

skydive

The Mag

April 2003

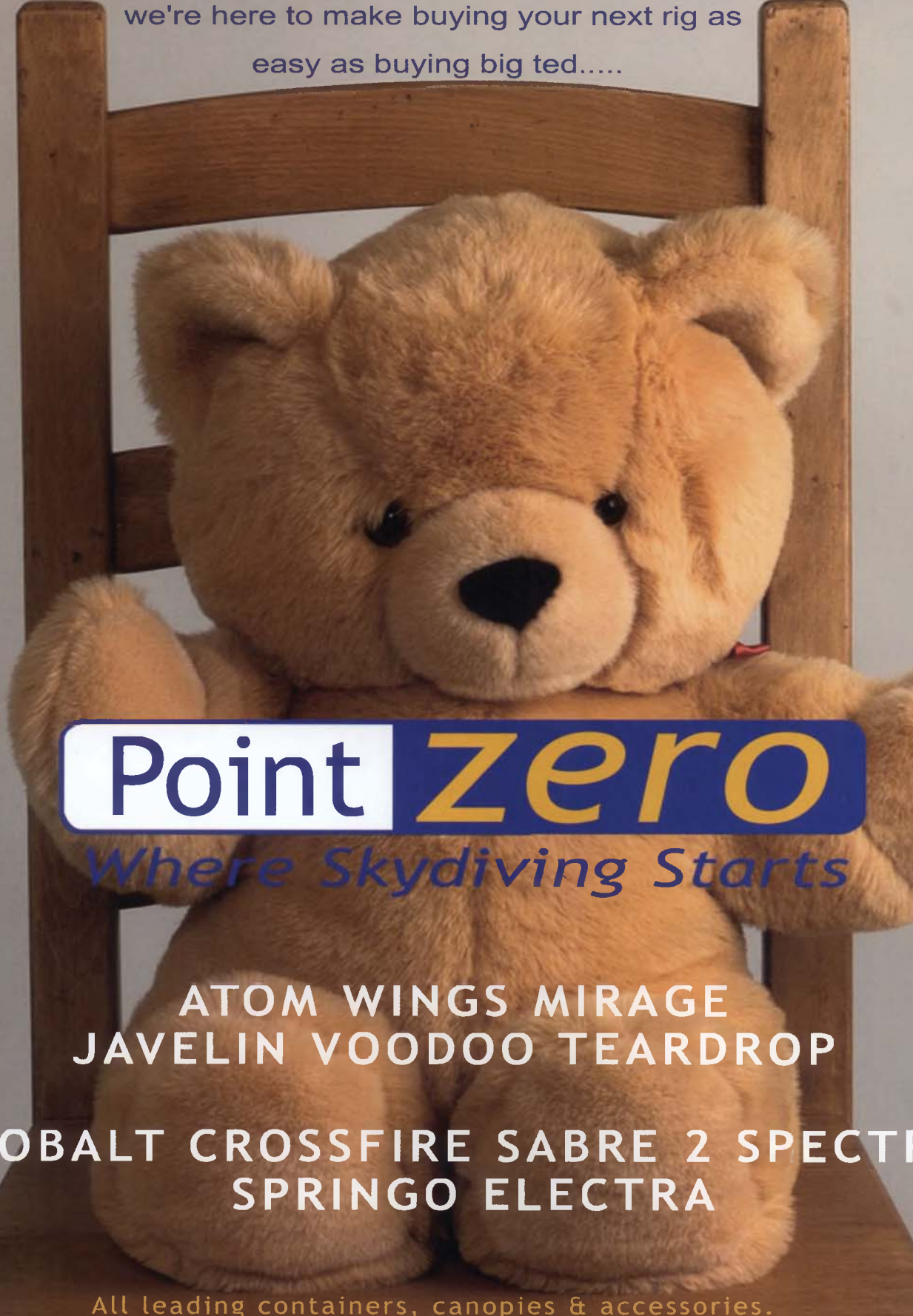


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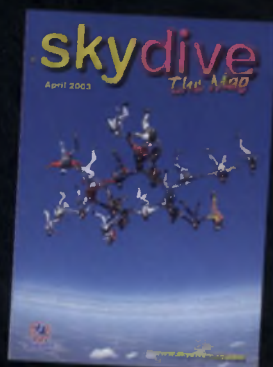
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Mark Wiles

editorial

Firstly, I have some great news for fans of The Mag. We now have binders available for storing your back issues as a constant reference source of advice. They are classy (of course!), contain The Mag logo and hold 12 magazines, enough for two years. If interested, you can order them from the BPA Shop, via the BPA website, or see the advertisement on page 5. I am very grateful to Tony Knight for the hard work of commissioning these high quality binders.

Secondly, I'm still in shock as my right hand woman is leaving. After almost two years of extremely faithful service, Bev is moving back to Cornwall. So, I'm on the lookout for a replacement Editorial and Website Co-ordinator. I would like someone who feels a pride in the Mag and wants to contribute to, and improve on, its high standards. The primary task is to assist me in whatever it takes to deliver the best magazine we can to the membership. Basic office administration, including filing, emails, post and ordering is important. Two exciting areas will be primarily your responsibility; Club News and the magazine website, for which you will choose photos, edit text and put together.

Communication skills are vital as you will be building a relationship with club reps, photographers and writers. A good standard of English grammar and punctuation is required, together with a keen eye for detail. The ability to multi-task, work on your own initiative and solve problems is needed. You must also be very organised, enjoy deadlines and enjoy working hard.

The position is full time and based in Peterborough. Experience of any of the following would be a great advantage: proofreading, journalism, website construction/design, AppleMacs, Quark, PhotoShop, Go Live, Excel, Entourage. Being able to draw, touch type or take good photographs would help.

If you feel you have what it takes, please send me your CV, a covering letter and 500 words on why you would like the job, by 6 May. I hope to find someone as motivated, friendly and generally wonderful as Bev.

Lesley

Photo: Tim Skilton



deadlines

Issue	To Reader	Copy Deadline
June	16 June	6 May
August	16 August	6 May
October	16 October	6 September

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- copy deadline is the 6th of the month before

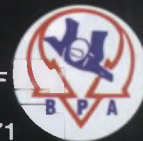
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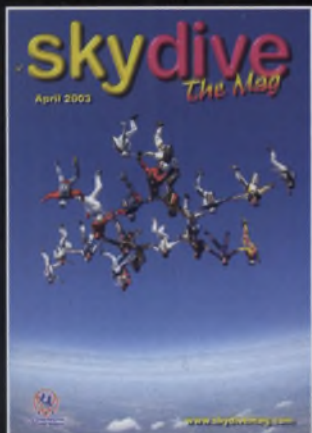
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The information in this mag was, to the best of our ability, correct at the time of going to press. Reproduction, printing and mailing take a total of three weeks so some information may be out of date, or superseded.



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official world record
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formation, shown complete
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Front cover and photos this
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Andy Pook, VNE

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

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

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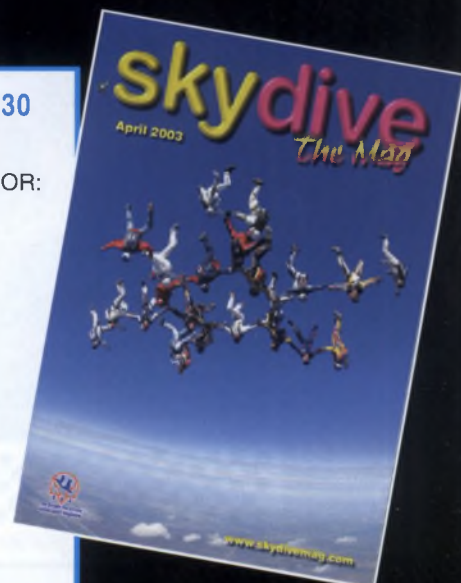
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Skysurfing

Why Would You?

The thought of jumping a skysurf board has most of us reaching for the Imodium, yet it's not as inaccessible, nor as hard as you might think.

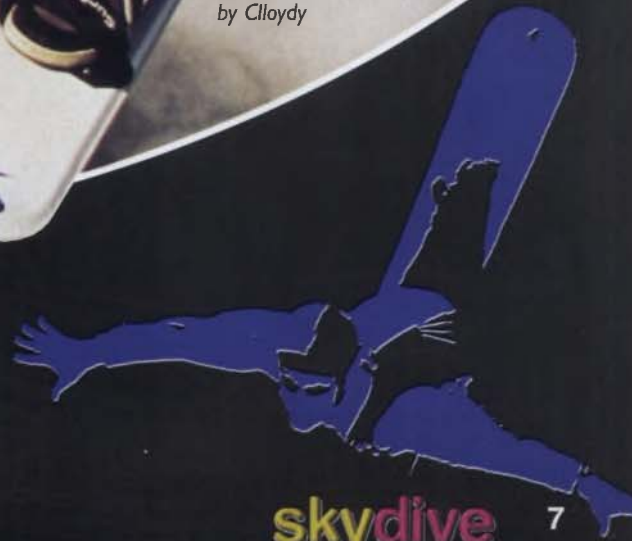
David Fish, describes his experiences earning his SS1 qualification for skysurfing. Share his journey from a beginner's board, through a slightly larger one and finally, the full monty. It's not the huge step into madness that you may imagine; there's a logical progression system to help you gain the skills you need.



Photo: Dave Caldwell
by Clloyd



I decided that the best way to embark on this new activity was to head off to Skydive Portugal with Tim Porter for 10 days focusing just on skysurfing. You can learn to skysurf in the UK too, Dave Sturgeon runs skysurf training at Sibson most weekends.





Bindings are set across the board so you deploy face to earth

32" Starter Board



The different foot position means you must deploy in a stand-up

44" Training Board



A good all-round board

47" Intermediate/Full Size Board

Master Head-up First

There's a lot you can do before you get on your first board. The better your head-up flying, in particular your stand-up, the easier you'll find the board. The BPA has laid down some minimum requirements (downloadable from the BPA website) that you should meet before getting on a board and this includes good stand-up control as well as the ability to stop fast spins quickly. Spending time practicing these basics is well worth the effort.

Starter Board

The first few board jumps are done on a starter board, this is about 32" long and has the bindings set so that your feet are pointing across the board rather than in line with it. This is because the board is too small to deploy in the stand-up position; by having your feet across the board you can fly flat with it tucked up and deploy in a normal belly to earth position. Jumping the starter board gets you used to having your feet bound to a solid object. You build you up slowly to the bigger boards (which can bite!).

Having spent half a day on the ground, putting the board on, laying on creepers, varying the board's position for deployment and going over new emergency procedures it was time for my first board jump.

The First Board Jump

The first thing that surprised me was how much effort it takes to put the board on in the aircraft. I practiced many times on the ground but it's a different ball game when climbing to altitude in an aircraft full of jumpers! Skydive Portugal's Super Otter is very quick in the climb, so I started to put the board on at 4,000 ft which gave me a little time at the top end to prepare for the jump ahead and – er – relax!

It was like doing AFF level 1 all over again. Not knowing what to expect, excited, nervous, wanting to do well but unsure of what 'doing well' really meant. The first jump was all about finding a good body position for the deployment. The whole jump was spent in a belly to earth position varying the position of the board to see what it did to the angle and stability of my position. Tim was flying in front of me (also flying flat – a very rare sight) giving signals. The main danger with belly to earth deployment is if the pilot chute goes between the board and your legs; this is definitely not a good situation!

The deployment height for the initial jumps is 6,000 ft, this allows extra time to sort out the minor complications that come from having a board attached to your feet should you have a malfunction. With a good body position, thumbs up from Tim and BK approaching, it was time to pitch out the pilot

chute. Once I had a good canopy and the DZ located there was plenty of time to reach down and undo the bindings ready for dropping the board on landing.

It was one of my most exciting jumps since AFF. I had a smile from ear to ear as I walked in from the landing area with my new toy under my arm.

Second Jump

It was time to try this surfing malarkey. I felt a bit more pressure mixed with nerves of what was to come when I left the apparent security of the Otter's airframe. Great energy was put into making sure the board was tightly attached to both feet and that the all-important cutaway cable was correctly routed and connected.

A little undignified hop to the door and it was out into the slipstream for a second time. After a couple of loops I was on top of the board and it's hard to explain how good that felt. It's easier to stand on the board than do normal stand-up flying and, once on top, it's quite a stable platform. After three board jumps the grin lasted all night – but sadly the case of beer didn't!

One of the main differences between the starter and the next size training board is you can physically muscle the starter board around the sky but the bigger board will have none of that! You have to fly it and control it or it will control you. The larger boards are about technique not physical strength.

The next few jumps were about finding out what happens as the board moved through the airflow; this is achieved by doing front and back layouts and then practicing different recovery techniques to get back on top of the board when they didn't work. With every jump it became easier to stand the board up. As the number of jumps on the starter board broke into double figures it was time to prepare for the addition of another 12 inches!

Deployment

As the bindings on the starter board are set up for a belly to earth deployment you have to twist at the waist in order to fly in line with board. Once this is sorted you can start doing practice pulls in the stand-up position. It's really important that you can carry these out smoothly and without turning. With the bigger boards you must deploy standing up so this skill must be practiced before moving on.



Practice pulls on a starter board

Steve Utter





Freefly Nationals 2-4 August Hibaldstow

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with a cameraflyer
and enter?

Skysurfing Hot Tips

- Take it slowly, learn at your own pace
- Use the proper equipment, gear and clothing
- Get good coaching from someone who knows
- Listen and learn
- Never be afraid to get rid of the board
- Do it because you want to, not because you think it's cool!



Finally Tim wanted to see some spinning before I could hop on the bigger board. The logic behind this is to find the edge, see how fast the board can get and then learn to control it. When the horizon is a blur, one of the hardest but most important things is to stay calm, breathe and look at the board. This was to become very useful as the boards started to get bigger...

Training Board

After spinning, looping and spinning some more it was time to make the step up to the 44 inch training board. This was as much a mental step as physical. It's bigger, the foot position's different and you have to deploy in stand-up. 'What if?...' goes through your mind. You know that you can get rid of the board if you have to but pride means that you don't want to consider that.

It was back to that AFF level 1 feeling all over again – only this time, I felt I should know better! With Tim on the camera step and the board pointing out the door it was time to try a nice surfing down the slipstream exit and see if I was going to make a 'real' skysurfer.

The exit almost went well and for a second I was in control and nearly on top of the board – then it all went to rats... I quickly learned the power and control the board can exert on you and, as the altitude slipped away, so did my energy. Looping, spinning, there was even a helicopter as the board surfed me around the sky. Staying as calm as possible, constantly monitoring the altitude I kept working to try and get back in control, knowing as every second passed I was less likely to pull off a stand-up deployment and more likely to be cutting the board away.

Spinning Like a Rag Doll in a Washing Machine

Passing 7,000ft, I was still looping and spinning like a rag doll in a washing machine. I was confident the board was history but remained determined to put up a good fight. At 5,000ft, deployment time, I went for the cutaway pad located at the top of my trousers. With two hands firmly gripping the pad and the board inverted above my head I pulled the release and kicked with my feet to ensure the board was jettisoned.

As it shot off I rolled flat with the cutaway cable flying around in my left hand. I found I had no control over my legs at all, finally free from the plank that had drained all their strength, they were now flapping uselessly in the wind. Under canopy by 4,000 ft, there was just time to reflect on the last 40 seconds of fun before concentrating on getting back to the DZ and watching the board as it floated down under its recovery parachute, activated when it was cut away.

The ripple of applause bemused me as I landed. I was even more surprised by the slaps on the back and the shouts of 'Well done!'. Had they not seen that the board made its own way back to the DZ? Perhaps they had mixed me up with someone who had achieved something rather than failing, which is how I felt at this point.

What I couldn't see then and didn't see for a couple of days, was that I had probably learned more from this skydive than any of my previous board jumps. Although things had not gone to plan, I gave it my best and, above all, I had done the right things to stay alive.

After watching the video it was clear that I was trying far too hard with too much energy not being used to good effect. I was back in the air on the next load with the starter board and threw it around the sky!

Back in the Saddle

The next morning my first jump was back on the bigger board. I had mixed feelings; my confidence was dented but I was more relaxed with the knowledge that the cutaway had worked and encouraged by the support from everyone. I didn't tell anyone but I had decided that, if I couldn't get control on this jump, that would be it. I would take a break from skysurfing, reflect and consider whether or not to return.

I was given a piece of advice that was to prove extremely valuable in my quest to become a skysurfer. When you are trying to get back on top of the board or to stop a spin, look at the angle or pitch of the board. You can then use your feet to change the pitch and this will accelerate or stop the spin.

Staying as relaxed as possible in the aircraft, I blocked out everything and focused on the task ahead – stand up and deploy! The exit was smooth but not perfect and, after a front loop and a short spin, I had the board in front of me in a sit-spin type position. Looking at it I was able to control the heading and within seconds I was on top. WOW, what a feeling! I felt in control and it was a lot more stable than the starter board. A big grin and a thumbs-up from Tim flying head-down in front of me. A couple of practice pulls and then it was time to go for the live pull. A nice smooth deployment and I was elated. I started to believe that I could become a skysurfer after all.

Now I learned how to keep control in the same way as with the starter, practicing front and back layouts, sit spins and tracking. Techniques are the same but everything on the bigger board needs to be executed more cleanly.

Intermediate / Full Size Board

The more difficult moves were always practiced higher up so that, if I lost control, I had altitude on my side. After about 30 board jumps I moved up another 3" to the 47" board I am jumping at the moment. Even this small increase made a difference. Any out of control spin that isn't stopped quickly winds up real fast. I may stay on this size board as it is both challenging and fun but, if I eventually want to compete, the board must be 75% of my height, around 54".

SSI Qualification

Everything was finally put together to make a skydive in line with BPA requirements for the SSI qualification, I passed!

Skysurf with a Friend

As the week came to a close we started to have some fun doing a 2-way board jump with Tim docking on the board while Andrew carved around us head-down flying camera. It's hard to describe how much fun and how rewarding these jumps were. After so much work and a little stress I knew what it was all about and I why I had started the journey to become a skysurfer.

I still have a huge amount to learn. I'm sure there are going to be times when I wonder why I ever started skysurfing but, while I enjoy it, I'll build my skills. I may even compete one day. For sure, skysurfing is not for everyone but, when you have watched the sun set while standing on the board after gliding down the slipstream and docking with your cameraman, you understand why people do it. And this is just the beginning...

Skysurfing. Why would you? Well you'll never know unless you have a go!

David Fish
fish@flyingpictures.com

Fishy over Sibson by Mark Harris



Thanks to Tim Porter, Andrew Pfeiffer,
Dave Sturgeon, Tracey, Adam and Andy



Fishy and Tim Porter by Andrew Pfeiffer

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Nvertigo X - Flat sides & top for mounting cameras	£185.00
Hurricane freefly helmet	£160.00
Factory Diver	£195.00
Oxygn full face - Flip-up lens	£215.00
Oxygn A3 - Flip-up lens, external altimeter port	£225.00
Factory Diver/Oxygn/Z1 clear visor	£20.00
Tinted Z1 Visor	£22.50
Gecko	£89.00
Gath	£99.00
Parasport Italia EVO - Open face helmet NEW	Call for price
Parasport Italia Z1 - Full face, flip-up visor	£189.00
Padded Helmet bag for Z1	£30.00
Frappe Hat - Special offer on set of 3 (s,m,l) - call for prices details	£95.00
Bone Head Mindwarp Millennium	£175.00

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Groundrush T-shirts - Short/long sleeve, girls clothing, fleeces, shorts, trousers, baseball caps - Call for current stock/prices	
RW & Freefly Jumpsuits - Call for order forms	

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Flexvision tinted	£10.00
Flexvision overglasses	£11.00
Kroop	£8.50
Sky Eyes	£12.50
Sorz - Tinted, mirror, amber, clear	£19.50
Blaze/Peerser goggle	£16.50

Other goggles available call for details

VIDEOS / DVDS

Arizona Airspeed Mind Maps - 4 way exits & manoeuvres, CD-ROM	£60.00
Best of Airspeed - documentary	£45.00
Basic Body Flight - Skydive University	£42.50
Basic Canopy Flight - Skydive University	£42.50
Breakaway - The most thought provoking video out. Buy it.	£19.50
Fly Like a Pro - For every canopy pilot	£19.50
Pack Like a Pro - Comprehensive guide to both side-packing and pro packing	£19.50
Trouble Free Zero-P - Packing tips from the pros	£15.00
Ground Rush - Malfunctions - how would you react?	£17.50
The Cloud's Edge - Something for everyone	£35.00
Willing to Fly	£45.00
Willing to Fly package - Norman Kent	£70.00
Dive in - DVD - Norman Kent	£50.00
The Good Stuff - Just when you think you've seen skydiving	£35.00
The Good Stuff - DVD	£22.50
CrossWind - The new film from Patrick Passe	£37.50
Anti Gravity	£39.95
Over The Edge - Skydiving, base, lingerie & more!	£39.95

Other Videos and DVDs available on request

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Altimaster II 'U' Bars	£6.00
Altimeter Chest Pad	£7.50
Altimeter Watch	£10.00
Buddibuoy Flotation Device - Small, gas operated with whistle and glow stick	£30.00
Cypres Unit	Call For Price
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Grip - New - holds container in place when packing	£15.00
Leather necklace with deployment pin	£8.00
Mouse Mat	£4.50
Pack Boy - Packing tool	£10.00
Packing Mat - Choose colour preference	£15.00
Tube Stoes - Microline/standard/tandem	£8.00
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JM^{Is} Newsround

Compiled by
Beverly Fairhurst

In Brief

SkyVan City

A SkyVan will be at Sibson during the Babylon Freestyle Festival on 22-26 May and 11 July - 3 August. You can also jump one at Langar on 19 April - 11 May or 6-14 September.

www.skydivesibson.com
www.bpslangar.co.uk

Espace Boogie Video

The 2002 Espace Boogie movie is now available in video or DVD versions. The 1999 and 2000 boogies are now also available in DVD. See the ParaMag online shop:

www.para-mag.com

Tandem World Record Attempt

On 16 August Weston-on-the-Green aims to host a world record attempt for the most tandems in 24 hours, to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, the UK's most common life-threatening, inherited disease. If any tandem instructors can help please get in touch.

Leonard Ansell
01628 820 269

Women's Freestyle World Record

The *Sugar Gliderz* (Jen Key, Amy Chmielecki and Missy Nelson) aim to accomplish the first all female freestyle world record on 26-30 November at Skydive Arizona during the Freestyle Festival. In preparation, the *Sugar Gliderz* are running a camp on 6-8 August at Skydive Chicago.

SugarGliderzFreefly@hotmail.com

Under 16s 'Skydiving' Meet

Organisation is under way in the UK for a series of events to involve children in skydiving, grab their interest and train them in skydiving-related skills for when they can jump. The ultimate aim is to increase performance at world level. The first event was being prepared as we went to press, at Netheravon on 5-6 April 2003, to include:

- Formation skydiving on creeper boards
- Indoor accuracy on bungee trainers
- CF event on lilos in a swimming pool
- Artistic disciplines on a trampoline and/or in a pool.

Full report next issue.

skydive@robertames.co.uk



Go Fast Pro Swooping Tour

This year's PST competitions will have speed, accuracy and distance rounds involving cash prizes of up to \$10,000. Jumpers who have not previously competed in a Go Fast PST event must qualify at a training camp, these include seminars, video debriefs and coaching. Dates are in the diary.

www.proswoopingtour.com



Photos; Jason Peters

Extreme at Netheravon



The famous Icarus Extreme Team will be at Netheravon during 2-6 July. They will be running skills camps for all levels, especially high performance canopy flying and will be demonstrating extreme swoops. Registration is £25, places are limited. More details next issue.

