

25th POPS Winter Meet

& SOS record

12way

28 Mar 1996

Umatilla, FL



Jumpers build an 18-way formation during the Cuba Boogie held last February at Vara Dera (Skydiving #177). Over 160 people attended the event. Most of the jumps were made from three Mi-17 helicopters. Photograph by Bruno Brokken.

Handicap Meet Cranks at Perris DZ

The annual Iron Crank 4-way meet saw one of its largest turnouts this year. A total of 26 teams attended the handicap competition held March 30 at Perris Valley Skydiving in California.

Dan Gorieski started the meet in 1989 to create a competitive event where new or inexperienced teams could compete against each other on a more level playing field, reported DZ spokesman Robin Berg.

Participation at the Iron Crank meets has seen a steady increase each year. Last year's event attracted 16 teams.

Meet director Ron Woodbury attributed the higher attendance to the handicap system of scoring and this year's heavier weighting in favor of the handicapped teams.

"It's obvious that this type of meet attracts a wider cross section of skill levels,

and in that sense the meet was a total success," Woodbury told Berg.

Woodbury said some of the "open" teams—those competing without a handicap—were concerned that the balance had been tilted too far in favor of the less-experienced teams.

"Every year we adjust the nature and

level of the handicap scoring system," said Woodbury. "This year I intentionally made it much more difficult for an open team to beat a handicapped team. Next year, we intend to adjust it to a more reasonable level. Keep in mind that everyone knows who the serious teams are and how many points they're actually turning."

84 Compete in POPS Winter Meet

Jumpers from across the U.S. and Canada attended the Parachutists Over Phorty Society Winter Meet held last month at Umatilla, Fla.

Jumpers came to compete, to make fun jumps and to celebrate the event's 25th anniversary. Jimmy and Wilma Godwin of Paragator Skydivers have been hosting the competition and boogie since 1972.

This year's event, held March 23-31, attracted 84 competitors and another 30 fun jumpers, reported Pat Moorehead, long-time member and husband of U.S. Top Pop

Alicia Anderson.

"As usual, POPS began arriving on the [first] weekend to take advantage of the sunny Florida weather and the Godwin's Cessna Caravan and fleet of 182s," said Moorehead. "During the week, the Caravan flew virtually nonstop except for a few weather holds."

Jimmy Godwin said the turboprop averaged 15 loads a day and the Cessnas about 30 loads per day. The Caravan carried up to 15 jumpers.

The weather wasn't as cooperative when

Teams were awarded up to 10 extra points per round, depending on their experience level, said Berg. Working time for open teams was also limited to 35 seconds, while handicapped teams were allowed up to 50 seconds.

"After the first three rounds of competition, the top 50 percent would go on to complete the fourth round," said Berg. "This score was tripled to give yet another

(continued on page 11)

the competition was scheduled to start March 30.

"The competitors arrived promptly at 8 am for the briefing and were greeted by a 1200-foot ceiling," said Moorehead. "The next three hours provided the time to claim packing areas and renew old friendships."

But the weather never improved and the competition was delayed until Sunday, although several competitors had to leave early.

(continued on page 10)



4-1996

POPS Meet

(continued from page 1)

"With three Cessnas rotating over the peas, three rounds of accuracy and one round of hit and rock were completed by mid-afternoon and the medals were awarded," said Moorehead.

Florida jumper Ron Brissey won the accuracy event with a 6 centimeter total. Dick Rapacilo, also from Florida, took second place with 13 cm. Bernie Larkin from Pennsylvania came in third with 14 cm.

Tom Zukowski, another Pennsylvania jumper, won hit and rock with a time of 4.9 seconds. Second place went to Ted Rose of Ohio with 5.8 seconds. Florida jumper Ski Chmielewski took third with 6.0 seconds.

A banquet held over the weekend brought in a few more POPS supporters, with over 150 people attending the awards dinner Saturday night.

The jumpers hadn't competed yet, but several other awards were presented, including participation certificates for last year's 75-way POPS record.

