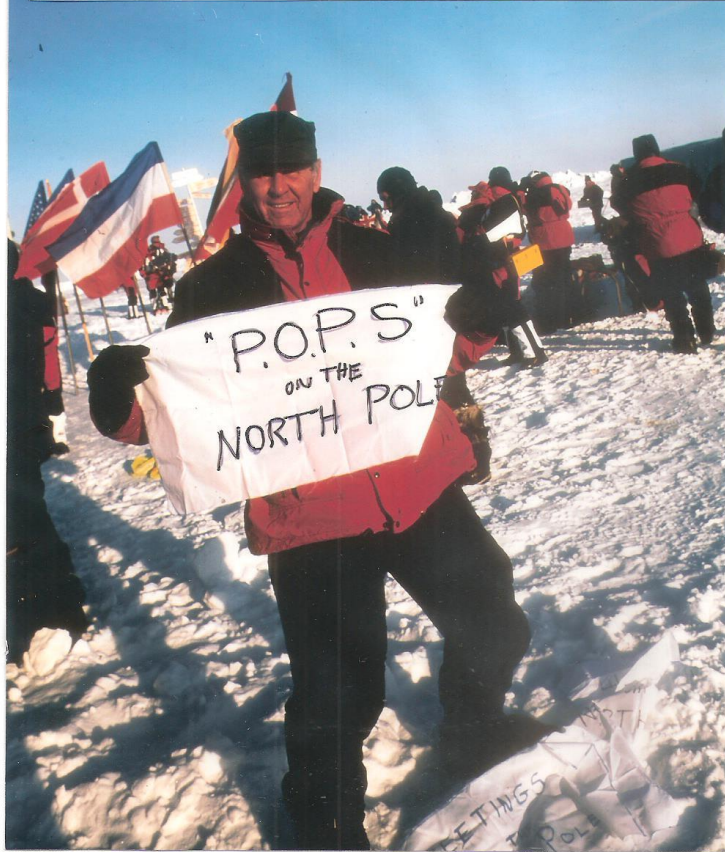


POPS group goes to the North Pole

17 April 1995

North Pole



April 1995

Please return to:

Alicia Anderson
Top Pop U.S.A.
3350 Saint Francis Place
Long Beach, CA 90805-3854

Thanks

April 1995

Please return to:

Alicia Anderson
Top Pop U.S.A.
3350 Saint Francis Place
Long Beach, CA 90805-3854

Thanks

29 May 1995

Hi Howard,

What an adventure, your trip to Siberia and Russia and your jump over the North Pole!!!! That's great!

I submitted your article and photos to Sue Clifton, the Editor of Skydiving Magazine.

It will also be put into the POPS History Album that I have been compiling. Thanks for taking the time to record this event for POPS.

Sincerely,

May 23, 1995

Howard L. Burling, II
P.O. Box 2811,
Waterbury, CT 06723
POPS - 1370
SOS - 205

sent 2 "5x7" photos

Alicia Anderson
3350 St. Francis Place
Long Beach, CA 90805

Hi Alicia + Pat:

In Umatilla you said to send you something about POPS going to the North Pole. I'm not a writer, but I'll try to give you an overview of the trip.

On Wednesday, April 12, 1995, 27 jumpers from the USA met at Kennedy Airport in New York. The next afternoon we flew to Moscow, Russia, and met up with the rest of the expedition members at the Hotel Russia near Red Square in Moscow. The make-up of the group of 120 members were USA-26 (was from Canada), England-13, Western Europe-62, and 19 from Russia. A large contingent of the Europeans were from Holland and other than Europe were represented in the count of 62.

After two days of sightseeing and eating at McDonalds, we were bussed to a military airbase and flew in a questionable aircraft to Khatanga, Siberia. We waited in Siberia for a day and a half and then left at 9pm on Monday, April 17, 1995 for the North Pole in a large Russian cargo jet. We jumped over the Pole at 12:30am on Tuesday, April 18, 1995. We exited at 10,000 feet, doing 170 mph, and the temperature at exit was probably 50° to 60° below zero.

a 68 year old jumper from Canada dislocated his right shoulder hitting the air on exit and didn't get his reserve out till about 1,000 feet. Another jumper lost an arctic boot on exit and followed it down, landing away from the designated DZ, so he wouldn't lose his boot to frostbite. Both jumpers were recovered by Russian helicopters.

Upon landing, the air was filled with the clicking and roar of cameras ~~and~~ video and the popping of corks. The conditions were excellent for the North Pole. Sunny and only -24° . Jumpers spent anywhere between 4 to 12 hours on the Pole and then were choppered 35 kilometers to an Ice Airport built by the Russians for the expedition. Another 5 to 12 hours was spent at this location waiting for a small jet cargo plane to make the 6 to 8 hours turnaround flight back to Siberia. The trip to the Pole and back was from 12 to 24 hours for the group.

The next day included a helicopter trip out into the wilderness to visit and jump with some Dolgon Eskimos that herd reindeers. There was a nice banquet in Khatanga that included the presenting of certificates, expedition medals, patches and entertainment by local Khatangans. Jumps were made the next day onto the frozen river part of the town. An event that brought most of the population to the riverbank.

After flying back to Moscow, the group split up, but about 40 jumpers took a day trip to a Russian jump center where they made jumps from a large Russian Chopper and took flying lessons in smaller Russian choppers. It was great.

The last day was spent in Moscow sightseeing, buying treasures and going to the Bolshoi to see a Russian opera.

A very tired, broke, but bursting with excitement group of Americans arrived back at JFK on Sunday, April 23, 1995. It had been tiring, frustrating, adventurous, marvelous and worth every penny and minute. It was truly a Great Adventure. We also felt very happy and lucky to be back in the United States of America.

That's me holding the POPS banner with my Marine Corps hat on.

Of the 9 jumpers in the group POPS picture, I have definitely identified seven of the group but can only find that 6 are really POPS members.

Back Row - Ruben Garcia - Steve Alexander - Bruce Cochran - Chuck Neuman - Bob Atkins } not positive on ID
POPS 1117 POPS-1989 POPS 4507

Bill Gurley } not positive on ID
POPS-3416

Front Row - Ed Meyer - Howard Burling - Mark Kaufman
POPS-1370 POPS-4525
SOS-205

If you have any questions: Work (203) 578-7825
Home (203) 759-0127

Skydiving[®]

PARACHUTING'S NEWSMAGAZINE

July 24, 1995

Alicia Anderson
3350 St. Francis Place
Long Beach, CA 90805

Dear Alicia:

Thanks for the photos from the North Pole. I am returning them now as you requested.

I'm sorry we couldn't use anything, but we had already covered the event. Another consideration is that the photos wouldn't look that good in black and white. All those red suits would look black.

Please keep us on your mailing list. We can't print everything we receive, but we'll do our best to keep people informed of any POPS news.

Sincerely,


Sue Clifton
Editor