

SOS

15way

5 Oct 1997

Elsinore, CA

Parachutists Over Phorty Society



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This certifies that

*Judy Bieloh Don Bieloh Jerry Bourquin Dick Eaton
Danny Hupert Bill Jones Bud LaPointe Pat Moorehead
Max Mueller Stan Perrine Bill Rappa Walter Ross
Lew Sanborn Joe Wasser George White*

did participate in the

'Skydivers Over Sixty' WORLD RECORD

15 person freefall formation

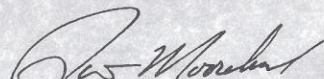
at Skydive Elsinore, California on October 5, 1997

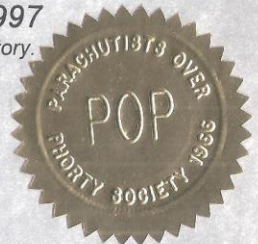
Your SOS Event is acknowledged and recorded in the POPS Awards History.

Sincere congratulations!


Alicia P. Moorehead
World TopPOP, US TopPOP


Len Zak, POPS 460
POPS Award Coordinator


Pat Moorehead, POPS 572
SOS #1





SOS 15-WAY RECORD, ELSINORE CA 6 OCT 1997

this just in

news from 15,000' and below

Stories From Out of the Blue

Howard Burling reported the following story in his local newsletter about his visit to a midwest drop zone:

"It was \$60 to jump all day out of a King Air from 13,500 feet, and we were trying for our fifth jump of the day before a quick storm hit. We should not have taken off.

"It turned black and big drops started to hit. I was first in the 4-way to climb out, and we were immediately hit with rock salt-sized hail.

"Thank God on exit we were immediately torn apart, because we endured 9,000 feet of being peppered by ice and had to flip on our backs or fall with our hands covering our faces. People with short-sleeved shirts looked as if they had fallen into a hornet nest.

"We came out of the ice and clouds at 4,000 feet, but it was black and raining. The winds had shifted 90 degrees. I did not dare to make any turns, because my canopy was so wet.

"The pilot, one jumper and a young observer stayed in the plane. It's hard to say who was better off, because the plane also ran into blinding rain and wind shear on final approach. It landed short of the runway, ripping off all the landing gear. It slid onto the runway and then off again, finally coming to a stop on the other side of the runway from the DZ.

"It took an hour to get all the jumpers back to the airport, but no one had more serious injuries than welts and bruises."

Part of knowing how to skydive is knowing when to say, "No."

DZs Adopt New Program

It appears that USPA's Enhanced Group Member Program will succeed. The program, which replaced the old Group Member Program at the beginning of 1997, has exceeded the targeted sign-up goal with three months left in the year.

Drop zones welcomed all but one aspect of the new program, mandatory membership for students, subsequently removed. USPA Group Member centers now receive more concentrated attention from USPA Headquarters, more aggressive lobbying efforts in Washington and in state capitols on their behalf, new USPA involvement in the aircraft operations end of the business and periodic national drop zone forums conducted by USPA. The new program costs more than the old one, and drop zones are asked to enforce USPA and FAA rules more vigorously than before and to require membership of experienced jumpers.

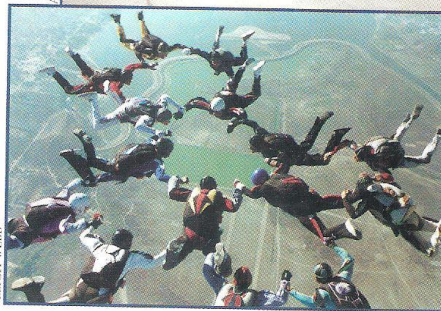
At the beginning of October, 282 drop zones had signed up for renewal or as first-time applicants, with fewer than 90 estimated remaining. More come up for renewal later this year.

In discussions before the program's implementation, the USPA board had concerns that the more restrictive program might discourage participation. They set a target of 66 percent renewal, now exceeded.

