

# skydive

August 2009

The Mag



The British Parachute Association Magazine



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# skydive

The Mag

Photo: Norman Kent



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People often ask me how they would go about getting their event featured in Skydive Mag. Well, the simple answer is, send it in! This edition is packed with stories of BPA Members' activities all over the UK and the world. Everything which was submitted by a BPA Member has been used in one form or another. So this Mag is a fair representation of what you've been up to.

We have some amazing images from Extreme Week in Voss, Norway by Andy Lovemore, whose photos also adorn the Funshine Boogie spread. The UK Skydiving League is in full swing now, see page 12 for the league table, with the ultimate winners soon to be decided at the FS Nationals. We've got reports from the Arizona Challenge and Perris big-way camp, with the Euro Freefly Record our centre spread, featuring a quarter Brits once again, way to go guys!

Dane Kenny celebrated 40 years in the sport, Pat's ashes were scattered at Chatteris and five teams attended the only 28-way competition in the world – right here at Hilbaldstow. Oh those doubting Thomases who said that idea would never work! The UK skydiving scene is buoyant, and our Members are active and respected worldwide.

As well as all the event reports we've squeezed in some educational articles, about becoming an instructor, filling the post Cat 8 void, and freefly transitions. Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to reading about your adventures as I put together your next magazine.

Lesley

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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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Cover:

The Nordic Meet  
by Andy Lovemore





**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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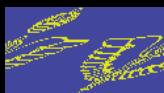
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# EXTREME WEEK

## The Nordic Meet

Skydive Voss is located in the western part of Norway, amidst breathtaking scenery. The town of Voss and the surrounding mountains, valleys, fjords, rivers and lakes play host annually to one of the world's largest extreme sports weeks.

Competition kayaking, rafting, mtb-bmx, kiting, skydiving, paragliding, hanggliding, multisport, freeride, big air, base jumping, climbing and more – much more! The daily antics from all the adrenaline sport activities are captured by frantic camera crews hanging from helicopters and perched on cliff sides. The videos are then presented on the big screen every evening in the lakeside festival big top.

Alongside the events and organised jumps put on by Skydive Voss during Extreme week is the Nordic Meet. Martin Kristensen, the brainchild of the Nordic Meet, is a master of extreme! Martin hand-picks flyers from around the world to join him on this, the daddy of all skydiving and canopy flying events.

We had an incredible week of tracking over stunning locations, swooping mountain, roads and waterfalls, and making evening 'in-hoppes' – demos into unusual, amazing and often tricky locations. The final day was spent preparing for the ultimate demonstration of control and bodyflight – a tracking group bravely led by Fabian Raidel tracking past the Norwegian flag!

**Words and photos by Andy Lovemore**  
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# House of Cards

## at the Arizona Challenge



Photo by Melon,  
FlyMelonFilms.com

Imagine being part of an 80-strong team aiming to build a house of cards. Everyone must add one single card. How careful and precise would you be when placing yours? You don't want to be the one to send the whole lot tumbling down.

Craig Girard, *Airspeed* team member and leader of the Arizona Challenge, used this analogy about building the fragile Challenge big-way formation. Each person's docking was likened to positioning their card, as precision-perfect placement, zero movement and a delicate hand were essential. Like most of Craig's similes, it was the perfect example of the finesse required.

A group of 80 international skydivers gathered for the four-day Arizona Challenge event, at Skydive Arizona, Eloy, Friday 22 to Sunday 25 May. All had been personally invited by World 4-way Champions *Arizona Airspeed*, who have jumped with everyone on the load. Personalities, countries and backgrounds were as varied as an entire deck of cards but all were great skydivers and lovely people. With 13 from the UK we represented an entire suit; Brian Cumming, Billy Payn, Caroline Allen, Caroline Hughes, Dave West, Derek Thomas, Dougie McLelland, Jon Perl, Lesley Gale, Maxine Tate, Michelle Meakins, Simon Cathrine and Steve Watson.

On Friday, we did complicated 20-ways, the groups run by *Airspeed* 4-way members Craig Girard and Eliana Rodriguez, the King & Queen of Hearts, plus ex *Airspeed* guest coaches Kirk Verner, the Ace of Spades and the Jumping Jack of Diamonds himself, Mr Jefferies. Saturday began with more 20-ways, followed by attempts at the fragile 80-way. One of these was complete for an instant before track-off, long enough for Belgian cameraman 'the Joker' Willy Boeykens to take a photo but not long enough for us to feel proud. We knew we could do better so kept trying. Two hands later, still no royal flush and it was time to hit the bar after four of a kind – non completions :(







Photos by Willy Boeykens, skycam.be



Sunday began with another attempt, this time complete, a near-perfect 80-way, flying beautifully: a high straight! Kudos to the ultimate wild card, freeflyer Jason Peters, who had been jumping camera but came into the formation to fill a slot vacated by Ace of Diamonds Mark Kirkby who was coaching in the Arizona wind tunnel. Jason is also a member of the amazing VFS team *Arizona Arsenal*, performed flawlessly in our 80-way and takes awesome photos to boot, respect! The wise old King of Clubs Michael McGowan and Melon, the Jack of Trumps, completed the camera ensemble.



The excitement of completion was quickly followed by 20-ways from two aeroplanes, always a treat – more fun and a faster build than from one. These jumps were even more complex than day one, and included a 20-way compressed accordion, a 20-way in-out and flying buzzards vertically over each other before re-docking them. The dives were as varied as hands of cards but required a lot more skill to play them!

Monday brought six attempts at a different challenging big-way. Jump three was just one grip off – the 80-person house of cards was complete but not connected. On jump six, a less than perfect docking sadly sent the whole deck crashing down! We were more surprised than disappointed; we had still completed a really cool 80-way and made some awesome skydives. No full house but we were still smiling from the high straight!

So, same place, same time, same organisers, does the Challenge ever get 'same-samey'? Absolutely not. Just as there are hundreds of card games with thousands of possible hands, *Airspeed* explore a multitude of funky formations, linking them in a myriad of different ways to keep us challenged, educated and entertained beyond measure. The suit of Brits say, deal us in again next year!

Lesley Gale  
lesley@skydivemag.com





## New UK DZ

A new dropzone, Skydive South Coast, has opened at Old Sarum Airfield, Salisbury, run by owner/operator Gordon Blamire and CCI Nigel Allen. The airfield still has the old first and second world war buildings, and is blessed with fine countryside views.

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

## St Andrews New Location

St Andrews dropzone has relocated to Fife Airport, just down the road, and is now operating out of the new airport.

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

## New UK Wind Tunnel

Airfix is building its second UK wind tunnel, which will be located in Trafford Quays, Manchester, close to Chill Factore snow slope. The tunnel will be 14 feet in diameter and is anticipated to open in the first quarter of 2010.

[airfix.com/manchester](http://airfix.com/manchester)

## Royal Aero Club Bursaries

Once again British Parachute Association members have scooped the lion's share of the Royal Aero Club Trust's Flying Bursaries, with eight out of 23 bursaries. Edward Monteith, James Beattie, Jenny Buckle, Alex Hopkins, Jim Addison, Holly Bee, Lucy Eldred and Joseph Thompson were all successful at obtaining grants towards their coach, FF1 or FS1 ratings. Applications open for next season from September 2009.

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

## Freefly Mozambique

Martijn van Dam has joined the Exotic Sky Adventures team for the Mozambique Boogie, 14-18 November, to offer freefly coaching. Martijn from the talented Dutch freefly team *Tora-Tora*, will be organising tube, tracking and tracing dives, atmonauti and freefly, alongside his FS counterparts, over Bazaruto Island.

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

## Skydive Guernsey

Skydive Jersey has recently been granted permission to skydive over Guernsey, as part of the Aviation Week celebrations, 7-10 September. This will be the only Guernsey operation this year, but there are plans to jump more frequently over the island in 2010, all being well. The dropzone at Guernsey is cleared for Tandem and B Licence only, ie, 100+ jumps. These will be the first ever tandems over Guernsey. All welcome.

[mally@skydivejersey.net](mailto:mally@skydivejersey.net)

## G-Fly – Different for Girls

Photo by Norman Kent



Funshine Boogie has teamed up with EdgE extreme sports agency to produce 'G-Fly', an event aimed at developing female freefly skills. Mikey Carpenter and Jim Harris are amongst the all-star coaches, joined by Fabian Raidel and Skywalkers' Kristian Moxnes. They are looking for a female coach too. Flyers will enjoy one-on-one coaching and small group organising to focus on specific needs. G-Fly is at Skydive Spain, Seville, 26-28 September, with an 'apres-fly' programme as well as skydiving.

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

## Brit Chicks for the Cause

Jump for the Cause Women's World Record in September at Perris Valley is raising money for the City of Hope to help research into cancer. The Brit Chicks are fundraising in the UK at the 60-way Challenge weekend, Hibaldstow, 22-23 August, with a tombola, raffle and other activities. The grand raffle prize is a complete Icon rig, including Aerodyne main canopies of the winner's choice (Pilot, Mamba, Triathlon, Sensei), an Aerodyne Smart reserve canopy, and a brand new Vigil. Prizes generously donated by Aerodyne and Vigil AAD. You can buy tickets online at a site kindly put together by Paul Bloomfield of justskydivers.com.



Photo by Colin Bridges

[britchicksforthecause.co.uk](http://britchicksforthecause.co.uk)  
[jumpforthecause.com](http://jumpforthecause.com)

In Perris at the same time is a men's World Record attempt, organised by Larry Henderson, also raising money for cancer research. Many Brits are on the load; Paul Rowe, Marc Le Gresley, Brian Cumming, Craig Poxon, Neil Butcher, Chris Davies and Rob Gray. Good luck guys!

## BPA Wingsuit Grading System

BPA WS1 and WS2 grades are now a part of the Ops Manual along with BPA wingsuit coaches. There is also a Wingsuit First Flight manual on the BPA website, for downloading. Mark Harris of the Top Gun team said "It has been fantastic to be involved with the development of the new wingsuit grading manual. I feel very positive that the BPA are taking such a progressive approach in the sport and I hope to see it continue."

[bpa.org.uk](http://bpa.org.uk)



Rob Gray & Guy Martin receive wingsuit grades from Chris McCann and Mark Harris at Skydive Airkix

## Seville Wi-fi

Andy Lovemore by Pete Huskins



Wi-fi has been added at Skydive Spain, Seville, the sister dropzone to Hibaldstow.

