have 4,500 jumps). In the evening, the buffet was laid on, the band played, the projector played classic skydiving films like *Masters of the Sky*, *Skydive* and *Wings* while the TV played film footage of the Royal Marines Free Fall Parachute Display team in action.

Chief Instructor Andy Guest doesn't need much of an excuse for another get together party. He says: "Next year is the 30th anniversary of our 34-way freefall star we built over Dunkeswell Airfield, which was also a British Record."



SPEED WORLD RECORD

The '500 Club' is an elite group within Speed Skydiving and the number of people who have averaged more than 500kph over a vertical kilometre in competition is still in single digits. The World Championships in Chicago in September saw two new members: Max Hurd, who won bronze for Team GB in the process; and Swede Henrik Raimer. Henrik joined the 500 Club in Round 2 of the Mondial and what happened next left people reeling. Henrik landed from Round 5 and discovered that he had joined a super-elite club of which he was the only member. Yes, the '600 Club' is now a thing – who'd have ever thought it? His average of 601.26 kph has pushed forward the frontiers of Speed Skydiving. What next for Speed?



By Rob Lloyd

New Tandem Instructor Linley Ewing, by Chris Judd

NEW RATINGS

CSBI

Clinton McKenzie
Mitchell Wallace
Gareth Mooney
Darrell Gibson
Matthew Starmer
Liam Power

TBI

Alex Naqvi
Mark King
Alan Foulkes-Williams
James Macdonald

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George Kakkis
Shane Wood
Niel Flanagan
Michael Roberts
Peter Mather

AI

Dylan Bartle

ADVANCED PACKER

Neil Wilcox (S and T)
Stephen Handley (S)





RESPONSE TO MEMBERSHIP SURVEY ON BPA IDENTITY, MISSION AND VALUES

More than 100 BPA members responded to a recent online survey, and most of them agreed that the BPA's mission was to secure safety (75%) and promote our passion (73%), with encouraging excellence coming third (52%). Members overwhelmingly saw our strongest organisational value as safe enjoyment of our sport (87%), followed by knowledge (68%), pursuing excellence (56%) and integrity and trust (55%).

On identity, 42% believed we should stay with British Parachute Association compared with 39% who supported a change to British Skydiving. We could have both because it is not necessary to change a registered name in order to have a brand identity, an example being the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) whose identity is LTA – British Tennis.

Thank you to those members who took part in the survey. The Communications Committee will now take the feedback into full account with a view to an update at the AGM in January.



CPD DAY FOR TANDEM INSTRUCTORS

The BPA are running a Tandem Instructor Personal Development and Safety Day on January 27 2017 at the East Midlands Conference Centre. This is the day before BPA Skydive the Expo, and will be the same venue. The objective for the day is to promote safety and establish good practice by ensuring that BPA Tandem Instructors are up-to-date with current Tandem procedures.

The programme will be delivered by BPA Tandem Examiners, supported by the world class expertise of Tom Noonan, Mark Procos and Kenneth Gadja from United Parachute Technologies (UPT) and other speakers. The programme is expected to run from 10am until late afternoon. The event is free of charge thanks to the kind sponsorship of UPT together with the BPA's insurers, Romero Sports and Leisure and Liberty Mutual. It will include a complimentary buffet lunch, and all those who attend will receive a Certificate of Continuation Training/Personal Development from the Association. There will also be a free T-shirt and promotional material.

The Tandem Day is expected to be very popular and the number of places is limited to around 90. More than 70 of the BPA's 330 TIs have already expressed an interest, so places will be available strictly on a first-come, first-served basis and subject to completion and return of a registration form. Please register via Jeff Montgomery, BPA Safety and Technical Officer.

jeff@bpa.org.uk



Yo Lee in training, by Sion Roberts

CALL FOR COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the principles of good governance enshrined in the BPA's Articles of Association updated at the AGM last January, 2017 will be the first year of the new composition of Council. Instead of the previous 15 elected members, Council will comprise 10 elected council members and two independent council members and 2017 will also see the start of transitional arrangements to phase in an increase in tenure from one to three years. Also starting in 2017, a new maximum period of continuous service of three consecutive terms (nine years in total) will begin.

This is an exciting time for the BPA as we adapt and develop to meet the challenges and opportunities in today's increasingly complex world. We invite members to carefully consider the Council Member/Director role profile on the nominations website. If you believe that, through your skills and experience, you can contribute to the strategic development of your sport and your association, then please stand for election to Council. You'll need a proposer and seconder who are both full members.

Independent electoral administration services are being provided by Mi-Voice and nominations are invited at the dedicated nominations site mi-nomination.com/bpa, which sets out the full eligibility criteria. There is a direct link from the BPA website, and the close of nominations is at noon on **November 15**.

If there are more valid nominations than the 10 available elected seats, an election will be triggered, with voting due to start before Christmas and close in the second week of January. The elected directors, together with the two independent directors who are to be appointed by the AGM on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, will take office at the AGM.



MIKE LEWIS

Mike Lewis resigned his seat on BPA Council and Competitions Committee on August 30 after taking up an executive role in another company as Head of Consulting. This means that he will no longer have the time to continue his volunteer role as a BPA Director and as a member of the BPA Competitions Committee.

Mike says: "I wish you all well with the changes ahead and I am sure that the new independent non-executive director roles will work well for the Association. Please pass on my thanks and regards to the other Council members."

Mike has also advised us that, for different reasons and after 21 years in the sport, he has decided to retire from the sport. On behalf of the Council and staff, the Chair has thanked Mike for his contribution to the BPA since taking his Council and Comps role in January 2015, and has wished him well for the future.

BPA AGM 2017

The AGM will be held at 10:30am in the EMCC Theatre during BPA Skydive the Expo 2017. The agenda will be published next issue.

BPA SKYDIVING AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

This will follow the AGM in the Theatre in the morning and nominations are invited for:



BPA TAZ CAUSER EXPERIENCED SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This is for a UK-based skydiver whose achievements during the calendar year deserve special recognition. Please email your nomination giving the name of your nominee with reasons – no more than 250 words, please – to the BPA Office by **November 15**. Council will consider nominations received at its meeting on November 29.



BPA STARS 2017

In a sport full of remarkable people, some stand out by going that extra mile to help their fellow jumpers. That's why we're asking A Licence holders and above to tell us about great service that went the extra mile, that made a real difference by helping them to stay in the sport, that helped them achieve their next goal or that gave them that all-important extra support just when they needed it most. In short, have you experienced Service that deserves To Achieve Recognition?

For full eligibility criteria and details of how to make a nomination, visit bpa.org.uk/star. The closing date for this year's nominations is **November 1**.



BPA SAFETY INNOVATION AWARD FOR SPORT PARACHUTING

Sponsored by the BPA's insurance partners Romero Sports and Leisure and Liberty Mutual Insurance and includes a £5,000 cash prize. For more, see bpa.org.uk/staysafe/safety-innovation-award. The closing date for this year's nominations is **November 1**.





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Photo: Sébastien Chambet

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EXCEPTIONAL EXCITEMENT EXPO

Who's up for a weekend of celebrating skydiving, catching up with mates and checking out the world's most cutting edge kit? You've guessed it – BPA Skydive the Expo is returning in 2017 and we're looking to start the year with a bang.

If you want to check out that gear you've had your eye on in person, enjoy

fascinating talks and seminars from leading experts on a whole range of topics, chat with the manufacturers themselves about how to get the very best out of your kit, catch up with old and new friends from all over the world and much more, the Expo is the place to go.

The day will also include the annual awards ceremony, the BPA's AGM, the annual dinner and the all-important party of the skydiving year. Well, it just wouldn't be a good meet without a party afterwards, would it? See you there!



For more information and to find out how to book accommodation nearby, check out skydivetheexpo.co.uk. Look for the latest news on the **BPA's Facebook** page.

 FACEBOOK.COM/
BRITISHPARACHUTEASSOCIATION

Overnight accommodation:

BPA per night rate, inc breakfast, at De Vere Orchard Hotel at EMCC: £72 double/twin, £60 single, for Thu 26/Fri 27/Sat 28 Jan (subject to availability).

Tel: 0115 876 0900 and quote 'BPA 2017' or see the Expo website to book online. BPA booking code: NCBPAB

BPA Gala Dinner:

Sat 28 Jan, tickets £29.95 each, available from November from the BPA Office. Tel: 0116 278 5271.



• Micah Couch
• Mario Fattoruso

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Nova in Freestyle B,
by Rob Lloyd



Satori XL, by Gary Wainwright

TAKING

Chicago, by Craig Poxon



Max Hurd, by Rob Lloyd

ON



Omni VFS

THE WORLD



Nicky Johnston, by
Gary Wainwright



Varial Freefly, by Gustavo Cabana

It's been another monster season for BPA competitors. There have been British Nationals in every discipline, followed by a Mondial for our very best athletes to represent us on the world stage in Chicago

4-WAY

BPA Nationals

It's a rollover! Sixty 4-way teams (20 AAA, 8 AA, 16 A, 12 Rookie and four VFS) braved an awful forecast and were rewarded with a meet that was much closer to being finished than anyone ever expected. Forty-one teams returned to finish their final two or three rounds on the backup weekend, where the weather allowed completion by lunchtime. This meant a smug afternoon in the bar while the 8-way and Artistics competitors were all on a weather hold! Congratulations to all teams involved, many of whom had their own personal battles with other teams near them on the scoreboard. Well done and keep going to all those who keep coming back to climb the categories, and a shout out to the success of the coaching program at Hibaldstow which must be working because all three Rookie medallists were local Hib teams! Nice one, Stu and co.

AAA

- 1: Satori XL (20.4)
- 2: 4mula (18.5)
- 3: Vision 99 (18.4)

AA

- 1: Tyrano4us Rex (10.1)
- 2: RAFSPA Lightning (9.4)
- 3: Tyrano4them Rex (8.5)

A

- 1: Colostomy (10.6)
- 2: Viento 99 (10.5)
- 3: Dive Hard 4.0 (10.0)

Rookie

- 1: Lightning Ducks (9.4)
- 2: Trojan Rabbits (8.3)
- 3: Fat Birds Can't Fly (7.8)

Mondial

Selection for World Championships is based on performance at the previous year's Nationals, and our top Open and Female 4-way teams in 2015 were Satori XL and NFTO. They both trained hard and easily repeated this feat at the 2016 Nationals before heading to Chicago



where they both had great meets. Satori XL beat the longstanding British Record average, raising it to 21.0. Even though they scored 30 points on Round 8 (L-M-K-7), their favourite was actually Round 4 (17-B-14) where their 24-pointer matched or beat all their close rivals and was only two points

behind overall winners *Hayabusa* and second-placed *Airspeed*. Meanwhile, *NFTO* fought it out for bronze with their closest rivals, the Canadian girls. *NFTO* started off behind, but soon pulled ahead and then maintained their advantage to finish on a 17.5 average and achieve their goal of bronze. →



Pics by Rob Lloyd

8-WAY

Nine teams entered the BPA 8-way Nationals – six Senior and three Intermediate – and it was great to see the overall standard of 8-way higher than it's ever been. There have always been the same old faces at the top of the table and this year

was no different, but this time they were joined by some newer ones and the teams further down the table had also upped their game. There was no 'token Senior team' struggling to put the points on the scoreboard; everyone was racking up the points and launching (most of!) the exits. *MicroClim8*, with a revamped line-up for 2016, had the top score on every round to finish on a 13.5 average. They set off for Chicago just one week later to round off an incredible season in

which they achieved all their goals. A total of 200 training jumps saw them win Nationals, finish fifth at the World Meet and improve to a 14-point average in Chicago – a new British Record.

Behind *MicroClim8* at Nationals were the *Ex Presidents* (silver, 11.2), *ZKR* (bronze, 8.9), *Project Ride the Dragon* (fourth, 8.1), *Awkward Turtles* (fifth, 6.9) and *Brownian Motion* (sixth, 5.0). Since when does an

average that good get you last place? Since now, apparently; the new standard is high!

In Intermediate, *Chunk* were the champions with 38 points while student team *BCP8.1* managed 15 for silver and freeflyers-trying-to-flatly *InSalmon8* were rewarded for their six points with bronze.



MicroClim8, by Rob Lloyd

VFS

It is only a few short years since entry to the BPA VFS Nationals came with a guaranteed medal, as there were simply not enough UK competitors at a high enough standard to be able to compete. Our National Champion team would usually be out in front with what was often the only respectable score of the meet, while the other teams would be lagging behind and scrabbling to score a single point where they could. Not any more.

Four teams entered and the standard has gone up. Although the medal placings were clear from an early stage, each team was competing for a personal best points average. *Omni99* retained their National Champion title with an eight-round total of 69 points and a highest score of 14 on Round 3. This was a pleasing reward for a hard year of tunnel and sky training for them. *QFX* had also trained hard – 250 jumps plus tunnel every month – and were rewarded with silver medals and 45 points. *Excite96*'s 33 points earned them a bronze medal, while *AC:DC* being unable to make the backup weekend didn't affect

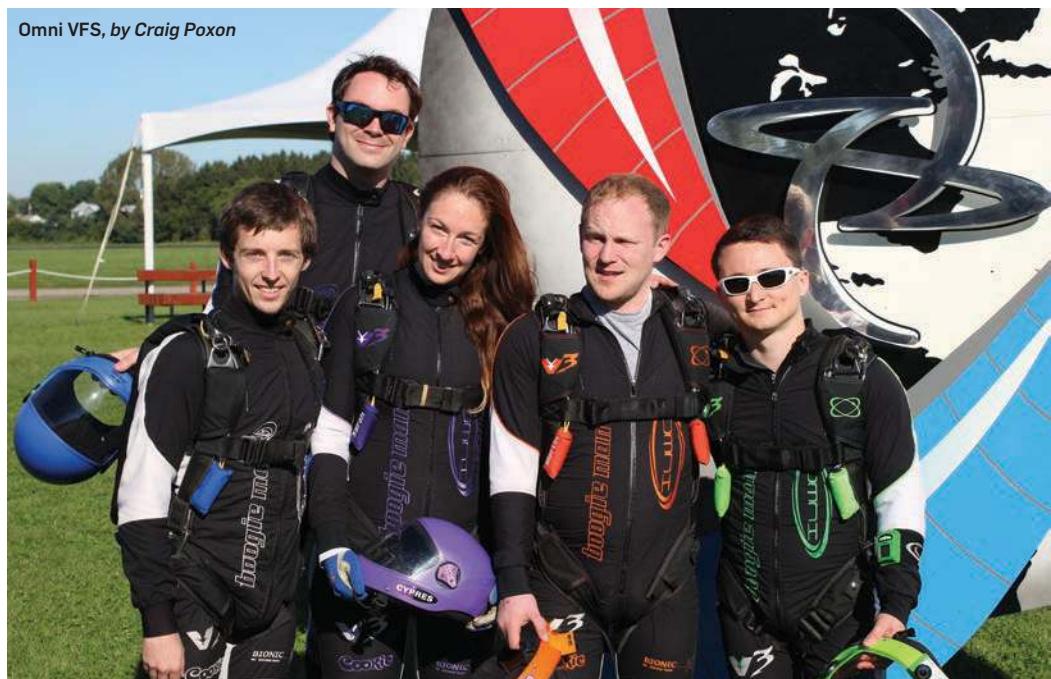
their fourth-place finish.

Omni99 had a great time in Chicago, completing all eight rounds in three days and scoring 69 points – exactly the same as at Nationals. They said: "It has been an

absolute pleasure seeing the standard of the other teams and knowing what to aim for over the next few years – we have no intention of stopping now! Although our score leaves us in

eighth place, it is great knowing that (despite a couple of dodgy rounds) we cranked out a personal best of 15 points and we flew to a standard we are happy with while learning absolutely loads."

Omni VFS, by Craig Poxon



BPA Nationals
medallists, by
Rob Lloyd



SPEED SKYDIVING

The BPA Nationals in Speed Skydiving was the best in years, with 10 competitors setting personal bests left, right and centre! Mikey Lovemore retained his National Champion title yet again, although the gap is closing between him and the people who are snapping at his heels. They would all agree that Mikey has played a pivotal role in helping each of them to improve – fantastic

competition spirit. Henrik Raimer visited from Sweden and finished second behind Mikey, although he wasn't eligible for a British medal. Silver went to Max Hurd, with Jason Bird and James Parker only tenths of a kilometre per hour behind.

One week later, the same competitors and more were on their way to Chicago where the World Championships were simply incredible. Max Hurd shook things up at the top of the table by beating Mikey Lovemore into fourth place and bringing home the bronze. Amazing progression – nice one,

Max! He also became the latest new member of the '500 Club', averaging 500kph or more on three separate rounds and achieving a fantastic new PB of 522.92 kph. Meanwhile the big question was whether the World Record would fall and the big answer was YES! Henrik Raimer became the first ever member of the '600 Club' – a club that nobody thought would exist any time soon, if ever. Henrik's 601.26 kph on Round 5 left everybody absolutely staggered, especially since he had only joined the 500 Club on Round 2!



Max Hurd's World Championship bronze, by Craig Poxon

FREEFLY

Five Freefly A and a fantastic eight Freefly B teams competed at the BPA Nationals. Dodgy weather gave us the opportunity to make the most of Artistics Judge Ron Miasnikov's experience, who had been flown over by the BPA and who we all appreciated. Her seminar covered lots of useful top tips about what judges are looking out for and ideas that could score you more points. Top tip number one is to read the rules, so several teams scuttled off to spend the rest of the bad weather swotting up.

Gold and silver medals went the same way as last year – gold to *Varial* and silver to *Euphoria*. The scores were super-tight all the way through, but *Varial*'s strong compulsory Round 5 made the difference. They had decided at the start of the season that the new moves contained within it could be tricky, so they trained it hard. The 8.1 they scored on it was their lowest scoring round, but they were right about it being something to be wary of and every single other Freefly A team saw their score drop significantly on

that one round. *Varial*'s seven-round total was 58.7 to take the title, followed by *Euphoria*'s 57.9 and then *Parallel* in bronze with 38.8. In Freefly B, *OTT* won with 35.5 in five rounds, followed by *Hib's Most Infamous* with 35.0 and *RAFSPA Vulcan* with 32.9.

Varial and *Euphoria* left for Chicago the following week for a rematch, and this time it was *Euphoria* who came out ahead. Both teams made the cut to the semi-final and final, with *Euphoria* finishing on 51.8 for seventh place and *Varial* on 47.7 for eighth. Overall winners were the Russians on 59.7. →

Varial Freefly, by Gustavo Cabana



FREESTYLE

It was fantastic to see not only six freestyle teams at the BPA Nationals, but six *trained* teams. All put on great performances and were a pleasure to watch. The breakdown was five Freestyle A teams and just one in Freestyle B. However, the B competitor, team *Nova*, were still worthy winners and, since there was nobody who could lose out, *Nova* benefitted from feedback from the judges and were able to respond with a last-round best score of 7.5. Thanks to Ron Miasnikov and Weed, among others, for this fantastic progressive environment.

In Freestyle A, *Volosity Freestyle* were head and shoulders above the competition with a phenomenal

seven-round score of 57.5. Performer Jamie Arnold's fluid flying was expertly filmed by cameraman Dan Guest. Dan is also cameraman for *Omnig9 VFS* team, so he is double British National Champion 2016 in both Freestyle and VFS. Last year's champions *Varial Freestyle* won silver with 54.2, and last year's silver medallists *Revolution* took bronze on 46.1. *Varial* and *Revolution* then travelled to Chicago where *Revolution* closed the gap from 8.1 at Nationals to a nail-biting 0.1 on the world stage. *Varial* are eighth in the world, while *Revolution* are ninth. The two French teams were way out in front as the only teams to score any nines, and in fact their totals of 63.3 and 62.7 mean they actually averaged nine as well.



