

# skydive

The Mag

February 2009



The British Parachute  
Association Magazine



[www.bpa.org.uk](http://www.bpa.org.uk)  
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The legend that is Pat Hammond strikes again this issue, with a very cool front cover, indicative of the CF revival that seems to be sweeping Europe lately. At 72, Pat is younger in spirit than most of the world is at 30. He spends a lot of his time with the new kids on the block, teaching them the art of canopy formations. He is an inspiration.



Looking inside, the legend that is Rolls (Roy) from *Hayabusa* has written a fantastic article, *Time for a Change*, containing advice on choosing and jumping with a new team member – very topical as that's exactly what's happening with a lot of teams right now. It's my favourite feature this Mag as I love the way Rolls writes from the heart, you read his words and feel as though he's having a chat with you.

Rick Boardman's submitted a tongue-in-cheek article about jumping through the credit crunch, mostly common sense but useful stuff. Plus a run-down on hypoxia and how to prevent it. Staying on the ground would save both the hypoxia and the bank balance but it's not nearly so much fun, even in the snow.

We have some fabulous images of the sport from Norman Kent, Andy Lovemore and Ville Huttu-Hiltunen, which really convey the excitement, originality and beauty of our sport. When you've been jumping for a lot of years, it's easy to become complacent and forget how special it is. That's one of the reasons I love my editorial role, as the photos and thoughts I'm sent from all around the world inspire me. Then I try to convey that enthusiasm and passion back to you, through the magazine.

Happy reading!

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Lesley

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The Mag  
www.skydivemag.com

We have lots of overseas subscribers, non BPA members who get The Mag because they like it.

If you're interested in skydiving, whatever nation you're from whether a first jump student, an adventure sports enthusiast, or you jump abroad, you'll enjoy The Mag.

If you subsequently join the BPA as a full member (after six jumps or when you progress to freefall) your magazine subscription amount is deducted from your BPA membership fee so, in all, **you don't pay any extra.**

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Photo, by Willy Boeykens shows a Craig Girard dive at the Spa-cial Invitations at Spa, Belgium



**Cover:**

By Pat Hammond, shows a 5-stack with (from the ground upwards) Jamie Flynn, Tom Urbanski, Martin Robiette, Pat Hammond (feet only) and Doug Preston (unseen pilot)



SUPPORTED BY







# skydive

The Mag

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**NOTE:** Some of the photos in this magazine may show skydivers without helmets or altimeters, or otherwise not obeying the BPA Operations Manual, in which case they were taken abroad. In the UK it is mandatory to wear a helmet and alti for obvious safety reasons. Students within The Mag are complying with BPA regulations.

Skydiving training and systems vary in different countries. If you are considering taking a skydiving course or qualification abroad, we recommend you first establish its relevance in the UK, through your CCI.

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The information in this magazine was, to the best of our ability, correct at the time of going to press. Reproduction, printing and mailing take a total of ten days so some information may be out of date, or superseded.



# EXTREME SCRABBLE

Extreme isn't a word that you would normally associate with a game of Scrabble but that's how Hasbro, manufacturer of the timeless board game, decided to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, in November 2008.

These images by Norman Kent and friends show a freefall 'game' of Extreme Scrabble, played by his wife Nicole Angelides-Kent and his son, Ramsey Kent. The skydiving scrabble was publicised alongside countless extreme versions of scrabble including; on the African savannah next to lions; alongside alligators in a Florida swamp; underwater with sharks in the Bahamas; in an ice cave in New Zealand; and on a porta-ledge halfway up Snowdon. The promotion was especially for the UK, and featured a retro redesign of the board and pieces, going back to its original colours.

Scrabble was originally invented in 1931 by an unemployed architect named Alfred Butts. It was quietly played by just the inventor and his friends until 1948 when it began to be manufactured and sold – sixty years later it is still the world's best-selling word game. Deriving from the Dutch word 'schrabbelan', meaning to claw or to scrape, over 150 million sets have been produced in 30 languages, the latest being Welsh.

Constructing a specially reinforced wooden board, with the pieces glued on, Norman said the stunt jumps went fairly easily. At first they wanted to sit-fly but there were problems holding the board, which didn't want to stay flat, developing a violent life of its own. They found a solution by weighing down the board with 45lbs and belly-flying, both players holding on. Initially both skydivers kept a firm grip with two hands but after a few jumps were able to relax more and adopt positions such as leaning the elbows on the board, trying to look as though they were thinking of a word. (A-A-D?!)

The team did the jumps at Zephyrhills, Florida, where the dropzone had a permit to release the board over the (uninhabited) swamps. Even with 45lbs of lead, the board went up in relation to the skydivers each time they let go. The group provided entertainment each load, getting on with the board. Norman relayed a story of a guy in the aircraft on run-in leaning over to look at the board, saying "Gee, these magnets are strong" as he pulled the glued piece right off the board – on a 2-minute call! Norman finished by saying, "We had a lot of fun doing the shoot together, keeping it in the family".



Norman Kent



Ramsey and Nicole by Norman Kent



Tony Hathaway





Norman Kent

Norman Kent by Zane Silvestri





## Coaching at UK Parachuting

UK Parachuting are offering coaching weeks, one a month through the summer season, open to all standards, from 20 to 10,000 jumps. They will have coaches available to suit all – formation skydiving, freeflying, canopy piloting, etc. They will also hold lectures on packing, equipment maintenance and all JM 1 subjects.

### Coaching Weeks

4-8 May  
8-12 June  
6-10 July  
24-28 August  
21-25 September

Tim Porter will be at UK Para for freefly coaching & organising, for all levels from complete beginner to advanced level, Thursday 7 to Sun 10 May. Those able to get out of bed in the morning can take advantage of UK Para's early bird loads, every weekend, just £15 a ticket if the aircraft takes off before 9am.

[ukparachuting.co.uk](http://ukparachuting.co.uk)

## Big-ways Galore

**Jump for the Cause** (JFTC) has now invited 30 Brit Chicks to the women's world record attempt, 21-27 September at Perris Valley, run by Kate Cooper-Jensen, making us the second highest represented nation. The event will raise money for breast cancer research; there are fundraising events planned in the UK. The chicks are collecting old mobile phones to trade in. There will be a phone drop-off point at your DZ soon, to donate your old mobiles.

[jumpforthecause.com](http://jumpforthecause.com)

Just beforehand at Perris is a **POPS World Record** attempt, 18-20 September. Running in parallel to JFTC at the same time and place, is a **Men's World Record**, organised by Larry Henderson and friends.

[big-ways.com](http://big-ways.com)

15-19 June sees an **Eastern European 100-way and big-way camp**, at Ostrow, Poland, out of a fleet of aircraft including a Skyvan, five Turbolet 410s and a TurboFinist. Ostrow is large, well-equipped and is offering transfers from Warsaw, and accommodation. 100-way organisers are Kate Cooper-Jensen, BJ Worth and Larry Henderson, and for the big-way camp, Herman Landsman, Lesley Gale and Johan Hansson. Cameraflyers will include all-stars Norman Kent and Andrey Veselov.

[big-ways.eu](http://big-ways.eu)

A big-way camp is planned in the beautifully equipped **Cerfontaine, Belgium, 1-5 July**, run by Kate, Herman, Lesley, Larry, Johan plus DZ host, Tom Migerode. Jumps will be from 14,000 feet out of an AN-28 and 2-3 Grand Caravans, giving all participants the chance to try a range of exit and formation slots, in a no pressure environment.

[4xtremetime.com](http://4xtremetime.com)

# Go Vertical at Langar



Go Vertical returns to Skydive Langar this year, over the May Bank holiday from Wednesday 20 until Monday 25. Confirmed organisers so far are *Airkix Freestyle*, *Bullet Freestyle* and Tim Porter. Once again they have Jan Wildgruber's Beech 99, now flying even faster this year to 15,000ft – 'less aircraft time, more freeflying time!' promises Bullet. Evening jump-ins will take place once again into the Boot and Shoe pub, a 'barbecue bonanza' and a secret location. Head-up, head-down, formations, tracking, tracing, hybrids, one-on-one coaching are all on offer. You can expect the legendary Langar parties, food, drink, live music and nightly freefly movie shows. Have you made a freefly video? Bring it along and show off your skills on the big screen.

Photo: Al Hodgson and Mike McKenzie over Langar by Gary Wainwright

[bpslangar.co.uk](http://bpslangar.co.uk)

# Twin Beech Boogie and More



Beech



Antonov-2

Dunkeswell is offering helicopter jumps from a Hughes 500, on Friday 10 April and Friday 24 July from 9am, and AN-2 jumps Friday 30 May. Pre-registration is essential, call the office. Easter long weekend sees a Speed 6 competition, then the May bank holiday (30 May-1 June) has Mikey Carpenter and Adam Mattacola offering freefly coaching.

The Twin Beech boogie warms up with Dunkeswell's own Beech 90 on 25-26 July and then the Beech 99 arrives on Monday 27 for 'seven days of Twin Turbine action', with coaching by Dave Morris, Volare, Andy Lovemore, Chris Lynch, Alberto Fuertes, Macca from Phoenix Fly and Tim Porter. Register early, numbers are limited.

[skydivethewell.com](http://skydivethewell.com)  
01404 890222

# Sparkle with Sparky

Claire 'Sparky' Scott, who has won five gold medals on a world stage, is now dedicating her time and energy to coaching all levels. Whether you are looking to get your FS1, improve general personal skills or train 4-way, she will tailor her coaching to your specific needs. She can also draw on the expertise of her former teammates should you want to ramp it up with some two-on-two. She will be coaching at Airkix and Bodyflight tunnels and travelling to a number of dropzones to coach specific 4-way teams. You can benefit from the knowledge Sparky has gained from over a decade of receiving world class coaching whilst on teams such as *VMax*, *Airkix* and *Bodyflight Storm*.

[sparky-scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sparky-scott@hotmail.co.uk)





# airkix

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## Sparky Camp

4-5 March



Five times World Champion Sparky Scott is running a tunnel camp in March here at Airkix. Sparky is the most successful FS competitor in the country and is an amazing coach. You can't fail to progress with her relaxed but progressive approach to teaching individual and team FS skills.

Contact [sparky-scott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sparky-scott@hotmail.co.uk)



## Airspeed Camp

1 April

We are extremely excited to have the awesome Airspeed Odyssey back with us 1st April. The whole team, Eliana, Craig, Mark and Andy, are available for coaching but slots are limited so hurry and book now.

Contact [elianaskychic@yahoo.com](mailto:elianaskychic@yahoo.com)

### Regular Events

- ▶ NEW for 2009 Freely Mondays – ▶ Coaching available anytime with:  
Organised by Bullet & Samurai Freely. Contact [bulletfreely@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bulletfreely@hotmail.co.uk) or [info@samuraifreely.com](mailto:info@samuraifreely.com)  
Sparky & Andy Scott (FS)  
Andy Ford  
Adam Mattacola  
Euphoria
- ▶ Kidz Club every other Tuesday  
Yoko Okazaki
- ▶ Ladies Night once a month  
Samurai Freely

For news and updates on Skydive Airkix, visit [www.skydiveairkix.com](http://www.skydiveairkix.com)

To learn more about coaching and other forthcoming events and offers, please visit the 'pro-flyer zone' at [www.airkix.com](http://www.airkix.com)  
Airkix is based in Central Milton Keynes (M1, Junction 14). For bookings and more information:

[www.airkix.com](http://www.airkix.com) E: [skydive@airkix.com](mailto:skydive@airkix.com) T: +44 (0)1908 247772/3



## Royal Aero Club

Twelve BPA Members are being honoured with a Royal Aero Club award this year, details on page 2 of the Chairman's Report enclosed with this Mag. *Bodyflight Storm*, *Volairkix*, Garth Greyling, Phil Curtis, Bob King and Smudge Smith will receive their awards at a ceremony in London on the evening of Tuesday 21 April. All BPA Members are invited to join them in support (you must buy tickets beforehand).

[royalaeroclub.org](http://royalaeroclub.org)

It's also that time of year to apply for a cash bursary to support a chosen area of aviation. See website for an application form; more details on page 17.

[royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://royalaeroclubtrust.org)

## CF Nationals Results – Correction!

The results printed in the December Mag for the Senior events in the Canopy Formation Nationals were incorrect. This was no fault of Caroline Dent who wrote the article, as the results previously published on the internet were also wrong, owing to a mix-up about the length of the competition.

There was a bit of a debate about how many days the Nationals would run to. It had been wrongly printed in the Mag as a two-day event but the written rules stated three days. The Chief Judge explained to all that, despite the error in the Mag, the Nationals would be run over three days as per the rules. At close of play on Sunday, most competitors were packing up, the Chief Judge, CCI and DZ Operator made an announcement that first thing Monday morning calls would be made to complete the competition and any team that failed to turn up would receive a zero for any round not completed. This did happen; calls were made, no-one appeared, therefore scores were amended. The zeros altered the final places in the Senior events, the correct results are:

### 2-way Sequential

- 1 Team Heat
- 2 Outcasts Team Red

### 4-way Sequential

- 1 Cellmates
- 2 Outcasts Team Red

### 4-way Speed

- 1 CFUK
- 2 Outcasts

The above were approved by Competitions Committee subsequent to the Nationals, as the rules stated clearly that the event would be run over three days, as did the BPA website.

Kate Charters  
BPA Judges Coordinator

Note: Skydive The Mag apologises unreservedly for the error in the dates for the CF Nationals 2008, and for the subsequent mistake in the published results.

# Boogieman Party!

Volairkix by  
Andy Lovmore

As a company, Boogieman has a reputation for putting together a massive party once a year. This time Boogieman Fever will take place at Lapalisse, 11-14 July, with its swimming pool, ambient bar and top quality restaurant. Boogieman sponsored freefly teams and individuals will attend – including *Skywalkers*, *Volare*, Fabian Raidel and Julien Guiho – offering world class organising and coaching. The boogie will have an international flavour and nightly parties. The whole concept is as much about fun as flying. To that end, Boogieman has jacked up half price tandem jumps for partners of boogie participants, and recommends this as a great holiday that your non-jumping other half will enjoy too. Places are limited so early booking is recommended.



[boogiemanfever.com](http://boogiemanfever.com)

## Jump for Heroes

Arklay Purdie (right) is cycling from John O'Groats to Land's End, doing a dropzone tour on the way, aiming to raise £10,000 for Help the Heroes, which assists debilitated soldiers injured in action. Five BPA Affiliated dropzones are supporting his cause, by donating jump ticket money, running associated tandem jumps on the day, donating barbecues and other activities. BPA Members are invited to attend any of the events, join in the fun and help raise funds.



- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Sat 6 June  | Leave John O'Groats |
| Sat 13 June | Paragon             |
| Sun 21 June | Skydive Brid        |
| Sat 27 June | Hinton              |
| Sat 4 July  | Netheravon          |
| Sun 12 July | Dunkeswell          |
| Wed 15 July | Arrive Land's End   |

[ijumpforheroes.com](http://ijumpforheroes.com)

## UKS Boogie 2009!



The infamous UK Skydiver Boogie returns in 2009, at Skydive Hibaldstow, over the August bank holiday weekend, Friday 28 to Monday 31 August. The event is registration only, with tickets going on sale now. Book early as last year was a total sell-out. Organiser Stu Ferguson said "We've taken on everything you've said over the past two years, and are streamlining the whole system to make the boogie better than ever!"

[ukskydiver.co.uk](http://ukskydiver.co.uk)

# Safe Flight School UK

Safe Flight School has a busy 2009 schedule offering canopy courses at Empuriabrava, Spain. However as usual Brian Vacher (newly appointed PD Factory Team member) will also be touring UK dropzones. UK dates are shown to the right; the complete list of courses is in the diary.

There are two advanced courses at Empuria during March and April. The advanced courses introduce a structure to perform high performance approaches and take you further into advanced techniques if you are an experienced pilot. Please note there are entry requirements to attend the advanced courses.

- |                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Langar          | 5-7 May      |
| Dunkeswell      | 15-17 May    |
| Hibaldstow      | 29-31 May    |
| BKPC, Cockerham | 1-4 June     |
| Weston          | 5-7 June     |
| Wild Geese      | 21-23 August |

[safeflightschool.com](http://safeflightschool.com)



Photo: Brian Vacher performing a 'cowboy'



Getting ready for the exotic boogies?  
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Photo Willy Boeykens



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Both B.A.S.E. jumping and high performance canopy flight are dangerous activities and when combined with a wingsuit become much more complex and dangerous, injuries can be fatal, and therefore it is "highly recommended against" for wingsuit students. Suit shown with \$200 Deluxe Option Package, see website for details.

Ad by SKY<sup>2</sup>PRODUCTIONS



Photo: Skydiver by Jeff Allen for Skydiver

We originally called this suit "The Snow Angel because it really feels like you're flying on a snow angel." - Tony Suit

"This is great now I can fly my high performance canopy on a wingsuit jump" - David Gershfeld



# CANOPY PILOTING

## World Championships

### Wonderboom, South Africa 19-23 November 2008

Wonderboom Airport, located just north of Pretoria in South Africa (SA) is the home of one of the oldest skydiving clubs in Africa – The Pretoria Skydivers. Canopy piloting has been a popular discipline of the sport in SA for several years and its canopy pilots have represented their country at CP competitions consistently. The DZ itself is at about 4,000 feet above sea level and ideal for canopy piloting with long run-offs on the north side of the pond, which itself is 90 metres long and 15 metres wide. The club has excellent facilities including a King Air, PAC750, and a pool set into the grass.

The UK delegation was selected from competitors in the second UK Canopy Piloting Championships, held at Bad Lippspringe in July 2008. The complete UK team, lead by Paul Moore as BPA Head of Delegation consisted of: Brian Vacher, Alastair Macartney, Deane 'Smudge' Smith, Martin Reynolds, Ed Paxton, Stu Storey and Spencer Hogg. Sadly, Mike Gorman who was supposed to be the eighth UK competitor suffered an injury in training a few weeks before the competition and had to withdraw. Mike's presence was missed during the competition; we all hope he will get well soon and that we will see him competing again in 2009. We also missed the talents of Kieran Hayes, Wez Wesley and Sooty Sutcliffe, who sadly could not attend.

The UK was well represented at FAI and IPC level by BPA Chairman John Smyth on the Jury Panel and BPA Chief Judge Kate Charters, who is an FAI CP (Canopy Piloting) Judge. Just to make sure everyone washed behind their ears on a morning we also took along BPA CP and Accuracy Judge Ann Fowler, who successfully took her FAI Judges' exams during the competition and gained her rating in Canopy Piloting. Well done Mum!

The weather in the lead-up to the competition was far from ideal, for a number of reasons. November is the start of the SA summer period and daytime temperatures can get up to 30°C, with the resulting turbulence and wind. Combine this with a field elevation of 4,000 feet and you will get very high rates of descent but a possibility of very fast and long swoops. There were some spectacular thunderstorms almost every night and the resulting moisture in the air normally meant cloud forming the next day.

### Wednesday 19 November

The opening ceremony was thankfully short and painless but turned into a mini 'pole-war' with everyone trying to get the biggest flagpole that

they could. Bearing in mind that there were 69 competitors from 19 nations attending plus officials, judges and hangers-on it was a fairly substantial crowd that gathered for the obligatory photo call.

Day one of the competition started poorly with low cloud and rain. It was also very cold – one or two were glad of having brought fleeces and warm jackets to a South African summer! Hanging about waiting for the weather allowed a bit of extra time for those little essential admin jobs, such as sewing the legs of Alastair's swoop pants together! Eventually the first day was called at about 16.30 – with no jumps and no scores, just lots of wind-ups.



Bad weather wind-ups, photo by Paul Moore

### Thursday 20 November

Thursday was bright and sunny with a light wind from the northeast. Zone Accuracy was the first event and this meant that the competitors would have a slight headwind from the left, allowing fairly accurate stopping ability. The competitors were clearly nervous at the start of the round and this did affect scores a bit. Alastair zapped round one completely which cost him dearly but his second round was much better. It took a total of eight lifts in the King Air and PAC750 to complete a round as the turn-around was fairly quick. Round 2 of the Zone Accuracy was completed by around 10.30 and, following a 30 minute break to set up the course, the Speed event started.

In the Speed event the competitors must enter the course through an electronic gate and fly the canopy below the level of the markers and exit another electronic gate with the canopy still flying. Two rounds of this were completed before switching to the distance event where one round was completed just before it got dark. All in all a fantastic day, it was well organised and the competitors all performed magnificently.

There were a few judging issues that caused a bit of concern. Smudge had a great distance run, scoring a little over 117 metres, but he was



posted to have only scored 108 metres. This was represented to the Event Judge and Smudge won his case. It transpired that a judge had written down a called-out score wrongly. These things do happen in competition but it did highlight the need for teams to have someone video each and every run just in case someone needed to dispute a score later. This also worked for Spence who wanted to dispute a score but, when we replayed the video, we saw and heard that his score had been marked correctly.

Spencer Hogg by Paul Moore







UK pilots: Brian Vacher, Martin Reynolds, 'Smudge' Smith,  
Al Macartney, Ed Paxton, Stu Storey & Spencer Hogg by Paul Moore



USA's Shannon Pilcher by JC Colclasure







### Friday 21 November

Friday was another frustrating day with low cloud and some rain. Several attempts were made to start throughout the day and one or two loads were brought down. However, towards the end of the day the last round of distance was completed, leaving only the final round of each event to complete on Saturday.