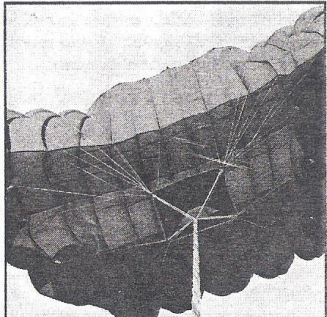
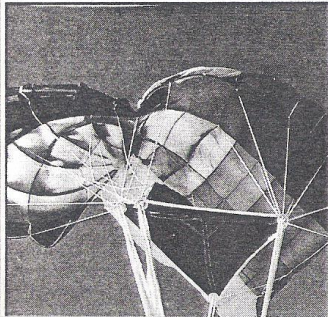
Lew Sanborn and Maximilian Miensopust were recognized for their high altitude jump from 35,200 feet made last April at Zephyrhills, Fla. Bobby Valenzuela was named as world record holder for the hit and rock event for his time of 3.77 seconds set at last year's POPS World Meet in Spain.

Anderson also appointed 13 "regional coordinators" to help serve the ever-growing U.S. membership. The new POPS representatives are Larry Franklin, Jerry Marklin and Michael Nestor in Michigan, Jim Massillo in Ohio, Bob McDonnell in New York, Chuck McElwee in Maryland, Ed Moy in Texas, Karl Poruben in Pennsylvania, Wayne Powell in Indiana, Dick Rapacilo and George Tsakiris in Florida, Ted Rose in Oklahoma, and Dennis Sewell in California.



The 12-way SOS load. Photo by Alicia Anderson.

TO AVOID ONE OF THESE...



Skydivers Over Sixty

by Pat Moorehead

The SOS (Skydivers Over Sixty) is a special part of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society, SOS, which was introduced at the 1992 POPS Winter Meet, represents the senior members of POPS.

At the 1992 meet, a few of us got together and built a 10-way by 8500 feet. There are now over 260 members who have donated over \$1000 to the U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund. [Proceeds from the organization are donated to the fund, and interest generated by the fund is given each year to the U.S. Team.]

This money comes from the \$5 one-time membership fee and the sales of T-shirts and patches.

The highlight of this year's Winter Meet

was a 12-way SOS dive but record dive was built by 65

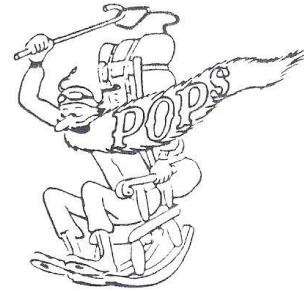
SOS participants are: Bob Franc Bender, Tenn.; Dave Gabriel, Fla.; Roger Humpt Larkent, Ont., Canada; Jim Maximilian Miensopust, Fla. Calif.; Tom Morrison, Pa.; G and Bill Wood, S.C.

Miensopust, Moorehead were also on the first POPS 1974.

The 12-way participants 376 years in the sport and accumulated 53,380 jumps age is 64, with the youngest and the oldest at 72.

PARACHUTISTS OVER PHORTY SOCIETY

ALICIA ANDERSON , TOP POP
3350 St. Francis Place, Long Beach, CA 90805-3854
PHONE 310•633•1226 FAX 310•630•2389



April 1, 1996

Paragators Celebrate 25th Annual POPS Winter Meet by Pat Moorehead - SOS #1

The Paragator Skydivers presented the 25th Annual POPS Winter Meet at Umatilla, Florida during the last week of March. This popular and longest running POPS meet has attracted POPS skydivers and their families from all over the United States and Canada continuously since 1972. This years near-record of 84 competitors (along with another 30 that came to play and not compete) paid tribute to DZ owner-operators Wilma and Jimmy Godwin and their hard working staff for hosting this traditional meet for a quarter of a century.

As usual, POPS began arriving on the previous weekend to take advantage of the sunny Florida weather and the Godwin's Cessna Caravan and fleet of 182's. During the week the Caravan flew virtually nonstop except for a few weather holds. The highlight of the week was the SOS (Skydivers Over Sixty) World Record 12-way on the last jump of the day on Thursday evening, the 28th (see box).

On Saturday morning, the competitors arrived promptly at 8 am for the briefing and were greeted by a 1,200' ceiling. The next three hours provided the time to claim packing areas, renew old friendships, and chow-down at the annual EAA all-you-can-eat sausage and pancake breakfast served next to the pea-pit.

At 11:30 am the staff-member wind-dummy load lifted off and manifest called for the first load of competitors. As the first four jumpers boarded the aircraft, a surprise rain storm sent several hundred jumpers and spectators scurrying for cover. After several more hours of jump stories, some going back 30-years and more, the decision was made to adjourn and prepare for the awards banquet later that evening.