Gold - Volosity



Silver - Varial Freestyle



Bronze - Revolution Freestyle



Freestyle B Champions Nova



Freestyle B Champions Nova



Freestyle B Champions Nova

CANOPY PILOTING

Sadly, the World Cup in Farnham, Canada was a bit of a washout! Howling wind and turbulence

around the tree line next to the pond made it the right call to stay on the ground. Only one round was completed in each of Speed and Accuracy, but there was no Distance. The minimum to calculate overall standings is one round in each,

so unfortunately Mother Nature got the better of the competitors on this occasion! Nevertheless, congratulations to Brit competitor Maxine Tate who was selected to take part in next year's World Games in Poland.

ACCURACY

BPA Nationals

Thirty-two competitors descended on Skydive Swansea, who hosted the Nationals for the second year running. This was a 40% increase on the previous 2015 Accuracy Nationals. There were 14 seniors measured to 16cm, 11 intermediates measured to five metres and seven novices measured to 25 metres.

Congratulations to Team *Class of 2015* – Carl Williams, Janos Leszko, Steve Hastings, Pete Sizer and Nick Johnston – for setting a new British Record on Round 3 with a total team score of just 3cm. Other notable moments included the return to Accuracy competition of Les Carroll and John Boardman, and Jeff Chandler achieving the milestone of 10,000 jumps. A presentation was made to club jumper newlyweds Nick and Sally-Anne Watts, who chose to delay their honeymoon to compete in the Nationals.

The inter-club competition returned, which is a separate competition run concurrently and consists of a senior, intermediate and novice's combined scores. This year's winners were Headcorn, who owe the glory to novice jumper Isaac Brown who beat all of the intermediates on Round 5 with a great score of 11cm!

Seniors

- 1: Janos Leszko (24cm)
- 2: Dave Tylcoat (29cm)
- 3: Pete Sizer (34cm)

Intermediates

- 1: Matt Oakley (19.65m)
- 2: Tanya Quigley (22.62m)
- 3: Alun Morris Jones (27.99m)

Novices

- 1: Isaac Brown (42.36m)
- 2: Mike Leslie (78.73m)
- 3: Rhodri Griffiths (99.45m)

Everyone enjoyed themselves and learned much, with all vowing they would enter again next year.

This was the largest Accuracy

Nationals for several years and was such a great competition. It would be brilliant if we could continue the increase in competitors for 2017!

Mondial

Six of the BPA's most experienced long-time Accuracy jumpers built on their Nationals success in Chicago. Their eight-round totals were: Nicky Johnston (23cm with a DC – dead centre – on his last round), Carl Williams (33cm), Esther Reynolds (44cm with a DC on Round 6), Janos Leszko (52cm), Pete Sizer (62cm) and Steve Hastings (63cm).

By Craig Poxon



CF Nationals,
by Ming Chu

CANOPY FORMATIONS

British National Champions 2016 are *Tangled Up In CRW* (formerly *Wize Prankers*) in 2-way and *Cunning Stunts* in 4-way Rotations. The Rookie category was won by *Double Trouble*. Unfortunately, poor weather meant that only between three and six rounds were completed per category. Nevertheless, Senior teams *Tangled Up In CRW* and *CRWsaders* both travelled to Chicago six weeks later

to represent the BPA on the world stage. CF was originally scheduled at an alternate DZ away from the other disciplines, but our teams were actually not too upset when it flooded and they got to be included at the main DZ with everyone else! *Tangled Up In CRW* were the top UK team again with a high score of 10 points on Round 5, a new PB for them, which helped them to 14th place. *CRWsaders* finished in 17th. Top of the pack were the French, whose teams came both first and second and saw a blistering 41-pointer on Round 5.

*Tangled Up In CRW*, by Craig Poxon*CRWsaders*, by Craig PoxonSpeed 8 podium,
by Tim Plummer

SPEED 8

BPA Nationals

Despite a Saturday of dodgy weather, the skies were sunny at Sibson on the Sunday and the

two Caravans burned through the rounds. The winners after four rounds were *Unleash the Dragon*, silver went to *Raykip8* and bronze to *Oh W8*. Nine teams competed, the same as at the 'non-Speed' 8-way Nationals!



STILL TO COME

European Skydiving League Finals

This will happen at Teuge in the Netherlands on October 6-9, and Team GB is to be represented in every 4-way category by eight teams

out of the 19 registered. We are the defending holders of the ESL Spirit Sword and will be looking to keep it if we can – despite the hassle of getting the thing back through Customs...

Tunnel meets

First up is the Revenge Meet at Bodyflight Bedford on October 1 – a chance for teams to re-stage their BPA Nationals battles and meet new

teammates for next season. Then, on October 11-16, the BPA will be sending a large delegation to Warsaw, Poland to compete in the World Championships in Indoor Skydiving. *Volition* and *NFTO* will represent us in Female 4-way; *Satori XL*, *Chimera*, *ACM* and *Phoenix* in Open 4-way; *The Dynamos* and *Onyx* in 2-way Dynamic; and Jamie Arnold in the Solo category. Good luck to all.

World Wingsuit Championships

Finally, good luck to all the BPA wingsuiters who will be representing us on November 2-9 in Z-Hills, Florida at the Wingsuit Performance World Championships and Acro World Cup. We have eight Performance competitors, plus *Tutti Frutti* in Acro. •



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FOR THE
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THE FUN WAY DOWN

How do you safely fly a canopy down a mountain? Kieron Hayes went to the Mountain Gravity boogie to find out

WORDS: KIERON HAYES **PHOTOS:** MING CHU



Ambri is a small airfield in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland. It is basically an airfield with a road on either side, a railway line and 6,500ft mountains all around. Being from Cork, we are used to mountains and impressive views – but Ambri is on another scale. As far as I am aware, it only really operates as a DZ for this one week

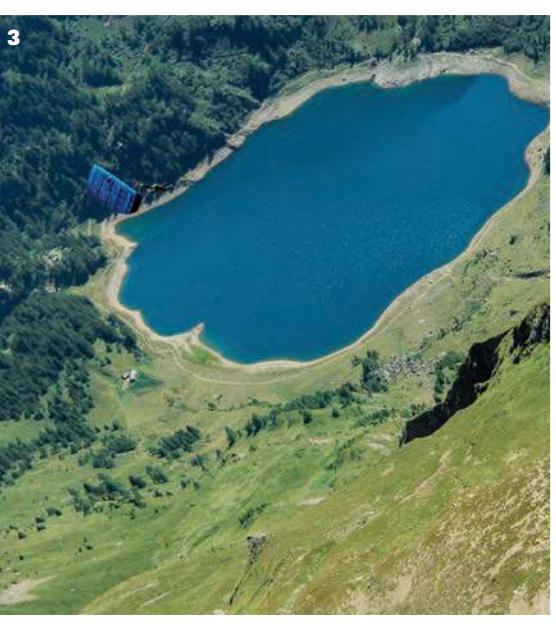
of the year. The Pink Skyvan is brought in and there are local organisers for Freeflying, FS and so on, and guides to follow down the mountain routes.

Along with Ian Chick, Dave Honeybone and Ming Chu of *The Ospreys Skydive Team*, I headed over and teamed up with Rod McCrory and Conor King of the *World Famous Irish Swoop Team*. The weather was pretty much blue skies

for the whole week and hot, although it was sometimes windy and turbulent and that kept the mountain flyers on the ground for the first two days. On the third day, we arrived early only to find we had missed manifest for the first mountain lift. Our disappointment turned to relief when the lift was dropped in the wrong place and eight of them landed on the mountain. →

1 Conor King

MOUNTAIN GRAVITY BOOGIE

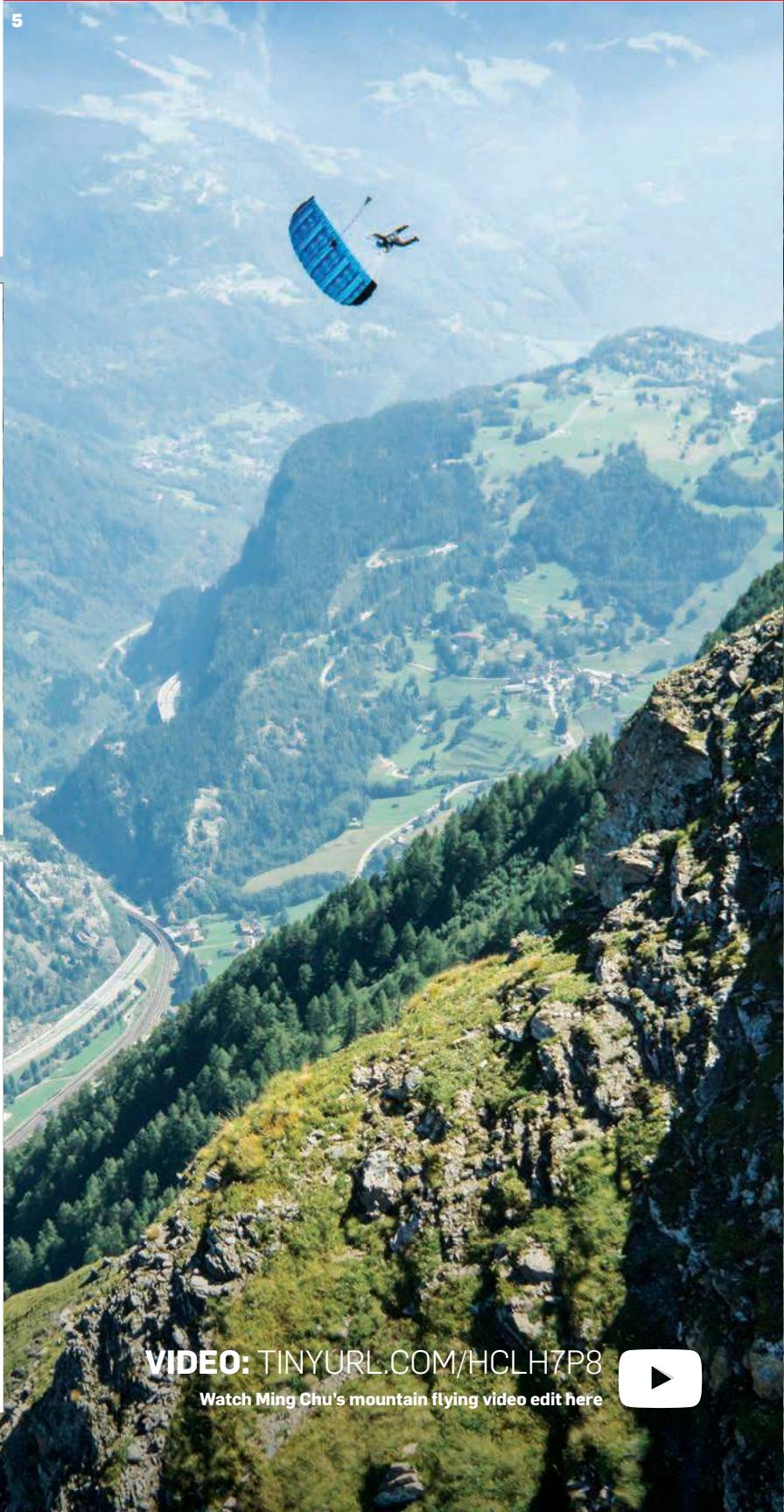


One landed in a tree and needed to be helicoptered off with broken bones. There is a service you can join that will take you to hospital by helicopter if needed for 30 francs and, if you don't join, they will still take you but it costs about £4,000. That website suddenly became very popular. You need to carry a working phone with you on the mountain jumps too.

After a couple of flocking jumps from altitude, one of which consisted

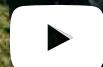
of Rod's first-ever 5-way FS jump (and, unfortunately for him, cutting away his never-to-be-seen-again Leia at 10,000ft), we finally got to fly the mountain.

Hop and popping at 14,000ft, the six of us followed our guide Wade Baird down. There are two runs – The Tree Line and The Canyon – which are otherwise known as Henry and Vincent after the first guys to land in the trees in them. Your groups depend on your wing loading, with the highest going first.



VIDEO: TINYURL.COM/HCLH7P8

Watch Ming Chu's mountain flying video edit here



We were all flying Valkyries or Velocities loaded between 2.4 and 3.3, depending on which canopy Rod could scrounge.

The runs are great fun and you get a real sensation of speed as you pass the trees. You have to work hard to stay down on the mountain, even on a highly loaded canopy, and the best way to stay down is to be on full drive and use the harness to S-turn down the runs. Be careful not to catch your canopy on a tree. If you use risers or brakes, you will find yourself

climbing away from the mountain. Your canopy will naturally fly away from the mountain if you stop turning and losing altitude, and the mountain is steeper than even the highest wing loaded canopy. The guide's advice is to stay higher than him and gradually work your way down on subsequent runs.

The jump limit is 100 jumps to fly the mountain and there were people on 190s flying down who would often end up way above the mountain but who still

enjoyed themselves. The landing areas are two small fields by the side of a road and, as long as you don't go too far down the mountain routes, you can't miss them – although you may have to land downwind. The mountain is occasionally closed on the way to altitude and you have to quickly dirt dive a freefall or flocking jump in the plane.

We managed to mountain run in six days; more would have been good. I reckon we will be back next year... ●

2 Kieron Hayes and Dave Honeybone

3 Ian Chick

4 Wolf Lienbacher

5 Ian Chick

6 Wolf Lienbacher lining up to follow Ian Chick, Conor King and Kieron Hayes down the mountain run

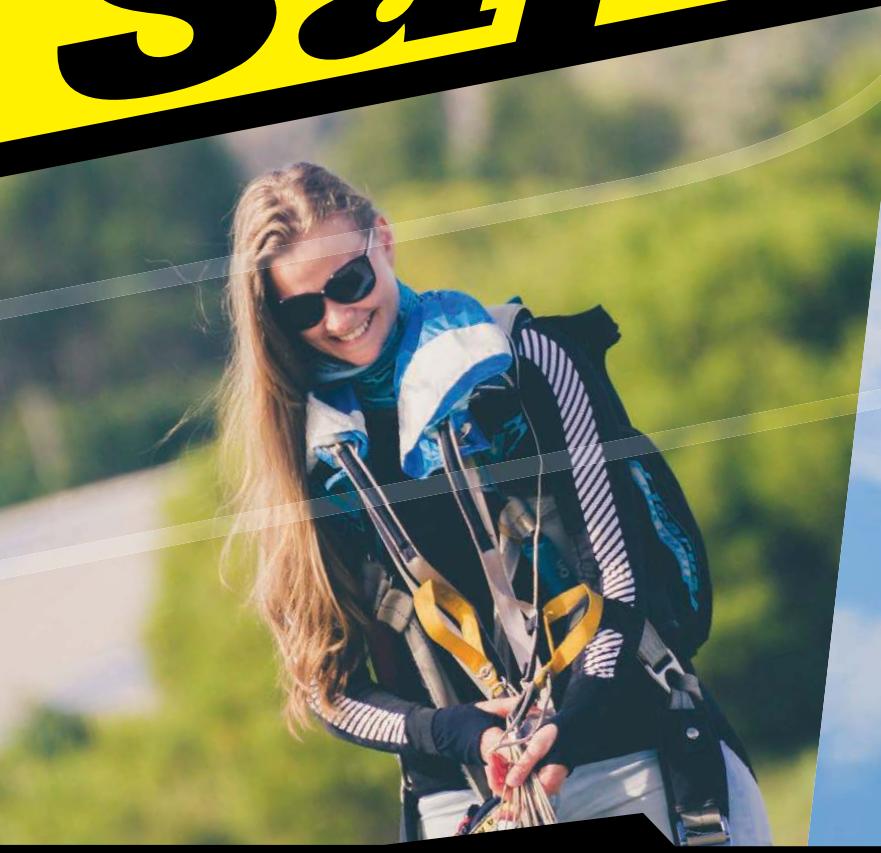
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FALLING

WITH

STYLE

Radio Skydive UK's Brian Cumming caught up with Luke Aikins – the man who took on gravity and won when he jumped from 25,000ft without a parachute

Brian: So you've done something pretty significant recently. You were the first person to leave an aircraft and land, intentionally and successfully, without using either a parachute or a wingsuit.

Luke: Yeah, I didn't have any idea how it would resonate with the world. I knew it would be a cool thing and that it would be controversial for skydivers, but I had no idea that the rest of the world would take it and accept it too.

Brian: When did you first think about doing this?

Luke: I've been a Red Bull skydiver for about 10 years and you meet a whole bunch of people when doing this stuff. I had a conference call from Chris Tally and Jimmy Smith [at Amusement Park Entertainment, an ad agency] and they said, "Hey, we want to do a jump without a parachute and land" and I immediately thought of a wingsuit because that's what everybody has been talking about working on. They said, "No, no, without a wingsuit. We're going to do it straight up and down". I laughed and said, "I'd love to be involved and help you guys be able to do this, but I have a wife and a son and a life. I'll find you guys somebody if you want." They said, "Oh, thank you so much" and I was going to get back to them in a week or so.

I told my wife about this call and we both laughed it off. She's a skydiver with 2,000 jumps and she said "Oh, with a wingsuit—" too. But I started thinking about it and I came up with a way that you could test it, that you could do it. I talked to my wife and I said, "I think you could do this, but you'd have to do it the right way and make sure everything was the way you wanted it" and she said "Let's continue down the road." So I called them back and said, "Guys, if we go about this the right way, then I'm your guy," and that's how the whole thing started.

To tell the truth, I thought it was a neat science project. I talked to some motocross and MotoGP guys from Red Bull who crash on superbikes doing 180mph. They all said that, if you slide, it's easy and it doesn't hurt you at all but, as soon as you tumble, the centrifugal force flips you around and you break stuff. That's how we ended up with the net.

Brian: How big was the net?

Luke: It was 100ft x 100ft, which makes it roughly 10,000 sq ft. We dropped 220lbs from, I don't know, 180ft and it only had about 2Gs of deceleration. It slowed down really nicely, so we were, like, wow. We did that three or four times and I started to get real excited. That moment was when I knew this thing was actually possible. That was in April this year.

I think a lot of skydivers out there would say "I can drop something and hit a 100ft x 100ft thing easily from 1,000ft" and I would say "bullsh*t". It's *really* hard.

A couple of times, we had a little bit of a late release of the net and the dummy burned right through it. It cut through it like a hot knife through butter and hit the ground from 800ft. My wife and son were there and my son, he's four, he said, "Dad, that went right through the net! That's not good!" and I thought that was really funny.

Brian: What height were you deploying at?

Luke: I got a waiver from USPA because, the lower you open, the more accurate you knew you were. If I open at 1,000ft and the net's going to be 150-200ft in the air, I know that I am now only three seconds from where I would be hitting the net and maybe two seconds from flipping over to my back. So, it sounds funny but, the lower I can open, the safer I could train for this. Obviously it's not super-safe to open at 1,000ft, but the technology is so much different now. I had Velocity Sports Equipment make me two special rigs with a MARD system and I had Squirrel make me two IBEX BASE parachutes - small ones, special 205s.