### Saturday 22 November

There was a perceptible air of excitement around the DZ on Saturday morning. The sky was clear with almost no wind. The first event was back to Zone Accuracy and, in the slight tail wind, it was a challenge to slow down sufficiently in order to stop the canopy right over the high scoring zones. Despite the pressure, and showing tremendous skill and consistency, former Brit Pete Allum (now competing for Italy) took bronze with a fantastic performance, Zone Accuracy finished just after 10am and, following a short break, it was straight into Speed. This turned out to be the most eventful of all the competition jumps as Ed badly misjudged his approach, hitting the water hard. It was the second impact that was the worst as Ed hit the side of the pond injuring his thigh. The safety organisation kicked in very quickly and Ed was in the hands of the paramedics within five minutes and in the local private hospital within about 20 minutes. Luckily he had no serious injuries – just very bad bruising and was back on the DZ within a couple of hours.

The final round in the whole competition was round 3 of the Distance event. This was probably the most exciting round of all as, with the elevation, temperature and wind conditions, a new World Record was about to be set. Following some brilliant distance tries from the PD Team the Brazilian canopy pilot Maha set a new record of 161 metres. This was hardly surprising, as he had done a 'downwind dance' just before boarding the aircraft!

It was short-lived. In the last four jumps of the competition our own Spence Hogg made a respectable swoop, however this was totally outclassed by Nick Blatsch (USA) who scored a fantastic 169 metres and then some. Maha was gutted and it was sad to see a top competitor and a great character gain a World Record, only to have it snatched away a few minutes later. That's competition for you!

That was the end of the competition. Following a short break the FAI and IPC representatives held a competitors' meeting to discuss some proposed changes to CP rules, to possibly put forward to IPC (International Parachuting Commission).

All of the UK Canopy Piloting Team promoted the UK, the BPA and themselves very well at the 2nd FAI World CP Championships. However there are one or two swoopers from around the world who will perhaps be a little wary in future of falling asleep when the Brits are around!

The third UK Canopy Piloting Championships will take place at RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, 22-25 July 2009. Watch the BPA website and Skydive The Mag for more details.

*Paul Moore*  
UK Head of Delegation, CP World Meet  
RAPA Commandant



Stu Storey



Martin Reynolds

UK team photos by Paul Moore  
Background photo by JC Colclasure



Brian Vacher



Al Macartney





Marat 'Maha' Leiras,  
by JC Colclasure



Ed Paxton

Deane 'Smudge' Smith



**Canopy Piloting Results**

**Speed**

1	Esp	Pablo Hernandez
2	Can	Jay Moledzki
3	USA	Shannon Pilcher
33	UK	Deane Smith
36	UK	Brian Vacher
51	UK	Al Macartney
52	UK	Martin Reynolds
53	UK	Ed Paxton
65	UK	Stu Storey
68	UK	Spencer Hogg

**Accuracy**

1	Can	Jay Moledzki
2	Swe	Goran Schwarz
3	Ita	Pete Allum
23	UK	Deane Smith
33	UK	Spencer Hogg
38	UK	Brian Vacher
43	UK	Ed Paxton
46	UK	Stu Storey
47	UK	Al Macartney
54	UK	Martin Reynolds

**Distance**

1	USA	Nicholas Batsch
2	Aus	Cameron Rolfe
3	RSA	Chris Teague
11	UK	Deane Smith
25	UK	Brian Vacher
41	UK	Martin Reynolds
47	UK	Spencer Hogg
48	UK	Ed Paxton
53	UK	Al Macartney
61	UK	Stu Storey

**Overall**

1	Can	Jay Moledzki
2	USA	Nicholas Batsch
3	USA	Greg Windmiller
16	UK	Deane Smith
34	UK	Brian Vacher
48	UK	Ed Paxton
50	UK	Martin Reynolds
51	UK	Al Macartney
55	UK	Spencer Hogg
61	UK	Stu Storey

Full results: [www.canopypiloting.co.za](http://www.canopypiloting.co.za)



Shannon Pilcher by JC Colclasure







**skydive**  
empuriabrava



**EASTER**  
boogie

**9 - 13 April EASTER BOOGIE**

- 19 - 22 Feb **Babylon Workshop**
- 26 Feb - 1 March **Fuxion Camp**
- 12 - 15 March **Babylon Workshop**
- 10 - 13 April **Fuxion Camp**



**13 - 19 April GO VERTICAL SPRING EDITION**

GO VERTICAL



- 16 - 19 April **Babylon Workshop**



**27 April - 3 May EMPURIAFLOCK**

EMPURIAFLOCK



- 7 - 10 May **Wing suit Camp**
- 7 - 10 May **Fuxion Camp**
- 21 - 24 May **Babylon Workshop**



The biggest drop zone in Europe

empuriabrava.com



# CRUNCH JUMPS

## How can YOU

afford to continue skydiving through the recession?

Rick Boardman provides a guide to jumping on a budget

Nick Davison by Kris Ridley



So it turns out the banks were lending money they didn't have to people who couldn't pay it back, and trillions of pounds, dollars and euros have disappeared into a black hole. Now we're all skint. The kids are crying in front of one lump of the coal on the fire, playing with an empty cardboard box. Your partner is darning your jumpsuit by candlelight. Things are so bad even the drop zone owner has had to sell one of his Daimlers.

Most of us are looking long and hard to find something in our wallets, and the first casualty of a cut-back can be the expensive weekend sport. But, following intensive research, extensive consultation and exhaustive field trials, we've come up with some ideas to keep you jumping

These are genuine replies to our survey, though you might want to consult a good lawyer before putting some into practice...

### Transport

- 'Walk'
- 'Hitchhike'
- 'Share Cars'
- 'Drive slowly'
- 'Make bio-diesel from canteen chip fat'
- 'Get on your bike'

When I was a lad, I used to walk out to Halfpenny Green from Wolverhampton Station in the early hours, getting to the DZ at 3am on Saturday. Ten miles of warm muscles and I got quite fit. I found that hitching worked best the smarter I dressed. Your lift can become your new friend on the way to the airfield, and you can persuade them to take up skydiving.

Make yourself drive more efficiently. You'll be doing 120mph straight down from the edge of space with your hair on fire all weekend, so what are you trying to prove in the car? Drop an engine size. See if you can get a better deal on tax and insurance.

Share transport. Set up a Facebook car-sharing group for your dropzone's car owners and wanna-lifts. You can all save money with less impact on the environment.



Hitch a ride

Buy your fuel tactically. Look out for the cheapest, and buy at night when the fuel's colder and you can get more in the tank. Use the DZ canteen's monstrous amounts of oil to make your own bio-diesel. It's easy – and legal. I have a friend who used to run his 4x4 on a 1:4 mix of vegetable oil and diesel. Why do you think supermarkets sell it in three-litre bottles?

### When Saturday comes

- 'Don't eat'
- 'Don't drink'
- 'Pack your own'
- 'Roll your own'
- 'Bring your own food'
- 'Share showers'
- 'Jump for money'
- 'Home brew'
- 'Become an instructor'
- 'Shop at the cheap supermarkets'

You need to fuel yourself as well as the car. Why not bring a flask of hot water, so that for the Saturday morning at least, you don't have to buy hot drinks? If you're committed to tenting it, bring the gas cooker and some food. One freezer box in the car with pre-cooked meals that just need thawing and heating, and you're laughing.



Save money on accommodation



**Night Jumps**  
7-8 March

**LU:ST Weekend**  
FS progression and  
Record attempt  
21-22 March

**KICKSTART**  
Easter Boogie  
10-14 April  
see  
[www.strollerweb.co.uk](http://www.strollerweb.co.uk)



**Langar Boogie May** 2nd-10th  
2009

9 whole days of  
fun 'n' jumpin'!!



**Go Vertical**  
with the  
Beech 99

15,000 feet  
in Europe's  
fastest-climbing  
jumpship!

20-25 May




**Dave Lewis' First Jump**  
First weekend of the month

No-pressure FS for all levels  
6 to 14 way, all with video

Starts 7-8 March  
See [www.strollerweb.co.uk](http://www.strollerweb.co.uk)



**SKYDIVE CHOREOGRAPHY**  
[www.skydivechoreography.com](http://www.skydivechoreography.com)

**BIG WAY BEGINNERS 5**   
+ Intermediate groups  
30-31 May  
pre-registration essential

**SEQUENTIAL for ALL LEVELS**  
Invitational  
11-12 July

**Langar Boogie 2** 12-20  
2009 September

Our annual  
'end of season'  
celebration







Work for your ticket

Drop zones don't just need skilled skydiving employees. What if your DZ canteen could offer you a rate on food if you worked a shift? Maybe your DZ needs a gofer, in return for a hot meal and some jump tickets? Maybe the DZ owner's Daimler needs washing?

One fewer round of drinks is about one jump ticket. If you drink a lot on Saturday, you probably skydive like a turkey on Sunday anyway. If you think home brew's boring, ask any of my pals about my Romulan Ale at the AGM. It is, I'm beginning to suspect, the only reason people talk to me at the AGM.

If you don't know how to pack yet, find out. Save the paid pack-jobs for the intense training sessions, when you really haven't got time. You might want to take up packing – but be professional, learn about different types of kit and be conscientious. Packers have to be efficient, to spot problems before they happen. If a rig should be grounded, have the gumption to ground it. Get a reputation for being thorough and you'll get more work, until the jumpers are fighting for your services. If you pack too fast or beyond your skill level, you'll eventually give someone a bad opening. That'll be round the DZ like a rash, and your earnings will plummet like, well, you know.

If you have the right jump numbers and skill levels, go for a rating. If you are a good communicator, and can impart confidence, have a crack at being an instructor. It's fun, and it fits on your CV outside skydiving too. Remember, the instructor who trained you came from somewhere. If you're not ready for that level yet, how about FS, CF, or FF coach? Dare I mention rigging?

If you are thinking all this might take you away from skydiving, why not compromise, by limiting yourself to working on the DZ on a Saturday, and jumping with the money you earn on the



Learn to pack



Photos by Hans Berggren, Rob Colpus, Rob Fone, Rick Boardman and Dave Pratt

Sunday? This will impose a skydiving budget on you, and keep the bailiffs from the door. At least it will keep you in the sport until the economy gets itself together.

### Lifestyle changes

- 'Join the TA'
- 'Get tickets from universities'
- 'Get sponsorship'
- 'Get a job'
- 'Get a decent job'
- 'Limit jumping weekends to guaranteed weather'
- 'Get rid of non-essential overheads'

The hard fact is that a sizeable percentage of skydivers in the BPA are military personnel. There are advantages. It's a recognised army sport, with accompanying deals. And there are disadvantages. Sometimes people try to kill you. I enjoyed my soldiering time but clearly it's not for everyone. Still, think about it. The armed forces are looking for recruits.

Universities have such a strong influence within skydiving that they have their own little homework club, the BCPA. With a bit of 'help' from a student union, you can become a member of your university's skydiving club and qualify for discounts.

Both of these are a form of sponsorship, but if you have a 'proper' job, would your employer like his company name or logo on your rig or main? Some companies have big advertising budgets, and might welcome the chance. Just ask. They can only say no, and if they say yes, you might just start something great, for you and your DZ.

If you brought a new student to your DZ, would the operator say thank-you? How about if you bought a syndicate of RAPS students? What about a corporate charity skydiving weekend? If you organised that at work, and brought all that



Join the TA



Introduce more jumpers

lovely money to the airfield, you might get the thanks of the operator (a free jump ticket).

### Yes we can

You aren't the only person on the DZ looking at the bills and flinching. The clubs are feeling the pinch, too. But if every full member of the BPA set themselves the task of introducing two new students to the sport this year, we'd produce about 10,000 more skydives across the country, or roughly 400 extra jumps at your DZ.

The BPA exists to 'promote the sport throughout the country'. We're all BPA members so that makes it our job. If every member goes on a mission to assimilate more jumpers, then the DZs and everyone financially linked to the sport, will beat the recession.

Rick Boardman

## Bursary boost

If you're between 16 and 21 you can apply for a bursary – for up to £500 – under the scheme run by the Royal Aero Club Trust. The bursaries cover all airsports, including gliding, microlight flying, ballooning and hang gliding, but of the 13 bursaries awarded last year, seven went to skydivers.



BPA Member Kath Rybinski was awarded £350 in 2007, which she invested on one-to-one coaching. 'I was able to do ten coached jumps with Mikey [Carpenter] and Jim [Harris] over a few days, which I wouldn't have been able to do without the bursary,' she says. 'For students who are feeling the financial strain post-A licence, it's absolutely ideal to help them get to the next level.'



Dave Fairbrother has also benefited from the scheme. 'It enabled me to undergo top-class FS coaching that I would otherwise have been unable to afford in such a condensed time,' he says. 'The bursary is a fantastic contribution to the British skydiving community.'



You can find details, rules and an application form on the RAC Trust website, [www.royalaeroclubtrust.org](http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org). Applications for 2009 close on 31 March.



# AGM

**BPA Annual General Meeting  
Hinckley Island Hotel  
10 January 2009**

**Michelle Meakins describes the action**

## **AGM and Chairman's Report**

The AGM certainly was quieter than usual (though still an appreciable crowd turning out to an event for skydivers in chilly January). The large Paris Suite where the AGM itself is held is usually bursting with people looking for a seat but this year there really weren't that many standing.

The Chairman's Report was very long, more so than in previous years but perhaps this was partly because of all the commendations given to our outstanding sportspeople for their achievements: *Bodyflight Storm* and *Volare* for their world class medals, Lesley Gale for her contribution to the sport; everyone in the fantastic Honda advert, and so on. Each was a very deserved mention and it was great to feel a mutual pride.

It was a nice touch to see Chairman John Smyth use the medium of video presentation. It gave a bit of variety, was enjoyable and gave us all a common sense of achievement. It was good to see the World Meet video he showed, it allowed those of us who didn't go to Maubeuge a chance to get a feel of the support that our Brit contingent received out there in France.

Unusually John Smyth invited questions at the end of his report; there were a few comments from the floor, especially regarding the controversial magazine tender, but most of these were referred to the Communications open forum to be held later in the day.

I am told a booklet containing the Chairman's Report on 2008 will be enclosed with this magazine, so I will leave you to read that in full, as he will put it much better than I will! An interesting new addition trialled this year is that Craig Poxon (Council Member and Chairman of Development) videoed the entire speech and has placed it online for any interested members who couldn't make the meeting to be able to watch after the event. Check out those great videos of the World Meet and behind the scenes of the Honda advert!

**Chairman's Report:** enclosed in this magazine and available online at <http://tinyurl.com/BPAAGM2009>



**INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR**  
Joanne Burns from Target Skysports,  
Hibaldstow



**THE MIKE FORGE TROPHY  
NEW SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR**  
Dave Lewis of the Silver Stars Parachute Club

Ian 'Milko' Hodgkinson  
Phil Curtis  
Marcus Beck  
Sacha Chilton  
Hannah Betts  
Sarah Smith  
Claire 'Sparky' Scott  
Andy Scott  
Kate Stephens  
Chris Cook  
Sophie Cook  
Gareth Thomas  
Andy Pook  
Dave Ruffell  
Amanda Kemp  
Phil Hartree  
Gary Wainwright  
Tony Danbury





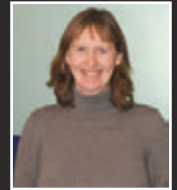
THE TAZ CAUSER TROPHY  
SKYDIVER OF THE YEAR  
Deane 'Smudge' Smith

**FAI JUDGES**

**JUMP NOS**



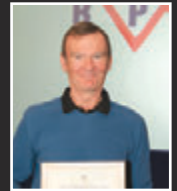
Ann Fowler  
Canopy Piloting



Jane Buckle  
7,000 Jumps



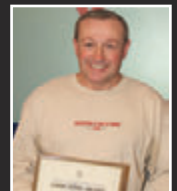
Liz Warner  
Formation Skydiving



Clem Quinn  
7,000 Jumps



Penny Wiggins  
Formation Skydiving



Del Hopkins  
1,000 Jumps

**BPA JUDGES**

**HRS FREEFALL**



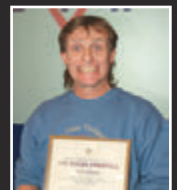
Lee King - Accuracy  
& Canopy Piloting



Dave Howerski  
124 Hours



Richard Del Toro  
Accuracy



Sandy McRobbie  
132 Hours



BPA Chairman John Smyth reports on 2008



**CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

To the BPA members who participated in the formation skydive for Honda, broadcast live on Channel 4 on 29 May 2008



**CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

Volairkix - Bronze Medallists in Freely at the World Championships, Maubeuge, France, August 2008



**CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

Bodyflight Storm - World Champions in 4-way women's FS at the World Championships, Maubeuge, France.





## Exhibition & Trade Stands

The London Suite and Rotunda were displaying as many trade stands as ever for the exhibition of skydiving gear, with many free prizes being given out to try to tempt us out of the bar. Along with balloons housing raffle tickets for Target Skysports freebies, dart-throwing for Airkix goodies, and a press-up competition for free tunnel time from Bodyflight, there were plenty of T-shirt, goodies and gear stalls too. It was a bustling hubbub of people buzzing around trying to search out or win a bargain. (If you didn't nab some cheap goodies or equipment then try next year, there are always special AGM offers.)

We had a Jump For The Cause stall also, selling Jo Price's lovely homemade brownies and also some beanie hats that Fiona Birnie had made up to raise funds for our JFTC charity cause, that of funding breast cancer research. Thanks to all who dropped off old mobile phones by the way, the proceeds that Paul and Audrey Rowe made from them have been added to our fund already. Keep the phones coming! There will be phone drop-off points at most drop zones soon, it's an easy way to make a difference and look after the environment too!

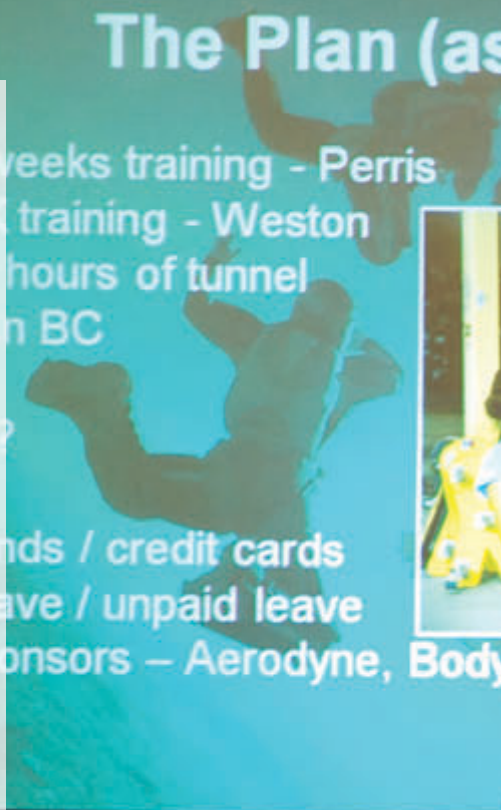
## Seminars

The seminars proved to be as popular as previous years and were well attended, although from some feedback I received I have heard some people thought they weren't all that inspiring. How do you come up with new seminars year after year though, when surely the same subjects are likely to be covered?

This year we had Dan Poynter over from the USA with his wealth of rigging knowledge; his seminar entitled 'Have you Seen my Parachute?' was very informative. Between helping out on trade stands I managed to get to a few seminars myself. One I did attend was that of *Storm*, our British Women's 4-way FS team, it was good to see them doing a presentation on their two years together and to learn of the hard graft, blood, sweat and tears they went through to get where they did – yet the fun they had along the way. It was a massive achievement for the whole team and their coach Dan BC, especially the average they came away with and proving some people wrong. Their seminar was very interesting and well presented. I was inspired – so maybe it's all in the eye of the beholder!

The Communications and Development forum was a well attended meeting, one which a lot of people wanted to be a part of due to the Mag tender. Lesley has a lot of support on her side and quite a few people had strong opinions on the matter. Needless to say we had to move onto other subjects including the fall in BPA Members over the years and the subject of customer service received at Drop Zones and how this may have contributed to the lack of new members. As you'd expect at an open forum, there were differences of opinion and some discussion.

