

**POPS Nationals**

**17-21 Sep 1997**

**Raeford, NC**

Parachutists  
Over  
Phorty Society



# POPS Nationals 1997

Hosted by

## Raeford Parachute Center

Raeford, North Carolina

World Famous Accuracy Center  
featuring the new inflatable tuffet

## September 17 - 21, 1997

*September 17-19 POPS & SOS Boogie*

*September 20-21 Competition; 20 Sept. Banquet( \$15.00 guests)*

Saturday evening buffet Banquet at Old Mill Restaurant near Raeford (3 miles from DZ)

*Hit 'N Rock(1 round \$7.), Accuracy (5 rounds \$7. ea.= \$35.),  
RW Scrambles (3 rounds \$20. ea. with air to air judging)*

*POPS membership required to compete*

**Aircraft: Super Otter , Twin Bonanza, Cessnas**

Registration: \$30. includes Banquet, T-Shirt, Goodie Bag,  
Judges, Staff, Awards.

***SPECIAL JUMP PRICES! before the meet***

*\$13.00 to 13,000 feet or \$15.00 to 15,000 feet.*

Raeford Parachute Center is 3 miles N. E. of City of Raeford.

FFI: Phone: 910-875-3261 Fax: 910-875-3601

Fayetteville, NC - 20 miles

Raleigh, NC - 60 miles

Charlotte, NC - 100 miles

**Food and hot showers on site.**

**Visitors welcome to stay in clubhouse or camp out.**

Fayetteville, NC - 20 miles   Raleigh, NC - 60 miles   Charlotte, NC - 100 miles

**Hotels:**

**Days Inn**, Raeford, NC.

Phone: 910-904-1050 (5 minute drive from the DZ & 10 minutes drive from banquet). Rates: about \$49.00 per room.

**Bordeaux-Holiday Inn**, 1707 Owen Dr., Fayetteville, NC.  
(25 minute drive from the DZ) Rates: about \$78.00 per room.

Phone: 910-323-0111   FAX: 910-484-9444

Local site seeing:

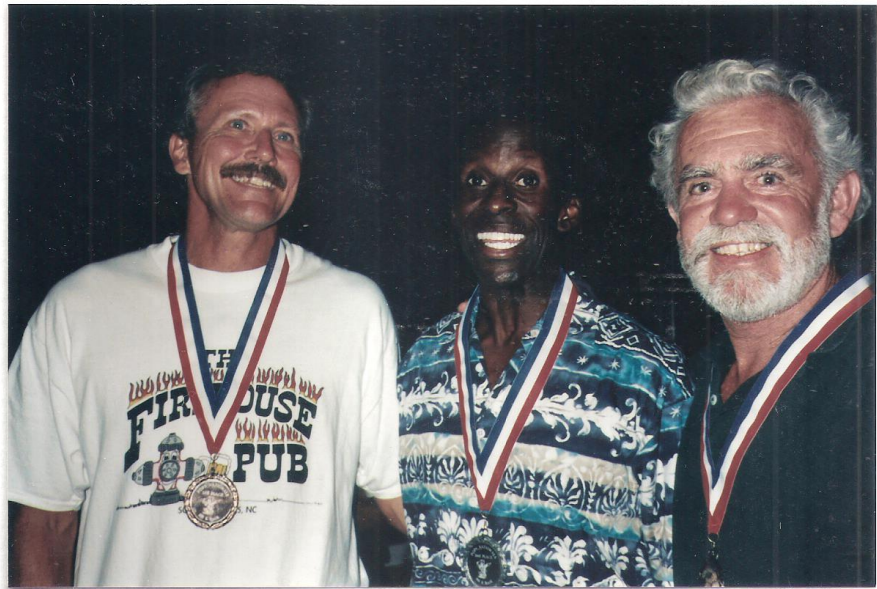
**All POPS have been invited to the Golden Knights Headquarters  
and the Fort Bragg Museums at Fort Bragg,  
schedule to be announced.**

**Golf is available 1/2 price at the Bayonet Golf Course.**

**For POPS membership: send \$20.00 (\$25.00 overseas) to:  
Alicia Moorehead, TopPOP USA  
3350 St. Francis Place, Long Beach, CA 90805-3854 USA  
or sign up during POPS Nationals weekend at Raeford.**

**For Skydivers Over Sixty (SOS) membership: send \$5.00 (\$7.00 overseas) to:  
Pat Moorehead, address is same as above  
or sign up during POPS Nationals.**





HIT'N ROCK WINNERS

POPS Nationals, Raeford, NC, Sept 1997



## Competitors Flock to POPS Nationals

NOV 1999

by Margaret Tippy

The longevity of skydivers was very apparent last September at the Raeford Parachute Center in North Carolina.