01980 678 250
apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk



Gustavo Cabana took this shot at Richard Hayden's 2002 CF seminar in Empuria

Women's CF Record

Richard Hayden is looking for some determined, gutsy women for a female canopy formation record attempt at Hinton on 26-27 July 2003. You will be fully trained and learn some excellent canopy skills in the process, as well as having fun. You will need some CF experience but it's not a necessity as there will be training from BPA coaches, although you should have a commitment to achieving CF1 by mid June. Hinton provides a special rate for CF WARP tickets. Canopies can be supplied if necessary.

CF Seminar, Empuriabrava

Another CF Seminar at Empuriabrava is being planned by Richard Hayden for 29 September - 5 October. It will include the second Captain's Cabin CF Challenge plus the first Spanish National CF Championships (tbc). There will also be a canopy skills course (reserve your place in advance) and a Spanish CF record attempt. Coaching will be available in English, French, Spanish, Dutch and German and for all levels of ability. Canopies in various sizes will be available although it's recommended that you bring a suitable canopy.

Richard_Hayden@yahoo.co.uk

Brit Chicks - On the Road Again



Photo: Simon Ward

Following the success of Brit Chicks last year, Lesley Gale and Kate Stephens aim to go larger in 2004 with a 60-way attempt. In the mean time they will be running a series of BPA roadshows, specifically for female jumpers, angled towards the skills of larger formations and multi-aircraft loads. The aim is to raise the skills of women skydivers, thus encouraging retention as well as building the technical abilities needed to accomplish a new record next year. All are welcome. It's planned to arrange mum-sharing facilities so that mothers with children can turn up, sign up for the scheme, and will then be free to jump in the morning provided they look after someone else's child as well as their own in the afternoon (or vice-versa). Volunteers to co-ordinate this would be appreciated.

lesley@skydivemag.com

XL and PD



Sebastian XL will be running two PD events, one at Sibson on July 5-6; the second at Hibaldstow on 19-20 July. PD canopies will be available to jump and the guys will be on hand to offer advice on canopy choice and handling. Sebastian XL will also be running seminars, organising for free and giving out prizes.

pete@sebastianxl.org

Thomas Hughes by Nicole Pratt

Rich T

The well known skydivers' DJ, Rich T will be playing at the Espace Boogie and the Swedish Freely Festival this year. For those who can't make it, Rich has started a private CD club for jumpers. Members pay an admin fee to the club of £10 per month. They are sent two CDs each month; one is a mixed dance CD and the other a straight compilation of new singles which have just been released. Richie has also offered to assist teams compiling a 'vibes' video with suitable music.



djtune.raider@ntlworld.com
07734 219737

Did you know?

In China, skydivers start training to represent their country at age 12

Norman Jumps IMAX

Norman Kent has been shooting on IMAX for an upcoming Disney production entitled Birds of Prey. The invitation came after his ground-breaking footage of Frightful the falcon following her trainer Ken Franklin in freefall, shown in the award-winning film Willing to Fly. "It has always been my dream to shoot for an IMAX project and Birds of Prey was worth the wait," said Norman "This was some of the most difficult filming I have ever done due to the weight and size of the camera. I had to design a



Photos courtesy of Norman Kent

special, larger wing to provide more control and lift. The camera created such a large burble that not much air actually hit my wing and the air that did was very turbulent, so I needed all the wing I could get to manoeuvre." The film size and



theatre design of IMAX give the viewer the feeling of being part of the action. "We captured spectacular images, I can't wait to see this footage on the big screen!" Norman commented. Disney has not yet announced a release date for the film.

info@normankent.com

On JM's Newsround Online

More detail on the above plus the following:

Lily Cove - Edwardian Parachutist

Crossing the Channel in a Wingsuit

BPA Roadshows

BaByLoN at the Skiing World Championships

Win Free Tunnel Time

Speed Skydiving World Cup

Cancer Survivors World Record Attempt

www.skydivemag.com

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* exchange rate calculated at 2.90 dollars per pound (8/12/02)

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Surfing The Net

Keeping in Touch with Email

Hotmail: www.hotmail.com

The prevalence of free services such as HoTMaiL.com means even those without a computer can receive email and keep in touch with friends. With email you can subscribe to services that deliver information straight to your mailbox. The BPA's events diary, competition results from the National Skydiving League, nostalgia from ParachuteHistory.com and updates from ParaMag, the French magazine, can be signed up to on their relative websites. Email can also be used as a forum for chat. Chatteris, St Andrews and BCPA all have email based discussion. Ask at your DZ if there is a way to keep in touch when you're away.

Discussion with Newsgroups

International: news://rec.skydiving
UK: news://uk.rec.skydiving
German: news://de.rec.sport.fallschirm

Google: <http://groups.google.com/groups?group=uk.rec.skydiving>
DFN-CIS: <http://news.cis.dfn.de>
Agent: www.forteinc.com/agent/index.php

Newsgroups (technical name: USENET) are as old as the internet itself. Newsgroups, another type of threaded discussion forum, are text only, so require very little in the way of software or bandwidth. To access newsgroups, you'll need a news-reader such as Agent (Outlook Express can do this) and the details of a news-server (available from your ISP or if they don't run one, you can sign up for free access with DFN-CIS). If all of this is too much, newsgroups can be accessed via Google (see later) but it's more of a pain and responses take longer as the website is only updated periodically. rec.skydiving is the most popular newsgroup. This is intended as global but has a large American population. Recently uk.rec.skydiving was set up as a more local, less noisy group. The Germans also have their own language group. Newsgroups are unmoderated, and can be anonymous, which means incorrect information can be posted. Some posters amuse themselves by trying to draw people into arguments.

Techies abound in skydiving. They can be spotted on bad weather days checking the web on their Palm Pilot via its IR port and their WAP enabled mobile. Where do they go?

Craig Poxon introduces us to the net, teaches us to fish and tells where the best catches are...

Skydiving Movies with FTP

SkydivingMovies: <ftp://ftp.skydivingmovies.com/>
WS_FTP: www.ipswitch.com/products/WS_FTP/index.html
CuteFTP: www.qbssoftware.com/product_overview.asp?product=CUTEFTP

What do skydivers love almost as much as skydiving? Watching skydiving! SkydivingMovies is a server that contains over 1,300 files amounting to some 9 GBs! You'll find all sorts of videos here that you can download and play on a computer. You will need some FTP (File Transfer Protocol) software. Internet Explorer will do the job, but a dedicated client such as WS_FTP or CuteFTP makes life a lot easier. Due to the size of a lot of the files located here, a broadband connection is highly recommended (or a lot of patience!) The site is very popular and there is only a finite amount of bandwidth available. Please consider other users and try to avoid downloading large numbers of files or you may be denying someone else access.

Find It with Search Engines

Google: www.google.com
Google UK: www.google.co.uk



Most of the skydiving world is represented online; the trick is in finding it. Google is the *de facto* search engine at the moment. Type in your area of interest and away you go. Be specific; a search on the word 'skydiving' returns 'about 364,000' matches!

Information Portals

DropZone: www.dropzone.com
DirtDive: www.dirtdiver.co.uk
SkydiveWorld: www.skydiveworld.com/starteng.htm



One of the biggest skydiving websites is DropZone, a huge portal with a very large registered user base. One of the most popular features of the site is the forums with approximately 400,000 posts to over 25,000 separate threads. The forums are separated into the chatty, more frivolous ones as well as more serious and technical ones. The whole spectrum of skydivers is represented here; from whuffos and newbies to skygods. Unlike newsgroups, the forums are moderated; what you lose in freedom you gain in order (?). As you are frequently reminded, there are rules and it's no democracy but there is a great sense of community. Other aspects of the site include a world-wide drop zone database, gear reviews, classified ads, photo galleries featuring some of the most prolific cameramen around the world, and news.

DirtDive is a similar portal aimed specifically at the UK. It has forums similar to DropZone but they don't appear to be as popular. I'm not sure why this is; perhaps DropZone caters for everyone already? DirtDive is mainly a news, gear sales and classified site. It would be nice to see a UK community develop in the same way as DropZone's has.

Associations

British Parachute Association www.bpa.org.uk
United States Parachute Association: www.uspa.org
Australian Parachute Federation: www.apf.asn.au
Fédération Aéronautique Internationale: www.fai.org



Skydiving association websites are a font of information. The BPA's regulations are available in the form of the Operations Manual and the USPA's recommendations are available in the Skydiver's Information Manual. Both sites contain current and historical minutes from the governance meetings. You can also find events, drop zone listings, contacts for staff and volunteers, all the forms you could ever need and merchandising. Be sure to check the Notice Board (under Diary & Competitions menu) on the BPA site for the latest news. These websites are for, and funded by, members. If there's something you feel is missing, ask!

Skydiving Press

The Mag: www.skydivemag.com
ParaMag: www.para-mag.com
Skydiving Magazine: www.skydivingmagazine.com



Despite the popularity of the net, people still love old-fashioned paper. The skydiving press has an online presence which is well worth a look. Skydive The Mag and ParaMag both have archives of previous educational articles back to 1996 (some are even translated 'for the savages who don't speak French!'). The Skydive Mag site has a great search facility; if you haven't used it yet, give it a whirl. The site contains the online version of JM's Newsround, a collection of skydiving news snippets, plus you can ask questions of the Dive Doctor whilst you're there.

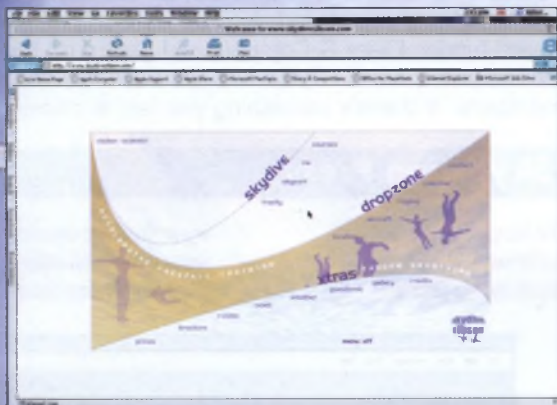
Photography

Simon Ward: www.clubphoto.com (type 'sward')
Chris Norton: www.vividviews.com
Josh Hill: www.aerialfusion.com/PSN_Swoops.html
Norman Kent: www.normankent.com
Various: www.dropzone.com/photography

As well as the amateur galleries, there's an abundance of photography sites. If you don't have the bandwidth for downloading movies you'll still be able to enjoy the beauty of skydiving on a slower connection. A good place to start (again!) is DropZone; their Photography section has a wide selection of featured photographers and links to their own more comprehensive sites. Someone I'm a big fan of who hasn't yet been featured is Swardy. There probably isn't an aspect of parachuting that Simon Ward hasn't caught in his lens and his gallery on ClubPhoto.com has a large selection. (type in 'sward' to access all the albums). I also really love dynamic swooping pictures. You will have seen Chris Norton's lovely pictures in print and there is a huge amount on his site, which is constantly growing.

Drop Zones

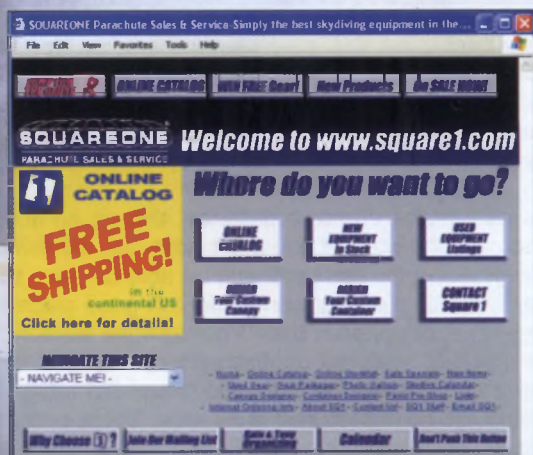
Army Parachute Association www.netheravon.com
PerrisCam: www.perriscam.com
Skydive Arizona: www.skydiveaz.com
Skydive Sibson: www.skydivesibson.com



Nearly every drop zone has a presence which can be very useful for information such as directions to get there, facilities, calendar of events, jump prices and lift capacity. A couple of my favourite drop zone websites go above and beyond that by adding a sense of community with regular news and photo galleries. The Army Parachute Association's website is one such example, you can contribute your own images.

A twist on this theme is PerrisCam where the staff roam the drop zone taking pictures to be shown on the website. Perris is a popular destination for skydivers and, in our relatively small community, the chances are you'll see someone you recognise! Perris run several live webcams; the loading-cam, the pool-cam and the manifest-cam. I once caught my girlfriend Caroline jumping out of the Otter on the plane-cam they used to have, whilst I was stuck back at home! Sibson used to have a webcam which was useful for checking the weather (and waving to friends!). Skydive Sibson's updated website is first class.

Equipment



Square1: www.square1.com
ParaGear: www.para-gear.com
PD: www.performance-designs.com
BirdMan: www.birdman.com

Researching skydiving equipment has become very easy. Nearly every manufacturer has a site where you can find out about their products and there are several 'one stop shops'. Square1 provides an interactive rig and canopy design programme but, be warned, colours may appear differently in real life than they do on a monitor (email the manufacturer and ask them to snail mail you a swatch). Also, be aware any goods ordered from outside the European Union are liable to duty. As with any equipment purchase, you'd be advised to get advice from an experienced person who understands your ability and requirements. Some sites such as PD's include very useful educational articles.

Competitions, Teams & Coaching

Sebastian XL: www.sebastianxl.org
VMax: www.vmax.org.uk
VNE: www.vne.info

Airspeed TunnelCamp: www.tunnelcamp.com
SkyVenture Wind Tunnel: www.skyventure.com
Freefly Training Center: www.freeflytrainingcenter.com
Wind Tunnels Worldwide: www.bodyflight.net

OmniSkore: www.omniskore.com
Brit 120 Challenge: www.boogieclub.co.uk
BPA Coaching Roadshows: www.bpa.org.uk



Competition is inspiring, pushing us on to better our skills. In our small community the best people in our sport are accessible and the web surely helps. All of our superb British teams have attractive and informative websites containing news, profiles, calendars, galleries and coaching opportunities. Wind tunnels are revolutionising coaching and many teams offer camps that utilise them. Airspeed's TunnelCamp has full details as well as registration facilities and galleries of previous events. Bodyflight is a website containing details of and links to all the wind tunnels in the world. The freeflyers are well catered for with the Freefly Training Center.

When it comes to competition, the OmniSkore guys have developed a hi-tech scoring system and supply the ongoing scores from the top international meets. It can be very exciting watching the competition virtually live from the other side of the world. There are also sites set up and updated every hour for special events so you can check progress; the women's world record attempt at Perris last year even had live video!

Incidents

Skydiving Fatalities: www.skydivingfatalities.info
Current Incidents: www.dropzone.com

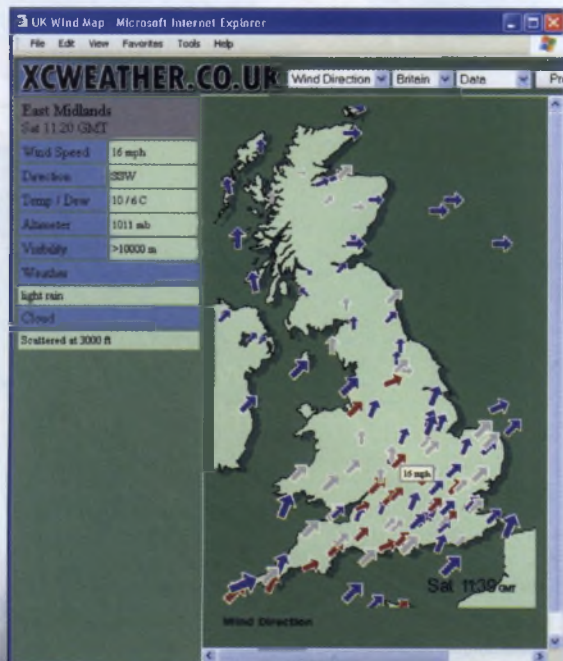
Skydivers have a fascination for when things go wrong, not in a morbid way but to learn from mistakes. A recurring request from the membership regards the way that this knowledge is disseminated. With the internet and mobile phones, news of accidents are reaching people very quickly and traditional print has a hard time keeping up. Initial reports, including non-fatal ones, regularly appear in online forums, such as the newsgroups or the Incidents Forum on DropZone; details can be learned and discussed immediately.

In due course, governing bodies release their final results for the more serious events. SkydivingFatalities is a repository for such information compiled from forums, personal accounts and official reports (sometimes translated from other languages), with a comprehensive search functionality. It contains information dating back to the mid 1990s and prior information is being researched and added.

Weather

The Met Office: www.meto.gov.uk/aviation/index.html
XC Weather: www.xcweather.co.uk
The Weather Channel: www.weather.com
US Skydiving Weather: www.skydivingweather.com

Weather is critical to skydiving and many jumpers find themselves becoming amateur meteorologists! There is a wealth of weather information on the internet. The specific aviation forecasts are generally more accurate but can take some decoding. The Met Office is a good place to start. There is a new US based weather site purely for skydiving; anyone fancy doing the same for the UK? XCWeather is an almost real-time overview of the weather conditions across the UK. International sites such as weather.com provide historical seasonal information so you can see if the timing of your visit will be suitable for skydiving.



Travel & Insurance

EasyJet: www.easyjet.com
RyanAir: www.ryanair.com
Deckchair: www.deckchair.com
PriceLine: www.priceline.co.uk
AXA Travel: www.axatravel.co.uk
Harrison-Beaumont: www.hbinsurance.co.uk

Travel and accommodation costs can be cut when bypassing the middleman and booking directly. There are several low cost airlines such as EasyJet and RyanAir on which bargains, especially if booked in advance, can be found to many European destinations. If you can be flexible with your travel and don't mind a change en route, you might pick up a bargain if you bid for a flight with Priceline (make sure you read and understand the Terms and Conditions!). Don't forget your travel insurance; Harrison-Beaumont and AXA Travel are a couple of brokers where skydiving cover can be purchased online. If you read my letter in the December 2002 issue you'll understand why I wouldn't recommend Harrison-Beaumont!

Logbooks

Craig Poxon: www.poxon.org/craig/skydive/logbook
Ian Smith: www.iansmith.co.uk/skydive/index.htm
Joe Reger: www.joereger.com/journal_fs.joe?eventypeid=5

The web is a very narcissistic place, with lots of personal websites containing useless information about people you don't know – skydivers are no different! I started my own website when I first started jumping. As a slowly progressing static line student, subject to typical UK weather, it was an outlet for my new passion. As time went by, I spent more time jumping and less time on the site, so it hasn't changed for a while but I do try and keep my logbook up to date. Ian Smith is no longer jumping but his skydiving pages are a real insight into the struggles of, in his own words, 'not exactly the world's most natural skydiver' and I would recommend reading them to any student.

Internet Access Needed in UK DZs

Final thought: with the popularity of the internet these days, it's not uncommon to see public terminals at DZs abroad. Given the amount of time the average British skydiver spends on the ground, thanks to the changing weather, why don't more (any?) DZs in the UK offer internet access?

Craig Poxon
craig@poxon.org

NB: Inclusion of a website here does not constitute a recommendation of the products or services it endorses

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Arizona Airspeed: Silver, FS 4-way
France Maubeuge: Bronze, FS 4-way
French 8: Gold, FS 8-way
Golden Knights: Silver, FS 8-way
Majik Airspeed: Bronze, FS 8-way



Pro Swooping Tour 2002

Distance World Record, 418 feet,
Shannon Pilcher
Speed World Record, 2.49 sec.
Heath Richardson
Team Speed World Record, 2.73 sec.
Jay Moledski & Heath Richardson



World Cup 2002

Rook Nelson: Gold, Freeflying
Arizona Freeflight: Silver, Freeflying
Babylon Skysurf: Bronze, Skysurfing
Arizona Funstyle: Silver, Freestyle

Photo credits: Norman Kent, Gus Wing and Filippo Fabbi (Aria)

BPA *Matters*

by **Martin Shuttleworth** BPA Secretary-General

New Ratings

CSBI

Elizabeth Ashley
Richard Bishop
Bill Steele
Tony Beevor
Keith Davidson
Carl Jackson
Sean Sutcliffe
Ralf Mitchell
Ben Blake
David Drewette
Jamie McNamee

CSI

Lisa James
John Dean
Robin Durie
Rab Lundie
Craig Kelsall
Karen Brennen
Sean McKenna

Advanced Instructor

Andy Montriou

Instructor Examiner

Mike Rust

Renewal time

If you haven't yet got round to it, remember BPA subscriptions expired on 31 March 2003 and need to be renewed for this year – you can't jump without current membership! Forms are available from the BPA website, the office or your local DZ.

Changed Address?

We have been getting some Mags returned undelivered because members have moved without letting us know. Please do tell the BPA office if you change your address.

BPA Committees

Competitions

Paul Applegate, Nigel Holland, Ian Marshall, Jim White, John Smyth (Chair)

Development

Calvin Blacker, Ralph Fielding, Billy Gollan, David Hickling, Eddie Jones, Ian Midgley, Kieran Brady (Chair)

Communications

Paul Applegate, Calvin Blacker, Kieran Brady, Ralph Fielding, Billy Gollan, David Hickling, Ian Midgley, Eddie Jones (Chair)

BPA Club Reps

Nigel Holland: South
Calvin Blacker: Midlands
Kieran Brady & Jim White: North

Action Stations!

Your new Council for 2003 has prepared the BPA's Action Plan for 2003/4 – also a bid document for funding from the UK Sports Council. The BPA Council has worked with lots of different ideas and the best have made it to the final version. The Plan covers the BPA's main areas of safety, competitions, development, communications and administration. The agreed targets this year include an illustrated history of the BPA at the office and new pages on the BPA website. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Plan – it's been a real team effort!

Royal Aero Club Awards

The Royal Aero Club (RAeC) Awards ceremony, in which Ronnie O'Brien, CCI of Peterborough Parachute Centre and Debbie Carter, BPA Treasurer, will be honoured with an award, will now take place at 17.30 on the new date of Wednesday 30 April at the RAF Club in Piccadilly, London. Admission is by ticket only, (price £25) available from the Royal Aero Club, Kimberley House, Vaughan Way, Leicester, LE1 4SG, telephone 0116 523 1051.



Steve Uiter

Plenary Meeting 1-4 February

1. Swooping has now been provisionally accepted as a new IPC event and Perris Valley Skydiving will host a trial World Cup of Canopy Piloting in September this year.

2. Frenchman Patrice Girardin was elected as new IPC President, defeating previous president, BJ Worth with 16 votes to 11.

3. Revised rules and official IPC minutes are posted on the FAI website. Amendments to the rules for the various disciplines can be found on the JM's Newsround web page of the Skydive Mag site.

4. 2004 is confirmed as a World Championship event year, following the World Championships this September in Gap, France. This is unusual as normally there are two years between World Championships. Dates are:

Artistic Events World Championships

14-20 Sept 2004, Campinas, Sao Paulo State, Brazil

FS, CF & Classics World Championships

18-24 Sept 2004, Rijeka, Croatia

5. Another IPC event is the Anton Malevsky Memorial Cup in FS & Classics, 30 July – 4 August 2003, in Stupino, Russia. This will be a money meet with a prize fund of £26,500 for accuracy and £40,000 for FS. The accuracy competition will comprise of male and female teams and individual events and will include the Match System.