An overflow crowd of 150+ was welcomed to the meet by Meet Director Jimmy Godwin. TopPOP Alicia Anderson thanked the Godwins for their continual

support of POPS and the USPA. She also announced the establishment of a POPS Record system that will certify POPS members that have participated in record setting, or breaking, POPS-only skydives. The first certificates were issued to the 75 participants that set the POPS Free Fall Formation in December, 1995, at Skydive Arizona. Lew Sanborn (D-1) and Maximilian Miensopust were presented with certificates recognizing their high altitude record of 35,200' set at Zephyrhills, FL on April 2, 1995. This jump also celebrated Lew's 46th year in the sport and his 5,000th jump. Bobby 'V' Valenzuela was certified as the World record holder in the Hit 'N Rock event, 3.77 seconds, set at the POPS World Meet in Spain in September, 1995. POPS were invited to submit their 'claim to fame' request to POPS Awards Coordinator, Len Zak at 4808 Maricopa, Torrance, CA 90503.

The TopPOP also announced that, because of the rapid growth of POPS USA, she has appointed 13 Regional POPS Coordinators across the country in order to better serve the membership. They are Larry Franklin, MI; Jerry Marklin, MI; Jim Massillo, OH; Bob McDonnell, NY; Chuck McElwee, MD; Ed Moy, TX; Michael Nestor, MI; Karl Poruben, PA; Wayne Powell, IN; Dick Rapacilo, FL; Ted Rose, OK; Dennis Sewell, CA; George Tsakiris, FL.

Long time POPS Accuracy Competitor, Ruben Garcia, is this years USPA Team Leader at the World Style and Accuracy meet to be held in Hungary in September. The traditional 'Hat' was passed at the banquet and \$400.00+ was collected and donated to the team.

Sunday morning the competitors arrived at the DZ to find the dummy-load suiting up and the first accuracy load was soon called to manifest. With three Cessnas rotating over the peas, 3-rounds of accuracy and one round of Hit 'N Rock were completed by mid afternoon and the medals were awarded (see results in side bar). Ron Brissey, FL, took the gold in accuracy with a three-round total of .06. Tom Zukowski, of the Beaver Valley Skydivers, PA, won the Hit 'N Rock with a commendable time of 4.90 seconds. As usual, a great time was had by all and plans are already being made for the 26th annual meet.

Medals were awarded to 10th place in each event as follows:

Accuracy:

- 1st Ron Brissey
- 2nd Dick Rapacilo
- 3rd Bernie Larkin
- 4th Larry Cordeira
- 5th Carl Smith
- 6th Tom Zukowski
- 7th Bill Morrissey
- 8th George Tsakiris

7th Bill Morrissey
8th George Tsakiris
9th Jack LaLonde
10th Lew Sanborn

Hit 'N Rock

1st Tom Zukowski
2nd Ted Rose
3rd Ski Chmielewski
4th Franc Bender
5th Bernie Larkin
6th Ed Hefright
7th A.J. Marshall
8th Larry Cordeira
9th Lew Sanborn
10th George Tsakiris

SIDEBAR

SOS Record Freefall Formation

The SOS (Skydivers Over Sixty) a special part of POPS, has been growing since the Winter Meet held in 1992. At that meet, 10 SOS got together and made a 10-way by 8,500'. There are now over 260 members who have donated over \$1,000.00 to the U.S. Team Trust Fund. This money comes from the \$5.00 one-time membership fee and the sales of T-shirts and patches. SOS is a group of skydivers that are representative of the senior members of POPS.

This latest record of 12 was completed by 6,500' to the cheers of a hundred supporters on the ground. The participants were: Burl Baxter, AR; Franc Bender, TN; Dave DeWolf, PA; Bob Gabriel, FL; Roger Humphrey, IN; Bernie Larkin, Ont., Canada; Jim Massillo, OH; Maximilian Miensopust, FL; Pat Moorehead, CA; Tom Morrison, PA; G. D. Williams, LA. Miensopust, Moorehead and Morrison were also on the first POPS 8-way in 1974. +BILL WOOD
M.C.

Some interesting statistics:

Total number of years in the sport: 376
Average age: 64. Oldest: 72 - Youngest: 60.
Total number of accumulated jumps: 53,380.