The USPA supported me in training for this. They didn't think the jump was a great idea, but they didn't stop me from training for it - which I thought was really great. I had 83 out of 83 practice jumps in a row on target.

Brian: Talk me through the 24 hours prior to your jump.

Luke: That night, the SAG [Screen Actors Guild] came out and told the team that they felt this was too dangerous of a stunt and that they think that I should wear a parachute. And I said, "How do you guys know what's dangerous and what's not? You don't know anything about this. You're not skydivers."

In the morning, my wife and I sat and talked and she said, "I have no question that you're going to hit the net. But I'm really worried that you're going to land in this net and break your back". She was really, really concerned about that. She said, "If you have to wear a parachute, you should open the parachute before you get to the net and just say that it wasn't safe." And so that's what I was going to do if I wore a parachute. I would have not gone all the way to the net because we didn't know what was going to happen. We had talked about it and I asked her "What do you think if I don't wear this thing?" and she said, "I would feel much better". She said, "I know it sounds crazy, no-one would believe you if you told them this, but I'd feel better if you don't wear a parachute. I'd feel safer."

The FAA was great with it. They said, "Hey, as long as you've ensured that there's nobody who can get hurt on the ground. If you're wearing your parachute, it changes everything - now you're a skydiver and you have to follow 'the rules'. But, if you jump out without anything and you



'When I got in the airplane, it felt pretty normal because I had the rig on. As soon as I took the rig off, it was really weird because of the thousands and thousands of jumps where you get to lean back on your rig'



never plan on hooking up or ever using one, then you're not a skydiver". So, on our FAA paperwork, they made us change it from skydiving to jumping because, while there are regulations for skydiving, there are no regulations for jumping.

When I got in the airplane, it felt pretty normal because I had the rig on. As soon as I took the rig off, it was really weird because of the thousands and thousands of jumps where you get to lean back on your rig. About halfway up, I had this moment in my head that was like, "Why am I doing this? I have a son, I have a wife. Why would I do something like this?" The sports psychiatrist that I had been working with – Mike Garvais, he works with Olympic athletes and all that stuff – we'd talked about that. He said he'd be shocked if I didn't have a moment of thinking like that because, if you don't, it means you don't care. I had that second and I was like, "Man, what am I doing".

I started breathing heavily into the oxygen mask. Andy Farrington was next to me, and he kinda gave me a little fist-bump on the leg and did the little calm down signal, then tapped his watch and did a long movement with his arms. Basically, he was letting me know that "Hey, we have a long time. Don't worry". All of a sudden, that snapped me out of it and I started thinking about all the training, all the confidence that we had in this system. We call it 'confidence, not cocky'. You want to be confident and 100% sure what you're doing, but not cocky to the point where you were complacent. I never had another moment of doubt all the way through, until a week afterwards when I watched the video of it.

We moved in the door and, once I got on my knees, I did a handle check – which is really funny. My right hand went from where my cutaway handle would've been, towards my pilot chute, and I realised I hadn't even touched the handles on my chest because I didn't have them.

Brian: So now you're at 25,000ft, you're falling and you're not wearing a parachute...

Luke: Yeah, 25,000ft. Jumped out with my oxygen, threw a little flip. I had a tiny o₂ bottle in my hand – it lasts for nine ➔



minutes. I did some practice rolls to my back, then flipped back to my belly, and then I was looking down and we were pretty close to the area. And I was like, "Ah, I should do a practice pull, that would be pretty funny", so then I reached and touched my handles as an inside joke to all the skydivers in the world.

And then I took off the oxygen mask and I handed it to Andy. That's when you see me start tracking – it looks like I track away from them a little bit, and then they move back to get in position. Everything was going good, the lights were pretty much exactly the way I wanted them. I started working my way in, Andy pulled and I heard my 6,000ft beep go off. Then the lights became all white – it was perfect. It actually felt very routine at this point; not scary, not anything.

Just under what I think was three grand according to my eyeballs, the light farthest in front of me turned red which meant I'd flown past the centre a little bit. So I goosed it backwards instead of just slowly getting backwards, and that's where my off-centre came in a little bit – I didn't just trust that I was moving backwards. As soon as I goosed it, the lights changed and it went the other way, so now I was sure that I was still inside the outside light – in the roof x roof net – but now I was short. So I moved forward again, tracking a little bit.

So I was moving forwards and I could see the net now, low enough that I could see I was moving. I was on the edge of the

sweet spot. I made a conscious decision not to try and move forward because, if I moved and rolled, I might have horizontal movement when I hit the net and I didn't know what that would do to my neck when I hit. If the net hits your head first... I knew that, if you hit it straight up and down, you were good.

So now I'm thinking that you have to roll, you have to roll, you have to roll. And it's really hard to wait that long to roll onto your back because, as soon as I went onto my back, I wouldn't be able to see anymore.

I'm at 1,000ft and all that stuff went through my mind. I started clenching up. I clenched my fingers, I tucked my chin to my chest on the neck-brace, I had my mouth closed so I didn't bite my tongue and I just prepared for the hardest impact of my life. I think I went "rrrrraaRRR!" right as I hit.

And, as soon as I hit the net, I had this massive feeling of relief. There was no pain, there was no wind knocked out of me. I can't describe what happens when you hit the net, but the net wraps around you like the world's biggest hammock.

I remember Mike the sports psychiatrist telling me, "Hey, take a minute to enjoy this. You're never going to have a feeling like it again and not many people in the world will ever have a feeling of what just happened, so make sure you take it in". And then, as the net lowered me and my back touched the ground, I felt the 'thump' of the ground on my back and I haven't had that feeling of remembering what it felt like to touch the ground again since my second skydive. I think my first thought when I touched the ground was that and I think I said it out loud maybe: "I just went in." Then I stood up and my wife came running up to me and the emotions were pretty overwhelming at that moment.

Brian: How did you know when to flip onto your back? Did you have an audible?

Luke: I had audibles, but I didn't use them for that; it was by gut. Jeff Habberstad, one of the stunt coordinators, said, "It's just going to be a timing thing. You just have to trust your timing and you'll know when to do it." And I flew my aeroplane at powerlines and trees and stuff, going 120, and I would try to look at timing of how fast you were approaching stuff going that fast. So I would fly at some powerlines and then I'd say "Okay...now" and I would try to pretend like I was flipping just before I hit it. It basically ends up being just a gut, split-second call when to do it.

Brian: There was no backup plan then? No harness?

Luke: Zero plan B – it was a 100% commitment. The only thing I had on was a neck brace, a back pad and a live air-to-ground camera system. It's funny; I spent all that time losing weight to get ready for this thing and get in shape, and then they put this camera system on my belly, and I was like "Guys, could we put it anywhere else?!"

Brian: If you met somebody who's just got their A Licence and they said "I want to be the next Luke Aikins", what would you recommend they do?

Luke: Learn all facets of skydiving. Whether you like them or not, you should be proficient at everything. I think you just do yourself a disservice when you find yourself in an emergency situation to only know one thing. I think that you're a better skydiver having learned every discipline out there; every one. ●

You can hear the whole interview on episodes 36 and 37 of Radio Skydive UK. You can download the episodes at radioskydive.uk or from any good podcast directory (including iTunes and SoundCloud).

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ALL LIN ING UP !

Okay, so you've seen plenty of flat wingsuit formations. But how do you fly a vertical one?

WORDS AND PHOTO: KRAIG EVANS

Usual wingsuit procedure: put on skirt, look at cloudy weather, jump with a small group (usually four or less), come down, say "Yep, we flew OK" and pack canopy.

But sometimes you have that one jump when the right people are organised by a dedicated set of wingsuiters who want to push their own ability in a discipline that seems to be ever-evolving. Well, imagine a whole weekend of that!

A weekend involving 'stacking' – 3D formation wingsuit flying – was planned rather than the usual flat and level type. Even though I've done this quite a bit before, it's always been abroad because it can be hard to find progressive training for experienced wingsuiters who want to do more than "get together and do whatever!" It's always great to find opportunities to practise skills like backflying, vertical stacks and swooping to a big group so, when Jonathan Charles at Langar

created the event for a cheeky weekend in August, the slots filled up fast. Nine dress wearers made the event and people were put into their places based on competence, currency and suit size. The idea was to create a vertical formation with Jonathan

leading as base with the role of dictating pace, angle and navigation.

A vertical wingsuit formation (or 'stack') is when a base pilot guiding the whole group has other wingsuit pilots filling their slots from either above or below.





'The main focus after jump one is always to get the formation more compact and flying faster'

that gave every flyer something to work on individually so the team could create a tighter formation over the weekend. The main focus after jump one is always to get the formation more compact and flying faster.

We completed five high-quality jumps on the Saturday, with the formation having some solid progression to kick start the next day with the bar set quite high. High winds and an overcast Sunday morning meant we had to wait for a final formation jump in the afternoon – the typical UK way – but, even with sore heads from the night before and a couple of add-ons to the group,

another cracking jump was had. Forgetting the chop of one flyer, a safe and solid formation was built relatively fast – and the whole group improved.

My opinion? The weekend at Langar showed that, with a few wingsuiters and the right organising to push a definitive goal of improved flying, a lot of progression can be made by even the most experienced wingsuit pilots. With the discipline growing in numbers every week, the UK wingsuit scene needs to start building more events like this to improve flying, even if it is just for the safety of new and experienced flyers alike. •

Those who are directly above need to be slightly in front and above to avoid the large burble that wingsuits create above and behind the tail-wing. Therefore, other pilots above the first level need to be even further forward and above, creating a formation that is 'leaning'. For the back flyers, it works in reverse; those directly below the base need to be behind and below. Pilots even further below need to be even further back

(like tracking, but with more potential for catching burble), faster and more awesome.

We had three backflyers and six frontflyers in six layers to gauge where everyone was and the learning curve was steep right from the first jump. I was flying on my back in a slot with two other backflyers and it was superb seeing the formation being built by people who hadn't jumped together. After the successful first jump, a thorough debrief ensued and



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A group of skydivers in training gear, including helmets and harnesses, are performing exercises on a paved tarmac surface. They are in various positions, such as kneeling, crouching, and lying down, possibly performing stretching or strength-training exercises. In the background, there is a fence and some equipment, suggesting a training facility.

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PARENTHOOD FOR SKYDIVERS

Can skydiving fit with having a young family? Tash Higman spoke to four people in the sport

PARENTHOOD

Tash Higman (TH): Let's start with introductions. How many years in the sport, how many jumps, how many major achievements?

Julia Swallow (JS): I've been jumping for nearly 25 years. I'm an eight-times and current National Champion in 4-way and one-time National Champion in 8-way (both AAA). I won gold at the World Championships in 2006 (Female), I took bronze at the World Cup 2012 Open and I've competed at five World Championships. I was part of World and British Records in Large Formations, and I have 8,000 jumps.

Claire 'Sparky' Scott (CSS): I started in 1992, have 6,000+ jumps, I'm a three-times British AAA Champion, three-times World Champion (Female), two-times World Cup Champion and took the bronze at last year's Indoor World Championships. I used to hold Static Line and AFF ratings until recently.

Michael Wilson-Roberts (MWR): I've been in the sport for 18 years, have nearly 3,000 jumps and was on the British HD Record. I just won silver at the VFS Nationals 2016 with my team, QFX.

Craig Poxon (CP): I've been skydiving for 19 years and have about 4,500 jumps, of which just under half are tandems. My major achievements are the 400-way World Record, I've been on a couple of Sequential Records which have since been broken and I've been to a few World Meets. I don't really have any medals, just some golds in CF at Nationals.

TH: How many children do you have and how old are they?

MWR: I have a baby boy. Liam was born on September 18 last year, during the Head Up Record attempt at Dunkeswell. He was a month early and it was all quite an emergency. In my defence, I obviously didn't make it because I was five hours away. He's one year old now.

CP: My daughter is called Agnes, born on May 19, and is four months old.

JS: One daughter, and she is 18 months old.

CSS: Tilly is five and Benjamin is three.

TH: Did you think about stopping?

JS: No, I always knew I would be back to compete again at the Nationals in 2015 and get the trophy back. I was three months pregnant at the Nationals in 2014, so I didn't compete then.

CSS: I am still debating about whether to carry on jumping. I didn't manage to jump last year because of being so busy with the kids' activities, but I also didn't really have the excuse to jump. When I had just had Tilly, I was jumping soon afterwards on a player/coach team, and then trained to go to the Dubai Cup with Jules that year. After Ben, I was a player/coach on NFTO, so that gave



me the reason to jump. Unless there is a competition to train for, I haven't seen the need to jump and have found that the kids' social lives take priority at the moment!

Now that I haven't jumped for over a year, I do think more about safety and my responsibility as a mum. But, then again, I was always a worrier when I was jumping full time!

MWR: As a man, no, not at all. It wasn't that the decision to have a child was based around skydiving. It was just never an issue.

CP: It may have crossed my mind, but not seriously. Why would I change, why would it be different? I've done it for so long, had that lifestyle and taken that risk, so what difference does it make?

MWR: Or no risk, because you've done it for so long that the risk actually isn't that bad.

TH: Did you jump while pregnant?

JS: I jumped but didn't realise I was pregnant. I was seven weeks pregnant at the time I found out and, as soon as I knew, I stopped. In fact, I had to let Sparky down in the process because we were meant to be competing at the Hib Cup!

CSS: I did maybe a couple of jumps while I was pregnant with Tilly when I kind of knew but hadn't had it confirmed. As soon as I knew for definite, I stopped straight away. We had had problems before and I didn't want to risk it. With Ben, I knew in the off season and then there was no chance of me jumping again. It's really not worth taking the risk.

TH: Does having children change how you feel about the sport? Are there things you wouldn't do now?

JS: Not really, but life is completely different. I now have a 24/7 job, so trying to fit in not just skydiving but what you need to do to keep on the top of your game is virtually impossible. Plus you are constantly knackered. However, I did break my wrist in December when landing my reserve. Chloe was nine months old at the time, and to keep looking after her with a cast on for six weeks was extremely challenging. I did feel really guilty about compromising how I was looking after her.

CSS: After having had Tilly, I guess I pretty much resumed what I had been doing before. Jumping in Dubai onto the Palm when Tilly was 11 months old was a big thing for me, comfort zone wise, but it was good for me to do it to remind me that I was still me. Now that my jumping has got more sporadic, I would have to think very carefully before doing any kind of jump. I hated big-ways before I had kids and now I have them there is no way I would do one. If I was to get back into jumping now, it would have to be for a really good reason.

MWR: I may not start BASE jumping, but nothing has changed in skydiving.

CP: It has for me. I didn't think anything would change, but it has surprised me how much my attitude has changed towards it. As an Instructor, I'm quite risk-averse and all about risk management. Tandems are very safe in the UK, but they are still potentially risky because of the gear and the malfunction tree and you don't know what the student is going to do. I jump a small canopy and have done for a long time – touch wood, I've never had any incidents – but I try to relate it to my attitude before in the way that I carry out my jumps and it's always in the safest possible manner.

But, when I look at my daughter, even the chance of something happening and her being without me and me missing out on the rest of her life has made me wonder about what I'm doing. Having said that, I'm still doing it. And it is normally worse between layoffs. I obviously haven't been jumping that actively because of the birth and trying to be available and not go off and be selfish and jump, so you've got the 'break nerves' as well.

TH: How do you manage childcare at the DZ?

JS: In the UK, Chloe's grandmother came along (for me to give Chloe her feed) or my husband James would look after Chloe. I personally don't like Chloe being on the DZ all day when I'm training or coaching – it's not nice for her and it's a distraction for me. Now she's older, she goes to a crèche when I'm training.

CSS: In the early days, they had to come with me. I breastfed Tilly until 10 months and Ben until 14 months and, in the early days, it was very difficult to get them to take a bottle. Made debriefs quite interesting when feeding at the same time! But, once they started to get more mobile, I had to leave them at home with my husband Andy or a babysitter. They are too much of a distraction otherwise!

TH: Very supportive families, clearly!

CSS: I guess I'm lucky now I am pursuing the indoor skydiving scene more. Our training tends to be in the evening, which is when the kids are in bed.

MWR: Karen comes up and has a nice day out. When we do that, it's a fun jump day and not a team training day, so we sit out on the grass and have a nice day. Karen hasn't jumped since she got pregnant, so she doesn't mind being on the ground with old friends.

CP: Erica doesn't jump, so she doesn't really come to the DZ much. It's not like she sits in the corner and nobody speaks to her, but she hasn't got the history like Karen. Because she doesn't jump, it's easy – Erica does it all, which is a bit unfair when I'm off having fun and she's having to care for Agnes. She's a full-time mum at the moment, so it's not that different to what she has to do at home.

That's really not fair. Skydivers are inherently selfish as people. It's just natural, because it's all about the rush

and all about you and damn the risk because you want to have fun. That becomes a test when you have to do things as a team, whether as a skydiving team or a family team.

TH: How does your family feel about you jumping?

CSS: Andy, like me, is more aware of his mortality since having the kids. And, being very close to Tom Scanlon, he was quite happy to give up skydiving. Now he just does speed flying – which, in his mind, is safer!

MWR: Karen is a jumper and was almost ready to stop. She was on the Head Up Record, the Girls Head Down Record and was almost ready to have a break when the family thing happened, so she just lets me get on with it. For me, it's more a commitment thing. I don't think about the risk too much, but it's another commitment in my life which is equal to if not more important than skydiving was to me.

And I want to do the right thing. I feel guilty that I've been away for two days jumping and I haven't seen my little boy. I want him to have an active lifestyle as well. He benefits from me being a skydiver because he just does anything. He goes swimming every week and we let him try things out himself. Karen is fine with it and, if anything, I've been hitting it harder this year. I don't know whether you try harder; you set your stall out and say →

1 Julia Swallow and Chloe, by Rob Lloyd

2 Chloe Swallow and dad James cheering Satori XL at the World Championships 2016. Behind them, Emma Hart of Revolution Freestyle came ninth in the world despite only starting her training four months before the competition due to being pregnant with baby Anna. By Craig Poxon

3 Craig Poxon and baby Agnes in the Chatteris Twin Otter





"I'm a skydiver, nothing's going to change" and overcompensate. Like I said, I hit it harder this year with joining a team and that was kind of unwittingly after I got a phone call and couldn't say no! "Will you join QFX?" "Well thank you for asking, and of course!" How can you say no? That meant 250 jumps and training in Empuria.

CP: At least that's more structured, so you choose your weeks. You're not going to the DZ every weekend.

MWR: That is exactly right. In fact, that has been one weekend a month and tunnel every other week. It makes it manageable.

CP: And Karen's done some tunnel?

MWR: She went back to fly after she had a year off being pregnant and, when Liam was about three or four months old, she went back to Bedford. She did some outfaced carving and switching both ways and I just looked at her and – I wish! I tried to outface carve again and splatted myself on the top net. That kind of annoys me actually – Karen was so natural at it and I'm thinking "Why aren't you jumping?" Anyway, she hasn't got an issue with me jumping.

CP: Erica isn't a skydiver, although she's done a couple of tandems. I was going to take her on another and then she got pregnant, so we decided not to do it. Although plenty of people skydive when they are pregnant, it was a combination of her going on a skydive with me that meant we decided not to do it. That means we'll probably never skydive together, or at least not until Agnes is 16.