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

## CYPRES 2

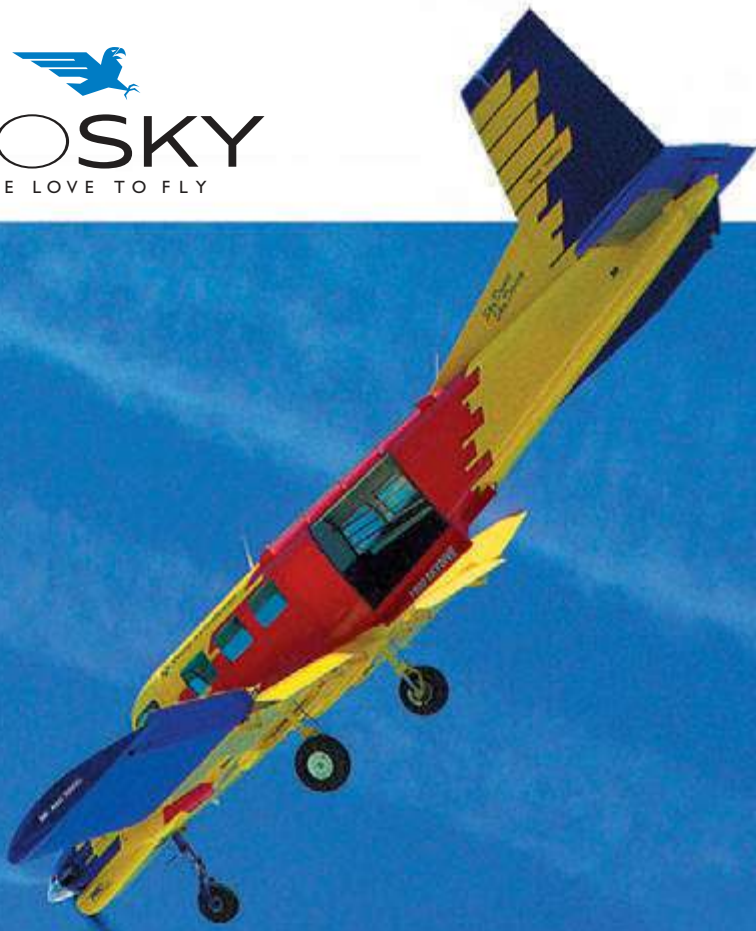
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THE FUTURE OF SKYDIVING

# XSTOL TAKES ON EUROPE

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GoSky assists in order handling, transfer, EASA registration, pilot training and expansion of the maintenance network.

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# UK Skydiving League



*Kaizen over Hib by James Stevenson*

The three UKSL heats are complete and the up to date league tables are shown here, with the current ranking of each team. The final round to determine the UKSL Champions in each category at the end of 2009 will be the Nationals, held at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, 8-10 August.

## Skydive Weston 23-24 May

22 teams fought it out for the first medals of the 2009 season. In AAA, *Phobia* and *Fend 4 Yourself* led the field, followed closely by scratch teams *Rusty Nuts* and *Bonobish*. *Enigma* gave an impressive display, its jumpers having only previously competed in Rookies and A. They call themselves a 'concept team', aiming to move to AAA with a very limited budget, by grabbing free coaching, and doing lots of walking and creeping blocks.

AA, the most exciting battle, was contested by four teams moving up from Rookie and A. *Jet Blondes* used their rookie experience to score an impressive 21 on an all-random round, and won gold in their first competition after moving up two categories – well done! After a slow start, *Strangers* pulled back level with *RAFSPA Firefly* after six rounds – meaning a jump-off for bronze, where they managed a single point victory over *Firefly*.

In A, *Unagi* dominated the field, and scored an impressive 17 on round 5. Silver was closely fought between *RAFSPA Phoenix* and scratch team *It Ain't Gonna Suck Itself*, impressive as two of *Suck* had never attempted blocks before. All the Rookie teams were new to the 4-way circuit. Local team *Gravity*, who've only been jumping a year, won with *Indecision* taking silver, and scratch Weston team *Beef Curtains* happy with a bronze in their first meet. Thanks to Sparky for all of the coaching and to everyone at Skydive Weston for making the days go so smoothly.

*Richard Head, Phobia*

## Target Skysports, Hibaldstow

20-21 June

Teams dodged the clouds at Hibaldstow to complete all the rounds. *Phobia* (AAA) and *Unagi* (A) won their respective categories, showing that both teams have made the step up to the next level in style. The most closely-fought battle was in AA category, between victors *Random Vengeance* and *Strangers* – that promises to be an exciting rematch to watch at Nationals!

In Rookie, Netheravon's *Nimeton* triumphed over Black Knights' *Karma*, followed closely by Weston's *RAFSPA Typhoon*. The thrill of the meet was watching AAA team *Sonicnutz* in action. Although unable to stay to complete all rounds, they looked on fire. Are they strong enough to take rounds off *Satori* at Nationals? We'll find out soon!

*Jo Hawley, Kaizen*

## Skydive Airkix, Sibson

11-12 July

Twelve teams turned out for the third UKSL. Despite awful weather on day one, four rounds were completed on Sunday. In AAA class, *Phobia* continued their UKSL dominance with an impressive performance, securing the team's third gold medal in a row, with a 12.3 average. *Fend 4 Yourself* took silver with a 9.5 average and new team, *Enigma*, took bronze with a 6.3.

*Jet Blondes* were very strong all weekend in the well attended AA class, claiming gold with an impressive 13.8 average. *Strangers* and *Army Nemesis* continued their season-long battle, finishing second and third respectively with *Random Vengeance* just two points behind in fourth. Scratch team *Pickle* put in an impressive debut with a 10.3 average.

In A class, *Unagi* once again secured victory with a 10.3 average, although second placed team *Slot Machines* had clearly been training, taking the silver medal with an 8.8 average. Three teams entered Rookie with first place going to *Nimeton*, second to *Baboonylon* and third to *RAFSPA Typhoon*.

*Rich Rust, Strangers*



*Fend 4 Yourself by James Stevenson*



*Medal winners at Weston's UKSL by Alex Lane*





Photo shows Random Vengeance winners of the Hibaldstow UKSL by John Williamson

**4-way UK Skydiving League Table**

AAA	Weston	Hibaldstow	Sibson	Total
Phobia	10	10	10	30
Fend 4 Yourself	8	5	8	21
Enigma	4	2	6	12
Fusion	-	8	-	8
Rusty Nuts	6	-	-	6
Vision	-	6	-	6
Bonobish	5	-	-	5
Kaizen	-	4	-	4
Sonic Nutz	-	3	-	3

AA	Weston	Hibaldstow	Sibson	Total
Strangers	6	8	8	22
Jet Blondes	10	-	10	20
Random Vengeance	-	10	5	15
ARMY Nemesis	8	-	6	14
RAFSPA Firefly	5	-	-	5
Orbital	4	-	-	4
Pickle	-	-	4	4

A	Weston	Hibaldstow	Sibson	Total
Unagi	10	10	10	30
Slot Machine	5	8	8	21
5 Ds	4	6	-	10
RAFSPA Phoenix	8	-	-	8
Ain't Gonna Suck	6	-	-	6
Uvavu	-	5	-	5

Rookie	Weston	Hibaldstow	Sibson	Total
Nimeton	4	10	10	24
Karma	5	8	-	13
RAFSPA Typhoon	-	6	6	12
Gravity	10	-	-	10
Baboonylon	-	-	8	8
Indecision	8	-	-	8
Beef Curtains	6	-	-	6
Katal Phillamy	3	-	-	3
Sh*tfly	2	-	-	2



# Funshine **BOOGIE**

“MORE FUNSHINE PIE!”

They shouted! So we stuck another one in the oven... The May Funshine Boogie at Skydive Spain, built on the success of the last event in September, was nothing less than mega and delivered fun beyond our wildest dreams...

## Funshine Fleet

24 freeflyers from six countries each doing at least 40 skydives in five days assisted by four world-class coaches whizzing to 15,000 feet in 15 minutes in two Turbine Dorniers over Seville, Spain. Now that's a recipe for Funshine Pie if ever there was one. The limited place format of Funshine Boogie means that flyers have better access to coaches to help them develop their skills. We had two levels of head-up groups, one focusing on good slot flying and one on more technical aspects of building points. There were also two levels of head-down group with one focusing more on solid slot-flying and the other turning more complex points. A tracking group was in full effect burning holes in the sky, chasing clouds and frightening the odd buzzard.

## Funshine Coaching

Solid coaching was provided by Funshine regulars, the amazing Mikey Carpenter and the super-talented Jim Harris, with Alberto Fuertes, the new boy in *Volare* at his first Funshine event. Andy Lovemore completed the bill, he is now resident at Seville and has his name embroidered on his suit, just so you know who he is. The coaches, some of them into their third Funshine event, have exactly the right attitude and aptitude to guide freeflyers to excel themselves. The progression at this event was truly remarkable when comparing day 1's bar tape to day 5. The skills that flyers developed took us to levels we didn't expect to reach in such a short time.

## Funshine Uncle Albert Style

The lower experienced head-up group was predominantly lead by Alberto, and with his experience of tunnel coaching he helped the group make step change improvements in their flying. His job was sometimes described by resident instructor Jonno Horne as being 'like herding cats'. Jonno took the opportunity to get some recreational freeflying done. Nice job Alberto, the group finished in a really good place and loved every moment. The more experienced head-up flyers had a very memorable day under the guidance of Lovemore towards the end of the boogie. Building 5-way points from unlinked exits is harder than you think when flying head-up with all those legs and arms around in close proximity.

## Funshine Upside-down

The head-down groups air-tested the new Funshine tube with a foot bracket – only to go hunting in the olive groves for it at sunset! Back to the drawing board! This time we saw a lot more head-down flyers join the boogie and we managed to form two groups of head-down flyers.

The groups were kept busy with fresh challenges as the coaches rotated round the groups, Mikey giving it the big 'Woo-hoo' out the door every time. Jim Harris did his usual exceptional job guiding his groups to solid slot-flying and point-building. Everyone got their fix of tracking and everyone was taken out at some point – with Iain 'The Bear' Ayres and Tom 'The Shark' Clark in full effect.

## Funshine Pie

Buckets of fun, loads of learning and lots of new friendships equals large slices of Funshine Pie. Big thanks to all the coaches and all at Skydive Spain for once again playing a massive part in delivering a very successful and enjoyable event. Special thanks to Jim and Mikey without whom this event would not exist.

Mark Owen  
mark.markowen@gmail.com



Photos Andy Lovemore & Alex Murphy







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# Dane Kenny

## 40 Years Celebration



**On 19 June 1969, on his seventeenth birthday, then the minimum legal age to make a parachute jump, Dane Kenny climbed out onto the wing of the de Havilland Rapide, a metal, wood and canvas biplane, originally manufactured in 1936. Holding on to the strut, with the jumpmaster, Lieutenant Corporal Bob Card in the background waiting to tell him “Go”, Dane noticed his watch read 06:07 hours – a time he has never forgot. Stepping off the wing with a B4 harness and static-line round saw Dane begin a life-long dedication to skydiving.**

It was an honour to be invited by Dane to join a circle of friends from 40 years in the sport to celebrate his anniversary. The time, date and place were to be the same, plus 40 years – 19 June 2009 at Netheravon, where his adventure began. The anniversary was months in the planning, with Skyvans and Caravans laid on to have some big-way fun with a guy who is a former British team skydiver and FS World Medal holder (4-way silver in 1979 and bronze in 1981 with Symbiosis) and also a Guinness and World Record-breaking World Team player with just over 12,000 jumps.

Dane's guests ranged from military colleagues to former teammates and record holders – the bar was high and some great dives were on offer. As we assembled on the Thursday evening, Dane's meticulous planning streak was in full drive – a brown envelope contained not secret orders but an event pack for each person laying out dives, seating plans and basics of skydiving. The team walked the dive at 05:30 and explained to start the event. Dane explained he took his life in his hands before his first jump, but we managed to avoid the temptation to follow suit. The dates coincided with the Summer Solstice boogie weekend party at Nethers and we kicked off with a 33-way skydive exiting at exactly 06:07 hours into the beautiful sunrise over Salisbury Plain.

As the weather played its part, plenty of time was on hand for Dane to focus on dive details and offer his ever-supportive words of wisdom. Here are some technical coaching gems we all took away richer in the knowledge:

*“Diving out the Skyvan’s like when a gang of armed hoodies come into a bar, you just gotta dive quickly over it before they open up.”*

*“Listen sweetheart, just stick your legs out and get in!”*

*“You’ve beaten your own exit count mate.”*

Possibly the best dive was an intricate two-point 36-way completed just before sunset on the

night of the solstice party. An excellent skydiving spectacle was laid on for the crowd with the formations clearly visible with a ‘Hollywood Spot’ right over the top of the DZ. Thorough dirtdives in full kit meant we all had the plan locked in, holding the second formation for ages before breaking off. As we landed, Dane's friends and family gathered round for champagne and a celebration cake. A great Nethers party followed.

