

# SOS Skydivers Pennsylvania Record

**28 May 2006**

**9way**

**Chambersburg, PA**

Participants: Danny Michewicz, Kenneth Plankenhorn, Terry Crowe, Ty Zellers, Dave DeWolf, Bob Atkins, Chet Shorts, Earl (Rocky) Radabaugh, John Fitzgerald

On 28 May 2006 nine S.O.S. (Skydivers Over Sixty) jumpers set a Pennsylvania record. It was the first time they had jumped together as a group and missed the first attempt by 0.5 seconds. There were several things not in their favor besides being the first time in the air together. The Chambersburg DZ's King Air was out of service and the owner (J.R. Sides) had to scramble to borrow a plane from Crosskeys, New Jersey. That King Air was configured for tandem jumps with two seating benches installed. This left less than a two foot width isle for the jumpers to exit single file. The door was smaller, but probably the biggest drawback was NO outside floater bars, creating a "no-show" exit except for the photographer. It was a 9-way freely formation. The pilot was fairly inexperienced on this type aircraft and he was able to give us a slower exit speed and some extra altitude on the second attempt. Since no one was able to float and no base was pulled off, the exit time was further reduced by passing a "hot" signal being passed from the last man before the exit count, which prevented stringing the group out. The second attempt was successful and complete at 7,000 feet. Several experienced jumpers stated "you did it the hard way and it was well earned". Seven members of the record jump were members of the Maytown Sport Parachute Club and another attempt at breaking this record is planned for July 2nd. The King Air was previously owned by Elvis Presley.

Submitted by Ty Zellers (D-1068 POPS-2000 SOS-900)



Photo by Jim Griffith



Left to right: Danny Michewicz, Kenneth Plankenhorn, Terry Crowe, Ty Zellers, Dave DeWolf, Bob Atkins, Chet Shorts, Earl (Rocky) Radabaugh, John Fitzgerald

## **Additional information:**

Organizer: Bob Atkins (POPS# 4507 SOS# 987)

Jump experience as follows:

- Bob Atkins - 12 yrs. - 3,300 jumps
  - Chester Shorts - 37 yrs. - 1,400 jumps
  - Earl (-Rocky-) Radabaugh - 53 yrs. - 2,000 jumps
  - Kenneth Plankenhorn - 19 Yrs. - 3,300 jumps
  - Dave DeWolf - 44 yrs. - 11,800 jumps
  - Danny Michewicz - 23 yrs. - 1,500 jumps
  - John Fitzgerald - 19 yrs. - 800 jumps
  - Terry Crowe - 42 yrs. - 4,800 jumps
  - Ty Zellers - 43 yrs. - 4,200 jumps
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- Total jump experience = 293 yrs. - 33,100 jumps