

POPS

28way

31 Aug 1997

Salado, TX

NOV 1997

MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD

Over 700 jumpers attended the PK in the Park Boogie held over the Labor Day weekend at the Raeford Parachute Center in North Carolina, reports correspondent Matthew Clark. The boogie was held in memory of DZ owner Gene Thacker's son Paul Keith. Jumps from a Twin Otter cost \$12 to 13,000 feet.

Skydivers at Napoleon Skydiving Center in Michigan set a state formation record last September when they completed a 50-way on their fourth attempt. George Jicha organized the jumpers; a CASA and Twin Otter carried them. "The group [faced] several challenges: 30 of the participants had never been in a formation of that size," said jumper Dale Southard. "Less than half of them had 1,000 jumps. Finally, the Otter pilot had never flown formation loads and airspace restricted the jumprun's length." The dive tops a 42-way built at the same DZ in 1995.

"4-Titude"—with Tim Addison, Kyle Cornelius, Julie Orrick and John Prickett—won the championships at this year's final Texas Skydiving League competition held in mid-September at Skydive Dallas in Whitewright. The team scored 40.89 points in three rounds, which included 3.63 handicap points per round. "Airection" came in second, followed by Terminal Ecstasy.

Members of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society built a 28-way formation last August at Skydive Temple in Salado, Tex. The dive qualifies as a POPS state record, reports participant Ed Miller.

Twenty-nine 4-way teams, seven 8-way teams, and seven 20-way teams at DZs around the country competed in the Trans-America Cup last September, a "fax meet" organized by SkyDance SkyDiving in Davis, Calif. The South African team "DeLand Equanimity" won 4-way open with a 19.8 average in six rounds. "Drag Queens & Colleen" from Perris Valley—the only team to enter 8-way open—won by default with a 5.8 average. "Mission Impossible," from SkyDance, won the 20-way event with a 5.5 average in four rounds. Some of the events also included a novice and intermediate class.

"CRewDOO," based at the Soderhamn parachute club in Sweden scored, 11 points during a round of 4-way rotation at this year's Swedish nationals held in Borlange, reports correspondent Lennart Vestbom. The dive qualifies as both a Swedish and Nordic record. CRewDOO won the event with a 9.4 average.

Skydive West in Mendota, Calif., marks the arrival of a newly acquired Beech 18 with a "Beech Boogie" November 15.

Paracentrum Texel in the Netherlands put up 1,000 tandem jumps during the month of August, reports DZ manager Herman Landsman. "With close to 2,500 tandems [since April] we've already topped our best season in 1995, with just over 2,200 tandems. Perfect weather and quite a lot of TV coverage earlier this year, surely contributed to this achievement."

WHAT?
You haven't joined yet?



POPS

Parachutists Over Phorty Society

Be eligible for POPS meets and big-ways

Being over 40 and having made at least one parachute jump (tandems included) are the only qualifications. Send \$20.00 (\$25.00 overseas) for a LIFE MEMBERSHIP includes card, POPS number, NEW DESIGN full-color embroidered patch, NEW full-color decal, Roster update, Catalog, etc. Sign up a friend. Great for gifts.

Current POPS members send \$8.00 for patch, \$5.00 for 3 decals.

ALICIA MOOREHEAD, TopPOP, 3350 St. Francis Pl., Long Beach, CA 90805-3854.

NOV 97

This Just In

POPS Set State Record

On August 31 in Salado, Texas, 28 Texans over the age of 40 set a new POPS state freefall formation record. It was a 100-percent POPS effort, with the pilot and cameraman over 40 as well.

Jumpers Build Tiny Biplane

Mal MacKee says that he and Charlie Mullins have completed the world's smallest canopy formation using an Icarus FX-69 and an Icarus FX-99. The New Zealand canopies marketed by Precision Aerodynamics of Dunlap, Tennessee, use a trussed internal construction that allows them to derive more usable flying surface from the same-sized platform as a more conventional canopy.

MacKee said they performed some very fast biplane spins and then transitioned into a downplane. MacKee, a very experienced New Zealand jumper, recommends against "trying this at home."