John Hitchen
UK IPC Delegate
john@bpa.org.uk



John Hitchen

Simon Ward

Tony Butler becomes Vice President of EPU

Tony Butler has recently been elected as Vice President of the European Parachuting Union (EPU), a joining of all the national governing bodies. EPU's significance has increased considerably because of proposed new pan-European legislation. Tony Butler revealed, "The new European Aviation Safety Agency has been set up to harmonise the regulation of airports across Europe. It is spearheading a whole series of proposed new regulations – what we have seen so far may be the tip of the iceberg. Where a genuine and valid safety case has been demonstrated we will, of course, support it. But too much of the proposed regulation appears to restrict sport parachuting for no good reason. If we do not fight, it may load our sport with extra costs that could eventually price it out of the market. We've got to marshal our arguments to defend our position, and that is precisely what the EPU will do." Tony was involved in establishing the EPU in 1990. He has also been working closely with Tony Knight, BPA Liaison Officer to the CAA, on the parachuting input to a concerted response by all UK airports to the proposed new regulations. This project is being co-ordinated by the Royal Aero Club (RAeC); Tony reckons, "It's the best thing the RAeC has ever done".



Tony Butler

Simon Ward

Competitions

Artistic Events

There are no Artistic Regionals for 2003 because the number of entrants was very low last year. Attendance at the artistic roadshows will be used to judge whether Artistic Regionals should be reinstated in 2004.

Nationals

As IPC has decided to have four World Championships back-to-back for the years 2003 to 2006, the BPA has no funding available for British teams for August 2003 to August 2004. Therefore, no minimum criteria will be set for funding, as teams and/or individuals will be expected to be self-funded. However, the BPA will continue in its efforts to find sponsorship.

Regionals/Grand Prix

This year, points will be awarded at the Nationals as well as the Regionals/Grand Prix towards the overall Regional/Grand Prix awards, to be presented at the AGM 2004.

VNE at 8-way Grand Prix

British champion 8-way FS team VNE plan to attend the 8-way FS Grand Prix meets at Langar and Hibaldstow this year. (They will be training abroad at the Strathallan meet.) They will be there for demo jumping & coaching and will not be placed or take medals. If invited, VNE will try to jump with other teams (up to two VNE bods per team). Team member Ian Matthews explained "Our whole idea is to encourage more people to try 8-way."



VNE by Andy Ford

BPA Roadshows

There is a really full programme of BPA roadshows lined up for this year, see diary for dates. Free coaching is offered by national champions. VNE, 4Pak, VMax and XL are coaching FS, Ian Marshall and Mark Weaver are catering for CF and Julian Spencer is looking after the classics. Artistic events roadshows cover freefly, freestyle and skysurf and will be coached by Sebastian Free Jive. New this year are Brit Chicks FS roadshows for women. Let the host DZ know you are planning to attend so they can cater for numbers. For more information about the roadshows contact your discipline representative, their email addresses are on page 1 of this Mag.

Artistic – Nigel Holland

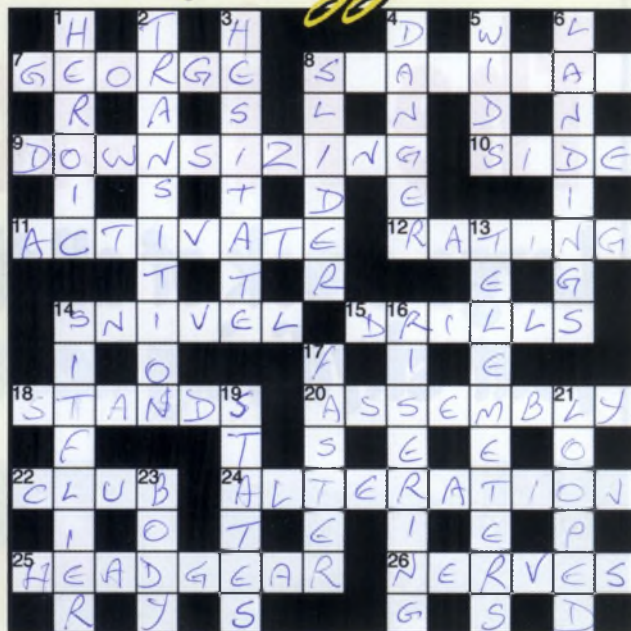
Canopy Formation – Ian Marshall

Classics – John Smyth

Formation Skydiving – Jim White



Puzzle



A skydiving related crossword with two sets of clues giving the same answers; use the main or the reserve!

Main (Cryptic)

Across

- 7 Unconscious pilot's plane ending in ravine (6)
- 8 Tragedians dropping metal and tunnelling formation (8)
- 9 Reducing personnel by cutting down on feet? (10)
- 10 & 23 Hold out for an arm and a leg (4,4)
- 11 Turn on one having small tattoo containing number four (8)
- 12 Scolding qualification (6)
- 14 Roman candle comes out of nose (6)
- 15 Bits of exercises (6)
- 18 Jumps feet first and gets caught by good men (6)
- 20 Meeting fool beside stadium with the top knocked off (8)
- 22 A card for blackjack perhaps (4)
- 24 Change allotment after late adjustment (10)
- 25 Mine shaft equipment in Derby or Panama etc (8)
- 26 New verse composed for butterflies (6)

Down

- 1 Brave woman's duck in charge (6)
- 2 Change to trains in development (10)
- 3 He is backing art gallery stall (8)
- 4 Messy garden is a risk (6)
- 5 Sid Waddell's opening:- "Stood up and they're thrown" (4, initials)
- 6 Arrivals coming between flights (8)
- 8 Idlers arranged for a slowing device (6)
- 13 TV monitors used to watch skydivers (10)
- 14 It's crazy insect queen jumps with legs akimbo (8)
- 16 Surprise ringler displays parachute control (8)
- 17 Leading daisy beginning to flower more quickly (6)
- 19 Declares strange tastes (6)
- 21 Ran in a circle? Just the opposite (6)
- 23 See 10

by Paul Boorer

Reserve

Across

- 7 Auto pilot
- 8 4-way formation
- 9 Getting smaller canopy
- 10 Flank
- 11 Switch on
- 12 Classification
- 14 Open slowly
- 15 Training
- 18 Gets to one's feet
- 20 Collection of parts
- 22 Association
- 24 Adjustment
- 25 Cap, helmet etc,
- 26 Trepidation

Down

- 1 Valiant
- 2 Changeover
- 3 Dither
- 4 Peril
- 5 Paper Anemometers (inits)
- 6 Touch downs
- 8 Parachute part
- 13 Calibrated binoculars
- 14 New age jumper
- 16 Controlling parachute
- 17 More speedy
- 19 American divisions
- 21 Somersaulted
- 23 Torso

Solutions:
Across 7 George, 8 Stardian, 9 Downsizing, 10 Side, 11 Activate, 12 Rating, 14 Snivel, 15 Drills, 18 Stands, 20 Assembly, 22 Club, 24 Alteration, 25 Headgear, 26 Nerves.
Down 1 Hecate, 2 Transition, 3 Hesitate, 4 Danger, 5 Width, 6 Landings, 8 Slider, 13 Telemeters, 14 Sniffer, 16 Kissering, 17 Fanner, 19 States, 21 Looped, 23 Body.

The Kit Store Ltd

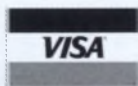
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with Chris Lynch

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FLYING EYE

If you fancy jumping video, where do you start?

How do you choose your camera?

What about the physics of putting it on your head?

Cameraflyer Gary Wainwright answers these questions and more...

Choosing a Camera

The only criteria that matter when considering a video camera for skydiving are:

- 1 Can you lock the focus? (ie, does it have manual focus?)
- 2 Does it stay locked when you turn the camera off, then back on?

If you can answer 'Yes' to these then your camera will probably be okay. Having said this I know several cameraflyers who use autofocus and are happy with it. The problem I've found with autofocus is a tendency for the camera to 'hunt' for the focus (particularly when facing the sun on exit) and if anything gets on the lens the camera will tend to focus on that.



WHAT FORMAT?

There are many formats available but they fall into two categories; analogue and digital. Unless you are on a very tight budget go for digital – if you can't afford digital then wait until you can!

Analogue

VHS C

Video 8

Hi 8

Digital

Mini dv

Digital 8 (D8)

Micro MV

Mini dv

Mini dv is the most established of the digital formats and the most commonly seen in our sport. The cameras are generally small and lightweight and are well suited to what we do.

Digital 8

Digital 8 (D8) was invented by Sony a couple of years ago and is a great option for those wanting digital on a budget. The cameras tend to be bigger than mini dv and are more traditionally shaped. They aren't particularly suited to side-mounting because of their size. Please don't think these cameras are huge though! Most models are no bigger than the Hi8 cameras everyone was using a few years ago.

Old Hi8 or video8 tapes will play on a D8 camera.

The digital standard used by D8 and mini dv is the same, so they both work with a firewire-based

computer editing package and you can copy footage from a D8 camera to a mini dv camera (or vice-versa) so long as the camera you are recording onto is 'dv in'. (Don't panic, more on this later.)

Micro MV

Micro MV is the new kid on the block developed by Sony and these cameras are tiny! I know very little about this format but I've heard conflicting opinions on its compatibility with mini dv/D8. It seems users may experience problems transferring footage to some popular edit systems and you may not be able to digitally copy footage to or from a mini dv/D8 camera. I had a look at the Sony IP7 and actually thought it was too small and fiddly (remember you'll have gloves on when you are using it). The record button is in an awkward place if you plan on side-mounting.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

First of all, manually set the focus. Turn the camera off then back on and make sure it is still set. If it has gone back to autofocus then imagine how infuriating that will be on the ride to altitude! It is also worth checking that the various exposure modes are not reset when you turn the camera off.

Look at the camera then think of the practicalities of using it once it is mounted.

Cameraflyer
Danny Branson
over Strathallan
Photo by Jim Stevenson

Sony Camera Ranges

The Classic PC Range

Price: From £700*

Format:

Mini DV

Mount: Top or Side

These are the popular upright models, often side-mounted; the original was the PC7. They are very small, light and therefore popular.

The Budget TRV Range

Price:

From £450*

Format: Mini DV, D8 (both digital) and Hi8 (analogue)

Mount: Top

These have a more traditional look but are still relatively small. They are ideal for top-mounting; I have seen the smaller models in this range side-mounted but I wouldn't recommend it. You can get D8 models for less if you shop around.

The Tiny IP Range

Price:

From £1,000*

Format:

Micro MV

Mount:

Top or Side

The range uses the new Micro MV format, includes upright and traditional cameras and they are all tiny.

The Professional VX Range

Price: Up to £2,900*

(top of range VX2000)

Format: Mini dv

Mount:

Top or Side

This is the top end of the mini dv market; the flagship is the VX2000. They are relatively big and heavy but produce superb results.

*Source: Jessops' website



POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

Any button situated on the bottom of the camera may be troublesome because you probably won't be able to get to it when the camera is mounted. One of my cameras has the tape eject button on the bottom which I don't mind although some people would find this annoying. I have seen cameras with the battery eject button on the bottom so you have to remove the camera after every jump to charge it.

You will want to be able to get to the sockets for downloading your video without having to remove your camera from its mount – check where the sockets are, particularly if you plan on side-mounting.

Some cameras don't have the sockets on the camera but on a separate docking station – you will find this to be a pain!

None of these problems makes these cameras un-useable – they are just things to consider and design your helmet around if necessary.

BELLS AND WHISTLES

Ask yourself, what do you want your camera for? If it is purely for skydiving then you simply don't need a lot of the things that these cameras can do (I was looking at a model with a built-in MP3 player recently – great for the ride to altitude!)

DV In

'Dv-in' is useful; it means you can record digitally from another source eg, your mate's footage of a dive, with no loss of quality. If you wish to do computer editing then you will need this feature to get the digital footage back out of your computer once edited. If the camera is not dv-in enabled then it may be possible to do this with a 'widget' later – but this doesn't work with all cameras.

Memory Stick

Some cameras have a memory stick that you can record stills images onto. I have found this useful for storing titles, particularly when shooting tandems as you can add your titles as you go along thereby saving time later on.

3 Chip

Most cameras have one chip (CCD) that processes all of the information received through the lens. On a 3 chip camera there are chips that process red, green and blue separately. The advantage is better quality video. The disadvantages are cost, weight and bulk. If you regularly sell your footage to TV stations then it

may be worth it. If, like me, most of the video you shoot is to be dumped down onto VHS tape then it is probably not worth it. If you do decide to get a 3 chip camera I would steer clear of the Sony TRV890, 900 and 950 as freefall footage with these three models will shake unless you set it up very carefully.

LANC Socket

If you plan on using a cameye then your camera will need a 'LANC' socket. (A cameye is a gadget that lets you know exactly what your camera is doing by a series of lights, typically attached to your sight.) If your camera doesn't have a LANC socket then it should have an external record light so you know when it's working.

Wide Angle Lens

Nearly everyone uses a wide-angle lens for shooting skydiving. They increase your field of view and stabilise your image slightly. Each model will have a conversion number associated with it – this number is always less than 1; eg, a Kenko 0.5. The smaller the number, the wider the lens and the closer you will have to fly. The lens screws onto the end of your camera.

If it doesn't fit you should be able to buy a conversion ring for common sizes. Hot tip:

make sure you can get a conversion ring before you part with your cash!



Simon Ward

SUMMARY

If you buy a Sony mini dv or D8 camera it will work for skydiving without being badly affected by freefall shake (ask yourself why so many people jump Sony). The Sony gear is very robust and reliable. Other manufacturers' gear will work but I'd confidently recommend Sony to anyone (except the TRV 890, 900, 950). If you can afford it go for a mini dv model with dv-in capability.

WHAT WOULD I BUY?

I don't think the 'perfect' skydiving camera exists; it's a case of which is best suited to what you want to do. I never buy the latest models – the slightly older range will be much cheaper and still have all the necessary functions. I also look out for 'Manager's Specials.' If I had to buy a camera today it would be from the Sony PC range, probably a PC9 because it's an older model, known to be reliable and is relatively cheap now that new models are out.

Mounting the Camera

Photo by Brian Vacher.

NB. This is a joke, this system was never jumped





Rickster Powell with his custom Wes helmet
Photo by Gary Wainwright

SAFETY FIRST!

At the very minimum you need a C licence and your CCI's approval before jumping a camera. You should get an experienced cameraflyer to help you assemble your camera system and have it checked over by a different

experienced cameraflyer before you even think about jumping it.



Cutaway Systems

By placing a camera on your helmet you are potentially making a deathtrap with

which to catch lines. If you are going to jump a camera helmet then you have to be able to get it off quickly in an emergency – preferably one-handed. Most helmets you can buy do not come with a cutaway system so it makes sense to think about this.

I have seen two types of system that work well:

Open Face System: On an open face helmet, use a fabric strap with pop studs.

Full Face System: For a full face helmet or an open-face with a rigid chinpiece use a system using teflon cables and closing loops to detach the hinged part of the helmet.

CUTAWAY SYSTEMS



Open Face System: The fabric loop with 3 press studs works because the force at the chin cup is at 90° to the studs. A direct pull on the fabric loop easily removes the helmet; the other side is the same. There are 2 chinstraps here both attached to the same cutaway – one with a chin cup and one that passes under the chin.



Full Face System or Open Face with Chinpiece: Note the yellow cables which pass through three closing loops which take the place of the bolts in the hinge

Photos: Gary Wainwright

Get Insured

Because of the need for the helmet to come off quickly, it may do so when you don't want it to! For this reason it is obviously worth insuring your camera equipment. Extended warranties are very good. Or ask about putting your camera gear on your house insurance – make sure it's covered for skydiving though.

Cutaway and Reserve Drills

You need to consider your cutaway and reserve drills, for example, what you would do in the event of an entanglement. Most cameraflyers say they would cut away their helmet first before cutting away the canopy and deploying their reserve. If you jump an RSL most people would recommend detaching it for camera jumps.

Pay extra attention to your deployment. Get your pilot chute out to arms length before letting go (you should do this anyway but people get lazy!) as camera wings create a lot of burble for your pilot chute to dance about in. Keep symmetrical with your shoulders level and watch the horizon through the deployment, *not* the canopy. Initially some people hold their head through deployment; this is generally okay and was certainly good advice a few years ago but with extremely high performance canopies this may cause bad openings.

NB: I have no connection with any of the companies mentioned. You may detect a bias towards Sony cameras; this is purely because these are all I've used.



Full face system with a Sony PC9 and Nikon F90X front-mounted. (I personally wouldn't have all the weight at the front but as Tony has 4,000 camera jumps I'll let him off!)



A fully enclosed side-mounted system manufactured by 2K Composites, with a Sony PC9.



Sony PC10 top-mounted on a Headhunter Voodoo helmet. Note the supporting bracket, with bungee cord, which also acts as a bracket for a portrait stills camera or flashgun.



Pro-tec with a Sony TRV 10 & Nikon F501.

SIDE OR TOP MOUNT?

There are two main options for mounting video cameras:

Side-mounting

The advantages of side-mounting are that it puts your camera more in line with your eye, they are great for WARP, AFF, one-on-one and 'video logbooks'. Some people say it's easier to fly head-down with a side-mount. The disadvantage is the increased chance of riser strikes.

A helmet designed for very close work (eg, by a WARP coach or AFF instructor) needs different camera angles and wider-angle lenses than a standard camera helmet (for example, side-mounted cameras will give a better field of view for close-up work if angled inwards, and close to level with your natural eye-line – about 5 degrees up).

If you are going to regularly jump a side-mount then I would recommend an enclosed helmet such as the FF series produced by 2K Composites.

Top-mounting

The advantages of top-mounting are that it is more difficult for risers to hit your camera and there are more mounting points for other cameras. Top-mounting keeps the additional weight more in line with your spine but may cause more force on your neck in an off-heading diving opening as the weight is further from your head. More care is required when exiting the aircraft.

If you are going to top-mount a Sony PC type camera then I would recommend having a vertical plate on top of your helmet to brace it against. If you have a more traditionally shaped model (such as the Sony TRV series) then a locking bolt and some bungee cord will do the trick.

Pro-Tec Conversion

A great option for your first top-mount camera helmet is to try and convert an old Pro-Tec. They are cheap, most people have one lying around and they will last forever. If you decide that cameraflying is definitely for you, then buy the cool model with the wicked paint job a

few years (and hundreds of camera jumps) down the line.

The best arrangement for general camerawork is angling the camera mounts up by about 15° from your natural eye-line. This is particularly useful for tandems and any time you want to shoot video from below your subject, especially if you fly face to earth.

WHAT WOULD I BUY?

If I had to buy a camera helmet today it would probably be a Bonehead Flat Top Pro. They have lots of room to mount stuff and now come with a cutaway system. At \$695 they are expensive for a first helmet especially if you decide that cameraflying is not for you!

BE SECURE

Whether you decide to top or side-mount use the camera's tripod mount to bolt it to your helmet and place bungee cord around it for extra security. I have seen cameras held on with gaffer tape and pull up cords! Please do not do this – your camera is a potential missile that could kill people on the ground if it comes off and hits them. Consider the wind blast of freefall and then add the effects of pulling several g's on opening and you'll appreciate how securely your camera should be fastened.

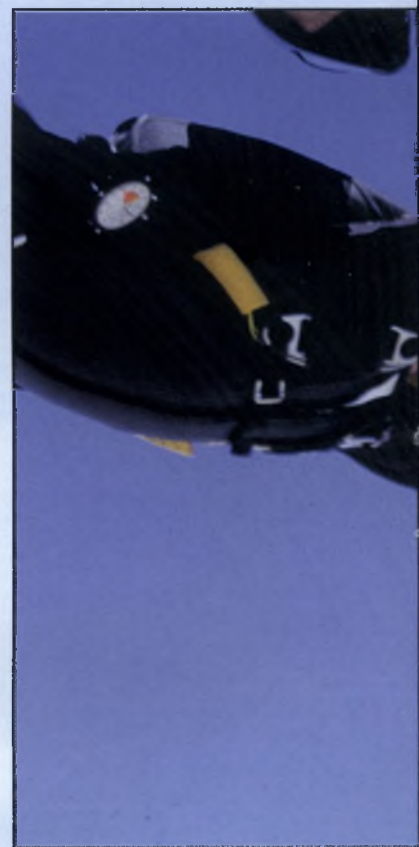
However you decide to mount your cameras, please ask for advice from experienced cameraflyers. Get as many opinions as you can from various people. Between them they have made all the mistakes that you are about to make!

Snag Points

There are many possible snag points for lines on a camera helmet. Try to reduce these and have no sharp edges – you may well collide with somebody else one day.

ADD-ONS Camera Sights

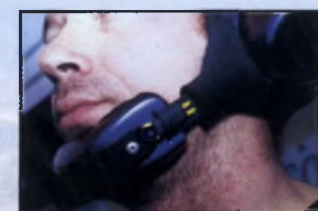
Most people would recommend a sight for shooting consistent video, even if it is just a reinforcing ring on your goggles. But if you only plan on doing one-on-ones, or are wearing your camera as a video logbook



then you can get away without a proper sight.

Norman Kent advocates mounting your sight on the opposite side of your helmet to your deployment hand – for most people this will be the left hand side of your helmet.

Chin Cups



A chin cup is probably better than a chin strap as the video image will be steadier because the camera will not move around on your head. A chin cup also is less likely to give way under a hard opening. Having said that then I know people who have thousands of camera jumps using plain straps who have never had a problem.

BE CAREFUL WITH MODS!

If you are going to chop bits out of an existing helmet or drill holes in it, you must consider the effect of the modification. All cuts should be smooth, all holes should be clean, and any corner should be carefully



Photo, by Mike McGowan, shows the Golden Knights

radiused. Jagged edges, even small ones, encourage cracks to form, especially on fibreglass or other brittle materials. Any washers should have a much bigger diameter than the bolt they attached to. If not, you run the risk of the bolt being pulled straight through the helmet.

No Internal Protrusions

Fixings for mounts and so on, eg, bolts, pop-rivets, must be cut as short as possible, and be covered over with padding. Over-long protrusions inside the helmet could punch holes in your skull and your head will end up looking like a bowling ball.

Use suitable materials

A classic example of this one was the guy who made himself a chin guard for an open-faced helmet out of aluminium sheet. He got kicked in the jaw, the 'guard' was crushed into his throat, and he went in still struggling with it.

GET IT PROTECTED!?

There are a number of cases on the market designed to protect your camera (D-Boxes, Roll Cages etc.) I'm sure they do a great job, but they cost about the same price as the extended warranty you can buy with your camera! They also tend to be specific to one model of camera so if you do manage to break your camera and can't get an exact replacement, they probably won't fit your new model. The extended warranty is the better option – just make sure it is covered for skydiving. I have had no problems taking cameras back to Jessops and Dixons.

MORE INFORMATION

Ask Around

Talk to experienced cameraflyers at your DZ and ask them why they jump what they jump. You will probably find that they are only too willing to help once they see you are interested.

www.skydreams.net

This a website set up by Robbie Culver who is an experienced US cameraflyer. He has a wealth of experience and there is lots of good stuff on here. It hasn't been updated for a while so some of the cameras he talks about are now discontinued but it's definitely worth a look.

www.dropzone.com

This has a forum for cameraflyers where you can post your questions. There is lots of good advice on there but you need to take some of the opinions with a healthy pinch of salt!

MY TOP TIPS

If you jump a side-mount system, don't jump it without the camera on, leaving just the bracket! Have another helmet for when you don't want to jump video.

Know exactly how your camera works and practice the following with it on your head whilst wearing gloves;

- 1 Turning it on and off
- 2 Zooming out (so you can check you haven't accidentally zoomed in)
- 3 Getting the helmet off quickly.

Don't look at your deployment. Don't leave your excess brake line unstowed. Get a copy of Anti-Gravity and watch the slow motion section of the French 8-way cameraman deploying. Look at those loose brake lines snaking all over his cameras – yuk!

And finally...

Keep your head still!

