

POPS West Coast Meet

& 35way record

20,21 April 1991

Perris, CA

Parachutists Over Phorty Society

POPS WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS *

APRIL 20TH (21ST), 1991

PERRIS VALLEY SKYDIVING CTR, CAL: 714 657-9576

- 4WAY SCRAMBLES

- ACCURACY

- HIT 'N ROCK

- POPSTARS

- 2 OTTERS

- QUEEN-AIRE

- PRIZES

- RECORD
POPSTAR!



- USPA REQUIRED

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GEAR STORE

* BANQUET

* TROPHIES

* GERITOL
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MOTELS: SUNSET INN (POPS H.Q.) 714 679-1133 3 mi. 02

SUN CITY MOTEL 714 672-1861 "

BANQUET: MENIFEE VALLEY BOWL 714 679-8861 "
(FORMALLY SUN CITY BOWL)

FFI: LEN ZAK: (213) 542-3030

PAT MOOREHEAD: (213) 630-5229

4-91

POP RECORD HOP

POPS may have turned Perris into the Grecian Formula capital of skydiving, but that doesn't mean the gippers can't turn in a wicked skydive.

All weekend the organizers debated going after the old 30-way POPS record. POPS-West Pat Moorehead finally asked Pat Swovlin to organize an attempt. New POP Perry Stone assisted. Since the competition was held over from Saturday, it wasn't until Sunday mid-afternoon that the jumpers were ready to go. That meant there was only time for one try at the record.

Pat decided on a 35 way and picked his team. It was an interesting crew. There were new POPS like Stone and Dave Leclercq. Dave Sewell had only 222 jumps. Tom Morrison, POPS 96 and a former Top Pop, has over 6,700 jumps. If the experience level varied some there was no shortage on living. The ages of the team members added to over 1,500 years. That's 15 centuries. How many dives carry that much seniority?

Slots were assigned, the dive was explained, and then they ran it out several times. Wags said that it had to be repeated a lot so that the POPS could remember where they were supposed to go. The POPS say that practice makes perfect.

Finally, around 5:30, the team went up in two Otters. Spirits were high on the ride, and at 13,500 feet the planes pulled together and the oldsters left out into the air. The six way base fell fast, wobbled, and then settled into slow turn. The second wave of twelve locked on rapidly, and the third wave adjusted to the motion and closed by 6,500'. Jim Wallace, POPS 3310, docked 35th.

From the ground almost two hundred observers watched. The formation was obscured in some haze, and then the completed blot roared down from behind a cloud and everyone yelled. John Crowhurst, a U.K. POP, said he had tears in his eyes. It was one of the most striking jumps anyone had ever seen.

On the ground there were smiles and high fives. "Being the youngest POP I was concerned about jumping with the old farts. Now that I am one I'm proud to be there", says Leclercq. There were toasts and many reviews of the video, then everyone went happily home to wives, children, and grandchildren. We're talking POPS here.

POPS WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS - OR

1991 APR 29 PM 12:08 THE GERITOL-FOR-LUNCH-BUNCH STRIKES AGAIN

By Pat Moorehead, POPS WEST

Page One

Weather problems in California? -- on a competition weekend? Nahhhh... As the weekend approached, and the 'more mature' skydivers in our sport gathered at Perris Valley Skydiving Center, several weather fronts decided to join the fun. Here they were, stocked up with Geritol and prunes, and ready to rock-and-roll -- and not enough altitude for the 5-way RW/Accuracy team scrambles. BUT - Meet Director Len ZAK, ready to overcome any situation that might delay this 20th Anniversary meet, simply directed his staff (or was it 'waved his cane?') and the famous POPS Rockin' chair was placed at the peas for the infamous and hilarious Hit'n'rock event. You know how this works: the chair is placed 40' from the disk, and, racing the clock, the competitor lands, drops his gear, sprints to the disk, and then to the chair. For many of the newest POPS, this was a first time effort, and there were plenty of them wrapped in their canopies as they tried to beat the East Coast record time of 4.5 seconds. In the end the event was won by the New-Kid-On-The-Block, 40-year-old Dave Leclercq, with a time of 6.67. Dave was followed closely by Mike Owens, Russ Manhold, Pat Moorehead, and Pat Swovelin, with only a 1.23 second spacing from first to fifth place.

