

SOS

10way

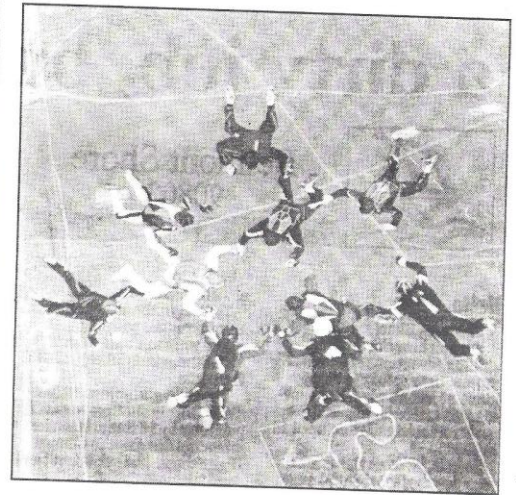
22 Mar 1997

Elsinore, CA

PRESS-TELEGRAM / WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 1997 *****

B4

LOCAL NEWS



Skydivers Over Sixty (SOS), an international group founded in 1993 by Pat Moorehead of Long Beach, jumped from 13,000 feet above Lake Elsinore on March 22, at right, setting a California record for the most skydivers age 60 and older to participate in a freefall formation. Ten members of SOS jumped, including Moorehead, 65, second from left in the front row above; Don Bieloh, 62, of Long Beach, left of Moorehead, and Judy Bieloh, 64, of Long Beach, second from left in the top row. Moorehead, who says he has never gone bungee-jumping because it scares him, began skydiving in 1969. His wife, Alicia, 50, is president of Parachuters Over Phorty Society (POPS). For details, call (562) 630-5229.

Jim Wallace/Wallace Skydiving School

4-1997

5-1997

MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD

Over 130 Brazilian skydivers turned out last month to spend a week jumping at Skydive DeLand in Florida. One goal is a all-Brazilian 100-way. Carmen Pettena organized the excursion.

Judy Celaya will serve as U.S. judge for the relative work portion of this year's World Air Games in September in Turkey.

Skydiving's Shannon Plicher logged his 1,000th jump recently at Skydive DeLand in Florida.

Danny Page is leaving his post as executive director of Skydive University to run the rigging loft at Skydive Sebastian in Florida. Page, who holds an MBA as well as an FAA Master Rigger certificate, ran Skydive University for about two years.

Christian Schoemig, a tandem instructor at Skydive Key West in Florida, has made 2,000 consecutive tandem jumps with Strong Enterprises rigs without a malfunction. "I thank Shelly Schofield for packing so well," he said, "and for taking good care of my gear."

Argentina has about 300 active skydivers who make about 25,000 jumps a year, reports Cesar Aguilar, president of an association of Latin American parachuting organizations. Nonetheless, the country hasn't recorded a single fatal skydiving accident in more than five years.

Beware of a skydiver "friend" who telephones saying his car has broken down on an interstate trip and he needs \$250 to get home. He asks that you wire him a loan. A former U.S. Team member has done this recently at least twice, and both times has failed to repay the loan.

Filmmaker Mike McGowan is looking for authentic skydiving equipment from the 1960s and 1970s for an upcoming movie. He said he especially needs jumpsuits and rigs "and the people who can jump them." Reach McGowan by telephone or fax in Arizona at (520) 466-4133.

A video tape of last year's Color Concepts dives, organized by Roger Ponce at DZs around the U.S., is available for \$25 from freefall photographer Robbie Culver. Telephone (847) 473-9646.

Butler Parachute Systems of Roanoke, Va., has developed the Parachute Performance Data Collection System that measures opening loads, airspeed and altitude during canopy deployment and flight. The system is housed in a box that measures about 7 x 3 x 3 inches. It can store 10 to 30 minutes of data and download it in ASCII format to a PC. The company's telephone is (540) 342-2501.

Strong Enterprises is having a big sale of "tons of stuff," reports president Ted Strong. The list includes everything from sport canopies to E-thread to military surplus items. Request the free list by writing 11236 Satellite Blvd., Orlando, FL 32837 or faxing (407) 850-6978; include your complete mailing address.