It was interesting what you were saying

about Karen in terms of she's ticked all the boxes and achieved what she wanted to. I was getting to that stage anyway, sitting at a windy DZ all weekend every weekend and getting to the age when I'd quite like to have a lie-in in the morning and don't have to get up to go to the DZ so early. I've been starting to wonder whether it was my turn to have a bit of a hiatus anyway and I got out of sport jumping because most of that was instructional as well. Meeting and getting involved with a non-skydiver changed things anyway, and it wasn't such a big deal to me anymore. I still got 100 jumps a year, which kept me happy, although now that Agnes is around it's probably only 50 jumps this year. And then you have to question – is that enough to be current and safe? Am I actually being more risky by doing fewer jumps? It's weird; you just want to get home and see your kid. It's quite a tear, actually.

TH: Do you expect your children will jump once they are old enough?

JS: Who knows? She will be around the sport so much, it will probably be the last thing she wants to do!

CSS: Mmmm... in some ways, I would still like to be jumping by the time they do their first tandems or be in a position to jump together. However, I do also know now how my mum felt when I called her to say that I had just done my first Static Line jump and wasn't coming home because I was up to do another one. If the kids decide they don't want to jump, I will be pretty relieved. In some ways, it would be nice to fly with them indoors, which I know isn't the same, but then it was the flying that was my passion

and not necessarily the canopy part! I've already flown with Tilly a few times.

MWR: I don't expect it, but I'd like him to. I've not really thought about it. He can jump if he wants, but it'll be an expensive hobby. Will they do tunnel? That's really the question, because that's going to come first, isn't it?

CP: I've also not really thought about it. I've got a kind of ambition to keep my tandem rating for another 16 years so that I can take Agnes on a tandem, just so she can experience it.

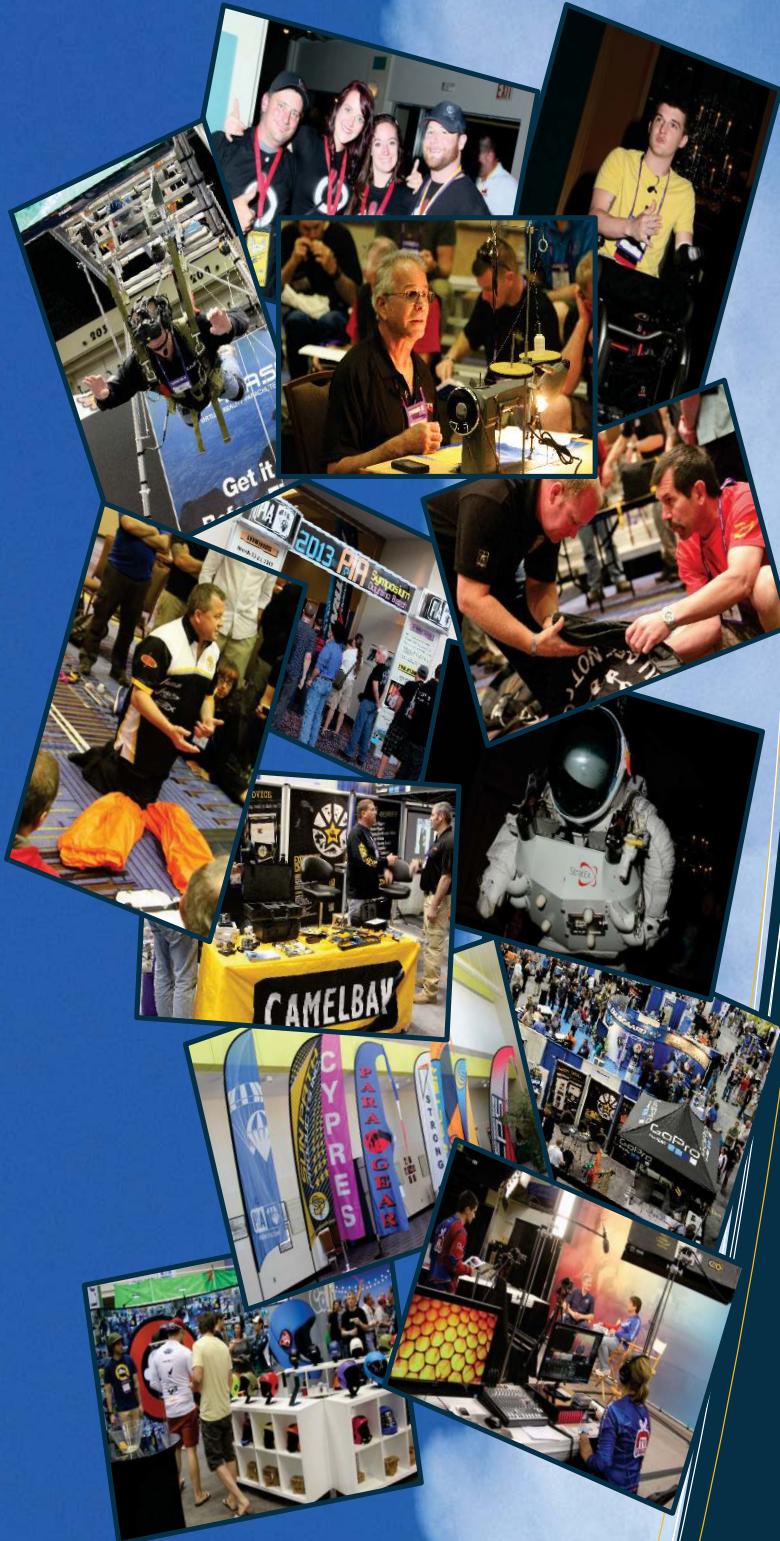
MWR: What's worse? "Daddy, I'd like to do a skydive" or "Daddy, I've just bought a motorbike"?

CP: Ask me again in 16 years. •

4 Michael, Liam and Karen Wilson-Roberts, by Rob Lloyd

5 Sparky with Tilly after winning the Dubai Cup in 2011, by Andy Scott





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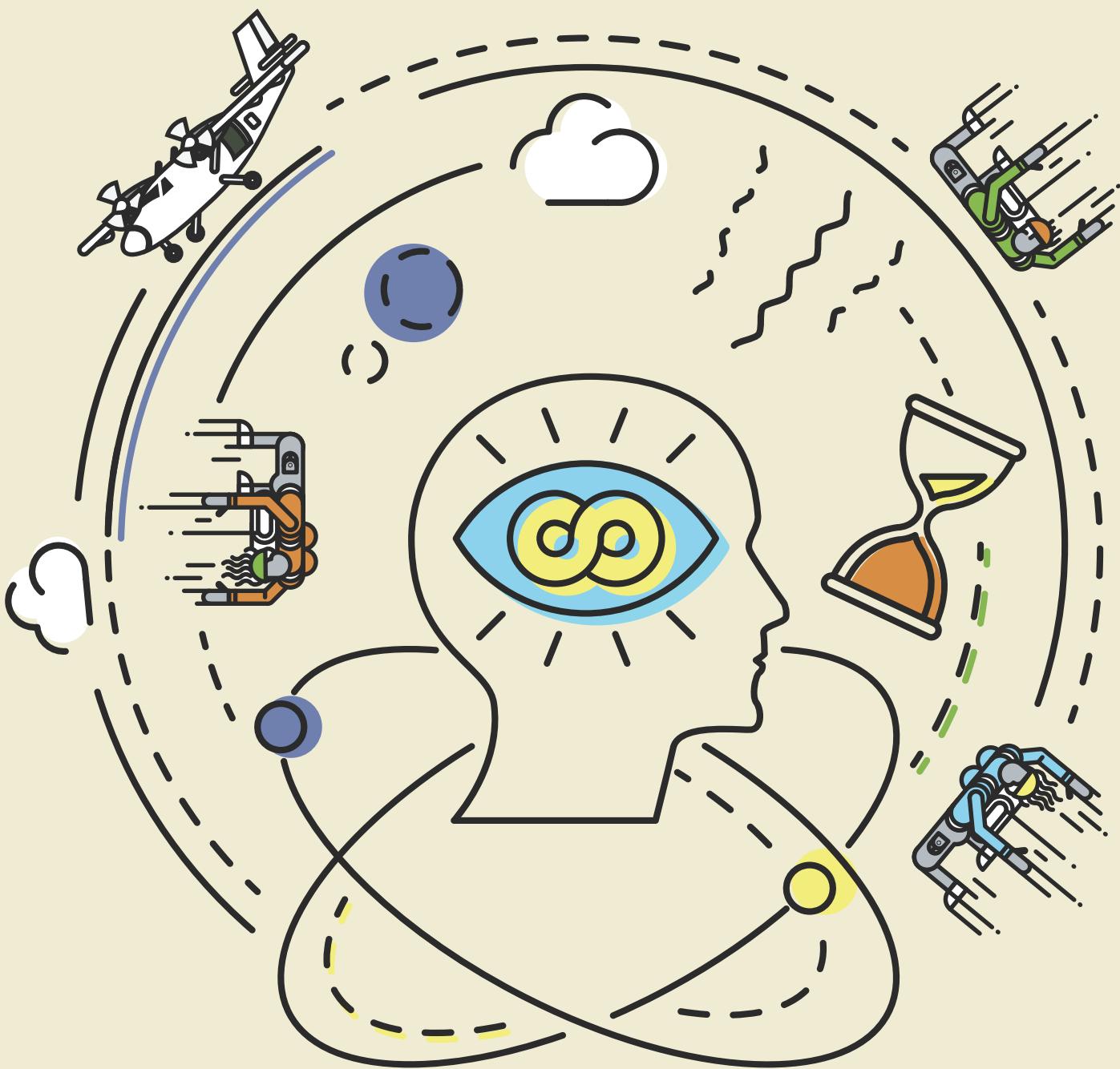
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GO WITH THE FLOW

Could the secret to better skydives be found in sports psychology?

WORDS: DAVID RODGERS, 4-WAY TEAM 4MULA





As we set up the 14 exit in the door of the Caravan for the first UKSL meet of the 2016 season at Langar, it felt mega-cramped.

Our grip sequence wasn't quite polished and I couldn't get hold of Kate's leg while presenting my own to her inside the aircraft. Shake, shake, shake... ready, set, launch!

"As three of us squeezed out of the aircraft – looking like the Caravan was birthing a 3-way baby – we fell down the hill, three of us intact, and I looked up to see Kate still in the aircraft. Then it hit. That moment. That realisation that it's not quite gone to plan, we are going to lose time, the dive potentially won't score well and our meet average is at stake."

There is an almost 100% chance that something like this (or exactly this)

TOP TIPS:

Understand the basic principles of Flow so you can recognise how close you are to it and how you can foster the right environment for it to occur.

Recall a jump where you felt Flow occur. Close your eyes and replay it. Relive it. Try to feel everything that happened. Repeat it as many times as you can to absorb as many of the thoughts, feelings and sights to be able to incorporate into future mental rehearsals (visualisation). The next time you experience Flow, record the experience as soon as you can. Write it all down and describe every aspect of it.

Suspend any fear of failure. It's just another opportunity to learn and create more synapses.

Set positive expectations and goals for your performance during the jump and incorporate it into your mental rehearsal. This is linked back to the challenge/skill matrix – making sure you have an appropriate level of skill to perform the task.

Absorb yourself into the present tense. Focus completely on the task at hand and block out any external distractions. If your concentration is broken or you start to drift into the past or future, you will exit flow.

Be aware of your emotional state. Be calm, be sufficiently stimulated by the task and have the energy to perform – hangovers don't help!

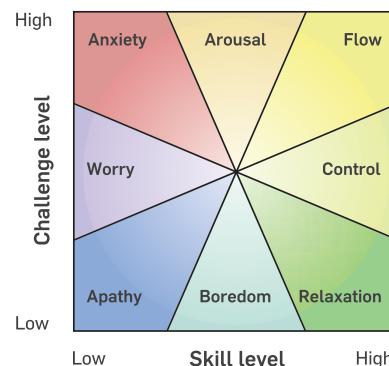
If you're struggling to relax, try using the Peripheral Vision Technique. Looking straight ahead, relax your focus and start to notice items at the periphery of your vision. Control your breathing with big steady inhalations and exhalations. You may notice that you'll start to expand your peripheral vision and notice less in front of you. The Peripheral Vision Technique also triggers the para-sympathetic system to calm the nervous system.

'You can't really describe why or how; all you can describe is how it feels. Everyone flies their little socks off. It feels like the team are synchronised and working as a whole, totally immersed'

has happened to you at some point in your skydiving life. Whether it's during competition or training for something, this kind of scenario triggers the same feeling. A funnelled exit, a big brain lock midway through a dive, a cameraman hitting the formation – these things cost a team precious time, but somehow trigger a reaction in people that pushes their performance to a maximum level that feels effortless. An error reduces the amount of time a team has to perform, but this phenomenon manages to 'wake' you into a state that produces the best skydive of your life.

You can't really describe why or how; all you can describe is how it feels. Everyone flies their little socks off. It feels like the team are synchronised and working as a whole, totally immersed in the remaining time, turning quickly and with purpose, letting go of any inhibitions and scoring as many points as possible to make up for what happened. You have intense focus and nothing gets in the way. You have just reached something called 'Flow'.

'Flow', or what some people call being 'in the zone', is a mental state which was discovered and coined by a man called Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi in the 1970s. Mihaly has spent decades investigating what Flow looks, feels and sounds like. Speaking to hundreds of athletes, artists, musicians and performers at the top of their game, they all describe the moment of 'Flow' with the same words, feelings and emphasis. I'm in a state of flow writing this article; choosing the right words, comparing it to real-life examples and trying to improve my own understanding of the subject at the same time is totally absorbing my attention.



How to achieve Flow

"Jonny Wilkinson has one of the most feared reputations in rugby for kicking consistency, which is built on a well-known and imitated process. The placing of the ball, the steps backwards, the side step, the crouch, hands together, look up then back down. You know the rest. By following this series of steps, the same steps each time, he is able to get himself in the zone and shut himself away from all the pressure and noise. He has a single focus of attention, the process of kicking a rugby ball over the bar and between the posts. He is alone and it seems that, for him, this is the only kick that matters." – A Vile and J Biggs, Grace Under Pressure: Martial Arts and Sports Hypnosis (2004).

There can be multiple triggers that get people to a state of Flow and, in my example, it's the exit funnel. However, Mihaly has defined a set of conditions that must be present for Flow to occur and one of the main conditions is to be completely involved (absorbed) in what you're doing. In my example, I was completely tuned into the moment of

the skydive. I knew what was required at the moment we got back together and I had to let go of my conscious (thinking) performance and allow the subconscious (just do) performance do its work. Another condition is to have inner clarity about what we are performing. In this case, I knew the dive and I just had to fly it.

"Kate dived out following the three of us and, because of the exit, she glitched and took a second to work out where she needed to be in the formation. Something happened to us all when we made that first complete formation and when we all looked up at each other. It was like our skydiving had even more meaning than normal."

Challenge vs skill

One more dimension to Flow is the size of the challenge versus the skill level needed to achieve it. You or I need to have enough practised ability to be able to take on a challenge that stretches us and to become absorbed in. This starts to cross over into the four levels of learning, which I'll detail in another article. To summarise, we can become apathetic or bored if a challenge is too easy. If it's too hard, we may become anxious and, in some cases, get bored and give up. In my example, the challenge was acceptable and known and my ability was sufficient to deal with it. I could have become too stimulated, resulting in my flying becoming frantic and way 'over the line' – which wouldn't have given me a peak performance. We can also relate this to something called the 'performance curve' which, again, I'll talk about in another article.

"This is one of the great secrets of sport →

1 4mula in training,
by Chris Cook

2 4mula at
the 2016 BPA
Nationals, where
they won silver in
AAA. By Rob Lloyd

3 4mula in flow.
Siân Stokes'
helmet is wonky
from being kicked
in the head, but
the team are still
able to move on
and burn through
the points.
By Chris Cook



[*The Zone*]. There is a certain point of unity within the self, and between the self and its world, a certain complicity and magnetic mating, a certain harmony, that conscious mind and will cannot direct... The discovery takes one's breath away." – Michael Novak.

"We didn't know how much time we'd lost, but we knew we had to score as many points as possible to limit the damage of a poor exit. Kate keyed the 14 and off we went. I remember the feeling at that point. Time was pressing and I knew I had to remain calm and skydive fast. Turns in the 14s were without thought – who cares if they're in place, they need to be quick. Don't think, just do! Our grip plan was effortless and I didn't need to think about it because it felt like I was on auto pilot. Things were just flowing. In and out of the T' in a blink, flowed through the 5 and on to the outside of the 14."

So why don't I skydive like that all the time?

I don't have a solid answer that doesn't sound like an excuse. Looking at the Challenge/Skill matrix, I would say my skydives hit one of the other sections and miss flow. Maybe they don't miss completely, but they don't all feel like the ones where there's a major fluff up! If the dive is technical and includes a

slot switcher, I may hit the anxiety/arousal sections. If it's an easier jump, I may hit the control section and jump into arousal. I'm sure you could recall a dive where you felt Flow, where the dive felt effortless, where time stood still and things just happened without really thinking about them. What other words would you use to describe it? Some athletes have said they've experienced it as an out of body phenomenon. On the other hand, I'm sure you'll recall a jump where you felt anxiety or worry, or even felt in control but it was a little too easy.

"There's no time for brain locks – keep moving. I felt like my eyes saw everything and nothing outside my bubble could have distracted me. I had a concentration that made the dive easy. Things happened on their own without thought, and fear of a brain lock or bust just didn't exist in this moment."

Looking back through the history of my jumps, I would say that a chunk of them had elements of Flow but not as intensely as when we funnelled that exit. I became totally absorbed and had immense clarity in the present. We know that having a psychological edge in sport can mean the difference between hitting the podium or not, so being able to get into Flow as

quickly as possible during jumps is one of the most powerful tools to train.

"In the end, we lost 15 seconds working time because of the exit, but that pushed us to score 15 points. Chimera, who came second in that competition, scored 16 in full time. It begs the question: what could we have scored if we skydived for a full 35 seconds with complete Flow? I suppose that's the holy grail of performance." ●

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, all titans of the NBA, credit the same man for helping their game: sports psychologist and mindful meditation teacher George Mumford.

Mumford has worked with various NBA teams and stars by teaching players mindfulness meditation techniques and using them to anchor players in 'the present', while introducing the mind-body relationship and the benefits of stopping thinking and just doing. More can be found in his book *The Mindful Athlete: Secrets of Pure Performance*.



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5-100
YEARS



WORDS: CHRIS SHAW
(SKYSKILLS.CO.UK)

T W O T O T A N G O

Are there two of you jumping but you don't know what FS to do? Welcome to the Sky Skills FS dive pool for two skydivers

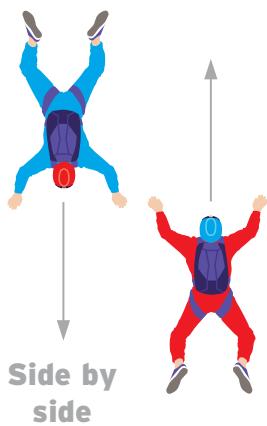
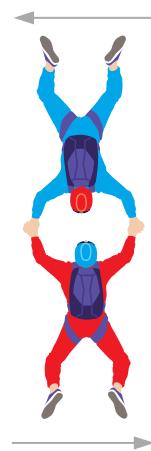


A 1 - T H R E E P O I N T S

Objective: Develop precise control in making small moves, then stopping.

