

1st Southern California POPS Meet

29, 30 July 1971

Elsinore, CA

ROCKING CHAIR FOLLIES

1971?
by Fay Huntley C7199

So you think you've seen it all? Sport Parachuting is a "now" thing? Well, Sonny, you should've been at Elsinore Paracenter on July 29 & 30 for the first (and hopefully Annual) Southern California POPS Meet. For you youngsters (anyone under 39) POPS means Parachutists Over Phorty Society.

Saturday arrived and so did 15 veterans - Ready! The events included 3 places in Accuracy and a Hit & Rock. (Again for the youngsters, Hit & Rock means touching down, removing your gear, running to a chair and rocking the front legs off the ground.)

By noon it was 115° and we had the first round off. Jack Graff POPS #578 made a good approach; his heels touched at 10', his slung reserve at 11', and his tailbone hit at 12' - simultaneously! Then the ambulance came and Jack decided to sit out the meet and the heat in the hospital.

The heat wasn't bad enough, but the winds rose to 15 mph and gusting. Jumpers deserted the D.Z. - EXCEPT the POPS. They came into this meet with the understanding they would get at least 2 rounds off today and by dang it, they couldn't see why a breeze should interfere. Oldies, but goodies, Fred Chambers POPS #85, backed his PC in to a 3' mark. Then 3 POPS showed their true colors and blossomed out in Parawings. I mean, what does that do to Jesse Baley POPS #492 who's just got out in a cheapo, looks up and sees a triangle flying around and around and around... (They should go nameless, but 3 POPS named Ackerman POPS #122, Lenn POPS #542 and Zak POPS #460 were rather finky - or is it "funky" now?) The official sunset was 8:06 Saturday and at 7:55 the last POPS touched down. Pat Moorehead POPS #572 couldn't be there Sunday, so come heat or high winds, he never quit until he finished all events.

1st West Coast POPS Meet organized by Len Zak at Elsinore, CA

Dave Llorente POPS #424 and Angelo Middione POPS #546 joined the others in trying to convince the youngsters that they had lied about their age in order to join POPS.

Of course, the usual retirement to the local pub ensued, where jump stories going back to jumping from a balloon in 1498 or was it 1948, unfolded. Darold Dinsmore POPS #567 was jumping at Elsinore Paracenter, when it wasn't even a paracenter. Yes, Sonny, we told some good ones.

If you hear of a POPS Meet in your area, turn out to watch the Hit & Rock event. There's no other word for it than "funny". You youngsters try getting out of your rig while a stop watch is running. Hubert Becher POPS #356 found that when you put your rig on, the legstrap quick releases are in one place, but after hanging in a harness, they move up, - about 4 inches. Remember what they taught you in ground school, Sonny, always "look" before attempting to undo anything.

Sten Brailsford POPS #566 came up from Sydney, Australia for the meet - he was on his way to Tahlequah anyway.

Colonel Don Strobaugh POPS #406 showed his true rank and never even grinned excessively at 2 dead centers. But, Dick Pedley POPS #594, the "baby" of the group, eased him out overall. Dave Parry POPS #86 and Zeke Lenn were nominated Chief Arbitrators and did a fine job. Speaking of devotion above and beyond the call, thanks to Lolly Lenn for ficheting for 4 hours in 115° - maybe that sunburn will turn into a tan, to Fay Huntley in charge of manifesting and to Meet Director, Len Zak for organizing the whole dang thing.

Final results were: Accuracy - 1st Place - Dick Pedley POPS #594
2nd Place - Colonel Don Strobaugh POPS #406
3rd Place - Zeke Lenn POPS #542

Hit & Rock - 1st Place - Zeke Lenn POPS #542
2nd Place - Colonel Don Strobaugh POPS #406
3rd Place - Jim Ackerman POPS #122

To other POPS throughout the Country, we say "Have a Meet; it's fun".