

**POPS**

**10, 11, & 12way CRW records**

**12-14 Apr 1996**

**Raeford, NC**

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*Steph King May 96*

## POPS Set CRW Record

by Mike Lewis

It was a blue sky weekend in Raeford, N.C., as 15 members of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society met April 12-14 to set a POPS CRW record.

And it was a successful weekend. The group topped the previous 9-way record three times, completing 10-, 11- and 12-way formations over the course of the event.

The attempts, dubbed "POPS Do CREW Too," were organized by local Bob Williamson. He did an excellent job taking care of the details, reserving hotel rooms, arranging for three hot meals a day and even bringing in a masseuse to work on sore muscles.

Performance Designs sent me and a pile of Lightning canopies to support the event. The Raeford Parachute Center provided a Twin Otter for the jumps.

Prior to the event we had decided to only try and break the record by one. We made three attempts on Friday at a 10-way kite,



Jumpers fly two side-by-side stacks during a POPS CRW event last month at Raeford, N.C. The jumpers went on to complete a 12-way POPS record. Photograph by Tom Plonka.

and those jumps resulted in several cut-aways. It turned out to be a challenging day of working out slots and repacking reserves.

Not to be discouraged, the group went up Saturday morning and built the 10-way on the first attempt. After a quick debrief and some group photos we went back up to try for an 11-way.

The 10-way built quickly but started swinging badly. Jackson Hoffman made several valiant tries but was unable to dock on the wildly moving target. The tail of the kite was too heavy and caused the wings to breathe in and out. This action causes the tail to pump up and down as well as forward and backward. Throw in the usual sideways swinging of the bottom stack and you have an almost impossible slot.

These same obstacles thwarted last year's attempts at the same formation. But we'd learned a few things since then and the weight was adjusted on the tail of the kite. By putting the heaviest jumper at the top of the tail (bottom of the 9-way diamond), the pendulum effect was eliminated and the kite would fly.

Unfortunately, the winds did not cooperate. The Raeford dragon awoke with 25 mph gusts and his usual appetite for flesh and bones au-nylon. The drop zone went on a wind hold and then the clouds came in and shut it down for the day.

Unfortunately, three POPS members had to leave that afternoon.

But there were still enough jumpers to carry on with the record attempts. The group saw another completion on the first dive Sunday, building an 11-way for a second POPS CRW record.

We joyfully packed our canopies and made our way back from landing two miles out. (The spotter said something about age and his eyesight not being what it used to be.)

After a few congratulations and perhaps

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- June 06-09 - Irish Parachute Center, Ireland - PD weekend
- June 14-16 - Denmark
- July 18-21 - Paracentrum Midden Zeeland, Netherlands - Boogie
- July 25-28 - Ampling, Germany - 10 Way Cup
- Sept 06-08 - Fehrbellin, Germany - 9 Way Speed Formation
- Sept 19-21 - Austria
- Sept 30 - Granssee, Germany - Berlin Open J-Way

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After a few congratulations and perhaps a swig or two of Geritol the group went back up and built a 12-way for yet another record.

Too bad there were no more POPS left on the DZ (or at least not any CRW dogs).

Tom Plonka did an excellent job filming the dives. He was also the last jumper to dock on the final 12-way formation.

The other 11 record holders include Vern Bates, Franc Bender, Steve Bowen, Stan Bussey, Vic Herrick, Jackson Hoffman, Mike Lewis, Chris Mangos, Gary Miller, Ken Smith and Bob Williamson.

The weekend was full of old jump videos and many "there I was" stories. With a new crop of POPS on the way, the group is already looking forward to next year and POPS Do CREW Three. □

**PD TOUR EUROPE 1996**

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01-01. Sept Orme/ France Performance	02-05. May Nikowicz 10 Years Skydive Pink	06-09. June Irish Parachute Center/Ireland PD Weekend	18-21. July Paracentrum Midden Zeeland/Netherlands Boogie	30. Aug-01. Sept Granssee/ Germany Berlin Champs 4-Way Open
08. Sept Masse/ France Weekend	09-12. May Lüchen-Speyersdorf/ Germany Wendmassen Boogie	14-16. June Vandrup/ Denmark Skyvan Boogie	25-26. July Ampling/ Germany To-Way Cup	06-08. Sept Fehrbellin/ Germany 9-Way Speed Formation
12-15. Sept Basile/ Italy Boogie Performance	16-19. May Kassel-Calden/ Germany 4-Way & 8-Way Competition	21-30. June Boilange Delarna/ Sweden Mid-Summer Boogie	01-04. Aug Bad Lippspringe/ Germany RAPA Championship	12-15. Sept Sillian/ Austria Pink Boogie
19-22. Sept Paracentro Roma/ Italy PD Weekend	24-26. May Skyrun Spa/ Belgium 10-Way Competition	05-07. July Lansar/ Great Britain PD Weekend	06-11. Aug Vichy/ France Espace Boogie	20-22. Sept Fuefentfeld/ Austria Skyvan Boogie
26-29. Sept Gaul/ France PD Weekend	31. May-02. June Headcorn/ Great Britain 8-Way Scaled Boogie	13-14. July Hoxter/ Germany 4-Way Mini Market and Summer Fest	17-18. Aug Saulgau/ Germany PD Weekend	27-29. Sept Schweighofen/ Germany 6-Way Competition

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