

POPS Nationals

15-20 Jul 2002

Raeford, NC

The Banquet & Awards Raeford Parachute Center

The week was perfect! The Boogie, blended into the Nationals Competition. Accuracy, 4-Way Scrabbles and Hit N Rock went exactly as scheduled. Two teams even formed to complete an informal Team Accuracy. All that was left was a dinner banquet hosted by Raeford Parachute Center under the open air of the DZ Pavilion. Food & staff provided by Aviator's Bar & Grill. Mother Nature held out and gave over 125 guests a cool bug-less evening.



After a grand meal, TopPop Ted



Rose started the affairs at hand.
Canadian TopPop Bernie Larkin spoke for a few moments before the POPS Awards were presented.

The results of the competitions are as follows:

ACCURACY



1st - Tom Zukowski - 0.16

2nd - Karl Poruben - 0.20

3rd - Bernie Larkin - 0.21

4-WAY SCRAMBLES



1st - #406 Team Won - Members: Ted Rose, Tom Zukowski, Max Buoyer, Donna Chmielewski

2nd - #404 Raeford Drag-Ins - Members: Pat Moorehead, Terry Blanish, Bob Busey, Jim Shorter

Tied for 3rd (Overall by Judge's Decision) - # 401 Mach 4 - Members: Wayne Powell, Trent Percell, Burl Baxter, Bill Wood

Tied for 3rd - #402 Three Men & a Baby - Members: Kate Thacker, Bob Costillo, Tim Sower, Walt Ross