More of the same was planned for next day but the weather held us to one jump only – the previous evening had led to a high body count, so no complaints there. Overall, a great weekend's celebration was well hosted by Netheravon with a special mention to Tim Mace who trekked up from South Africa to join the fun and to Commander Bond for raising morale. It was a privilege to be asked to join in to celebrate the first jump of a mate (four days after I was born!) and his achievements thereafter. Also well done to Dave Stephens for his 5,000<sup>th</sup> jump during the event.

To Dane then, happy 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary mate... and looking forward to the fiftieth!

That is all.

Andy Scott  
[andy@bpa.org.uk](mailto:andy@bpa.org.uk)

Photos by Gary Wainwright



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Rich, Hinton's pilot does AFF, by Kris Sheppard

# WHAT Now??

**Congratulations! You just gained Cat 8! So, what do you do now?**

**The newly qualified jumper can sometimes feel a bit bewildered. World Champion Sparky has written this article to help give you some direction. Mike Colthart gives advice on mental aspects. We also interview a real casestudy, Aidan Onn, who talks about his experiences in progressing further...**

If you have just achieved your Cat 8, then previously your jumps have been under the guidance of an instructor, and each has been very structured in terms of the objectives. So, what do you do now you're 'on your own'? Well the learning doesn't stop there and, whilst it is great to be independent and do your own thing, to be able to fully realise the social and fun aspect of this sport, ie, jump with your mates, you still need to progress. However this can be the point where newly qualified jumpers sometimes don't know the best route. Often the DZ's priority is to get students through their progression whilst they have small student-friendly weather windows and the coaches (who are often instructors) who could help with your progression are called away. So this article is designed to point you in the right direction.

## Canopy Handling – CH1 & CH2

The first step is to start working through the licence and grading system. You need to gain your Canopy Handling Grade 1 (CH1) qualification before sending off for your A Certificate. The B Certificate will then require your Canopy Handling Grade 2 (CH2) and your Jumpmaster Grade 1 (JM1) as well as 50 jumps. Free booklets and the relevant forms can be obtained from

your CCI, who will advise you of what practical and theoretical training is required.

## Gradings – FS1, FF1, CF1, IS1, etc

At this stage you need to think about the type of skydiving you want to do. Do you want to go down the path of Formation Skydiving (FS), Freestyle/Freeflying (FF), Canopy Formation (CF) or Style (IS)? FS is normally the first route people take before branching out into different disciplines, as a bigger majority of people do it, belly flying is more familiar following your student jumps, and it is probably easier to get to a level where you're safe to jump with others. Also, some of the skills attained are required before commencing any kind of freefly training.

It is advisable to work towards one of these gradings as, coupled with 200 descents, this will allow you to apply for your C Certificate which is often the entry point for skydiving events around the world, as well as a requirement for working towards other gradings such as Skysurfing (SS) and Wingsuit (WS). The objectives you need to achieve for each grading are outlined in the manuals dedicated to these disciplines and can be found on the BPA website under the 'Training and Progression' section.

## How do you work towards these gradings?

### Home Dropzone

Most dropzones have BPA approved coaches in at least FS and FF. For CF and IS you may need to travel as they are a little more specialised. With any kind of progression training it is always advisable to arrive at the DZ as early as possible. Coaches are often like gold dust, especially if they also work as instructors, so it is good to express your needs before they plan their day.

It is advantageous to stick with the same coach for as many jumps as possible but this is also a luxury. Don't sit on the ground because your regular coach is not available if there is an alternative coach there willing to



Amy Stearn and Phil Colwell by James Stevenson

## Casestudy – Aidan Onn



A Project dive by Bruno Brokken

*There are so many different routes to take, and with so many different disciplines, it can all get a bit overwhelming. Less than a minute of freefall and not much more under canopy means trying to put your theory into practice can make the learning curve seem impossibly steep.*

*Two years ago I found myself in exactly this situation; having graduated from student status, the progression system seemed to me impossibly complicated. I had no real idea of how to achieve the various licence ratings and advance beyond simply throwing myself out into a lonely sky.*

*Pretty quickly, I realised that I wasn't going to make much headway by simply reading the training manuals and practicing in solo flight. What I needed was some kind of a structured plan that utilised all the amazing facilities and opportunities on offer. After all, in what other comparable sport are you likely to get such quality coaching from top-level sportsmen and women?*

*Tunnel coaching provided a quick, safe platform to learn basic skills. This continues to be invaluable now, in improving my individual technique, and providing the perfect prep for my team training camps.*

*I found load organised events were another excellent way to practise and progress safely in numbers, most often under the supervision of extremely experienced world-class skydivers. Coached dives, and video de-briefed ones are incredibly effective as a training tool. And there's nothing quite like the group rush of a successful big-way build!*

*Before attending my first canopy piloting course, I had no idea of the 'high performance' capabilities my canopy possessed. Having now attended a few, I strongly recommend getting plenty of coaching in this essential area. I found it was a revelation.*

*More recently, I and my team attended this year's 'The Project 09' coaching programme and headed out to Skydive Empuriabrava to improve our skydiving and soak up some Spanish sun. The Project is a skills workshop designed to build on 4-way technique in 20 jumps over four days. 4-way teams are given three-on-one coaching, with coaches rotating around team slots on each jump. They proactively participated in each dive and observed first hand the individual and team dynamics.*

*With luminaries Pete Allum, Shannon Pilcher, Ian Bobo and Regan Tetlow comprising the coach line-up, we were pushed to the limits of our current abilities. We were encouraged to visualise our exits and formations as a series of snapshots, hence better understanding our relative positioning. After each jump, we'd race back for video debriefing, and a frame-by-frame critical analysis.*

*With the combined experience of some of the best, most accomplished skydivers and canopy pilots in the world, our group came home feeling a great deal further progressed. We even managed a pretty good suntan! To me, this kind of progression seems the best and safest route to evolving within our sport.*

*Our big skydiving community, whether it be local or international, is very fortunate to have such a uniquely open access attitude to top level coaching. Techniques and equipment are constantly advancing. We have a wonderful culture of shared learning, which filters straight down from the vanguard to those of us aspiring to progress. And with that kind of knowledge, passion and commitment, we become ever stronger and more disciplined skydivers. It doesn't really matter which exact route you choose for your progression, just make sure you take full advantage of the fantastic resources and coaching freely available from the highest echelons of our sport.*

Aidan Onn, [aidan@playlounge.co.uk](mailto:aidan@playlounge.co.uk)



Roadshow coaching, photo by Gary Wainwright

jump with you. Likewise if there are no coaches free, it is also still worth trying out our new-found skills with other qualified FS1 jumpers (provided they have approval to jump with you from the CCI).

### Progression Weeks & Weekends

Some DZs put aside time dedicated to the progression of their newly qualified skydivers. These weeks or weekends are often run by the resident teams, who sometimes also lay on seminars to add to your overall learning. Ask your DZ if they run such events.

### BPA Coaching Roadshows

These roadshows funded by the BPA and hosted by dropzones all over the country have been very successful in developing competitive skydiving at grass roots level. They are a fantastic opportunity for you to get top class coaching from National and World Champion medallists for free! You can take advantage of their experience gained from years of training camps. The host DZs are also very proactive, sometimes supplying free coach and video slots. As well as jumping with world class skydivers, the weekends normally include useful seminars. They are a great environment for meeting like-minded people, who could become future jumping buddies or teammates.

Unlike the CF and FF coaching roadshows, the FS ones are normally stated as being dedicated to jumpers post FS1, as it is felt that most DZs have local coaches who cover FS1 progression, and that the skills of the roadshow coaches are better used developing up and coming teams. Don't be put off however, as it is still a great learning environment and often inspires pre-FS1 jumpers to being on teams in the future. Also, depending on the turnout, it is probable that visiting coaches may also have time to help with your FS1 progression.

### Tunnel & Tunnel Camps

Tunnel flying now plays a big part in progression, whether a student, a Cat 8 graduate working towards FS1 or FF1, or a team jumper complementing training. Tunnels in some way are to be thanked for retaining skydivers in our sport by accelerating training and breaking down skill barriers. The gap between 'skysprog' and 'skygod' is now much smaller.

Whilst the tunnel can't substitute your training in your chosen discipline (nothing in fact for CF1!), ie, you still have to work on exits, altitude awareness and safety on track-off, it can help you drill in some muscle memory. Also the walls provide a great reference as to whether you're staying in place. Drilling exercises in the tunnel will help you to make the most out of your freefall when skydiving, and can sometimes help you combine exercises into one jump. Both Airkix and Bodyflight can supply coaches to suit your needs, or it may be that one of your DZ's coaches takes people to the tunnel regularly.

A common question asked is, when should you incorporate tunnel training? Everyone is different but normally some tunnel time before you start your coached jumps in the sky proves to be very beneficial



Tunnel coaching by Airkix



Andy Ford coaching head-down by Paul Floyd



and removes some of the memory load from what is already a mentally challenging experience! Having said that, if the tunnel is busy, don't sit on the ground and put off doing your coached jumps or any kind of skydiving. You are still adding to your experience in terms of being safe in the air, plus you can always work on other areas such as your CH2 and JM1, gradings that again take up some brain power and so are best to do independently.

### Canopy Courses

As people invest time and money into further developing their freefall abilities in their chosen

disciplines, they often forget about their canopy skills. A number of STC-reported incidents are a result of poor canopy handling, which could be avoided by further training. CH1 and CH2 go a long way to address this problem, however it is still worth attending one of the reputable canopy courses now provided in the UK and abroad. I attended a course whilst on *Storm* – experience levels ranged from 5,000 jumps to people just off consols, to a seasoned CF jumper! Don't delay on signing up onto a course as it's never too early!



Isabel Woolgar  
by Bodyflight

## Mental Aspects

There are some great things to do post Cat 8 too, from the simple joy of jumping without being assessed through to CH2 exercises, etc. You have gone from an intense one-on-one experience of instructional descents to all of a sudden being in charge of your own progression. You can choose when to do CH2, packing, FS1 and so on. To a certain extent that can be a bit disorientating in that all of a sudden you're not being told where to be, when to be there, and so on. That can feel a bit like abandonment but it's not. You now have a lot of doors opening in front of you and you should look into every one of them. The adventure continues!

So don't feel like you're on your own, you're not. There are lots of people who will assist, guide and assess you in your progress, seize the opportunities whenever you can! If personal circumstances negate the chance to jump all day every day, it doesn't matter, as long as you use your jump time effectively. Don't sit around waiting for something to happen, go and make it happen instead!

Although the DZ staff may be run off their feet, they

still have your progression at heart. Never give up and never give in! If your CCI puts you back in a training vest after a lay-off, don't take it personally, look at it as a golden opportunity to show them how much you have learned and remembered. Accept that you're still going to make mistakes and say things that may make you look daft. Don't worry, every single one of us has done the same and, if there's a hint of laughter at your expense, it's only because we have forgotten how much we had to learn at the same stage.

Be proud of what you have achieved and be humble at what lies ahead. If the local DZ mafia don't feel like they are making you part of their gang, then form your own gang! Get together with others in similar circumstances, organise car sharing, get on the same lifts and so on – before you know it, you'll be in a mini club of your own. A final point, don't think it gets any easier! There's always something new to learn or practise, that goes for all of us, we don't do this because it's easy – if we did it would be tiddleywinks all round!