Gary 'Swoop' Wainwright

gary_wainwright_uk@yahoo.com

Thanks to Tony Danbury & Dave McKelvie for input



Penny's Treatment

December's Mag carried an article on a new treatment available to help quadriplegic Penny Roberts; she went for this 'Biofeedback' in January.

I didn't know what to expect when I went to the hospital in Miami. When we got there the staff explained that a lot of damaged but surviving spinal cord nerves take years to recover. By the time they are getting good signals back to the muscle, the muscle itself is so wasted that there is no movement anyway. In the lab they work one muscle at a time. They attach electrodes to it and the patient tries to move it. If the muscle has a nerve supply it registers on a screen in front of you. I tried to move my paralysed muscles and at first there was nothing. After a moment the signal found its way to the muscle and there it was, right before my eyes, a functional nerve supply for the first time in eight years.

They assessed my arms and found that I have 80% of normal nerve supply to some muscles and 40% signal to the fingers of my left hand (which is enough to make them functional), I have 60% nerve supply to my upper back and 30% in my lower back. At the moment I only have 1% supply to my thighs but that may increase. The surprise was that when we got to my toes the signals shot up again and I can move three of them.

My challenge now is to build those wasted muscles so that I can use them. I have an exercise programme to follow. I'm to return in February 2004 when they plan to get me walking in a special splint called an RGO. I already feel so much better and I'm now working on trying to incorporate my physio into my daily routine. Once again I want to thank you for all you've done. I can't describe how I felt at your response to the article before Christmas. I am so touched you have all given me a priceless gift.

Penny Roberts
penelope.roberts1@btopenworld.com

Penny will need further funds to return to the hospital next year, send to:
Penny Roberts Appeal, c/o Drews Lane Sub Post Office, 352 Bromford Road, Birmingham B8 2RZ

Sorry Eddie

I feel it right to apologise for innocently calling Eddie Carroll 'infamous' in my FS Nationals report in the October Mag. He's a good egg and has given me and many other skydivers a lot of support. Also, for wrongly stating Al Brooks was in the Knights. Please can you print my humble apologies.

Andy Scott, andrew.scott@orange.co.uk

Mag, Website and Council

Lesley and her staff have done a brilliant job with The Mag and it is, in my opinion for what it's worth, the best of any nation's, official or otherwise (that statement applies equally to The Mag website). You would miss out on a great item if The Mag were optional. So would everyone else as, if only a small percentage opted out, the revenue loss would mean a downgrade in quality. In light of the tumultuous journey it has taken to get The Mag where it is now, it would be a travesty to dilute it for a few measly quid. BPA members have a great magazine, website and editor, don't lose it!

I'm no dyed in the wool BPA supporter but, considering what they do to keep the Association afloat and members skydiving, we owe them way more than a measly lunch. Council members do much for all British skydivers, often at their own expense; remember that before begrudging what most would happily offer if they were to visit you at home. From where I sit, your protests seem petty!

Martin Evans, MartinEvans@skyeyeskydiving.com

Classics Tuffet

A number of points Alastair made in December's Mag about the inflatable tuffet need further examination as the Classics Nationals approach:

Alastair writes, '...an inflatable type and not the standard mattress.' There is no standard type.

Secondly: 'Low pressure did not provide a sufficiently solid base for the electronic pad to register true scores on all occasions.' If you land squarely on the pad you will get a good score. If you are reaching for the pad you will not, as has been the case since the electronic pad was introduced. A solid base is provided by using the butt strike pad underneath the 16cm pad, some judges elect not to use this due to compatibility problems with the scoring boxes. It can still be used as a base even if it is not plugged in.

Thirdly: 'It also caused some injury when Ian Marshall bounced off it, landing hard on his coccyx.' The tuffet is there to protect jumpers from injury. Would Ian have only hurt his coccyx if there had been no tuffet?

Lastly: 'The weight of the scoring pad on the inflatable tuffet caused it to sink so it was below the level of the tuffet... This was not much of an issue, but for the three swoopers.' The tuffet is designed for traditional accuracy approaches, ie, over the top and straight down. People jumping high performance canopies are disadvantaged; to get good scores consistently you need an accuracy canopy!

Dave Ballard
dave@twoscompany.freemove.co.uk

Dave has some very good points. Whilst there is no standard tuffet, I believe that most British competitors view the mattress-type regularly used at DZs such as Netheravon as standard. Despite the issue of a solid base to the electronic pad, there is no doubt that a mattress-type tuffet provides a more solid base and is likely to produce less error. Obviously there would be more risk of injury without a tuffet; however a firmer, larger tuffet is probably safer. Personally, whether jumping a Velocity or a Parafoil, I'd prefer a mattress type tuffet.

Al Macartney, alastair@macartney.co.uk

Travel to Roadshows

I've been fortunate enough to coach at a number of BPA roadshows. One of the most enjoyable parts is to visit different DZs, meet new people and share their excitement about skydiving. The roadshows are well attended but usually just by local jumpers. I'd like to encourage members to travel to the roadshows, rather than wait for one to come to you. The same goes for the 4 and 8-way Regionals; top level competitors will be there providing high quality coaching. Take advantage of these opportunities, gather some friends and travel. See you there!

Martin Soulsby, VNE (national 8-way team)
martinsoulsby@michaelpage.com

Life Insurance Article

I liked Martin Shuttleworth's article in the February Mag about travel insurance. Would you consider a similar report on life/accident insurance? I've just bought a house and found it difficult to get life cover. Most brokers run a mile when you mention skydiving. Even when I found a life policy there were some big exclusions such as permanent disability. Harrison Beaumont are okay but their prices are high.

Adrian Davies

Could anyone supply relevant information to Martin at the BPA Office? - Ed

In Response to 'Zero Tolerance for Hook Turns'

LETTERS

Well done to Chris Devine for raising the subject of low turns, I almost agree with his statement "I believe we should not tolerate low turns". The problem is, how do you define a low turn? For a clearer definition and to make some positive steps to reducing fatalities it should say "We should not tolerate *TOO* low turns" because it is a turn performed too low to the ground that causes problems, whether it be intentional to make a high speed approach or by accident when someone just 'has' to get the canopy into wind for landing.

It is terrible that there were three fatalities caused by low turns last year but to only blame hook turns is incorrect. I witnessed the second of these fatalities and this person was definitely not attempting a high speed landing; she simply turned too low to the ground. The winds were light, about 3-4 knots, and variable, changing direction as much as 90 degrees. Following the 'must land into wind' school of thought, she decided to change direction at the last second when she saw the windsock indicating a different heading to the one she had planned to use moments before.

Banning hook turns would not have prevented this, nor the vast majority of fatalities under fully open canopies but better education will make a difference. Here are some tips for safer canopy flight:

- File a canopy flight plan for every jump before boarding the aircraft.
- Reconfirm this flight plan will still work as soon as you've checked canopy and airspace.
- If you need to adjust your flight plan do it as high as possible.
- Be very observant and altitude aware at all times under canopy.
- Learn how to make flat turns.
- Be cautious making sudden turns close to the ground.
- Beware of traps such as light and variable winds and turning too low when returning from a long way upwind (deep spot).
- Remember it's more important to have the canopy above you than it is to be into wind.

Landing into wind is preferable because it's more predictable as part of a landing pattern; we do not want unnecessary cross or downwind landings which could

lead to collisions in the landing area. Landing into wind minimises ground speed and gives the easiest to control landing. But if you do not have enough height to safely turn into wind just keep flying straight, flare as normal, dust yourself off and think about improving your flight plan the next time.

Something that should be banned is the trial-and-error approach to high performance landings. You would never let anyone do a first freefall without a full brief and lots of training – it should be the same for high performance landings. The fatality statistics look bad until you compare them to the huge amount of high performance landings being made every year – but there are way too many badly performed high speed approaches, with people just getting away with it and thinking they are doing okay. It can be done safely but it requires a very steady approach, you need to learn to crawl before you walk before you run before you sprint. The list of skills required before attempting any kind of turning approach is vast and taking shortcuts can be fatal. The most important thing is that you never ever endanger anyone else. You need to know when to say 'no' to a turning approach, if it's too busy in the air or on the ground, marginal weather conditions or an unfamiliar canopy or DZ. You must understand the concept of 'the corner' and stay out of it. Other vital skills include knowing how much height you need to recover to a safe flight path, the natural recovery and training the varying degrees of urgent recovery for when you turn too low – because I can guarantee you will. Some jumpers turn too low all the time unaware of how close to danger they are.

Get some coaching, train thoroughly and swoop responsibly.

Chris Lynch
chrislynchxl@compuserve.com

If you don't understand any phrase above, or want to know more about canopy piloting, go to www.skydivemag.com and read Chris Lynch's excellent article 'Pilot or Passenger, December 2000. There are other articles on canopy flight there too. You may also be interested to go to Chris's Wing Tips coaching tour, see diary. – Ed

I always find it ironic when a skydiver suggests banning a skydiving discipline because it is dangerous. If my mum had her way skydiving itself would be banned because it is dangerous. Skydiving is too risky for the majority and attracts only a subset of the population. Within skydiving, swooping is similarly too risky for many and attracts only a subset. I respect Chris Devine's right to choose not to participate but I object to his desire to ban everyone else, in the same way I objected to my mum's attempts to ban me from skydiving (well I was 34!).

Education is the key. This is starting to be addressed by Chris Lynch and his Wing Tips flight school, bringing structured canopy control and swooping education to UK drop zones. Swooping is very visual and exhilarating to watch and is in the process of being accepted into international competitions. When we seek to ban a skydiving discipline on the grounds of danger we validate the arguments of those who would ban skydiving. Let's educate and develop instead.

Richie Moulton
r.moulton@btinternet.com

Why don't we take it a step further and ban squares altogether? Round is sound.

Ian Stevens, VNE
rotti@dial.pipex.com

Mag Open Forum at AGM

Do people realise how much information about incidents is on the web? Why insist they need to read about it in The Mag when it is available to all elsewhere? One example is the fatality during the Women's World Record. Almost immediately, dropzone.com forums had accounts from the DZ manager and the main investigator giving a very detailed insight into the incident, including the jumper's medical condition, her equipment and the coroner's report. Internet forums are not perfect and do not replace official reports but at least I can read this, make judgements and see if there is anything I need to know. To inform people about this, how about an article about skydiving and the net?

The balance of thank-yous on the letters page is about right now. Keep up the good work on The Mag.

Paul Rowe, paulrowe@wessingtoncryogenics.co.uk

Great suggestion Paul, we took it up, see page 18 – Ed

What Unfriendly Drop Zones?

Further to the letter from Mark Rostovsky, I have yet to experience an unfriendly DZ. Only last weekend four of us who normally jump at Cornwall drove to Langar for the weekend; we found it friendly as well as busy. But they were not too busy to stop, check our docs and rigs and give us a good brief. We enjoyed the weekend and decided that Langar are well worth frequent visits. If you find a DZ unfriendly travel to another; simple solution.

Tony Moody, Tony-Moody@Bigfoot.com

Thanks Gary

Excellent magazine, as usual. I just wanted to send in a thank-you letter to thank Gary McGuinness for pointing out how many thank-you letters you print.

Thank you Gary.

John Mayo
jm@skyrides.co.uk

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Photography: Ed Thompson



events sibson 2003

may

- 9-10th Wingtips Canopy School with Chris Lynch
- 17-18th POPS Freefly!!
- 22-26th 2nd Babylon Boogie with turbolet and skyvan

june

- 21-22nd Woodmouse
4-way competition

july

- 5-6th PD Roadshow
- 5-13th XL coaching week
- 11-3rd Skyvan returns
- 19-20th Freefly roadshow with Chris Lynch and Tim Porter
- 26-3rd UK Freefly Festival,
Flyboyz to be confirmed

august

- 22-24th Wingsuit weekend

£15 jump tickets on Thursday evenings and all day Fridays.

For all updates visit our website www.skydivesibson.com





OLYMPUS
Spotlight

WORLD RECORD HEAD DOWN

Francisco Neri

The Plan:

Invite 60 of the finest freeflyers to Skydive Sebastian and select the best to set an official World Record head-down formation

Last year we did a slot perfect 18-way which was an unofficial record as there were no judges present. This year's event, 6-9 February, was again organised by world champion freefly team Alchemy and hosted by the Freefly Training Center at Skydive Sebastian, one of the most scenic drop zones in the world. We had Air Express's Skyvan, Super Otter and Cessna Caravan. Everything was in place for the potential 30-way World Record.

Warm-up

Some arrived early, enjoyed fantastic weather and did some super 8, 10 & 12-way sequential. The group increased until there were three groups of 16 to 18-ways from which the 30-way would be selected.

Pressure

The pressure was intense, unlike anything I've experienced in all the meets I've entered. At least with competition you're familiar with what you're doing, there's camaraderie from your team mates and you don't get axed for the smallest of errors! A 30-way to be selected from 60 people can be bit dog-eat-dog. There's no way to be familiar with something that's never been done before and, compounding the pressure, the weather forecast was hideous. The UK was represented by Sebastian Free Jive; selection was looking good for all of us but Rob Silver injured himself on landing so he was out of the attempts.



Break off by Francisco Neri



Francisco Neri

First World Record Attempt

The first attempt on Thursday afternoon, was also the first go at using two aircraft and this added to the unfamiliarity for those in the trail plane. We exited from 17,500 feet having been on oxygen from about 12 grand. We came very close to completion, everyone got in but not all at the same time; just as the final grips were being taken on one side, there was a wobble leading to a few dropped grips on the other. It was close enough to stick with the same line-up and everyone felt we'd nail it on the second attempt. Unfortunately the weather took a turn for the worse, so the waiting began.

FAI Rules

There are a lot of rules for an official World Record. Everybody must have a valid FAI licence from the country they've represented for the previous 3 years and, by being part of the record, they can only represent that country for the following 3 years. This led to the exclusion of Olav Zipser himself, as he'd previously represented USA and was now representing his home country of Germany. The formation must be spot perfect to the plan registered with the judges so, when attempting a 30, only building to 29 means no record, even though it's the biggest formation ever. Everyone must be open by a safe altitude and a record can be invalidated by breaking rules like jumping through cloud.

Chasing the Weather

The weather allowed only one more attempt on Sunday which again came close. We were running out of time so we flew to Pahokee as they had a patch of good weather. This was a mission; organising the move and getting clearance from the owners, the DZ and the judges, two of whom had to jump in while we ascended to keep the attempt legal by having judges on the ground. These attempts came close, a 29-way was the best of the three – but still no cigar!

18-way Attempt

We didn't even have time to pack before embarking for our return flight to Sebastian. The forecast for Monday was good – isn't it always! – and the judges would be around till noon, so those who could rearranged their travel plans to stay around. With reduced numbers (partly from the effects of the party the night before!) an 18-way was filed with the judges. It built quickly and flew well but there was a mis-placed grip so it was busted.

Final 24-way Attempt

More flyers had arrived and we went up for a 24-way, the last possible attempt of an official World Record. The atmosphere of concentration during the ride up was heavy indeed until someone yelled out that the pressure was off because there were no further attempts to be axed from! This was answered with loud hoots of appreciation and a wave of relaxation ran through the load followed by plenty of hand-slapping and hugging.

Red Light

The red light came on in the lead plane, everyone checked their gear; orange light and the door was opened. With the green light unlit in our plane we watched in horror as the floaters started to climb out of the trail plane. A shout from our pilot confirmed there was another mile to run if we wanted to land on the drop zone. All aboard willed the floaters to hang on and word went round to be ready to go in case any of them fell off. Finally the green lamp was lit, oxygen masks were removed and we lined up. What a relief it was to hear the 'Ready'.

The Jump

The base flew well, the first wave of stingers docked, the second wave moved in, everything was looking good, I felt the third stinger on my outside arm and looked around to see everyone in their place, no movement anywhere. What a beautiful thing it was, a 24-way synchronised headstand, holding hands at 160mph.

Thanks to Mike, Rook & Jon of Alchemy, who did a superb job organising the event; both Tim and I felt the dives had taken our flying up a level. Thanks also to the pilots Rob & Toby; judges Stephanica, Tamara & Roma; and videographers Francisco Neri and Jason Peters.

Chris Lynch
chrislynchxl@compuserve.com

This 29-way is the largest head-down formation ever built but it is not an official record as the group was aiming for a 30-way





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Almost everyone feels a little stranded when they stop being a student. Here's some practical advice on developing a support network to keep you motivated, safe and happy...

TRUE STORY 1

I did my AFF course on a 'cool dude' drop zone in California and had a very different experience waiting for me on a military drop zone in the UK! It can be strange adapting to the British way.

Someone who takes time off work to learn how to skydive abroad is unlikely to do more than fifty jumps before coming home. Then the novice skydiver is forced to acclimatise to a new drop zone, which can make you feel out on a limb and increases your risk. Learning with a BPA instructor will make it far more straightforward when you get back home but it still doesn't solve all these problems.

I had over 60 jumps before I could consistently pack. After reading that, some people will be tearing their hair out. But it's normal for someone who's done all their jumping in a scenario where they want to maximise their time in the air –

such as spending precious holidays abroad in great weather. Regardless of how many jumps someone has, if they don't know how to pack they should be given a packing lesson, not chastised. People arrive in this sport in different ways and that means someone might not meet your local expectations.

I was lucky enough to choose an AFF instructor who's solution to these issues is quite simple: it's a team. When you learn to skydive you join the team; when you return home the team supports you. A team member is assigned to each British DZ according to where they live. So when the new skydiver returns to the UK they have a helping hand. As most of the team learned abroad they're able to offer effective help because they've been through the migration process themselves.

Without the support from Team Pumpkin, I'd probably have half the jumps I have now and far less qualifications. Thanks to the motivating factor of the team I received my IC1, FS1 and FF1 within nine months of starting.

We are just as 'British' as any other UK jumper. Team Pumpkin functions as a layer on top of BPA membership and in addition to club membership. It's a social club and support network wrapped into one.

Andrew Stewart, Pumpkin

Fending for Yourself

Not everyone is lucky enough to have such a support network in place. The issues Andrew has highlighted of feeling marginalised apply equally to many students trained in this country. Once you've graduated you can feel you've lost your mentor as 'your' instructors will now be focused on new students. It's hard to suddenly have to fend for yourself. If you are Cat 8 you've made a huge commitment to the sport in terms of time, effort, money and courage. What a horrible waste if you then give up!

Many people do fall by the wayside partly due to lack of support after qualifying. Humans are by nature social animals, everyone

wants to belong and feel 'part of it'. If you can encourage that feeling of being a member of a team you are far more likely to continue and grow in skydiving. Our sport is so far removed from family, workplace and everyday life that it's extra important to be able to share your experiences with someone who understands. Those post Cat 8 solos can soon lose their excitement!

Team Identity

Team Pumpkin, BCPA and the Weston Plummets are well established examples of non-profit-making groups which provide a team identity and support. How do you get to reap similar benefits? Well you could join the Plummets – or you could start your own club.

Jim Stevenson

The Weston Plummets

www.westonplummets.org

This was set up at Weston by students and recent Cat 8s, initially to provide a pool of similar standard jumpers and then morphing into an email group. Plummets can chat on line and ask advice from the resident 'Guru', currently Andy Ford. If any wrong advice is given, the Guru will correct it. They have 70 members with jump numbers from 10 to 7,000. Anyone can join the Plummets, you don't have to be from Weston; go to the website and follow the instructions.

If you turn up at Weston and don't know anyone, then you'll be pointed in the direction of a Plummet. Seminars and packing lessons are run on bad weather days. As Plummets gain knowledge, they pass it on to those less experienced. Their motto is *Ingressi, Ejaculati, Sumus Pedicati* (We came, we jumped, we funnelled).

"It's all about FUN! Meeting people, feeling part of the drop zone and enjoying our jumps."

Liz Crichton-Stuart, Plummet

Team Pumpkin

www.teampumpkin.com

Team Pumpkin is a group of people who qualified through PhD Skydiving. The aim is to provide an environment where its members are kept safe, aware, capable and happy. They have a 76% retention rate! Members have 20-500 jumps and include instructors, FS & FF coaches, competitors, skysurfers and cameraflyers. No-one makes a profit although some organisers get assisted with jumps. Team Pumpkin has:

- A group which plans the direction of future events.
- An events organiser to co-ordinate and inform
- A webmaster, this is vital to keep everyone involved
- Liaison officers on numerous DZs around the UK
- Load organisers to 'up' the amount of jumping
- Dispatches by email after each Pumpkin weekend

The liaison officers meet new AFF graduates and introduce them into the DZ, arranging people of suitable experience levels to fun jump with. The group provides help with transport and places to crash. Team Pumpkin arrange visits to UK and overseas drop zones, some on themes, eg, canopy control, 4-way basics, freely introductions.

"The range of experience and the shared desire to help those behind, as you were helped in your early days, keeps the team going strong."

Martin Williams, Head Pumpkin

BCPA

www.bcpa.org.uk

This is a club for collegiate skydivers. It organises weekends at various drop zones, aiming to provide like-minded people to jump, socialise and drink with. They have 41 affiliated university freefall clubs and provide help with setting up and running such clubs. BCPA organises a league for all affiliated clubs, with points being awarded for progression and qualifications. If you're at college and you don't have a parachuting club, contact BCPA and set up your own. You'll probably be awarded grants from the athletic union to subsidise your jumps.

"The BCPA gives support to the university skydiving clubs of Britain, but also provides all collegiate skydivers with a nationwide network of friends to jump and party with, and compete against."

Lorraine Blacker, BCPA Chair

Starting Your Own Team

Here are some avenues you could try to get it started:

- Approach your DZ owner for assistance
- Place posters around DZ for like-minded people
- Ask to use your home DZ's contacts database
- Use websites to post your interest, such as DZ.com
- Ask Plummets, Pumpkins or BCPA for advice

Forming a support group takes time and effort but is so worth doing. It just takes a few of you to swap email addresses, set up an email group on Yahoo and watch it grow. Don't think you're not experienced enough; jump numbers don't matter. Your drop zone will have the resources, experience and technical expertise if you ask for it. Energy, organisation and personal skills are more relevant.

Ask Your DZ

Another approach would be to ask your local DZ or AFF school if it would set up a group, maybe with a designated instructor or two, at whom you can fire your questions, to prevent that feeling of not really knowing what to do next. Lots of people on the DZ would probably like to get involved. If any drop zone owners, operators or instructors are reading this, maybe you could consider this possibility. It would aid retention and mean you're less likely to lose your customers, both to other sports or other drop zones.

4-way Team

You could also put a 4-way team together. Before you think 'I'm not good enough' then how do you think all teams started? The word 'team' may conjure up an image of meeting every weekend, stretching at 7 and on the first load at 8 but it doesn't have to be like that. A team can be whatever you want it to be. 4-way is a great number; small enough that you all get a chance to fly, but big enough to be fun and varied. Just find three like-minded people whose company you enjoy and plan some dates to meet up. You'll be more motivated and do more jumps on those weekends. Often the biggest hurdle is getting in the air for the first jump of the day. With a team, you get that cracked early because you're sorted. There's no wandering around looking for people to jump with, feeling like the sad, spotty geek at the school dance!

Junior Competition

There are regional competitions you can attend (see diary); this is a terrific way of taking the hassle out of manifesting and acclimatising at other drop zones as you'll be told what to do and when. You won't be out of your depth either: there are categories for each level. Junior FS is for teams where three members' jump numbers after qualifying FS1 add up to less than 900 jumps. So, you can either find three jumpers your own level or approach a more experienced person to be your 'wild card', the one who can have unlimited jumps.

Roadshows

The BPA runs roadshows where national champions share their knowledge for free (you just pay for your jumps). They will brief you, talk

*Team up with another
freeflyer or go to roadshows
to meet others
Photo: Simon Ward*

you through the dirt-dive, debrief your video and set the next jump at a good level for your standard. You can turn up at a roadshow as a team, on your own or with a mate. You'll be put with others of a similar level. They are great places to meet people and form teams.