This year the competitors traveled from Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Oregon, Arizona, Texas, and even four POPS from the United Kingdom. Well, call that 3. U.K. POP Brian Shepard didn't compete because he decided, on Friday, to test the density of the earth with a downwind landing under his 150' reserve. Needless to say, he

spent the weekend watching and whining from the sidelines.

Among the 3-dozen competitors were two lovely young lady POPS, Joy Brown and Alicia Anderson. Between weather holds the other POPS spent some time trying to remember something - but couldn't.

So, Saturday evening, with the meet only partially completed, the party got started at the bowling alley in nearby Sun City (no joke!). The banquet hall was packed with competitors, friends and relatives and the cocktail hour lasted long enough to get the festivities moving in an upbeat mood. One thing these guys and gals haven't forgotten: 'let's party!'

Meet Director Zak, and Co-Director Pat Moorehead spent most of the evening awarding thousands of dollars worth of prizes which were generously donated by the parachuting community. Awards included anything from goggles to canopies and from books to videos and, as usual, everyone seemed to receive at least two prizes.

TOP POP Bill Wood, was in attendance as was Mr. Mike Allum, Secretary of the British Parachute Association. Special guests were co-authors Pat (SCS-1) and Jan Works (The Art of Freefall Relative Work & United We Fall) and former TOP POP, Tom Morrison. National Director Moorehead used the occasion to present 30-year USPA Membership certificates to Art Derham, D-6737 and Jim ~~Masillo~~^{MASSILLO}, D-1119. In addition Alicia Anderson, D-9821 was presented with her gold Lifetime Membership card.

On Sunday Morning the clouds were still coming and going ("jumpable but not judgeable" repeated Judge Brenda Reid) so it was decided to give it

a try anyhow, and if the RW could not be scored, then the meet would be decided by the team accuracy. The meet was completed without further delay and everyone gathered for the results and awards presentation. David Pusey, one of the UK POPS, made a special POPS UK membership presentation to John 'B.J.' (Blind John) Fleming, a strong and experienced skydiver who overcame his disadvantage to pick up a 3rd place medal.

With some daylight remaining and the clouds breaking up a bit, it was decided that it was time to attempt to break the current POPSTAR record of 30 - but that's another story.....

(Kevin: Sidebar or part-2 by Carey Peck, about the record.)

(Statistics and results on following pages)

PHOTOS TO FOLLOW FROM
DAVE KEITH & OTHERS.

PLEASE RETURN THE
ENCLOSED PHOTOS TO
PAT MOOREHEAD

POPS WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS
STATISTICS AND RESULTS

--Competitors had a total of 75.400 jumps.
--Most: Tom Morrison, POP 86, with 6600 jumps
--Least: Gary Gruber, POP #3221, with 148 jumps
--Oldest: Tom Morrison, 67
--Youngest: Dave Leclercq, 40

HIT'N'ROCK: First: Dave Leclercq, 6.67 seconds
2nd: Mike Owens, 7.56
3rd: Russ Manhold 7.78
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TEAM RW/ACCURACY:

FIRST: Team Capt. Russ Manhold
Larry Langrand
Carey Peck
Sylvester St.Cyr
Deiter Langer

2nd: Team Capt. Pat Moorehead
Dave Keith
John Brasher
Stan Perrine
David Leclercq
(Alt) Eike Hohenadl

3rd: Team Capt Richard 'Zimmo' Zimmerman
Bill Montague
Mike Owens
John 'B.J.' Fleming
David Pusey

4th: Team Capt. Pat Swovelin
Kevin Donnely
Joy Brown
Bill Wood
Dennie Sewell

5th: Team Capt. Harry Leicher
Alicia Anderson
Walter Roy
David Weaver
Patrick Paris

6th: Team Capt. Tom Morrison
Ed Ryan
Jim Massillo
Ed Moy
John Crowhurst

7th: Team Capt. Al Frisby
Sandy Reid
Wayne Powell
Gary Gruber
Mike Allum

TO Pat Moorehead

UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
1440 Duke Street
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 836-3495

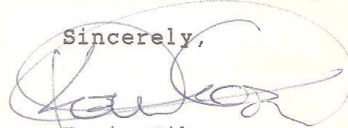
SUBJECT	ATTENTION	DATE
POPS Meet		May 8, 1991

Pat,

Thanks for sending the information on the meet. Unfortunately, ² weather got the best of us this year, I suppose. I am returning the photos as requested, and I plan to use David Keith's photo of the 35-way in this issue. We'll see.

Thanks again for your effort, and I'm sorry I couldn't use it all.