Mike Colthart  
mikethemong@hotmail.com



Good luck with progressing in your chosen discipline, and remember that ticking all the relevant boxes to achieve your grading just opens more doors to you as the learning never stops. It has only just begun. Enjoy!

Claire 'Sparky' Scott  
AFF Instructor, Cat System Instructor & BPA FS Coach

## FURTHER INFO

The BPA, USPA, UK Skydiver and individual dropzone websites have exhaustive diaries of events:

[bpa.org.uk](http://bpa.org.uk)  
[uspa.org](http://uspa.org)  
[ukskydiver.co.uk](http://ukskydiver.co.uk)  
[dropzone.com](http://dropzone.com)

Roadshows, progression weeks, tunnel camps and canopy courses are also listed in the diary at the back of this Mag, which is colour-coded to help you find your chosen discipline.

The individuals and web addresses below provide coaching and have an excellent reputation. There are many other avenues also available, look around and see what appeals to you:

### Canopy Coaching

Brian Vacher's Safe Flight School  
[safeflightschool.com](http://safeflightschool.com)  
Chris Lynch's Wing Tips  
[gottaflychris@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gottaflychris@yahoo.co.uk)  
PD Factory Team  
[flight-1.com](http://flight-1.com)

### Tunnel Camps

Sparky  
[ukskydivingadventures.com](http://ukskydivingadventures.com)  
Satori  
[teamsatori.co.uk](http://teamsatori.co.uk)  
Pete Allum, Steve Hamilton  
[uktunnelcamp.com](http://uktunnelcamp.com)  
Perris Fury  
[perrisfury.net](http://perrisfury.net)

### FS Coaching

Pete Allum's Project  
[innerrhythmcoaching.com](http://innerrhythmcoaching.com)  
Train with Satori  
[skydiving.co.uk](http://skydiving.co.uk)  
Dave & Helen Arnold  
[skydivenorthwest.co.uk](http://skydivenorthwest.co.uk)  
Caroline Hughes & friends  
[skydivechoreography.com](http://skydivechoreography.com)  
Regan's Hot Weekender  
[regan@empuriabrava.com](mailto:regan@empuriabrava.com)

### Freely Coaching

Volare  
[volareproflight.com](http://volareproflight.com)  
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[outbreak-freely.com](http://outbreak-freely.com)  
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# COMPETITIONS

Thanks for the great feedback relating to all the coaching events so far in 2009. Chief Judge Kate Charters remarked that yet again the support to grass roots is paying off well. Roadshows across the board have been well attended. The turnout and standard at meets continues to blossom. We have strong representation at the IOC (International Olympic Committee) sponsored event, the World Games featuring *Volare* in Freestyle and Deane 'Smudge' Smith in CP, just beginning as we went to press.

## World Cup & European Championships Prostejov ~ Czech Republic

30 Aug – 6 Sep 2009

Good luck to all our UK teams at this important international event – do us proud!

VFS	<i>Outbreak of the Bad Lieutenants</i>
Freestyle	<i>Volare</i>
Freestyle	<i>Airkix Freestyle, Go Freestyle</i>
4-way FS Open	<i>Fusion, Phobia, Escondido, Sonic Nutz</i>
4-way FS Female	<i>Kaizen</i>
8-way FS	<i>X'Stormin'8</i>

You can follow their progress on:

[ec2009.info](http://ec2009.info)

I am proud to read NSL updates as we head towards the ESL Finals – a great job done so far on the international stage! Many attendees are 'graduates' from roadshows and coaching at competitions given free of charge by our previous champions.

### Coach the Coach

If you are a coach and would like to advance your skills, we plan to resume the Loughborough University 'Coach the Coach' training in October (when it turns wet). Get in touch with Competitions Committee if you'd like to take part. You will need to travel to the university campus for two Saturdays to take part in an otherwise free event, aimed at getting the best out of you and those you wish to coach.

*Andy Scott, Comps Chairman*

Minutes of BPA meetings once ratified may be downloaded from the BPA website

## GENERAL NEWS

### Wingsuit Grades WS1 & WS2

The BPA has now accepted and implemented a grading system for wingsuiting. WS1 and WS2 are now a part of the Ops Manual, along with BPA wingsuit coaches. There is also a Wingsuit First Flight Manual available on the BPA website for downloading.

### AGM 2010 – I'll drink to that!

The BPA has negotiated a fixed price drink rate from the function room bar at the Blackpool Hilton for the BPA AGM and Dinner on Saturday 16 January 2010. A pint of beer or lager, or glass of house wine will cost just £2.80. The day's programme is now being planned including inspirational, informational and educational seminars, all of 50 minutes' duration. If you'd like to present a seminar, or say who or what you'd like to hear, please contact the BPA Office.

### AGM Film Festival

The official list of judges for the Film Festival has been confirmed as follows:

Andy Newell	World Freestyle Medallist
Bruno Brokken	Photographer
Jeff Zaltman	MD, Flying Aces Media
Lesley Gale	Editor, Skydive Mag
Martin Soulsby	BPA Communications Chairman
Simon Ward	Photographer, Flyer, Business Director
Wendy Smith	Award-winning Filmmaker
Willy Boeykens	Photographer

This panel of internet judges will individually review all entries on the internet and the top five films with the highest score will go forward to be shown at the finals at the AGM. The ultimate winner will be chosen by the audience.

### Sport England Grants

Sport England is focusing its investment on organisations and projects to grow and sustain participation in grass roots sport and create opportunities for people to excel. Sport England awards from National Lottery funding programmes are open to a wide range of not-for-profit organisations in England, including sports clubs, voluntary and community organisations, colleges and universities. Representatives of such associations are encouraged to read Sport England's website and apply online for funding if it seems appropriate. Similar programmes exist for the other three home countries.

England	<a href="http://sportengland.org/funding.aspx">sportengland.org/funding.aspx</a>
Scotland	<a href="http://sportsotland.org.uk">sportsotland.org.uk</a>
Wales	<a href="http://sports-council-wales.org.uk">sports-council-wales.org.uk</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="http://sportni.org">sportni.org</a>



Photo by Norman Kent

### New Ratings

**Instructor Examiner**  
Paul Floyd

**AFF Instructor**  
James Brittain  
Mark 'Alf' Batchelor

**Tandem Instructor**  
Simon Gearing  
Steve Wickham  
Ed Massey  
Paul Jordan  
Rob Millin  
Gavin Rixon

**CS Instructor**  
Steve Thain  
Danny Ball

**Tandem BI**  
Neil Long  
Paul Jordan  
John Friel  
Chris Nelson  
Mike Murphy  
Colin Stevenson

**CSBI**  
Alex Pascoe  
Richard Green  
Stacey Hastings  
Spencer Hogg  
Jonathan Irving  
Paul Domanski  
Jan Louis Jurgens Saunders

**Advanced Packer**  
Alex Wilson (S)  
Mick McPhee (S)  
Karl Horton (S)  
Alex Wilson (S)  
Mick McPhee (S)  
Christopher Sharman (S)

### Judge Training Online

An online judge training programme is on the FAI website. The BPA is always looking to encourage and enhance the qualifications of its judging pool, who are highly regarded worldwide. If you're interested in judging contact Kate Charters via the BPA Office.

[fai.org/parachuting/node/1128](http://fai.org/parachuting/node/1128)

# 28 Ways to Skin

**Hibaldstow's 28-way competition has gone from strength to strength and this year boasted five teams. This innovation, unique to the UK, was a Dave Lewis idea that many said would never work.**

Now in its fifth year, a record five teams entered, with 140 participants travelling from England, Scotland, Ireland and Sweden to enjoy three-plane formation loads at Target Skysports, Hibaldstow, on 27-28 June.

Saturday was a day of cloud and dirtdiving to the tune of Thriller. A day of catching up with big-way circuit friends and laughing at those of us in our new shocking pink Jump-for-the-Cause jumpsuits!

*Hibnosis* and *Herding Cats*, a previous winner jumped towards the end of the day with the home team posting an impressive five points. Skydive Choreography's *Chasing Tails*, the 2008 winners, started to look a little nervous. Simon Cathrine's team was looking very impressive this year.

After a few more hours of watching cloud, everyone was ready for the Skool Disco themed party and a barbeque described by some as the best DZ barbeque they'd ever had! The Irish team *FUNnel Rats* led the partying into the early hours.

*Chasing Tails* were first up the next day but had to

watch weather until 4pm. The jump went well with many of the team wearing just one glove in homage to Jacko! And the scores on the doors? Another five. Dead level with *Hibnosis*. Would there be time for a jump-off?

*Hibnosis* went back in the air and as *Chasing Tails* walked to the aircraft, rumours started circulating. Had *Hib* done really well? Had they completed at all? This round was much tougher than the previous one. Who could hold their nerve?

Caroline Hughes' team landed with smiling faces. Two points, but was it enough? Then it was confirmed. *Hibnosis* had scored a single point. *Chasing Tails* were crowned the reigning champions! Captains immediately started recruiting for next year!

Doug McLelland captained the new team this year – *28-Ways Later*. This second Skydive Choreography team allowed up and coming jumpers to taste the delights of bigger formations. For many it was their biggest ever. It was a shame that the weather didn't allow for all six rounds for them to build on their obvious potential. We look forward to seeing them back next year.

Jo Hawley  
jo.hawley@gol.gsi.gov.uk



*Hibnosis* by James Stevenson

# a Cat



*Chasing Tails by Chris Smith*



Team	Captain	Rd 1	Rd 2
1 Chasing Tails	Caroline Hughes	5	2
2 Hibnosis	Simon Cathrine	5	1
3 Herding Cats	Dave Lewis	2	1
4 FUNnel Rats	Gordon Hodgkinson	0	0
5 28-Ways Later	Doug McLelland	0	-

*Herding Cats by Brian Knight*



*Hibnosis by John Williamson*



*Winners Chasing Tails by John Williamson*



*Shell by James Stevenson*



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# Freefly Transitions

**Transition  
to the  
next level -  
Overcome  
your limits**



*Alberto Fuertes over Seville by Alex Murphy*

Freeflying is the discipline that explores the widest range of motions and body orientations. That is why, in this category, it is not easy to specify when someone passes from basic flight skills to an intermediate level or an advanced one. Progression is different for each flyer and at certain point it gets tricky to know when to take the next step in freefly training.

## Training Transitions

New techniques learned represent a 'transition' in skill levels. Inbetween levels, there is always a transition that enables human flight development. Body flight transitions from one orientation to another must be smooth, safe and natural. Jumpers may train for improved balance by changing from one extreme flight mode to another. For example, you can go from a flat belly-fly position, through an over-the-head transition to a flat back-fly. Moving back and forth, slowly and smoothly through the transition will refine your balance.



*The back-flying head-down position*

## Back-flying Head-down

The 'back-flying head-down' position is one of the ways to get into head down flying. It's a back-flying position but the head is bent towards the back and down, and the visual orientation is completely upside-down. In this position the centre of gravity moves closer to the head making it easier to look upside-down by getting the body inclined towards the head. Arms are relaxed more into the wind, shoulders are forward, the back part of the upper body will be more curved and it'll get less area exposed to the wind. Legs are wide open sideways to increase the area exposed to the wind with the lower body.

The techniques for turning or holding the heading are quite different from traditional back-flying. These changes in techniques can be almost compared to the changes from the traditional belly-flying box to the mantis position. When in the mantis position we can do turns by using the legs in a shorter range of motion, because the centre of gravity is closer to the hips; in the back-fly head-down position we can do almost the same by using the shoulders, also in a shorter range of motion because the centre of gravity is closer to the neck now.