Any Discipline You Like

Any sort of team will do the same thing; if you're into freefly, team up with another funky flyer, go to an artistic events roadshow and learn more about freefly, freestyle or even skysurfing. Who knows, you could end up at this year's Nationals.

Don't Be Shy

Don't sit in a corner thinking how cliquey everyone is. Ask for the advice you need, from experienced jumpers or instructors. Don't see your lack of jumps as a barrier and





Jim Stevenson

Getting a 4-way team together will motivate you to jump, it can be as casual or as hard core as you like

Simon Ward

TRUE STORY 2

As a new Cat 8 jumper who was very slow to progress, I was not happy to come off student status and needed more looking after than most people. I went back to Weston with 25 jumps after a 14 month layoff this summer and all the guys there were just warm, welcoming and adorable! All said, "So, when are you going to jump again?" to which I replied, "There's a huge part of me that wants to, but I just don't feel ready to stop being a student". Every single one said "Fine, we'll look after you" and they did. Paul Floyd did my first two jumps and was the perfect re-introduction to skydiving; kind, patient and reassuring.

Lots of us don't feel comfortable coming off student status even though we're officially qualified – but if you go and tell the chaps that, they will understand and look after you. I was so delighted and warmed by instructors' and experienced jumpers' attitudes.

Emma Gillett, Plummet

www.skydivemag.com

If you've relatively recently started skydiving, check out our website. Every article we've run offering advice is there back to 1996. Use the search facility to find what you want. Try:

ARTICLES RELATED TO THIS TOPIC

Putting an FS Team Together	Pete Allum	Feb 96
Putting a 4-way team together	Claire Scott	June 01

RECOMMENDED READING

Like Riding a Bike	Cornelia Waymouth	April 98
Great advice on getting back in the air after the winter layoff		

they won't. The 'skygod' image is quite often in your own head; go and approach people you think of in this manner and you will probably find they are very open. We have all been there, sitting on the wall, feeling shy and not quite part of the scene. It's actually quite easy to become involved. But it is down to you to make the initial effort. In the words of Barry Sheene:

"Don't wait for your ship to come in, swim out and meet the bloody thing."

Martin Williams
martinwilliams5@compuserve.com
and Lesley Gale
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Hib Events Diary

18 - 21 April	Easter Bash
26 - 27 April	FS 4-way Scrambles Meet
30 May - 1 June	Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Tour
7 - 8 June	FF Coaching Road Show
14 - 22 June	Summer Boogie
14 - 15 June	Pre-Nationals FF Competition
21 - 22 June	FS Coaching Roadshow - VNE
27 - 29 June	Speed Skydiving World Cup
28 - 29 June	POPS Meet
30 June - 4 July	BCPA Collegiate Nationals
5 - 6 July	FS 8-way Grand Prix
18 - 20 July	Free XL Coaching + Organising
19 - 20 July	PD Tour - Demo Canopies available
21 - 25 July	XL available for Team Coaching
26 - 28 July	FS 4-way Nationals
2 - 4 August	FS 8-way Nationals
2 - 4 August	Artistic Nationals
25 - 26 October	Halloween 10-way Speed

Further events to come. All dates subject to change.
Please keep checking in case any dates have to be changed.

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I'm scared my shoulder will pop out again



After dislocating my shoulder twice in freefall I had surgery to re-attach all my ligaments. After six jumps I'm still scared out of my wits that the shoulder will come out again, even though the surgeon said it was unlikely. The last six jumps were not enjoyable doing the mantis rigid, not feeling stable and not wanting to track. I don't want to give up the sport but I'm desperate for advice.

Being tense about jumping after any injury is a very normal response. Your fears are reasonable since the most common complication after shoulder surgery is re-dislocation; this is a higher risk for younger patients than for older ones.

You may wish to try an apprehension test on yourself. Orthopaedic surgeons use this to evaluate patients with shoulder injuries. Put your arm out to the side and your hand above your head, palm facing forward, with your shoulder abducted and externally rotated. Do you now feel apprehensive that the shoulder will come out? This is the position that most shoulders are at risk of dislocating from. This is also the position when belly flying. If you have a sense that the shoulder will come out in this position it may be because it has in the past and you have a learned response or it may have the potential to re-dislocate and you are guarding it from coming out.

When you have surgery to repair a dislocation, there is a risk of scar tissue forming around the shoulder. You may have muscle weakness due to surgery and not using the shoulder afterwards. You may also have a decrease in your normal range of motion. Since a dislocated shoulder is too loose, in order to repair it and prevent re-dislocation, it sometimes becomes tight after the repair.

You probably had a physical therapy programme with a simple range of motion exercises to prevent scar build-up. After that you should have done a strengthening programme to rehabilitate all of the muscles surrounding the shoulder. If you have

not done a physical therapy programme, actively look into one now. If you did do this, visit your therapist again. Let them know what sort of positions you will be in while skydiving and they can include very specific stretching and strengthening exercises.

After most repairs for dislocations, patients lose some external rotation at the shoulder. This may throw your body position off and cause some instability. It can also cause pain as the air may be forcibly stretching the shoulder. Use a mirror to compare the range of motion in both of your shoulders. You may have to re-learn your body position.

After following your PT programme and strengthening your shoulder, spending some time in a wind tunnel would be a very specific rehabilitation. This will put less strain on your shoulder and, if it does come out, you will be able to get medical assistance in a non life-threatening environment. This fact will reduce the tension and fear about your shoulder, allowing you to relax back into skydiving. Get in touch with the wind tunnel before you go to see what their policies are; SkyVenture, Orlando and Aérokart, Paris will not let people fly with prior shoulder dislocation problems, whereas Flyaway in Tennessee and Freefall Extreme in New Zealand are open to the possibility when discussed on a case by case situation and approached with caution. Ask your surgeon what he thinks about wind tunnel flying. Hopefully, after therapy and some wind tunnel time, you'll feel better and be safe returning to the sky. You may wish to start with a tandem to see how your arm holds up.

You could then make allowances for the situation with reduced floating exits, a container where you are not stretching for the toggle (if it's the right arm, think about changing over to a left hand initiation) and a canopy that opens softly. Go through in your mind exactly what you would do with one arm during a malfunction and how you would land your parachute with only one arm. Planning for this eventuality may help to reduce your fear. Good luck!



Dr Adam

adam_monkeyclaw@msn.com

Dive Doctor



My first jump for ages

I have a dilemma... my next jump will be my first in 8 months. Even though I got my Cat 8 ages ago I don't feel completely confident. Sometimes I want the jump to be a solo, after all it's not like I've not done this before; however at other times the thought of standing in that door on my own just does not cut it! WHAT should I do?



Do that solo, with a bit of extra preparation first. Jumping on your own will let you relax in freefall and enjoy the view, without being sidetracked by the need to perform or learn a new skill. Stick to what you know. You don't mention how many jumps you have but if you feel this way the answer is to stay as current as possible and to keep things simple.

Grab an instructor (it doesn't matter that you're not a student any more!), explain how you feel and go through all the basics with them – reserve drills, canopy control and so on. Then you can jump without doubting your knowledge and ability. Check you have everything you'll need for the dive and lay your gear out somewhere before your load is called. Kit up early and get checked by someone knowledgeable whom you trust, an instructor if possible.

Jump when the weather conditions are good and let your jumpmaster know that it's your first skydive in a while and you'd like to open slightly higher than usual. He or she can then choose a suitable exit order. Opening higher will give you less tension on deployment and more time under canopy to practice and re-familiarise yourself. As for being in the door, why don't you get someone to give you a 'Go!'?

All this should give you confidence as you'll probably be better prepared than most others at the drop zone that day! Once you're back 'in the groove' you'll be a safer skydiver if you don't leave it too long between jumps – you'll progress more quickly too.

Doctor D
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SEBASTIAN *Free Jive*

The low-down on our likeable British Freefly Champions

Sebastian Free Jive is very keen to encourage and assist the rise in skill levels throughout the UK. We all enjoy coaching freeflying; Tim also coaches skysurfing and I teach canopy pilot skills. We gave free coaching at our Headcorn training camp last year, were at two of the BPA freefly roadshows in '02 and will be at four of these excellent events in 2003.

Sebastian Free Jive formed over last year's winter season at Skydive Sebastian where Rob Silver and I were coaching at the Freefly Training Center. We were joined by videographer Tim Porter and trained at Headcorn prior to the Artistic Nationals held at Peterborough, 2002. The Nationals went very well with good scores in the free rounds and a maximum 10 point score in the second compulsory round of randoms! The first compulsory round, blocks, is more of an aesthetic round and our steady, controlled approach proved too slow as only three out of four moves were in time – instantly losing a quarter of the possible score. This was enough to thwart the team's attempt at the 7.6 average required for funding to the World Championships as the team ended up with 7.4. The BPA did offer us a second chance at evaluation if we could compete at the World Cup in Vienna or the European Cup at Empuriabrava but we had neither the funds nor the time to train and compete.

Sebastian Free Jive started training for the 2003 season at Sebastian in December, under the guidance of world freefly champion Mike Swanson, with very positive results. Initially we focused on the blocks and later worked on a few new moves to bolster our free round. For the moment Tim has departed for UK to be with his family while Rob and I remain in Florida to train in the air and at SkyVenture's wind tunnel in Orlando. The team will train as a 3-way in the spring when we've had a chance to raise some funds and again somewhere in the UK prior to this year's Artistic Nationals to be held at Hibaldstow.

Sebastian Free Jive will be available for freefly coaching in the UK over the summer and can be contacted at the email addresses below. We're also coaching at the BPA Roadshows and hope to see you there. We still hope to make it to the World Championships but we'll need the assistance of our association or an outside sponsor so if anyone can help us please get in touch.

Chris Lynch

SEBASTIAN FREE JIVE ARE:

Chris Lynch chrislynchxl@compuserve.com
Tim Porter porterabove@hotmail.com
Rob Silver madsilva@hotmail.com



Photos: Francisco Neri & Tim Porter





Thanks to the following: SunPath Products, Performance Designs, Tony Suits, Freely Training Center, Go Free, Thomas Sports Equipment, Larsen & Brusgaard, Total Head Coverage, Flexivision, Skydive Sebastian, Skydive The Mag and Space Monkey.



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photo: Loïc JEAN-ALBERT, Soul Flyer Team

by
Rob
Colpus



Wing things

"You can have any fabric as long as it's BM Nylon," is the latest message from BirdMan.

The best known wingsuit company has simplified its product with the removal of Balloon ZP and Atmotex from their order forms.



BM Nylon is a very durable type of zero porosity nylon that has a UV inhibitor impregnated into the fabric. It is similar to Balloon ZP but is a tiny bit thicker. Both the body and the wings of the BirdMan range of wingsuits are now made from this one fabric. In changing the fabric type the company have stated that they can now offer a wider variety of colours. The body of the suit can be one colour and each wing may be a different colour (but the front and back of the wings must match).

Another change is that all BirdMan suits now come with hip snaps (so you can snap your booties up on your hips while walking) and a small zippered pocket on the outside thigh area for jump tickets, money, ear plugs, lipstick, GPS, etc.

For people who BASE fly (shock, horror!) they now offer as an option, a BASE pilot chute pouch which is sewn to the outer right side of the suit. It allows the jumper to stow their pilot chute and bridle in an easy to reach position. (Currently, this option is available only on the Skyflyer and Skyflyer 3.)

The New Toy - Skyflyer 3

The Skyflyer 3 is the latest 'hot off the press' item from BirdMan. Released at the PIA Symposium in the USA in February the Skyflyer 3 is a suit for experienced wingsuit flyers only. The arm wings are longer than the original Skyflyer and can flap over your hacky - NOT ideal for novices. *"For those ready to change from the GTi or old Skyflyer model, it will just take a couple of jumps to refamiliarise yourself with the pull - it's no biggie,"* say the company.

The leg wing is not only a little longer on the Skyflyer 3 but is noticeably wider. This provides more surface area on the leg and a more comfortable leg stance. The profile on the arm and the leg wings is thinner (smaller ribs inside) creating less drag. The mesh on the arms has been lengthened to allow for quicker inflation. The air coming in through the arm zippers is being utilized to aid inflation. A small, very lightweight stiffener is built in to the tip of the arm wing for those who like to hold the end of the wing in flight.

BirdMan goes on to say that, while the Skyflyer 3 is not radically different from the Skyflyer, it IS more aerodynamic so the forward speed and the lift are increased, plus the wide leg stance feels more comfortable. *"So, it's ready for you if you're ready for it!"* say BirdMan. The Skyflyer 3 is around \$100 more expensive than the Skyflyer but some of the previous optional extras, ie, front air deflectors, padded knees and hook knife pocket are now included as standard.

BirdMan Inc: 001 386 785 0800
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"The most exciting development our industry has ever seen" - That's quite some claim!

But these immodest words form part of the introduction of a new player on the international parachute manufacturing scene. Calling themselves Aerodyne International, this collection of previously disparate individuals and companies have set their sights on taking not a small share of the state-of-the-art sport canopy and container market.

Aerodyne International was formed towards the end of last year by Dominique Marcu, of France, a founding member of Parachutes de France (PdeF) who left that company last year, and Ian Bellis of the USA, previously of Performance Designs but recently President of Aerodyne Research, manufacturers of the Triathlon range of main canopies. Marcu and Bellis have gathered around them a number of very experienced people from the parachute manufacturing world, some of whom, such as Arnold Collenteur from Holland, had been away from the industry for a while and others who have been full time with other companies. The new grouping, under the title of Aerodyne International includes Aerodyne Research in the USA, Aerodyne Technologies in France, Aerodyne Manufacturing on the island of Mauritius and Parachute Industries of South Africa (PISA).

Aerodyne Research and Aerodyne Technologies serve as design, sales, admin, warehousing and service centres in their respective parts of the world, while the manufacture of their products is handled by PISA in South Africa who have for years served as a manufacturing house for other companies' designs alongside their own range of products which included the popular Tempo reserve. The Aerodyne Manufacturing company is solely involved in the paragliding market after setting up a facility in Mauritius, the island where PdeF were until recently manufacturing.

So far the new company have released a range of new canopies onto the market and have introduced a new development to the 3-ring cutaway system. They also have a new harness/container on the road - not surprising when you consider Michel Auvray, the designer of PdeF's popular Atom rig is now also a part of the Aerodyne team.

Those familiar with PdeF's style over the years of, let's say, flowery, sugary, slightly corny language to the British ear, will also recognise his fingerprint on Aerodyne's promotional spiel - for instance: *"We feel the need to address the emotional side of canopy flight",* or *"We started hearing the more important needs - the soul of the pilot",* or *"What better name for it than the 'Vision' that inspired us."* Um, we'll see!

Aerodynamic

After much raz and a bit of m'taz, the brand new Aerodyne company is up and running with a range of five new main canopies, a new reserve, a new container and three versions of the existing Triathlon main.

Amax, Vision and Pilot

The first three new mains – the *Amax*, *Vision* and *Pilot* are all 9-cell, zero-p, elliptical wings using 725lb Spectre line and new lightweight slider grommets. The *Amax* is the top of their range, available in four sizes from 90 to 104sqft, followed by the *Vision* with six sizes from 117 to 168sqft, and then the *Pilot* with seven sizes from 124 to 210sqft. The *Pilot* is intended for the less experienced jumper; the *Vision* and *Amax* for the more experienced canopy swooper. None of these new designs utilise cross-bracing or airlocks.

Solo & Gemini

The *Solo* is a 9-cell F111 student main, available in 230, 250 and 270sqft options, while the *Gemini* is a 389sqft 9-cell, zero-p tandem main.

Smart

The company's new reserve is available in ten sizes from 99 to 250sqft. Called the *Smart* (hopefully not after the landings) this canopy is qualified under the American TSO (c23d) and the European JTSO systems and,



The Smart

according to Aerodyne, is the only reserve to be manufactured under the ISO 9001 international quality assurance programme.

Icon

The company's new harness/container system, named the *Icon* features Aerodyne's brand new, patent pending, three and a half ring release system – the *Miniforce*.

Also featured on the *Icon* is a line stow retention system, designed to help control reserve deployments at high speeds. Aerodyne point out that many in the skydiving industry agree that poorly controlled suspension lines can be a major causative factor in hard openings. They reckon that the technology they've used on the *Icon* was formerly found only on high altitude, high-speed military systems.

Other interesting features include link-stop panels (as first seen on PdeFs *Atom* container) located inside the main container to prevent connector links from wrapping around or catching on the corner of the reserve tray; and new integrated soft link retainer pockets built into the risers which provide a place to stow the ring or tab of the soft links, thus eliminating the need for manual tacking of the soft link and protect the most vulnerable part of the link from damage. The *Icon* is available in standard and student versions.



The Amax

Three and a half rings!

Apart from the designing and developing of their brand new range of canopies, those busy little bees at Aerodyne, in their spare time, have also come up with a modification to the ubiquitous 3-ring cutaway system. Company spokesman Ian Bellis claims that they "have broken new ground and developed the most exciting improvement in release technology since the 3-ring itself."

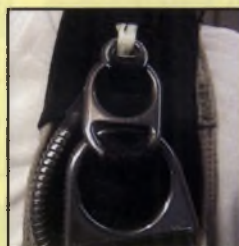
Aerodyne's new development which they call *Miniforce*, has been developed in an effort to solve the problem of hard or impossible cutaways due to excessive loading on the cables caused primarily by the combination of heavily wing loaded canopies and the standard current mini ring system.

Kit News has pointed out several times in the past that these unacceptably heavy cutaway forces experienced on the mini 3-ring system can be eliminated by the use of the original and larger ring set as used on most student systems. The larger ring set has a 4 to 1 mechanical advantage due to the simple principle of

levers which we all learnt at school – the longer the lever, the less the load.

Well Aerodyne seem to have rediscovered this principle with their new *Miniforce* system. The *Miniforce* uses the same large and small ring from the current mini-ring system but have replaced the centre ring with a specially forged elongated double ring – effectively increasing the lever length. This simple solution, Aerodyne claim, will reduce the pull force at the cables by around 35% – not as much as a large ring set, but a lot more satisfactory than a standard mini ring set-up.

The beauty of Aerodyne's system though, is that the *Miniforce* may be added to any existing harness/container system by simply changing the main risers for a set of Aerodyne's *Miniforce* risers.



Performance Claimable!

The Demon



A German company have recently released a high performance zero-p elliptical onto the already crowded main canopy market. Called the *Demon* and built by Performance Variable from Wallerfangen in Germany, this state of the art 9-cell is intended for the top gun end of the canopy pilot market.

A company spokeswoman claims (surprise surprise) that the *Demon* which is available in sizes from 60 to 130sqft opens nicely on heading, is aggressive yet stable and has an excellent swoop.

Without giving away any secrets, Performance Variable claim that their new baby's construction is unique, providing a very flat bottom skin for less wind resistance, and a "distinctive sewn-in design" for both the top and bottom surfaces. The canopy which is built using CAD/CAM and laser table technology sports an interesting wing shape motif built into both top and bottom skins.

Performance Variable:

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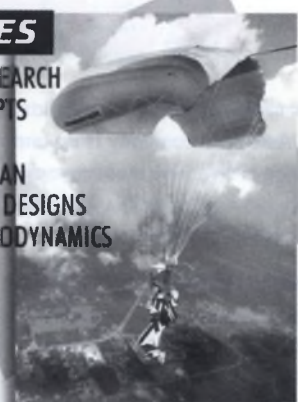
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In Confidence

by Rick Boardman

Photo: Simon Ward



Report in complete confidence to:

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281 Ablington, Figcheldean,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
SP4 8JX

Phone/Ans 01980 670598

Mobile 07747 114602

Email RicksRiggery@aol.com

*The above are **confidential***

I have had good news from two other countries now these reports are being read right around the world, which means that we're doing something noticeable for jumpers worldwide.

Note: Reports on this page are compiled partly from official Incident Reports, submitted to the BPA after every UK incident and partly from the Confidential Reporting System, a voluntary method of reporting directly to Rick Boardman, in complete secrecy. We therefore do not give details of when and where incidents have happened, to protect the confidentiality of people who use the system. Rick extracts specific reports for analysis where he considers there is much to be learned.

But be aware that this page is only a small part of reporting incidents to the membership. A resumé of all incident and injury reports, on an ongoing basis is contained within the BPA's Safety and Training Committee (STC) minutes, enclosed with each magazine. In the rare case of a UK fatality, a Board of Enquiry is immediately formed and convened. The Board investigates the incident and makes a full report to STC with conclusions and sometimes recommendations. These fatality reports are covered in the STC minutes enclosed with each magazine.

Slip Sliding Away...

"I got my rig back from the local rigger after a repack and gave it the once-over. Everything was where it should be and the card was signed up. When I next jumped I noticed the left hand cutaway cable had come out of the riser insert. There was only an inch of the cable stopping the left hand riser from releasing – which is a problem because I have an RSL on that side. There was a potential reserve-out situation and the main would only be attached by one riser! I pulled the cutaway cable back through so it was tight. When I repacked, I rethreaded it and checked everything and it seemed okay.

"I jumped again (with my hand next to my cutaway after deploying!) and the same incident occurred. I solved it the same way. This time I triple checked everything including the cutaway cable lengths against the risers-etc. They seemed the right length to me. The only difference was with my cutaway pad, instead of the top of it being flush with the entrance to the hard housings, the pad was about half an inch below.

"I moved the cutaway pad up that half inch and haven't had any problems since. Why it happened, I don't know. My rig was built to order, my canopy isn't overloaded, they weren't hard openings and after 800 odd jumps, I hope I can pack! I can only put it down to a combination of hard riser inserts and the cutaway pad being that half inch lower than usual."

Background

In the last few years we've learnt a lot about risers and cutaway pull forces. Large rings are easier to release than small ones, that's why RAPS kit has to have large rings. Mini rings are harder to release and have tighter manufacturing tolerances. Any deviation from those tolerances increases the pull force dramatically.

For a while there was a flirtation with replacing the cutaway cable housings with soft tubes of webbing which made for unpredictable cable lengths and higher pull forces. Most people have left their soft housings behind in the rigging bin and had hard ones retro-fitted.

The effect of high loading on risers, particularly mini risers, is much more relevant. Under higher loading, risers stretch slightly. As they stretch, the rings' geometry relative to each other changes and you get increased pull force. Also, as it stretches, the excess cable in its channel on the riser is gripped more tightly by that channel. The same effect occurs if you get your risers twisted on a bad opening.

To give the excess cable protection from these effects manufacturers have provided 'riser inserts', either of metal or plastic. They won't let the cables be gripped so any friction inside those channels is removed. During the opening process there is very little friction on the cables and they can be easily slid and/or jerked out. Phew!

Prevention

The obvious fix is to make sure the cutaway pad is as far up on its velcro as possible. Know your gear and know your reserve packers. If you find ones you're happy with, stick with 'em! That's not very easy, I know, because you might not necessarily know a good one from a not-so-good one. Ask around your drop zone if you're not sure. It's my experience that 'not-so-good' reserve packers are a self-fixing problem. Word soon gets around and the packer either gets better or stops.

Taking a Tumble

"We were trying for about 6,000ft on a marginal day. By the time we were up it was obvious that we'd been 'suckered' so we elected to come down to cloud base and hop and pop. I say 'we'; in actual fact only five of us actually got out.

"As soon as I let go of the plane, I felt like I was in the wrong place. I went unstable almost immediately and I remember how very surprised I was to be doing that. I struggled more and more frantically to get belly-to-earth and eventually, as I became aware of the audible 'flat-lining', I pulled anyway. I'd been avoiding the inevitable because I've had an unstable deployment before and it hurt! Oh, in case you're wondering, I've been jumping for twenty years.