Other options available included both Council and Competitions open forums; *Volare* on their world meet medal journey, jumping camera by *Connexion's* Dave Butterell, the European Skydiving League, teamwork, the world's largest flock, Scary CF stories, and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) for successful performance: surely a menu in which everyone could find at least one interesting course.





s of Jan 07)



yflight, Parasport



Royal Aero Club Bronze: Lesley Gale

## REGIONAL OVERALL AWARDS

### ACCURACY



Senior  
Glenn Stephenson



Intermediate  
Del Hopkins

### CANOPY FORMATION



4-Way Sequential  
Senior Gold: Cellmates



4-Way Rotations & 4-Way Speed  
Intermediate Gold: Wave



4-Way Rotations & 4-Way Speed  
Senior Gold: CFUK



2-Way Sequential  
Intermediate Gold: Los Gattos



2-Way Sequential  
Senior Gold: Cellmates

## FORMATION SKYDIVING 4-WAY ROOKIE



Gold: Zero Degrees



Silver: Burble

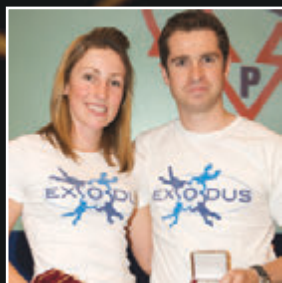


Bronze: Innuendo

## FORMATION SKYDIVING 4-WAY A



Gold: Strangers



Silver: Exodus



Bronze: RAFSPA Firefly





## Party

The usual evening meal took place, posh dresses and dinner suits came out of the closet. Those of us who didn't have the formal meal did our own thing and waited for the dance floor to open. I had promised myself I wouldn't be drinking this year – didn't want a bad head the next day – did that happen!? What do you think?! ... but I did get away without a hangover, yay!

This year there was no live band but two DJs, who reminded me of Cannon and Ball. They played plenty of cool tunes and the dance floor was always rockin'. The party is the bit I think most people look forward to, along with the air guitar and meeting up with old friends. It's so hard to talk to everyone though, isn't it?! Every year I have attended the AGM there are still people I see the next morning and say, "I never saw you last night, maybe we'll chat next year!"

What with the brass reception dog going walkies around the rotunda at 4am and the armchairs finding themselves in the lift (I am mentioning no names) it ended a very funny night! It was another great AGM indeed (except for the stink-bomb having been let off in the bar, you know who you are!) hopefully the good party spirit shall remain for more AGMs to come.

If you've never stuck around for the party, you should. (Although there's no more falling asleep at the bar and getting woken by the cleaner any more as they have you well out of the bar these days before closing.)

## Attendance

So, why was it so quiet? Maybe something to do with it being held a week earlier than usual, so some people had made other plans when they found out about the date (the hotel double-booked us with another event – shame on them!). Who knows if the credit crunch played a part or if it's just the way things go, some people go one year, some don't. People are busy and have other commitments.

## Next year

Now then, next year's AGM is to be held in Blackpool and there was a bit of a debate going on about whether this is the ideal location or not. Well for those who live up north it's probably going to be very convenient, but for those who don't – well it's going to be a long trek, not really centrally located is it? Some felt the new venue sounded fun and were looking forward to a change; others, like Thursday's Child, felt it was far to go. I guess we'll just have to see who turns up on the day. No doubt the powers that be will evaluate the decision based on next year's attendance.

If you have never attended the AGM, I recommend going along, to meet new people and old friends, gain inspiration from seminars, get measured for new equipment, catch a few bargains – it's worth a visit, even if just for the party!

If I don't see you next year in Candyflossville, then I'll see you in 2011... when I've heard a rumour they're holding the AGM in John o'Groats!

Shell Meakins  
Shellm1@yahoo.com

## AGM 2010 at the Blackpool Hilton Hotel, Sat 16 Jan *Your Opinion Matters!*

The BPA Council wants your views on improving the AGM 2010 – download and complete a questionnaire from the BPA website:- [bpa.org.uk](http://bpa.org.uk)



**FORMATION  
SKYDIVING 4-WAY AA**



Gold: Phobia



Silver: Kalzen



Bronze: Phantom

**4-WAY AAA**



Gold: Wingnutz

**FORMATION SKYDIVING  
8-WAY**



Intermediate Gold: Blizzard



Silver: Satori



Senior Gold: X-Stormin-8



Bronze: Bodyflight Storm



# TIME FOR A CHANGE!

One day it will happen to all of us, one of your team members will leave. Other commitments take precedence in his or her life. The team that you love so much seems to fall apart, leaving a gap that's not easy to fill.

In situations like this, the team have to think very carefully about who can fill up the empty slot, so there will be a positive growth and a bright future ahead. But how do you know how to pick the right person? Who will give you the best chance to improve? How do you guide the new team member?

I will try to give you some advice to help you to make the right decisions. Personally so far in Hayabusa, we had to replace three people in our team, we had to make a choice to leave our jobs behind, try to become a professional team, and still we had to maintain and increase our performance level. It's not easy but if we can do it – so can you!



Photos by Danny Jacobs



## Setting Goals

Before wondering who could take over the empty slot, the rest of the team have to start with themselves. The first thing to do is set your goals for the next period. Setting goals is possibly the most important ingredient to success. There are basically three different types of goals: long, medium, and short term. The long-term goal is where you need to start; everything else will fall into place behind this. You need to understand what you want, look at what you are willing to sacrifice, and decide on a long-range goal.

Once you determined the team goals, you can begin your search for a new teammate. You will have a list of qualifications such as someone:-

- that will agree on the same long, medium and short-term goals
- who is willing to commit to the same degree
- with the money and the time
- that has the ability to become as good as you, or better
- with congruent values
- that you like

**Remember:** you do not necessarily need teammates who have all the same goals. You need teammates who can agree on a common goal! This common goal is the key to all teams.

Set your long term goal – ours is the Excalibur!



## Take your Time

Finding your new team member is easier said than done but don't expect it to be a walk in the park. In general it is hard to find a person that fits well into your team. Never take hasty decisions because you can't find one right away! It is an important step and sometimes you just have to be patient. There are many good teams that fell apart after changing a team member and they all had their reasons. If you want to keep on pushing, learning and





increasing your team's performance, you simply have to take the time to choose the most ideal person available. This person is not always the best skydiver, rather the person with the best overall package.

### **Contributions to the Team**

We all have the tendency to search for the best technical skydiver around and place the personal aspects on the side. For good team management you need so much more than just good skydivers jumping together. The better you guys can work as a team in all areas, the stronger your foundation is for peak performance!

I found out that the next subjects are the key elements to keep the team on the right track. The funny thing is that everybody knows this already, but do we walk the walk? We all give out this good advice but still, if we look into the mirror, can we say that we follow it ourselves? And this is what we all need to do, if we want to achieve our dreams. So look at the subjects below and ask yourself the question, whether your 'new guy' can make it happen.

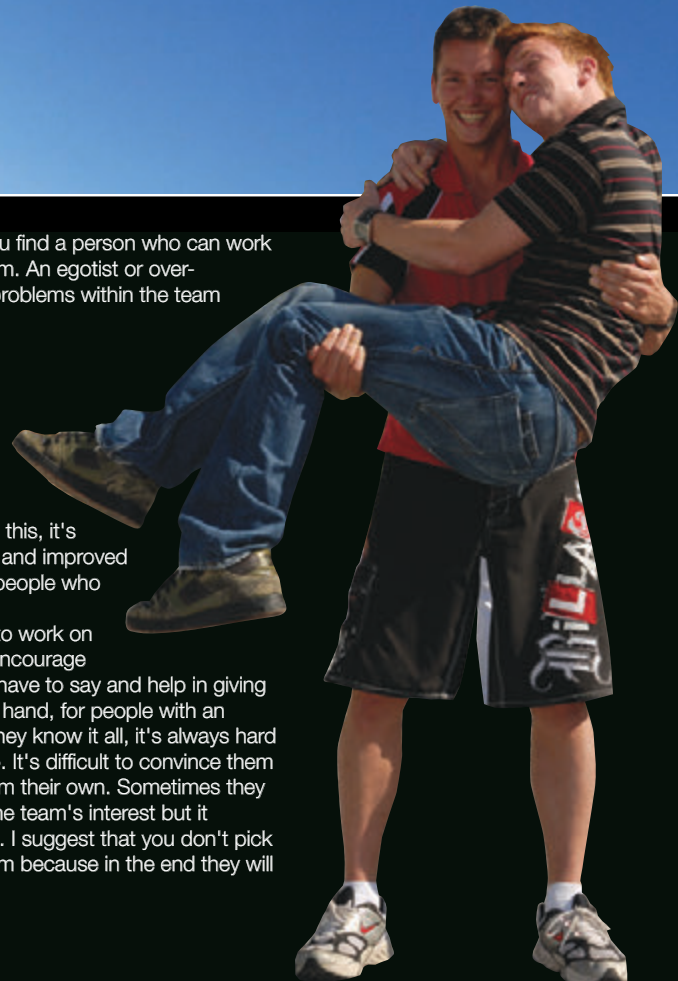
### **Team Player**

Subjects like grips, angles and other technical stuff are of course important to winning but the most important requirement of succeeding in a team environment is being a

team player! Make sure that you find a person who can work together with you and your team. An egotist or over-individualist will always cause problems within the team sooner or later.

### **Communication**

Without good communication the team will achieve nothing. Most of us have the ability to communicate in a decent, respectful and mature way. For those who have difficulties with this, it's something that can be learned and improved within the team. For example, people who are shy or have difficulties in communicating but are willing to work on it, should be helped. You can encourage them by listening to what they have to say and help in giving them confidence. On the other hand, for people with an attitude problem, if they think they know it all, it's always hard to communicate within a group. It's difficult to convince them of any other opinions, apart from their own. Sometimes they can be forced to do things in the team's interest but it shouldn't have to work like this. I suggest that you don't pick this type of person for your team because in the end they will always cause problems.







Photos by Danny Jacobs



### Motivation

Try to find people with the same degree of motivation. This saves a lot of frustration and discussions. It doesn't matter how much or how little you are willing to sacrifice, if everyone is prepared to put as much effort in as each other, it will be fine!

### Experience

There will always be a doubt between taking a young, talented skydiver with probably not much experience, or an old fox with experience and knowledge. The best choice is depending what your long-term goals are and the needs of your team. Compare their entire personal package and contributions to the team and see which one is the most valuable acquisition for your team.

### Tryouts

After checking your list of qualifications you should have a good idea of who to ask for your new team. If you're lucky you will have several people on your list. To give a fair chance to them and your teammates, I suggest organising tryouts. In this way you can get a feeling with all the candidates. During the tryouts you also can see their body language in freefall. You can test

their capability for slot-switchers. Jumping with them will tell you more than a thousand words.

### Agreement

Okay, so you did your research about the candidates, talked about the good and bad things, did the tryouts and you made your choice. Speak up loud why you believe in 'your guy' and don't let anybody else affect your opinion! If the rest of your team does the same, look at the result. Probably you already picked the same person, if not, you need to spend extra time with the people until you all agree. It's important that the team should try to make an objective decision and that everybody feels good with the end result! Only then you can make a fresh start with tons of motivation and inspiration!

### What Slots?

This subject is always a hard one. Does everybody keep the current slots, or should you

make a change? In general people are very territorial when it comes to defending their own slot. Sometimes it's just because people like their own slot so much. Or they can be afraid of learning something new. People also like to believe that their slot is more 'important' than the others. I think they are all equally so, but with their own skills and flying characteristics. Each slot gives you something extra that makes you a better skydiver. It's obvious that the team's best interests come first. Everybody should give their preference about a slot and see what kind of options you have. There should be room for trying different slots and with several piece-partners if needed. Take the time you need to get the best set-up for the whole team. At the end you should have everybody in their best slots, the most suitable for his/her flying style and capability and with the best possible piece-partner combination. Taking the time to find the best set-up will give you a high payoff at the end!





### **Everyone Matters**

First and foremost is that everyone on the team matters, also the new guy! Listen to his/her ideas, even if he/she is less experienced. Whether you agree with someone's opinion or not, it's important that they be heard. Make sure that your new teammate feels equally involved and respected as everyone else. It's the team's job to make the new guy feel at home. The sooner everyone feels good, the sooner the team will perform well! Correct them when they're wrong in a positive way, compliment them if they are right! Try to stimulate them and grow as a team. If they look good, you look good!!

### **Expectations**

We have to remind ourselves that Rome wasn't built in a day, meaning that it takes time to get a rock solid, hard-core skydiving machine! Jumping in a team is working like a team. If you replace one or more persons, it's out of balance and it takes time to recover. It's perfectly normal that you have to take a step back before moving forward again. You can help by giving the new guy a fair chance and don't put too much weight on their shoulders in the beginning. Everybody is different, has their own personalities and

behaves in their own way in different situations. Give them some time to prove themselves, even if in the beginning you think it isn't the right way. Of course you can give your opinion, or tell them how you deal with certain situations. But at the end, we all need to find our own ways to achieve our goals.

### **Get Going!**

So now that's all said and done, it's show time! My advice for the incoming guys is to get as much information from your team as you can get. Know their continuity plan, exits, blocks and randoms. Talk about how to brief and debrief. Visualise, watch and analyse videos. Use creepers to save time and money. Know the team preparations before and during competitions. And give it your best shot!

I wish you good luck with your new team!

Roy 'Rolls' Janssen (pictured by Stikkos)  
Hayabusa Defence  
[roy@skydivehayabusa.com](mailto:roy@skydivehayabusa.com)





# BLAST *from the* PAST

**A chance to see, jump and – weirdest of all – pack historic canopies from a bygone era, described by Andrew Hilton**

I have been interested in seeing and using vintage skydiving equipment since Billy Somerville fly-tipped a Strong Enterprises Starlite canopy on me in 1988. I still jump and use the Starlite and it is one of my favourite old canopies. Dutch Cameraman and CF jumper Henny Wiggers organised a 'Vintage' canopy event at Skydive Teuge in Holland at the back end of last year, and I was pleased to find out that many others share a similar passion for the history and evolution of skydiving equipment.

Henny has a huge collection of airworthy vintage gear and welcomed jumpers from the UK, Germany, Switzerland, France and Belgium to Teuge to come, see and jump this historic equipment. We were blessed with very light winds which made the canopy flight less challenging for those not used to canopy forward speeds around 10mph.

## **Veteran Jumpship**

To add to the atmosphere there was even a visiting classic Antonov AN2 biplane to use as a jumpship. That and the Cessna Caravan dropped us off between four and six thousand feet. Many people made their very first round jumps, or their first in a very long time.

## **Design of Round Parachutes**

To the uninitiated, round parachutes might appear to be the same but the various designs perform quite differently. Just like today's parachutes have varying purposes, so too the round canopies had specific uses including student; accuracy; relative work; and general purpose. Most round canopies have holes and slots as part of their design, to allow air to pressurise them in different ways. It is the variety of these slots and the air escaping through them that results in the different forward speed and ranges in performance.

Basic student round canopies, such as C9s and T10s had simpler slots and much less manoeuvrability than the so called 'high performance' PC-type rounds. These latter types with their seemingly too-many holes and the top (apex) of the canopy pulled down level with the outer edge (hem), achieve much more forward speed, quicker turns and even lower descent rates than the more basic rounds. PC type canopies also have a stall point at which point they cease to fly forward and descend more rapidly.



PC

## **High Performance Rounds**

We saw a constant stream of eye-catching equipment descending all day long including the following, all classed as 'high performance' rounds (well they were in those days), with forward speeds between 10-15mph.

### **Pioneer Para-Commander (PC)**

At least five models of this classic canopy were in use throughout the day and there was one on virtually every lift. The Para-Commander is the classic parachute with lots of holes, which was the most popular skydiving canopy from its introduction in 1965 for most of the next decade, until the ram-air canopy became the norm.

### **UT-15**

A Russian equivalent of the PC. These are still being made in Russia today for use by students.

### **Papillon**

A French manufactured PC-type parachute from the late sixties and early seventies, favoured by the accuracy jumper. Two other US manufacturers were licensed to make this canopy too; we had an original French and an American one flying on the vintage weekend.

### **Security Sierra**

This is another PC-type canopy from US manufacturer Security, it's quite small and responsive.

### **Security Thunderbow**

There were three Thunderbows in use. This is a triangular canopy from the very early seventies. It is actually the same technology as a PC and classed as a round, but with some corners. It still looks quite radical today because there have not been very many triangular parachutes.

### **Slots3**

Dick Gays, the designer and manufacturer of the Parashapes canopies (the 'Wally' canopy of Wally Gubbins fame, Olympic Rings and the Volkswagen logo) designed and developed a sport canopy in the late seventies and early eighties known as the Slots3. This is a rectangular, single-surface canopy, where the slots in the canopy all face in the same direction. The idea being that the slots' effects complement each other, rather than cancelling each other out. It is a very clever design that has an amazingly small pack volume.

The Slots3 was tested through three generations of design and was cleared for sport use (D Licence and above) by the BPA. There were only ever two of these canopies made; one by Dick and one by Barry Jeffries at the RAPA rigging loft (Bad Lippspringe, Germany). Dick was kind enough to lend his Slots3 canopy to the Vintage event; Ludwig Schmude of the Paderborn Parachute Club came to the occasion with what he, till then, believed to be the only Slots3 left in existence. The two Slots3 canopies jumped together for only the second time ever during the weekend. Following the event, another enthusiast has started making his own!



Papillon



Thunderbow



Slots3



## Classic Rounds

There were also several basic round parachutes being used as well, which have speeds less than 10mph.

### T10As

The Pathfinder Parachute Group military round parachute club often jumps at Teuge. The vintage weekend was no exception, so we had a lot of classic green military T10A (troop) canopies being jumped on static line from both aircraft at 2,000 feet.

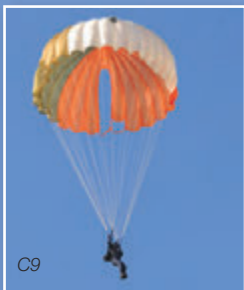


### EFA Silk Parachute

The oldest canopy in use over the weekend was a 1954 French-made, very large and old silk parachute; a very eye-catching, large purple basic round canopy

### C9

One C9 was jumped, made in 1966. This was the mainstay of sport parachuting first jump courses across the world, because the C9 (cargo) parachute was available in huge numbers as military surplus, leading to the birth of sport parachuting as we now know it.



### Aeroconical

The C9 was replaced in the UK by the GQ Aeroconical and Irvin. An aeroconical was jumped over the Vintage weekend as an example of a classic late eighties student canopy.



### Incident-Free

All in all, over 60 vintage canopy jumps were made with no incidents, off landings or injuries. For those who are intrigued but perhaps reluctant to get involved for fear of all those non-standard cutaway drills and front mount reserves, fear not – virtually all of the gear used was in modern container systems with hand-deployed mains, 3-ring releases and square reserves.

### Next Time

Leo Dickinson had also kindly lent us a cutaway rig and Dick Gays had also supplied the Parashapes canopies. The plan had been to jump these canopies also, but time did not permit this to happen. However they should be in the air soon and may hopefully be ready for further use at a similar event in the future.

### Own Vintage Gear?

Should anyone still be harbouring, or know of any, vintage equipment please do consider allowing it to become part of an event such as the one described here. There are enough sensible and caring collectors and riggers who are interested in preserving and presenting this side of the history of our sport before it is lost forever. Feel free to contact me with any comment or questions or details of any old parachute equipment.

Andrew Hilton

[andrew.hilton@yahoo.com](mailto:andrew.hilton@yahoo.com)



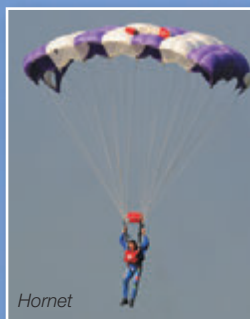
Main photo by Herman Goudzwaard [www.lightbox-images.nl](http://www.lightbox-images.nl)  
Other photos by Herman Goudzwaard & Saskia Zegwaard

## Early Ram-Air

The first ram-air designs were five-cells, then gradually the sport evolved to seven and subsequently nine-cells.

### Hornet

Henny had a very early seven-cell ram-air canopy from 1975, a Pioneer Hornet. This was very unusual to look at – though the top surface was as normal, the lower surface only extended from the nose halfway to the tail. Each cell was therefore single-surface from the midpoint back to the tail. Not only that, but the rear of each cell was open and the air passed straight through without much pressurised inflation taking place. This gave it little more performance than a round but was a typical part of the evolution of our sport to the equipment that we take for granted nowadays.





## GENERAL NEWS

### AGM 2010 – Blackpool

The next BPA AGM is to be held in Blackpool, at the Hilton Hotel, on Saturday 16 January 2010. We are looking to make it different from previous years. A small steering group led by Adrian Bond and supported by Martin Soulsby, Martin Shuttleworth and Paul Moore would like to know what you want to see or change (within reason). To help them, please go to the BPA website, download a brief questionnaire and return to the BPA office by post or e-mail by Friday 27 March.

### Membership Renewal

Your BPA membership renewal form for the year from 1 April 2009 is enclosed in this Mag. Please return it before 1 April to the BPA Office with your subscription – in order to be able to keep jumping! The renewal form may also be obtained from your centre or downloaded from the BPA website. (Work on developing the new BPA website to offer online renewals from 2010 will take place this year.)

### Lower Price Membership

This year's renewal subscription is £118.45, a reduction of £22.20 on last year's subscription of £140.65. This is the second consecutive year that your overall subscription has come down, even with a 3% inflation-linked increase on the BPA element to £36.95 (and the Mag element again remaining unchanged at £17.50). The lower cost is due to a further reduction in the third party public liability insurance premium.

Thanks to the hard work of David Hickling and his Insurance Working Group (Paul Moore, Grant Richards, Craig Poxon, Kieran Brady & Tony Butler), a year-on-year decrease in premium of about 25% for all types of Members – including Full, Qualified Associate and Provisional (student and temporary) has been secured. This was achieved by moving to another insurer, who is providing equal coverage but with some new fringe benefits, details of which will be posted on the insurance page of the BPA website. A full breakdown of BPA subscriptions for 2009/10 is set out in Form 107 on the BPA website.