The Skydivers Over Sixty organization has contributed over \$1,500 in membership dues to the U.S. Team Trust Fund since SOS was formed in 1992, reports founder Pat Moorehead.

"The Nordic Way," a movie about the 1995 attempt to build a 140-way in Sweden, was shown at this year's New York Film Festival. The film was...

MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD

More than 500 skydivers registered for the Easter Boogie held March 26-31 at Skydive Arizona, reports drop zone manager Bryan Burke. He said the DZ averaged over 100 loads per day, or 2,075 jumps per day; its nine aircraft made a total of 130 loads on March 28, a record for the DZ. All told, skydivers made 12,450 jumps during the boogie.

Skydive Carolina! in Chester, S.C., will host a two-point 100-way invitational November 6-9, reports Mark Lancaster. Fayard Enterprises will supply the aircraft—three CASAs, a King Air and a Twin Otter. Organizers will include Danny Page, Chris Gay and Joe Trinko.

Sweden's popular Mid-Summer Boogie will be held at two drop zones this summer, reports guest organizer Gareth Holder. The event will begin June 20-22 at the Soderhamn Parachute Club and then move to the Stockholm Parachute Club at Grytjorn for the remainder of the boogie: June 23-30. A 300-series Twin Otter and a turboprop Cessna 206 will fly the jumpers. "More planes might be added," says Holder. Contact Ola Jamesson at (46) 87-20-66-20.

Members of the Skydivers Over Sixty organization built a 10-way formation March 22 at Skydive Elsinore in California, for a state record, reports DZ spokesman Jacqueline Scoones.

Jumpers in Australia built a 55-way formation last month, a record for that country, reports participant Fiona McEachern. The dive was built during an Easter boogie at Corowa in New South Wales. Jumpers at the DZ also built a 40-way women's record, topping a 32-way built in 1992. The women then built a 51-way, but the formation was held for less than three seconds. The women's dives were organized by McEachern and Julie Ward.

The "DeLand Gang" beat three other 40-way teams in a fax meet March 29-30 by scoring 118 points in three rounds. "Let's Boogie," a predominately Danish team training in DeLand, finished second with 109 points. Skydive City placed third with 92 points and Sebastian finished fourth with 88. The meet was a speed-formation contest, but none of the teams completed a 40-way on every round.

The Perris Valley Gumbies took first place and \$500 at the Elsinore handicap 4-way meet held March 15 at Skydive Elsinore, reports DZ owner Larry Noggle. Nine other teams registered for the event.

Approximately 85 people—60 jumpers and 25 of their cohorts—attended the South of the Border Boogie March 13-17 in San Carlos, Mexico, reports organizer George Jicha. Skydive Arizona organizes the event twice a year and provides the aircraft and organizers. Jumpers paid \$545 for 12 jumps, five-star hotel accommodations, a sunset Margarita cruise and a water sport of their choice. Non-jumpers paid \$345.

Over 300 jumpers registered for a "grand opening" boogie held March 21-23 at Skydive Palm Beach in Pahokee, Fla. The DZ, located on the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee, opened last November. Jumps during the boogie cost only \$10 to about 13,000 feet. Aircraft included a Twin Otter, Cessna Caravan, King Air 200 and Bell...

SPRING 1997

SKYDIVE ELSINORE

Jump Run

the official newsletter of Skydive Elsinore



EVENT NEWS

SKYDIVERS SET RECORD
AT SKYDIVE ELSINORE

Members of Skydivers Over Sixty (SOS) set a new California State record on Saturday, March 22, at Skydive Elsinore, building a ten-way formation on their first attempt. The jumpers ranged in age from sixty to seventy years old. Don Bieloh, 62, with 110 jumps and two years in the sport, was the least experienced participant and perhaps the most jubilant of the celebrants. His wife Judy, who has made 430 jumps since she started skydiving at age 59, chuckled at her husband's newfound enthusiasm. "It took me years to get him to try it," she said. "Now he's hooked." Judy also participated in the record-setting event, which occurred on one of the first loads of the day. Younger skydivers arriving midmorning were caught up the contagious glee of the SOS group already whooping it up at 9:30 am in the packing area. "Wow!" exclaimed one young man wearing a baggy freely suit reminiscent of the first RW attire, "some of these guys started skydiving in the 'fifties!'"