*Training transitions refines  
balance and awareness*



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Rob Gray

Symbiosis wishes all the guys and gals good luck at the men's and women's World Record events at Perris Valley in September. We are proud to support you!

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Tunnel photos by Lycurgo Querido



You can also try transitions with grips

### Tracking

After you have mastered the back-flying head-down position it is time to start tracking. You can start by practising deep belly-tracking or back-tracking. It is very important that you check for the line of flight from the aeroplane before you do any type of moving or flocking dive. Always practise the movements perpendicular to the aircraft flight line to avoid flying under or over other groups of jumpers. Starting from belly tracking is easier, just start at a deeper angle of flight, try to hold the angle of the body, flying at around 45°. For the deep back-tracking you can start from a regular back-flying to a head-down back-flying, identify a visual reference point (in upside-down visual orientation) and start the deep back tracking by holding the body flying position at around 45° angle.



Tracking with Volare over Dunkeswell by Fraser Corsan

### Transitions

After you have mastered both tracking positions, you can start the transition from one to another, from the side (longitudinal axes) or from going over the head (passing through head-down). The most important thing is not to fall completely flat, either to your back or to your belly.

A good way for you to learn control for safe upside-down flight is through performing these transitions. This involves flying through all angles and working in all visual orientations in the basic body flight positions. At this point is essential for you to be stable in belly-fly, back-fly and sit-fly.

From sit-fly you can practice transitions over the head, such as backlooping, frontlooping and sidelooping. The best thing to do is to start those transitions by executing them in very slow motion, almost stopping in head-down.

When the time to approach an upside-down visual orientation comes, it is important to use and be familiar with two reference points at the same time. This might include the ground, background, another body flyer, or any other relative visual reference.

Joao Tambor



Try transitions in slow motion



**Freely Transitions** is the third in a series of six DVDs produced by Skydive University and Joao Tambor.

[joaotambor.com](http://joaotambor.com)  
[skydiveu.com](http://skydiveu.com)

# Big-way Camp & 100-ways @ Perris Valley

The forthcoming women's world record in 2009, and the World Team record events in 2010 and 2011 have fuelled massive interest in large formations. Many UK jumpers have been travelling to big-way camps held all over the world, to learn techniques, renew currency or strut their stuff in front of World Team organisers. This year camps have been held at Ostrow in Poland; Cerfontaine in Belgium; Gransee in Germany; Clonbullogue in Ireland and of course at Perris Valley, USA, the mecca of big-way skydiving.

**What happens at a camp? Brian Cumming and friends find out...**

Twice a year in May and September the Performance Plus team at Perris Valley Skydiving, California run a big-way camp followed by a 100-way camp, with many participants doing both events. The star-studded coach roster includes Kate Cooper-Jensen, Dan BC, Josh Hall, Tom Jenkins, Larry Henderson, Tony Domenico and Doug Forth.

## Big-way Camp

The minimum requirements to get on the big-way camp are 250 jumps, 50 jumps in the last year, have been on at least a 20-way and have the ability to consistently close twelfth or later. So all the campers have a reasonable level of personal flying skills and the aim is to teach big-way techniques and give practical experience. 160 skydivers arrived eager to learn more about big-way skydiving. Phrases such as stadium, radial, sheepdogging, superfloater, tracking teams, whackers and anchors were banded around and soon became familiar.

Groups started with single plane formations and as the event progressed, skydivers were rotated onto larger groups and with different organisers. The camp is a 'no fault' environment. If you're weren't making mistakes you were told you weren't trying hard enough! You were encouraged to push yourself to get out of your 'comfort zone' by trying slots you wouldn't normally. Tiny girls went in the base wearing truckloads of lead while big heavy guys donned freefly suits and discovered they quite liked diving from the back. Each jump we were allocated tracking teams, and left the formation together in a mini-formation of our own (see picture overleaf).

Innovative approaches included running 30-ways from three planes to give people valuable experience of 'blind-siding', ie, jumping from the left trail planes with the door facing away from the lead aircraft so you have poor visuals on exit. Jumps were slotted to give people a variety of challenges and the camp ended with 50- and 60-ways from 16,500 feet with oxygen.

## 100-way Camp

The following weekend saw the 100-way camp with 215 skydivers of 27 different nationalities from every continent. The 100-way camp is by invitational. You can either earn a slot with a good performance on the big-way camp, or with previous relevant experience and good references.

Using two 100-ish groups, jumpers were slotted for success. The plan was that once completed, everybody would change slots and go do a different 100-way. And then again! I talked to other BPA members who attended the camps, some relatively inexperienced jumpers and others repeat attendees. They are quoted here, just to prove, it's not all about me!

*Brian Cumming*





"I did the big-way camp in Ireland in July 2008 (which I'd highly recommend) and as a result got onto the 100-way camp in September last year. From these I gained slots on both the California State Record and Texas State record in January and May 2009 respectively. Despite being invited to such high profile events I felt I still had a lot to learn and improve on. In particular I wanted to refine my tracking and to experiment with fall rates, for instance to see if I could be on the outside of a formation wearing lead rather than a T-shirt"

Ian 'Dennis' Taylor, 780 jumps



"I must admit I was worried about the cost of the camps but it has to be the best money I've ever spent on skydiving coaching. Every single one of them was approachable and helpful. You couldn't want for more. Since I've been back, I can't stop raving about it. The big thing I got out of the trip was confidence. With having continuity of jumping and great instruction and mentoring, I couldn't believe how much my confidence in my abilities in big-way skydiving increased."

Alli Armstrong, 850 jumps



"The two camps have a different approach that works very well. The no-blame atmosphere of the big-way camp and being moved into different slots means that you can't help learning fast. Moving from rear float on a trail plane to last diver in the lead aircraft tests every skill."

"The 100-way camp has a different feel with a greater intensity. Ten jumps in the same slot trying to build a 106-way means a need to develop focus and visualisation and keep it. The people were amazing. On one of my lifts we had 11 nationalities. The atmosphere was serious, friendly and mature. I saw no inflated egos (yes, really) and that was well cool

considering there were World Record holders and full time professionals jumping with people with less than 500 jumps. I came away seriously impressed with the quality of all the coaching. I think it inspirational."

Alistair Redler, 500 jumps





"The standard of load organising on these camps is arguably as good as it gets but to me, it proved that the standard of load organising in the UK is amazingly high too. Milko, Caroline Hughes, Simon Cathrine, Dave Lewis and others all teach the techniques that are taught here."

**Brian Cumming, 650 jumps**



"I definitely recommend the camps. In particular I was really impressed by the psychological part of the learning experience – I am a real believer that the difference between being a good performer and a great one is nearly all inside one's head! I came away from the camp feeling inspired by the organisers' ability to motivate large groups of people to be the best they can be – techniques I will try out on my teams at work!"

**Liz Danby, 1,150 jumps**



"Once again the jumpers from the UK came en masse to Perris to learn new skills and perfect existing ones, including approaching on radials, stopping before docking, and heavy drinking. They were successful on all counts."

**Kate Cooper-Jensen, 9,000 jumps**

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Photos by  
 Willy Boeykens

## Ok, ok, I lied. It really is all about me!

My favourite moment was on the third day of the 100-way camp, the weather was 100°F and higher, which had taken its toll on some people. Our group had been verging on completion the day before but had never really got that close again. It was the last jump of the day; our 13<sup>th</sup> attempt at building a 100ish-way, this one would be a 104-way. Whatever happened, we knew that we would be rotating slots the next day. This was our last chance to build the formation in these slots.

On the ground before the jump, it just seemed a little special. My English reserve that had prevented me from joining the chanting and shouting weakened and I whooped and hollered along with everyone else. On the plane ride up, everyone's eyes were wide open and it felt like there was electricity in the air. I was sitting near the door of the right right trail plane and I could see the other planes take up their place in the formation. As I climbed out into my rear float slot I had a perfect view of all five planes across the sky.

The exit went smoothly and my whacker seemed to dock without problems, I was an anchor on an outside whacker. The cameraman on the opposite side flew underneath the formation, he'd never done that before and he was there for a long time, maybe five or ten seconds. Had we built it?

At 6,500 feet I turned and tracked with my head full. Had we built it? I couldn't see anyone out but the formation was so flat that I couldn't see grips. Had the people outside me on my whacker been there? Had we built it? Did we do it? Did we?

My tracking group flared out and when I opened I was the furthest east of everyone. I turned my canopy round and was unprepared for the view that took my breath away. In the west, in the background, the sun was setting over the mountains, an amazing purple, red, yellow combination and in the foreground, the silhouettes of 108 canopies flying around the sky with the sun glinting off the jumpers.

I flew as close to the stall point of my canopy as I dared for as long as possible, knowing that this was special and I wanted it to last as long as I could eke it out.

Was it complete? No, there were several grips missing. Did I care? No. Was it the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life? Yes.

*PS by Brian Cumming*



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# Diary of Events...

- Aug 22-23 60 way and Skyvan Event, Outbreak FF organising  
Aug 22-24 Reserve weekend for 8 way, Artistic, CF and Speed  
Aug 28-31 UKS Boogie see [www.ukskydiver.co.uk](http://www.ukskydiver.co.uk) places limited!  
Sept 11-13 European Skydiving League 4 way comes to the UK  
Sept 26-27 FS Scrambles # 2  
Oct 3-4 FS Coaching weekend with Simon Cathrine  
8 Way Speed FS vs FF competition (see website for details)  
Oct 10-11 Skydive Choreography Event  
Oct 17-18 First time Formation Loads with Simon Cathrine  
Oct 31-Nov 10way Speed Frost Bite Friendly and Halloween Party

## skydive Spain



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DESIGN BY HOLLY.KILHAM@GOOGLEMAIL.COM

# EURO *Freefly* Record

At the start of 2009 there was a lot of excitement about the big-ways to come over the summer, with the planned 100-way Freefly World Record attempt at the end of July at Skydive Chicago. People were excited, nervous and hungry for information on how they could get involved. In the US there were try-outs being held throughout different DZs to allocate slots. The European contingent was told *Babylon* would be allocating places at the World Record based on performance at the Euro record attempts. So all was to play for as we gathered at Empuriabrava, Spain, for the Euro record event, 6-10 June, with the potential to both become a European Record-breaker and the chance to get on the list for the subsequent Freefly World Record.

## Build-up

Leading up to the Euro record *Babylon* held a number of training camps, a place to get the relevant skills up to scratch and learn about big-ways. It was also a chance to show off your skills and hence be recognised as record potential.

## Beginning

On arriving at Empuria it was amazing to see so many old (Reynolds) and new (Richy) freefly faces, everyone was excited and slightly nervous about what was to come. There were about a hundred people registered!

## Warm-up Jumps

Day one of the two warm-up days started with 15-ways. Everyone was included which meant there were six big ways to organise, with *Babylon* spread throughout the groups. With everyone jumping it meant that the level of the groups differed, leading to varying levels of success but the jumps did give everyone the chance to audition for the main event. The second day the groups

started to join together providing the chance to do some bigger 30-way groups with two planes, already surpassing the first Euro Record of 28, set in 2005! That night *Babylon* organised a welcome dinner for all the participants at a local restaurant.

## Record Attempts

The first day of the actual record attempts started with a 51-way and a nervously attended role call to see who had been chosen. Once the good or bad news had been given out we started with a full dress rehearsal, which highlighted the first of the issues we would have to overcome to achieve the record.

## Problem-solving

On previous records we had only used two aircraft but now we were using four, which on

paper didn't seem like a potential problem. But when we came to dirt dive we found it would be...