### European News

The first EPU meeting was held on 31 January and it was voted that Paul Moore will be President of EPU and the BPA Finance Officer Jon Gretton will be Treasurer General. The reaction from other EU sporting nations was very positive and this paves the way forward towards greater harmony in sport parachuting in Europe.

## STC

### New AFF Rules

STC (Safety and Training Committee) voted at its meeting on Thursday 20 November 2008, to make a change in the student to instructor ratio for AFF. This can now be a maximum of 4:1, having previously been 3:1. So one instructor can now train up to four AFF students in ground school (jumping ratios are unchanged).

## COMPETITIONS

### World Games

#### Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei

16-26 July

The organisers of the World Games select and invite athletes based on 2008's World Championship performance. They have invited team *Volare* in freefly and Deane 'Smudge' Smith in Canopy Piloting. Well done guys! The pick list is for those highest achievers only at world level and it's great to see BPA members recognised.

### World Cup

#### Prostejov, Czech Republic

30 August – 5 September

Check with your discipline reps to see if there is an opportunity to attend the World Cup this year. For example 8-way FS has currently no takers – come on!! This is a great opportunity to attend a world class event without having to win the Nationals, as each nation can send multiple teams.

### Roadshows

A number of requests for roadshows have been received, so Competitions Committee has started working with those dropzones. See the diary at the back of this Mag for a range of dates already agreed for BPA Coaching Roadshows. All you need to be eligible to attend is grade 1 in the relevant discipline – so come along and get coached for free! We are looking to lay on the usual CF, FS and Artistic events. Requests for other disciplines will of course be entertained. An 8-way FS roadshow is planned for the end of May at Skydive Airkix, Peterborough, to try to re-invigorate this discipline before Nationals.

### ESL Finals

As winners of last year's ESL trophy (the Spirit), UK should be the hosts of the ESL Finals 2009. Dates and venue are under discussion with other European countries to ensure we de-conflict with each nation's Nationals, as far as is possible. A finals in the UK in mid September (while we may still have good weather) is most probable but stay tuned as we get feedback from other countries.

### CF Nationals 2009

#### Target Skysports, Hibaldstow

15 -17 August

The dates were set in October 2008 but didn't make it into the December Mag. They will follow the usual format, held on a 3-day weekends (Sat – Mon inclusive) with the following 3-day weekend (Sat 22 – Mon 24 August) as a reserve for incomplete rounds.

### Nationals Rules

As we were going to press, the annual IPC (International Parachuting Commission) meeting in Sweden was taking place. We need to allow time for any international rule changes to be incorporated into our own country's. Therefore, rules for Nationals, Grand Prix events, UKSL, etc, will soon be generated and posted on BPA website when available.

Have fun in 2009 – go and compete!

Andy Scott  
Chairman of Competitions







## NEW RATINGS

### Advanced Packer

Jan Louis Jurgens Saunders (S)  
Sandra Keith (S)  
Advanced Packers  
Gary Marshall (S)  
Andrew Callender (S + R)

### Parachute Riggers

Richard Bishop  
Dominic Hines  
Richard Green  
Paul Jordan  
Chris Gilmore  
Dave West

### Basic Riggers

Andy Hughes  
Charles McNeil  
Louis Saunders  
Alan Westley  
Gerry Cepelak  
Simon Gearing  
Gary Marshall

### Advanced Riggers

Phill Elston  
George Panagopoulos

### Council Meeting Dates

Council meeting dates for 2009 are as follows, all at the BPA Office at 6.30pm

- Tue 17 Feb
- Wed 22 Apr
- Tue 23 Jun
- Tue 18 Aug
- Tue 13 Oct
- Tue 8 Dec (after EGM)

Communications normally meets at 2pm and Development at 4pm on the same day as Council meetings. The Competitions Committee is experimenting with meeting on the same day too, starting on 17 February at 9.30am. Note the April meeting will unusually be held on a Wednesday, this is because the 'normal' meeting of Tuesday 21 April would clash with the Royal Aero Club Awards ceremony, where we have a plethora of BPA Members receiving medals and trophies.

## Council Election

The results of the election of the BPA Council 2009, run by the independent body ERS (Electoral Reform Services), are as follows:

Number of eligible voters	4,800
Votes cast by post	524
Votes cast online	456
Number of votes cast	980
Turnout (%)	20
Number of invalid votes	4
Number of valid votes	976

### Results

#### Elected

Andy Scott	609
Weed Stoodley	563
Paul Applegate	545
Craig Poxon	532
John Horne	517
Ian Marshall	494
Martin Soulsby	470
John Smyth	451
Paul Moore	446
Grant Richards	442
Ray Armstrong	437
Alex Wilson	417
Adrian Bond	360
Paul Ledden	345
Steve Saunders	331

#### Not Elected

Clem Quinn	302
Kieran Brady	294
Elizabeth Warner *	285
Sandy Barnett	245

\*nomination withdrawn during balloting period due to personal reasons

## Committees

The 15 Council members elected by the BPA Membership, in turn, elect the chairmen of the various committees at the inaugural Council meeting, on AGM day. They also decide who will sit on each committee, according to the interests of each individual. Results are as follows:

### BPA Chairman

**John Smyth**

### BPA Vice Chairman

**John Horne**

### Communications Committee

**Martin Soulsby** Chairman

Paul Applegate  
Adrian Bond  
Craig Poxon  
Grant Richards  
Lesley Gale\* (Editor, The Mag)

### Development Committee

**Craig Poxon** Chairman

Committee members to be announced

### Competitions Committee

<b>Andy Scott</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
Paul Moore	Classics Rep
Steve Saunders	CF Rep
Martin Soulsby	FS Rep
Weed Stoodley	Artistics & VFS Rep
Alex Wilson	CP Rep
Clare Murphy*	Speed Skydiving Rep
Kate Charters*	Judges' Co-ordinator
Paul Applegate*	
Ian Marshall*	

Clubs and centres wishing to host a BPA Coaching Roadshow this season should contact the relevant Discipline Rep shown above.

\* non-voting



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Marc Fletcher wins a jump with Elan on the BCPA Easter tour

# What's all that about then?

## What is the BCPA?

The British Collegiate Parachute Association (BCPA) is a volunteer-run, non-profit organisation, set up for the purpose of promoting skydiving at collegiate level. Our aim is to provide a community where several hundred university skydivers (from over 30 affiliated university clubs) can find like-minded people – with whom they can jump, compete and most importantly socialise!

## Combat bad weather boredom!

One of the difficulties facing university skydiving clubs is retaining new members during the inevitable bad weather months at the start of the academic year. A good way to combat this is to build a strong social side – so during the year, the BCPA runs six boogie-style events at dropzones around the UK, plus tunnel meets and the famously fantastic foreign trip each Easter.

## Sporting Prowess – University League

The BCPA coordinates annual inter-university leagues to allow clubs to compete against each other, both through actual competitions (3-way, freely and accuracy) and by comparing club achievements (Cat 8, FS1, etc). This culminates in an awards ceremony at the BCPA Nationals in the summer. Many clubs find that successfully winning BCPA awards helps to squeeze out more funding from their university next year!

## How do you get involved?

To attend events and be eligible for the leagues, clubs need to affiliate with the BCPA. If your university doesn't have a club, you can either join us informally as an individual, or ally with a nearby club and donate your league points to them! We can also provide assistance for people wanting to start up a club at their university – this can be a great way to get some of your jumping paid for, through the athletic unions.

## Who are we?

Members range from 'freshers' who have recently done their first jump to graduates with hundreds of skydives who help film, coach and organise at BCPA events. The BCPA itself is run by a committee of volunteers, voted in at each year's AGM during the BCPA Nationals event. This year's committee is:

- Chair – Ed Morley
- Secretary – Jenny Buckle
- Treasurer – Will Cooke

Look forward to seeing you at the next event!

Ed Morley  
[bcpa@ukskydiver.co.uk](mailto:bcpa@ukskydiver.co.uk)



Simon Milligan



Loughborough Uni

Photos by:  
Tim Cooke  
Blair Stent  
Andy Lovemore  
Rob Stevenson  
Ed Landamore



For information on upcoming events as well as how to join the BCPA, please visit:  
[ukskydiver.co.uk/bcpa](http://ukskydiver.co.uk/bcpa)

BCPA Nationals party survivors





# SEVILLE Skies

Top freefly, flat and crew coaches, three fast Dorniers whizzing to 15,000 feet, efficient manifest and load of jumpers from the UK, Scandinavia and all over Europe – it must be the Skydive Spain Christmas Boogie!!!!



Mike Barrett

## From the Flatflyers

Arriving on 20 December I had hoped to beat the crowds and get a few jumps in before the boogie really took off. To my delight an energetic Caroline Hughes was already in full swing and churning out FS load organising to beat the festive band. Caroline, together with a crew of friendly organisers (Simon Cathrine, Gordon Hodgkinson, Kate Burn, Ronan Whelan and Brian Cumming) made it easy for skydivers of all levels feel welcome in groups that were both fun and challenging. As the days passed the skydives grew more difficult and I, among many others, went full throttle up a steep FS learning curve! The climb was greatly aided by a generous 15,000 feet every load. We did some really great skydiving, with Caroline bringing her unique artistic approach to the formations. It was fabulous to see so many progress their skills and the cracking hangovers from the previous night's partying only served to separate the men from the boys... or the women from the men!

Nightly festivities kicked off in the DZ bar with many a cerveza served with a friendly smile. Fantastic entertainment was provided watching highlights of the day's jumping, kindly donated by the many camera flyers and put together by Andy Lovemore. It was great to see my own group on the big screen but even better to get a look at all the other great stuff that was going on. A very impressive panel of freeflyers were generating muchos freefly fun which made for excellent viewing and I'm sure excellent jumping. Pat Hammond, who celebrated his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Christmas Eve, was leading the canopy formation contingency with moves that made the hair stand up on the back of your neck. There were tracking dives, hybrids, wingsuit, tube jumps (case of beer!), streamers, swoopers, horny gorillas, rodeo antics, AFF, static-line, tandem and a partridge in a pear tree...

In the evenings the local villages of Bollullos and Bormujos were descended upon by merry skydivers sporting santa hats, who partied on well into the night. The wide variety of nationalities made for many an excuse to celebrate – like we needed one! Norwegian Christmas celebrations beginning on 24 December kicked the festive madness into overdrive, and so it continued well into the new year! Christmas day celebrations at Haystacks restaurant were a highlight, with free beer and food aplenty; as we say in Ireland, 'sure the craic was mighty!'

As always, many friendships were made or strengthened and, though it was the festive season that had brought us all together, it was the welcoming, friendly staff and members at Skydive Spain that made it a Christmas to remember.

Sue Walsh  
Cork, Ireland



Tom's CF1 by Pat Hammond



Caroline's group by Mike Barrett









## From the Freeflyers

This year's boogie once again greeted jumpers with a host of fantastic organisers, irrespective of discipline, and no registration fee. The freeflyers were totally spoilt with the presence of Fabian Raidel, Kristian Moxnes, Jim Harris, Dan Parker, Mike Carpenter and Andy Lovemore, master of the daily video.

The organisers did a fantastic job at working with all levels. Small head-up groups through to larger sequential loads; tracking and vertical; tubes and funnels all abounded. Judging by the number of freeflyers and looking at the quality of all of the jumps, it was obvious they were enjoying themselves.

Sporadic bad weather arrived after Christmas. However whenever good weather appeared, the three Dorniers rapidly hauled jumpers to 15,000 feet. On 30 December a full day's jumping afforded over eighty loads – not bad for the short winter days! Walking around the dropzone many old friends were re-acquainting and new friends being made. A strong Finnish and Norwegian element added to the European feel of the event. Every year the dropzone seems to have new visitors who come to try, enjoy, and end up returning. This event was no exception and had a really busy happening buzz to it.

Notable jumps were a five-point sequential 8-way of mixed orientations and a sequential 6-way, both made on the last few loads of the day. Ville Huttu-Hiltunen, a Finnish cameraflyer, made the jumps even more special by shooting stills in his own unique style. A big flash and some customised camera settings produced some amazing shots. Check out the supporting shots and the amazing sky back drops.

A big thankyou should go to the Skydive Spain management, who once again got in great organisers and had the facilities and skill to make sure when we could jump we were in the air. The boogie had a really good to feel to it, top parties and, most important of all, great jumps.

Roll on 2009, stay safe and fly hard.

*The Bad Lieutenants*







Freefly photos by  
Ville Huttu-Hiltunen



Mike Barrett



## From the Future

I had been having some difficulties getting jumps in the UK; poor weather and just plain bad timing as far as work and the like getting in the way. Having spent most of the year not managing to complete my consolidation jumps I figured that the boogie would be a good way to crack through them in a short time and get on with my FS1.

I arrived with two consols left to do. I left, twelve days later with my FS1 sticker, a 14-way under my belt, goodness-only knows how many smaller-ways, and loads of new friends. I owe a lot of people beer for the speed I progressed. The load organising was top notch and was the reason I learned so much as loads of super-experienced people went out of their way to help me and give me advice. The whole experience was completely awesome and way more than I had hoped for. Friendly people, good times... and I know exactly what I am doing next Christmas!

*Kieran Sweetman*

Main image: Ville Huttu-Hiltunen



*Blair Stent*







Ville Huttu-Hiltunen







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# Hypoxia

## ALL I need is the AIR that I BREATHE

### Confidential Casestudy

I was jumpmastering abroad, and therefore I guess was a little more laid-back about things from the outset, although I don't think that had too much bearing on the events that followed. The lift consisted of some Flat groups, some freeflyers, and some old 'n' bold crew dogs [Canopy Formation flyers]. The boogie organiser wanted us to drop the crew on the way up, which meant that we'd climbed fairly slowly to 8,000 feet and then waited for another aircraft to drop first. People had to get up and move around quite a bit to give the guys plenty of space but, once they'd left, the ramp closed and we sat back down and continued to climb.

There was quite a bit of cloud around and, although I was jumpmaster, it wasn't my home DZ, or my home country come to that, so as we passed 11,000 feet, I started looking out as best I could for recognisable features on the ground whilst everyone else started putting helmets on, and getting stood up again. By 13,000 feet to be honest I still couldn't see anything I recognised, which was starting to worry me. The aircraft had red and green lights, so I was hoping for a red from the pilot to tell me that we were at least near the dropzone! I naturally until now had assumed that like most pilots, she could speak my language well. As it turned out, for most of the time I'd been looking we'd actually been a mile or two away.

Either way, it suddenly hit me that we'd been up here for quite a bit of time, and that we ought to be running in. For the first time I asked people to stand aside so that I could walk through to speak to the pilot. She told me that we were waiting for another aircraft to drop first. Being aware of the dangers of hypoxia, I told her that we must have been at altitude for about 10 minutes by now and that we really needed to either drop or descend. This wasn't the first pilot I've met who took this as 'movable talking cargo' questioning her authority. I was told in no uncertain terms that the other aircraft would drop first!

People were standing up, sitting down, talking, and some were getting agitated about what to do. A health professional on board told us all to sit down and breathe calmly. Then things got very unfunny.

I noticed that a camerawoman, who had by now had a heavy top-mount camera helmet on for some considerable time, had turned grey in the face and had blue lips. I asked her if she felt okay and the answer was "No, not really". I asked the pilot to descend immediately as we had at least one person with hypoxia but the freeflyers on the load insisted that we ran in to drop them first. Opinions were flying around this big plane full of jumpers, in several languages, I felt very much the foreigner and my normal decisiveness simply wasn't there.

The freeflyers got their way and we dropped part of the load and descended with the rest. I found myself back on the tarmac behind the tailgate, about 25 minutes after first going above 10,000 feet. Knowing that the boogie organiser would be pi\*\*ed at me bringing half a lift down, I went to explain my decision-making, while the camerawoman went to lie down! The DZ controller got involved, and (I think) blamed the pilot for circling for so long without making it clear on the radio that she needed priority to drop.

He also asked why on earth I hadn't put the camerawoman on oxygen once I realised she was so ill?! I replied that, if I'd had any idea there was oxygen on board, then of course I would have done but the pilot never mentioned it! Later many others on the lift were admitting to splitting headaches, and saying that they hadn't really been able to think at full speed at altitude.

This really brought home to me stuff that I thought I already knew, how hypoxia can come on very quickly and affect different people at different speeds and in different ways. You can think you're fine and only realise later once you're back on the ground just how impaired you were. Despite being fully aware of the issues involved, they still crept up on me.

Oh, and if any flat flyers care, yes the freeflyers landed just fine!



Oxygen systems were used in the World Record 400-way in 2006 as jumps were from 24,000ft. Photo: Hans Berggren

### Comment

The above was a confidential report of a real incident. What makes this such a good report (for me) is that you can read between the lines and put yourself in that plane, and just see the problems brewing up. As a jumpmaster, or a jumper, all the plans are going gradually to bits, as everyone's ability to reason goes through the window (or in this case off the ramp). Your decision-making is eroded, whilst the guy next to you gets more bolshy, and the guy next to him appears to be really relaxed and happy.

In case any of you are wondering about some foreign pilot's apparent stubbornness and think the faults are all hers, don't. Remember hypoxia was hitting her and her thinking abilities too!

More and more of our DZs in this country have the ability to take us where we want to go; ie, higher and more often. The potential hypoxia issues have been comprehensively addressed, and the rules re-written, after a lot of negotiation, just last year. (see overleaf)

Let's review the rules and facts surrounding hypoxia and parachuting.

### Hypoxia – Rough Guide

At all times, in order for a human to walk, talk and skydive, we need a lot of oxygen (close to 100% saturation) in our blood. As the pressure drops with altitude, so does





### Thought for the Day

If you're one of those skygods who always knows the answer but never actually does the jumpmaster job, ask yourself what you would have done, if the person turning grey with the blue lips had in fact been the pilot?

# In Confidence

Report any incident in complete confidence to:

Rick Boardman  
281 Ablington, Figheldean,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 8JX

Phone/Ans 01980 670598  
Mobile 07747 114602  
Email RicksRiggery@aol.com

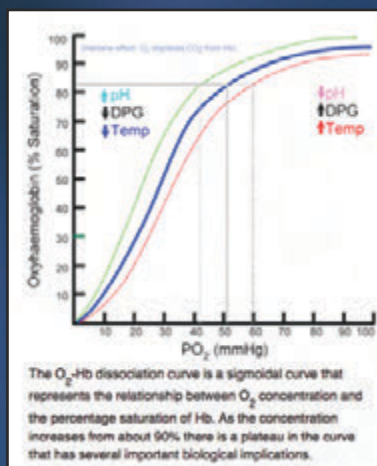


by Rick Boardman

the amount of oxygen available. Above 7,000 feet in an aircraft, problems associated with altitude are inevitable, it's just a matter of when they will occur. At 7,000 feet the time is measured in hours. At 18,000 feet the 'time of useful consciousness' is about 20-30 minutes in healthy, well-rested, individuals who are unstressed. With exertion and ill-health this time will be much, much less. Try running at this altitude and you'll be unconscious in seconds. Remember that we aren't climbing a mountain, gently acclimatising as we go.

At 15,000 feet there is approximately half the atmospheric oxygen as there is at sea level. This does not mean that at 15,000 feet we will have half the oxygen in our blood. The good news is that blood is very capable of maintaining its high oxygen saturation as the pressure drops, until a certain threshold.

Once that threshold is reached, oxygen in the blood can drop off rapidly, meaning you can be fine, until suddenly and with no warning you're not. See the graph (right).



Just to make it more interesting, no two people will react at the same time, and in the same way. Colour-blindness, tunnel vision, headache, anxiety, euphoria, panic, and inability to think straight are all symptoms. Irrational behaviour, poor decision-making, tingling lips and extremities, loss of dexterity, fatigue, weakness, nausea and vomiting can kick in too. Eventually, hypoxia leads to coma, permanent brain and organ damage, and death. Luckily we are in an aircraft, and not stuck up a mountain.

The trouble with hypoxia is that its onset is unpredictable from one person to another. What's worse, it hits you in the brain, and some of its initial symptoms can be mistaken for the natural anxieties and/or euphoria we get as we get ready to leave the plane. It's more likely that when you are actually hypoxic you won't realise it but you may recognise when you are getting near to it. A headrush from getting up suddenly is not hypoxia, but will seem worse with the altitude. Anxiety about it can make it worse too.



## Avoiding Hypoxia

When preparing to jump there is a lot you can do also. Make sure you are well-rested and not hungover. Choose the right clothing for the weather. Do not jump if you are unwell. Keep blood sugar and fluid levels sensible, keep hydrated: if you need a pee when you land you've done it right. Avoid sugary foods, drugs, sedatives and stimulants as these create physiological imbalances. Smoking is a problem (it causes an inability of the blood to carry oxygen, called anaemic hypoxia).

The curve mentioned above shifts rapidly to the right with a drop in pH, in other words, with a blood acidosis. So avoid cola and other fizzy drinks. These create an enormous acid loading on the body (with implications for other areas of health also). Cola or even diet cola are not health drinks.