In fact, Bud La Pointe made his first jump, in the military, in 1946. Since then, La Pointe has made 575 skydives. Sylvester St. Cyr, who has accumulated 682 skydives, started jumping in 1952. Lake Elsinore's own Jerry Bourquin has racked up 3250 jumps since 1959; Pat Moorehead, who started jumping at Elsinore in 1969, was the most experienced of the group with almost 5000 skydives. The youngest participant, Joe Wasser, started skydiving in 1970, one year before Stan Perrine, the eldest, made his first jump. Wasser, with 2675 skydives and Perrine, with 1333, both have less time in the sport than the group's overall average of 28.5 years in skydiving. Carlos Portillo and Len Zak both started skydiving in 1964, respectively logging 1686 and 2600 skydives. Total number of jumps for the group: 17,901.

Moorehead, who organized the record-breaking dive, is the founder of SOS. Since 1993 the club has grown to a membership of over three hundred skydivers in fourteen countries. Some members make only a few jumps but, as evident in the Elsinore event, some SOS members continue logging jumps almost every weekend. According to Moorehead, the oldest SOS members are in their eighties, and many are still skydiving. Officially, SOS is a branch of the POPS organization -- Parachutists Over Phorty -- and SOS members regularly attend and participate in POPS meets and events.

Two days after the event, Moorehead was still elated. "I'm sending press releases to local papers," he explained, "telling them a bunch of senior citizens just set a skydiving record at Elsinore. I know they'll like the pictures, and maybe we'll get a few more prospective SOS members out to the drop zone this spring!" The local publicity may, in fact, prompt considerable interest from the many retirement communities in southern California. Advances in skydiving equipment and training has made landing a canopy a lot safer, says Moorehead, eliminating most of the qualms some seniors have about beginning the sport later in life or continuing to skydive well past retirement. (Spectators didn't notice any SOS members jubilantly hooking it in on final approach after the successful dive.) Moorehead and the rest of the ten-way hope their achievement will inspire SOS members in other parts of the country to break more SOS records.

SOS Association Celebrates 5th Anniversary

by Pat Moorehead

Who would have believed that there would someday be an organization comprised solely of skydivers over the age of 60? And who would have figured that in five short years, such an organization—Skydivers Over Sixty—would have a membership of over 350 jumpers from 14 nations?

A Brief History

While attending the POPS (Parachutists Over Phorty Society) Winter Meet in Florida in 1992, just for the heck of it, 10 competitors—who just happened to be over 60—knocked out a quick 10-way formation.

Besides myself, there were a few legends



SOS members built a 10-way earlier this year over Elsinore, Calif. The author is part of the 4-way base. Photograph by Jim Wallace.

TEE TOP

Hooded Sweatshirts
"For the Rush!"
Multi-Color Hooded Sweat
\$25.00
CUSTOM COLORS AVAILABLE

T-Shirts
"SkyDiver"
Full Color T-Shirt
\$15.00

Turtlenecks
"SkyDiver"
Full Color Turtle Neck
\$22.00

Coffee Mugs
"Sky Diver"
\$6.00

SET OF FOUR \$20.00

TEE TOP GRAPHICS
All NEW!
\$19.97

VISA

MasterCard

(504) 924-0018
We accept checks, money orders, Visa and Master Card.

Attention Drop Zone Owners!
We can accommodate all your custom printing needs.

All orders are shipped UPS within 48 hours. Shipping charges are \$4.95 for the first item and \$1.00 for each additional item with a \$10.00 maximum. International shipping charges may vary. We will be glad to honor any special handling requests when able. Price Subject to Change Without Notice.
1835 Dallas Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Fax (504) 924-0018

3-1997

on the load: Danny Hupert, Max Mien-sopust, Tom Morrison, Lew Sanborn, Bob Sinclair, Walter Ross, G.D. Williams, Bill Wood and Len Zak.

Our total time in the sport added up to 297 years and we had 32,443 jumps between us.

We all know how skydivers like numbers, and it wasn't long before SOS freefall numbers were issued to the group. A few months later, jumpers built more SOS formations, and we soon started a membership list.