Parachutists Over Phorty Society



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

This certifies that

*Burl Baxter Franc Bender Dave DeWolf
Bob Gabriel Roger Humphrey Bernie Larkin
Jim Massillo Maximilian Miensopust Pat Moorehead
Tom Morrison G. D. Williams Bill Wood*

did participate in the '**Skydivers Over Sixty**' National Record
12 person freefall formation


at Paragators, Umatilla, Florida on March 28, 1996

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

Sincere congratulations!


Alicia P. Anderson
TopPop #9


Len Zak, POPS 460
POPS Award Coordinator


Pat Moorehead, POPS 572
SOS #1s

ane cartwheeled
of his rig was cov-
did, however, get
his main. Miller, the
thrown clear
was able to use the
e was wearing; it was
ve. Miller sustained
injuries from being
he aircraft and from
in a stump-filled log-
d to recover.
vner of Hartwood PC
believes that the
may have been pre-
as using a zero-p
dex leg pouch,"
t probably worked its
moving to the door."
oday's smaller diam-
structed of longer-
material—and stan-
nes may have
blem. With increased
es and allows the
reely within the
pilot chutes expand
ed in the pouch and
atic movement, acci-
by readjusting a
of the pouch doesn't



contract around the pilot chute just below the handle.

Schoepple has since purchased a Cessna 182 to replace the downed 206, and Hartwood resumed operations shortly after the accident.

The NTSB and FAA are still investigating. Although Kates was killed while trying to exit a jump plane, this will be classified as an aircraft rather than skydiving accident.

A detailed cause of the early deployment may never be found, but jumpers are reminded to check their gear before boarding and exiting any aircraft.

Skydive City Renews Lease

Skydive City has just signed a new 20-year lease with the city of Zephyrhills, Florida, reports general manager T.K. Hayes. The agreement brings new light to a skydiving community that for years has lived with the uncertainty about its future with the city. The lease allows Skydive City to expand its facilities to include more RV slots as well as the construction of a permanent hangar or other complex.

General Membership Meeting

USPA's General Membership meeting is scheduled for July 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Thunderbird Hotel and Convention Center in Bloomington, Minnesota, site of the next USPA board of directors meeting. Members are encouraged to attend and discuss association issues in an open forum.

President Sherry Schrimsher and executive director Chris Needels will review the major accomplishments of 1995 and project USPA's direction and goals for the coming year. The president will explain how the board conducts its business during meetings and during the interim periods throughout the year. Staffers from USPA Headquarters and members of the board will be called upon to present details on specific activities, and USPA members attending are encouraged to ask questions and offer suggestions.

If any issues are put forth for a vote by the membership at this meeting, all members in good standing, present or represented by written proxy, may vote. Although USPA policy changes are not made during General Membership meetings, members' questions and suggestions serve as guidance for the board in setting future policies.

Reservations can be made directly with the Thunderbird Hotel by calling (612) 854-3411. USPA has negotiated room rates of \$76 for either single or double occupancy. When making reservations, ask for USPA's guaranteed rate.

POPS News

The Parachutists Over Phorty Society has been active this winter and spring. Over 150 POPS members attended the 25th Annual Winter Meet in Umatilla, Florida, competing in the accuracy and Hit 'n Rock events.

The meet was completed in one afternoon, with three Cessnas flying the three rounds of accuracy and one round of Hit 'n

Rock. Ron Brissey took the gold in accuracy with a final score of .06 meters, and Tom Zukowski won Hit 'n Rock with a time of 4.90 seconds. Plans are already underway for the 26th annual event.

During the meet, Alicia Anderson announced the establishment of a POPS record system that will certify members who have participated in POPS-only record skydives. Certificates were issued to the 75 members who participated in the POPS freefall formation record this past December at Skydive Arizona. Other certificates were presented to Lew Sanborn, D-1, and Maximilian Miensopust for their high altitude jump records, and to Bobby Valenzuela for his record in Hit 'n Rock.

POPS members were also busy in the skies above Raeford, North Carolina, at the second annual POPS Do CRew Too event, reported organizer Bob Williamson. Aided by CRW national champion Mike Lewis and cameraman Tom Plonka, Williamson lead this "record-seeking group" to an all-time high of a 12-way.