Hit-N-Rock



1st - Tom Zukowski - 5.30 seconds

2nd - Terry Blanish - 6.50

3rd - Horst Cosgrove - 6.72

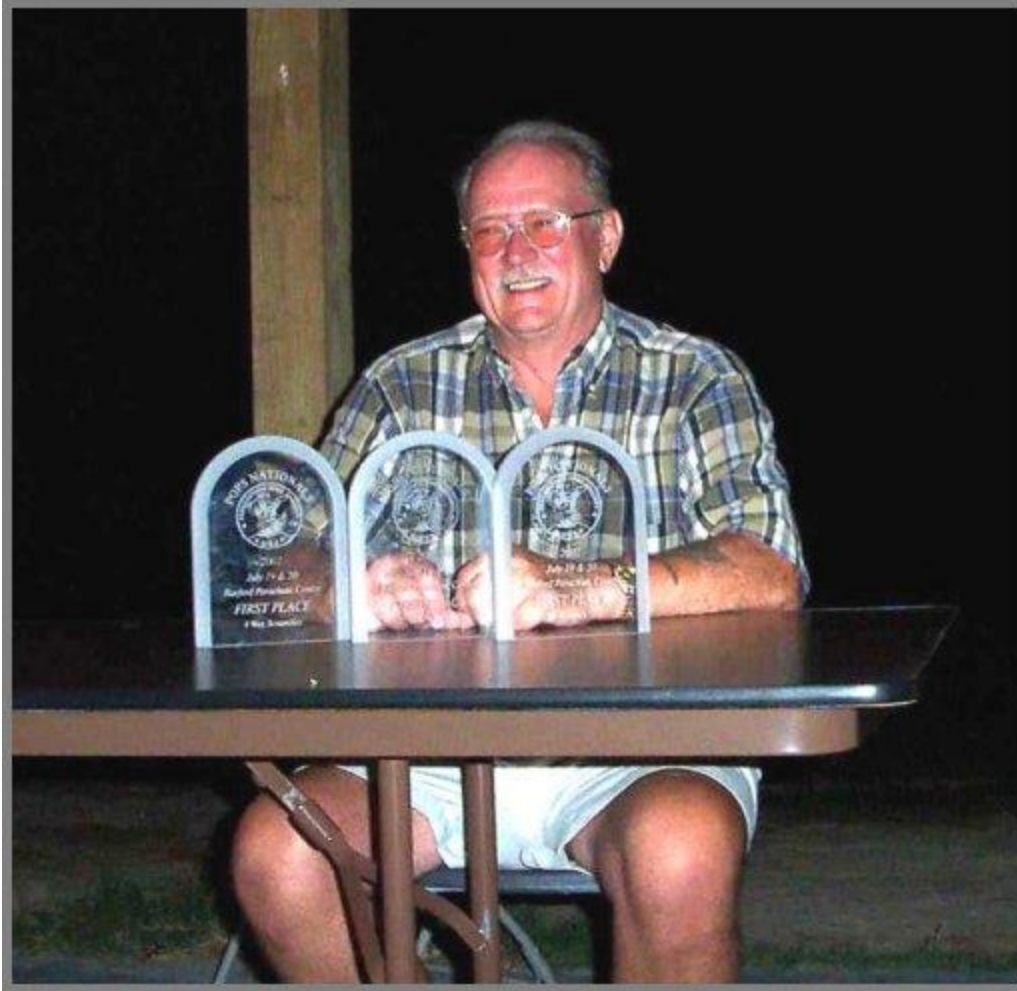
4th - Doug Dodson - 6.89

5th - Mike McGivern - 7.360

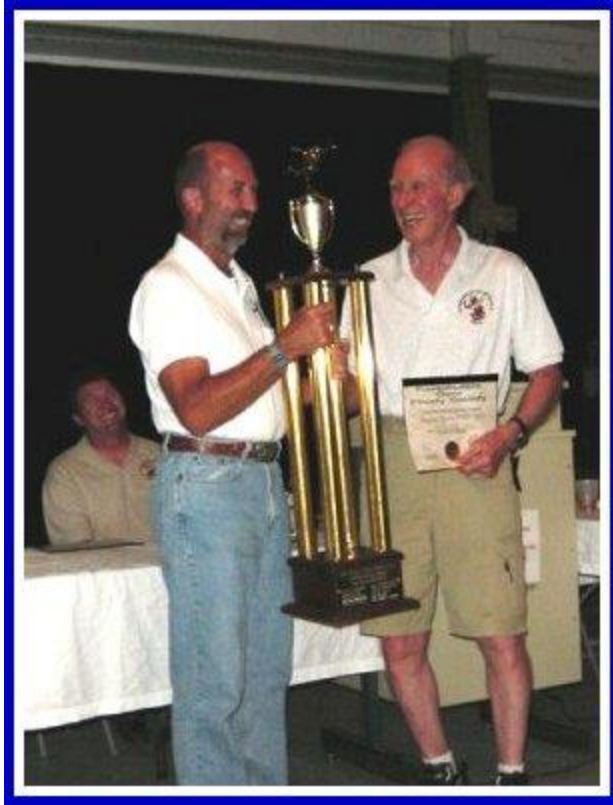
**FIRST TIME EVER ON RECORD!!! Mr. Tom
Zukowski - CONGRATULATIONS!!**

**Took First Place in Accuracy, 4-Way Scrambles (with
teammates) and Hit N Rock**

at Raeford Parachute Center, 2002 POPS Nationals



The evening was concluded with the annual "BEST OF POPS" Award. An award given annually to the POPS member voted to have the best POPS spirit. 2002 recipient was Walt Ross. Award presented by TopPop Ted Rose. Congratulations Walt!!



Photos by Kate Griesser & Cheryl Whitford
Text and page layout by Kate Griesser, edited by Cheryl Whitford

POPS Nationals 2002 Opening Ceremony Raeford Parachute Center

July 15 - 20th, 2002; **POPS** Boogied and played from RPC's two Cessna 182's and Twin Otter at Raeford until the Opening Ceremony for the POPS Nationals on July 19th. The US Army Parachute Team honored the POPS with a demonstration of Accuracy, CReW, and Relative Work. The National Anthem played as the American Flag



was jumped in.



The Spectators, young and old watched as the Golden Knights hit one dead center after



another!



POW's were recognized

with their flag and the North Carolina Flag was jumped in
with a CReW 2 stack to an on-target



landing.



Whether in formal presentation or casual greetings with POPS & POPS fans, the Golden Knights demonstrated more than professionalism. It was American pride.