With big-way FS jumps the orientation is always the same, meaning that in the plane you are stood or sat up, and that's how the formation builds once out of the plane – but with a head-down formation everything flips once out of the door. With two planes it's fairly easy to work out which side the divers are coming from, but with four planes, the base flips from the central leading aircraft, effectively mirroring the formation in respect to the dirt dive. This means that the approach people make on the ground will not be the same as in the sky. If you have to go all the way around the formation to get to your slot on the ground, in the air it will be a straight line. This gave some initial traffic issues on the first few jumps, but also led eventually to the development of a solution to multiple aircraft head-down formation approaches, traffic issues and how to order floaters and divers. Once we came up with a way to solve the puzzle of traffic, we were back on track.

## Communication Issues

The next problem to overcome was communication between the aircraft on run-in. Initially we relied on the pilots to communicate and synchronise the exit lights but, as at least one pilot had to be on a different frequency to talk to air traffic control, we encountered difficulty getting everyone out on time. On one occasion one of the planes didn't get the exit light and left late, whilst on another one plane climbed out several minutes early

and, after some heroic hanging-on, one participant eventually fell off – not mentioning any names but Parker did manage to make it back up to the formation in time to get to his slot.

In the end we found that a combination of lights and visual communication between aircraft was the best solution. In the lead Skyvan, the cameraman would go early, which was the signal for the floater planes to go. As soon as the camera left, the base did the count and exited, which was also the signal for the diver planes to go. So we had Twin Otter 1 floating back up to the formation, Twin Otter 2 diving and the Beech 99 with half the plane going early and floating up, and the other half diving. The base and some additional divers left from the Skyvan.







51-way Euro Record



### Euro Record 51-way

This method, combined with the new formation approach solution, gave us a successful new European Record on the sunset load of the second day! The formation built quickly, and then people started to look around at each other, nodding, smiling and screaming. We knew we had it, and flew it for a good 10 to 12 seconds, hollering all the way!

Congratulations to all the Brits on the Euro Record, listed below including our own Tim Porter on camera. UK had the highest participation with twelve participants (followed closely by the French with ten). That makes about a quarter of the load British, just like the last Euro Record – we should be justly proud of all of our record-breakers, and of the high standard of British freeflying.

### 70-way Attempts

The last day was spent going for a 70-way, this was a very exciting opportunity to break the 69-way World Record set in 2007. It was also a chance for the people who had been waiting patiently on the bench the last two days to get involved which provided a few unexpected surprises. Ulisse Idra, the 19-year old Italian from Flygang Molinella was not selected for the Euro record because he was relatively unproven in big-ways and it was not known how he would perform under the pressure of record jumps; hence tried and tested flyers were put ahead of him even though his skills were on it. Given his chance in the 70-way Ulisse was rock solid, getting to his slot faster than most and sticking it all over the formation.

Richy Frame from the UK had a tough call being drafted into the 51-way at the end of day two, straight into a first stinger (pressure) slot, but also

stuck it and showed he deserved to be there. Unfortunately this was not the case with most of the new people joining, and every 70-way attempt was met with a few people out due to a number of reasons but mostly boiling down to lack of skill and experience.

### And Finally

Fred Fugen of *Babylon* probably put it best, "We didn't complete the 70-way, but it was still the biggest formation I've ever seen... and we still set a new European record!" All that was left to do was head to the Babylon party at the Marbar Beach Bar to celebrate in style!

A new 51-way European Head-down Record – goal achieved! A big thank you to all the guys from *Babylon* for organising this fantastic event.

Mike Carpenter  
mike@volareproflight.com



51-way Euro Record



Photos by Babylon

### Record Breaking Brits

- Andrew Lovemore
- Andy Newell
- Claudio Lettieri
- Dan Parker
- Frazer Smith
- James Davies
- Jim Harris
- Mark Joyner
- Martin Reynolds
- Matt O'Riordan
- Mike Carpenter
- Richard Frame
- Tim Porter (camera)





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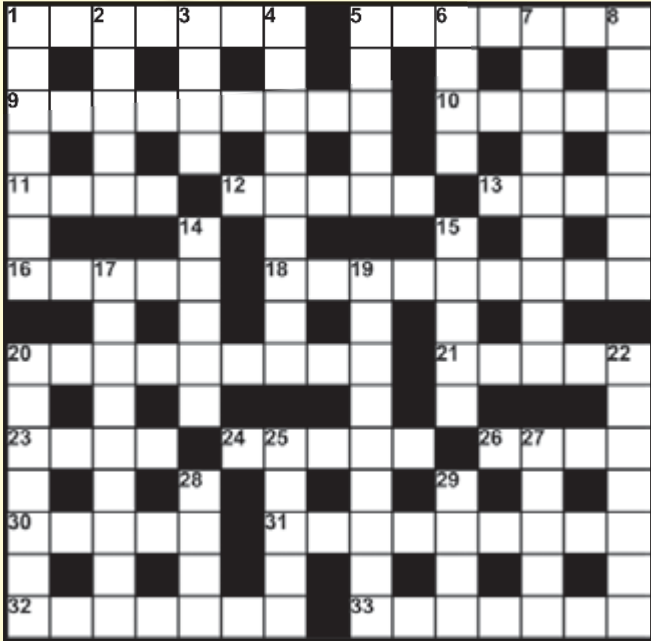
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[www.bodyflight.co.uk](http://www.bodyflight.co.uk) - 0845 200 2960

# Puzzle by Paul Boorer



## Main (Cryptic)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Across</b>  | <b>Down</b>  |
| 1. Daughter has yearnings for water features (7)                 | 1. Disposes of French dramas when opera's beginning replaces its end (7) |
| 5. Assessments of traitor in general staff (7)                   | 2. Traps badly reset (5)   |
| 9. Accuracy of summary charge (9)                                | 3. Greet cold weather (4)  |
| 10. Bury Italian team (5)  | 4. Whined as the canopy stalled (9)                                      |
| 11. East-Enders' innkeeper called for oven (4)                   | 5. Goes round borders when motorway becomes no good (5)                  |
| 12. Could these eggshells hold them back? (5)                    | 6. Last person in formation to dock (4)                                  |
| 13. Given spade in deal but didn't win (4)                       | 7. Satan and lion struggle in these contests (9)                         |
| 16. Sunday sailor on cutter (5)                                  | 8. Bend strut as 20's shown to be wrong (7)                              |
| 18. Bingo's 11 gins, they could make walking awkward (3-6)       | 14. Less than half-hearted shout (5)                                     |
| 20. Clued 'undo' wrongly, it's clear (9)                         | 15. Leads sailor aboard ship (5)   |
| 21. Rig is held up by this piping (5)                            | 17. Fanny takes on learner making lapse (9)                              |
| 23. Perfect finish to a jump, it could be hard or flash (4)      | 19. Super women starting to grow uneven curves (9)                       |
| 24. Expedition finds odds on Scots river reversing direction (5) | 20. Sets sail on duck breaking last of regulations (7)                   |
| 26. Kill witch that's grabbed last of children (4)               | 22. Sounds like advertisements for kit builders (7)                      |
| 30. Relax in place where you're high after cocaine (5)           | 25. Smoother aircraft (5)  |
| 31. Couple of coats cavorting in rough sea (9)                   | 27. Spain after a conflict is watchful (5)                               |
| 32. Inspect Renoir's interior shade (7)                          | 28. Lost at sea in narrow channel (4)                                    |
| 33. Adder's preferred times of the year (7)                      | 29. Cheat hiding in lawless Cambridge (4)                                |

## Reserve

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Across</b>                    | <b>Down</b>                       |
| 1. Crashes into the sea          | 1. Opens out: unfolds             |
| 5. Qualifications: sailors       | 2. Woody plants                   |
| 9. Canopy manufacturer: accuracy | 3. Frozen rain                    |
| 10. Middle part of block: bury   | 4. Opened slowly                  |
| 11. Hop drying building          | 5. Canopy attachments (in threes) |
| 12. Birds; from Movenis?         | 6. Rear part of aircraft          |
| 13. Astray                       | 7. Countrywide competitions       |
| 16. PD canopy: weapon            | 8. Cloud in a layer               |
| 18. Lowest bits of rig (3-6)     | 14. Underneath                    |
| 20. Clear: sunny                 | 15. Formations: heavenly bodies   |
| 21. Highest part of rig          | 17. Move rearward in skydive      |
| 23. Accuracy target              | 19. Heavenly beings               |
| 24. Swiftiness                   | 20. Releases from formation       |
| 26. Suspend                      | 22. Parachute equipment makers    |
| 30. Make colder                  | 25. Short word for aircraft       |
| 31. Type of (BPA) membership     | 27. Alert                         |
| 32. PD canopy: ghost             | 28. Position in formation         |
| 33. Hot seasons                  | 29. Swindle                       |

**SOLUTION ACROSS**  
 1. Ditchies, 2. Funnies, 3. Duds, 4. Ditchies, 5. Ditchies, 6. Ditchies, 7. Ditchies, 8. Ditchies, 9. Ditchies, 10. Ditchies, 11. Ditchies, 12. Ditchies, 13. Ditchies, 14. Ditchies, 15. Ditchies, 16. Ditchies, 17. Ditchies, 18. Ditchies, 19. Ditchies, 20. Ditchies, 21. Ditchies, 22. Ditchies, 23. Ditchies, 24. Ditchies, 25. Ditchies, 26. Ditchies, 27. Ditchies, 28. Ditchies, 29. Ditchies.



# So you wannabe an Instructor?

Everyone remembers their first skydive. The nerves, the anticipation, gearing up, not too late to back out. Taking off, the wait as you watch your alti climbing, nervously remembering what you've got to do and trying not to think too much about why you're doing it. The door opening, the noise, the blast of air as you move into the slipstream. The terror, the falling, the elation. The relief as the parachute opens and just how grateful you were to everyone once you were safely on the ground.

And do you remember who taught you this? Too right you do!

## Basic Instructor Course

To become an instructor, you must complete two courses, each arranged by the BPA and held midweek for up to five days at dropzones around the country. The first course qualifies you as a 'Basic Instructor' or 'BI', with permission to complete basic instructional duties back at your home DZ. This will be under supervision of your CCI or other experienced instructors. After at least six months of this, when your CCI thinks you are ready, you will take the second BPA

course. If you complete this one successfully, you become a fully qualified instructor.

The BI course is very much a teaching course – you go on it to learn **how** to be an instructor. Even if you already have teaching experience, you are there to learn. Experienced instructor examiners will give lessons on instructional technique, and you in turn will give practice lessons to your fellow instructor candidates. They will act as students while you teach them subjects such as canopy control or malfunctions – lessons from the first jump course. You'll also act as student for them, and at the end of each practice lesson you will discuss how it went with your fellow course mates and the examiners, who will coach you on instructional technique and make you better next time!

As an instructor, your CCI will need you to be capable of much more than just standing in a classroom. You may sometimes find yourself in tricky situations, by virtue of your rating making you the voice of authority/experience. For example, if an experienced jumper picks up a potential problem on a flightline check but isn't sure, you may be the only person available to make a spot decision. It's your call – ground someone unnecessarily and they'll resent the lost jump ticket, but let someone go when they shouldn't and the ensuing accident will be on your conscience. So the BI course also includes lectures on other subjects relevant to instructors, such as rigging, first aid, incident procedures, flying for parachuting, instructor responsibilities and dropzone management.