Color Concepts in Canada

Roger Ponce de Leon's traveling formation skydiving camp visited Horizon Aero Sports in Abbotsford, British Columbia, in Canada July 12-20. DZ owner Gerry Harper termed the event successful, reporting fair weather and good skydives. He flew the DZ's Pilatus Turbine Porter and, for four of the days, hired Kapowsin Air Sports' Super Twin Otter. More than 100 skydivers came to play and to enjoy Saturday night's salmon barbecue, prepared by Brian Pike.

Ponce described his experience: "An excellent pool of skydiving talent at one of my favorite drop zones."

Team Tests Smart Parachute

Strong Enterprises of Orlando, Florida, and SSE, Inc., of Pennsauken, New Jersey, have completed the initial tests of a parachute that lands itself on target. The two companies married SSE's Orion GPS parafoil guidance system to Strong's 520-square-foot tandem canopy to send a cargo load to a programmed point.

They tested shipments of 200-500 pounds, and landed the payloads within ten yards of the target.

Strong is marketing the system as the "GPS Cargo Express." The companies plan to test the system on 1,200-square-foot canopies to carry up to a ton.

Hot Trackers



RICHARD ZIMMERMAN

The best of ten jumpers registering for mid-July's Southern California Tracking Contest at Lake Elsinore, California are (left to right) Randy Scott, 1,400 jumps, second place; Roy Buchanan, 2,350 jumps, first place; and Dave McNeely, 810 jumps, third place. The jumpers left a Twin Otter at 12,500 feet for one round of winner-takes-all.

FAA Funding Stable

The 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act signed into law August 5 (*This Just In*, September) has more good news for skydiving and aviation. Not only does it excuse skydivers from paying a ten percent head tax on jumps, the bill settles recent concerns over aviation user fees, where pilots could have been billed on account for using FAA services such as weather briefings and radio calls to the tower.

According to a report from the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the bill keeps the current system of funding the FAA and its programs for another ten years.

Also good news from the report, all federal aviation fuel taxes will now go toward aviation. In the past, 4.3 cents of the 19.3 cents per gallon paid on aviation fuel went to offset the federal deficit. Beginning October 1, all federal fuel tax goes to the Airport and Airways Trust Fund, the fund used for grants to improve airports and the aviation infrastructure.

Congress granted the FAA's Airport Improvement Program \$1.7 billion in 1998, 70 percent higher than requested by the Clinton Administration.



COMPETITION OUTLOOK

October 4-19

U.S. National Championships of Formation Skydiving and Canopy Formation, Perris Valley Skydiving, California. 4-10: 4- and 8-way FS; 9-12: 20-way; 10-13: 10-way; 13-19: CF; 18: banquet (dates include registration, official practice and weather days). FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (909) 657-3904 (DZ).

October 10-12

X Trials 4/Pro World Titles of Skysurfing and Freelying, Ecole de Parachutisme de Chateau-d'Oex, Charmey, Switzerland. FFI: (972) 394-2566; sspirtour@aol.com.

October 16-19

U.S. National Championships of Freestyle Skydiving, Skydive Dallas, Whitewright, Texas. Dates include registration, official practice, weather days. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (903) 364-5103 (DZ).

December 26-January 3

1997 U.S. National Collegiate Parachuting Championships, Skydive Deland, Florida. Official practice, Dec. 26-27. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (904) 738-3539 (DZ).

March 18-21

U.S. National Championships of Para-Ski, Hunter Mountain, New York. FFI: USPA, (703) 836-3495 (ext. 312).

May 8-13

U.S. National Championships of Freetail Style & Accuracy Landing, Marana Skydiving Center, Arizona. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (800) 647-5867 (DZ).

October 16-22, 1998

U.S. National Championships of Freestyle Skydiving, Skydive Elsinore, Lake Elsinore, California. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (909) 245-9939 (DZ).

October 25-November 6, 1998

U.S. National Championships of Formation Skydiving and Canopy Formation, Skydive Arizona, Eloy, Arizona. FS: Oct. 25-Nov. 1; CF: Nov. 1-6. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (520) 466-3753 (DZ).

December 27-31, 1998

1998 U.S. National Collegiate Parachuting Championships, Marana Skydiving Center, Arizona. FFI: (703) 836-3495 (USPA); (800) 647-5867 (DZ).

DAVE LILICO