The moves: Launch the 2-way, then both make a SMALL side slide and stop. Then, both go forward about a half body length and stop. Then turn to face your buddy and dock. Next time through, side slide the other way and pass on the other side. For the more ambitious, if you would like to do this as a vertical transition rather than pass side by side, give it a go. Remember to work out who goes over and who goes under on the ground FIRST!

Hot tip: For both a side-by-side or a vertical move, you need to begin to 'stop' just as soon as you have made the 'start'. Hold eye contact.



The principle behind this new series is to put together some interesting and fun 2-way skydives that progressively get more testing as you work your way through them. They are designed so that any 2-way at any experience level – from skydivers turning up and meeting on the flight line for the first time through to friends who have jumped together before – can, if they are not

sure what skydive to do, dip into this dive pool and find a skydive that they would like to try.

This series is structured so that the jumps get more complex as you progress. For example, skydive A1 should be easier than A3, while B1 would be more testing than A3 etc. They are also structured to build in some of the moves you might do in Rookie, A, AA and AAA FS

4-way competitions should you ever enter one.

You can use these for fun skydives to do with a buddy on a one-off basis or you can work your way through them to develop your 4-way skills. The choice is entirely yours. A couple of tips:

1. Check out the moves shown carefully and make sure you have

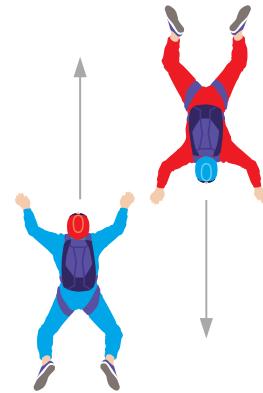
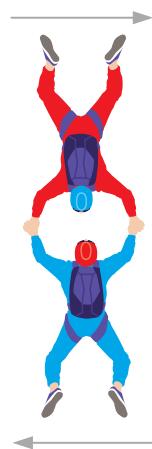
dirt dived them correctly before you do them. There are brief notes for each skydive to help guide you through.

2. If in doubt, ask a more experienced club member for guidance. For example, a member of a 4-way team is usually around at weekends and would be able to offer assistance.



Rich Guest and Nicholas Loh on their first jump after FS1, by Sion Roberts

STOP!



CSI : UK

This new series follows the journey of Rich, a Category System Instructor who qualified this year. In this episode, Rich looks back at his first steps towards becoming a BPA Instructor...

Being far from a model RAPS student, I qualified on jump 38. Having a good head start on jump numbers and fair canopy handling, a B Licence soon followed. FS1 was a bit more of a struggle but, at about 110 jumps and with the help of a good coach, I finally qualified for the sticker.

"What now?" I thought.

One day, I was packing at the back of the hangar when I looked up at a notice on the exit trainer: "Do you want to become an Instructor?" It's something that I had long thought about, but it seemed a little pretentious. I had a vague idea that a C Licence was required, which seemed a long way in the future, and in any case I didn't really feel ready and couldn't believe that I would be ready with just a few more jumps. I put the idea to the back of my mind and hoped nobody had seen me reading the notice.

A couple of days later, I was struggling to find somebody to sign my logbook when I bumped into the Chief Instructor. As he looked at my logbook, I mentioned the notice; I was curious



how much more experience I would need before he would support me (I knew that 'support of your CI' was another requirement). I expected a dismissive "maybe another 3-400 jumps".

He looked again at my book, smiled and said "OK I'll put your name on the list". I was stunned, and the look on my face must have made that obvious.

"You've been through the system, had your share of problems and come out of it OK. I think you should do just fine," he said.

By my next visit to the DZ, an AFFI and TI course was in full swing. I had come to terms with the idea that just maybe I was CSI material. In fact, I had more than come to terms with the idea. Obviously, I was 'the man'!

The weather wasn't great, with broken cloud down to about 3,000ft and a reasonable breeze of maybe 15mph. I manifested as part of a 4-way, the other three being much more experienced than me. Still, no problem. After all, I'm Instructor material!

With a posse of BPA Instructor Examiners on site for a tandem course and marginal weather, the CI manifested himself as jumpmaster. He was spotting for what seemed like ages after the green came on, and then suddenly there must have been a break in the cloud.

"Quick, quick! Go, go, go!"

With hindsight, I should have realised that this meant "Hurry up, you are getting deep". My exit was shoddy and the whole dive was pretty chaotic, but I just about made it back to the other three by break-off. I was open at about 3,500ft, completed my checks and turned for the landing area.

"Quite deep," I thought to myself, "but I'll be OK."

A while later, I noticed the other three well above me. I wondered why they were so far above and dropping behind me too. "Why are they flying on brakes?" I idly wondered. I looked ahead at the landing area gradually slipping up my field of view, and at the scrap yard looming ahead of me.

"Oh s**t! I'm not going to make it back!"

A cold feeling swept across me as I applied some brake. The landing area seemed to become steady and it took some time for me to be sure but, yes, I was definitely going to clear the scrap yard and make it to the PLA. I was so pleased with myself, I became fixed on the landing area. By the time I was at 500ft, I began to realise that I was going to make it easily. It wasn't until I was down below 100ft that I remembered that I really should have been facing into the wind by now.

Next came my first and only piece of good judgment in the whole skydive: "No time to turn, I'm going to have to land downwind."





Student brief at Cark, by Rob Lloyd

The ground seemed to be moving past awfully quickly and I had to keep telling myself it would be OK. Oddly, I found time to consider who would be running DZ control and wonder what sort of a b*ll*cking I would be up for. "The CI is in the air, I wonder who it will be?" I glanced to my right as I screeched in at what seemed to be a frightening speed, but I couldn't recognise any of the figures clustered around the telemeters. It did cross my mind that maybe I should have done a PLF, but I was sure that, if I got my flare right, I would be

able to run off the extra speed. I overshot the grass area a bit and, two paces after my feet touched the stubble of the recently harvested rape, the rest of me overtook them, my shoulder went down and I span, bounced and tumbled to a very ungraceful halt.

As I picked myself up, any hopes that nobody would notice were quickly dashed as I looked up to see the BPA posse manning DZ control all looking at me disapprovingly. I walked across the few yards of rape stubble to

check myself in, struggling to look like nothing had happened.

"You OK?" the tallest one of the group asked.

"Sure, fine." I tried to sound as casual and relaxed as I could.

"Any lessons to take away from that experience?"

"Hmmpf. Yes. Don't do that again, I suppose."

The group seemed to be satisfied that I felt suitably humble and I turned away to the hangar. As I walked away, I was sure I could hear a barely suppressed titter. I didn't turn back, but skulked off to my favourite packing spot in the dim back corner of the hangar. I dropped my canopy and walked away, took off my gloves, removed my helmet and, as I did so, my hands brushed against something. I twisted around to find a rapeseed stalk, wedged down between the rig and my back and sticking up like a pair of antlers. I looked across at the "Do you want to become an Instructor?" notice, quietly packed, went straight to my car and headed for home.

The following day, I was back at the DZ feeling a bit less stupid. We were on a weather hold and I was sitting drinking tea as one of the senior staff found me.

"Rich, you need to be in classroom one for a briefing," he said. I looked at him, questioningly.

"A BPA Methods of Instruction lecture," he clarified.

So it appears the entertainment I put on the previous day was not sufficient to disbar me from every Instructor course for the next five years. I bounded up to the classroom and found a seat. A couple of minutes later, my friend the tall instructor walked in. He sorted through his notes and otherwise readied himself to teach as his eyes scanned the row of chairs. He didn't say a word but, for just a second, his eyes paused on me and seemed to scream, "What are YOU doing HERE?"

It doesn't seem like a good start to my career as a skydive Instructor...

Next time on CSI: UK – our intrepid Instructor starts filling in his BPA Instructor Proficiency card, gains a radio licence for student talk down and DZ control, and makes it to 200 jumps...

NEW COACHES

The DZs given are the ones where the coach achieved their rating, but they may be available to coach at other DZs. Congratulations to all.

BASIC FREEFLY COACH

Richard Pike, Weston
Marcus Budgett, Hibaldstow
Sandy Wilson, Dunkeswell
Aaron Binks, Weston
Alastair Bradie, Dunkeswell
Kenny Burns, Hinton
Stephen Burdon, Peterlee
Mark Guyatt, Peterlee

FREEFLY COACH

Michael Briggs, Dunkeswell
Ellis Figg, Dunkeswell
Harminder Shanker, APA

BASIC TRACKING COACH

Aaron Binks, Weston
Scott Beach, Weston
Nick Hynes, Weston
Alastair Bradie, Dunkeswell
Javi Centeno Gomez, Beccles
Benjamin Mitchell, Langar

TRACKING COACH

Keith Rivett, Hinton

FORMATION SKYDIVING COACH

Liza Yanni, Cyprus
Alister Bould, Skydive North West
Deborah Bould, Skydive North West
Matthew Starmer, Weston
Martin Brown, Weston
Andrew Thomas, JSPC (N)
Chad Smith, Headcorn
Christopher Sears, Sibson
Hazel Tyrrell, Blue Skies
Michael Doherty, Black Knights
Emma Reynolds, Peterlee

WINGSUIT COACH

Greg McEntee, Chatteris
John Parker, APA
Kraig Evans, Hinton

SLINKS

Most modern kit has soft links, or 'slinks', attaching the main canopy to the risers. Some sets of slinks come with little black 'witches' hats' (bottom photo) but some jumpers choose not to use them (or don't know they exist). They do make it hard, if not impossible, to pull your slider down past them if that is something that you choose to do under canopy. However, the main purpose of the

'hats' is to protect the slinks and to stop them from rotating inside the riser. Slinks are designed for the force to be loaded on the slink with the tab tucked inside the riser. If the tab comes untucked (top photo), it becomes a snag hazard and your loose brakeline could catch on it and lock off. Hats aren't the only answer; it's very easy for a Rigger or Advanced Packer to

tack the tabs into the riser so that they can't rotate. If you're forever tucking yours back in (or, worse, not tucking them back in!) then ask for this five-minute maintenance job at your next repack.



PARDON?

Ever since the first wind tunnels opened in the UK, earplugs started becoming more popular in skydiving. Nearly 100% of tunnel flyers wear them and this has filtered across into skydiving too. But when should you put them in?

The BPA Operations Manual doesn't have any rules on their use; because deaf skydivers can still jump, it doesn't seem fair to restrict



earplug use among hearing skydivers. That doesn't mean you should get them immediately, though – most Instructors would probably prefer that their students DON'T wear earplugs in order to stay fully alert throughout the whole plane ride and canopy descent.

So when is a good time to use them? Rather than just blindly putting them in on flightline and taking them out in the packing shed, perhaps the best approach is one that

considers the different levels of risk throughout the whole jump. The plane ride is one of the greatest risks to your hearing because it involves prolonged exposure to aircraft noise. But, if there was an aircraft emergency on takeoff, then you'd probably want to hear clearly to deal with it. So perhaps the best compromise is to wear them once you're above 1,000ft?

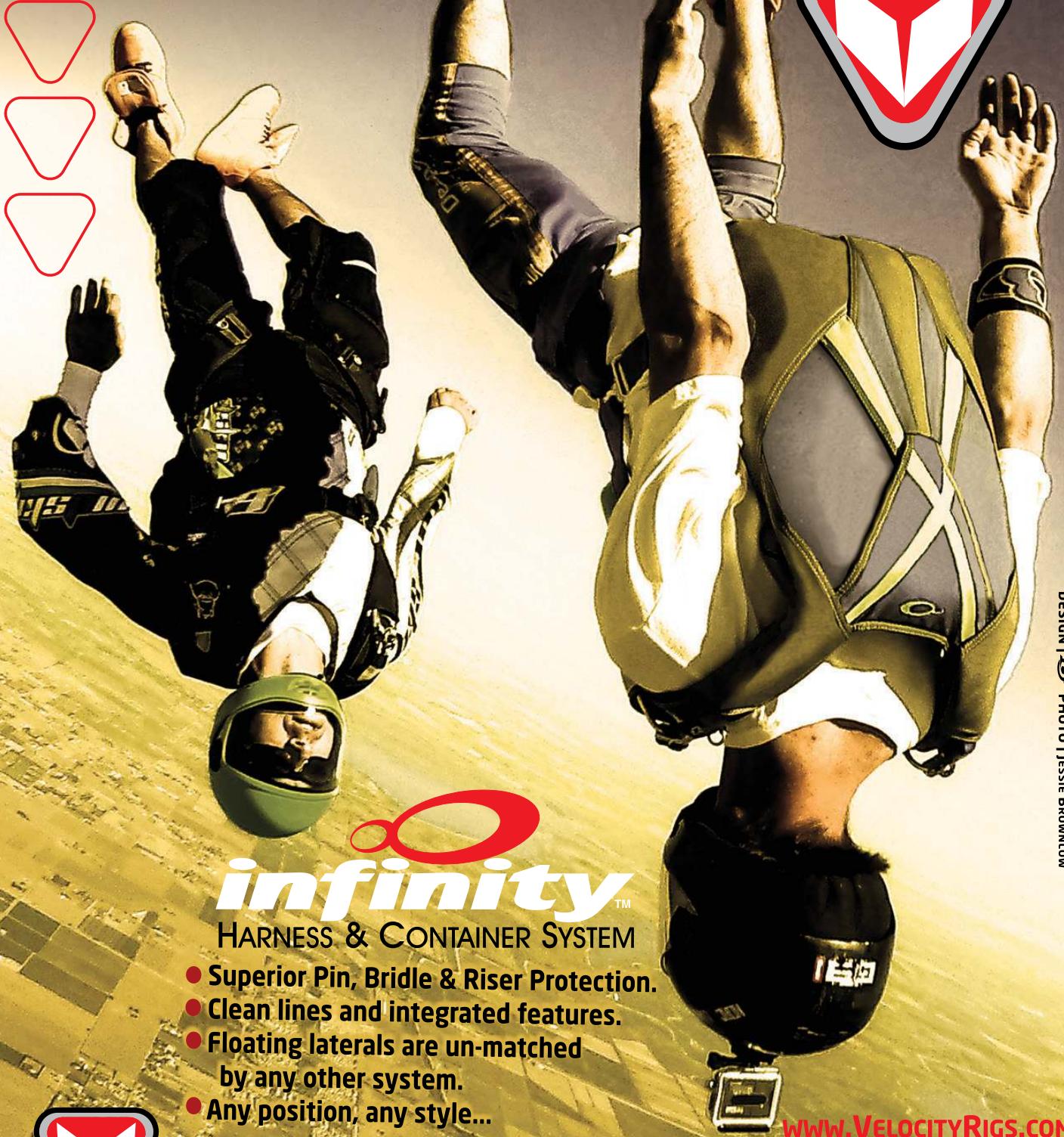
Then, when to take them out? Freefall is noisy but short, and the canopy ride

is serene in comparison. If a canopy collision was imminent, a warning shout could save your life but, if your ears are still plugged, then you might miss it. Similarly, there have been several incidents of skydivers who have been hit on the landing area after landing safely, so perhaps it is better to have your wits about you.

So put them in at 1,000ft and take them out on run-in. Anyone got a better way of doing it than that?

Whatever Your

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GEAR ZONE



**By James
'Macca'
Macdonald**

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Atair

Normally known for their BASE canopies, Atair have launched a skydiving canopy aimed squarely at wingsuiters.

Named the WinX, it's a seven-cell, zero p, semi-elliptical canopy that they say flies like a nine-cell. With wingsuiters in mind, it gives predictable, comfortable, on heading openings, although we all like those.

Featuring a great glide ratio for getting you back from a long spot, Atair say it's good for novice jumpers at a lower wingloading but is also great fun when flown at high wingloadings by experienced pilots. A powerful flare ensures soft, predictable landings if you want to come straight in or, with a low pull force on the front risers and a moderate recovery arc, it should

provide plenty of swoopy swoop fun. The boys at Atair have used special analytical software to understand low speed airfoils and wings. With this data, they've been able to transfer their 3D design to the 2D elements of the canopy fabric, which has resulted in a parachute that maintains its designed airfoil shape throughout the whole wingspan during flight. This technique has also allowed them to create a thinner profile, which in turn gives a lower packing volume.

Prices start from €1,700 and it's available in a range of colours and patterns. You can have one in sizes from 120 to 210, and the WinX can also be ordered in their PN9 lightweight fabric which reduces the pack volume by up to two sizes!

basetroll.com

Cookie

The Roller Mount from the folks at Cookie is a great way to mount a GoPro to your helmet. It effectively removes the snagability of your beloved camera and allows you to easily adjust the angle you shoot in.

The new Flat Base for Roller Mount allows you to mount your Roller Mount on any flat surface, including (very neatly) their Fuel Dual Top Plate. When used in this configuration, you can cleanly mount two GoPros side by side and easily adjust the angle to suit.

Retailing for \$22, you'll also need the Roller Mount (sold separately, if you don't already own one).

flycookie.com



Gatorz

If you've been around the sport for any reasonable amount of time, you'll know that the cool kids (read as freeflyers) used to all jump wearing Gatorz sunglasses. Even some of the not-so-cool kids, including me, used to jump in them and, if you jumped in the States, they were more common than beer at the end of a jumping day.

Then, nothing. They kind of disappeared. Well, after a bit of company restructuring in Europe, the legendary skydiving eyewear brand is back. They've streamlined their range to concentrate on the popular models, including Boxster, Octane and Radiator, and the usual skydiving choices, Wraptor and Magnum.

Why are they so beloved for skydiving? Firstly, they look cool. Secondly, they're made of a lightweight, 7075 billet aircraft aluminium frame that you physically bend to give you a perfect, snug fit to your face. Being nice and thin, they fit really well under a helmet and the lenses are optically brilliant, giving you a nice clear picture. For those that used to jump them, you'll be pleased to hear they've removed the rubber from inside of the arms.

Built to last, the frames will stand up to a lot of abuse and the lenses are made from polycarbonate – which, Gatorz claim, makes them the most impact-resistant lenses on the market.

Available in a range of styles and lens colour combinations, starting at €189.

gatorzeyewear.com

Griffin Technology

We've all been there. You're waiting for the cloud to break and so heavily abuse the internets on your smartphone. An hour in, the weather clears but your phone is crying out for life-giving electricity. Or maybe you show up in the morning and your GoPro isn't charged.

Finding a usable plug on a DZ can sometimes be a nightmare (don't be the person who unplugs the drinks vending machine for your phone. Not twice) and, if you're like me, you probably don't want to leave your posh smartphone or camera out on show while you jump on a lift.

Enter the Survivor Power Bank from Griffin Technology. This little puppy is built tough enough to survive being thrown around in a gear bag and will charge your device up to five times from a single charge. Plug your gear in, either with the supplied USB to micro USB lead or using your phone-specific cable, hide it away in your gear bag or tent and come back to a charged device.

