

6th Annual Southern California POPS Meet

20,21 May 1978

Perris, CA

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The 6th annual Southern California POPSMEET got off to an early start on the beautiful weekend of May 20-21 at Perris Valley Paracenter. About 20 competitors from all over California were on hand to go for the 9 trophies available in accuracy, hit-n-rock, and 3-man speed star competition.

Clyde Carr, of Santa Rosa, started things off with a strike of 12" but bent his foot on landing and choose to make easy stand-up landings for the balance of the meet, taking himself out of the running. Audrey Jackman, POPS 643, and the only member of the fair sex to enter, had a first-round mark of 9' 1½" and was definitely in the competitions until she was blown away by unusual winds later in the day. Incidentally, Audrey was awarded the Title of Miss So. Calif POPS and that trophy sits proudly on her shelf.

Walter Roy, Sacramento, had two good hits but a gust of wind pushed him just outside the peas on a downwind landing and he suffered a broken heel - but still retained 4th place, and was later awarded a Turkey of the Meet Trophy.

The squirrely winds were responsible for some pretty poor marks and as the weekend continued there was always a chance that anyone could be among the top 3 places.

Dick Pedley, who had just won 2nd place in the Western Conference meet at Taft started this accuracy meet in good shape but pulled up short on his final jump and fell to 3rd place.

John Cook, host of the West Coast POPS Championships in August (19-20) at Antioch this year, came down from San Francisco and was in his usual good form. His consistency got him the 2nd place gold and Pat Moorehead's first round dead-center assured him of the first place trophy in the accuracy event. Pat also took 3rd in the hit-n-rock event with Cook hanging in there for another 2nd place. Dick Pedley finally got his stuff together and took first in this event with a time of 4.8 seconds from landing, removing his gear, run to the disc, and then to the rocking chair; about the best time ever recorded at a POPS event.

Although by late Sunday afternoon most of the competitors had run out of Geritol and had to return to the 'home' we were able to get six hard-core oldies, but goodies, together for the 3-man speed-star event. Team #1, The Hot Pops, Captained by Paul 'Frenchy' Courtois of Vellejo, with John Cook and Leroy Howe, put it together in 15 seconds and took first place. Team #2, The Pop Tops, with Joe Wasser, Dick Pedley, and Pat Moorehead took second with a time of 15.5 seconds. Unfortunately we ran out of energy and daylight and were unable to go for the POPSTAR record of 12.

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As usual the weekend was a complete success. Judge-Manifestors Bobbie Gallo and Virginia Braun did an outstanding job in getting the competition loads off intermingled with the regular fun-jumpers at the drop zone. Not an easy feat.

Footnote: On Saturday and Sunday, Pat Moorehead and Dean Westgaard flew from Perris to make a demo at the Anaheim Convention Center at noon each day and then flew back and logged a competition jump into Perris. On Saturday, while doing the demo, someone got into Moorehead's van and ripped-off three canopys: a Strato-cloud, Stato Star, and Mk-1 PC.. Circumstances indicate that it was a jumper, or jumpers, so let me say: WATCH YOUR GEAR.:

cc: Parachutist
Spotter
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