"My main opened with twists but I was very quickly aware of the reserve bridle wrapped around my upper body. I kicked out the twists and ended up very disorientated. It was lucky I was facing into wind because I barely had time to sort the twists out before I landed. As I picked myself up, it dawned on me that the Cypres had fired. I couldn't believe it at first. With hindsight, I wish I hadn't bothered to jump. I'm just so glad that the reserve free bag didn't deploy."

Prevention

Talk about a bad hair day! This victim admits to having a mental picture of a jump from 5,500ft. When caught out by the lower altitude, even though there was plenty of warning and the jumper had a choice about going, there was still that mental picture in there. If you leave at 2,200ft you've got very little time to get a parachute flying. All this is rattling through your head on a low one and the reluctance to repeat a previous experience of a painful unstable opening got this jumper into a bit of a mental block. Skydiving doesn't usually allow a lot of time for mental blocks. The audible alti's 'flat-line' tone was at 1,500ft and the jumper's mental processes took him down to 750ft in a heartbeat.

If you think that this jumper's been a bit of a 'muppet' and can't ever see yourself in a similar situation, then get a copy of the recorded Cypres saves. (For contact details see inside back cover.) Airtec has collected a large database of 'confidentials'. The reasons why we can all get down and dirty, and who is capable of ending up down there is shocking.

Mike McGowan

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Club News

EDITORIAL



You'll see that there are lots of smaller clubs in this issue with more space than usual. This is down to the efforts of the club reps – thank you! It just goes to show that it's not always the large clubs that get the most coverage.

Let's keep this up. If you come from a small club and want to see more in the Mag about it, give your club rep a great photo along with a caption for them to send in. Don't forget to label your photos with your club, its return address and the name of the photographers. The better the photos, the more space your club will be allocated.

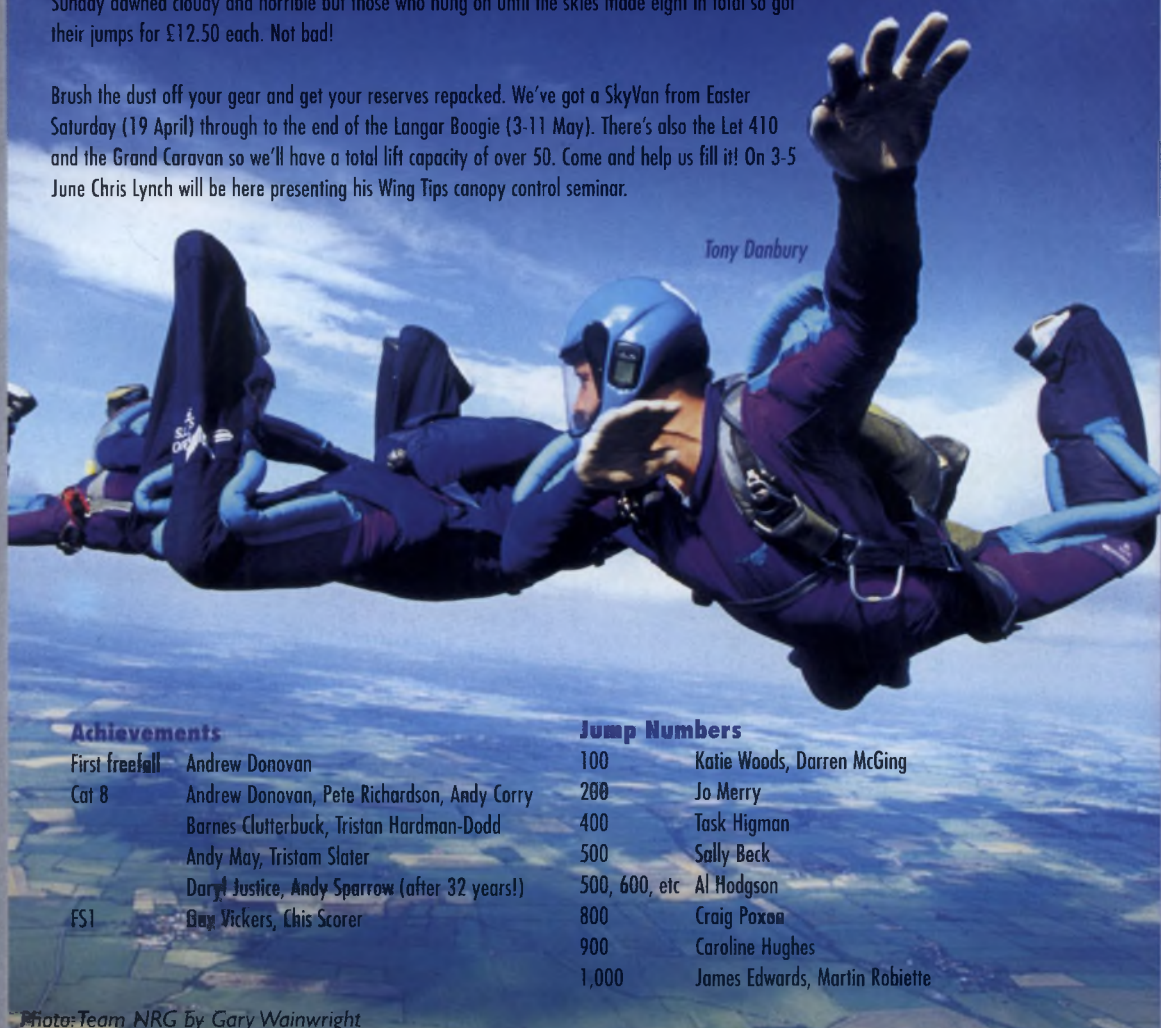
Sadly, this is my penultimate edition of Club News as I am returning to Cornwall after two fantastic years at the Mag. I'm looking forward to cutting the 300 mile distance between me and my family and finding new challenges in the south west, where my roots are.

Bev

LANGAR

Jumpers with the bottle to take a chance generally did well out of the Valentine's crazy £100 weekend. Most got five jumps in on Saturday, leaving only one to do on Sunday to break even. Sunday dawned cloudy and horrible but those who hung on until the skies made eight in total so got their jumps for £12.50 each. Not bad!

Brush the dust off your gear and get your reserves repacked. We've got a SkyVan from Easter Saturday (19 April) through to the end of the Langar Boogie (3-11 May). There's also the Let 410 and the Grand Caravan so we'll have a total lift capacity of over 50. Come and help us fill it! On 3-5 June Chris Lynch will be here presenting his Wing Tips canopy control seminar.



Achievements

First freefall	Andrew Donovan
Cat 8	Andrew Donovan, Pete Richardson, Andy Corry Barnes Clutterbuck, Tristan Hardman-Dodd Andy May, Tristram Slater Daryl Justice, Andy Sparrow (after 32 years!)
FS1	Bert Vickers, Chris Scorer

Jump Numbers

100	Katie Woods, Darren McGing
200	Jo Merry
400	Task Higman
500	Sally Beck
500, 600, etc	Al Hodgson
800	Craig Poxon
900	Caroline Hughes
1,000	James Edwards, Martin Robiette

Photo: Team NRG by Gary Wainwright

HEADCORN

New team *Blackhead* (Mike, Jan, Stacey and Steve) have been team training in Empuria and have also tried out the new Aërokar wind tunnel. *Odd Bods*, another new HPC team (watch out for them at the regionals) are off to the States soon for team training. Clare Smith is also making excellent progress in Sebastian with coaching from Chris Lynch.

Nine WARP coach wannabes underwent a day's coaching and now await their evaluation jumps. Pete Leighton is now a WARP coach and Paul Stockwell is an advanced packer. Two of our BIs spent a week learning to pack reserves – a lot of busy (and cosmopolitan) people!

On 22 February we had two lifts of night jumpers, 16 of them were night virgins and there was some stunning spotting from Ringo. On 7 March, 24 of us abandoned the skies and hit the bowling alley. Louise Hawkins showed herself to be a demon with the balls, beating most of the men as

well as being top woman. Bucket got the overall top score. Commiserations to Dona and Bernard who are thankfully better at skydiving than they are at bowling and got special certificates to prove it.

Congrats to Dave Hartley who is HPC Newcomer of the Year. He has achieved a huge amount and is totally committed to the sport.

Wing Tips run by Chris Lynch will be on 16-18 May. The UK's first Canopy Swooping meet will be held at Headcorn on 13-15 June.

Ruth Cooper

Achievements

First freefall	Andrew Elliot
Cat 8	Simon Harre-Young, Mel Day
12 hrs freefall	Pete Leighton

Jump Numbers

100	Clare Smith
200	Dave Hartley
800	Vicki Tomlinson, Garry Wilson
1,000	Andy Wright, Pete Leighton



LONDON

The first course went very well with all 16 students passing. We got all the first-timers jumped and even had a couple get the bug and managing stand-up landings by the end of the day. (Thanks partly to some creative talk-down!) Students from last year turned up and were pleased to get their jumps in at last. Some of the old regulars turned up too which made for a great first weekend to the season. We have been emphasising our links with Border Parachute Centre in the last couple of months and some have spent a fair amount of time up there. We wish David McGuinness all the best in his battle against cancer.

Words & photo by Rob Lay

Jump Numbers

50 André Fourie (pictured above)

Bryn Chaffe

Alan Burkill and Lindsay Widdall check out the view

Peterlee is about to undergo a major revamp. We have the Turbolet arriving for Easter weekend, a new bar and restaurant about to be built, and there's accommodation and a toilet/shower block on the way. Soon we won't know the place!

Bryn Chaffe, the mad fool decided to do a static line jump for his 1,000th jump, complete with full student kit (pictured below). Garry Wishart has decided to get in early for the prize of this year's most interesting landing after flying his canopy into a tree in the nearby school yard.

Paul Dorward, one of our BIs has headed off to London to be a policeman. We will miss him but at least he won't be able to give Ian a heart attack every time he comes in to land! We had the pleasure of Neil Bradley as a tandem instructor for a while. He pinched some of the tandems for a few weeks and then went off to work in New Zealand, it's alright for some!

Jane Robertson

PETERLEE

Achievements

1,000 jumps	Bryn Chaffe
FS1	Ross Sibbald
First freefall	Peter Hastie
	Dave Leonard
	Nick Brown
	George Impey



Headcorn night jumpers by Dan Rofe

BLACK KNIGHTS



Achievements

Cat 8	Mike Ferguson
	Michelle Huggins
IC1	Dean Thorp
	Duncan Aspinall

Jump Numbers

200	Rob McVey
600	Sylv Radcliffe

We have already begun Saturday night sunset drinks after jumping has finished. We're still working hard on sprucing up the DZ for the season including repainting the hangar floor with a huge map of the DZ. Our new look website is now up and running after a lot of hard work by Matt Walmsley. The site is updated weekly with photos, club news, items for sale, weather forecasts and information for our growing number of students. Stop by and leave a note in our guest book.

www.bkpc.co.uk

On 7-9 February we hosted the BCPA Valentine's meet (see page 73) which involved the usual drinking and silly games. We also ran presentations on spotting, jumpmasters and flight line checking which helped several on the way to IC1. We had a great time with the BCPA and hope to see everyone again soon.

Congratulations go to John and Anita Mooney on the birth of their second child, Connor James Michael. We were all worried about the baby taking after his father but as it turns out, he's beautiful – sorry John!

Jeff Illidge

Rob McVey carving by Carl Bridge

CYPRUS

Taking advantage of the time of year and unpredictable weather, staff have been tarting the place up – buildings have vanished, seating areas have appeared and road blocks have moved. The club's been open for two months and already we've got five AFF students and 23 tandems – a bit of a record for this time of year!

We're looking forward to the possibility of a Turbine aircraft later in the season so we're keeping everything crossed! We welcome back Kev Doust (after his stint at the sub-aqua wing) and Peds who are both back as our two resident cameramen.

Helen Mills

Achievements

First freefall	Mark Standley, Steven Johnson
100 jumps	Christopher Kelly, Kelvin Bowdrey
	Paul 'Nipper' Fowler

WILD GEESSE

We've had a quiet couple of months except for the baby boom. Congratulations to Amy on the birth of her son, also to Stevie & Tracy and Colin & Julie on the birth of their girls. There must be something in the water.

John McCourt

Achievements

Cat 8	Alan McTurk, Stewart English
-------	------------------------------

ST ANDREWS

Achievements

Cat 8	Louise Howard, Aileen Dowling
-------	-------------------------------

Jump Numbers

100	Darren Rose, Jon Smullen
200	Gordon Morison

Once again we opened at new year. The bar was well stocked and the party started early on with some of the crowd heading to St Andrews then returning to the DZ to party into the later hours. Surprisingly everyone managed to stay awake for the bells this year. As the club didn't manage to do a Christmas night out we organised a Scottish Burn's day instead. We made a trip to the Anchor Inn in the local town Pittenweem, where the traditional Haggis meal was forgotten and everyone tucked into good pub grub!

Shona's Birthday

Shona's birthday was a closely guarded secret and we planned to take her out for a meal. The venue was the Lundin Links hotel, a DZ favourite and an elaborate plan was constructed to lure Shona from the DZ, giving everyone else enough time to dive through the shower and into taxis to the restaurant. The meticulous planning was all worthwhile by the look of surprise on Shona's face as she entered the restaurant!

BCPA Scottish Nationals

Along with the usual student antics that had been arranged for the BCPA event, former VMax team member, Kate Stephens came to the DZ to give coaching seminars, one-on-one coaching and general fun. To complement this, Alan also arranged for night jumps on the Saturday. The weather wasn't kind so we rescheduled to the next weekend.

Gordon Morison

Edinburgh University
Skydiving Club at
the Sports Union Ball



HINTON

Achievements

Cat 8 Andy Hingston
Emma Mitchinson
Mat Brady

Jump Numbers

100 Dave Horn
500 Zoe Carroll
700 Ivan Betts



To start the year off as we mean to go on, we had a Mexican night. It was a joint birthday party for Diane, Clair and Rob with lots of fajitas and tequila. I'm not too sure where the pink tequila came from, but it went down well, as did the paracetamol the next morning.

Anyone who has ever jumped at Hinton or Weston will have met Muscles, Mike Browne's dog. I regret to tell you that Muscles has died. He will be missed. There is now a vacant spot three feet in front of the burger van. Muscles hated cats, kids and veggie sausages.

We welcome the Nomad back, with its lovely door and even lovelier heater. Watch out for Chris Lynch's Wing Tips on 23-26 May.

Caroline White

Steve Parks & Geoff Wood
messing about in Kenya
by Steve Saunders

CARK

Plenty of university students are back with us and getting more first-timers jumped. They just keep coming back! One of our keenest students, Rachel Ingham (pictured below) broke her ankle and spent a week in Barrow Hospital. She now sports a luminous pink cast.

Dave O'Connor took part in a superb 4-way dive the other week. One thing's for certain, Stuart Morris certainly won't forget the jump, it didn't half make his eyes water. (I think we all know what I am talking about, don't we Dave!) Congratulations to Craig Kelsall for achieving his 1,000th jump on the same dive as Duncan Haynes who sneakily kept his 900th quiet so as not to get it in The Mag – ways and means, Dunc!

Happy Birthday

Mork Massey held a surprise birthday bash for his dad, Tony's 60th (pictured above). A surprise indeed, Tony was so convinced the do he'd turned up at was someone else's birthday party (the line he'd been fed), that he stood for a good few minutes wondering why all his friends were there! Bless him. Shaker celebrated his 40th at the Pheasant Inn, courtesy of his wife Teri who arranged a surprise gathering for him. We hope to see more of them both soon.

Easter Boogie

It's our Easter Boogie on 18-27 April. There are plans for 4-way comps, 6-way speed and tracking dives/comps for the head-downers. We have a Caravan on 21-25 April from Texel, bringing along some of its resident jumpers. Other plans (as part of our NWPC Tourism duty to the Dutch)



include go karting and 'It's a Knockout' between the English and Dutch. There may also be a fancy dress do.

We have another visit from the artistic roadshow on 21-22 June and Chris Lynch will be holding one of his new Wing Tips canopy pilot coaching seminars on 27-29 June.

Michelle Meakins

Jump Numbers

200 Amanda Higgins
700 Andy Brass
800 John Howard
900 Duncan Haynes
Pete Hughes
1,000 Craig Kelsall
1,800 Lenny Doran

CCI Dennis
handing
Craig Kelsall
his 1,000
jump certificate

Welcome to
North West
Parac
Ce



Images by
Duncan Stott

BRIDLINGTON



Phil Harris's
'balloon jump'

Expectations at Brid were raised when Phil Harris announced he had organised a balloon jump. In true Harris style this turned out to be of the kind that tolerant wife Aine had blown up and stitched to him. The only hot air we get is that of Mr Harris!

To celebrate Dave Walker finding someone mad enough to marry him (hats off to Lara Jordan) several of the boys headed off play in the Paris wind tunnel. Luckily Dave left the navigating to Nick Johnston as Dave wasn't sure how close Paris actually was to France! Left to hold the fort and paint the walls was Andy Pollitt, yet to recover from not being invited.

Phil Lyall achieved his best ever freefall performance whilst strapped to the front of Nick Johnston. Rob Johnson joined the the ever growing Odyssey club at Brid; he christened his new kit but spent all his pennies buying it and now has none left to jump with!

A book is being run on when Bernie Devanney will ditch the dope rope and become another girlie in the growing number of female jumpers at Brid. Complaints have been heard that there are not enough single men to pick from here. I thought skydiving was supposed to be a male-dominated sport!

After the success of the progression week last year we would like to organise another. Please let us know if you're interested. Remember that yummy treats are always a good way to make sure your new rep Tracy doesn't forget you. Thanks to Paul Simms, club rep for the last few years.

We are all thinking of Kelvin who sadly lost his mum recently.

Tracy Bartley

Achievements

First freefall Debbie Brockett, Jim Carritt
FS1 Lara Jordan, Shane Nisbet

Jump Numbers

50 Paul Scott
400 Dave Walker
700 Phil Harris

TARGET

The SMG is back on line after its service and is climbing faster than ever, you really can feel the power on take-off. We managed 17 lifts on the first Saturday of her return — not bad for February! Our second G92 is alive and kicking. She came into action in her full camouflage glory at the beginning of March. Unfortunately the night jumps never got off the ground due to bad weather but we will try again.

We've loads in store this year for everyone — FS and freefly alike. Chris Lynch's Wing Tips canopy piloting coaching will be at Target on 30 May to 1 June. We now have a freefly school run by Tim Carter who offers coaching for beginners and those wanting to further their skills. We look forward to seeing some of you at our Easter Bash on 18-21 April to bring the season in with a bang!

We said goodbye to our rigger, John Harding at his farewell party. He is soon embarking on a tour of Europe followed by a permanent move to Florida.



John Harding

The winter and spring Algarve boogies continue to go from strength to strength. Check out these great shots by Simon Ward.

Hannah Swallow

Achievements

First freefall Aaron Sherwood
Rob Sherrington
Cat 8 Chera Cowden
FS1 Rachel Ward, Ed Stone

ALGARVE BOOGIE





STRATHALLAN



Images: Simon Ward



A group of 21 regulars headed out to Portugal for the Algarve winter boogie, organised by Target Skysports. It's a beautiful place, as you can see from Swardy's snaps. The donkey of the holiday award went to Kenny Shaw who, after landing his brand new Sabre 2 in the biggest puddle in Alvor, had to jump our student kit for the beach jump — guess where the ripcord handle went? Yep, it was thrown out to sea. (Thanks to Carl Williams for the replacement.)

A G92 load took to the skies for Jeff Simpson's 100th jump and for some reason or other, Jeff's canopy decided to deploy all by itself at 5,000ft. I wonder how that could have happened, Jeff? It's also good to see Bill Muddie back jumping with us. Well done to club pilot, Jim McIntyre who has just made his first RAPS jump.

We now have three operational Cessna 206s with GV back in use. There's good news for WARP students — coaching jumps are now YOUR slot price only. The builders have been hard at it with the construction of the new mock-up area and extension to the indoor climbing wall. Eddie still has a fetish for suspended ceilings and has now installed one in the upstairs lounge. Why don't you do the hangar next Eddie? — it shouldn't take you too long!

Andy Frew

Jeff Simpson and friends just before his 100th jump



Achievements

First freefall	Neil Dunn, Hunter Bryce
Cat 8	Emily Christie, Scott Reilly, Joanne Gibbs
	Susan Lamond, John Callaghan
	Dave Broadley
IC1	Chris Reeves, Mike Fallon
	Jeff Simpson
FS1	Chris Reeves, Andy Morgan
	Paul Paterson, Alan Parker
FF1	Dugald Robertson
12 hrs freefall	Vernon Metcalfe, Chris Clark

Jump Numbers

50	James Robertson
100	Jeff Simpson, Alan Parker
	Chris Reeves
400	Dugald Robertson
	Alasdair Bajak
600	Rupert Connell, Alan Russell
	Anne Johnson
1,000	Vernon Metcalfe
1,300	Calum Grant

BORDER



Freezing weather cannot keep the diehards out of the Northumberland skies, a monthly prize will be given to anyone who spots a lift without Ed on! We're able to open through the week now; if you who want to jump midweek, get in touch. Accommodation is available on the DZ too. We're running various events such as possible water jumps with rounds; ring for details or with your contact info and we'll add you to our mailing list.

Our first planned night jumps were cancelled due to the weather so in true Brunton style, we partied instead. Visiting students contributed with some strange Chinese alcohol with lizards in the bottle – and up George's nose! Party games included the 'dance of the flaming backsides' – Ewan was caught out and hopefully his five hour coach trip home was not as uncomfortable as we imagine!

Laura Johnson

Jump Numbers

50	Rob Lay, Rachel Hind
4,500	George McGuinness

SIBSON

Achievements

First freefall	Martin Prescott
50 jumps	Duncan Wright
200 jumps	Martin Ball



Congratulations to Mary & Giles who are getting married in September

WESTON



Chris Cox on the first lift of the season by Alf Batchelor

Happy Days for Weston boys

After a hard season last year, the Weston weekday staff plus other military jumpers headed off to Lake Wales DZ in Florida during January. The 'Happy Days Gang' included Dave Wood, Ian Charnock, Robbie Blain, Pete Whiting, Andy Ford, Kelvin Jordan, Lee Gilham and Steve (Fozzy) Forster.

All but Fozzy (who was recovering from broken leg – never confuse enthusiasm for talent on the footie field!) made the most of the Orange State's terrific weather by jumping from dawn to dusk. Tomo was already over there teaching AFF and managed to acquire the coaching skills of Al Brooks for the benefit of the gang.



The Weston staff at the SkyVenture wind tunnel in Orlando

The evenings were spent at the SkyVenture wind tunnel which was a great learning curve for all – even Woody's 'the ol' dog' learnt new tricks! Thanks to everyone who made the trip such a success, particularly to Stevie Davies. If you would like more info about RAFSPA and its trips contact Fozzy steviefoz@yahoo.com

Bev Ford

Stuart and the 206 have been busy ferrying lots of RAPS, tandem and experienced jumpers skywards, with descents made on every single day the DZ was open over the winter. The Turbolet returned on 15 March and to celebrate we enjoyed £15 jumps from altitude for the rest of the month. Welcome back to Vladimir, Roman, and Pasha, the fabulous Let crew. It was brilliant to see so many from Sibson at the BPA AGM and 'Grounded', our resident band absolutely rocked.

Its going to be a great year. We're hosting Wing Tips, the canopy skills piloting seminar with Chris Lynch on 9-11 May and the *Babylon* boys are back for the freefly festival on 22-26 May. Also we welcome the arrival of a SkyVan on the 24th – all you tailgate babies, come on over!