The new program includes a voluntary DZ inspection program to be implemented at a later date.



MICHA MOOREHEAD



LEIGH WEBER

SOS 15-Way Builds Over Elsinore

Alicia Moorehead, Top POP of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society (POPS), submitted this photographic record of 15 skydivers—all topping 60 years old—completing a 15-way formation over Lake Elsinore, California. Her husband,

former USPA National Director Pat Moorehead, says membership in the budding Skydivers Over Sixty (SOS) has reached 350. The formation held for more than ten seconds. The oldest jumper in the group at age 71 was Walter Ross; Bud LaPointe had the most time in sport: 51 years.

Skydive Crash Data on the Net

Aircraft insurance broker Jeff Norris, of Aviation Insurance Representatives, Inc., is compiling a base of information about crashes involving skydiving aircraft that anyone on the internet can access. The website address is <http://members.aol.com/jnorris209/index.html>.

Industry News

Precision Offers Zero-P Reserve

Inevitably, the first canopy manufacturer has come forward with an option for zero-P fabric on the top skin of a reserve canopy. Earlier this year, Precision Aerodynamics of Dunlap, Tennessee, began selling its Raven Dash-M reserves, approved under TSO C-23d and made of standard low-permeability fabric. Now customers may opt for the zero-P top-skin option at no extra charge.

Company President George Galloway says customers should order the same size reserve as before and expect the same pack volume. The advantage is that the reserve should maintain its performance characteristics throughout its life.

On many occasions, Precision has demonstrated a test that shows how quickly new low-permeability fabric (often referred to by the name of one brand, "F-111") can lose its ability to maintain its 0-3 cubic-feet-per-minute (cfm) specification. New fabric samples may degrade to nearly ten cfm after the equivalent handling of only a few pack jobs. Galloway expects that the zero-P top skin will slow the effects of wear a reserve gets during its routine 120-day inspection and repack.

The new reserves come in the same sizes as Precision's Raven Dash-M models, 109-282 square feet, and are called Raven "Dash-MZ." The company can be reached at (800) 222-3933.

POPS Keeps Growing

Top POP

Alicia Moorehead reports record growth for the Parachutists Over Phorty Society, registering 92 new members in July. POPS boasts a total membership of 6,200, each sequentially numbered. The POPS organization offers membership to anyone over the age of 40 who has made at least one jump. The one-time membership fee costs \$20 and includes a membership card, color patch and decal. The organization conducts several national and regional meets throughout the U.S., with eight scheduled in 1997.

Interested quadragenarians (and older) may write Moorehead at 3350 St. Francis Place, Long Beach, California 90805-2389 or call (562) 633-1226.



Cypres Serviced Here

Cypres owners no longer need to send their automatic activation devices to the manufacturer in Wunnenburg, Germany, for the four-year periodic inspection. SSK Industries has completed its new 8,000-square-foot facility in Lebanon, Ohio, and can handle all routine procedures on Airtec Cypres units. The company has serviced 400 units since Airtec approved it to perform the inspection in March.

SSK President Cliff Schmucker says that most Cypres maintenance will take around two weeks once the device arrives in the shop. The inspection includes the same barrage of tests each unit undergoes before it leaves Airtec's factory, including a series in very hot (70 degrees Celsius) and very cold (-20 degrees Celsius) conditions. SSK compares the results with the unit's original perfor-

More on Tandem Line Stows

After reviewing a series of test films of tandem main canopy deployments, the Uninsured Relative Workshop, Inc., has changed its position on tandem stow bands. Company spokesperson T.K. Donle says the company now recommends large Tube Stoes, sold by Sky Systems of Englewood, Colorado, for use on the center two locking stows of the deployment bag. Donle says the same special wide rubber bands should still be used for the remaining stows, as before.