And now, whenever there is a POPS meet, approximately 20 percent of the competitors are also SOS.

The membership consists mostly of active skydivers. But others are eligible to join, including those who have made only one jump, or those who jumped many years ago when canopies were round and the ground seemed harder.

SOS is a part of POPS, and the logo is the same with minor text modifications.

We can all remember when many jumpers were reluctant to join POPS and the membership grew quite slowly. That has all changed and POPS continues to grow, averaging 60 new POPS per month, with a ros-

ter of almost 6,200 names.

I receive applications from jumpers anxious to join SOS, sometimes several months before their 60th birthday. The lifetime dues of \$5 includes a membership number, rosters, and a USPA Team Sponsor decal.

Why the Sponsor Decal?

All money from the dues, sale of patches, SOS decals, T-shirts, and golf shirts, is donated to the U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund. As administrator, I take only mailing and processing expenses from this income. To date, SOS has donated over \$1,500 to the fund. In addition, members regularly send personal donations to the fund.

Why the Donations?

As a member of the U.S. Parachute Association, I have always supported the national teams. When I suggested to the original SOS members that any excess monies be donated to the trust fund, the idea was unanimously approved.

Remember, for the most part these are skydivers who started this sport in the 50s and 60s. These jumpers have seen the national organization grow from a few hun-



PAT MOOREHEAD
National Director - Retired
United States Parachute Association

CORPORATE OFFICE:
1440 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
(703) 836-2495

REGIONAL OFFICE:
3350 ST. FRANCIS PLACE
LONG BEACH, CA 90805
(310) 630-5229

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT



IS A MEMBER OF THE

Skydivers Over Sixty

Signed (Top SOS)



...the year and its first jumps between us.

We all know how skydivers like numbers, and it wasn't long before SOS freefall numbers were issued to the group. A few months later, jumpers built more SOS formations, and we soon started a membership list.

And now, whenever there is a POPS meet, approximately 20 percent of the competitors are also SOS.

The membership consists mostly of active skydivers. But others are eligible to join, including those who have made only one jump, or those who jumped many years ago when canopies were round and the ground seemed harder.

SOS is a part of POPS, and the logo is the same with minor text modifications.

We can all remember when many jumpers were reluctant to join POPS and the membership grew quite slowly. That has all changed and POPS continues to grow, averaging 60 new POPS per month, with a ros-

...and a GOPA team sponsor decal.

Why the Sponsor Decal?

All money from the dues, sale of patches, SOS decals, T-shirts, and golf shirts, is donated to the U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund. As administrator, I take only mailing and processing expenses from this income. To date, SOS has donated over \$1,500 to the fund. In addition, members regularly send personal donations to the fund.

Why the Donations?

As a member of the U.S. Parachute Association, I have always supported the national teams. When I suggested to the original SOS members that any excess monies be donated to the trust fund, the idea was unanimously approved.

Remember, for the most part these are skydivers who started this sport in the 50s and 60s. These jumpers have seen the national organization grow from a few hundred to tens of thousands. They recognize the importance of supporting USPA and, in particular, the teams that represent U.S. skydiving around the world.

The current SOS freefall record stands at 12. But southern California jumper Joe Wasser (SOS 300) is planning to set a 20-way record at the upcoming U.S. Nationals in October at Perris Valley. It shouldn't be much of a problem, since Carey Peck's POPS mega-ways always have some SOS members closing on the formations (the POPS record is 75 going for 100).

New SOS members are always welcome. Recently, Trevor Collins and his wife Lucille, made a tandem at Jim Wallace's school at Elsinore, Calif. Collins made his first jump 21 years ago on his 60th birthday. He bought the tandem for his wife on her 78th birthday. That same morning, a 90-year-old great grandmother made her first jump as well.

When your mom or dad finally makes a tandem, tell them about SOS. They can wear the SOS logo with pride, knowing that they have contributed toward the international reputation of our skydiving community.

(SOS memberships are available from Pat Moorehead at 3350 St. Francis Place, Long Beach, CA 90805-3854. Telephone is (562) 630-5229 or fax 630-2389. Include your name, date of birth, number of jumps, and \$5 one-time dues.) □