Eighty-seven skydivers of various shades of gray arrived from all over the world for the Parachutists Over Phorty Society Nationals and Boogie held September 17-21. DZ operators Gene Paul and Billie Thacker hosted the event.

"It was the largest national gathering ever of POPS," said World TopPop Alicia Moorehead.

Spectators and jumpers alike enjoyed the hit-n-rock competition where skydivers must land as close to the target as possible, drop their gear, stomp the disk, and then race 40 feet to sit down in a rocking chair.

"Two rocking chairs were destroyed as the enthusiastic competitors slammed into them after the 40-foot dash from the disc," said Moorehead.

Larry Cordeira from New York came in first with a time of 5.06 seconds. North Carolina jumper and former U.S. Army Parachute Team member Alsee Richardson was a close second with 5.38 seconds. Jimmie Sanders, also from North Carolina, came in third with 6.18 seconds.

Dick Rapacilo of Loxahatchee, Fla., won traditional accuracy with 0.91 meters in five rounds. Cordeira came in second with 1.59 meters, and Steve Story of North Carolina was third with 2.30 meters.

In the 4-way relative work scrambles event, Theo Fritschy from Switzerland, George Matthews of Ohio, Alicia Moorehead of California, and local jumper John Tippy won after a single round. Organizers canceled the final two rounds due to bad weather.

A POPS Sportsmanship Award was presented to Jack LaLonde of Lantana, Fla., for his "never give up" attitude. Ted Rose from Oklahoma won the Best of POPS award.

SOS members built a 15-way formation during the week, but the dive was held for less than three seconds (Skydivers over Sixty is a subgroup of POPS). A 12-way built in Umatilla, Fla., in 1996 still stands as the SOS record.

"We have more than 6,300 POPS in our organization," said Moorehead, "and SOS currently has more than 350 members, some of them over 70." She estimated that about 25 of the competitors at the North Carolina



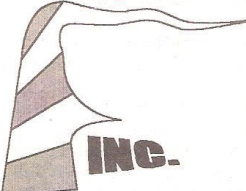
Hit-n-rock winner Larry Cordeira is obviously happy with his score at the recent POPS Nationals in Raeford, N.C. Photograph by Alicia Moorehead.

meet were also members of the SOS group. Tennessee jumper Al Solis, 70, was the oldest POPS member at the nationals. Solis is also a former member of the USAPT.

Derral Linder of South Carolina, who turned 40 the day before the event, was the

youngest.

The next U.S. POPS meet—the 27th Annual POPS Winter Meet and Boogie—is scheduled for March 28 through April 5 at Skydive Orlando in Umatilla, Fla. The DZ's telephone is (352) 669-9044. □

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## POPS 1997 Nationals at Raeford, NC - September 20-21 1997