Sincerely,



Kevin Gibson
Editor
PARACHUTIST

KG:cjp

DATE

SIGNED

RECIPIENT-REPLY AND RETAIN PINK COPY. DETACH AND RETURN THIS COPY TO SENDER.



MEET DIRECTOR LEN ZAK
ON RIGHT, 2ND ROW, &
● 1ST, 2ND, 3RD PLACE
RW/ACCURACY TEAMS

ALICIA ANDERSON

L-R BACK ROW

- MEET DIR. LEN ZAK
- CAREY PECK
- LARRY LANGRAN

FRONT: RUSS MANHOLD

- DEITER LANGER
- SYLVESTER ST CYR

1ST PLACE TEAM

ALICIA ANDERSON

L-R BACK:

- MEET DIR. LEN ZAK
- DAVE LECLERCQ
- JOHN BRASHER

FRONT: DAVE KEITH

- PAT MOOREHEAD
- EIKE HOHENADL (ALT)
- STAN PERRINE. NOT SHOWN

2ND PLACE TEAM

ALICIA ANDERSON



The Brits at Perris, 1991

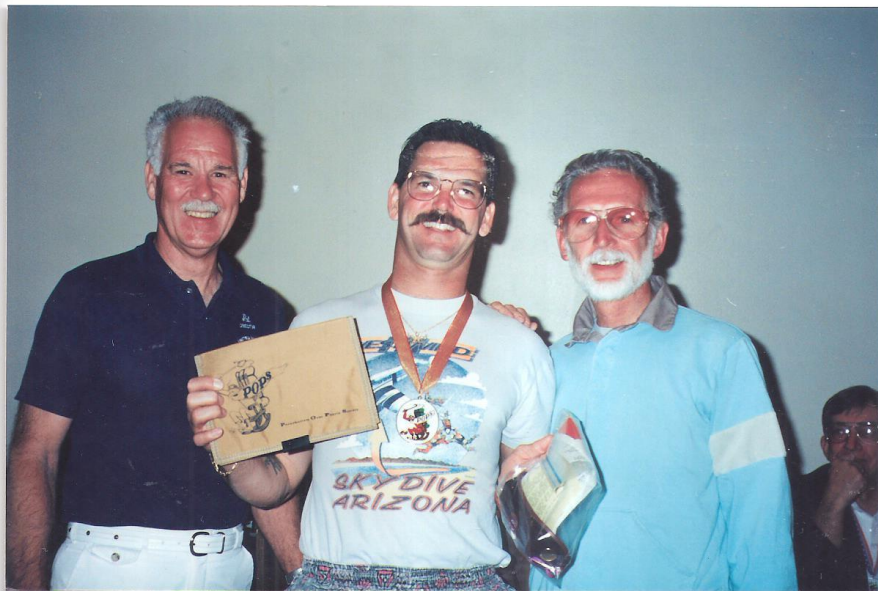


MIKE ~~ALUM~~ ALLUM,
SECRETARY OF THE
BRITISH PARACHUTE
ASSN, CELEBRATES
HIS HIT'N'ROCK
JUMP

ALICIA ANDERSON

L-R: UK POP DAVE PUSGY & LIZ
USA TOP POP BILL WOOD (WELCOMES)
ANN & HUSB, UK POP BRIAN SHEPARD
AT BANQUET

ALICIA ANDERSON



CO-MEET DIRECTORS PAT
MOOREHEAD & LEN ZAK
PRESENT 1ST PLACE
HIT 'N' ROCK TO
DAVE LECLERCQ
AT BANQUET

ALICIA ANDERSON

- L-R - ~~UK~~ UK POP MIKE ALLUM
- JOHN 'B.J.' FLEMING
- UK POP JOHN CROWHURST
- UK POP DAVE PUSEY
- USA POP 'ZIMMO'

PUSEY PRESENTS UK POPS
MEMBERSHIP TO FLEMING.
SEE STORY.

ALICIA ANDERSON



L-R BACK ROW
· MEET DIRECTOR LEN ZAK
· UK POP DAVE PUSEY
· RICHARD 'ZIMMO' ZIMMERMAN
FRONT - JOHN 'B.J.' FLEMING
- MIKE OWENS
- BILL MONTAGUE
3RD PLACE TEAM

ALICIA ANDERSON

ART DERHAM

Paps
~~Et~~
Perris

JIM MASILLO

Paps
Perris

PARACHUTISTS OVER PHORTY SOCIETY

BILL WOOD, TOP POP
 35 Dera St. • Greenville, SC 29615
 Phone 803/370-2614



POPS 35-way record made on 1st attempt

On April 21st, 1991 at Perris Valley, California Pat Swovelin organized and completed a 35 way all POPS formation (A Record). It was videoed by Dave Keith.