Congratulations to CCI Ronnie O'Brien (pictured right) on his Royal Aero Club award for his contribution to our sport; and to resident freefly coach Mark Swarbrick who secured the new Australian FF coaching qualification over the winter.

Lizzie Harris





Nomad pilot Phil Speight doing a tandem, joined by Mike Rust & Gary Small

The first two months of the year have been very busy. Building works around the centre have resumed with the hangar floor being repaired and painted. The new fuel installation is now up and running which should speed up refuel times and also stop the pilots smelling like North Sea oil workers. We wish Gee Watkins a speedy recovery and well done to Phil Speight for getting in the rear of the Nomad instead of the front to do a tandem.

Congratulations to two couples; Chris Hollis & Tarnya Bayes who plan to get married next year and to Gary Small & Jo Brookbanks who

announced their engagement on their return from Elsinore.

Steve Wilkins

Achievements

First freefall	Adam Kirtley
Cat 8	Drummond Harkin
	Edward Harrison
	Sam Ayling
	Frans Mienie

Jump Numbers

100	Pete Benjamin
400	Lloyd Quenby
3,000	Steve Wilkins

Mike Rust



Yo Lee freefly training over Target

TILSTOCK

The club re-opened on 25 January and there's been some jumping despite the weather. Apart from the usual suspects we have quite a few students who are making good progress. We are looking forward to the summer for plenty of skydiving and partying – we are already practicing for the latter. Wing Tips will be held here on 20-21 June.

The new pick-up vehicle, a big yellow van is saving our legs although it has to be said, some hairy driving does occur at times.

Steve Cooper carried out his 1,000th jump after 13 years in the sport, with brand new kit. A good number of points were scored from 10,000ft with vertical transitions! "I only intended to do one jump when I started in 1990", commented Steve.

It was nice to see Sue and Garry who came to visit from Australia.

Gravel & Coops

Jump Numbers

200	James McCulloch
1,000	Steve Cooper
1,500 tandems	Chris Gilmore
15hrs freefall	Gwyn Antony-Ackery



Steve Cooper's 1,000th jump with friends, Ewan, Ben, Simon & Ray

PARAGON

Apart from the lucky sods who managed to fly off to sunnier climes, there hasn't been a lot of jumping going on but the parties and sub-zero barbecues continue unabated.

Emma Britten qualified as a doctor and bought a new rig. Isn't our NHS wonderful? Stuart Pole, our new pilot has been getting to grips with the trusty 182. Tom can take a break now for a cuppa without us jumpfogs giving him grief. Tom has been lavishing much TLC on G-AVID. Well done mate, she's looking great. Welcome to John Reid, our new tandem instructor.

Derek Thorne donated a super Omani flag which is now flying proudly on the DZ, giving visitors many hours of head-scratching trying to figure out where it's from. Well done to Walter on his new flat in Empuria, from all your legions of new friends. ("Here, let me pack that for you Walter. You go and have a fag mate...")

Bob Henderson
& Lyndsey McLagan

Achievements

Cat 8	Ally Milne
First freefall	Tom MacKay
12 hrs freefall	Billy Gollan
24 hrs freefall	Walter Gillan

Jump Numbers

250	Bob Henderson
1,000	Billy Gollan
1,800	Walter Gillan



Walter Gillan about to achieve 24hrs in freefall



Bob Henderson's 250th jump at Empuria

NETHERAVON

Freeflyng is really happening at the zone — team *Euphoria* are setting up a freefly school and are organising a series of events. These kicked off with free load organising in March to be followed by a freefly mini boogie on 18-21 April and a series of coaching weekends over the summer, including four weekends of coaching by Tim Porter. Check the website:

www.netheravon.com

In February Helen organised an IC1 and packing weekend, Phil Elston and Rick Boardman were the instructors. 19 people received their IC1 briefings on the Saturday and 21 people were taught to pack on the Sunday. Six different packing methods were taught in one day! It was a long weekend but well worth it so we'll hopefully be doing it again.

Congratulations to Sandie and Titch for tying the knot in Thailand. Jodie is still planning to make an honest(!) man of Godders in the not too distant future. Welcome to the new DZ gophers, I mean CSBIs, Bish, Billy and Liz.

Kath Salisbury

Images: Simon Ward



Achievements

Cat 8	Ruth Draper, William Elkins
FF1	Steve Reynolds
24 hrs freefall	Dave Cassidy, Chris Davies

Jump Numbers

200	Steve Woolley, Steve Reynolds
300	Alex Jackson
400	Rick 'weather witch' Millin
500	Bish, Billy Steele

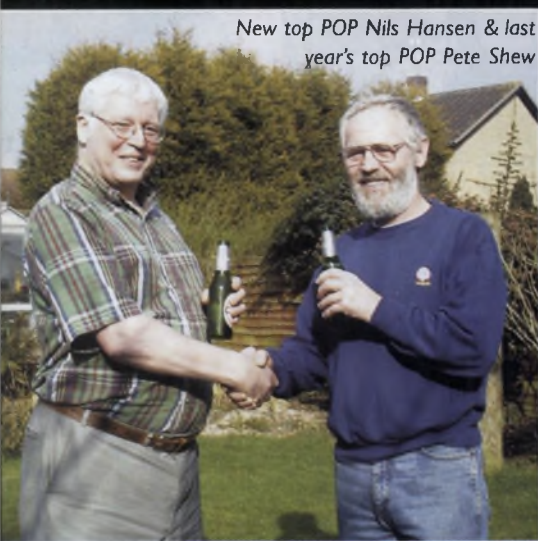
POPS

POPS is 25 years old! The society was started in 1978 at Cark. Please join us to celebrate on 28-29 June at Hibaldstow with hit 'n' rock, accuracy, speed star and FS competitions. To bring UK POPS in line with the rest of the world, the last weekend in June each year from now on will be a POPS meet.

Jack Felstead is organising another attempt at the POPS record to increase it from the 27-way last year. He is looking for POPS and skydivers over 40 who can swoop down and dock on the base. Membership can be obtained on the day. The attempt will take place at the end of the Langer Boogie, 9-11 May. Bring a range of jumpsuits if you can. For more info: jack.felstead@connectfree.co.uk



New top POP Nils Hansen & last year's top POP Pete Shew



Don't forget about the freefly weekend at Sibson on 17-18 May. Make sure your equipment is suitable and ask your rigger for advice.

Nils Hansen

New Members

Anthony Silman
Steve Blee

TEAM PUMPKIN

A bunch of us went to the BPA AGM in January and those on their first visit were very impressed how informal and fun the weekend was.

On 25 January we arranged for Andy Bennett and Dave Gould of Point Zero to hold a packing seminar at Netheravon. Lots of people are on new kit they haven't jumped yet so it was a busy day. We had a good curry to end the day too.

On 15-16 February we ran a course for the newer members of TP to bring them out of hibernation and make them safe and happy for the new

season. After reviews of safety, exits and basic canopy control we made some check out skydives. No one had any problems at all. Then it was onto the canopy control seminars by Martin and Stu Brown including several hop 'n' pop exercises. All agreed it was a very good weekend and with a total of 25 TP on site, a good social event too!

The best of luck and happiness to Jo B and Gary Small who got engaged on new year's day in San Diego and to Pete Smith who asked Dajana to marry him in Serbian!

Martin Williams

Achievements

Cat 8	Duncan Reich, Dave Ascroft Tim Hetherington, Simon Figures Peter Farrow
FS1	Dom Taylor
FF1	Ian Pocock
FF2	Andrew Stewart
FS coach	Jo Brookbanks

Jump Numbers

100	Jamie Valder Dom Taylor Simon Figures, Pete Farrow
200	Steve Tiller, Charlie Gross, Ian Pocock
400	Jo Brookbanks, Dave Fish



Dave and Gary in Elsinore at Christmas



BCPA

BCPA Valentine's Meet 8-9 February

February saw the first BCPA meet of the year – the BCPA Valentine's meet. Black Knights welcomed our group with the friendliness we'd heard rumours about and went on to confirm that they can also party hard! Friday night was spent disturbing the locals at the Manor until the landlord couldn't take it any more so we left there and carried on at the centre until 4.30am when the jousting challenge ended.

Saturday saw jumping for the experienced jumpers and in the evening (having once again oversteered our welcome at the Manor) we were entertained by 'State of the Nation', who played in return for a few beers! The party soon took off, with some interesting dancing by the locals. Some of us even got up to sing and have a go on the drums. The highlight was being taught the Birdie Song, in French, by Stephanie, my French friend! Heavy rain meant the plane stayed firmly on the ground on Sunday but we had a great time anyway. Thank you to everyone at Black Knights, particularly Jeff Illidge.

BCPA Scots Meet, 8-9 March

Briefing and coaching for the collegiate 3-way competition started early at Skydive St Andrews. Kate Stephens (from world champion FS team VMax) briefed us on our 3 point formations, watched and provided expert advice as we practiced on the ground. Later Kate held a seminar about WARP progression and FS. She gave the group good advice, interesting techniques and answered our questions.

The islander arrived from Netheravon shortly before lunchtime. The weather cleared early evening so ten happy BCPA members took the one and only lift to 8,000ft. Saturday evening was kicked off by a barbecue and buffet, with enough food left over for midnight beer munchies. Kevin, a St Andrews instructor and stage hypnotist, provided hilarious entertainment by placing some of us into a trance, making us perform wild and amusing antics. One student had the number 6 removed from his memory, another fell in love with a spacehopper, and was furious when she awoke to find another woman hopping on her 'boyfriend'. When the show ended the girls retreated to a locked room and the Ann Summers party began. What went on in that room we will never know!

For the rest of the night, the group bopped away in the disco and played drinking games. The St Andrews regulars showed us how to party Scotland-style into the wee hours. Sunday brought more overcast skies but the raffle was drawn with many people winning skydiving gadgets and clothes including a Pro-Track and a Pro-Dytter. Despite the weather, everyone who attended had a fantastic time and we plan to make another visit soon.

Kevin Mullen
BCPA Scotland Rep

*This section is non BPA
affiliated organisations*

Pictures from the Scots meet can be seen at:
www.st-and.ac.uk/~skydive/



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Dates:

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18 - 21 April 2003
- * **Early May Boogie**
3 - 5 May 2003
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BPA Affiliated Drop Zones



1 Black Knights Parachute Centre

Patty's Farm, Hilliam Lane, Cockerham,
Lancaster LA2 0DY
Tel: W/End 01524 791 820
W/days/Fax: 01772 717 624
www.bkpc.co.uk info@bkpc.co.uk

Open: W/ends, bank hols, mid week by arrangement 8am - 8pm
First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, AFF, tandem
Aircraft: Cessna 185

FS WP       

2 Border Parachute Centre

Brunton Airfield, Chathill, Northumberland NE67 5ER
Tel: 01665 589 000 Fax: 01494 444 326
cjp@para@hotmail.com www.borderparachute.co.uk

Open: Tue-Thu by arrangement, Fri-Sun, 9am - dark
First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem
Aircraft: Cessna 206, Islander

LO FS CF AC WP       

3 British Parachute Schools

Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY
Tel/Fax: 01949 860 878
info@bpslangar.co.uk www.bpslangar.co.uk

Open: Every day 9am - 8pm (or sunset), 10am start Sun
First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem
Aircraft: Turbolet (summer), Cessna 206, Grand Caravan

LO FS FF WP       

4 British Skysports, Bridlington

East Leys Farm, Grindale Rd, Bridlington,
E Yorks YO16 4YB
Tel: 01262 677 367 / 07836 276 188
Fax: 01262 401 871
www.britishtskysports.co.uk

Open: Every day 8am - 8pm
First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem
Aircraft: Cessna 206

FS CF AC WP       

5 Cornwall Parachute Club

Fran's Ranch, Old Naval Airfield, St Merryn,
Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 7RT
Tel: DZ 01841 540 691 CCI 01208 813 310
cpc@madasafish.com www.cornwallparachuteclub.com

Open: Oct - April W/ends, May - Sept Wed-Fri 8.30am - sunset
First Jump Courses: squares, tandem
Aircraft: Cessna 182, Cessna 206 or Islander

FS CF WP SU    

6 Devon & Somerset Parachute School

30 Tower Way, Dunkeswell, Nr Honiton,
Devon EX14 4XR
Tel/Fax: 01404 891 690
aguest1@compuserve.com www.parachuting-uk.com

Open: 9am - sunset Wed-Sun, midweek by arrangement
First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem
Aircraft: Cessna 206

FS CF WP SU    

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AC accuracy	 bar
WP WARP	 bunkhouse
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7 Headcorn Parachute Centre

Headcorn Aerodrome, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX
Tel: 01622 890 862 Fax: 01622 890 641
headcorn@btconnect.com
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

Open: Tue-Fri 9am - dark, (winter Mon 1pm - dusk)

W/ends & bank hols 8.30am - dusk

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem
Aircraft: Turbolet (May-Sept), Beaver (Oct-April), Islander

LO FS CF FF AC WP SU

8 Hinton Skydiving Centre

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

Open: Tue-Fri 9am - 7pm, W/ends 8am - late

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Turbolet

FS CF FF AC WP      

9 London Parachute School

31 Green Street, Hazlemere, Bucks HP15 7RA
Drop Zone located off Junction 6 of M40
Tel: 01494 459 500 Fax: 01494 444 326
info@londonparachuteschool.com
www.londonparachuteschool.com

Open: Weekends 9am - dusk

First Jump Courses: squares, tandem, AFF

Aircraft: Islander, Cessna 206

LO FS CF AC WP  

10 North London Parachute Centre

Chatteris Airfield, Manea, March, Cambs PE15 0EA
DZ Tel: 01354 740 810 Fax: 01354 740 406
Office Tel: 0870 787 4900 Fax: 0870 787 4909
chatpara@aol.com www.ukskydiving.com

Open: Tue-Fri 9.30am - 8pm, W/ends 8am - 8pm.

Closed Mon/Tue in winter

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Nomad

LO FS CF WP     

11 North West Parachute Centre

Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, Nr Grange-over-Sands,
Cumbria LA11 7JS
Tel: 01539 558 672 Fax: 01772 787 106
skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk
www.skydive-northwest.com

Open: W/ends & bank hols 9am - 9pm

First Jump Courses: squares, tandem, AFF

Aircraft: Turbolet 410 (Mar-Dec), Islander

LO FS CF FF AC WP     

12 Paragon Skydiving

Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol, Perthshire PH2 7TB
Tel: 01821 642 454 Fax: 01821 642 656
www.paragonskydiving.20m.com
bg@gollan66.fsnet.co.uk

Open: Wed-Fri 9am - 7pm, Sat 9am - 6pm, Sun 10am - 6pm

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 182

WP  

13 Peterborough Parachute Centre

Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280 490 Fax: 01832 280 409
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

Open: Mar-Nov Tue-Sun 8am - 8pm, Dec-Feb Wed-Sun

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Turbolet (summer)

LO FS FF WP SU     

14 Peterlee Parachute Centre

The Airfield, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH
Tel/Fax: 0191 517 1234
shottonairfield@aol.com

http://members.aol.com/skydivemary

Open: Wed-Fri 1pm - 8.30pm, W/ends & bank hols 8.30am - 8.30pm

Flexible hours, please phone to confirm

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 182, Turbo 206 (occasionally)

FS    

15 Skydive Redlands

Redlands Farm, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire
Tel/Fax: 01902 653 220 W/End: 01793 791 211
skydiveredlands@aol.com
www.skydiveredlands.com

Open: W/ends 9am - 8pm Please call 07855 908 083 prior to coming

First Jump Courses: squares

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Finist Turbine (from end April 03)

LO FS  

16 Skydive Southwest

Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney,
Cirencester, Gloucester GL7 5RD
Tel: 07779 019 655
will@skydivesouthwest.co.uk
www.skydivesouthwest.co.uk
Open: Fri-Sun (W/days by arrangement)

First Jump Courses: tandem, squares AFF
Aircraft: Cessna 182, Islander

AC WP

17 Skydive St Andrews

Kingsmuir Airfield, Saint Andrews, Fife KY16 8QQ
Tel: 01334 880678
skydivestandrews@mail.com
www.skydivestandrews.co.uk

Open: W/ends 8am - 10pm, Fri 5pm - 10pm, midweek by arrangement

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 185, Cessna 206, Turbine & Islander by arrangement

LO FS CF FF AC WP SU

18 Skydive Strathallan

Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1LA
Tel: 0777 468 6161 W/End: 01764 662572
kbrady@tsbdial.co.uk www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk

Open: Fri 5pm - 9pm (Summer), W/ends & B/hols 9am - dark

First Jump Courses: rounds, squares, tandem

Aircraft: Turbine (Summer), 2 x Cessna 206

LO FS CF FF AC WP     

19 Target Skysports

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

Open: 9am - dusk every day

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: G92 Turbine, SMG-92 Turbo Finist, Cherokee 6

LO FS FF WP SU      

20 The Parachute Centre

Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA
Tel: 01948 841 111 Fax: 01948 840 638
skydive@theparachutecentre.com
www.theparachutecentre.com

Open: All year Sat 8am - 9pm, Apr-Oct Fri 9am - dark

First Jump Courses: squares, AFF, tandem

Aircraft: 2 x Cessna 206

LO FS CF AC WP     

21 UK Parachuting

Old Buckenham Airfield, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1PU
Tel: 01953 861 030 Fax: 01953 861 031
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk www.ukparachuting.co.uk

Open: W/ends & W/days (by arrangement)

First Jump Courses: squares, tandem

Aircraft: PA-32 (available for w/end displays)

FS  

22 Wild Geese Skydive Centre

Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road, Garvagh,
Coleraine, Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ
Tel: 028 295 58 609 Fax: 028 295 57 050
parachute@wildgeese.demon.co.uk
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

Open: W/End 8am - dark, W/days 9.30am - dark

First Jump Courses: squares, tandem

Aircraft: Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan

FS WP  

Military Affiliated Centres

A Army Parachute Association

APA Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 678 250 Fax: 01980 671 026
apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk www.netheravon.com

B RAFSPA & RAFSPA Hawks Parachute Team

JSPC (W) RAF Weston-on-the-Green, Bloxston, Oxon OX6 3TQ
Tel: 01869 343 343 / 343 201 Fax: 01869 343 676
skydiveweston.rafspa@virgin.net www.rafspa.com

C Services Parachute Centre

Shackleton Barracks, BFPO 802
Tel: 02877 721 472 Fax: 02877 721 342

D Silver Stars Parachute Team

Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney,
Cirencester, Gloucester GL7 5RD
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BPA Associated UK Organisations

Associated Organisations

When at BPA Affiliated Centres, the following organisations are run under the BPA Operations Manual. The BPA takes no responsibility for training or advice when these organisations operate at other centres

Active Skydiving

Glengoyan, St Fillans,
Perthshire PH6 2ND
Tel/Fax: 01764 685316
Mobile: 07803 041348
scotty@activeskydiving.com
www.activeskydiving.com
Specialist AFF School offering residential
courses in Spain and USA, video included on
all jumps. Run by Scotty Milne, ex Red Devil,
5 times British Champion, Advanced
Instructor & Examiner with over 7,000 jumps.
Scotty uses the latest equipment and teaching
techniques for best results.

Airwaves International Skydiving School

78 High Street, Bexley,
Kent DA5 1LB
Tel: 01322 557375
Mobile: 07802 472 566
France: 00 33 (0) 619 605 997
skydive@air-waves.co.uk
www.air-waves.co.uk
BPA Approved instructor Rod Bartholomew
(24 yrs experience), Coco Cazalas (USPA &
FFP) & Sean O'Faolin (AFF) offer AFF, RAPS
/ RAPS progression, FS, FF, tandem & team
coaching at our beautiful resorts in Royan,
France and Florida. Operating full time all
year, our professional skydiving holidays
have everything. Video included. UK support
on return. Training programmes now offered
at the new wind tunnel in Paris.

British Collegiate Parachute Association

Lorraine Blacker, BCPA Chairman
12 Abberton Road,
Manchester M20 1HU
www.bcpa.org.uk chairman@bcpa.org.uk
The BCPA aims to promote parachuting and
skydiving at collegiate level. We hold events for
our 25 affiliated university clubs and we provide
help on setting up and running these clubs.
Most importantly we provide a community
where university skydivers of all abilities can
find like-minded people to jump and socialise
with.

David Morris Action Sports

2 Daleside, Cotgrave,
Nottingham NG12 3QA
Tel/Fax: 0115 989 2050
Mobile: 0777 498 6600
dave@daleside2.demon.co.uk
www.daleside2.demon.co.uk
Dave specialises in AFF courses and tandem
introductions in the UK, Spain and France.
The AFF course includes free jumpsuit,
altimeter, helmet, goggles, video log with re-
jumps at cost. A great deal if you want to
learn to skydive. Dave has over 7,000 jumps
and is a BPA Tandem and AFF Instructor and
Examiner.

East Coast Parachute Centre

8 Burns Crescent, Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 0TS
Tel: 01245 268772
slattery@blueyonder.co.uk
RAPS, static line and progression courses.
AFF and tandem — UK and abroad. Tandem
video by arrangement.
Currently sharing facilities with the London
Parachute School at Lewknor drop zone.

FreeFall Company

The Coach House, West St, Epsom,
Surrey KT18 7RL
Tel: (Spain) 00 34 972 45 45 63
kevin@freefallco.com www.freefallco.com
Operated by Kevin McCarthy, ex National
Champion with over 7,500 jumps and over 20
years experience. Probably the best AFF
school in Europe. State of the art equipment
and professional, personalised training gives
you safe, rapid progression to Category 10
and beyond. Videos with all jumps. Courses
available all year in the Costa Brava. Flexible
payment to suit you.

Parachute Training Services

11 Godwyn Close, Abingdon,
Oxon OX14 1BU
Tel/Fax: 01235 529570
doug@paratraining.co.uk
www.paratraining.co.uk
Run by Doug Peacock, BPA
Instructor/Examiner. The complete RAPS
package, PTS offers one jump introductory
courses with the option of individual
progression training through Cat 8 and
advanced grades. Operating at Hinton
Airfield in conjunction with Hinton Skydiving
Centre. Six days per week, call for further
information.

PhD Skydiving

Laburnum, The Hollow, Shrewton,
Salisbury, Wilts SP3 4JY
Tel: 01980 621363 Fax: 01980 620609
Mobile: 07971 665815
aff@phdskydiving.co.uk
www.phdskydiving.co.uk
Friendly, professional AFF school and Skydive
U coaching run by Martin Williams, BPA
examiner, AFF instructor and Skydive U
coach. Providing clients with small,
personalised courses all year in California,
Spain and UK. Emphasis on continued
support in UK post course. Video on all
jumps, only best equipment used.

Pops UK

Pete Shew, 6a Amptill Rd, Sheffield,
Beds, SG17 5BD
Tel: 01462 638312
pete@thepops.org www.thepops.org
A society of skydivers over forty. Regular
national and international meets at host
parachute centres.

Red Devils

Airfield Camp, Netheravon,
Wiltshire SP4 9SF
Tel: 01980 678211 or 300 or 212
Fax: 01980 678349
reddevils@reddevilsonline.com
www.reddevilsonline.com
Displays, tandem and RAPS courses.

Royal Navy & Royal Marines

Sport Parachute Association
PO Box 442, Portsmouth, Hants, PO3 5XY
Tel: 01980 678 277
secretary@skydivenavy.org.uk
RN&RMSPA is a small RAPS/AFF/Tandem
operation based at Netheravon and is the
first point of contact for service sport
parachuting.

Scottish Sports Parachute Association

Bunny McGeehan (Chairman, SSPA),
Strathallan Airfield,
Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1BE
Tel: 01698 812 443 (weekdays)
Tel: 01764 662 572 (weekends)
info@sspa.co.uk www.sspa.co.uk
Newsgroup:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scotspa
The SSPA aims to promote parachuting in
Scotland and provide training grants and
subsidies for all aspects of the sport.

