

POPS Nationals

Oct 1986

Asheboro, NC

EVERYONE WAS AMAZED

My Instructor couldn't believe my progress and my Jumpmaster was convinced I was an experienced jumper pretending to be a student.

My secret? I read *Parachuting, The Skydivers' Handbook* in a few evenings at home. I referred back by Dan Poynter's book between jumps, practicing the exit, count, emergency procedures and PLF. I felt I was in control and you should have seen their reactions to my near-perfect jumps.

The book takes you step by step from the time you first arrive at the field through the first jump course and into intermediate skydiving. Poynter explains everything and he seems to know just where we will have problems or questions. Send for your copy today and amaze everyone on your DZ.

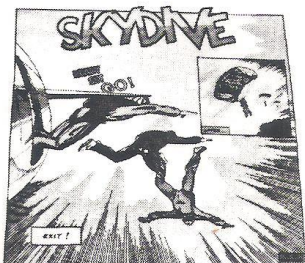
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Warm Temps Greet POPS

If you're a POPS member and missed the 1986 POPS Nationals at the Astroid Parachute Center in Asheboro, NC, then you missed one of the best POPS meets ever.

The meet was scheduled in early October to avoid the thunderstorms and heat of summer. There wasn't any rain but there was 90-degree plus temperatures during an unseasonable warm period. Some 50 POPS members and their families attended from all over the U.S. Peter Best from England represented the UK POPS and, at 65, was also the oldest participating POPS. Mike Bland, who operates the Astroid Parachute Center, was the POPS with the most jumps: 6,000. Jimmy Godwin, who operates the Paragators drop zone in Eustis, FL, brought his 10-place turbine Porter up for the meet. The Porter was available for fun jumps and the RW event. Mike Bland's Cessnas were used for everything else.

On Friday night prior to the meet, most POPS attended an authentic North Carolina pig pickin' with all the trimmings. Music was provided by a local bluegrass band.

Saturday night featured the traditional POPS banquet but this time with a slightly different twist (as organized by Harry Irvin). Saturday just happened to be Top Pop John Reid's birthday and he was helped in celebration by a belly dancer.



Top Pop John Reid is entertained on his birthday by a local belly shaker.

A revolving trophy is passed each year at the POPS Nationals to that POP who best exemplifies the spirit of POPS. This year's recipient was Bill Wood from Greenville, SC.

Accuracy winners were Ted Strong, first place; Gene Mike Bland, second place; Ron Brissey, third.

Hit 'n' Rock winners were: Bill Morrissey, first; Tom Zukowski, second; Gene Mike Bland, third.

The winning 4-way team consisted of Jack LaLonde, Ted Strong, Ben Gibson and Harry Irvin. —BOB DEEN



Bill Wood receives the revolving trophy presented each year at the POPS Nationals to the member best displaying the true POPS spirit.

CENTER-LARRY ROSSI