## Types of Instructor

Just as there are three ways into the sport, so there are three types of instructor rating. Static line progression or RAPS is referred to as the Category System. Accordingly, the two instructor courses are Category System Basic Instructor (CSBI) followed by Category System Instructor (yep, that makes it CSI). Tandem gives us TBI and TI, while Accelerated Free Fall gives us AFFBI and AFFI. The BI courses are run together during the same week, so CSBIs will train alongside AFFBIs and TBIs. On successful completion of the BI course, the new instructors will be able to teach real students back at their home dropzone under supervision. So a CSBI or AFFBI could teach a ground school or do student talkdown, and a TBI could brief a tandem student and fit their harness. However the TBI cannot take students on real tandem jumps, and the AFFBI cannot jump with real students doing AFF levels. You can find the full details of what can and cannot be done in the Operations Manual and Instructor Manual (available on BPA website).

## Requirements

As you would imagine, you can go from a CSBI rating to a CSI course, an AFFBI rating to an AFFI course, and a TBI rating to a TI course. As an added quirk, you can also go on an AFFI course as a CSBI or CSI (ie, not necessarily an AFFBI), and on a TI course from any previous instructional rating, provided you meet the jump number and freefall time requirements. These are 800 jumps and eight hours for tandem, and 1,000 jumps and ten hours for AFF. You also



Tony Danbury talks down a student, by Gary Wainwright





Author Liz Ashley takes her sister Rose for an AFF jump, with Adele Marshall, also pictured below, by Ash Hollick

So far, so good. You've jumped through whichever of the hoops in the last paragraph applied to you, and successfully completed whichever BI course you chose to take. Now comes the real learning. You'll spend a minimum of six months (this can be less for tandem) practising your new skills and fine-tuning them back at your home DZ. This is a task generally agreed to be hard work but very rewarding. It's not so much that any one part of it is particularly difficult, it's more just the sheer volume of work to be done. If, like most, you only jump on weekends, then expect the majority of them to be dedicated to working towards your second BPA course.

### Instructor Course

The second course is usually shorter than the first. Although a whole five days are still put aside for it, it may finish in as little as three. There is 'no more Mr Nice Guy' – you are now here to prove yourself. The examiners have to agree that you are responsible enough to be trusted with a full instructor rating. I have heard more than one examiner use the criteria: 'would I let this instructor teach my daughter?'

On all three versions of the second course (CSI, TI and AFF) your instructional technique is assessed in the classroom first and foremost. If you can't teach to the desired standard, or if you fail a closed-book written exam on the Operations Manual, then you will be on your way home before Monday is over. CSI candidates must teach lessons from the ground school syllabus and RAPS progression briefs. Similarly, AFFI candidates will be called upon to teach first jump lessons and also briefs for the various AFF Levels. TIs must be able to do a flawless tandem brief.

CSIs will have their dispatching technique evaluated, with experienced jumpers acting as static line students. AFFIs will do six skydives simulating different AFF Levels, with an examiner acting as the student and performing as realistically as possible, including intentionally spinning to test the instructor's ability to cope. TIs will do their first live tandem jumps, first with a heavy bag strapped to their front before progressing onto live students (during the course these will be experienced skydivers), and will complete between nine and twelve tandem jumps in total.

### Qualification!

On successful completion of the second BPA course you get a certificate to commemorate your new rating, freedom to teach unsupervised, and a warm fuzzy feeling that all the hard work paid off.

### Fancy It?

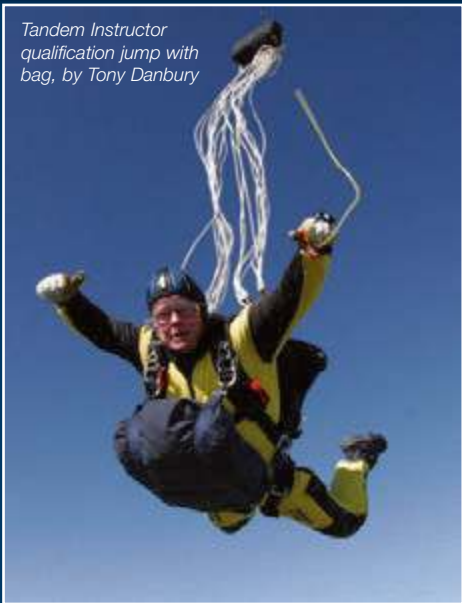
If you think instructing could be for you, then your first step should be to talk to your CCI. You're going to need their support, and they'll be a good judge of whether you're ready for the first course. They can also start preparing you by giving you little 'odd jobs' around the dropzone, to see whether you're really committed. Don't forget that they've been in your shoes themselves. All CCIs are Advanced Instructors, which is the next step up from CSI if you're interested. This requires at least three years' experience as a CSI and then a couple more (hard!) courses. Advanced Instructors are eligible to train as Instructor Examiners after a further two years, and these wise sages are who you will meet on your very first course.

So why bother? It certainly is a lot of work, and what's the reward? Well once you're qualified you will almost certainly get paid, although many instructors aren't really in it for the money. It's the little things that make you smile, like the free beers in the bar when you qualify someone, the fond memories and constant 'thank you's' from eternally grateful students, and your first 'grandkids' – when one of your old students becomes an instructor themselves and has their first students. Ultimately you'll be helping many non-skydivers to take that first leap and achieve something they may have always dreamed of... so why wouldn't you?

Liz Ashley  
eightwayliz@yahoo.co.uk

Static line instruction by Gary Wainwright

Tandem Instructor qualification jump with bag, by Tony Danbury



need an FAI C Certificate to become a static line or tandem instructor, a D Certificate for AFF, and a packing certificate and two years in the sport for all three ratings. If you will be talking down students rather than strapping them to the front of you, you will need to learn how to correctly use a radio, plus take a test to gain an aeronautical radio licence from the Civil Aviation Authority. AFFI candidates must also hold a BPA Canopy Handling Coach qualification, and this is a useful step for CSIs too.





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# Pat's Ashes



Following a conversation with Joyce Hammond, Pat's wife, we agreed the most fitting way to scatter his ashes would be from the air. By a strange coincidence a few days after Pat's death, we were contacted by a producer at Minow Films, who was putting together a documentary on varying ways families choose to scatter ashes.

The programme is for Channel 4 and the time constraints for filming were pretty tight. We wanted to give Pat the most appropriate send-off and decided that a CF jump was the best way to scatter the majority of the ashes, followed by a low flying pass to distribute the rest.

## The Jump

With the help of Eugene Brennan, Pat's close friend, protégé and teammate, we put together the jump. Other former teammates – Adam Johnson, Paul Speller, Dougie Preston and Colin Dixon – also took part, despite our initial trouble in tracking everybody down! We had one opportunity for the jump, on a Sunday morning, when Pat's family were all able to attend and Channel 4 could film. With the winds forecast to increase, we had to complete the jump in the morning.

Eugene planned a 5-stack and the goal was to distribute the ashes once it had successfully built, with Adam then descending to the bottom of the stack to deploy Pat's Union Flag. Yo Lee took up the camera slot with other Chatteris staff members, Mike Rust, Gary Small, Lloyd Quenby, Bryn Chaffe and Chris Beattie, flying as outriders, filming and taking stills. The jump went perfectly with everyone doing an excellent job.

## The Fly-by

The finale was the planned fly-by. Si Chipp was flying with Lorraine Dixcey and Pete Herrick remaining on board – Lorraine's role was to film Pete distributing the ashes over the DZ – they had been mixed with flour for full effect! The large group of spectators on the dropzone all played their part, by respectfully staying quiet throughout and then showing their appreciation with a round of applause after the ashes were distributed.

Pat's family were embraced by their friends at the DZ and there were few dry eyes left after the low pass. It was a lovely, fitting tribute to Pat by his friends, family and former teammates, scattering the ashes over the DZ where he had spent so much of his life, and which was now to become Pat's final resting place.

*Rich Rust  
richrust@lineone.net*

**AriA**  
solo per il volo



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**Schedule:**

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Sun 6: DJ

Mon 7: Fun fast paced team based give away party  
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Tue 8: DJ

Wed 9: Main event Tombola with rock band

Thu 10: DJ

Fri 11: Half hour OPEN DJ sets

Sat 12: Jam session

Sun 13: DJ

To register go to [www.skydiveempuriabrava.com](http://www.skydiveempuriabrava.com)

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photo by: [babylon-freefly.com](http://babylon-freefly.com)

**VECTOR FESTIVAL**



# Smart Cookies

Those smart helmet cookies from Down Under, who go by the name of – er – Cookie, have given us some gen relating to three new helmets they've created this year. The first, called the Gas, is a carbon fibre full-face, which comes complete with an oxygen inlet for high altitude, and visor locks which afford easy removal of the anti-fog, anti-scratch, impact-resistant visor that can handle speeds up to 300kph. The Gas comes in three sizes, has two audible pockets and vents designed to quickly disperse exhaust gases from the helmet.

Next comes the Ozone – a stylishly shaped carbon fibre open-faced helmet, similar to the company's older Rok design but with enclosed ears and a lowered forehead section. The Ozone has the ability to add a flatlock for camera mounting and comes with dual audible pockets and a padded chin strap.

The third newcomer is a carbon fibre open-faced camera helmet called the MXV. Features include a recessed Cameye housing, integrated cutaway system, a snag-proof chin cup and two audible pockets. The MXV comes in multiple shell sizes in order to achieve a snug fit to eliminate camera movement. The ordering system for a MXV allows you to design and build your own camera helmet set-up from a selection of parts supplied by Cookie, such as a liquid flatlock, Cameye 2 LED switch, carbon camera cube box, remote camera switch, lenses and other goodies.

The biscuits were keen to point out that all of their helmets incorporate so-called 'd3o technology', a state-of-the-art shock protection material which, they say, surpasses current helmet liner designs.

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



Gas



Ozone



MXV



# Kit News

by Rob Colpus

## Still VIGILant

The Belgium manufacturers of the Vigil AAD system released an information bulletin recently in order to point out that the Vigil II's manual has been upgraded to add information related to 'Airborne' or 'Active' status of the Vigil II. The changes have been made to clarify some of the operational parameters of the Vigil II; specifically a safety feature that will keep the unit active when it detects that the unit is still 'Airborne'. This is to prevent the Vigil from switching off after 14 hours if the unit is still Airborne.

There are documented cases of early generation AADs that have switched off after 14 hours even if the jumper was still in an aircraft or in freefall. The feature programmed into all Vigil II's will prevent this from happening and keep the unit on in half hour increments until it is back at its switch-on altitude or the reference pressure or the 'Ground Zero'.

The latest version of the Vigil User's Manual can be downloaded from the website at:

[vigil.aero](http://vigil.aero)

## Stay VIGILant!

A recent non-fatal incident in the US, where a jumper failed to understand the proper user parameters of the Vigil AAD, prompted Advanced Aerospace Designs, the device's manufacturer, to issue a reminder to their customers to pay attention to their owner's manuals.

The statement reminds users to switch off their Vigil after jumping, or before leaving the DZ with their gear, especially when there is an altitude difference of more than 150 feet or 45 metres between the DZ and the place they are travelling to.

- If you forget to do this, AAD say you should check your Vigil before starting to jump next time:
- If the unit is off, then simply switch it on.
- In cases where the unit is still on, it is **necessary** to first switch it off, and then start it back up again. This way, the unit will find its correct ground zero reference again.
- This is only valid if you forget to switch off the Vigil before travelling, or if you land on a different DZ than the one you've taken off from.
- If you remain jumping at the same DZ, and leave your gear there, there is no need to switch off the device. Your Vigil will automatically switch off after 14 hours.
- For more detailed information on this subject, you can consult your Vigil User's Manual at pages 4,8,15,18,19,20,21 & 22 and you can always download the latest version at:

[vigil.aero/downloads](http://vigil.aero/downloads)

## What's NEXT?

Those Teutonic innovators at Paratec in Germany have informed us that as a result of constant R&D and product improvements they are now offering a new type of lower kill line for their Next Tandem System. Made from 1½" Type 4 webbing it apparently reduces wear on the right container flap, which has been evident in the past. It also has a longer life in the field than the previous Vectran component.