The extra-large pilot chute of a tandem rig (which doubles as a speed-limiting drogue) extracts the bag from the container much faster than one on a personal parachute, even though it collapses as the container opens. If the lines dump from their stow bands during bag extraction, allowing the canopy to inflate before line stretch, the opening force can be excessively hard. "Line dump" has been blamed for many malfunctions and canopy, line or riser failures both on tandem and personal rigs. Finding the right line stowage system has always challenged tandem parachute designers.

For more information, tandem rig owners can call Donle at (904) 736-7589. The Relative Workshop carries the correct Tube Stoes. They are also available from Sky Systems at 6469 S. Magnolia Court, Englewood, Colorado 80111, (303) 779-9042, and at many skydiving equipment counters.

mance and against the performance of the other five in its manufacturing lot (all Cypreses are born as sextuplets).

The test requires the same amount of time to perform at the SSK facility as in Germany, but shipping to Ohio is less expensive, less complicated and less time consuming.

Most units appear to be passing on the first try, but those out of spec may take longer to analyze, said Schmucker. A routine inspection costs \$160. Replacement batteries and cutters, if needed, cost extra.

An owner may submit a Cypres for the inspection within three months either way of the due date, but there is no advantage to sending it late. The next four-year inspection will still be due eight years after manufacture.

Safety Tip of the Month:
Make sure your closing loop is tight and not frayed.



Mike Bonner complains that Parachutist prints too few photographs from his part of the U.S. The Michigan-based skydiving photographer films a lot of tandems, such as the one shown here. The staff of Parachutist agrees with him and requests good-quality photographs from all over the country. The ones that print best are in sharp focus (you should be able to read the altimeters), have strong color saturation and no graininess in the background. The more unusual the view or the subject, the more interesting the photo. Send your best work with a self-addressed stamped envelope for review and critique any time.



SKYDIVE ELSINORE UPDATE

By Larry Noggle

TURN PAGE FOR PHOTO



EVENT NEWS

SKYDIVERS SET RECORD
AT SKYDIVE ELSINORE

SKYDIVERS OVER SIXTY

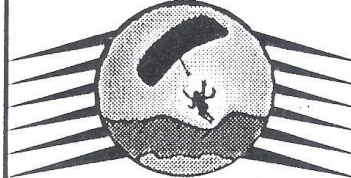
BREAK INTERNATIONAL RECORD

On Sunday, October 5, Skydive Elsinore made the history books again. Yet another skydiving record was established in the sky over our DZ when "Skydivers Over Sixty" completed the world's largest freefall formation comprised solely of skydivers over sixty years of age. The previous record of twelve was surpassed three times, with the new record now established at fifteen. Many of those participating in the record-breaking achievement traveled significant distances in order to participate. International visitors came from Russia, Germany, and Canada, and US participants represented most regions of the

country. Skydivers responsible for the new record include eight Southland residents. Judy and Don Bieloh, a married couple in their sixties from Long Beach, California, both made it into new record-breaking formation, as did Pat Moorehead, "Skydivers Over Sixties" founder and fellow Long Beach resident.

The youngest participant in the event just turned sixty years old, and the eldest is seventy-three. Their skydiving backgrounds vary tremendously, with the least experienced member of the group having only 173 skydives, while Bill Jones, of Girdwood Alaska, has made over 10,000 skydives and is renowned as one of the most experienced skydivers in the world. Local favorites Jerry Borquin, of Lake Elsinore, and Joe Wasser, of Ramona, were on the new record-breaking dive, as were Bud LaPointe of San Pedro, Stan Perrine of Lake Arrowhead, and George White of Portola Valley. Larry Noggle was delighted that the SOS group was successful in their record-breaking attempt. Noggle remarked, "This achievement was particularly well-timed, given the fact that the National Championships in formation skydiving were held during the following week. Several of those in the SOS group were skydiving before some of the top-ranked skydivers competing in this year's nationals were born!" Skydive Elsinore congratulates all those who participated in the record breaking dives, and looks forward to hosting many more SOS events!

Jump Run
NEWSLETTER



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