From the Survivor range, it features a rugged design that can withstand up to a 6.6ft drop, water and dust resistance, a built-in LED torch and it's guaranteed for life. With an RRP of £57, it's great for keeping with your gear, just in case.

griffintechnology.com



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18 St George

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25 Weston

26 Wild Geese

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Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

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Airvan

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Parachuting Societies

PAGE 61 BCPA

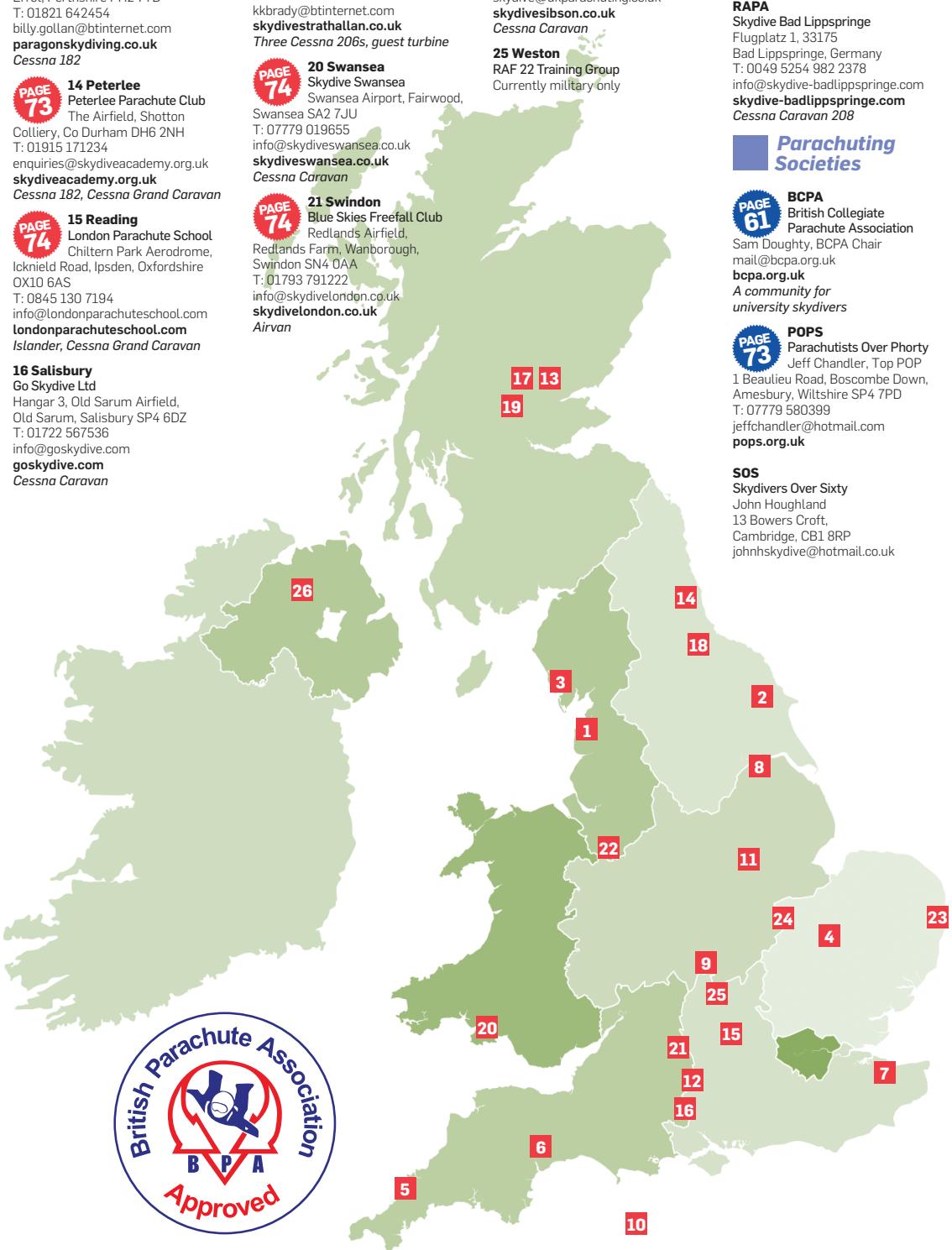
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Sam Doughty, BCPA Chair
mail@bcpa.org.uk
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A community for university skydivers

PAGE 73 POPS

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GALLERY



1 Red Devils Chain of Death, by Spike Harper

2 Freefly group, by Karim Shokraee

3 Hughes 369D helicopter at Dunkeswell – don't miss the night jumps in October! By Krista Radzina

4 Annual water jump at Headcorn. By Richard Foord

5 Andy Montriu over Newquay's Fistral beach

6 Team GB at the POPS World Meet. By Nigel Rowlan





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NEWS

BCPA

START WITH A BANG

The British competition season saw a lot of BCPA members do incredibly well, both competing in teams and individually. We'd like to congratulate:

- Tyrano4us Rex on 4-way FS AA gold
- Tyrano4them Rex on 4-way FS AA bronze
- Trojan Rabbits on 4-way FS Rookie silver
- Lightning Ducks on 4-way FS Rookie gold
- Lucy Westgarth on Junior Speed Skydiving gold
- Nova on Freestyle B gold
- Volosity Freefly on Freestyle A gold
- OTT on Freefly B gold
- Omni99 on VFS gold
- BCP8.1 on 8-way FS Intermediate silver

Following the BPA competitions, further congratulations go to Lizzie Attwood who also went on to be a part of a World and European Women's Record! This was set on a three-point 56-way FS jump at Nationaal Paracentrum Teuge in the Netherlands.

After BCPA members' amazing performances this summer, we'd also like to wish them the best as they return to university and give a warm welcome to new students beginning their AFF and RAPS/CS courses!

Robyn Dean



BECCLES

JUMP, JUMP, JUMP!

Greetings fun divers. I am the new spokesperson for the Beccles DZ and I will be taking over from James Page (Apples), so please bear with me. We have been very busy recently and we are not showing any signs of slowing down just yet.

There was a superb start to the summer season and we kicked it off with sunset loads. It was great to see tons of club members getting a lob or two in as the sun sets over the Suffolk coast, and please be aware that the reward of £1.50 for the safe return of Marty Burgess' shoe has risen to £2. Shoe tying briefs are on Fridays after jumping, mate.

Next, we had two great teams representing UK Parachuting Beccles at Hibaldstow's Nationals competition. The weather was most definitely not on our side, but we are positive about the outcome. *Doodlebugs* – featuring Ian Whayman, Mark Walker, Blane Kinge and John Dippnall – achieved a lot during this year's Nationals as well as our other team *Fourgasm* – consisting of Dave Tee, James Brooke, Matt Bannon and Jordan Bate – who started off slow but settled in by the second round to return double figures and reached second place.

"A massive thank you to Javi and his team of packers for helping us get through the busy days, and well done for achieving your Basic Tracking Coach rating while there was no mountain of parachutes to pack"

Unfortunately, due to the weather, they couldn't carry on. Maybe next year, boys?

In early September, we sent Yolande Lee and Danny French on their Tandem Instructor course at Langar and I am proud to say that they both passed with flying colours. Also, Sam Carter achieved his AFFI rating just the month before and well done to Freddie Freeman for becoming an FS Coach. Get the beers in.

A massive thank you to Javi and his team of packers for helping us get through the busy days, and well done for achieving your Basic Tracking Coach rating while there was no mountain of parachutes to pack (*no más Montañas*). Also, welcome back to Ross Fisher after four months off with a weak ankle.

A huge round of applause goes to all members of staff on the dropzone for all working hard through some very, very busy times. Well, except for Steve Wickham, who did nothing but moan.

Over and out.

Callum Kennedy

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Trevor Asian, Nina Clarkson, Henry Digby, Ben Hals, Max Hunt, Callum Kennedy, Tom Lloyd, Brandon Noble, Henry Quilter, Sara Rourke, Maxine Scott **CH2/JM1** Ian Carbin, Keith Greatbanks, Max Hunt, Callum Kennedy, Karl Rogers **FS1** Callum Kennedy, Helen Kirkham **CP1** Danny French, Freddie Mowforth **TR1** Matt Bannon, Ian Carbin, Freddie Mowforth, David Neary, Dave Tee, Michael Wemyss **TR3** David Neary, Michael Wemyss **JUMP NUMBERS** **50** Ian Carbin, Keith Greatbanks, Max Hunt, Callum Kennedy, Karl Rogers **100** Callum Kennedy **200** Matt Bannon, Ashley Bunn, Max Hunt **400** Ian Whayman **600** Maximus Meridius **1,000** Freddie Mowforth **1,200** Michael Wemyss **7,000** Yolande Lee

BLACK KNIGHTS

RUNNING HOT

Hot, hot, hot! Not only the weather, but we have also been burning the candle at both ends to make the most of the sunshine. Our AFF students have been doing a fantastic job in the air and in the tunnel. We have seen some great progression and have a few new A Licence jumpers (and some not far behind), so well done. Our RAPS courses have kicked off again with the Army cadets and it was a great weekend – we managed to get them all jumped in the one day. Good job Dave for dispatching all day and even Paul was calm talking down 24 excited teenagers!

The club jumpers have been busy gaining experience, banging in the jumps and building some great formations over BKPC. Well done to Mick Doherty, our new FS Coach, who has been put to good use. Mark and Emily have also been up to their eyes with coaching and keeping our new skydivers in the air, so there has been some great progression by all.

The CF Nationals ran in early August and thanks to all the teams for attending – it was a great weekend with some good results. This was followed up a few weeks later by the Wingsuit flock, who descended on BKPC to attend Roger's coaching weekend. That was good fun and they didn't even land off (that must be a first), so well done. ➔

BECCLES
Sunset loads featuring Keith Greatbanks, Stewart Salmon, Marty Burgess, Matt Bannon, Andy Page, a tandem student, Tibi, Gregory Schmit, a tandem student, Maxine Scott and Tom Lloyd

BLACK KNIGHTS
Carl Bell's FS over Black Knights Parachute Centre, by Elliot Mitchell



We have to say a sad goodbye to Emma and Katy – you have been awesome and we will all miss you. Good luck to Katy with university and to Emma with her new baby.

When this comes out, we will be looking at Christmas and our party on December 16. Everyone is welcome, whether they're a new or old skydiver (and, yes, that does mean our new students are welcome) so we hope to see you all there. For more information, please see Sharon.

Felix

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Mark Chinnery, Ian Gallagher, Natalie Henry, Niel Slater, Alex Webb, Sean Winder **CAT8** Martin Jensen, Marta Vielinska **CH2/JM1** Tamas Boldizsar, Brad Needham **FS1** Tamas Boldizsar **TR2** Elliott Mitchell **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Tamas Boldizsar, Brad Needham **200** Geoff Akien, Richard Coggins, Dave Mellor, Brad Needham **400** Mick Doherty **900** Dave Bloomfield **1,000** Emily Plant **1,200** Elliott Mitchell **1,300** Ruth Morrison



BRIDLINGTON

COMBINE HARVESTER, ONE. FREEBAG, NIL

The season is in full swing and we have been busy with the tandems and static line courses that have been running over the summer. The barbecue has been cranked up on a few occasions, usually at the hand of Denislav Ivanov, and we have even developed an affinity for camping for no particular reason.

The regular jumpers have been busy achieving various skydiving milestones. Erik Bowie has just passed the 100 jump point, which he celebrated by completing a tandem. It is fair to say that he probably won't be doing another one in the near future. Peter Bellamy, who is presently completing static line training, also decided that a tandem was an experience not to be missed and happily went out the aircraft with Simon Rehill. Adam Tunnicliffe is doing well and is now on 10-second delays. Sam Rehill is doing a sterling job in the packing shed these days and I would like to thank him personally, particularly as I ripped him off by a fiver the other week!

It is great to see our very own Dave (Sav) Saville back up and jumping after an operation. He is a larger than life character that has been missed a lot around the PTO.

It is also fabulous to be seeing more of Blair Stent these days. Although he is always behind the lens, a little recognition never hurt. Thanks Blair.

Chris Milnes has joined the 'have your freebag eaten by a combine harvester' club, which proved to be a somewhat expensive experience and one not to be repeated in the near future.

Mac put a lot of time and effort into organising a reunion for past and present Grindale jumpers. Although Mac said he was disappointed at

the response, it was a hilarious night with a barman in a constant state of undress, drinks superglued to the bar and some film footage that probably needs destroying – though obviously I will publicise it for the right price!

On a much more civil note, we had a proposal in the clubhouse that was very romantic and we wish them both well on their journey of marriage.

Sara Orton

ACHIEVEMENTS **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Erik Bowie

CARK

DID SOMEONE SAY 'FREE BAR'?

August Skyfest saw Oscar Hotel, the Caravan kindly loaned by Angela and Dave at Langar, arrive to great cheers as the weather improved – the big-ways could start. Ang and Dave also gave us a fleeting glance while on their holidays in the area and it was great to see you both. Thanks for the aircraft loan, and it was a pity we couldn't have used it more.

With the inclement weather at the start of the week, Speds and Ana had plenty of time for the seminars and safety briefs regarding large formations. The first loads were to build 20-ways and build up from there. The first attempt got 19 and the pace was a tad slow. With the second dive building 20 and at a faster pace, a second point for the third dive was introduced. Missing one grip on the second point at break-off, we all turned on our heels and sped a hasty clear air retreat. As we packed and then reviewed the footage, the clouds formed and, by late afternoon, big-way jumping was scuppered. That was the theme for the next three days as rain and the odd gale transformed a very busy DZ into a tumbleweed experience as many went off in search of other activities to occupy skydivers...

Thanks to all those club members who took time off to support the two-aircraft event and thanks to Speds and Ana for your organising and coaching. Also, a big thanks to Laura Sidhom, Scott and Joe for the midweek evening competitions of Family Fortunes, Play Your Cards Right and the big quiz.

World Canopy Piloting Champion Curt Bartholomew and his wife Jeannie completed a brilliant two-day canopy course for 18 club members. Both put their groups through their paces, both in the classroom and in the air, and their depth of knowledge and piloting skills were incredible. The learning didn't stop at the end of the weekend as all candidates got homework and progress jumps to complete too. All those who attended agreed it was value for money and learned an amazing amount. →

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Exiting the PAC,
by Duncan Haynes





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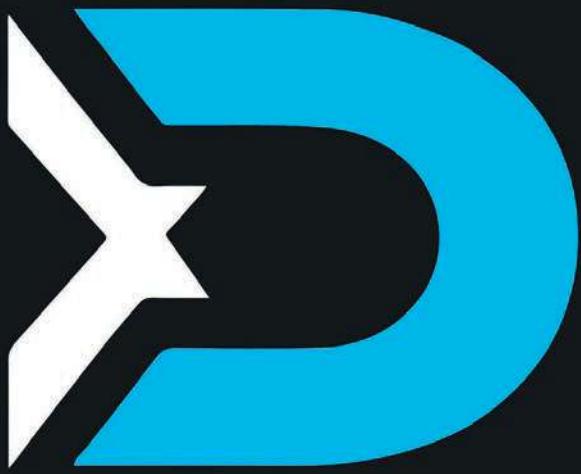
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It's student fresher time again and we look forward to greeting all our uni candidates for their courses. No doubt the *après* skydiving will live up to the previous year's antics!

Student progression has been solid, with another group of fledgling first freefallers coming through. Congratulations to Ed Cave, Brooke and Gregor (the chopper – it was only a brake off) Rawson on gaining their CAT8s.

Big congratulations to Matt Starmer on gaining his CSBI rating. Matt's already bailing in with the students with refresher training, dispatching and briefs.

Debbie and Southend Steve are now regulars at the DZ. It's an unbelievable drive you guys have to see us every weekend and it's great to have you both around the DZ. Hope you can make it to the Christmas party this year.

This year's Christmas party is on November 26. All bookings can be made with Kay, and don't forget: it's a FREE BAR between 8pm and 11pm. OH DEAR!

Stu Morris

ACHIEVEMENTS **FIRST FREEFALL** Andy Bate, Scott Callow

AFF GRADUATE Martin McColl **CAT8** Ed Cave, Brooke Rawson, Gregor Rawson **CH2/JM1** Matt Webb, Carl Vanderveldon **FS1** Sandra Shaw **FF1** Laura Sidhom **TR1** Matt Starmer **JUMP NUMBERS** 50 Matt Webb, Carl Vanderveldon 200 Sam Boardman 300 Matt Starmer 1,000 Daniel Gauld 5,000 Pete Connor

CHATTERIS

WHEN THE BALLOON GOES UP

So far so good! The balloon is attracting a lot of attention and a few skydivers have completed balloon jumps already. We've had generous support from our new balloon pilot friends, who are helping Si get his training hours while dispatching jumpers at the same time. Updates including great pictures and videos of the balloon can be found on the Chatteris Skydivers Facebook page. As we are unable to provide consistent availability for balloon jumps just yet, we are considering putting a points system in place until this is possible. This means that, the more jumps you do at the dropzone, the sooner you'll be able to jump from the balloon!

On September 9-10, Curt and Jeannie Bartholomew returned to the dropzone for more awesome canopy coaching. Although the weather wasn't great and it stopped any jumps from happening,



“The balloon is attracting a lot of attention and a few skydivers have completed balloon jumps already. We've had generous support from our new balloon pilot friends, who are helping Si get his training hours while dispatching jumpers at the same time”

CHATTERIS
Balloon at sunset,
by Andrew Mines

CORNWALL
Ben's tandem
with Tim Porter,
by 'Underwood'

those who were on the course greatly benefited from *Alter Ego* coaching and said it was an amazing experience. Jumpers will have their landings recorded and sent to *Alter Ego* for feedback.

We hosted a big-way weekend from September 24-25 and skydivers gained further experience of jumping safely in larger formations. This was arranged by Chris Shaw, who has been organising big-way events for many years, and Graham Ablett. Chris helped us to develop our skills and imparted his wisdom on how to make big-ways work – and how not to screw up!

Ticket prices for February to December are at £20 for 0-50 jumps, £15 for 51-75 jumps and £12 for 76 jumps onwards, and this is done on a jump-by-jump basis. Some of our regulars are already benefiting from £12 tickets, so get jumping before it resets next year!

Please go to our website for any updates on the 4-way Members Challenge Cup, which will take place in 2017. There's £15,000 in prize money up for grabs for the winning team and £5,000 for the runners-up. The qualification period is up to December 17 2016, and the club will be operating a pre-booking system for the teams taking part in the 4-way competition to enable them to offer the best service possible for both visiting skydivers and regular fun jumpers. If any sponsors would like to add to the prize fund, please contact the club on 01354 740810 or email martin@skydivechatteris.co.uk.

Sophie Barnwell

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Sean Garrett, Rowan Salger, Ben Warsam

Kroll CH2/JM1 Ioniel Tohanean, Marian Tohanean **FF1** Sophie Barnwell **TR1** Sophie Barnwell, Ioniel Tohanean **TR2** Marius Dex, Marian Tohanean **JUMP NUMBERS** 100 Matt Summers 15,000 Gary Small

CORNWALL

AUSTRALIA, BIG FELLAS, CHAINSAWS AND DONUTS

Our little Cornish dropzone, with its slow little plane suited to the slow pace of life, continues to grow at an ever-increasing pace. We're producing home-grown skydivers, friendships that bring out individuals' characters which in turn encourages banter from the highest level, no mistakes are overlooked, there is no fence to sit on and beer fines are plentiful – and that's just the way we like it. Check drogue!

The first morning of our open week, we were greeted by clear blue skies and light winds and it finished on the Friday the same way. Unfortunately, everything in between was low cloud and high winds, so the coffee machine was busy. In truth, we could not have picked a worse week and, other than for that one week, the weather has been kind to us.

The club guys, as committed as ever, have been rewarded with plenty of airtime in the Cornish heatwave and there has been plenty of variation to their jumping, either with each other or staff members, and they have also been practising their camera skills. Ray has been working hard, fine-tuning his skills both here and abroad with a goal in mind, and did a sterling job as proud dad and cameraflyer filming his 16-year-old son Bailey on his tandem. A future DZ bum in the making? That's father and son, of course... ➔



More friends, family and partners have taken to the skies doing tandems, meaning this unique little group grows ever bigger. The commitment of the donut delivery lady also deserves a mention, so massive thanks to the ever-present Mrs Stumpy for keeping us in treats even when the little fella has to work. The adorable twins show great future potential in the sport via a 3D virtual skydive game in which they easily outscore one of the Instructors! They do being 'smug' far too well.