Below are the Participants and numbers current at the time of the jump.

P.O.P.S. Member	Age	# Jumps	POPS #
Pat Swovelin	40	4200	3257
Dave Weaver	48	1000	3297
Perry Stone	40	3380	3000
Pat Moorehead	59	3700	572
Denny "Bear" Ganor	49	3291	1493
Kevin Donnelley	50	5091	1472
Harry Leicher	43	2830	2704
John Mitchell	43	1400	2826
Dan Pillasch	41	2900	3307
Sandy Reid	42	2500	2726
Jim Wallace	44	9300	3310
Al Frisby	45	2997	2199
Tony Dell	50	3020	2864
Scott Geil	45	1796	2814
Dana Handbury	42	3150	2609
Dennis Sewell	43	222	2759
Bill "Top POP" Wood	60	1154	1135
John Brasher	43	1980	2560
Larry Langrand	49	3940	1523
Ed Ryan	43	2450	2779
Eric Finney	45	2800	2873
Mike Sheerin	41	3300	3308
Tom Mele	45	3200	3309
Alicia Anderson	44	750	2375
Tom Morrison	67	6598	96
Eike Hohenadl	49	617	2865
Jim Edwards	40	2580	3304
Jim Massillo	58	1025	878
Russ Manhold	47	2500	1827
Carey Peck	41	657	2900
Tom Magglos	41	1625	3303
Bill Montegue	44	900	2377
Bob Butt	45	1950	2289
Wayne Powell	53	1983	1078
Dave Leclercq	40	996	3293
Dave Keith	49	2767	1845

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Gary Gruber
Mike Allum

35 COMPETITORS



Jim Massillo readies for a landing under a Ram-air canopy.

Ada Herald
June 19, 1991

Special Edition

Section
See local fe

Ada skydiver Massillo flies

Jim continues to enjoy skydiving, which he started in 1961. He made his 1,000th jump in 1990.

By Marilyn Nelson

L.J. (Jim) Massillo, Ada, "gets high" in a natural way. As a skydiver with 30 years of experience, he knows how to fly by more than just the seat of his pants.

A member of a skydiving group called POPS - the Parachutists Over Phorty (40) Society - Jim helped set a group record in the skies of Southern California this past April at the POPS West Coast Championships.

The POPS previous world record for this formation had been held for four years.

He was one of 33 men and two women who joined together, linking arms and legs while free falling in a three-ring cluster.

The POPS previous world record for this formation, made by five less people, had been held for four years.

For the April jump, two twin-Otter airplanes carried the record-challenging divers aloft. Jim says the divers unloaded in six to ten seconds

at 13,800 feet.

At exit the divers respond to a "ready, set, go" command.

Everyone gets out as fast as possible to get into position. Getting into formation is a carefully orchestrated and practiced maneuver.

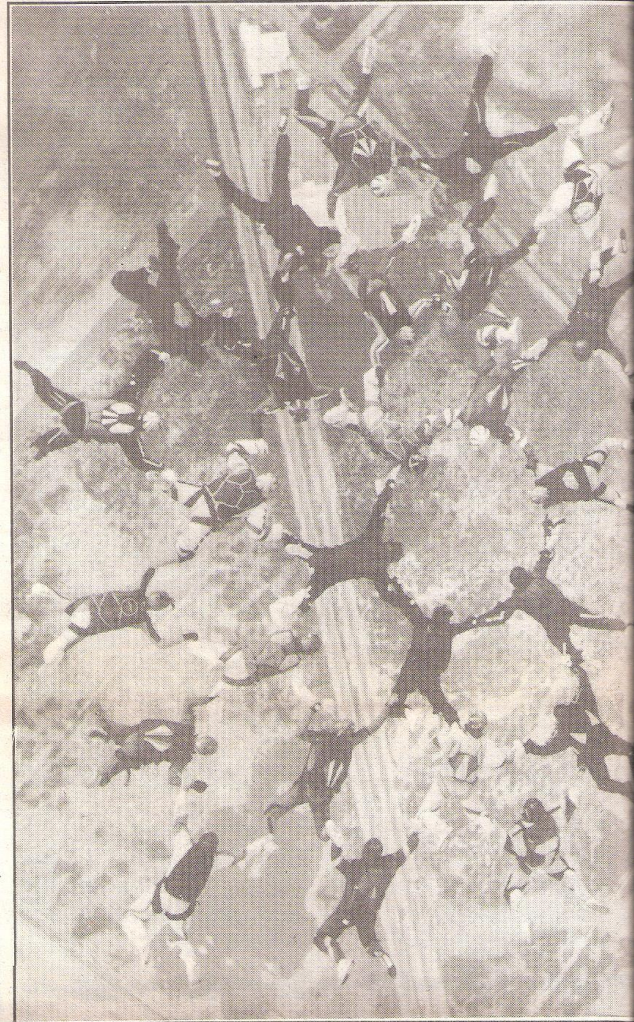
"After free falling for about 45 seconds, we held the cluster for 12 seconds," Jim says.