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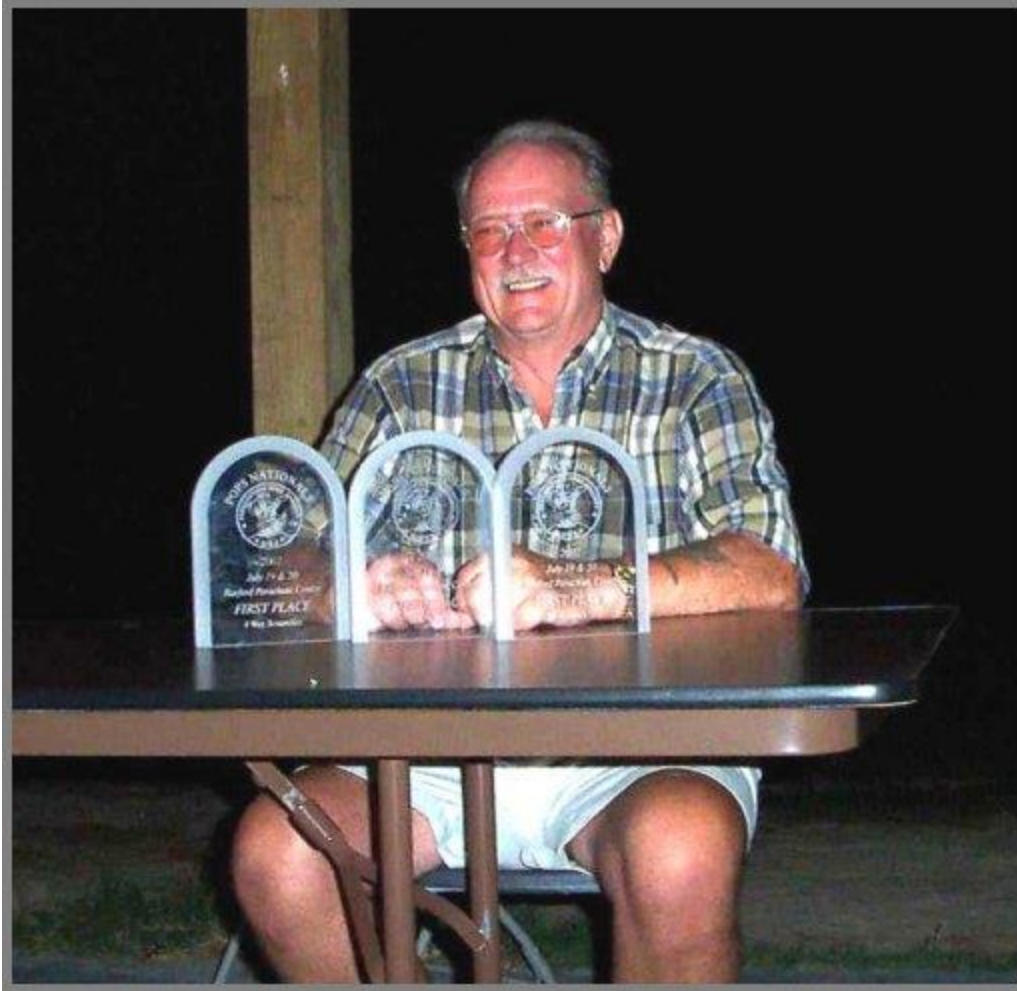
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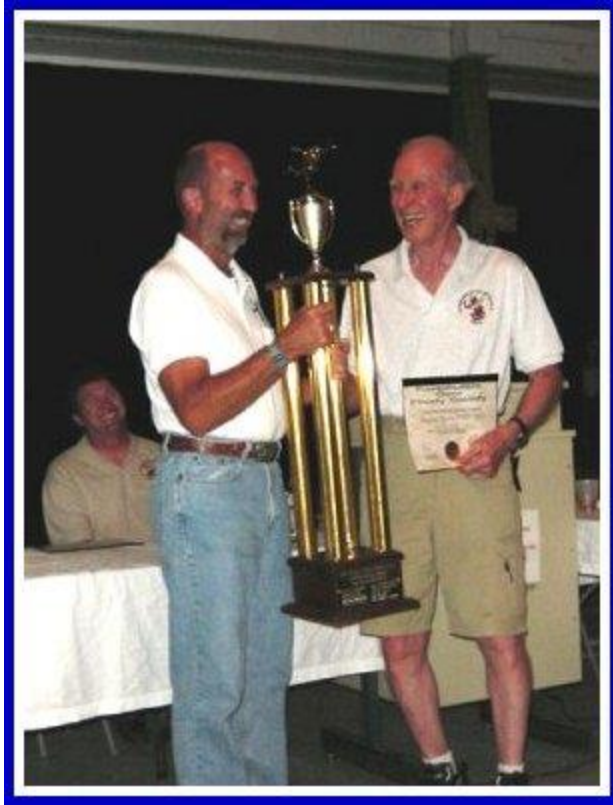
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POPS Nationals 2002 Hit N Rock Raeford Parachute Center

The staff worked hard all week, but none worked harder than the Hit N Rock Competitor. A very serious attempt to land, remove your rig, hit the target, then run 40 feet over to a rocking chair. Time starts when your feet hit the ground and stops when your fanny (preferable) hits the rocker. Below are are a few of the many photo's taken. Results to all the competitions including Hit N Rock are on the Banquet and Awards link page.



Some landed close, others landed far, but it was the "Hit" of the Rocker that gave the event so much personality.



Here a competitor uses the Left Side Approach.

Then there was the Right Sided Approach - although this seemed less stable.



There was the - "Where is the rocker?" Approach



The Right Slide Approach seemed appealing.....

but the Straight In Legs Up Approach worked



well.

That is, until we saw the Pretty As a Picture Straight In Rocker



Landing.

Over all the spectators gave Paul Zitzelman the Best Style in Overall Landing, Run and Hit into the Rocker (even if his time was not the lowest).





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