Lex took off to Portugal with his 'hard-earned cash' from the job he doesn't have and managed to smash nearly 70 jumps, including a couple of high-altitude descents. In fairness, they were all high compared to back home. His good lady Ellie, having done a tandem, took the next step and did an AFF Level 1. Well, "she jumped and landed" is more accurate than saying she did a Level 1.

Chris Todd, the lad who popped down from up north just for the summer, has decided to move on after that summer lasted more than three years. He goes to Australia in search of the skydiving dream; working on a DZ, cleaning toilets, sweeping packing halls and maybe having a shot at being a cameraman. We wish him all the best in his efforts and he has been a great guy to have around (from lunchtimes onwards). Good luck, big fella.

There is one new activity at the club to mention, although it has a very limited lifespan. Justin's new game of filming himself landing as close to Dave as possible lasted less than a day and ended when "close" became "too close" – he is lucky the chainsaw was low on fuel.

Until next time, land safe and keep smiling.

UBI

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALLS Anthony, Dan, Kay JUMP NUMBERS 100 Lex, Stumpy 9,000 Monty

DUNKESWELL

HELI JUMPS NIGHT AND DAY!

Have you ever done a night jump from a helicopter? Don't miss our helicopter jumps during the day and night of October 17. This might be the first time night heli jumps have been organised for sports jumpers in the UK, and we broke all our records in August when 60 people jumped the heli in one day.

The Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August was epic. People came from all over the UK and, boy, they loved it! Smiley manifesters, always positive Chief Instructor, fast planes and loads of jumps! We now offer cheaper jumps and let people organise themselves. This makes for a more relaxed atmosphere and the freedom to choose how much you want to jump.

We'd like to congratulate our teams who did very well at the Nationals this year. VFS team *Omni99* came first at the Nationals, and they were also representing the UK at the world meet. Dan Guest and Jamie Arnold won Freestyle with an incredible routine. *Variat* also came first in FF. FS team *Vision99* came third and *Phoenix* came seventh in AAA. The top ratings for A teams were among many Dunkeswell jumpers; *Colostomy* with Wes Guest came first, *Viento99* came second, *Dive Hard 4.0* came third,

Justin's new game of filming himself landing as close to Dave as possible lasted less than a day and ended when "close" became "too close" – he is lucky the chainsaw was low on fuel

Team TBC fourth and 99 Problems But The Beech Ain't One finished as lucky 13th. Debbie Lamsley's *Team AGC Red* came fifth in the Rookie category. Thanks to you all for training here this year. This was a huge competition and we are very proud of you all.

Keep an eye out for the Halloween party, heli jumps, night jumps and cheap ticket days this autumn! If you are a Go99 member, you only pay £12 or £15 for 15,000ft jumps from the super-fast Beech99. You need to sign up, though.

Miko

ACHIEVEMENTS **CAT8/CH1** Tony Brown, Richard Crook, Aidan Frampton, Luke Knight, Owen Mason, Mona Nasser, Calum Norman, Joe Paterson, Matthew Thornton, Chloe Venables **CH2/JM1** Vicki Dick-Cleland, Guy Hewer, Luke Knight, Michael Kopciński, Oliver Medd, Joseph Powell, James Romer-Ormiston, Konrad Wysocki **FS1** Joe Downey, Anthony Eve, Guy Hewer, Leo Jiang, Liam Mather, Steven Paske, Martin Tenev **FF1** Lucy Austins, Jamie Blythe, Andrew Kilpatrick, Martin Leadley, Will Perkins **FF2** Leigh Pretty **WS1** Oliver Dixon **TR1** Peter Barnes, Abi Garner, Rob Houlston, Matthew Kettle, Oliver Medd, Elliott Mees, Leigh Pretty, Chris Stone, Aaron Thornton, James Vasello, Stuart Wright **TR2** Leigh Pretty **JUMP NUMBERS 100** Jamie Blythe, Max Hogg, Phil Husbands, Rob Kisiel, Martin Leadley, Will Perkins, Joseph Powell, Joseph Shiels, Mark Voysey, Konrad Wysocki **200** Peter Baxter, Leighton Cross, Marc Graham, David Green **300** Sandy Wilson, Sel Pasos **500** JJ Joe Graves **1,000** Ian Hutchinson, Ben Simpson **2,500** Roger Hoe **4,500** Adam Pemble

HEADCORN

TWO KINDS OF DRAG

The end of the summer is in sight, so we are making the most of the good weather while it lasts. Once again, it has been a very busy summer with long days, lots of jumping and lots of progression.

Brian Cumming held a Big-way for Beginners weekend in August. This was very well-attended and we had great weather for two out of the three days. Lots was learned and it has been good to see club members putting their newfound skills into practice. Thanks for all of your help, Brian, and please come back again next year. Thanks also to Paul Rimmington for being a great cameraman and just awesome in general.

The BPA ran Instructor courses in August, which kept the centre very busy. Some weekdays were as busy as weekends, which was good news for everyone. Cameraman Alex Leslie became an AFFBI and is looking forward to gaining the full rating next season. Chris 'Smudge' Smith became a Tandem Instructor and was immediately put to work during some of our busy periods. Well done guys! Lots of beer was consumed to celebrate.

Pete and Janos headed off to the Mondial World Parachuting Championships in Chicago at the beginning of September. We wished them luck, and hopefully we can update you with some good news next time. For more, see p16.

Our annual Water Jump took place in the first week of September. It was very popular this year, so we took the Islander as well as the Caravan. Unfortunately, due to cloud, only nine out of 20 people were able to do the jump. Simon Soper jumped the round as usual and only just made the water due to the tricky spotting (i.e. a bit of cloud getting in the way). Alex Leslie did a great swoop followed by a very sedate ➔

DUNKESWELL
By Krista Radzina





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landing – what happened to the toe drag? Jason Langridge won the Accuracy by hitting Willy the Whale, who was having a whale of a time as usual, although he can only stay up for about 30 minutes these days. Pete also hit the target, but was barred from entering the Accuracy competition! We also decided to do fancy dress this year and everyone looked fab. We had dinosaurs, synchronised swimmers, animals, jesters and crazy suits, not forgetting men in drag. The liquid costume prize was won by Emma Negus and Alan Brown.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone for a lot more fun before the season is up.

Blue skies

Georgie

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Preshecan Muhunthan CAT8/CH1 Mel Bailey, Karen Collins, Caroline Langridge, Brian Webb, David Williamson CH2/JM1 John Crombie, Dan Haddock, Will Howes FS1 Toby Flynn WS1 Simon Soper, Vitaliy Zakrevsky TR1 Dean Andrews, Simon Soper JUMP NUMBERS 100 Will Howes, Mike Leslie, Emma Negus 200 Jason Burgoyne, Jon Hobbs, Georgie Rhodes, Stuart Turner, Vitaliy Zakrevsky 300 Tony Lloyd 400 Dean Andrews 500 Simon Soper

HIBALDSTOW

YOU SAY HIBALDSTOW, I SAY H

With summer coming to a close at sunny Skydive Hibaldstow, it has been one successful weekend after another with some huge events. Matty Mitchel had a fantastic turnout with his Load Organising event, with more than 25 skydivers coming from all over Britain to take part and fly in some amazing groups. Stubert and his belly rebels threw in some incredible shapes with Load Organising and walk up events, helped out by Metaxas Navarro and Sam Bemment with some complex 20-ways.

Once again, we are at that time of year when skydiving teams of all shapes and sizes battle it out to be the top dogs. The best of the best. The *crème de la crème*. Of course, we're talking about Nationals. All season, we have had more than 80 different teams come and train hard at Hibaldstow to prepare themselves for the competition. The Nationals duly arrived, but so did the glorious British weather. Despite this, the Hib machine proved once again that it is a force to be reckoned with and smashed through the competition over two weekends.

It was a huge success, and we saw many Hibaldstow teams take the podium. *Hib's Most Infamous* took silver in Freefly B. The Rookie category saw us with a full Hibaldstow podium, with *Fat Birds Can't Fly* taking bronze, *Trojan Rabbits* taking silver and *Lightning Ducks* taking gold. All of these teams were trained by the infamous Stubert Ferglestein. In AAA, *Satori XL* finished with an incredible 204 point total and some pretty gold medals. *Team Chunk* took gold in 8-way. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the man himself – Robert Spour. As Rob's first Nationals as Chief Instructor (yes, beer was paid), we think he did a pretty good job. Balancing 80-plus teams along with tandems, students and fun jumpers as well as keeping an eye on the sky is no easy job, so to that we tip our helmets. A huge congratulations to all the teams who took part, and may Hibaldstow continue to churn out even more amazing teams for next year.

Massive congratulations must go to Sarah Blanchard for getting her FS1 with sheer determination and grit – she's a tenacious fellow. In a surprising turn of events, Dean Masters managed to achieve his FF1, leaving the DZ shocked and shaking in their boots. Henry Chow, after 25 years in the sport, also managed to obtain an FF1 sticker. Was it skill or was it a beer bribe? We will never know...

Adam Mattacola rocked up to the DZ with 45 skydivers hand-in-hand and attempted to smash the Head Down Record. However, while the attempts were all above the existing record, unfortunately they did not count due to the pre-declared number submitted. There were only a limited number of attempts made due to weather restrictions, so this time the weather won and we just missed out. A few more hours and we were sure it would have been set. Next time guys!

A curious weekend hit the DZ after the Nationals and 80 jumpers hit the DZ to attend Sausagefest 2016. A mix of sausage grabbing and



HIBALDSTOW
Matty's Freefly group, by Karim Shokraee

sausage eating took place and, though the weather hampered the first day, a belly full of Lincolnshire's best sausages and a barrel of rum saw the DZ through to Sunday where six belly groups jumped until last light in organised jumps ranging from 6-way all the way up to 34-way. A huge event by today's standards and, with it, there were plenty of firsts for the attendees and a great time for everyone. Will Sausagefest make it to 2017? You decide! But thanks to everyone who attended the event and made it such a success.

Alas, it is time for the sad news. It is with a heavy heart that I write that our one and only Paul Hollow (H) has decided to leave us and move on to better things. H has been with Skydive Hibaldstow for more than 16 years and has been a major part in the success of the DZ. We wish H all the best of luck in his new adventures.

Sophie Harper

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Marco Bulmer-Rizzi, Arron Clayton, Victor Da Ponte, Tefik Hadzhi, Simon Hartridge, Nopphan Leksawesdi, Wayne Smith, Jake Southon CAT8/CH1 Graeme Booth, Darren Ducker FS1 Sarah Blanchard, Harry Handley, Anne-Jane Michel FF1 Henry Chow, Dean Masters, Maciej Sobczak JUMP NUMBERS 500 Jordan Simcoe 1,000 Liam Goddard

JERSEY

BACK IN THE GAME!

"Bri also gained an enviable entry in his logbook as the very first wingsuiter ever to fly over Guernsey, giving him extra time to take in some stunning views. Big up Batman!"

Golf Alpha Tango Lima Tango, clear for departure" was the sweet sound we've all been waiting for this year. I know Mal is a happy man to see the jump plane back in action and a few scorching days to get our knees in the breeze was just the tonic for those with withdrawal symptoms.

Despite a drought of Jersey jumping, the locals have been getting their kicks in the sky and progressing their skills from metal birds and windy tubes. The ladies have been getting vertical in the tunnel, with Claire converting her indoor skills to her first official sitfly in Jersey – top bombing! Some of the dudes on the Static Line course have been honing their FS skills ready for freefall action. Jedi, you soon will be.

Matthew Perchard got out to Perris and topped 100 jumps with a B Licence – kudos! Conor Hall nailed his FS1 in Seville – sweeeeet! Matt Falloon cracked his AFF in Madrid – boom shakalak! Simon Griffiths got out to the Czech boogie, blasted through the 600 jump mark, got involved in an 18-way sitfly formation and sends his thanks to the beers gods for helping achieve his latest personal speed record of 245mph – chug-chug-chug!

We welcome Drew Moon and his skytastic set of skills to the island. He's already sharing some of our epic views with tandem students and has experienced his first beach landing. That should be more beer to help Simon's speed! Drew's aircraft piloting skills will also come in handy when our other trusty chauffeurs favour the one-way →



trip to altitude, and Brian's aiming to get his first freefall from altitude this year. Fly on, you crazy diamonds.

No annual trip to Guernsey for me this year, unfortunately, but I'm told it was another success with lots of happy Donkeys (as the locals are affectionately known). George McGuinness has been to the island many times, but he normally runs the DZ control and, this year, he was treated with his first jump onto the landing area at L'Eree – proving himself once again to be a Jedi master.

Brian Foote has been in the islands for a couple of weeks and achieved a couple of firsts, swapping his usual position of capturing the tandem students' experience in film and pictures to taking a tandem ride with local legend Pete Dolbel. Bri also gained an enviable entry in his logbook as the very first wingsuiter ever to fly over Guernsey, giving him extra time to take in some stunning views. Big up Batman!

The Static Line courses are proving popular and there are a couple of first jumps in Jersey to mention. Maurice Keenan and Jenny Russ got their first experience of the trusty 206 with Mal's reassuring guidance, so we hope you had a couple of seconds to take in the vivid sunset. Congratulations, young padewans, and beer fines are payable at the bar.

Let's keep the prop turning, the energy high and continue the good news stories for the rest of the year!

Nigel O'Brien

LANGAR

#THISISLANGAR

Boogie2 got off to a flying start on September 11 after bad weather prevented jumping on the Saturday. As I'm writing this, we have planes taking off with a variety of organised groups.

We've had a great season so far, topped off with a successful Tandem Instructor course during which Tom Shorten and Alan Foulkes-Williams both achieved their TI ratings. Well done to everyone involved with the course; seeing our staff and regular jumpers progress is always something we enjoy.

As with a number of dropzones, we are waiting expectantly for the first weekend of university students attending a RAPS or AFF course. As well as keeping the bar busy during the winter months, the influx of students gives a welcome boost to enthusiasm levels as the temperature starts to fall. The start of the university term is also a good reminder that we remain open all year round and have some of our most picturesque days in autumn and winter. Be sure to come and join us once you've dug out your thermals.

We have some dates for your diary. Bonfire night at Langar has become a much-anticipated event with a firework display laid on by the camera team, the biggest bonfire for miles around and a party in the bar into the early hours. This year, the bonfire will be held on November 5 and will be Halloween-themed to take advantage of two reasons to party. It's not an evening you'll want to miss!

Cynthia Bowring

NETHERAVON

TURNING THE HEAT UP AT THE ARMIES

For the first time in seven years, we held the Armed Forces Parachute Championships prizegiving outdoors! With glorious sunshine, light winds and no cloud, the closing display was out of this world. From junior cadets to world champions, civilian and military, every aspect of parachuting and every experience level was represented, climaxing in a tandem for APA president General Lorimer followed by a Red Devils CRW stack and 'Chain of Death' smoke extravaganza.

The conditions turned out to be perfect during the competition despite bad weather on the training days and a total of 2,617 jumps were completed. With 121 registered competitors, we saw an increased number of sub-B Licence parachutists who showed great promise and potential for the future. Congratulations to Cpl Alexis McNaughton and Major Mel Dando on receiving their Army Colours during the ceremony.

GOOD LUCK AT THE WORLDS!

The whole dropzone has its fingers crossed for APA members Spike and Jackie Harper, Paul Cain, Steve Murfin, Tony Uragallo and Tom Owen, who are on the British team competing at the Wingsuit Performance Flying World Championships next month. Tutti Frutti (Mel Dando, Nicky Young and Kev Tucker) are competing in the Wingsuit Artistics World Cup too and both events are at Z-Hills in Florida this November. Good luck to you all!

NETHERAVON 'BEARS' ALL!

Bear Grylls and the Land Rover team made Netheravon their home for the day as they filmed the launch of their new Discovery model early this September. The DZ was transformed into a mini-Hollywood with a full crew including lights, camera and lots of action. Bear was filmed on the ground, in the aircraft, in freefall and under canopy – proving that he truly is the real deal.

A FOND FAREWELL

FS.com Load Organising weekends have always been incredibly popular and this is in no small part due to the enthusiasm and passion of Mike Lewis. Mike has decided that, after more than 21 years of jumping, he is going to pack away his rig for the last time and hand the reins over to Trevor Hooking. Thank you Mike for everything you have done for this sport, and we hope you continue to visit Nethers and keep in touch.

Elana Cain

ACHIEVEMENTS	CAT8/CH1 Craig Lord, Ross O'Rourke CAT8 Aaron Dickinson CH2/JM1 Michael Bayada, Owen Evans, Catherine Folley, Janine Qasim JM1 Kim Philtjens FS1 Ross Aitken, Ryan Goodman, Tim Young FF2 Tash Higman WS1 Scott Anderson, Stephen Handley, Paul Monaghan IS1 Becky Dickens, Clinton McKenzie JUMP NUMBERS 50 Michael Bayada, Owen Evans, Catherine Folley 100 Craig Anderson, Matt Kettle, Janine Qasim 200 Mark Hay, Gina Marshall, Alex Slegg, Stuart Sneddon, Vikki Toria 600 Sam Stevens 700 Spencer Bailey, Sue Nuttall 1,000 Simon Donnelly, Tom Owen 1,500 Tom Canty ONE HOUR IN FREEFALL Jorge Gutic THREE HOURS IN FREEFALL Mark Hay →
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PETERLEE
Ally and Ralph feel at home with another local clown, by Lisa Stephenson

PETERLEE

SUNSHINE AND BLUE SKIES

We kicked off the summer by welcoming the BPA FS Roadshow. Martin Soulsby, Audrey Rowe, Martin Cressey and Lynne Murray from MicroClim8 came along to provide some world-class FS coaching, and then they went over to the US to compete in the Mondial World Parachuting Championships. All the regulars who came along to participate gained lots of invaluable advice and loads of progression was achieved.

Congratulations to Mitchel Wallace, who took a trip to Headcorn and returned with his CSBI rating! Well done also to Dick Kalinski, who has regained his TI rating, with thanks going to Jordon Simcoe and Emma Reynolds who were there to help him out by videoing his jumps and acting as his student.

North Wings Parachute Display Team, led by David Knox, have been at it again, continuing their busy season with a display into South Hetton Community Centre. Ground crew David, Kieran Hogan and Lisa Stephenson and pilot Paul Moore guided jumpers Ally Milne and Ralph Weatherburn safely into the small demo PLA.

We've welcomed a new pilot to the team this month. Storm Smith has joined us to fly the Cessna 182 but, with years of experience at Eshott Airfield and Purple Aviation, we're sure it won't be long before Storm will be adding a Caravan rating to his portfolio. Even Paul Moore helped out with Storm's checkout lifts by using his parachute for a change instead of his headset, and Instructors Nigel Peacock and Lee Sample were back on the rope.

The fine weather seems to be hanging around as we carry on through September, and we are now looking forward to our annual influx of new skydivers as the north-east universities return following their summer break.

