

POPS

384 most jumps, Jay Stokes

27,28 Nov 1997

Somerton, AZ

Parachutists Over Phorty Society

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

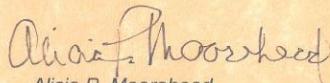
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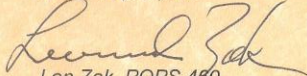
W. L. 'Jay' Stokes POPS 5572

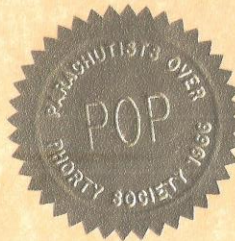
*did complete 384 freefall parachute jumps in a 24 hour period,
on November 27 & 28, 1997 at Somerton Airport, Arizona
for the POPS World & National & State Records.*

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

Sincere congratulations!


Alicia P. Moorehead
World TopPop #2


Len Zak, POPS 460
POPS Award Coordinator



PARACHUTISTS OVER PHORTY SOCIETY

ALICIA MOOREHEAD, TOP POP USA

WORLD TOP POP

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18 December 1997

W.L. 'Jay' Stokes
802 B. Street, PO Box 3206
Yuma, AZ 85365-3206

Dear Jay,

We are pleased to enclose your POPS record certificate commemorating your 384 freefall parachute jumps in a 24 hour period on November 27 & 28, 1997. It is a POPS World, National and State record.

Your POPS event is acknowledged and recorded in the POPS Awards History - see enclosed POPS records listing. In addition, your certificate, notarized statements and local newspaper article have been added to our POPS History Albums.

Since becoming the World TopPOP this year, I have been communicating with the 14 other POPS chapters around the world and encouraging our records program. Next month, I will be sending them an update including your accomplishment.

Congratulations!

Alicia Moorehead

THE YUMA DAILY SUN

INTERNET: <http://www.yumasun.com>

YUMA, ARIZONA ■ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1997

Jumping for joy Yuman reclaims record for most parachute jumps

By NICOLE JACKSON
Staff Writer



Not everybody spent the day after Thanksgiving shopping for the best deals.

About 1,000 spectators passed through the Somerton airport Friday to watch Jay Stokes enter the Guinness Book of World Records for the most parachuting jumps in a 24-hour period.

And when all was said and done, the 41-year old husband and father of three children was just glad his journey was over.

"I'm not ready to run a marathon," said Stokes, when asked how he felt moments after landing for the final time. "I'll never do it again."

Stokes parachuted out of an airplane at 2,000 feet above ground — breaking the world record for a second time. His first record was in 1995 when he parachuted 331 times in North Carolina. However, that feat was broken months later with 352 jumps.

Since his first record-breaking ceremony, the chief warrant officer stationed at Yuma Proving Ground has plotted his quest to reclaim his title.

Stokes surpassed the record with 384 jumps, about 32 more than the current record. His mission kicked off at 2:07 p.m. Thursday. He skydived every three to four minutes from a rotating series of planes and ended at 2:07 p.m. Friday.



YPG MILITARY Free- (above) reclaimed his day afternoon by breaking the record in 24 hours. After his feat is congratulated by his son Evan (photo), son Evan is

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50 cents



The Sun/Paul M. Perez

all School instructor Jay Stokes
world record skydiving title Fri-
king the old record of 352 jumps
nal jump, numbering 384, Stokes
is wife, Vivian (at left in right
d friends with a dousing of

JUMPING

Continued from Page 1

Each time he jumped, applause from the crowd cheered him on and echoes of "Way to go, Jay!" filled the open field.

It was that enthusiasm that kept him going. "I couldn't give up," Stokes said. "I had too many people depending on me."

The Thanksgiving holiday kept the number of spectators down on Thursday, but Stokes said he noticed Friday the crowds were getting bigger and bigger each time he parachuted down.

Utah resident Irene Bosh couldn't resist heading out to the airport to be part of the record-breaking event.

"I wanted to see for myself because it's really interesting," said Bosh, a Yuma native visiting for the holiday. She said she'd rather spend the day watching Stokes than fighting after-Thanksgiving shopping crowds.

"It looks like so much fun," she said, adding she watched volunteers repack the parachutes for the next jump.

Stokes, who originally planned his attempt to break the record last year in North Carolina, decided to do it in Yuma instead, said Butch Koretz, who supervised the event.

Stokes chose Yuma because he figured he'd get the support he needed from the community, Koretz said. Not only did businesses donate money to the cause, but free food to feed the public was donated, too.

Several businesses gave \$500 each to help pay pilots to fly Stokes

from the Somerton airport to his jump destination. There were nearly 40 sponsors giving about \$45,000, Koretz said.

About 10 pilots flew four-hour shifts, and there were more than 100 volunteers. Some helped strip off and repack the used parachutes and put another one on. The jump began with 17 parachutes and ended with 15. Other helpers manned the refreshment table.

Stokes remained on the ground for about 10 seconds between jumps, leaving no time for chit chat or long bathroom breaks. "Once, he landed about three feet from the restroom," Koretz said. "We lost about four minutes on that one."

He did whatever he needed to do on the plane, including eating, he said.

A fatigued Stokes concedes the hardest time during the jump was just before dawn when the temperature was 46 degrees. "My hands were cramped up."

Aside from the stiffness in his legs and the redness in his eyes from the sand and dust blowing in his face, Stokes said he felt OK. "I won't go straight to bed."

Throughout the 24-hour shift, Stokes was given Gatorade, baggies of vegetables, fruit and turkey to eat. "He went on a non-caffeine diet. Luckily, we didn't have to use any caffeine."

"He's the grandfather of jumps," Koretz said. "After this, he will have close to 770 parachute jumps under his belt."