Acid loading is also raised in diets high in meat, wheat and other cereals, coffee, sugary foods, and especially from hard cheese. Acid loading is reduced by fresh fruit and veg, and raw food. Citrus fruits, although acidic, have a net alkali-forming effect once digested, so are beneficial in this respect. Milk, nuts, oils and fats are about neutral. In short; eat a balanced diet that's high in fresh fruit and veg and avoid heavily processed food. Funnily enough, this is what we should be doing anyway for all sorts of reasons, including athletic performance and concentration. Excessive protein is not helpful, and fresh veg should be the bulk of the intake.

All of this assumes that we have enough iron in our diet. Women are more likely to be anaemic than men, and vegetarians can also have problems getting enough iron. The best source is red meat but some is obtained from leafy green vegetables. Most of us are unlikely to be short of iron but it is difficult to absorb it and make red blood cells if we are low in B vitamins and vitamin C, so eat your raw veg and fruit (this doesn't mean tomato ketchup!).

As a precaution, therefore, you may want to consider taking a multi-vitamin and mineral supplement regularly. Most don't offer much iron so a separate iron supplement may be sensible. Not all supplements are the same, and many of the cheaper brands are mainly synthetic, so ask for advice and don't necessarily go for the cheapest. How well minerals are absorbed varies from brand to brand too. Some iron formulations can cause stomach upsets so ask about that too, at the health food shop or pharmacy. Start now, because it can take several weeks or months to replace a deficiency, dietary measures for health are a long-term proposition.

In addition, some metabolic disorders and infections can cause problems with red blood cells, so anybody experiencing problems at altitude, or any unexplained tiredness at other times should seek professional advice, explain their concerns and ask for appropriate tests.

And of course, perfect blood won't carry enough oxygen if you have a defect with, say, a heart valve, or a reduced pumping capacity. Again, seek advice if you are concerned. Inefficient breathing patterns won't help either, hence breath retraining using methods such as Buteyko or Pranayama may make a difference.

Contrary to what you may think, hypoxia can hit young and athletic people much more rapidly. The reason is that these people have a higher basal metabolic rate, so use up more oxygen even at rest than us old slobs. Before chucking away the exercise programme however, be aware that complete inactivity won't make you more efficient either. Exercise has many other benefits, highly relevant to hypoxia and to skydiving in general. Ideally take regular, moderate, balanced, enjoyable exercise.

Beyond that, the heart and lungs and vessels are regulated by the autonomic nervous system, which can be interfered with through spinal mechanics. An osteopath can help with maintaining a clear flow of fluid to and from where it's needed.

Whether you're fully aware of the BPA and CAA rules or not, the fact is that a lot of us jump elsewhere, and foreign rules or lack of, can catch you out. When you are at that wild foreign boogie, whilst respecting their rules, look after each other. You may want to set your own additional rules as a group of Brits abroad, for example: "Okay guys, so if one of us calls it because he thinks he's going hypoxic, we're all staying on board and demanding a descend, as a team rule, no negotiations". "If we're lashing it with the Europeans tonight, we're having the morning off jumping, for recovery."

Part of an oxygen system inadvertently taken into freefall, photo from World Team 2006 by Gary Wainwright



## Minimising Hypoxia

A few pointers to stave off hypoxia

### On the ground

- Keep warm
- Hydrate well throughout the day
- Eat healthily
- Take regular exercise
- Avoid smoking

### In the air

- Avoid too much exertion
- Learn to be calm
- Talk less
- Get as comfortable as possible
- Stay seated and don't fidget

## If you become hypoxic

If you think it's got you, the correct signal is a lightly clenched fist raised and turned side to side (this says 'I have a problem with oxygen' – but without strenuous movement). Tell your buddies, and try to stay calm. Look after each other in the aircraft, and watch for the signs. The aircraft should descend at once. If you start to feel better on the way down, do not jump, and **don't** climb back up to altitude again, just because you seem to recover. You need to be on the ground.

**A plane full of hypoxic skydivers trying to decide whether they're okay to jump is like a bar full of drunks deciding who should drive home.**

Rick Boardman  
ricksriggery@aol.com

Huge thanks to Eno Van der Post for his knowledge





### **BPA Rules on Flying and Oxygen**

Normally, we won't be parachuting above Flight Level 120. But when we do fly above Flight Level 120, parachuting will only take place between Flight Level 120 and Flight Level 150 without oxygen, provided that:

- Parachutists are not above Flight Level 100 for more than 30 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- Parachutists are not above Flight Level 120 for more than 6 minutes before leaving the aircraft.
- The aircraft commander monitors these flight levels and time limits.
- If the flight level or time limits are exceeded, the drop will be aborted and all parachutists will land with the aircraft.

In other words, the jumpmaster, DZ and pilot must work together to minimise our exposure to the lower oxygen levels, by getting us up there and out, nice and slick. If we want to go higher than Flight Level 150 we can, but only once we've submitted plans to the BPA and the CAA, via your CCI.

**NB;** Flight Level 120 is not the same thing as 12,000 feet (although that is a rough approximation). It changes with air pressure on the day. Your pilot can explain.







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Photo: PDFT over Voss by JC Colclasure



## X-Rated

In the October issue of your favourite column I reported on the PD Factory Team's recruitment drive, Project-X, a five-month quest to find and select new team members for the top-notch high performance canopy team. The Factory Team's remit, in their words, is to 'explore all facets of canopy flight, including but not limited to high-speed CRW, high-G formation spiralling manoeuvres, 4-way formation landings, and remote location object and water swooping'.

Well, after extensive advertising, fifteen potential recruits were found from around the world, all chomping at the bit to become part of this prestigious team. For the final selection week in January, Ian Bobo, Shannon Pilcher, Jay Moledzki, JC Colclasure and Jonathan Tagle who created the X-Project took their applicants to the deep woods of central Florida,

where they were put through a week of intensive evaluation. This not only covered their canopy piloting skills, in swooping a large lake, but also looked deeply into the applicant's personalities, their coaching, communication and 'getting along in a team' skills also.

Throughout the selection process the candidates were expected to make presentations to the group after limited prep time, take part in chopping logs, building camp fires, preparing meals and many other 'team type' tasks. At the end of the week each candidate had to endure an hour's interview with the PD Factory team. This gruelling process was felt to be the best opportunity for each candidate to open up and share who they are as a person and why they thought they would fit into the team.

After this intensive week was over, four candidates were indeed



Brian Vacher joins PDFT

chosen and they include our own top canopy guru Brian Vacher, whom many will remember as VMax's cameraflyer, and others will know from the canopy piloting courses he has run from his business in Spain over the last few years. Excellent result – well done Brian!

[www.pdfactoryteam.com](http://www.pdfactoryteam.com)

## Performance on the Line

US canopy manufacturer Performance Designs is offering a 300 HMA line option for the dedicated swooper. 300 HMA is a competition version of the HMA line typically used on sport canopies. It's a very thin line that reduces drag, which is what makes it appealing to serious canopy piloting competitors who are looking for that extra 'edge' in competition.

Where the commonly used 500 or 750 HMA is used for every day skydiving, these thinner, less sturdy lines are intended for competition use only. PD recommends sub-terminal openings and vigilant line inspections for signs of wear when using 300 HMA. They stress that 100 jumps on a line set is the target point for a re-line. No more than 150 jumps should be put on a line set because the potential for breakage is quite high, sometimes even after only a handful of jumps.

The company has found that 300 HMA will enhance performance on their top of range *Velocity* when flown by skilled, accomplished canopy pilots who have done all they can to reduce drag in other areas, but may be barely noticeable to most jumpers who do high performance landings simply for the fun of it. For the less competitive swooper who intends to use their *Velocity* for general use, PD recommends 500 HMA or 500 Vectran.

[www.performancedesigns.com](http://www.performancedesigns.com)

## Bent but not Dodgy

Some discussion has been taking place recently concerning ripcord pins and how bent they can be and still be safe. United Parachute Technologies (UPT), manufacturer of the *Vector* series of containers has put out a paper recently which shows pictures of pins which are slightly bent but still safe and acceptable; and those which are unacceptable.

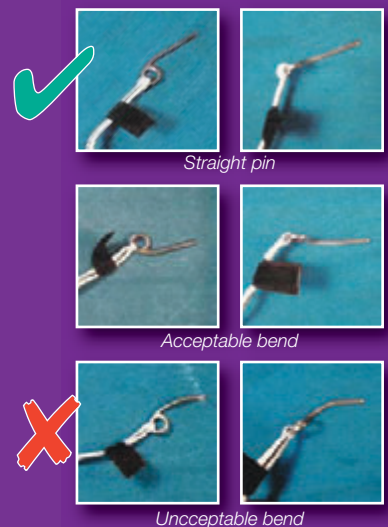
UPT explains that the company now uses a material called 316 stainless steel rather than more brittle steels. Their researchers have concluded that it is better to have a pin bend slightly than to have it break off. They also noted that with brittle metals, when there was any deformation, significant loss of structural integrity was experienced and the surface of the metal would create sharp edges. The 316 steel does not do this but the downside is that the pin is more malleable.

In UPT's opinion it is acceptable to have a bend in a pin of up to 20 degrees. In fact the company tested pins with up to a 45-degree bend without significant increases in pull forces on the reserve ripcord. Reserve static lines were not affected.

In addition to showing pictures of straight, acceptably bent and unacceptably bent pins UPT has also given some advice in their paper about how to protect your reserve pin, as follows:

- Do not lean on your reserve tray while in the aircraft
- Do not sit on the reserve tray while setting the brakes
- Do not put your knee on the back to gain leverage when closing the main
- Do not grab the container from the reserve side flaps.

UPT – [www.uptvector.com](http://www.uptvector.com)  
+1 386 736 7471





## Database

Andy Hughes of ukskydiver fame has created online a very useful database of equipment manuals, safety notices and service bulletins from manufacturers and governing bodies, pertaining to most of the popular canopies and rigs in use today. These are available as PDF files by accessing the 'Rigging' section of [UKSkydiver.co.uk](http://UKSkydiver.co.uk).

A second aspect of Andy's project has been to produce an online service bulletin index that references the relevant files and provides a brief summary of the service bulletins, which are clearer and easier to understand. This can be accessed by going to:

[www.ukskydiver.co.uk/cms/forums](http://www.ukskydiver.co.uk/cms/forums)

The project was carried out independently from any manufacturers or associations and will be of great benefit to individual jumpers, riggers or clubs. Andy's plan for the future is to maintain the data as new bulletins and manuals are released.

[www.ukskydiver.co.uk](http://www.ukskydiver.co.uk)

## PdeF Service Bulletin

Once again Parachutes de France or Aerazur as the company now likes to be called, has issued a Service Bulletin, which relates to their reserve canopies. The bulletin was issued following the discovery during the packing of a PdeF/Aerazur reserve in France at the end of last year where a slider stop had become detached from the canopy.

Slider stops are normally sewn into the stabilisers or at the top of the lines of a canopy to prevent the slider grommets from 'eating' and damaging the canopy's fabric during deployment when the slider is forced upwards by the rapid and aggressive rush of air. It's also possible without slider stops for the slider to become permanently jammed up and not able to come down during the deployment sequence – not nice for a reserve!

Since no other cases have been found, the company has concluded that this was a one-off incident, a worrying one nonetheless! As a precaution the bulletin requires that at the repack cycle all PdeF/Aerazur reserve canopies are inspected to confirm that all stops are still in place, and if so this should be noted in the reserve's docs.

With PdeF's usual attention to customer service their bulletin makes no mention of what one should do if indeed a slider stop or two is missing at the repack! Not packing it sounds like a good idea to me.

Aerazur/PdF – [infopdf@zodiac.com](mailto:infopdf@zodiac.com)  
+33 1 41 23 23 23

# Super Swooper



Nick Batsch setting a Distance World Record

Nick Batsch of the USA set a new 'distance' World Record of 169.9 metres (557.4 feet) flying a *Daedalus JVX79* (all sail material) at the World Championships of Canopy Piloting in South Africa, during November '08. Nick out-swooped 69 other competitors to take the record.

The JVX, from those aero-geniuses at Icarus/Daedalus, is a 27-cell elliptical cross-braced tri-cell with upgrades such as a new nose modification, longer lines, improved trim, and HMA lines as standard. Most radically the JVX has no stabilisers. The Daedalus boys tell us that stabilisers on

small high performance canopies don't do much except flap in the wind, causing added parasite drag. The JVX is slim, sleek and fast with minimum drag.

The 'Daedalus Project' first dealt with the issue of reducing drag on the wing tips by developing ram-air stabilisers. They soon found that no stabilisers at all was even better! The company went on to tell us that the primary function of stabilisers is to hold the slider in the correct position during deployment. The company addressed this issue by putting slider stops on the canopy itself, allowing them to completely eliminate the stabilisers!

The JVX has won two US National Championships of Canopy Piloting in 2004 and 2008 and two Pro Swooping Tour Championships in 2007 and 2008. The world's smallest parachute is a JVX. And now with Nick Batsch a JVX holds the current FAI/IPC world record in the Distance Canopy Piloting event.

[www.daedaluscanopies.com](http://www.daedaluscanopies.com)

# Better Late than Never

After ten years of lobbying by the United States Parachute Association (USPA) and the Parachute Industry Association (PIA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the United States of America (USA) has finally agreed to extend the repack cycle for sport reserves to 180 days from the 120 days that has been law since 1978, before which it was only 60 days.

The rule applies to reserve parachutes worn by all skydivers and smoke jumpers as well as emergency parachutes worn by pilots of aerobatic airplanes and gliders, air crew members, and military special ops jumpers using commercial 'off the shelf' parachute equipment.

In justifying the extension, the FAA cited 'new reliability data from the parachute industry and other sources' which indicated that modern materials and construction techniques now made it safe to allow parachutes to remain packed for a longer period. 'Recently acquired data from the U.S. military, foreign aviation authorities, and parachute industry representatives suggest that the current 120-day packing interval is too short,' the FAA said, and continued, 'Numerous experts asserted that modern parachute materials last longer when the packing interval is longer than 120 days and that too-frequent

packing shortens the life of the materials. Those experts found the parachutes' porosity was affected by handling and manipulation of the parachute while being packed.'

The FAA noted that it has for some time allowed many foreign skydivers visiting the US to use reserve parachutes that comply with their own countries' regulations, 'and many of those foreign parachutists' countries had much longer repack intervals.' The BPA was ahead of the game when we adopted a six-month cycle well

over a decade ago. Note – the BPA's repack cycle is six calendar months, which is in fact different from the FAA's 180 days.



Reserve packing photos by Thomas Sports

American reserve repack cycles have been extended to 180 days, in line with most of the world



# COOL THINGS HAPPEN



**MARCH  
26-30**

**ARIZONA  
CHALLENGE  
MAY 22-25**



## 2009 EVENTS

- ★ FEB 14-15 VALENTINE'S SSS MEET
- FEB 21-22 FREELY SSS MEET

---

- ★ MAR 26-30 SAN CARLOS MEXICO BOOGIE

---

- ★ APR 9-12 EASTER BOOGIE BEACH THEME - "A DAY ON THE BEACH"
- APR 11-12 VFS COMPETITION

---

- ★ MAY 2-4 CANOPY FLIGHT COURSE WITH BRIAN GERMAIN
- MAY 9-10 ARSENAL VFS RECORD QUALIFIER
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# PEOPLE - Wobby

## in the Sport



2008 marked the end of an era in Scottish parachuting as guardian rigger Ian 'Wobby' Robertson retired from the sport after 38 years. Wobby has a long background in Scottish parachuting as well as making a huge contribution to the BPA. Anyone knowing him couldn't fail to appreciate his selfless dedication and thoroughness to rigging and equipment safety.

Starting jumping in the seventies, Wobby amassed almost the 'full set' of ratings within just nine years – an impressive show of dedication, which would be hard to match even today.

Instructor	April 1973
Rigger	January 1974
Advanced Instructor	February 1977
Advanced Rigger	July 1977
Examiner Rigger	December 1979

I speak for not only myself but many others in Scotland and around the UK who think the world of Wobby and are very grateful for all he has done for us both directly and indirectly. The standards of Scottish and British rigging owe a great deal to his meticulous attention to detail and his overriding concern for looking after his fellow jumpers. On their behalf I would like to wish Wobby all the best for the future years to come, in his endeavours, interests, and life beyond parachuting.

Meanwhile, let's see what he has to tell us about the good ol' days...



### When did you do your first jump?

In June 1970 with the Scottish Parachute Club. I found a very close-knit and like-minded bunch of people when I started jumping. Many of us went on to become instructors and one a jump pilot. We all looked forward to the weekends and crammed a great deal of fun into them.

### What was it like in those days?

It was even harder then for students as they jumped onto Gleneagles Moor, higher than Strathallan Airfield and usually with stronger winds. We then had to travel back to the airfield and repack. Add to this that we used military surplus round canopies with little forward drive and that the Piper Tri-Pacer aircraft could only take two students and an instructor at a time, you can see that progress was really slow. If it was suitable for students then everyone focused on getting them jumping. When suitable for experienced skydivers, you did well if you got three or four jumps from the maximum height of 7,500 feet. The first time we went to 11,000 feet it took 45 minutes flying time and cost a fortune!

### How is the club at Strathallan different now?

At first Strathallan airfield had just one hangar which was used for rebuilding aircraft, such as the Spitfire and Mosquito, for the famous Strathallan Aircraft Museum. The parachute club kept a locker in the hangar containing all our gear – ex-military packs and harnesses with C9 28-foot round student canopies, side-pull chest-mounted 24-foot round reserves and three Para-Commanders (PCs) for the skygods.

The club grew gradually as training course and demo funds were put directly back into the club. Over a period of time we were allowed to use a room in the hangar. The club continued to grow in all aspects until we were doing many more hours than the flying club, which later closed.

### What has changed in equipment over the years?

In the early days the range of equipment in use was very limited. Many safety problems had been found the hard way and that information was then passed around the clubs. Most maintenance on kit was straightforward and involved little stitching, although some work had to be sent off to Lofty Thomas's [Thomas Sports Equipment] or the Netheravon rigging loft to get repaired.

A requirement that the same manufacturer had to design and manufacture the complete canopy, pack and harness system was eventually dropped. This was the start of an era of intense development of equipment because many people's creative design ability was released as they were now able to design rigs for existing canopies, and vice-versa.

As equipment became more complicated so the need to have more people trained to assemble and service it grew. There were a few who had qualified as Master Riggers in the USA such as Joe 'Pop' Reddick, Albert Hooker and Lofty Thomas; people were trained by them to help in basic repair work. Gradually people like George Shone, John Curtis, Tony Knight and Andy Page helped organise and run UK courses to train BPA Riggers.

### What sort of skydives did you do and what was your favourite?

I did a wide range of jumping; from testing new gear and modifications; Relative Work [was RW, now FS]; Canopy Relative Work [was CRW, now CF]; and displays. CRW was my favourite discipline, I really enjoyed it. CRW is challenging, fun, and gives you a lot of time in the air for your money.





### **Do any particular jumps stick in your memory?**

My first jump on a Delta II Parawing certainly got my full attention – if you have seen one packed you will know why! Also, exiting a DC3 at 12,500 feet on a pitch-black night at Perris Valley with a group of jumpers from various parts of the British dominion and becoming a Night Star Crest Recipient (NSCR). Another favourite was when Rob Noble-Nesbitt and myself did our joint 1,000<sup>th</sup> jumps together at Strathallan.

Finally, a demo jump from an AN2 biplane at RAF Leuchars during the the Battle of Britain Airshow. We were restricted to 5,200 feet but still managed to build an 8-stack, which then split into two 4-stacks, with Bob Charters landing his stack! A jumper at the airshow overheard a spectator say that the our display was much better than the second lot (the RAF Falcons) which made the day just perfect!

### **Who do you or did you admire in the sport?**

It's difficult to single out any one person as I admired everyone who contributed to the growth of the sport and improved safety and training standards. Tom Dickson was one of the first of many I was to meet in the sport that fell into that category.

### **How did you come to design the 'Robertson Quarterbag'? [This was an incredibly reliable student canopy freefall deployment device, in extensive use from the mid-eighties]**

An accident happened at Strathallan that caused me to redesign the device we used to control the openings on round main canopies. Once in use, the Robertson quarterbag, as it came to be known, proved to be extremely reliable; hence a number of other clubs all over Britain adopted it.

### **In the eighties, Strathallan had an impressive four whole years with no student malfunctions – a record any DZ would be proud of these days. What factors helped to reach this enviable statistic?**

To reduce malfunctions at a DZ requires a lot of hard work by the regular jumping members and instructors. People who are new to the sport try to get their packing right but tend to make subtle errors that when missed can lead to problems.

We standardised every part of the packing process, producing photo boards of each stage of the pack-job with related information including the checks required. The packing tests given were very demanding and the packing area was always run under very careful supervision. Net skirts being added to rounds also further improved their reliability.

The then CCI Rob Noble-Nesbitt and I worked very well together to improve the safety systems. We had a designated, lockable repair box that any kit found with a fault was put in with an appropriate written label attached. Repair box items were inspected and repaired by a rigger or totally destroyed, rather than have them and their problems recycled.