Formations are first practiced in "dirt dives" on the ground. Jim says they practiced the record-breaking formation about five times before loading up.

The loading procedure is also carefully organized. "Divers back into the planes so the base (the people forming the center) enter the plane last," Jim says. This enables the center people to exit first.

Once a diver exits, "You have to go where you are supposed to go," Jim says, explaining the importance of each person knowing their position.

In the April 21 record-breaking formation, Jim says, the divers broke up the snowflake at 4,000 feet "with the center six people forming a donut by connecting head to tail in a circle."



A local skydiver, Jim Massillo, is pictured (see arrow) in the POPS formation, which was set at the POPS West Coast Championships in April. Jim made his 1000th jump in 1990. He started

The other divers "turn and track away, making sure they stay out of each other's way," Jim says.

By the time the divers hit 2,500 to 2,000 feet everybody is opening their chutes, Jim says.

The record was set on their first try on April 21. A cameraman who jumped with the group got the event on film.

POPS normally do "relative work." Jim explains this as making different formations

Twin Lakes CAMPSITE

"A total family recreation area"



Skydiver Massillo flies high,

enjoy skydiving,
in 1961. He
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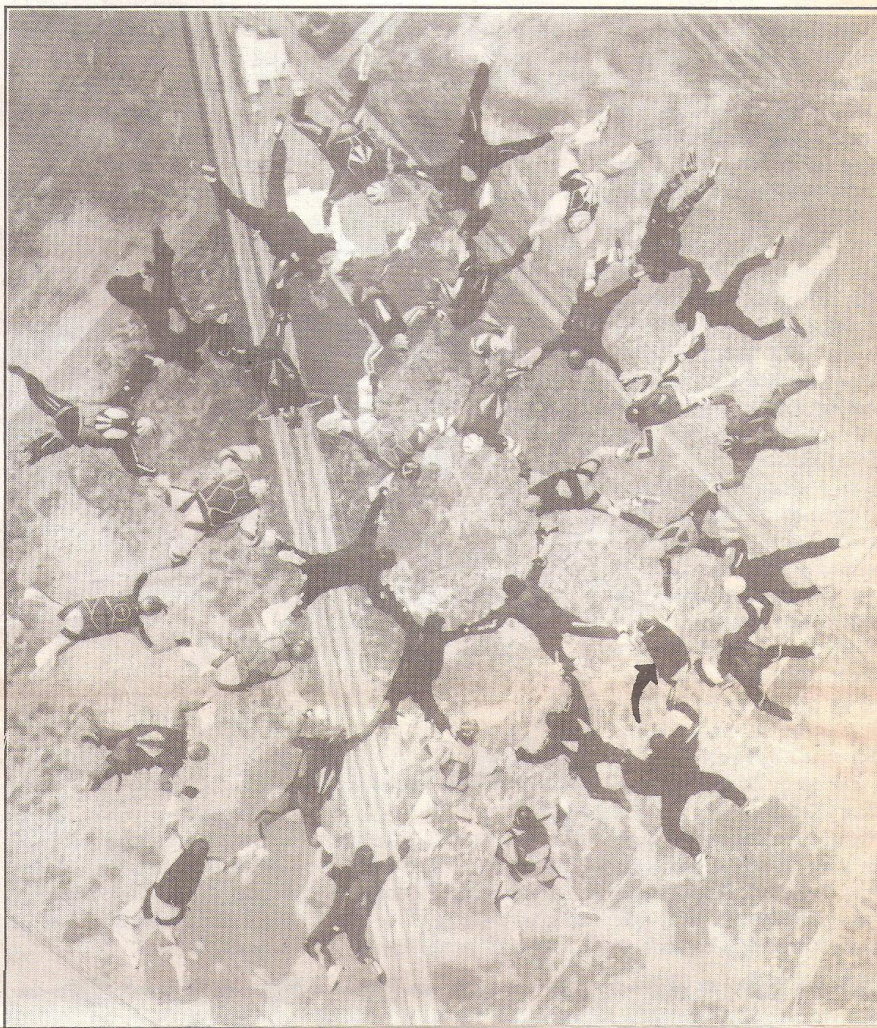
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A local skydiver, Jim Massillo, is pictured (see arrow) in a 35-way record POPS formation, which was set at the POPS West Coast Championships in April. Jim made his 1000th jump in 1990. He started skydiving in 1961.