After a windy start, ten record seekers and one cameraman took to the air. Their goal was realized when the 10-way kite formed without a hitch. On Sunday, 11 POPS took off and beat the previous day's record with an 11-way kite. Not two hours later, the same group formed another 11-way kite that was closed on the bottom by cameraman Tom Plonka for the official 12-way POPS CRW record.

And finally in POPS news, one POPS member set out to celebrate his 55th birthday by making 228 jumps in a 24-hour period, breaking all the records for skydivers over 50. Roy Fox, POPS 4678, dedicated his special event to the memory of Arizona Department of Public Safety Sgt. Mike Crowe and Yuma Police Lt. Dan Elkins, who were both murdered at the Yuma offices of the Southwest Border Alliance. Crowe served frequently as pilot for the Territorial Skydivers.

Mechanical support for Fox's record came in the form of five pilots, two planes, five parachutes and a band of qualified packers. He averaged ten jumps per hour during the 24-hour period.

CRew On the Go

The United Parachute Club in Hanover, Pennsylvania, (better known as "the Herd") recently hosted its first CRew training camp of the '96 season; the camp was run by members of Diamond Quest. Organizer Frank Matrone reported the group made several successful jumps.

Diamond Quest, the team holding the current world record for the largest formation, plans to host one training camp per month at United this season in addition to camps at other DZs. Camps begin Friday evening with a training video and lecture, and main canopies are supplied free of charge by Flight Concepts International. Contact Diamond Quest for more information.

On the West Coast, Kapowsin CRew and Kapowsin Air Sports will host Diamond

Jamboree '96 this August. The event is on 8-way 16-way speed. Judging video based on the summer event. Organizer Charlene reached at (360) 734-

Group Member D

The new USPA Group Member DZ will be available this summer. Participating DZs will be on April 4, and most are a Group Member. Upon your return, please do not ever receive the subscription copy. Don't let your DZ valuable Group Member

Way Down South

Eugene Matos announced he has opened the first formal Dominican Republic Pan American Parachute Club in the Dominican Republic. "Dominican sport...and we are happy to support," said Matos.

The DZ is called Christ the Redeemer Dominican-Canadiense Santo Domingo. Matos visited the Dominican Republic in January at the Punta Cana

Attention Board C

Any USPA member on the board of directors must be intent to USPA Headquarters on June 1, 1996. The letter must state whether the member is National or Regional. USPA will mail completion packets to declared candidates.

Freestyle Correcti

A few clarifications regarding last month's IPC rules for freestyle. The rules expected to be incorporated into its own document. Specifics don't apply to the Championships.

Sections 3.2.2-3.2.4 for multi-national malformation and freestyle competition. U.S. Nationals, all competitors, who won't qualify as U.S. citizens.

Concerning "go-around" jumps during competition. Also, the Chief Judge of a rejump, rather than the Panel as described in the rules.

Most importantly, the rules for training jumps at the 1996 IPC section 4.1. DZ makes them part of the competition.

In general, the rules will otherwise remain the same. Also expected to make changes regarding the performance of jumps, mostly in an effort to provide more conditions on competitors.

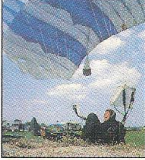
May 1996

\$3.00

PARACHUTIST®

The Official Publication Of The United States Parachute Association

PARACHUTIST



Cameraman Michael McGowan, D-5709, captures the essence of accuracy competition as he photographs Dick Rapacilo during the POPS annual winter meet held in Umatilla, Florida.



Paragrams

Fatality Count Still Up

USPA received reports of the 14th and 15th fatalities of 1996 during the first week-end in May. If the current trend goes unchecked, the number of U.S. deaths in '96 will exceed last year's total of 27.

An experienced female skydiver performing at an off-airport demo in California hooked her Stiletto 120 into the ground and was killed. A video review of her landing revealed no reason as to why she made such a radical turn so close to the ground. She had more than 700 skydives over a period of seven years.

The other fatality took place during a night jump in Illinois. A male jumper with two years in the sport apparently lost track of altitude on his second skydive of the night. The deceased's 2-way partner turned to track at an estimated 1,500 feet and was saved by his AAD. The man who died was not using an AAD; he was killed at line stretch upon impact.