### **After training around 100 riggers, what do you regard as your most important contribution to BPA rigging?**

Having been involved in the training of many parachutists and riggers over the years, my main drive was to see general safety and training standards grow along with improvements in the standard of equipment maintenance. I had been a guest examiner on various rigging courses and talked to many riggers about the differing content found in those days. It was felt there was a need for training course content and marking systems to be improved and standardised.

In 1990 I took the best bits of the courses I had attended and, adding the current rules and regulations, created course lesson plans and marking systems to make a structured manual on conducting rigging courses. Once created, it would be relatively easy to update the manual as required by the constant advance of the sport and its equipment. The manual was approved by the Riggers Committee and was well received. [Ian's manual is the basis of what is still in use today.]

### **What advice would you give to someone wanting to be a rigger?**

If possible get someone to take you under their wing so that you can learn from them. The more preparation you can do, the better. Be ready for a lot of hard work and study! Go to the internet for BPA rigging and course information, gear manufacturers' manuals, and safety notices – and study them. Get a sewing machine and work on small projects to help you to prepare for your

first course. As rigging is a constantly evolving subject you must be prepared to continuously update your knowledge and skills.

### **Finally, after all these years, can you tell me why your nickname is Wobby?**

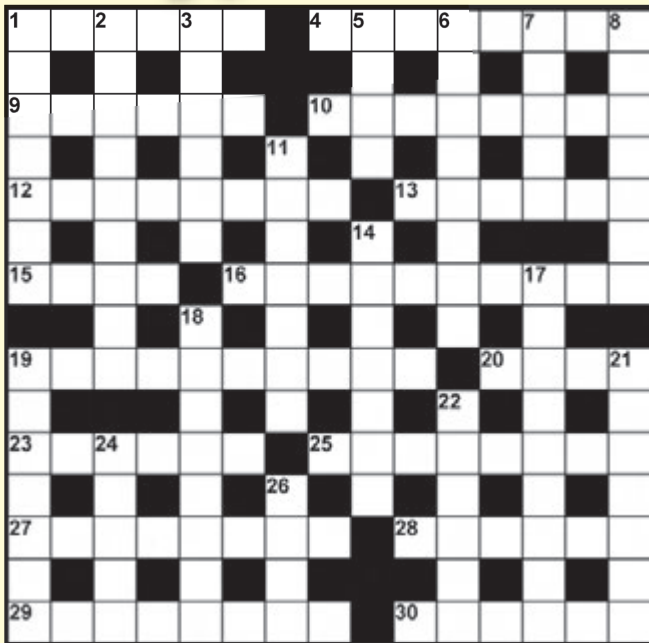
When I first started parachuting I was introduced by David Marris the pilot to his very young son. He had great difficulty pronouncing my surname and it came out something like Wobbinitz. A jumper called Malcolm Reid suggested he try Wobby, which he did manage to say, and after that I was called Wobby.

*Wobby was talking to Andrew Hilton*





# Puzzle by Paul Boorer



## Main (Cryptic)

### Across

- 'Free rest cure' shaking off temperature and runs (6)
- Parking behind a road in Hull creates a problem (4-4)
- Drolly broadcast in a haughty way (6)
- Dogging monarch goes after Tracy (not reaching climax) (8)
- Neat Anne put out feelers (8)
- Feature of inside of gorilla's pectorals (6)
- 'e is in league with Mike, Oscar and Charlie (4)
- Coming from Bethel, I cop terrible aircraft (10)
- 4-4-2, 4-3-3, etc disturb FA monitors (10)
- Jump when you hear a deep voice (4)
- Cover produced when core of band gets into copy (6)
- Sounds like US donkey getting over rose (8)
- Maintained a mixture of diverse credits to begin with (8)
- Odds of Brit pro flyer being one of the 19 (6)
- Dissidence, when I-and-I get stoned, goes down (8)
- A sixth one of these could be unnatural (or common) (6)

### Down

- See Lear rambling free (7)
- Litter the street - heave wrappings of eclair (9)
- Universal scheme to start to demolish hills etc (6)
- Component of alumina erosion of aircraft (4)
- Rolling dice is no way of choosing (8)
- Starts to upset neighbours in the evening get together (5)
- Arsonist in large open boat (7)
- Train for the Olympics in 2012 (7)
- Health of head after attack (7)
- Playing sport, dare spots of disappointment (4,5)
- Stone is shortly apparent in county (8)
- Concentrated and blended about lock's internal structure (7)
- Excepting Friday, having no mates is interminable (7)
- Mechanism to remove crime!? (6)
- Rends apart the chumps (5)
- The man's left hand finally clenched (4)

## Reserve

### Across

- Save
- Result of sticking ripcord (4-4)
- Imperious
- Flying fast horizontally
- Aerials
- Attitude: direction of view
- Sound reflection
- Chopper
- Skydiving points
- Non-aeronautical skydiving
- Parachute
- Went up
- Performed periodic maintenance
- 4-way example of 19
- Comes down
- Sight, hearing, etc

### Down

- Let loose
- Patient-carrier
- High-lying country
- Of aircraft
- Choice
- Bring together
- Not as heavy
- Spear: parachute
- Athleticism
- Lachrymal fluids: TSE containers
- Gem: Robnik altimeter
- Sharpened image
- Eternal
- Gadget
- Whuffos
- Delayed

**SOLUTION ACROSS**  
 1. Rescue  
 4. Hard-pull  
 9. Lordly  
 10. Tracking  
 12. Antennae  
 13. Aspect  
 15. Echo  
 16. Helicopter  
 19. Formations  
 20. Base  
 23. Canopy  
 25. Ascended  
 27. Serviced  
 28. Bipole  
 29. Descends  
 30. Senses  
**SOLUTION DOWN**  
 1. Release  
 2. Stretcher  
 3. Upland  
 5. Aero  
 6. Decision  
 7. Untie  
 8. Lighter  
 11. Javelin  
 14. Fitness  
 17. Tear drops  
 18. Sapphire  
 19. Focused  
 21. Endless  
 22. Device  
 24. Nerds  
 26. Haid

## Not So Shoddy - 1

Having read of the trials and tribulations of Chris Christou, I thought I'd take time out to write a letter that puts a slightly more positive view of the manufacturers.

I've been a BPA Parachute Rigger for a few years now and thought that I should make an effort to sit and pass my Advanced Rigger. I was offered a place on a course at RAPA in January '09. The major prerequisite of this course is that candidates; "Submit a full piggyback harness and ram-air reserve container system to an approved design, including all component parts."

A lot of prospective Advanced Riggers unpick an old container, iron it flat, make templates and re-construct a new version of that old container. After their course, most of those examined then throw their container in the corner where it remains forever, or is later cannibalised for parts. I'm not saying that's right or wrong but I decided that, as my own container was approaching ten years old, I owed it to myself to get a new container - and not just a copy of my old one. Besides, my trusty old Mirage still has plenty of life left in it and I didn't want to chop it up!

I contacted several manufacturers, including Mirage, with no success. Then I thought to ask United Parachute Technologies (formerly Relative Workshop). I explained that I would be required under BPA regulations, to take various photographs at different stages of construction - this had been a stumbling block with Mirage. It wasn't a problem for UPT. They said that I'd be welcome to come over!

I organised my life (Cor! That was a first!) and got a flight booked to Deland. I walked into UPT on the Tuesday morning of 'week one of three' and met JC Perren, USPA Master Rigger and UPT's Production Manager. A chat to him and the General Manager and I was set to work. Like some other facilities in the US, working hours were 6am to 5pm with a 10-minute break in the morning and afternoon and a 30-minute lunch break. I rarely took any of them. Because of the long hours, the working week was Monday - Thursday. By the end of the first week, I didn't think I'd achieved too much - but upon reflection, I'd only really done two and a half days.

The next week though, I felt as if I was flying. The work was hard and I had to re-do several components that were not to the standard that UPT would release through their quality control system. Thursday lunchtime - it was complete! Much to the surprise of many of the production staff, the production manager and myself, I'd done it - every bit. A final pass through quality control and my new rig was officially 'released to service.' I was sent over to the UPT rigging facility to meet Pablito Perazzoli (USPA Master Rigger) and assemble my rig. I was taught some really useful things - including a few refined ways of packing the Vector. Well if they don't know how to - who does?

I missed the end of the jumping day that day but got to manifest on the Friday. Despite some broken weather, I finally got on a lift. My pulse was racing, my mouth was dry. One of the other jumpers looked at me, nudged his friend and giggled as the red light went on and I opened the door of the Otter...

"How many jumps you got man?"

"Close to 2,000" (I was sweating like a one-legged man in an arse-kicking contest!)

"You jumped here before?"

"Yeah - not for a few years though." The green light came on...

"Why you so nervous?" I looked out to check the spot and as I jumped I shouted...

"Because I just built this rig!" As I fell away, I heard them gasp, "Sh\*\*\*\*t dude!"

I spent the next few working days learning how to modify Sigma tandems with magnetic riser covers and getting qualified to retro-fit skyhooks to Vector 3s (though I need to pass my Advanced Rigger to use that qualification fully!) The Vector 3 is not the simplest rig in the world to construct - there's far more to it than you can see - hence the 'not cheap' price. It is, I believe, the best rig on the market.

Not everyone gets to build their own Vector 3 Micron. No-one normally gets a Vector 3 Micron in a working time of about 80 hours (unless you've got a lot of money.) But I was allowed to do it and, for that, I will be forever indebted to all the staff at UPT; Mark, JC, Pablito & Greg to name but a few. Thank you a thousand times over. You guys ROCK!

Phill Elston

BPA Parachute Rigger 218 (hopefully, by the time you read this, AR!)

Note: Phill did indeed pass his Advanced Rigger course, congratulations!



## Not So Shoddy - 2

After reading the letter 'Shoddy Service' (December 2008) I would like to put down my experience at the Seville Boogie.

Each year we run a CF seminar at Seville alongside the Boogie. Nine sets of CF kit are transported from Hibaldstow by a plane flying out to Spain. I was advised this year that a plane would be leaving from Peterborough, which would be more convenient for me. On arriving at the dropzone in Spain the plane had not turned up so we briefed the students and waited... at mid-day I decided to phone to find out where the plane was, and was told it would not be coming! I approached James Swallow who said to leave it with him. After many phone calls he arranged for Mrs Swallow and Russ to collect and bring as much of the kit as they could manage (which was well overweight) on a return flight. On receiving the kit we were in the air within the hour. On inquiring as to what I owed I was told it was free of charge as I had run seminars in the past. The story did not finish there as on Christmas Day we damaged a canopy on opening. We approached the rigger and he said, leave it with me, and I will repair it when I can. Lo and behold the next day the kit was ready! He must have worked well into the night. On inquiring the cost I was told half had been paid for.

The Swallow family moved heaven and earth for us; you could say that the Swallows turned into doves and one into a carrier pigeon! Many thanks, your help was amazing.

*Pat Hammond & Doug Preston*

**Note:** We received a multitude of letters on the subject of the magazine tender, opposing this process as the writers are happy with their current magazine. We do not intend to publish them as the official tender process is now in full swing. Nonetheless, the BPA has noted and taken account of these Members' opinions.

# Letters

## 'Welease Wobby'

One of Scotland's long-standing jumpers retired last year and I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to Ian 'Wobby' Roberston for his lifetime dedication to the sport.

I first met Wobby in 1985 at Strathallan, where he was one of the members always keen to welcome new people to the club. His passion for the sport was evident and his help was always on offer. Despite his seniority and experience, he was always willing to kit up students or get involved with teaching and packing. I came to understand that Wobby had equipment and rigging skills that were second to none. As a rigger his attention to detail was bewildering but, most of all, his regard to safety was comforting. As a typically apprehensive student, I was always happy when I considered that Wobby was 'on the case'.

I jumped with Wobby many times and enjoyed his company at the DZ – on bad weather days we would all spend time listening to him and CCI Rob Noble-Nesbitt trying to out-do each other with their stories. Wobby was a keen CF jumper, being involved with various Scottish CF records. He loved to coach and was always willing to give advice to anyone.

He gave his time unselfishly to all Scottish DZs, and would visit wherever he was needed to help with kit and advice at his own expense. Irrespective of your level of experience he could always impress you with his knowledge. He was a true pioneer and was involved with the development of the kit used at many DZs. However, above all, the quality that Ian possessed that was most valuable to us is that he truly cared.

Enjoy your retirement Ian, you deserve it!

*Kieran Brady*  
CCI Skydive Strathallan

*Note: See page 52 for an interview with Wobby*

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# Martin Gardiner



Martin Gardiner was one of those privileged people with the elusive 'X' factor or likeability. It could have been his infectious grin, laugh, or liking for making mischief... I don't know but, whatever it was, he had it by the bucket-load! Martin loved jumping but, being the social animal he was, I think he equally loved simply being around his skydiving buddies, swapping yarns and toasting a good day's jumping with a glass of wine. Having not been in the sport as long as some, chances are that many of you reading this wouldn't have had the benefit of meeting Martin but, given the opportunity, I'm guessing he'd have ended up becoming a great friend if you had, in the same way he was to all of us.

Based predominately at Hinton, Martin came on the scene at a time when there was a new intake of fresh-faced newbies, desperate to jump and become part of the crowd. Initially we all clumped together and it was through this our first trip to Spain was organised. Unfortunately for Martin, he let slip that he could speak Spanish and so unsuspectingly became our figurehead, sitting there reading out the menus every night, like a playschool teacher telling a gripping story to a bunch of wide-eyed children – although in our case a bunch of starving skydivers desperate to hear the key phrase of 'steak and chips'!

In the air Martin loved being in the thick of the action and over recent years Martin's attention moved to Canopy Formation (CF aka CRW), having enrolled a group of us on a roadshow at Dunkeswell. As a result of that the seeds of team Wave were sown, Martin's crew team. Over the 2007 season the team plugged away, eagerly turning up at every competition all over the country, driven by Martin's passion. The team won every competition they entered, including the Nationals – albeit that they were the only team in their category, which always tickled Martin, but it never stopped him from proudly announcing it to the uninitiated – possibly with a little mumbled caveat when they weren't fully listening!

It's the tragic and sudden loss of Martin to cancer that has made many of us realise that it's not just the jumping that keeps us turning up to cold airfields, but it's the friendships that are born out of the sport, which is why Martin will be so dearly missed by us all.

Blue skies mate

**Martin Lee**  
Team Wave

I only had the privilege of knowing Martin for a short time through parachuting. He contacted me one day and asked if he and a group of his friends could learn CF so I arranged for them to come to a CF roadshow.

He was never going to be a world champion, but how he enjoyed CF. If I asked him to do something he thought he wasn't capable of he would look at me with a cheeky smile and say, "I'll give it a try".

When we finished the course he said to me that he used to be frightened of flying close to another canopy but now he would quite happily collide with someone.

You will be missed by all of the team who will never see that cheeky smile again.

**Pat Hammond**  
Team Wave



**Note:** Martin won two regional overall intermediate gold medals for 2008 with his team, Wave, but he tragically died just before Christmas. His wife Becky bravely received them on his behalf at the AGM, see page 21.





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# CLUB News



Tom Canty as Scooby  
Doo by Ben Bolton



## Nethers

Nethers celebrated the close of 2008 in the usual fashion – with a party! The biggest of the year in fact, our Ball, which had been moved from autumn to Christmas. Everyone had a fantastic time, despite it being one of the coldest nights of the year. The film festival attracted plenty of entries, the winner being Tommo with *Ed Zachary Disease*, runner-up Mick Tyler and friends with *Why Me?* and in third place Ashley Hollick and Titch with *Tough Guys 2*. The weather stayed clear for Trev Hooking's awesome firework display, and everyone partied on into the wee small hours accompanied by The Wizards and Jimmy's Tunes. A big, big thank you to everyone who put the event together.

2009 will be bringing quite a few changes, not least Mike Smith taking over the APA Secretary role from Robin, and the move of the centre to a scaffolding-free hangar. We have Tony back with his Skyvan, see website for dates, and Dave Lewis will be guesting as an occasional load organiser.

It was really nice to see all-round awesome dude Big Smudge getting recognition at the AGM with the BPA Skydiver of the Year award – well done mate. Congrats to Ryan and Lucy Mancey on the arrival of their baby boy, Forrester. Well done to Tom Canty who chose to celebrate his thousandth jump on his birthday by skydiving dressed as Scooby Doo – it takes all sorts! Congrats also to Rachael and Toby who tied the knot on New Year's Eve. Well done to all 45 APA members who went to Val Thorens on the annual ski trip – according to Robin there were 'generally no injuries', which is always a good result!

A reminder to everyone, to get your name (or face) in the Mag, add your info to the Club News poster on the wall in reception or email [clubnews@netheravon.com](mailto:clubnews@netheravon.com)

Kath Salisbury

Autumn (Christmas) ball by Kath Salisbury



Ball helpers by Kath Salisbury



**Achievements**  
1,000 Jumps  
Tom Canty

## Black Knights

The usual suspects were up to their daft antics having a grand time at our Christmas do (despite the early closing bar). Unfortunately Mark 'Moisty' Walton's 2008 DVD could not be shown due to 'non-skydiver' people on the same party night (in case the excitement was too much). The good news is you can get one for just £3 which Mark is kindly donating to Unicef. Jeff is also generously donating £2 per copy. See Jeff or Mark for yours.

We've seen some serious frostbite skydiving wearing not-so-sexy thermals in nippy conditions but with the clear skies, the views were all worth it. Even Billy is smiling! (Unless he's just frozen like that!) Bon voyage to Laura Gray, off to join a yodelling choir in Austria, hope you remembered to pack your breeches!

Check the website for the latest great stuff, there's Brian Vacher, UKSL competitions, the Davies Cup and more.

Sam Davis



Photo: Neil Henshall



Photo: Dan Satizabal



# Langar

Langar Christmas boogie was not scheduled to be a big event, but with jump tickets on Boxing Day at just £15 (€14.50) and the only jumpable weather in Europe, things got busy! On one day we had our two Caravans, Sibson's Turbolet and Cark's PAC all on the airfield – they weren't here jumping but it sure looked good! Thanks to everyone who travelled the country and joined us for the holiday season!

Brian Laithwaite brushed off the cobwebs (quite a few) to offer FS coaching to some visitors from Peterlee. It was great to see a bunch of new jumpers enjoying some great skydives with us. I managed to keep my reserve drills current, by squeezing one last malfunction in for 2008 – it's okay though, cos it was on Milko's kit! It only took a day or so to find the freebag!

Steve Saunders of CF team *Outcasts* has joined us at Langar. Along with the rest of his team, Steve will be providing coaching for any CF jumpers or wannabes – as well as any para-motors who pass by – they don't need retrieving, Steve, even if they do look a long way off!

Congratulations to the members of the Honda advert team who all received Certificates of Merit at the AGM. A special congratulations, yet again, to our very own Gary 'What is this award for?' Wainwright and all of *Storm* for their fantastic achievements!

Helicopters, balloons and high-altitude jumps are just some of the activities we're planning for the boogies – why not kickstart the season at our Easter Mini-boogie, 10-14 April?

Gareth Thomas



Gary Wainwright



Milko takes 28-way seriously, photo by Tony Danbury

Ally Milne in tandem over Langar by Gary Wainwright

## Achievements

### First Freefall

Liz Telford

### Cat 8

Alex Cooper

Nathan Gillick

Liam Reilly

Karen Neilsen

### CH1

Karen Nielsen

### FS1

Adam Lillywhite

Emma Bramley

## Jump Numbers

### 50

Shaun Haynes

Jennie Hewitt

### 100

Alex Mitchell

Ben Rhodes

### 200

Martin McShane

Siân Stokes

### 300

Sarah Fletcher

### 700

Will Cooke

### 900

Chris Smith

## 1 Hour Freefall

Ben Rhodes

Matt Kite

Furry animal dive by Gary Wainwright



## Achievements

### First Freefall

Nigel Taylor

David Belsire

### Cat 8

Jan Gregory

Rob Siree

### FS1

Jo Parkinson

### 50 Jumps

Jo Grainger

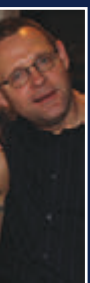
Tracy Williams

### 200 Jumps

Graham Tait



Neil Henshall





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# Weston

Our fireworks party had an awesome display of pyrotechnics that seemed to go on forever. This had to be rescheduled due to unbelievable weather the weekend before, the fuses kept going out due to torrential rain! But nonetheless the free food, hot dogs and soup went down really well. This time the weather couldn't stop us, 60 fireworks and 140 rockets went off without a hitch. Oh... and one tent!

Our end of season bash squeezed in 140 at the Ben Jonson pub, we just about drank the place dry. It's always good to see everyone dressed up in black tie and cocktail dresses (doesn't seem quite right though!). As always the food was amazing but I think it was a mistake to have the chocolate fountain positioned where the food queue had to pass it first! I think Sparky is still there, tucking in! Best story though is Fordy being sick in Bev's handbag when he got home!