## Accuracy

Name	rnd1	rnd2	rnd3	subt	rnd4	subt	rnd5	total	stg
Rapacilo, D	0.16	0.07	0.00	0.23	0.04	0.27	0.64	0.91	1
Cordeira, L	0.07	0.02	0.07	0.16	0.34	0.50	1.09	1.59	2
Story, S	0.16	0.03	0.06	0.25	1.94	2.19	0.11	2.30	3
Zukowski, T	0.05	0.00	0.08	0.13	0.95	1.08	2.30	3.38	4
Schilling, J	0.02	0.90	2.30	3.22	0.08	3.30	0.09	3.39	5
LaLande, J	0.01	0.03	0.62	0.66	0.44	1.10	2.30	3.40	6
Tippy, J	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.08	2.30	2.38	2.30	4.68	7
Schmutz, C	0.10	0.03	1.14	1.27	1.29	2.56	2.30	4.86	8
McCawley, R	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.50	2.30	2.80	2.30	5.10	9
Cosgrove, H	0.16	0.48	2.30	2.94	2.30	5.24	0.16	5.40	10
Whitford, C	0.16	0.53	2.07	2.76	0.81	3.57	2.30	5.87	11
Tsakiris, G	0.16	0.78	0.33	1.27	2.30	3.57	2.30	5.87	11
DeWolf, D	0.16	1.61	2.30	4.07	0.59	4.66	2.30	6.96	13
Cobb, L	0.16	2.23	0.10	2.49	2.30	4.79	2.30	7.09	14
Burling, H	0.16	1.87	1.47	3.50	2.30	5.80	2.30	8.10	15
Larkin, B	0.16	2.30	1.18	3.64	2.30	5.94	2.30	8.24	16
Powell, W	0.16	2.30	2.18	4.64	2.30	6.94	2.30	9.24	17
Reid, J	0.16	2.30	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Garcia, R	0.16	0.00	0.01	0.17	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Paukoucek, C	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Kuckler, B	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Garrison, R	0.16	2.13	0.54	2.83	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Poruben, K	0.16	0.04	0.16	0.36	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
McDonnell, B	0.16	0.35	0.73	1.24	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Baumgartner, R	0.16	1.27	1.86	3.29	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Humphrey, R	0.08	1.52	0.40	2.00	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Phillips, V	0.16	0.13	2.30	2.59	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Hajducek, M	0.16	2.30	2.15	4.61	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Campaign, K	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Rodarte, J	0.16	2.30	1.76	4.22	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Nestor, M	0.16	0.19	1.00	1.35	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Fritschy, T	0.10	0.41	0.22	0.73	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Powell, M	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Williams, R	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Green, D	0.16	0.08	0.90	1.14	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Deen, B	0.01	0.27	0.06	0.34	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Achenbach, T	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	2.30	7.06	ybo	ybo	
Sanders, J	0.16	0.06	2.30	2.52	2.30	4.82	ybo	ybo	
Williams, C	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Ervin, H	0.16	2.30	0.05	2.51	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Eurich, J	0.16	1.82	2.30	4.28	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Manhold, R	0.16	0.15	0.14	0.45	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Oatman, K	0.16	1.49	2.30	3.95	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Frierson, B	0.16	0.21	0.50	0.87	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Reinhart, W	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Larson, P	0.16	2.30	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Ross, T	0.16	2.30	0.24	2.70	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Solos, A	0.16	1.02	0.16	1.34	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	
Maas, E	0.16	2.30	0.05	2.51	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo	

Linder, D	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo
Morakon, P	0.16	2.30	0.13	2.59	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo
Eiff, J	0.16	0.00	0.04	0.20	2.30	2.50	ybo	ybo
Guerriero, P	0.16	0.27	0.62	1.05	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo
Richardson, A	0.16	2.30	0.68	3.14	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo
Trent, M	0.16	0.11	0.00	0.27	2.30	2.57	ybo	ybo
Sylvester, E	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo
Kreiser, W	0.16	2.30	2.30	4.76	ybo	ybo	ybo	ybo

## This Just In

### Thanks for the Cards!

USPA Headquarters opened a record number of greeting cards this year from members and other well-wishers. The staff wants to say "Thanks!" to everyone who thought to write and for the many encouraging comments.

### Corrections

- TopPOP Alicia Moorehead's phone number is (562) 633-1226, reported incorrectly in November's *Parachutist*.
- The winning 4-way team at the 1997 POPS summer nationals in Raeford, North Carolina, included Swiss TopPOP Theo Fritschy.
- Gary Pond was the New England jumper at Carolina Sky Sports who commented on snowy weather at home in this section of January's issue. Nate Pond is his father.



## COMPETITION OUTLOOK

**March 20-22**

U.S. National Skydiving Championships of Para-Ski, Hunter Mountain, New York. FFI: USPA, (703) 836-3495 (ext. 312); (914) 255-1087.

**May 8-14**

U.S. National Skydiving Championships of Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing, Marana Skydiving Center, Arizona. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (800) 647-5867 (DZ).

