

**POPS (not) record**

**54way**

**3 Dec 1994**

**Perris, CA**

# Paragrams

## January Board Meeting

USPA will host its first board of directors meeting for 1994 at the Doubletree Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 21-23.

USPA's annual general membership meeting will begin on January 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Doubletree. Any USPA member in good standing is invited to attend.

USPA is extending a special rate of \$79 per night, single or double occupancy, to all members staying for any portion of the board meeting.

For reservations, contact the Doubletree in Salt Lake City at (801) 531-7500. For any other information about the meetings, contact USPA Headquarters directly at (703) 836-3495.

## A New POPS Record ~~NOT-SEE~~ <sup>OVER</sup>

During the first weekend in December, 54 members of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society (POPS) met at Perris Valley,

California, to smash the previous POPS freefall formation record.

Organizers Carey Peck, D-12367, and Dave Leclercq, D-11440, were hoping to build a new 50-way record at Perris. By the end of the weekend, the group had grown to 54 and successfully set a new freefall record for POPS.

Beginning Friday, December 3, POPS members from around the country and the world—some returning from the recent POPS World Meet held in Florida (*see article on page 20*)—committed three days to building the record formation. It took a couple of days to get warmed up, and by Sunday afternoon, they completed their first of two 50-ways and held it for a full nine seconds.

With a little daylight left, Peck and Leclercq added four more POPS to the load to attempt back-to-back records. The formation built easily, adding insurance to an already

certain record, and 54 POPS set a new international record for their organization.

## Massachusetts Accident Still Under Investigation

Preliminary reports from the field on last month's tail-strike involving a skydiver and a Piper Cherokee over Northampton, Massachusetts, indicate that the drop zone may have done everything possible to prevent the accident before it happened.

The incident occurred when a solo jumper struck the vertical stabilizer of the Cherokee shortly after exiting the jump plane at approximately 7,500 feet. The skydiver sustained serious injuries to his ankle and lower leg but was able to deploy and land safely. Unfortunately, the pilot of the Cherokee lost control of the aircraft and it went in. The pilot and all three passengers were killed in the crash.

According to New England Skydivers' operator Dave Strickland, the jump aircraft was in contact with air traffic controllers and broadcasted the appropriate calls on local frequencies before the collision occurred. The drop zone, which was clearly marked on the area's sectional maps, had also filed



DAVE KEITH

54 members of the Parachutists Over Phorty Society build a new POPS record over Perris Valley Skydiving in Southern California.

'SKYDIVING'  
295

# LETTERS

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to the other competitors even if, or maybe even especially if, it were a lower medal. Any true sportsman would feel the same.

Do you not realize, Mr. McKeeman, that the medal itself has little meaning and that only what it represents is really important? What do you think those undeserved medals represent to those competitors holding them? How proudly do you feel those competitors can display them?

If I were in the position of one of those competitors, you would not have to "take away" the medal, you would have already received it.

Sherry Schrimsher stated that if she were chief judge, she would contact the competitors and inform them that "the unthinkable" had happened. Perhaps this is why, as the article stated, she has acted as chief judge at

several U.S. and world competitions. She is clearly qualified to act as chief judge as her willingness to make such hard decisions indicates.

Your credibility is at stake, gentlemen.

Monte Kay  
Songtan, Kyungki-Do  
Korea

## Setting the Record Straight

Great photo of the almost-a-record POPS 75-way (SKYDIVING #162).

However, the current "recognized" POPS record is a 40-way formation put together at Lake Elsinore, Calif., December 13, 1992.

The 50- and 54-way dives organized by Carey Peck in December 1993 are not recognized POPS records because nine partici-

pants were not registered POPS members. Three of the nine filed for membership a week after the event.

I would like to clear up this misconception because someone may be considering a more conservative POPS record such as a 45-way.

Len Zak  
POPS Awards Coordinator  
Torrance, Calif.

## Hollywood Blues

Whaaa, whaaa, whaaa. "Drop Zone" this, "Terminal Velocity" that, "our image" this and that.

What is it about skydivers that turns them into a bunch of name-dropping egomaniacs when Hollywood comes calling, and then into a crib full of crybabies when we don't come out looking quite as cool as we thought we were?

Did it ever occur to you that maybe we aren't all that cool?

There's a reason that there are many, many more people who don't skydive than do. Let's not flatter ourselves; we're not special, we're not a lofty breed of superhumans blessed with divine insight. We're one seriously flawed bunch of people.

I defy any skydiver to look over his shoulder and not see at least one fellow skydiver who isn't a casual drug user, or a jobless bum, perhaps a divorcee, maybe an orphan, a gay in denial, a rehabilitated hard drug user, a reformed criminal, a current criminal, an alcoholic, a struggling actor, a widow, a college dropout, a disillusioned college graduate, or God knows what else.

These people came into skydiving not because it was some glittery, romantic celebration of life; but because it offered them a powerful escape from the very real demons tormenting their lives.

I would even venture to say many such people aren't aware of these forces at work and probably do believe they are in this sport for other reasons. It's called denial.

I know what demons delivered me onto the doorstep of this, yes, very dangerous sport. And I also know that I'm probably happiest when I'm skydiving.

(continued on page 41)

# TRIATHLON

## the one parachute that does it all!

arch is proud to introduce the *Triathlon* advanced performance parachute.

cell zero-porosity ram-air parachute designed by Bill Hazlett for skydivers who want one

oration conducted an extensive survey of skydivers to determine exactly what parachute characteristics were personally most important. A surprising discovery was that almost r usual favorite discipline, wanted the same general characteristics. Equally enlightening was parachute existed that could satisfy all the demands of the "all-around skydiver".

a new canopy that combined features found in several parachutes. It must have a *small pack* must open softly and on-heading *every* time. It must be *fun* to fly with light toggle pressures *fast* with a great glide. It must have excellent airfoil pressurization and be absolutely *stable* in *adept* for CRW and demo jumping as well as its primary role of *fun jumping*. It must be *ressive* turf-surfs or to land softly on a tight demo. It must be durable and reliable. It must be t a price that is *exceedingly affordable*. The *Triathlon* design brilliantly accomplishes all of

otally new seven-cell design in many years. After two years in design and development *parachute that does it all*.

compensating airfoil design- yields extremely high airfoil pressurization while equally out the canopy.

Fabric- the *Triathlon* uses a special fabric coated with a flexible polymer finish. The bric has an easy to grip surface that packs easily-unlike other z-po fabrics. design and reinforcing technology produces the absolute smallest packing zero-porosity

n lines- and stainless steel mini-links are standard at no additional cost.

ading edge-the upper surface smoothly rounds the rib leading edge to reduce inlet drag edibly soft and consistent openings. The *Triathlon* is definitely not your typical seven-cell. latest advances in airfoil technology with ultra-low drag suspension lines to create a d out-glides ultra-high performance zero-porosity nine-cells.

ontrol system- the tightest manufacturing standards in the industry assure extremely high

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The Ultimate Logbook Stamp