Many of the club flew to Christmas boogies around the globe, including Seville, Portugal and Eloy, which seemed to have had the best of the weather. It was quite amusing texting each other and finding out who was or wasn't jumping. Eloy was great, we jumped the balloon, DC3, Beech, Otter and Skyvan. With jump prices at only £14 it really was a bargain, oh and free beer every night ... big mistake! The *Arizona Airspeed* guys were giving free coaching and organising. One of our own, Rebecca Bradley, won a raffle to jump with the team, doing an awesome job for only 200ish jumps. Shock of the trip was tandem instructor Shane Wood dusting off his sports rig and squeezing into his FS suit, though we did have to keep reminding him not to pull on exit! The on-site wind tunnel was well used and congrats to Jonny Rigby for his FS1.

Now we look forward to the season, with a UKSL meet on 23-24 May, a Brian Vacher canopy course in June and plenty of other great events. Check the website and/or join our Facebook group for updates. Jump prices stay the same at £20. We always support teams, our team rates are very competitive and we have the Nationals aircraft here. If you jump in February (we reopen on 7 Feb), club membership is free with a jump ticket! The chance to win your jump tickets back for the day will return along with the early bird lifts, just £17.

Ash Kemp



Balloon jump by Jan Kollhoff



Jet Blondes and Mike Westwood by Shane Wood



Weston oldies 5-way by Andy Ford

## Achievements

### First Freefall

Brett McMahon  
Melissa Wong  
Chris Courtney

### Cat 8

Simon Brockie

### FS1

Paul Myers  
Jonny Rigby

### CF1

John Trevor

### FF2

Kirsten McAndrew

**1,100 Jumps**

Amanda Kemp

**3,000 Jumps**

John Trevor

**1 Hour Freefall**

Jonny Rigby

**2 Hours Freefall**

Phil Saunders



Fireworks by Dave Reid

# Dunkeswell

Beech boogie 2008  
by Rob Fone



We've got a great line-up to keep you busy during 2009. The Hughes 500 returns for chopper jumps on Friday 10 April, from 9am (sharp!). Pre-registration is essential, call the office, 01404 890222.

Join our Speed 6 competition, Easter bank holiday weekend (11-13 April), all welcome. The season will get off to a cracking start as there are 6 crates of beer up for grabs to the winning team!

Mikey Carpenter and Adam Mattacola are coaching at The Well on May Bank Holiday weekend (30 May-1 June) and

return later in June. On 12 July a percentage of your jump price goes to the Help For Heroes campaign – there's never been a better reason to be a jumphog!

This year's Twin Beech Boogie will be bigger and better than last year's! 27 July kicks off seven days of twin turbine action, with lightning lift turnarounds, awesome coaching, fab load organising, formation loads, BBQs, parties and a tented village! Dave Morris is back to organise, joined by the fabulous Tim Porter and the amazing *Volare* freestyle team; Andy Lovemore,



Hughes 500

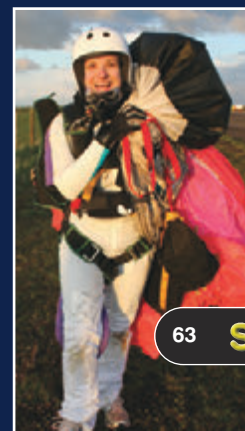
Chris Lynch and Alberto Fuertes. Macca from Phoenix-Fly will be providing wingsuit first flight courses, coaching and organising. AFF graduation is also welcomed. We want you jumping your ass off, not sitting around waiting for a lift so we are limiting registration to ensure a first class boogie! We are supported this year by Red Bull. Registration is £30 for the full boogie – that's two days FREE! Register early to avoid disappointment!

Later in 2009 Pat Hammond returns for canopy formation and the AN-2 for novelty jumps! Keep checking: [www.skydivethewell.com](http://www.skydivethewell.com)

Lou Finch



Andy Montriou by Olly Denham



## Achievements

**CH1, CH2, JM1, FF1**

Nick Green

**300 Jumps**

John King

**1,000 Jumps**

Chris Nelson

Sue Blair AFF Student



# Wild Geese



Pete Lehane flies his wingsuit by Mike Murphy



Nadine Bibby by Mike Murphy

## Achievements

First Freefall  
 Barry O'Kane  
 Amy Hilditch  
**Cat 8**  
 Brian Kelly  
**FS1**  
 James Beattie  
**CH1**  
 Brian Kelly  
**300 Jumps**  
 Mark McGarvey  
 Connor Campbell



Mark McGarvey and Larry by Mike Murphy

At the annual Wild Geese Christmas dinner at the Bushtown Hotel Coleraine, Alison Owen (fourth mag mention in a row) was deservedly crowned Skydiver of the Year for the second time running. With the benefit of hindsight from last year, knowing the cup wasn't watertight avoided a repeat of most of a bottle of champagne leaking over the table. An engraving error means Alison is listed as winning it three times in a row, does this hat trick mean, like the World Cup, she doesn't have to give it back? James Beattie was crowned Student of the Year for racking up Cat 8 and FS1 inside a calendar year, living up

in part to the name on his jumpsuit.

Pete Lehane joins the growing group of wingsuit flyers. Since the head of this group appears to be Mike 'Easyjet' Murphy I'm sure they're up to no good. I must apologise to Mark McGarvey for continually forgetting to include his 300 jumps in the list of achievements (though I was tempted to leave it out yet again for a laugh!).

2009 marks the return of a modern skydiving legend. Some say when he lands it sounds like Liam Neeson chasing a load of hens around inside a barrel and that when he

comes out of the wind tunnel on his belly, they have to turn the speed down for the freeflyers. All we know is, he's called Mark Redmond.

Thank you to everyone who helped make 2008 such a success. As always, a special thanks to Maggie and Dave Penny, the overworked Judith Lees (stop having mals guys!), chief pilot Drew Galloway and the man to go to if you're in need of a crazy flyby, Alex Brand. All the instructors, coaches and staff at the Wild Geese, happy new year!

*Martin McLaughlin*

# Cark

With the dark cold nights creeping up we had to maximise any good weather slots.

Myles and Katie, as ever were keen to keep their students in the air – the final course saw everyone jumping twice or more, back to back. Well done to all the uni club committee members and we look forward to seeing you achieving even greater success.

The hardier skydivers (tandem donkeys, cameramen and those who just like being cold) braved the cool December air. At 3,500 feet it was -7°C. The aircraft climbed to altitude dropping those who dared, over snow-capped mountains of the Lake District, looking like a calendar from your accountant!

At the Christmas bash, back at the Abbey House Hotel, the girls as ever did us proud with flashy frocks, lots of legs and a bit of cleavage. Congratulations to the following deserving award-winners:

<b>Student of the Year</b>	<b>Cerys Jones</b>
<b>Skydiver of the Year</b>	<b>Mark Atherton</b>
<b>Commitment to the Sport</b>	<b>Duncan Haynes</b>
<b>Outstanding Achievement</b>	<b>Dave and Helen Arnold</b>
<b>Little and Large</b>	<b>George &amp; Geraldine McGuinness</b>

The meal was great the drinks flowed and Dennis as ever was on top form with his stand-up routine and awards. To those who attended, many thanks for the commitment. To the unfortunately credit crushed, hope you can make it in 2009.

The brave out in the cold by Neil McLaren



The Lloyds up to their tricks by Duncan Haynes



Legs and Co by Duncan Haynes



The last weekend of 2008 was grey and foggy, a bit like the start of 2008 after we suffered the aircraft accident. As regulars your continued support when you might have not bothered was the spirit that kept me and Mike fighting to achieve more. 2009 is set to be a bigger and better year! The diary is filling up, keep your eyes on our website so you don't miss out. Dust off your rigs, wash your jumpsuit (in Katie's case, find it), check your reserves in date – and bring on 2009!

*Stu Morris*



# Hib

Winter is upon us! Which is great because we see the return of our university freefall

clubs and lots of new skydivers being hatched from aeroplanes! Hull and York have both contributed to over 60 new RAPS students, may the progression begin!

We've run B Licence progression days, packing courses and generally done as much as we can to help people in their development. We hosted BCPA Freshers, from which there was mixed feedback (!) but overall it appeared that most enjoyed the event. Thanks to everyone who turned up and made the weekend what it was. Our Christmas party was well attended with a lot of fun and many starting the seasonal eating fest early with all the free food.

We have a great calendar of events, check the website... and keep checking as there are many more exciting things in the offing. A big welcome back to all, keep making the DZ what it is guys!

*Mike Colthart*

*Garry Denton*



*Alan Thompson & Simon Cathrine by John Williamson*



*Jim Stevenson*

## Achievements

### AFF Graduate

Leah Pecon

### FS1

Lucas Hall

First Freefall

Mark Jacques

### JM1

Mike McNulty

David Grimes

### CH1

Simon Spindley

Mick Allison

Adam Bibby

Thomas Ruttle

### CH2

Mike McNulty

Mick Thornley

## Jump Numbers

50

Mick Thornley

100

Clint Bacon

200

Ryan Baxter

400

Ant Hill

1,000

Rich Aveyard

*Sunset track by Blair Stent*

# Cornish

The end of season party was a great success, as you'd expect with free food and drink all night. Spit pig-roast, barrels of local beer and dangerous punch kickstarted the evening. A very large marquee and huge bonfire helped warm us in this open air Cornish farm venue, many thanks to Barry Andrews.

During the winter shutdown CPC members and students enjoyed a very successful two week trip to Seville, Spain. The warm welcome from all the staff was fantastic and 15,000ft in the winter sunshine was brilliant. A visit to Skydive Spain is a MUST!

Congratulations to Phil and Russell for their FS1 and Sean

Ferris for completing AFF. At long last Ross has his camera up and running, watch out when Ross is about!

2009 should bring some good news with the buildings we've been waiting for gradually unfolding as the local council agrees terms. Unfortunately, the club has lost Land's End DZ due to the British International Helicopter company relocating from Penzance to operate full-time from Land's End to the Scilly Isles. We're now looking for a student DZ in Cornwall and have a number of sites to visit asap.

*Chris Wood*



*Ben by Ross Houlston*



*6-way by Ross Houlston*

*Ross Houlston*



*CPC in Seville by Andy*





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# Swindon

Skydive London's Christmas parties are always good fun and with a Superheroes theme we were not disappointed. Big shout out to Chris Steel who took the dressing-up to unscalable heights by spraying his trainers red with 2-pack epoxy to match his Spiderman suit! It was great to see Spiderwomen, Indiana Jones, Lara Croft, Batwoman, Dangermouse, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Vikki Pollard all getting down and dirty on the dance floor.



Luke Ingram and Jess Sanderson by Babs Burnell



Tim Harris & Emma Edwards by Babs Burnell

Howard came as Wally Man and was tempted out of retirement to play tunes all night. Brucie came as a Rubik's cube and sat in it all night, mainly on the dance floor, whilst being fed Stella. Claire Briggs was back after her ... er, misadventure, and did what she does best, got hammered. Tim Harris and John Friel both turned up as Captain America, and both went home with a (different) Wonder Woman, John's being his lovely girlfriend Kaz. Tim, we don't think Captain America ever sounded like that in the movies or kept everyone up all night. Mark Benson and I were kept in check by our girlfriends and almost behaved ourselves. Even Russell turned up and, as the night went on, painted everyone's faces black, we still have no idea why but well done.

In November 'Big' Jim Moreham managed a naked skydive for his 100<sup>th</sup> jump, well done for landing on the dropzone mate! Skydive London was closed for December and January (reopening 7 Feb) but luckily we had an invite to Skydive Swansea for their Christmas Boogie. Cheers Carl, it was a blast and we are jealous of the views.

Dylan Griffith-Jones



Jim Moreham by Babs Burnell

# Headcorn

Paul Stockwell taking daughter Sharon on a tandem, by Alex Turner



## Achievements

Cat 8 & CH1

Steve Street

Lizzie Knowles

7,000 jumps

Clem Quinn

Some regulars jumped on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day – a great way to see the year in. Auntie Jane still has more jumps than anyone – there's a challenge, beat that! Paul Stockwell finally managed to take daughter Sharon on a tandem. Tom the pilot is so keen to jump he's paying for the odd slot to make numbers up, bless him!

Richard Wiggins by Alex Turner



Get these dates in your diaries – the Speed meet, 6-7 June, and the Accuracy meet, 5-6 September. Headcorn had a good turnout at the AGM, with Auntie Jane and Clem getting their 7,000 jump certificates, Del his 1,000 jumps and intermediate accuracy gold, and Penny her FAI FS judge's rating. Well done all.

Ruth Cooper

Lizzie Knowles and Auntie Jane by Lucy Smith-Wildey



Christmas Day by Penny Wiggins





# Peterlee



*Jonsky over Peterlee  
by Mal Smith*



*Kirsty enjoying jumping by Mal Smith*

## Achievements

### First Freefall

Nina Demetriou

### Cat 8 & CH1

Dan Place

### CH1

Kirsty Richardson

### CH2

Stephen Smith

Harry Wheatcroft

Tom Derbyshire

Oli Clark

Ralph Weatherburn

### JM1

Harry Wheatcroft

Ralph Weatherburn

Tom Derbyshire

Oli Clark

### 50 Jumps

Ralph Weatherburn

Tom Derbyshire

Oli Clark

### 1,100 Jumps

Dave Taylor

Well 2008 was certainly busy. We trained over 1,000 students, and there's been the ongoing fight against wind turbines, which looks as though it will continue in 2009. There are two applications pending with the local council to erect 50m wind monitoring masts close to the DZ (one on behalf of BT, the other is local company TRW). Naturally, as either of these would be a forerunner to wind turbines, our objections have been noted by the planning department and we will continue to keep up the pressure. It does make us wonder why the area around the centre seems to be getting more than its fair share of wind turbine applications.

Meanwhile Ian's plans for development are forging ahead. Construction of the new ablation block begins over winter and a new hangar for the Airvan is planned in spring. This should be the last winter that we have to nip outside for a pee in those cold huts, yay!

We have been shortlisted as a Regional Significant Area of Sporting Interest. The BPA Council has submitted us to Sport England, thanks for that peeps. Hopefully if successful it will help our case against wind turbine threats.

Tandem instructor Phil Howarth is on the mend after spraining his ankle – falling out of the mock-up while training a tandem student! Regular Paul Bloomfield has developed a new website, see [www.justskydivers.com](http://www.justskydivers.com) All skydivers are welcome and he'd like feedback and suggestions. Nice one Paul!

A group popped to Empuriabrava and were surprised to find celebrity tandem students Kylie Minogue and her other half Andres Velencoso Segura (a Spanish super-model). It was all hush-hush – but our guys still managed to get a photo with her!

Halloween saw a packed bar with some amazingly novel fancy dress showing just how much imagination our jumpers have! Glen Staley won the best costume prize, against stiff competition. The home-made soup was a big hit and helped keep hands warm while watching the fireworks. Inside we had lots of competitions, fun, games and Tom Berryman kept it moving with his 'aeroplane' dance. A big thank you to Lisa Stephenson and Mandy Tydd for organising the evening.

The Christmas Party at the Radisson Hotel in Durham saw trophies and awards.

The University Shield was won by Durham after being in the hands of Newcastle for the last 4 years. Oli Clark's efforts were rewarded with the Most Progressed Student. Lisa Stephenson deservedly won the shield for Most Persistent Student. It was no surprise that the Most Entertaining Landing went to CCI Ian Rosenvinge, caught on video skidding through the mud and landing on his butt to a round of applause. (Check out the last club news for the pic!) Finally, a special award of a model Cessna 182 to pilot Jim Barnes on his retirement. A big thank you Jim, from everyone, past and present. Enjoy your well-earned rest but don't forget to pop in and visit!

*Sue Scott*



*Peterlee Jumpers with Kylie in Spain by Matt Foggarty*

# Tilstock



*Regan, Hannah & Colin*

It was party time at Tilstock with the annual bonfire night in November followed by our Christmas party/AGM at a new venue, the Hill Valley Hotel in Whitchurch. Everyone was impressed with the newly refurbished hotel's facilities, even though the bar prices were reminiscent of the BPA AGM! It couldn't have been too expensive though as the bar was still full to the early hours of the morning – just like the BPA AGM!

Congratulations to Simon Hartland, awarded the Student of the Year and Chris Gilmore, Club Member of the year. Once again we had an almost injury-free year with Julie Skilling taking the Crater Award for a minor shoulder injury. Neil Long was recognised for his renowned inability to spot and Mike Pritchard for inability to read an altimeter! This year it was Deb Salmon who walked away with the (Better Take Up) Golf Award, fighting off some stiff competition – although it didn't go down well with the hotel management as Hill Valley is a top class golf course!

It was good to see Regan Tetlow who flew in from Empuriabrava especially for the event, enjoying

himself in his own inimitable style, and beating Johnny G to the award for Furthest Travelled.

By the time this is printed we'll be back in action for 2009. Check our website or UK Skydiver for upcoming events or join our mailing list by emailing [colin@theparachutecentre.com](mailto:colin@theparachutecentre.com).

*Colin Fitzmaurice*



*Ray, Julie, Hannah & Danny*



# Jersey

Skydive Jersey is undergoing a facelift. New DZO Mally has created a day room with carpets, TV, drinks facilities and sofas and he's now renovating the cabins. The packing room also has a carpet (yet to be lain), thanks to Wayne for his help with the improvements.

We regulars eagerly await the spring, when we can jump again. Tandem customers are beginning to book. An AFF trip to Morocco on 14 March will see a couple of last year's tandem students mature into skydivers. Email Skydive Jersey if you'd like to join the trip (fun jumping or AFF).

Skydive Jersey made an appearance at the AGM, where the shop was trading. A new-look website is online, showing opening dates, boogies, trips, and a link to the online shop.



Keep an eye on UKS for the latest news, and we also have a group on Facebook, to post pictures and events. We have 'working' parties planned and a chance to brush up on boat-handling with the Jersey Lifeboat crew – plenty to do before Easter.

Luckily Wayne did get his van off the beach before the tide came in, after being stuck in the sand!



Will Charlie skydive this year? Watch this space...

We're open on 27 April, then every fortnight until mid September.

Contact [mally@skydivejersey.net](mailto:mally@skydivejersey.net) with any questions or suggestions.

**Mal Richardson**



Pete

Jersey photos by Alun Griffiths



# UK Para

*Tomo loves the winter!*



We held a traditional Halloween party, with apple-bobbing and a pool competition. It was our first proper fancy dress do and there were some great costumes. The funniest was John O'Connell who came as Tiggs (minus the flip-flops because it was pouring with rain!).

The Christmas Ball was also a great success. Held at Banham Zoo, everyone turned out in their best togs, Colin provided us with the tunes, and, need I say it, Wickham with the usual variety act. Club Member of the Year went to Russell Shearman, who's been at the DZ pretty much every weekend throughout 2008. Cheerful Russ has come a long way, he's always keen to jump and willing to help. Thanks Russ, nice one! Student of the Year went to David Narey, who did his AFF level 1 in June and was B Licence by November. Well done!

Grant has made it on to the BPA Council again, thanks to everyone who voted for him. UKPS has lots of events already on the 2009 calendar. Check out the new 'club zone' on the website ([www.ukparachuting.co.uk](http://www.ukparachuting.co.uk)). There are five coaching weeks planned to suit all standards and disciplines. We're planning an Easter fancy dress party and a Summer Ball. We're still doing the weekend early bird lift (wheels-off by 9am) so, if you want to jump for just £15, get up early!

UK Parachuting has opened a new shop (also available online) for gear, logbooks, UKPS branded clothing, and even complete rigs. We can custom order clothing so if you want a particular colour or style, just ask!

Tomo and Grant say a big thank you to tandem instructor Rob Ward, who's decided to 'retire'. However we've not seen the last of him, he wants to enjoy some fun jumping for a change! Tomo will be happy to be taking money from Rob instead of giving it to him! Thank you for your hard work and commitment over the last few years Rob.

Good luck to Steve Wickham and Gavin Rixon, both doing the Tandem BI course in February. Two of Grant and Tomo's original AFF students, they will be like proud dads if they pass! Here's to a fabulous and safe 2009, lots of blue skies and plenty of parties!

*Susie Richards*

## Achievements

- Cat 8**  
Cathy Rogers
- CH1**  
Hannah Davies
- FF1**  
Mike Wemyss
- FF1**  
Steve Wickham
- CH2 & JM1**  
David Narey
- 50 Jumps**  
Peter Colville  
David Narey
- 100 Jumps**  
Rob Caverly
- 200 Jumps**  
Russell Shearman

*John O'Connell as Tiggs*





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March 2007



Strait of Gibraltar  
June 2006



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# Hinton

Our new bar has opened, a lot of work went into building it over a number of weeks and the end result is very impressive. So too is the fact the prices have not gone up! A special mention to a particular club member who braved his tent in all conditions over the winter just to be here for the first lift – you know who you are, you long-haired comedian!

The Christmas party with a 60s, 70s and 80s theme was a blast and broke the new bar in with style! Everyone made the effort to dress up, which was very impressive. Outfit of the evening was Matt 'I ain't going on no plane Fool' Abram as Mr T – he was almost unrecognisable! Shep provided the best comedy moment, when he 'did a Del Boy' and fell through the entrance to the bar! Massive thanks to Mike & Geoff who organised and paid for the party ensuring everyone had a fab time!

We welcomed back Dave 'Guar' Gould in January – Point Zero is again full of cakes and sweets to keep him going! Congratulations to Grayson and Lydia on their twin girls – I hope you still find the time to come and jump! Our Nish Memorial Scrambles are again in spring, look out for dates on our website and at the DZ.