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POPS normally do "relative work." Jim explains this as making different formations

rather than individual jumps. An example of "relative work" would be forming a speed star as quickly as possible with four or five people. While at the POPS competition, Jim did about eight jumps in two days.

He started the sport of skydiving in 1961. "I just had a desire to do it," Jim says. He

CAMP SITE

recreation area"



helps set world parachute re



Jim Massillo, Ada, (see arrow) shares in the excitement of a POPS record-breaking jump with his fellow skydivers. The record was broken over California on April 21 of this year.

made his 1,000th jump in 1990. To stay current, divers should make four jumps a month.

Equipment has changed considerably over the years, Jim says. Old military equipment with round canopies were used at one

The other divers "turn and track away, making sure they stay out of each other's way."

Then the reserve chute was worn on the front with the main chute on the back.

Football helmets, military jump boots, gloves, and a canopy packed in a sleeve to

canopy packed in a sleeve to take the opening shock away - made for very bulky and heavy equipment.

"You get very easy, soft landings out of today's canopies," Jim says. The rectangular shaped Ram-air canopies have cells which and landing easier.

The one-piece jumpsuits are made of rayon, cotton or nylon spandex. Helmets are lighter. Jim's is made of soft leather. Tennis shoes are usually the footwear of choice. Some divers also use goggles and gloves.

Jim's involvement in skydiving over the years has included instructing with

included instructing with Randy Shinn at the airport north of Ada. He has worked with pilots George and John Deringer. Other "locals" involved in the sport have included Ken Newman, Steve Fisher, Jim Keller, Tom Hall and Jeff Hines.

people from every walk of life" have enjoyed the sport from the Ada field," Jim says. Locally, active jumpers have ranged from years with two and three jumpers to years with 18 to 20 people. As a club organization there were 35 to 40 members in the Mid-American Skydivers.

Anybody can pack a main chute, but "reserve" chutes

chute, but "reserve" chutes have to be re-packed every 120 days by a licensed rigger. Jim, who is a licensed rigger, says logs are kept on the packing of reserve chutes.

Riggers are usually also jumpers. At one time Ada's airport had about eight riggers. The training and testing for rigging is controlled by the F.A.A.

On Memorial Day weekend, the Midwest Conference of the U.S. Parachutists Association held the Lima Leap Fest at the Allen County Airport. Jim said the weather did not cooperate for the event.

When the POPS hold a national meet in Xenia in August, Jim predicts more than 100 divers will participate.

If things go according to



Jim (r) and Ken Newman Pacer in Ada before a jump

**Jim & Randy's
Family Restaurant**
at Silver Spring's Lake
BREAKFAST SPECIAL

**"FUN IN THE
SILVER SPRING
TAKE A SHORT DRIVE FROM
TLE OF EVERY DAY LIFE
SWIMMING-CAMPING
RECREATION**

set world parachute record



arrow) shares in the excitement of a POPS record with fellow skydivers. The record was broken over this year.

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plan, they may even break the April 21 record.

Jim's involvement in skydiving over the years has included instructing with Randy Shinn at the airport north of Ada, and, as a licensed rigger, he is qualified to pack reserve chutes.

If things go according to



Jim (r) and Ken Newman stand next to a Tri-Pacer in Ada before a jump in 1963.

Jim & Randy's Family Restaurant

at Silver Spring's Lake
BREAKFAST SPECIAL

"FUN IN THE SUN" SILVER SPRINGS LAKE

TAKE A SHORT DRIVE FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUS-
TLE OF EVERY DAY LIFE - AND RELAX WITH US.

SWIMMING-CAMPING-SHELTER HOUSES
RECREATION ACTIVITIES FISHING