Simon Minto and Lisa Stephenson

ACHIEVEMENTS FS1 Billy Hendrie, Chris Lawson WS1 Emma Reynolds, Chloe Smith TR2 Emma Reynolds **JUMP NUMBERS** 200 Mehdi Shabanzadeh, Chloe Smith 300 Emma Reynolds 400 Tomasz Lipiec 700 Ralph Weatherburn 1,000 Lee Sample 4,000 Dave Taylor

POPS

LUCKY 13

The 13th World Meet and Championships and 50th anniversary of POPS was held at Skydive Dádalus from August 5-13. The competitors came from 22 countries and more than 200 competitors made this the biggest meet so far. Six different events were completed: 4-way FS Nationals, 4-way FS Scrambles, Precision Accuracy, Sports Accuracy, 8-way Speed Star and Hit and Rock.

The GB delegation included two 4-way FS POPS teams and one FS SOS team. Individuals competed in the Scrambles, Speed Star, Sports Accuracy and Hit and Rock events. The 8-way Speed Star was a popular event with the 11 teams, with most able to complete an 8-way star in under 45 seconds and all of them being safe and disciplined.

Niels Hanson's team won gold in the 4-way Scrambles. Jeff Chandler won gold in SOS Precision Accuracy and bronze in SOS Sports Accuracy. Former UK Top POP Number #9 Dick Barton (competing for Gibraltar) got the gold in SOS Sports Accuracy. Tamsyn Stanton and Paul French's team won gold, Jeff Chandler's team won silver and Polly Chandler's team won bronze in the 8-way Speed.

There were 19 teams in the FS Nationals. SkyVandals (Ben Samuel, Anthony Green, Steve Margison, Jasvir Singh and Mike Coleman (camera)) won gold with an average of 15 over five rounds) in the 4-way POPS Nationals, with Aeronauts 79 (Jeff, Polly, Tamsyn, Nigel Rowland and Simon Donnelly (camera)) taking fourth. There were seven FS National SOS teams, with Les Rosbifs (Paul French, Mike Whyborn, John Houghland, Caroline O'Hagan and Eddie McBride (camera)) coming fifth. The winning team (Germany) averaged 20.8 over five rounds and showed all the teams how it's done.

A big thank you has to go to the DZ for a great meet, with all the behind-the-scenes staff working late to make the event run smoothly including trips for non-jumping partners and for everyone on the day off. The POPS Meet and Championship is about the meet first and skydiving second, and the level of competition has risen considerably over the last few meets. It was nice to see a lot more faces at this year's event and quite a few were younger faces as well. POPS/SOS/JOS is not a badge to show you're old, but is a society of skydivers that enjoy life to the full wherever they are.

A big thank you has to go to Jeff Chandler who, after six years as Top POP UK, has now passed the torch on to me. The next meet will be held on April 19-28 2018 in Nagambie, Australia. Hope to see you there.

POPS has a new email address at parachutistoverphortyUK@gmail.com and work is continuing on updating the website and Facebook page. Please feel free to let me know what you would like to see or events you would be interested in.

I am starting to put together plans for different events/records for 2017. In the next issue, I hope to bring details of the latest POPS formation attempt at Langar.

Polly Chandler →



POPS
Polly Chandler (right) new UK Top POP, and retiring UK Top POP Jeff Chandler (left). By Simon Donnelly in San Juan, Argentina, during the last world POPS meet back in 2014

READING

I'LL SEE YOU ON THE FLIGHTLINE

One of our regular Tandem Instructors, Tom Blakey, has recently completed a training trip to Skydive Madrid with Rescue Global (see *Skydive the Mag*, April 2016). Tom was the lead during this trip as RG's Pathfinder Team Leader and has continued to develop RG's parachute insertion capability. Each team member completed around 30 jumps, including FS, Accuracy, jumping as a patrol and jumping with RG's new Paratec TW9 tactical parachute systems, which enables team members to jump with all their communications, medical and survival equipment.

The LPS Summer BBQ (with no BBQ food, just pizzas) was one of the best get-togethers we've had in a long time, mainly due to the characters present – namely Floyd, Binksy and Flannery. It was like a mini-Glastonbury with all of our tents and our beer marquee. The fun and games started and we actually managed to trick two people with the 'three-man lift' (Matt Stevens) and the 'spoon challenge' (Russ 'egg head' Upton) – videos are available on the LPSClubjumpers Facebook group. Not satisfied with that, we proceeded to human pyramids and three-man tube exits using a van as the doorway. Sharron Floyd and I managed a spectacular two-woman tube across the field!

We had an outdoor cinema thanks to Martin hooking up the generator and we sat and watched old-school skydive films – *Cutaway* and the original *Point Break* – complete with firepit, marshmallows and many beers! Tim is after donations to boost the beer fund ready for the end of season bash.

We welcome new skydiver Tom Simpson to the club.

Amy (manifest) and Hayley (daughter of the airfield owner) are planning to climb Mt Kilimanjaro next year, and have been busy planning events around their fundraising for this epic climb and for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Take a look at their story and donation page at <http://tinyurl.com/readingeverydayhero>. Good luck girls!

At the time of writing, our very own Mikey Lovemore was in Chicago representing his country (and LPS, of course) at the World Championships – fly fast Mikey. We are all so proud of what he is achieving in the sport and watching his journey. And he even remains a nice bloke!

Annie Lewis

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Jordan Lockyear JUMP NUMBERS 200 Tom Simpson 300 Ryan Stew FOUR HOURS IN FREEFALL Tamsyn Stanton



SWANSEA
Carl Williams in Accuracy training

Dylan has not only done some fun jumping but there is even a rumour going around that he has managed an AFF jump without forgetting some vital piece of kit,

READING
Tom jumping the Paratec TW9 with equipment over Skydive Madrid, by Bryn Chaffe

SWANSEA



ONCE UPON A DROPZONE

Mother Nature finally decided to be kind to us and we had the blue skies we'd been waiting for at last. Many of our club jumpers put this to good use by getting some practice jumps in for the National Accuracy Championships that took place on August Bank Holiday weekend.

Big congratulations to the new Mr and Mrs Watts for getting hitched last month. They met each other at the centre three years ago and haven't looked back since. Being the lovely couple they are, they got married on a weekday so we could all attend (not sure that was such a good idea) and even spent their honeymoon as competitors in the Accuracy competition. We're taking bets on who the next ones will be...

We'd also like to welcome Lee Matthews, Jay Townsend and Michael Price to the packing team. All that hard graft has finally paid off!

All our AFF courses are now fully booked for 2016 and the 2017 dates are starting to fill up as well. Everyone will be looking good in our new AFF jumpsuits from Symbiosis, though.

As a final reminder, there aren't many spaces left for the Christmas party on November 26. Let us know if you want to come and remember: Disney fancy dress is optional!

Sara Williams

ACHIEVEMENTS CAT8/CH1 Bethan Forrest, Ashley Moss, Victoria Tomlin FF1 Fae Yip **JUMP NUMBERS**
100 Wayne Borley, Gabriella Morgan-Swinhoe 200 Craig Hawker-Thomas
600 Adam George 10,000 Jeff Chandler

SWINDON

WHILE THE CATH'S AWAY

A collective sigh of relief was to be heard at Redlands with the news that Catherine Thorne was taking a break from writing the news for an issue to concentrate on creating the FJ syllabus. Unfortunately, the happiness was short-lived when her 'Double Trouble' partner took to the keyboard instead.

Laura has been complaining that Princess Ant is always in the club news and she never is. To help rectify this, Laura decided to see if an impressively far land-off would do the job. Yep Laura, it did. Fearing he might not make the news, Ant woke up for long enough to pass his FF2 – job done. He was also heard explaining to a tandem student that "It's all about looking good"; we suspect this is work in progress.

On the subject of looking good, leading expert in the field Dylan has not only done some fun jumping but there is even a rumour going around that he has managed an AFF jump without forgetting some vital piece of kit for either himself or his student. Should this be true, there will be a beer fine – it will surely be the first time it has happened.

The Redlands crew like to spread the love, so a couple of groups ventured down to Dunks. The Backstreet Boys went, but unfortunately Shaun couldn't make it and so Sharon Zerbeki had to fill his slot. Team Cake also headed down to Dunks for some FS practice and perhaps ate too much cake (a concept that confuses our delectable packers, Jenny and Chrissy), resulting in a higher wing-loading for Karen and some snapping sounds on landing. Heal soon, Karen. ➔

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Amanda was inspired by Bud's previous tree landing, but only managed to get her canopy into the tree. Having thus depleted the student kit, Darrell has finally been forced to downsize off the 280. Not being willing to give up his cherished 'Skygod' status, Darrell has had several off landings, hard landings and a chop. Keep swimming, Darrell, keep swimming.

I don't want to create a picture of constant chaos and carnage (well, actually I do), but we also did some proper skydiving as well. Sarah Cox took a break from running around and fuelling the plane and got her C Licence. Craig Lillington took a break from touring with the Backdoor Boys and also got his C Licence, Patrick took a break from repeating his AFF Level 3 and also got his C Licence and Aaron Doy took a break from, well, taking a break and got his too. Jimmy has reached two milestones of 600 jumps and 10 years of jumping at Redlands, and now has his sights on his FF1. Emma and Lee have scorched through AFF to reach their A Licences and Amanda also got hers, demonstrating admirable determination. Finally, congratulations to Hazel who gained her FS Coach rating.

Patrick Holmes

ACHIEVEMENTS FIRST FREEFALL Rhys Evans, Andrew Everett
CAT8/CH1 Lee Bowers, Amanda Carrigan, Jamie Gallaher, Emma Selway
FF2 Ant 'Princess' Andrews **JUMP NUMBERS 200** Sarah Cox, Aaron Doy, Patrick Holmes, Craig Lillington **500** Jon Eeles, Darrell Gibson **600** James Morham **4,000** Brucie Johnson

TILSTOCK



IN THE PINK

Firstly, we're pleased to see the formation of the first 4-way FS team here for a while – the *Tilstock Tumbling Turkeys*. We're hoping for great things or, at least, a whole load of fun and games.

Talking of great things, one of our number

achieved her 1,000th jump the same way she started as Ann Fleming was dispatched by her original CSBI Scoop. Fortunately, he gave her GATW as it would have been a shame to downgrade her after all her achievements in the past few years. She was particularly pleased to be able to don the ultra-fashionable blue student boiler suit and fly a lively student 290 canopy. Ann continued to enjoy the fun and games coming on our recent tunnel trips and coaching on both occasions.

We are very fortunate to have a tunnel within such easy striking distance and lots of progression occurs within its walls. Its proximity to the Palace of Mamon (otherwise known as the Trafford Centre) makes it doubly popular with certain members. This included my eldest daughter Libby, who enjoyed the shopping experience but came out of the tunnel giggling like a toddler – I think she liked it.

I just need to get her in the air on the same lift with my youngest. Now that would be special!

While on the subject of fashion, a source assures us that Helen Halliday – a.k.a. Pinky – has secured an even pinker jumpsuit than her previous garment and we look forward to her modelling it for us in the near future. However, I suspect she may save it for the less muddy occasions.

Mike Pritchard has been busy of late, achieving both his Parachute Radio Operators Certificate of Competence and Canopy Handling Coach rating. On top of his FS coaching, he is a very busy boy at the DZ. Others too are taking on more responsibility around the place and it's great to see the place buzzing with so much energy.

On the training agenda, we have seen the start of pre-CSBI and Instructor training with eight people starting a programme run by Richie Barron. It will be great to see such homegrown talent emerging from Tilly.

Manifest has been busy with staff shuffling around with various changes, including getting Vicky back behind a desk from a grill. We even managed to get Lisa Wright airborne again as she took to the air as a tandem – time to get back on the student programme, Lisa. Don't think we will ever get Vicky to take the plunge, though.

We were delighted to welcome back several old faces we haven't seen for a while when they popped in for a visit and it was a great pleasure to see them again. Dan 'Diego' Cope came home after a year 'studying' in San Diego as part of an exchange programme with Keele University and there is an American feel around the DZ with several of our number planning a trip in November to Florida. Oh, to have a piggy bank big enough to raid for that trip! While some of us look on enviously, Steve and the boys will fly the Tilly flag down south.

Lastly, and I hate to mention such things this side of the clocks going back, Christmas is coming and this year we are marking the changes by having our Christmas bash at Carden Park. Yes, that's right – as they say on their website, an 'award-winning Cheshire hotel complete with AA Rosette restaurant, championship golf courses and spa' has let a skydiving club in! If you fancy coming to somewhere seriously posh on December 17, give the office a ring and book a ticket.

Gary Windon

ACHIEVEMENTS **CH2/JM1** Gary Bradshaw **CH2** Orion Modebe **FS1** Orion Modebe **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Gary Bradshaw, Chris Coghlan, Orion Modebe **200** Dan Griffiths, Lauren Mann **600** Mike Pritchard **1,000** Ann Fleming **1,200** Jim Coupe

WILD GEESE

HOW DID YOU DO?

Well, folks, there you have it. The summer has been and gone. Who did lots and who didn't?

Firstly, a huge congratulations to Joanne Wilson, our newest fully qualified Category System Instructor. My guess is that, with 700 very accurately logged jumps, her Tandem Rating won't be too far away either.

The summer months saw another BPA Nationals medal arriving at the centre when Crazy Neal brought back a well-earned silver medal in 8-way FS. See how easy a stable exit is when seven other people hold on to you?

We also think that Linley Ewing did some jumping over the summer, but nothing really noteworthy or that anyone cares about. At the same time, Chainsaw continued to achieve absolutely nothing and that wee rascal Sandra managed to do one whole jump!

Despite Dave Scott claiming to have had a baby, we all know that his lovely wife deserves the credit for that. Congratulations to both of them, and health and happiness for the future! Anyone remember Dave Scott? He used to skydive...

Rod McCrory

P.S. Dave – if you've got any decent gear, can I have first refusal?

ACHIEVEMENTS **JUMP NUMBERS 50** Jutta McNaulty **500** Graham Wallace **700** Crazy Neal **10 HOURS**
IN FREEFALL Crazy Neal



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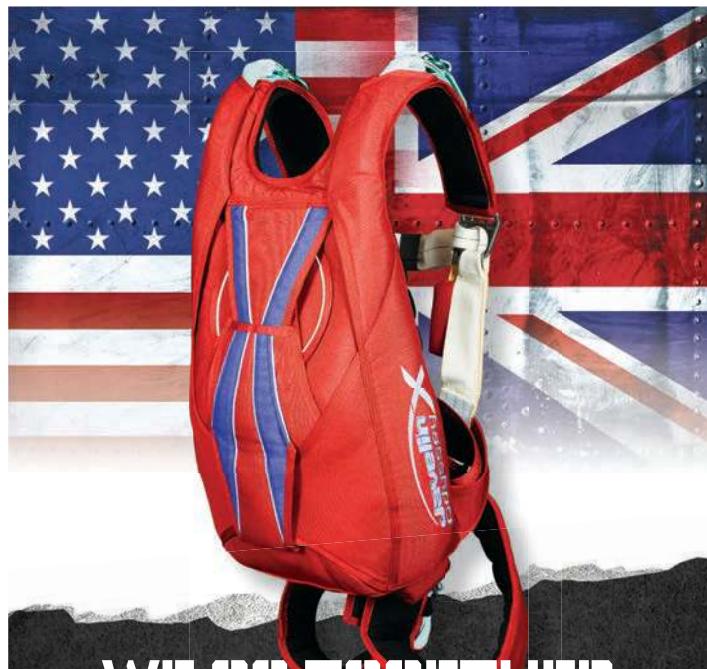
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OCTOBER

October 6-9

FS ESL FinalsLocation: **Saarlsouis, Germany** • fsz-saar.de

October 11-16

T World Cup in Indoor SkydivingLocation: **Warsaw, Poland**

October 31-November 4

BPA CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced Instructor CourseLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

NOVEMBER

November 2-10

WS Wingsuit Performance World Championships and Acro World CupLocation: **Z-Hills, Florida**
• skydivecity.com

November 7-11

BPA CSI Instructor CourseLocation: **Hibaldstow** • skydiving.co.uk

November 17

BPA STC and Riggers' MeetingsLocation: **Blaby Civic Centre, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

November 29

BPA BPA Council MeetingLocation: **Blaby Civic Centre, Leicester** • bpa.org.uk

2017

January 27

BPA BPA Tandem Instructor Personal Development and Safety Day (Pre-registration only)Location: **EMCC, Nottingham** • skydivetheexpo.co.uk

January 27

BPA Drop Zone Operators' Specialised Interest Group Meeting (Pre-registration only)Location: **EMCC, Nottingham** • skydivetheexpo.co.uk

January 28

BPA BPA Skydive the Expo and BPA AGMLocation: **EMCC, Nottingham** • skydivetheexpo.co.uk

February 6-10

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Peterlee**

February 13-17

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)Location: **Peterlee**

March 13-17

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)Location: **Langar**

April 10-14

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)Location: **Hibaldstow**

May 8-12

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Strathallan**

May 15-19

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)Location: **Strathallan**

June 19-23

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)Location: **Sibson**

July 20-30

CP The World GamesLocation: **Wroclaw, Poland**

August 7-11

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Headcorn**

August 7-12

FS **A** **CF** World Cup and European Championships in FS, Artistics, CF and SpeedLocation: **Saarlsouis, Germany**

August 14-18

BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Tandem/AFF)Location: **Headcorn**

August 24-31

S&A European Championships in Style and AccuracyLocation: **Podgorica, Montenegro**

September TBC

BPA Instructor Course (Tandem/AFF/Pre-Adv)Location: **Langar**

October 20-22

T World Indoor Skydiving ChampionshipsLocation: **Laval, Quebec, Canada**

November 6-10

BPA Instructor Course (CSBI/AFFBI/TBI/Advanced)Location: **Hibaldstow**

November 13-17

BPA Instructor Course (CSI)Location: **Hibaldstow**

November 27-December 1

CP Canopy Piloting World CupLocation: **Dubai, UAE**

Dates correct at time of printing

KEY

- BPA** BPA EVENTS
- CP** CANOPY PILOTING
- FS** FORMATION SKYDIVING

- CF** CANOPY FORMATION
- S&A** STYLE AND ACCURACY
- B/F** BOOGIES/FUN

- A** ARTISTICS
- WS** WINGSUIT
- T** TUNNEL

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4th Kristian Szcepitko - CR+
5th Joe Ridler - CR+
6th Max Lesziak - CR+



Red Bull ACES

- 1st Andy Farrington - C-Race
2nd Noah Bahnson - C-Race
3rd Matt Gerdes - C-Race



Danish National PPC

- 1st Tanya Barkhuus - C-Race



WOVS Chicago Speed

- 1st Keith Forsyth - C-Race
3rd Luke Rogers - CR+



Z-Hills Performance Cup

- 2nd Chris Geiler - CR+
3rd Joe Ridler - CR+



WOVS Perris Speed

- 1st Sebastian Alvarez - C-Race
2nd Chris Geiler - CR+
3rd Todd Davis - CR+



Australian National Championships

- 1st Steve Holden - CR+



WOVS Kapowsin Distance

- 1st Luke Rogers - CR+
2nd Jared Jorgenson - C-Race
3rd Cam Lopez - C-Race



WOVS Chicago Distance

- 1st Alexey Galda - CR+
2nd Jason Bresson - CR+
3rd Joe Ridler - CR+



WOVS Perris Distance

- 1st Chris Geiler - CR+
2nd Dave Covel - C-Race
3rd Joe Ridler - CR+



SPEED

- 1st Sebastian Alvarez - C-Race
2nd Chris Geiler - CR+
3rd Todd Davis - CR+



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