**July 18-26**

7th World Parachuting Championships of Canopy Formation, Mehevaron, United Kingdom. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA).

**September 3-12**

24th World Parachuting Championships of Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing, Vrsar, Croatia. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA).

**September 19-27**

3rd World Cup and European Championships of Formation Skydiving, Evora, Portugal. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA).

**October 12-18**

U.S. National Skydiving Championships of Freestyle and Skysurfing, Skydive Elsinore, Lake Elsinore, California. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (909) 245-9939 (DZ).

**October 25-November 6**

U.S. National Skydiving Championships of Formation Skydiving and Canopy Formation, Skydive Arizona, Eley, Arizona. FS: Oct. 25-Nov. 1; CF: Nov. 1-6. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (520) 466-3753 (DZ).

**December 26-31**

1998 U.S. National Collegiate Parachuting Championships, Marana Skydiving Center, Arizona. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (800) 647-5867 (DZ).

MIKE DAUGHTRY

### FXC's Astra: A Different Approach

Whether a skydiver is asleep at pull time, still sightseeing or is kicked in the head doing combat RW, jumpers know that AADs have saved many lives. While the cost of such devices seems high to some, there is an AAD on the market for under \$1,000: FXC's Astra.

The main switch and altitude sensor mount just below the three-ring release on one side, making it easy to see and reach. You can check it at any time, including pre-boarding gear checks. The convenient placement also makes it simple to turn off during a ride back down with the plane. It's as easy as sliding a clear protective cover and flipping the recessed switch. This placement also comes in handy for doing CRW, or after a successful canopy opening when you no longer need an AAD.

The jumper switches the Astra on when putting on the rig. The unit goes through a short calibration as a green LED light blinks to indicate the unit is working. After the unit calibrates itself, this LED blinks every few seconds to indicate the unit's status. It also indicates that the batteries are in good shape. The green light will come on and stay on if there are any problems either with the unit or its batteries. Batteries should last 150 hours of use, 500

jumps or five years, whichever comes first.

As the skydiver passes through 1,200 feet on the ride to altitude, the Astra arms, and the system is ready. The firing altitude is 1,000 feet plus or minus 200 feet. The rate of descent must be 130 feet per second or greater to activate the unit. Performing radical canopy maneuvers shouldn't cause the unit to fire. After use, a rigger can replace the cutter, available for \$145.

The power pack fits in the AAD pocket in the bottom of the reserve compartment of most containers built in the last five years. Made from robust machined aluminum, the battery pack, like the control switch, is quite sturdy. The aluminum casing has rounded corners to reduce wear on the reserve parachute and container. A battery pack costs about \$45, and any rigger can easily change it in the field.

The manufacturer recommends that jumpers turn the unit off between jumps.

This is normally no big deal because the switch is right by the chest strap and is visible when you take off your rig after a jump. This also assures the unit's precise calibration before each jump. Because there is no automatic shut-off, you must remember to

turn the Astra off at the end of the day. If you forget, the batteries will be dead by the following Saturday when the manifest window opens. One solution to this problem is to wrap something around the unit after you are done jumping for the day. The can cooler sent free with the Javelin harness and container systems used in this test worked great. This will serve as a reminder to make sure the unit is switched off at the end of the day. It will also protect the altitude sensor and switch as it rides around with the rig in the trunk of your car.

The Astra is easily field tested with a cutter test probe available from FXC for \$60. Testing should be performed by a certified rigger, preferably at the repack cycle, in a test chamber that shows rate of descent and altitude. Because the Astra can be functionally field tested, there is no requirement for mandatory return to the factory for a check-up.

On some larger rigs, you may need the longer of two cables that feed the switch-sensor unit. Check with FXC and the gear manufacturer.

The cost of the Astra is \$995. Contact FXC at (714) 556-7400 for dealer information. —DENNIS STEVENS



The Astra fits on the outside of the rig, near the three-ring release.



### Raeferd Hosts POPS Nationals

The jumpers at Gene Paul and Billie Thacker's Raeferd Parachute Center saw a lot of gray hair September 17-21 as 87 members of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society held its summertime nationals.

