

POPS Nationals

1,2 Oct 1988

Raeford, NC

The POPS Nationals (Parachutists Over Phorty Society) was held at Raeford Parachute Center on October 1-2, 1988. DZ operator, Gene Paul Thacker, provided beautiful weather and an efficient staff for the 61 competitors that traveled from as far away as California, Florida and Pennsylvania.

The hilarious Hit-N-Rock was won by Dave Waight of York, PA, in a time of 5.45 seconds. In this event the clock starts as the contestant touches down. He (or she, there were two ladies in the meet this year) must stay in place as he removes his harness, sprints to the disc, and then continues to a rocking chair which is placed 40' from the disc, and sit down and rock. 5.45 seconds; not bad for an old guy - although this event has been won with a time of under 5 seconds. Russ Manhold was second and Bob Ponzi took 3rd.

John Tippy took first place honors in individual accuracy with a 3-round total of 0.09. Danny Smith was 2nd and Dave Waight was 3rd.

Ten teams competed in the 3-round, 5-way speed formation scrambles. Los Muchachos, consisting of Bill Gatter, Santos Matos, 'Doc' Trent, Jack LaLonde, and Alicia Anderson, won the first place trophy by a margin of 2.07 seconds. Team #1, with Gary Miller, Larry Franklin, Al Rosenberg, Frank Norbury, and John Tippy, were 2nd followed by 'Four Guys Looking For Moorehead' - consisting of Carl Frankquet, Russ Manhold, Dale Stec, Mike Dikerson, and Pat Moorehead.

Dave Waight stepped forward for the Overall Plaque and was awarded a surprise gift: A hand-crafted Rocking chair ^{Don't know} made by Mrs. TOP-POP, Wanda Wood. On Sunday evening he was still trying to get it into his small sports car.

TOP POP Bill Wood presided over the awards ceremony and banquet Saturday night which, as usual, degenerated into an orgy of jump stories as these veterans of our sport, some of who made their first jumps in World War II, and many who started in the 50's and 60's, had no problem out-doing each other as the night grew late, the disco music grew louder, and the bubbly-barrel emptied..

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the "Best Of POPS" perpetual trophy which is awarded annually to an active POPS jumper who is in the sport for fun and friendly competition. This year's winner was Harry Ervin of Tennessee and the trophy was passed on by last year's recipient, Pat Moorehead.

In Addition to the POPS Nationals, there are several regional and seasonal meets held in Florida, Illinois, Michigan, California and, even, Canada. A POPS World meet is in the works for 1989 and will take place in Australia. 1990

ALBANY,

If you want to take a break from Sky Gods and Hard Core, AND you are over 40 (or about to be) why not join the fun?! For further information contact TOP POP Bill Wood, 200 Cavalier Drive, #41, Greenville, SC 29607 (803)277-9733.

Gray Power!! We ARE the force!!

