

## The Game of POPS

While many were saying “winter is coming”, POPS jumpers were welcoming Spring. It started with Bob Felt setting new CRW records and establishing an entire new category of POPS records, CRW Sequentials, but we’ll come back to that.

For the 49<sup>th</sup> year, POPS celebrated SpringFest once again at Lake Wales, FL. Dave DeWolf once again gave a generous donation. Tony Thacker showed up to represent SunPath and dropped off some freebies to be given away at the banquet.

The best part of POPS events is that it is a chance for friends, spouses, and jumpers who have taken a break from jumping to still meet up with old friends. A few of the attendees not jumping were Tom Plonka and John Young (both flew camera for Springfest for many years); Ski and Donna Chmielewski, Donna McFarland, Tom (former TopPOP) and Mary Ann Zukowski, Al Rosenberg, Ron and Linda Brissey, and Cheryl Whitford (JOES and JONS admin).

Another long-time competitor and supporter of POPS, Bob “Hubie” Huber was there one last time as his ashes were spread over the dropzone during an 8way formation dive. He had passed away on 11 Feb 2019. Hubie was a Classic Accuracy competitor in his early years and the last few years he was the muscle behind the Hit N Rock chair, holding it steady as competitors slammed into it.

Karl Poruben was chief judge with David “Tooth” Hounshell assisting him. Cheryl Whitford helped with timing Hit N Rock and judging Sport Accuracy. Kathy Poruben and her sister volunteered once again to help with the score keeping and recording.

Harry Moore, James Harrison, and Bob Busey cleaned up in several categories. In the Hit N Rock event they scored respectively first, second, and third place, while also being the winning team in Formation Skydiving.

Harry Moore also scored first place in Sport Accuracy with Bob Busey again securing third, however, Ron McFarland took second place in this event.

In second place FS Scrambles was team Metal Hunters consisting of: Mike Urzen, Pete Collins, and Dale Bragg. Third place had the crew of Marvin Emmons, Ron McFarland, and Robin “Cargo” Rowe.

None of these freefall scores could be tabulated without the thanks to the cameramen: Team Pan Pan Pan: David "Pip" Perry; Team Metal Hunters: Steve Sears; Team Marvin's Trio: Chico Tomaselli.

In the weeks following SpringFest, the ladies of SOS made a new formation record completing a 2point 14way at the SOS record attempts in Perris, California. Even more congratulations were given to the men of JOES, Jumpers Over EIGHTY, who also knocked out a new record of a 2point 4way. While most 4way teams would scoff at a simple 2point skydive, these are all jumpers over eighty, some of which still pack for themselves as well! Circling back to Bob Felt’s new CRW records, he was on hand to receive his records from the Top POP – James “Guido” Davis, who showed up to show support for all the SOS – JOES jumpers and record attempts. Guido also gave the ladies of SOS and men of JOES their respective certificates.

The next POPS event is POPS Nationals 2-6 Oct 2019 at Spaceland Houston, TX. The Nationals will also share the weekend with Marian Sparks and her JFTR – Jump For The Rose group. In support of JFTR, it is going to be “highly encouraged” for the traditional and always last event of the boogie, the Hit N Rock, that all competitors wear one of Marion’s (or bring your own) iconic pink bras. Both groups are planning to join forces and make a big way formation on Sunday and all participants coming for JFTR are welcome to come a few days early and join in the POPS fun.

On January First, the Top POP launched the NEW website: POPS-USA.com which has the new ONLINE application form. The new form can also be used to UPDATE POPS-JONS information. Carol Jones informed all her SOS members about this form and over ONE HUNDRED existing members used this form to update their information. There is NO charge to update your information and the Top POP is requesting people to please go to the new site and take advantage of this form to update their information.

POPS is “going green” so new members can fill out the form in about 3 minutes as well as PayPal the ONE time \$30 fee. However, people can still download the paper form and mail in a check.

Remember to REFRESH the website page EVERY time you come to it as it is CONSTANTLY being updated... it probably just got updated from the time you started reading this.

In 2020, POPS will have its biannual World Meet, this time to be held in Dunkeswell, England. There will be team training 5-7 Aug 2020, with competitions going from 8-15 Aug. At POPS Nationals in 2019, POPS is bringing back 4way FS TEAM competitions, so start getting your teams together to kick butt Nationally, or use this event to train up for the World Meet. For those that don’t have teams, there will still be a 4way FS Scrambles competition. At the 2018 World Meet, the US won First Place in 4way FS TEAM competition, let’s keep that tradition going!

- Top POP James “Guido” Davis -