The competition events included a conventional accuracy landing competition, 4-way freefall formation scrambles (where teams are formed on site by a random draw) and hit 'n' rock accuracy, unique to POPS meets. Larry Cordiera won that event, landing, removing his equipment, stomping the target disk and running for a rocking chair in 5.06 seconds. Cordiera also finished second in five rounds of straight accuracy, his 1.59-meter total bested only by Dick Rapacilo's first-place 91 cents. Steve Story scored 2.30 for third place.

The 4-way event managed one round before weather interfered. The winning team included World Top POP Alicia Moorehead, George Matthews, Leo Fritschy and John Tippy.

Before competition began on the weekend, members of the Skydivers Over Sixty, a POPS spin-off, completed a 15-way, claimed as a new record.

The POPS gather officially again in Umatilla, Florida, a longstanding winter tradition, March 28-April 5. Before that, many will participate in the 100-way POPS record attempts in Peris, California, December 9. That group will jump from four Super Otters and a Skyvan, organized by Carey Peck and plane captains Flip Colmer, Rick Martin, Jan Meyer and John Prickett.

POPS membership is open to any jumper 40 or older. Moorehead administers the program: (562) 663-1226.

### Halloween in the Desert

Skydive Arizona hosted its annual Halloween boogie October 24-November 2. The 4,000 jumps made included organized groups from three to 20, intermediate altitude jumps from the oxygen-equipped Skyvan—making 25,000 feet in 16 minutes—plenty of morning balloon jumps and raft dives, raffled to raise money for Arizona Airspeed.

George Jicha organized a scrambles meet, including team captains from world champion Airspeed. Ten teams formed by draw after dividing the jumpers according to their experience. Jicha's team won the competition, with Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld's team in second and Ted Wagner's in third.

The Halloween party costume contest featured prizes of two free harness and container systems and half price on other gear among the 22 prizes. Forty-four contestants entered.

The weekend also featured the grand opening of the new Square One Parachute Sales and Service facility on the DZ.



Skydivers build a formation on the hill at Skydive Arizona's Halloween Boogie.

### People on the Move

• Mike Marthaller is closing the Willamette Valley Parachute Center in Oregon in favor of sunnier skies. He has bought Skydive Rio Vista in Granfield, Oklahoma, near the Texas border.

• Skydive Ocean City owner Cindy Gibson has left the East Coast for Texas to manage Austin Skydiving Center in Giddings for Universal Skydiving Centers, a corporation formed to link Skydive University with franchised DZs, and its investors. (The Ocean City, Maryland, center plans to open under new ownership next season.)

• Double world champion in freestyle and freeflying, Omar Alhegelan, is back at Skydive Arizona after almost a year at Skydive Space Center in Titusville, Florida, teaching freeflying skills. He will continue coaching at the Eloy drop zone.

## this month's safety check

### Beware the Propeller

On November 7, a jumpmaster lost track of his environment for only a split second as he walked forward from the door of the loading airplane to say something to the pilot. His last thought may have been on changing the jump run or the number of jumpers on board, but it wasn't on his most immediate threat: the spinning prop.

The more skydivers become accustomed to the noise of the propeller, the more likely they are to ignore its danger. Jumpers need to keep one eye on the prop, meanwhile looking for other hazards they may not hear as a result of the waiting jump plane: landing canopies, other taxiing aircraft and other aircraft starting their engines.

The area around the awaiting aircraft needs to be controlled. Non-jumpers should encounter a physical barrier before wandering into the aircraft operations area. One option is the lightweight orange mesh used at ski resorts. It's transparent but visible, weathers well and is easy to erect.

To control the boarding environment, some DZs assign a guard to keep watch until all the jumpers get aboard. This person should have no other distractions.

At centers that fuel turbine aircraft with the engines running, nobody except the crew should be aboard or nearby during refueling.

And it's not only people getting on, but getting off, too. An observer died near Dallas in 1985 when he ran forward from the door after disembarking a Twin Otter without supervision. His girlfriend let go of his hand just in time to save herself.

Another observer died last year at a center in North Carolina after she returned to the Twin Otter, unaware of the spinning propeller.

In the airport and drop zone environment, it's simply not true that you're safe once you land.

—KEVIN GIBSON