*Natalie Keith*



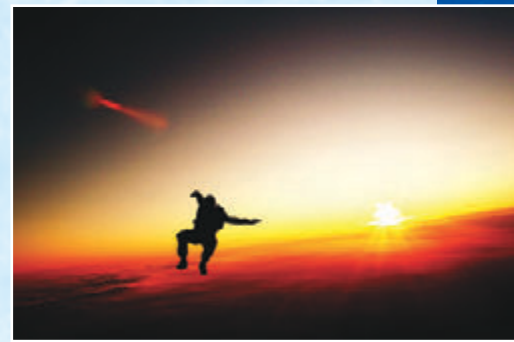
*Glen Morris on his 2,000<sup>th</sup> tandem by Gary Aldwinke*



*Christmas party by Elaine Park*



*Loic senior and junior by Matt Abram*



*Lee Petherick above Hinton by Andy Hyman*

# RAPA

Well that's the end of another very busy and successful year. Since April a massive 466 students were trained on the RAPS system completing an amazing 2,906 jumps, over and above the AFF and tandems. Lots of the students really took to the sport and hopefully many will carry on.

We nipped down to Bavaria for some rock climbing and gorge walking (I should say 'team building', more politically correct!). We kicked off 2009 with another Bavaria trip, skiing this time... it's a hard job but somebody's got to do it!

The centre opens early February with a full calendar of courses, expeditions and competitions. The BPA judges are over again in the spring for some swoop pond guidance and we're hosting a number of training weekends. There's a European swoop meet in May and the

UK Canopy Piloting Championships will be held here again, 22-25 July. The infamous RAPA Championships, now in its 45<sup>th</sup> year, is 20-28 July.

There's always something happening here. Whether you fancy trying our world class pond, pitting your skydiving skills against the Germans, or just sampling the local beer then just give us a call and we'll give you all the info you need. We're just an hour's flight from London.

*Dave Newton*

*John Bishop by Martin 'Comb-over' Reynolds*



*RAPA staff team building*







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*Photo: Matt Abram*

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# St Andrews

Our Christmas night out in a local Mexican restaurant was a huge success, although it was a little odd have frozen margaritas, tortilla chips and roast turkey at the same meal! Afterwards, 40 of us took over a very small club in St Andrews and danced the night away.

It ain't half cold jumping out of a 206 with no door in January! Bring on the spring weather and our next scrambles. As the nights get longer we can't wait for some warmer weather up in St Andrews, so we won't have to rely on the 'festive spirit' to keep the cold out.

Graeme Mackay

## Achievements

### First Freefall

Tamzin Jackman

Joshua Caird by Ewan Cowie



Christmas meal by Graeme Mackay



Jim White ready for his biannual jump by Frank Goodall

# BCPA

Our year kickstarted with BCPA Freshers at Hibaldstow, with students travelling the country for a weekend full of skydiving and partying. A fantastic effort was made by all the clubs, it was great to see so many new faces. Big well done to Edinburgh for the (joint) highest number of attendees – doing a massive 250 mile journey! Unusually for Freshers, the weather turned out to be pretty good, there was a lot more jumping than normal. The scrambles had a good number of teams, most actually turning points, congratulations to the winning team of Matt Dunk, Ed Landamore, Simon Milligan, with Ewan Cowie on camera.

The legendary Freshers party saw the BCPA sound system set up at Hib with Ed and Marc behind the decks. What followed was a cracking night with lasers, smoke, glow-sticks and staying up till dawn. The highlight of the evening was the highly contested boat race, so popular this year that multiple heats were required! Leeds were declared the eventual winners despite some mutterings of cheating.

We have a brand new online submission system for the league which should make submitting points much less hassle, a new online payment system to speed up registration for events and a place to host BCPA videos on UKS. We have had a great response for the BCPA Foreign Trip with over 60 people heading to Seville, and we're planning many other events to highlight the strength of student skydiving in the UK. Next is the 'BCPA FAN-tastic' weekend, a new split tunnel-dropzone event – we look forward to seeing you there! For all info, see the BCPA section on [UKSkydiver.co.uk](http://UKSkydiver.co.uk)

Jenny Buckle



BCPA Freshers by Mike Rippon

# POPS



We held a great POPS AGM at Hinckley on Saturday 10 January, and made some plans for the year ahead. We will hold two UK POPS meets, mainly to allow for a weather wipe-out, secondly to cover two different catchment areas and thirdly to have twice as much fun! The venues are Hibaldstow, 13-14 June and Skydive Weston, 18-19 July.

A number of members expressed interest in a POPS big-way record. What we need now, to put a programme in place, is a list of POPS members who are genuinely motivated and willing to put in the time to train for another attempt. Please contact me (email etc below) if interested **by 31 March**.

Niels Hansen also wants to get an SOS big-way record on the books this year and wants to get as many interested SOS participants listed ASAP. The aim is the attempt taking place at Dunkeswell during the Beech Boogie weekend later on in the year. Interested SOS members please get their names to Niels, [nielshnsn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nielshnsn@yahoo.co.uk) or **01179 738 341**.

A POPS sunshine meet is desired around September time, I am looking at a number of venues, including Jersey and Crete. More news later. This programme of events, meets, trips, big-way plans, etc, will be put out by email to all members on the net.

The illustration shown here is by Larry Mobbs, son of Lenny (POPS 26), contact me if interested in a copy, on **0124 970 1805** or [dbarton@fsmail.net](mailto:dbarton@fsmail.net)

Dick Barton



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info@skydivejersey.net [www.skydivejersey.net](http://www.skydivejersey.net)  
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**22 Tilstock**  
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**24 Weston**  
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Cyprus

Tel: 0035 724 744 337

Fax: 0035 724 724 330

info@skydivecyprus.com.cy

www.skydivecyprus.com.cy

**Aircraft:** PBN Piston Islander

**Open:** 7am-1pm weekends. Midweek by arrangement.

**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
Please contact the centre before visiting to ensure availability. Equipment available for modest hire charges.

FF FS FP WP SU CP

## RAPA

0049 5254 982 2378



Rhine Army Parachute Association  
Flugplatz, Bielefelder Strasse, 33175,  
Bad Lippspringe, Germany

Tel: 0049 5254 982 2378

Fax: 0049 5254 982 2740

jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk

**Aircraft:** Turbine Islander, Quest Kodiak,  
Dornier G92 on call

**Open:** 9am-7pm (or dusk) every day,  
February to November.

**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
Lippspringe DZ is the only BPA drop zone on mainland Europe and it has a swoop pond.

LO FS CF AC WP CP

## Parachuting Societies

British Collegiate Parachute Association

www.ukskydiver.co.uk/bcpa

bcpa@ukskydiver.co.uk

**Contact:** Ed Morley, BCPA Chairman  
Tel: 07817 803805

The BCPA aims to promote skydiving at collegiate level. We run regional and national events for over 30 affiliated university clubs. The BCPA provides a community where university skydivers can find like-minded people for jumping, competing and socialising.

POPS UK

9 Mansion House Mews, Pickwick Road,  
Corsham, Wilts SN13 9BB

Tel: 01249 701805 or 07860 559112

dbarton@fsmail.net www.pops.org.uk

**Contact:** Dick Barton, Top POP

A society of skydivers over forty. We hold regular meets at host parachute centres.

SOS UK

Flat 14, 21 Victoria Square, Clifton,  
Bristol BS8 4ES

Tel: 01179 738341

nielshsn@yahoo.co.uk

**Contact:** Niels Hanson

A society of skydivers over sixty.

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# DIARY

## FEBRUARY

- 14-15** **Valentine's Money Meet**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 14-17** **Team Training Camp**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 15** **Safety Day**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 16-20** **BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)**  
Netheravon trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 17** **Council Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk
- 19-22** **Babylon Workshop**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 20-22** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 21-22** **Freefly Money Meet**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 23-27** **BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Pre-Adv)**  
Netheravon trudy@bpa.org.uk

- 21-22** **F5 Coaching**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 21-22** **LU:ST**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 26-30** **South of the Border Boogie**  
San Carlos, Mexico skydiveaz.com
- 26-29** **Z Team**  
Zephyrhills, USA blskyguy@aol.com
- 27-29** **Skywalkers**  
Molinella, Italy flygang.com
- 27-29** **March Madness & Casino Night**  
Sebastian, USA skydiveseb.com
- 28-29** **Coaching**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 30-Apr 3** **Team Training**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 30-Apr 3** **BPA Instructor Course (AFF/Tan)**  
Langar trudy@bpa.org.uk

- 16-19** **Babylon Workshop**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 17-19** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 18-19** **Scrambles**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 20-22** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com
- 22** **Council Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk
- 22-26** **Texas Record 152-ways**  
Spaceland, Texas bigways.com
- 23-26** **Babylon Freefly**  
Fano, Italy skydivefano.eu
- 25-26** **StickerFest**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 27-May 1** **BPA Instructor Course (AFF/Tan)**  
Hibaldstow trudy@bpa.org.uk

- 9-10** **Rookies Competition Prep**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 9-10** **VFS World Rec Qualifier**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 9-13** **Funshine Boogie**  
Seville skydivespain.com
- 11-15** **BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)**  
Strathallan trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 15-17** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 15-17** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Dunkeswell safeflightschool.com
- 16-17** **Top Gun Wingsuit**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 16-17** **Jump A Reserve**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 18-22** **BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Pre-Adv)**  
Strathallan trudy@bpa.org.uk

## APRIL

- 26-Mar 1** **Fuxion Camp**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 27-Mar 1** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com
- 28-Mar 1** **Safety Weekend**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk

- 3-5** **Safe Flight School**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com
- 4-5** **World Challenge**  
Bodyflight, Bedford worldchallenge.info
- 9** **STC Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk

- 27-May 3** **Empuria Flock**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 30-May 3** **P3 Big-way Camp**  
Perris Valley, USA jen@square1.com

- 20-25** **Go Vertical**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 21-24** **Babylon Workshop**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 21-25** **Arizona Challenge**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 23-25** **Turbine Madness**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com

## MARCH

- 1-15** **Thai Sky Festival**  
Prachuap thaiskyfestival.com
- 6-8** **Hawaii Luau Boogie**  
Sebastian, USA skydiveseb.com
- 7-8** **Night Jumps**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 10-15** **Para-Ski World Meet**  
Donnersbachwald, Austria fai.org
- 12-15** **Team Training Camps**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 12-15** **Babylon Workshop**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 13-15** **Safe Flight School (Beg & Adv)**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com
- 14-29** **Spring Blow-Out Boogie**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 20-22** **Safe Flight School**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com

- 9-12** **Safe Flight School**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com
- 9-12** **Easter Boogie**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 9-13** **Easter Boogie**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 10-14** **Kick-Start Easter Mini Boogie**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 10-14** **Outcasts CF Coaching**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 10-13** **Fuxion Camp**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 11-12** **VFS Competition**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 11-26** **Team Training Camps**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 13-15** **Safe Flight School (Adv)**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com
- 13-19** **Go Vertical**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com

- 1-3** **Volare Boogie**  
Molinella, Italy volareproflight.com
- 2-4** **Canopy Flight Course**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 2-5** **Carnage (CF, Fun F5, FF, Hybrids)**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 2-10** **Langar Boogie 1**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 4-6** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Empuriabrava, Spain safeflightschool.com
- 4-8** **Coaching Week**  
UK Para, Old Buck ukparachuting.co.uk
- 5-7** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Langar safeflightschool.com
- 7-10** **Freefly Coaching**  
UK Para, Old Buck ukparachuting.co.uk
- 7-10** **P3 100-way Camp**  
UK Para, Old Buck jen@square1.com
- 7-10** **Wingsuit Camp**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 7-10** **Fuxion Camp**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com

- 23-24** **UKSL 4-way F5**  
Weston skydiveweston.com
- 25-29** **Team Training**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 29-31** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Hibaldstow skydiveaz.com
- 28-Jun 8** **Team Training Camps**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 29-2 Jun** **BFU International Boogie**  
Body Fly University, Italy bfu.it
- 30-31** **Big-ways for Beginners**  
Langar skydivechoreography.com

## JUNE

- 1-4** **Safe Flight School Course**  
BKPC, Cockerham safeflightschool.com
- 5-7** **Safe Flight School Course**  
Weston safeflightschool.com
- 6-7** **skydive Choreography**  
Hibaldstow skydivechoreography.com

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<b>7-13</b> Turin, Italy	<b>World Air Games</b>	<b>11-12</b> Skydive Airkix, Sibson	<b>UKSL 4-way FS</b> skydiveairkix.com
<b>8-10</b> Empuriabrava, Spain	<b>Safe Flight School Course</b> safeflightschool.com	<b>11-14</b> Lapalisse, France	<b>Boogieman Fever</b> boogiemanfever.com
<b>8-12</b> UK Para, Old Buck	<b>Coaching Week</b> ukparachuting.co.uk	<b>16-26</b> Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei	<b>World Games</b>
<b>11</b> BPA Offices, Leicester	<b>STC Meeting</b> bpa.org.uk	<b>18-19</b> Black Knights, Cockerham	<b>CF Grand Prix</b> bkpc.co.uk
<b>12-14</b> Utti, Finland	<b>Speed World Cup Heat</b> speedskydiving.eu	<b>20-24</b> Hibaldstow	<b>Team Training</b> skydiving.co.uk
<b>13-14</b> Hibaldstow	<b>CF Grand Prix</b> skydiving.co.uk	<b>23-25</b> RAPA, Germany	<b>Classics &amp; CP Nationals</b> jspcl-comdt@atgg.mod.uk
<b>15-19</b> Ostrow, Poland	<b>Euro Record 100/Big-way Camp</b> big-ways.pl	<b>24-Aug 3</b> Irish Parachute Club	<b>Irish Boogie</b> skydive.ie
<b>18-21</b> Cerfontaine, Belgium	<b>Mission Impossible</b> 4xtremetime.com	<b>25-29</b> Irish Parachute Club	<b>Big-way Camp &amp; Irish Record</b> skydive.ie
<b>19-21</b> Empuriabrava, Spain	<b>Safe Flight School Course</b> safeflightschool.com	<b>AUGUST</b>	
<b>20-21</b> Hibaldstow	<b>UKSL 4-way FS</b> skydiving.co.uk	<b>6</b> BPA Offices, Leicester	<b>STC Meeting</b> bpa.org.uk
<b>23</b> BPA Offices, Leicester	<b>Council Meeting</b> bpa.org.uk	<b>7-9</b> Hinton	<b>Speed World Cup Heat</b> speedskydiving.eu
<b>23-28</b> Berlin	<b>German 40-Ways</b> gojump.de	<b>8-10</b> Hibaldstow	<b>4-way FS Nationals</b> skydiving.co.uk
<b>27-28</b> Hibaldstow	<b>28-way Comp</b> skydiving.co.uk	<b>8-10</b> Hibaldstow	<b>VFS Nationals</b> skydiving.co.uk
<b>27-28</b> Black Knights, Cockerham	<b>Accuracy Grand Prix</b> bkpc.co.uk	<b>10-14</b> Langar	<b>BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)</b> trudy@bpa.org.uk
<b>JULY</b>			
<b>1-5</b> Cerfontaine, Belgium	<b>Big-way Camp</b> 4xtremetime.com	<b>15-17</b> Hibaldstow	<b>8-way FS Nats &amp; 4-way Reserve</b> skydiving.co.uk
<b>2-5</b> Perris Valley, USA	<b>P3 Power Play</b> danbc@skydiveperris.com	<b>15-17</b> Hibaldstow	<b>Artistics &amp; Speed Nationals</b> skydiving.co.uk
<b>4-5</b> Hibaldstow	<b>Freely Scrabbles Meet</b> skydiving.co.uk	<b>15-17</b> Hibaldstow	<b>CF Nationals</b> skydiving.co.uk
<b>6-8</b> Empuriabrava, Spain	<b>Safe Flight School Course</b> safeflightschool.com	<b>17-21</b> Langar	<b>BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Pre-Adv)</b> trudy@bpa.org.uk
<b>6-10</b> UK Para, Old Buck	<b>Coaching Week</b> ukparachuting.co.uk	<b>18</b> BPA Offices, Leicester	<b>Council Meeting</b> bpa.org.uk
<b>10-12</b> Triegen, Switzerland	<b>Speed World Cup Heat</b> speedskydiving.eu	<b>21-23</b> Wild Geese, Ireland	<b>Safe Flight School Course</b> safeflightschool.com



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+34 972 450 111	skydiveempuriabrava.com
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+39 347 875 2507	skydivemarche.com
<b>Skydive Sebastian</b>	59
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<b>Skydive Spain (Target Skysports)</b>	42-43
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+44 (0)1622 890 967	symbiosissuits.co.uk
<b>Target Skysports (inc DZ Shop)</b>	42-43
+44 (0)1132 505 6+	skydiving.co.uk
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+44 (0)1262 678 299	thomas-sports.com
<b>Tony Suits (Air Time)</b>	9
+1 813 788 7112	tonysuits.com
<b>Vertical Suits</b>	58
+1 604 465 5590	verticalsuits.com

<b>22-24</b>	<b>8-way, Artistics, CF &amp; Speed Nats Reserve</b>	Hibaldstow	skydiving.co.uk
<b>24-28</b>	<b>Coaching Week</b>	UK Para, Old Buck	ukparachuting.co.uk
<b>29-31</b>	<b>Skydive Choreography</b>	Hibaldstow	skydivechoreography.com
<b>29-30</b>	<b>4-way Scrambles</b>	UK Para, Old Buck	ukparachuting.co.uk
<b>30-Sep 6</b>	<b>World Cup (FS &amp; Artistics)</b>	Prostejov, Czech Republic	
<b>28-31</b>	<b>UK5 Boogie</b>	Hibaldstow	ukskydiver.co.uk

## SEPTEMBER

<b>3-6</b>	<b>Big-way Camp</b>	Perris Valley, USA	jen@square1.com
<b>5-6</b>	<b>8-way Speed Nationals</b>	Skydive Airkix, Sibson	skydiveairkix.com
<b>5-13</b>	<b>UPT Vector Festival</b>	Empuriabrava	skydiveempuriabrava.com
<b>11-13</b>	<b>Italian CP Nationals</b>	Molinella, Italy	flygang.com
<b>12-20</b>	<b>Langar Boogie 2</b>	Langar	bpslangar.co.uk
<b>17-20</b>	<b>POPS World Rec Attempt</b>	Perris Valley, USA	cpeckskydiving@yahoo.com
<b>21-25</b>	<b>Coaching Week</b>	UK Para, Old Buck	ukparachuting.co.uk
<b>21-27</b>	<b>Women's World Record Attempt</b>	Perris Valley, USA	jumpforthecause.com
<b>23-27</b>	<b>Men's World Record Attempt</b>	Perris Valley, USA	bigways.com
<b>26-27</b>	<b>FS Scrambles</b>	Hibaldstow	skydiving.co.uk

## OCTOBER

<b>1</b>	<b>STC Meeting</b>	BPA Offices, Leicester	bpa.org.uk
<b>3-4</b>	<b>FS Coaching</b>	Hibaldstow	skydiving.co.uk
<b>13</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	BPA Offices, Leicester	bpa.org.uk
<b>17-18</b>	<b>First Time Formation Loads</b>	Hibaldstow	skydiving.co.uk
<b>31-Nov 1</b>	<b>Frostbite Friendly 10-way Speed</b>	Hibaldstow	skydiving.co.uk

## NOVEMBER

<b>9-13</b>	<b>BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)</b>	Hibaldstow	trudy@bpa.org.uk
<b>16-20</b>	<b>BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Pre-Adv)</b>	Hibaldstow	trudy@bpa.org.uk
<b>26</b>	<b>STC Meeting</b>	BPA Offices, Leicester	bpa.org.uk

## DECEMBER

<b>8</b>	<b>BPA EGM &amp; Council Meeting</b>	BPA Offices, Leicester	bpa.org.uk
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## KEY

**BPA**  
**Canopy Piloting**  
**Formation Skydiving**  
**Canopy Formation**  
**Style & Accuracy**  
**Boogies/Fun**  
**Freestyle & Skysurf**  
**POPS**  
**Wingsuit**  
**Unclassified**

## Look to the Future

### Leave a Legacy

The Royal Aero Club Trust was established to preserve Britain's aviation history and to nurture its future. The Trust provides annual bursaries to assist young aviators in progressing. In the last round of

bursaries, BPA members were awarded almost half of the bursaries (7 out of 16).

Please help us maintain this invaluable support to skydiving and other air sports, and make a donation. Even small donations make a difference, or you could consider leaving a legacy. Let's work together to keep UK at the top of the sport of skydiving.



### The Royal Aero Club Trust

(A registered charity, number 1068451)

royalaeroclub.trust@ntlworld.com

Donations to: Peter Crispin, Royal Aero Club Trust Treasurer, Leybarn, 22 Cedars Avenue, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 7AN (cheques made payable to 'The Royal Aero Club Trust')

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KEGR.4

**NOTE:** Anyone considering buying parachute equipment should take advice from an instructor and/or rigger. Do not part with any funds unless the kit has been inspected and deemed both serviceable and suitable for your weight, experience and skill level.

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