Hillard Dies in Freak Accident

Bill Ottley reports on the death of one of skydiving's relative work pioneers:

"On a summer day in 1958, Charlie Hillard and Steve Snyder, both students at Georgia Tech, logged the first relative work jump in U.S. history, a two-man 'baton pass' from 8,500 feet over Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. The two jumpers needed 5,700 feet of freefall to get it together, but it was an achievement which begot millions of RW jumps in the years that followed.

On Tuesday, April 16, 1996, Charlie Hillard, now 58, was killed while taxiing slowly along a runway following a solo performance at the Sun 'n' Fun Fly-In in Lakeland, Florida, when the brakes of his heavily modified Hawker Sea Fury aerobatic aircraft locked, causing the plane to veer off the runway and flip over. Hillard was trapped inside.

After jumping as a member of the U.S. Skydiving Team in 1958, Hillard became our national aerobatic champion in 1967 and won world aerobatic gold in 1972. For 25 years he was a member of the legendary Eagles Aerobatic Team, performing before crowds counted in the millions.

But more than that he was an enormously respected leader of sport aviation with friends and admirers everywhere. Reported Steve Snyder, who attended funeral services in Fort Worth, Texas, 'The church was overflowing.' For a very good reason." —W.H.O.

Happy, Shiny 3-Rings

Stainless steel 3-ring hardware is now available from Parastock, Inc., a supplier of parachute-related materials located in DeLand, Florida. The rings are brightly polished, a property attained after many

months of searching for the best production method, according to Parastock manager Dan Wilcox. Extensive development testing verified an increase in the tensile strength for all of the rings.

The main harness ring and the riser rings are very similar in size to the cadmium-plated rings found on most sport harnesses. Risers manufactured with the new stainless steel rings are compatible with existing cadmium-plated RW-8 harness rings.

Parastock is now offering the rings to harness manufacturers. Due to increased production costs, the rings are more expensive than the cadmium-plated version. Wilcox predicts this expense will be passed on by the manufacturers, raising the overall price of a rig.

SOS Record Freefall Formation

Skydivers Over Sixty, a special faction of POPS, has been growing since 1992, when ten SOS members formed their first 10-way

—then a record for the group. A new record of 12 recently replaced '92 mark.

The participants included: Burl Baxter (age 60), Franc Bender (62), Dave DeWolf (63), Bob Gabriel (66), Roger Humphrey, Bernie Larkin, Jim Massillo (63), Maximilian Miensopust, Pat Moorehead (64), Tom Morrison (72), G.D. Williams and Bill Wood. Miensopust, Moorehead and Morrison were also on the first POPS 8-way in 1974.

Here are some general statistics:

Total years in the sport	376
Total number of jumps	53,380
Average age	64
Oldest participant	72
Youngest participant	60

There are now over 260 SOS members who have donated over \$1,000 to the U.S. Team Trust Fund. This money comes from the \$5 one-time membership fee and from the sale of T-shirts and patches. SOS is a group of skydivers that are representative of the senior members of POPS.

PIA Web Site

The Parachute Industry Association has announced a new service to provide Internet World Wide Web site space at no charge to all full and affiliate PIA members. This latest

Buyer Beware!



USPA Director of Safety and Training Glenn Bangs received the following last month:

After making 15 jumps with the rig shown here and subsequently graduating from student status with it, a novice jumper purchased this rig from the drop zone. Later, the following rigging and safety discrepancies were found:

- The coating on the main ripcord cable (not a standard ripcord cable) was so soft that the main container closing loop bit into the coating and could not be removed easily—thereby creating a total malfunction of the main.

- The reserve ripcord cable was tied in a knot and shortened at the ripcord handle. To compound the problem, this alteration of the Single Operation System (SOS) would have deployed the reserve before the risers were released in the event of a cutaway, due to the shortening of the ripcord cable.

- The main ripcord housing was tacked down four inches from the end, creating a "floating ripcord."

- The AAD installed had not been recently calibrated and no chamber test paperwork existed.

In their haste to become "up jumpers" and own their own equipment, students may find themselves presented with a "great deal" on gear that really isn't. Novices are particularly vulnerable because they lack the skills or experience to determine what is and isn't safe.

What may have saved this jumper's life (after he had already used it during student training) was the fact that the rig was closely inspected by the staff of another drop zone. Fortunately, these items were caught before the rig could be jumped again.

First-time equipment buyers: Ask before you make a major investment in your equipment purchase. In the age of becoming a mainstream activity, nowhere does the term "buyer beware" have more relevance than in skydiving!