Skydive Academy

Peterlee Parachute Centre, Shotton Colliery,
Co Durham DH6 2NH
Contact: Ian Rosenwing
Tel/Fax: 0191 386 5261
skydiveacademy@aol.com
http://members.aol.com/skydiveamy
7 day AFF courses our speciality. Late May-
mid September at Peterlee. Outside this
period, courses can be arranged abroad.
Centre 15 mins drive from Durham city
(2.45hrs from Kings Cross and less than
2hrs from Edinburgh). B&B in local pubs
from £12.50, in Durham City from £18.

The Skydiving Company

Headcorn Aerodrome, Headcorn
Kent TN27 9HX
Contact: Colin May
Tel: 01622 892 092
mail@theskydivingcompany.co.uk
Operating from Headcorn Parachute Club,
the Skydiving Company offers tandem, RAPS
and AFF courses.

Skydive Limited

Sibson Airfield, Wansford,
Peterborough PE8 6NE
Tel: 01832 280066 Fax: 01832 280067
Mobile: 0785 000 7178
chris@skydiveltd.com www.skydiveltd.com
Chris Allen, Ex Red Devil, CCI, BPA
AFF/Tandem Examiner, USPA Safety and
Training advisor and Skydive University UK
co-ordinator. Offers AFF courses in the UK
and abroad. Also available: team coaching,
Skydive University one-on-one programme
and tandem.

Terminal Velocity Skydiving

4 Cottesmore, Bracknell,
Berkshire, RG12 7YL
Tel: 01344 440212 Fax: 01344 445704
martin@terminalvelocity.gb.net
Offers RAPS to Cat 8 plus support beyond,
tandem with/without video and stills, WARP
coaching and AFF in the UK and abroad.
Emphasis on personal coaching and
enjoyment. All courses under direct
supervision of London Parachute School.

Overseas DZs

Overseas Military Affiliated DZs

*These Drop Zones are run under the
BPA Operations Manual*

Cyprus Combined Services Parachute Centre (CCSPC)

Dhekelia Garrison, BFPO 58, Cyprus
Tel: 00 357 2474 4337
Fax: 00 357 2474 4180
skydive@logos.cy.net www.skydivecyprus.com

Rhine Army Parachute Association JSPC (L) (RAPA)

PTC HQ ATG (G), BFPO 16
Tel: 0049 5254 982 2378 Fax: 0049 5254 982 2740
awright91@aol.com

Overseas Associated Organisations

*The BPA takes no responsibility for any training or advice given
by these organisations as they do not necessarily operate under
the BPA Operations Manual*

Centro de Paracaidismo Costa Brava

PO Box 194, 17487
Empuriabrava, Spain
Tel: 0034 972 450 111 Fax: 0034 972 450 749
cpb@gn.es www.skyrats.com
Skydive Spain. AFF courses (1 tandem, 7 jumps with air-to-air
video), tandem flights, freestyle school, Babylon freestyle school,
Skydive U, free load organising, team coaching (special rates), gear
hire (with Cyprus). Pilatus Porter and Twin Otter all year. All jumps
from 12,500ft. Open all year — and now club house, tennis and pool.

Florida Skydiving Centre

400 South Airport Road, Lake Wales, FL 32959, USA
Tel: 001 863 678 1003 Fax: 001 863 678 1409
info@skydivelakewales.com
BPA qualified WARP and tandem instructors and USPA AFF &
RAPS courses. Very large landing open area, large covered and
carpeted packing area, full line of equipment, rigging shop, cafe,
snack bar and lounge. King Air summer, CASAs and Super Otters
November-April.

Freefall Adventures, Florida

400 West Airport Drive, Sebastian, FL 32958, USA
Tel: 001 863 388 0550 Fax: 001 863 581 4468
skydivemik@aol.com www.fadventures.com
BPA & USPA qualified instructors. Owned by Brit Mick Hall. Otters
and CASAs. Over 600 acres, classrooms, state of the art equipment,
undercover packing, wind tunnel training, free camping, showers,
bunk rooms, rigging, store, restaurant.

Freefall Adventures/Skydive Cross Keys

300 Dahlia Avenue, Williamstown, New Jersey 08094, USA
Tel: 001 856 629 7553 Fax: 001 856 629 7585
skydive@freefalladventures.com www.freefalladventures.com
Licensed skydivers: www.skydivecrosskeys.com
BPA instructors. AFF, tandem, Skydive U, Monkeyclaw FF school,
freestyle and team coaching. Super Otter, Super SkyVan, Grand
Caravan, Stearman Bi-plane, helicopter and balloon jumps. Rigging
loft, cafe/bar, indoor packing, team rooms, large, open landing area.

Perris Valley Skydiving

2091 Goetz Road, Perris, CA 92570, USA
Tel: 001 909 657 3904 Fax: 001 909 657 6178
office@skydiveperris.com www.skydiveperris.com
Three Super Otters, Super SkyVan, shaded packing and creeping,
video rooms, organising, coaching, team and group rates,
packing, rigging, Square One gear store, loft, guest house, RV
hookups, restaurant, bar, pool, AFF and tandem schools.

Skydive Elsinore

20701 Cereal Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530, USA
Tel: 001 909 245 9939 Fax: 001 909 245 3661
skydive@skydiveelsinore.com www.skydiveelsinore.com
Sunny southern California's premier drop zone, located between
LA and San Diego. Two Twin Otter aircraft, team rooms, snack
bar, kit store, rigging, camping, bunkhouse, warm showers and
friendly staff. Professional instruction and coaching. Wonderful
views and atmosphere.

Skydive Sebastian

400 West Airport Drive, Sebastian, FL 32958, USA
Tel: 001 772 388 5672 Fax: 001 772 388 2105
info@skydivesebastian.com www.skydivesebastian.com
BPA & USPA qualified training. SkyVan, Super Otter and
Caravan. Tandem AFF, FS1, Skydive U, FS and team training with
Sebastian XL, freestyle coaching with Chris Lynch, Rob Silver, Mike
Swanson, Rook Nelson. Load organising, beach jumps, camping,
showers, bunkhouse, volleyball, rigging service, covered carpeted
packing area, store and restaurant.

Note: The new BPA
Associated Organisations
for 2003-4 will be listed in
the next (June) issue.

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4241 Skydive Lane
 Zephyrhills, FL 33542
 Fax 813/782-0599

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www.sunshine-factory.com

4303 Skydive Lane
 Zephyrhills, FL 33542
 Fax 813/788-5107

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Bank Transfers



BPA Advanced
 Instructor
 Examiner
 Instructor
 Tandem
 Instructor
 AFF Instructor

"I've moved, but not far!"

Call & ask for Dave or email
dave@sunshine-factory.com

DIARY DATES

APRIL

14-17 Student Progression Week
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

17-20 Women's Freely Record Training
Skydive Arizona, www.skydiveaz.com
Eloy, USA sugargliderzfreely@hotmail.com

18-20 Easter Hybrid Dives
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

18-21 Pullout Easter Boogie & Comps
Comps in 4-way, 8-way, FF, Fstyle, Accuracy
DZ Pullout, Ravenna, Italy www.pullout.it

18-21 Euphoria Freely Mini Boogie
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.freelyeuphoria.com 01980 678 245

18-21 Target Easter Bash
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

18-21 Peterlee Easter Boogie
Peterlee 0191 517 1234
http://members.aol.com/skydiveamy

18-22 Sibson 6-way Speed
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

18-27 Easter Big-way Boogie
Skydive Nagambie 0061 03 5794 1466
Victoria, Australia www.skydivenagambie.com.au

18-27 Cark Easter Boogie
Cark 01539 558 672
www.skydive-northwest.com

19 Nethers Disco
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

19-11 May SkyVan at Langar
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

19-20 Hinton Memorial Scrambles
Hinton 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

19-21 FS & FF Load Organising
European Freefall Centre info@lapalisse-aero.com
Lapalisse, France www.lapalisse-aero.com

19-23 Progression Week
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

20 Weston Party
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

21-27 Go Vertical Freely Boogie
Skydive Portugal info@skydiveportugal.com
Proenca a Nova www.skydive-portugal.com

24-27 New School Flight Camp
Florida Skydiving Center, Lake Wales
FF coaching & tunnel time stevenblincoe@yahoo.com

26-27 4-way Scrambles
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

26-27 Hybrid & Tracking Weekend
Freely Training Center, Sebastian, Florida
info@freelytrainingcenter.com

26-4 May Airspeed Ultimate 4-way Camp
Skydive Arizona 001 520 466 3753
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

27-28 Crosskeys Season Opener
Skydive Crosskeys 001 856 629 7553
New Jersey, USA www.freefalladventures.com

28-2 May Instructor Course
Target Skysports 0116 278 5271
AFF/Tandem trudy@bpa.org.uk

28-4 May PST Swoop Festival, Beach Challenge & Boogie
Panama City Beach, Florida www.proswoopingtour.com

29-1 May Cancer Survivor Big-ways
Skydive Spaceland, Rosharon, Texas
Tony Albano talbano@austin.rr.com

MAY

1-4 Aërokart 3D-Pro Weekend
Aërokart Wind Tunnel 0033 130 257 288
Argenteuil, France flacroix@aerokart.fr

1-4 FS & FF Load Organising
European Freefall Centre info@lapalisse-aero.com
Lapalisse, France www.lapalisse-aero.com

2-5 BCPA Northern Regionals
Border 01665 589 000
Becky Ahmed: northern@bcpa.org.uk

2-10 Philippines Skydiving Festival
Tropical Asia Parachute Club, 0063 45 917 955 3409
Philippines www.dreamtrekspampanga.com

3-4 Brit Chicks FS Coaching Roadshow
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk lesley@skydivemag.com

3-4 POPS Meet
RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, 0049 5254 933 862
Germany alexbusby@t-online.de

3-5 Peterlee May Boogie
Peterlee 0191 517 1234
http://members.aol.com/skydiveamy

3-5 WARP instructor training
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

3-5 CF Southern Regionals
Cornwall 01841 540 691
www.skydivecpc.com cpc@madasafish.com

3-5 Wild Geese 20th Anniversary
Wild Geese 028 2955 860
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

3-11 Langar Boogie
BPS Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

4 Weston Party
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

5-9 Learning Curve Camp
Ramblers PC, 0061 917 3399 6400
SQ, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

8-11 FS & FF Load Organising
European Freefall Centre info@lapalisse-aero.com
Lapalisse, France www.lapalisse-aero.com

8-13 Airspeed Tunnel Camps 46/47
SkyVenture, Orlando, dan@airspeed.org
Florida www.tunnelcamp.com

9-11 Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Coaching
Sibson 01832 280 490
with Chris Lynch: chrislynchx1@compuserve.com

9-11 POPS UK FS Record Attempt
BPS Langar info@bpslangar.co.uk
jack.felstead@connectfree.co.uk www.thepops.org

10-11 Andy Kelly 4-way Meet & FS Southern Regionals 4-way
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

12-16 Progression Week
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

12-16 Instructor Course
Strathallan 0116 278 5271
CSBI/TBI/AFFBI/Adv trudy@bpa.org.uk

12-16 Learning Curve Camp
Ramblers PC, 0061 917 3399 6400
SQ, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

15-18 Airspeed Big-way Camp
Skydive Arizona 001 520 466 3753
Eloy, USA www.skydiveaz.com

16-18 Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Coaching
Headcorn 01622 890 862
with Chris Lynch: chrislynchx1@compuserve.com

16-18 Port Macquarie Boogie & POPS Meet
Port Macquarie, skydive@midcoast.com.au
NSW, Australia www.portmacquarieinfo.com.au

17-18 VNE FS Coaching Roadshow & Euphoria FF Coaching Roadshow
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

17-18 POPS Intro to Freeflying
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

19-20 XL Tunnel Camp
SkyVenture, Orlando, thomas@sebastianxl.org
Florida www.sebastianxl.org

19-23 Progression Week
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

19-23 Instructor Course
Strathallan 0116 278 5271
CSI/Pre-Advanced trudy@bpa.org.uk

22-26 Babylon Freely Boogie & SkyVan
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

23-26 Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Coaching
Hinton 01295 812 300
with Chris Lynch: chrislynchx1@compuserve.com

23-26 Scottish Nationals and 4-way N Regionals & 8-way Grand Prix
Strathallan inc: CF 2/4-way, Classics, Artistic events
www.skydivesthathallan.co.uk 07774 686 161

24-26 Big-way weekend
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

25 Weston Party
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

29-1 Jun FF & FS Training, Track & Atmonauti
European Freefall Centre info@lapalisse-aero.com
Lapalisse, France www.lapalisse-aero.com

29-1 Jun Belgian Freely Festival
Belgium www.headdown-over-spa.com

30-1 Jun Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Coaching
Target Skysports 0113 250 5600
with Chris Lynch: chrislynchx1@compuserve.com

30-1 Jun FF Coaching with Tim Porter
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

31-1 Jun VNE & VMax Coaching Roadshow
Peterlee 0191 517 1234
http://members.aol.com/skydiveamy

JUNE

3-5 Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Coaching
Langar 01949 860 878
with Chris Lynch: chrislynchx1@compuserve.com

6-9 Australian Classics Nationals
Caloundra, SQ scskydivers@sun.big.net.au

6-15 Fun/Progression Week
Black Knights 01524 791 820
www.bkpc.co.uk jeff@payco.net

7-8 VMax Coaching Roadshow
St Andrews 01334 880 678
www.skydivestandrews.co.uk

7-8 Classics Roadshow
Hinton, with Julian Spencer 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

7-8 Artistic Roadshow
Hibaldstow www.skydiving.co.uk
with Chris Lynch & Rob Silver 0113 250 5600

7-8 Woodmouse Speed 7 Meet
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

7-9 FS & FF Big-way Weekend
European Freefall Centre info@lapalisse-aero.com
Lapalisse, France www.lapalisse-aero.com

7-9 Queen's Birthday Boogie
Ramblers Parachute Centre, SQ, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

7-10 Freely Mini Boogie
Skydive Nagambie 0061 03 5794 1466
Victoria, Australia www.skydivenagambie.com.au

KEY

BPA
Formation Skydiving
Canopy Formation
Style & Accuracy
Boogies
Freely & Skysurf
POPS
Speed Skydiving
Unclassified
BPA Coaching Roadshows

8-14 RAPA Championships
Bad Lippspringe, Germany 0049 5254 933 862
(FS, Classics, CF & Swoop) alexbusby@t-online.de

12-15 Aërokart 3D-Pro Weekend
Aërokart Wind Tunnel 0033 130 257 288
Argenteuil, France flacroix@aerokart.fr

12-17 Airspeed Tunnel Camps 48/49
www.tunnelcamp.com dan@airspeed.org

13-15 UK's 1st Canopy Swooping Meet
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

14-15 Classics Roadshow
Hinton, with Julian Spencer 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

14-15 Pre-Nationals Freely Meet
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

14-15 Hinton Scrambles
Hinton 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

14-15 FS 8-way Grand Prix
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

14-22 Target Summer Boogie
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

17 BPA Council Meeting
skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

17-22 Classics Selection Nationals
Hinton 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

20-21 Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Coaching
Tilstock 01948 841 111
with Chris Lynch: chrislynchx1@compuserve.com

20-22 CF Nationals
Hinton 01295 812 300
info@skydive.co.uk www.skydive.co.uk

21-22 Skyline Tandem Record Attempt
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

21-22 Skyline Tandem Record Attempt
Wild Geese 028 2955 860
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

21-22 Artistic Roadshow
Cark www.skydive-northwest.com
with Rob Silver & Tim Porter 01539 558 672

21-22 VNE Coaching Roadshow
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

21-22 Woodmouse 4-way Meet
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

21-29 PST Scandinavian Challenge
Voss, Norway www.proswoopingtour.com

26-29 Speed Skydiving World Cup
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.speedskydiving.net www.skydiving.co.uk

27-29 Wing Tips Canopy Pilot Coaching
Cark 01539 558 672
with Chris Lynch: chrislynchx1@compuserve.com

27-29 FF Coaching with Tim Porter
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

28-29 CF & Classics Northern Regionals
Wild Geese 028 2955 860
www.wildgeese.demon.co.uk

28-29 Rodders 4-way Meet
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

28-29 Tracking Meet
Paul Parachutisme 0033 559 048 589
Passion, France ecolepara@aol.com

28-29 POPS 25th Anniversary Meet
Hibaldstow, Accuracy & Hit n Rock 0113 250 5600
www.thepps.org info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

28-29 4Pak Coaching Roadshow
Hinton Maddie: 01295 812 101
sales@dzsports.com www.skydive.co.uk

30-4 Jul BCPA Nationals
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
Lorraine Blacker: rainbow@zoom.co.uk

JULY

3-7 Byron Bay 4 July Boogie
Australia byronbayskydivers@hotmail.com

4-6 Icarus Pro Swooping Tour
Netheravon freelyhelen@totalise.co.uk
01980 678 245 www.proswoopingtour.com

5-6 FS 8-way Grand Prix
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

5-6 CF Coaching Roadshow
Langar 01949 860 878
with Mark Weaver & Ian Marshall www.bpslangar.co.uk

5-6 Artistic Roadshow
St Andrews www.skydivestandrews.co.uk
with Rob Silver & Tim Porter 01334 880 678

5-6 XL's PD Roadshow
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

5-13 XL Pre-Nationals Coaching
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

7-11 FS Week
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

7-11 Learning Curve Camp
Ramblers PC, 0061 917 3399 6400
SQ, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

9-13 PST Qualifier Skills Camp
Skydive Oregon www.proswoopingtour.com

11-13 Hörter 4-way Mini Meet
Höxter, Germany 0049 5271 7173

11-3 Aug SkyVan at Sibson
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

12-17 CF Week with Belgian Champions
Belgium www.skydivecenterspa.com

12-19 Swedish Frilfaj Festival
Glenn Johansson info@skydiveskane.n.se
www.frilfaj.com +46 707 979 757

19-20 XL's PD Roadshow
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

19-25 XL Pre-Nationals Coaching
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

19-20 Artistic Roadshow
Peterborough www.skydivesibson.com
with Tim Porter 01832 280 490

21-25 XL Coaching Week
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

25-27 Speed Skydiving World Cup
Stockholm Fallskärmsklubb, Sweden 0046 293 50251
www.speedskydiving.net www.skydive.se

25-27 FF Coaching with Tim Porter
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

26-27 Women's CF Record & Coaching
Hinton 01295 812 300
info@crwseminar.com www.skydive.co.uk

26-28 FS British Nationals 4-way
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

26-3 Aug UK Freely Festival
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

26-3 Aug Espace Boogie
Venue tbc www.espaceboogie.com

27 Bewl Reservoir Water Jumps
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

AUGUST

1-9 PST Open & Qualifier Skills Camp
WFFC, Rantoul, Illinois www.proswoopingtour.com

1-31 Nagambie Skills Month
Skydive Nagambie 0061 03 5794 1466
Victoria, Australia www.skydivenagambie.com.au

2-4 FS British Nationals 8-way
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
info@targetsky.demon.co.uk www.skydiving.co.uk

2-4 Artistic British Nationals
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
www.skydiving.co.uk info@targetsky.demon.co.uk

4-10 CF World Record Attempt
Lapalisse, France info@lapalisse-aero.com
www.lapalisse-aero.com

6-8 Women's Freely Record Training
Skydive Chicago, www.skydivechicago.com
Illinois, USA sugargliderzfreely@hotmail.com

9-10 Weston Scrambles
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

9-10 Classics Central Regionals
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

9-10 Brit Chicks FS Coaching Roadshow
Venue tbc

9-10 Canopy Swooping Weekend
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

11-15 Instructor Course
Hibaldstow 0116 278 5271
CSBI/TBI/AFFBI/Adv trudy@bpa.org.uk

11-15 XL Skills Camp
Empuriabrava, Spain john@sebastianxl.org

13-17 PST Qualifier Skills Camp
Skydive Crosskeys, NJ www.proswoopingtour.com

14-15 Competition Training
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

14-17 Belgian 4-way FS Nationals
Belgium www.skydivecenterspa.com

15-17 French Nationals in FS & Intermediate Freely
European Freefall Centre info@lapalisse-aero.com
Lapalisse, France www.lapalisse-aero.com

15-25 Fun/Progression Week
Black Knights 01524 791 820
www.bkpc.co.uk jeff@payco.net

16 Tandem World Record Attempt
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343
Leonard Ansell: 01628 820 269

16-17 FS Central Regionals 4-way
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

16-22 Army Championships
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

18-22 Instructor Course
Hibaldstow 0116 278 5271
CSI/Pre-Advanced trudy@bpa.org.uk

19 BPA Council Meeting
skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

22-24 Wingsuit Weekend
Peterborough 01832 280 490
skydive@skydivesibson.com www.skydivesibson.com

23-25 Speed 8-way & Canopy Swoop Meet
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

23-25 Brit Chicks FS Coaching Roadshow
Venue tbc

24 Weston Summer Ball
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

29-31 FF Coaching with Tim Porter
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

29-31 Speed Skydiving World Cup
DZ Pullout, Ravenna, Italy 0036 05444 87899
www.speedskydiving.net www.pullout.it

30-31 Wiggaz Festival
RAFSPA, Weston 01869 343 343

SEPTEMBER

1-5 Learning Curve Camp
Ramblers PC, 0061 917 3399 6400
SQ, Australia www.ramblers.com.au

4-14 World Championships
All disciplines, Gap, France 0033 492 540
skydivgap@online.fr

6-7 LAC Meet
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

6-7 Brit Chicks FS Coaching Roadshow
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk lesley@skydivemag.com

8-12 Progression Week
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

13-14 4-Way Seminar
Skydive Nagambie 0061 03 5794 1466
Victoria, Australia www.skydivenagambie.com.au

15-19 Progression Week
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.netheravon.com 01980 678 245

18-21 Euphoria Freely Mini Boogie
Netheravon apa@netheravon.fsnet.co.uk
www.freelyeuphoria.com 01980 678 245

16-27 120-way Challenge
Pete Marsden 01932 701 321
at Umm Al Quwain pete@boogieclub.co.uk

22 Bewl Reservoir Water Jumps
Headcorn 01622 890 862
www.headcornparachuteclub.co.uk

24-28 PST World Cup
Perris Valley, CA www.proswoopingtour.com

26-28 Speed Skydiving World Cup
DZ Hohenems, Austria 0043 557 672 170
www.speedskydiving.net www.upcs.at

27-28 CF Central Regionals
Langar 01949 860 878
www.bpslangar.co.uk info@bpslangar.co.uk

29-5 Oct CF Seminar
CPCB, Empuriabrava, Spain cpcb@gna.es
richardhayden_crew@yahoo.co.uk

OCTOBER

2-5 Pink Boogie
Belgium www.skydivecenterspa.com

4-12 Go Vertical Freely Boogie
Skydive Portugal info@skydivoportugal.com
Proenca a Nova www.skydive-portugal.com

4-12 The Oktober Boogie
Skydive Nagambie 0061 03 5794 1466
Victoria, Australia www.skydivenagambie.com.au

7-12 PST Baja Challenge & Beach Boogie
Baja, Mexico www.proswoopingtour.com

21 BPA Council Meeting
skydive@bpa.org.uk 0116 278 5271

25-26 Halloween 10-way Speed
Hibaldstow 0113 250 5600
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www.performance-designs.com

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info@skydivepointzero.co.uk

Ramblers Parachute Centre 63
0061 754 231 159
ramblers@hypermax.net.au

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alandene@aol.com

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001 863 678 1003
info@skydivelakewales.com

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0039 0734 964 488
info@skydivemarche.com

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0044 (0)7774 686 161 (mobile)
www.skydivesthathallan.co.uk

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