Paratec tells us that this product improvement is not mandatory but it is recommended that Next tandem owners upgrade to the new part in conjunction with their normal inspection and service procedures. All new Next Tandem Systems will obviously be delivered with this improved part. Paratec was keen to point out that there are plenty in stock and the company would like to offer it to all owners at a special price of £29.00, ex VAT and shipping.

[paratec.de](http://paratec.de)



New Next Tandem kill line

## PdeF NOT!

As readers of Kit News will be well aware by now, we've expressed no shortage of exasperation over the last few years concerning the (lack of) customer service exhibited by that once great Gallic parachute manufacturer formerly known as Parachutes de France. Negative articles and angry letters from customers have appeared in these pages concerning experiences when dealing with the said company.



Well now, because PdeF, who prefer to be known as Aerazur, decided some months ago, for what the cynic might call some odd and suspiciously sinister reason to close down their website, one of their, let's say, 'not too happy' customers decided to open up a site on their behalf. It can be found at the address below – enjoy!

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

## Things About Rings

The Technical and Safety Committee of the IPC (International Parachute Commission) has got their teeth into the age-old problem of the inspection and maintenance of the ubiquitous 3-ring canopy release system. Following a catastrophic riser failure in January this year the committee felt moved to re-issue a bulletin first published by the Australian Parachute Federation in 2001 on this important subject. The bulletin is in two parts as follows:

### Part A – Inspection

While 3-ring risers may be constructed of various webbing widths and differing components, mixing of mini-risers on large harness rings may also create problems. Care should be taken that the risers are compatible with the harness and that the following criteria are complied with.

- Under moderate tension the rings should overlap each other and maintain metal to metal contact between each other.
- The rings should be aligned in parallel planes.
- The smallest ring should **not** be pulled snug against the grommet/riser by the locking loop, which should be long enough to give it some play.
- The locking loop should go straight through the riser grommet on its way to the cable housing end fitting (may vary on reverse risers or no grommet through riser type).
- It should be checked that NO suspended load is supported by the cable housing and locking loop due to the cable housing being incorrectly positioned in the harness or being too short.

### Part B – Maintenance

Disassembly

- Each month the 3-ring release should be operated on the ground by pulling the cables out.
- While it is disassembled closely inspect the system, vigorously flex the webbing near each ring to remove any 'set', rotate the rings and check for bends and elongation and check around the riser grommet for webbing failure.
- Check the white locking loop for any wear.
- Check the inside of the Bendix release cable housing for gravel or other obstructions and feel for any dents where the housing runs through the rig. Check the hand tacking which secures the housing to the rig.
- Clean and lubricate the cables with a light oil such as '3-in-1'. Put some drops on a cloth and firmly wipe the cables a few times, a **thin**, invisible film should remain – too much will attract dirt and grit.

### Reassembly

- Do not reverse the risers. Line check if necessary.
- Ensure each ring passes through only one other ring...
- ...and that the locking loop passes through only the small ring.
- Do not kink the cables or twist the locking loop during assembly.

IPC Technical & Safety Committee  
lmcnulty@skydiveireland.ie

# Student Proof?

After working with military end users recently the Aviacom company of Belgium has released what they call a 'Ruggedized Display Kit' for its Argus AAD system. The kit comes complete with a retro-fittable black anodised aluminum face plate with stainless steel push-button with a 'better click feeling'.

The kit is suitable for demanding environments such as military use or club tandem and student rigs that generally get a rough treatment. The kit can be fitted to an existing Argus with a few drops of glue, or you can ship your Argus display module to the company, who will do the conversion.

Argus – karel@aviacom.com



Argus ruggedized display kit



Fitted display kit



Before fitting

## RAX MARD

Jerry Baumchen, retired engineer, old time jumper and rigger from the US who owns and operates AeroSports USA, has developed an alternative design to United Parachute Technologies' Skyhook MARD system. MARD stands for 'Main Assisted Reserve Deployment' sometimes known as a reserve static line. This is where the jettisoned main canopy acts as a huge pilot chute to extract the reserve. A MARD minimises the distance fallen from cutaway to reserve inflation.

The difficulty in developing a reliable MARD has always been in devising a way for the reserve to deploy cleanly in response to a total malfunction, where the main remains packed in its container. In the event of a total malfunction the physical link between the main and reserve must separate quickly and cleanly without any action by the jumper. If it doesn't release, the jumper is in big trouble!

Baumchen's creation, which he calls RAX for Reserve Activation and eXtraction

system, does a similar job to UPT's Skyhook but using standard rigging materials for a fraction of the Skyhook's cost. Where the RAX system falls short of the extra security offered by the Skyhook is the fact that it does not feature a Collins' Lanyard (which ensures that **both** risers are released simultaneously). Therefore, any premature release of only the riser to which the RSL is attached is probably fatal – whether caused by riser breakage, mis-rigging, or simply a riser tuck tab hang-up. Bill Booth, the designer of the Skyhook has a simple rule: no Collins' Lanyard: no MARD.

The Skyhook also features a fuse in the system – if any component in the system snags, the red lanyard will break and disable the system, eg, if the snatch force is too high in a high speed situation this will happen and the normal reserve deployment takes over. The RAX does not have this extra safety option. These sophisticated features, along with other differences and years of R&D may go some way to explain the extra cost of the Skyhook.

Baumchen, who has designed and manufactured several rigs over the years and served on the Parachute Industry Association's TSO committee is not too interested in marketing his invention directly to consumers, but says that he may just give the idea away to rig manufacturers as a service to the sport he loves.



RAX in action:  
Skyhook in action:

[youtube.com \(search RAX MARD\)](https://www.youtube.com/search?q=RAX+MARD)  
[unitedparachutetechnologies.com](http://unitedparachutetechnologies.com)

# airkix.com indoor skydiving



## AIRKIX NEWS

- Congratulations to the Airkix representatives for their efforts in the European Head down Record.
- Heard the rumours? Check out [www.arkix.com/manchester](http://www.arkix.com/manchester)



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### Babylon Camp 24-26 August

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602 Marlborough Gate, MK9 3XS. Airkix is based in central Milton Keynes (M1, J14) only 45 minutes from London.

\* Calling all AFF Instructors, make sure your students get their two free minutes of tunnel time when they do AFF with you, call us to book.

Skydive **airkix.com**

Skydive Airkix is offering an enhanced membership, where for an extra £85 you will get ten minutes tunnel time as well as some valuable tunnel offers that will be announced during the course of the year.

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# CLUB News



Dave Howerski track dive by Andrew Donovan

## Headcorn

The three wise vidiots Alex, Wiggy and Lucy by Simon Hughes



King Air by David Newsham

We had great fun with the King Air while it stood in for our Caravan. Wiggy organised a Film Fest, which Chris Lynch won with an entertaining account of the life of an instructor. Judy Walker and her son were mentioned in dispatches while Pete's propaganda film on the hard life of a CCI was disqualified for late entry. Congrats to Wendy who is now a master (mistress?!) of all things chiropractical – well done!

11 competitors completed six rounds of the Accuracy GP in record time in a day. Glenn Stephenson scored the only dead centre and kept his scores in single figures to take the gold. Richard Wiggins donned a Fury for the first time and beat Del to the intermediate title. We even had cheerleaders out by the pit, with homemade pom-poms!

At last year's Woodmouse Speed Meet, *Why Us?* pipped old rivals *One Foot* under what were claimed to be dubious circumstances, so 2009 set the stage for the grudge match. Whilst all the teams did well and posted 10s, it was a fight between these two from the off! This year there was no argument, *Why Us?* were ahead at the halfway stage and the old heads prevailed over the eager youngsters in the team who wanted to go really fast! *One Foot* had to go sub-20, they tried and paid the price, allowing *Why Us?* to retain the trophy. Rematch next year! *Lizzi 50* won bronze, and looked most professional in team T-shirts designed to celebrate Liz's birthday.

Ruth Cooper & Pete Sizer



# Dunkeswell

Freeflyers at Dunkeswell have had the best summer yet with coaching galore! VRW team *Kinetic* are training, giving us all something to aspire to. Mikey Carpenter and Alberto Fuertes had us jumping hard in May with head-up, head-down and organised tracking! Everyone got involved, even our resident FS coaches came over to 'the dark side'!

In June, Dan Parker and James Davies, fresh with tales of the Euro Record 2009, put on a fantastic programme all courtesy of the BPA! Free coaching ranged from pre-FF1 to VRW sequential with *Kinetic*. Everyone was surprised at what they could achieve, displaying very impressive flying and progression. Thanks to the BPA and the guys, come back soon!

Record numbers of AFF students are graduating and our club is growing rapidly. Pete Stone is organising FS for all levels and even managed to drag a few freeflyers back to 'the light' for a 14-way speed star. Okay, we confess – it was great! Thanks Pete for his fantastic organising, getting everyone involved. Damo Hewitt is also on hand for FS coaching.

Warm weather means more high hop 'n' pops to take in the stunning views of the Devon, Dorset and Welsh coastlines! In July our resident freefly coaches Fraser Corsan and Dave Howerski ran skills camps, which were so successful we'll continue throughout the year! Mouth-watering barbecue aromas greet the last load every Saturday, come and sample Shane's legendary BBQ pineapple! Check the website ([skydivethewell.com](http://skydivethewell.com)) for the latest info, and sign up to our mailing list at [info@skydiveukltd.com](mailto:info@skydiveukltd.com)

Lou Finch



Justin Roberts by Andrew Donovan



Hybrid by Olly Denham

## Achievements

### Cat 8

Emma Bowles  
Jordan Hayes  
Tom Kelly  
Chris Young  
Chris Harknett  
Jon White

### CH1

Emma Bowles  
Jordan Hayes  
Tom Kelly  
Stuart Stevens

### CH1, CH, JM1

Guy Wells

### FS1

Leon Catley  
Kirstie Booth  
Tim Ricketts  
Garry Powell  
Guy Wells  
Shane Hardwick

## Jump Numbers

### 50

Guy Wells  
Leon Catley  
Lee Russell  
Maddy Heath-Kelly  
Jacqueline Day  
Tim Ricketts  
Kirsty Booth

### 100

Shane Hardwick  
Garry Powell

### 400

Lou Finch

### 700

Leah Frost

### 800

Damo Hewitt

### 1,900

Olly Denham

### 3,500

Pete Stone

One Foot by Nigel Rowlan



Winners Why Us? by Al Redler



Lizzi 5-0 by Al Redler

## Achievements

### First Freefall

Callum Collins

### Cat 8, CH1

Ben Barden  
Robert McIlvenny  
Graham Hunneman  
Dominic Simmonds

### FS1

James Lisney

### JM1, CH2

Nick Mentz

## Jump Numbers

### 50

Lizzie Knowles

### 100

Eric Shapland  
Noah Woodman  
Nick Mentz

### 200

James Dodd  
James White

### 500

James Freeman

### 600

Lucy Smith-Wildey

Al Redler

### 1,100

Richard Parkin

### 1 Hour Freefall

Nick Mentz

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## Swansea



Skydive Swansea is exceeding all expectations so far with tandem bookings up 20% on last year and loads of AFF doing well. Due to the increase in AFF, we're looking to buy more equipment soon. Well done to our DZ carpenter, Shamus, for getting FS1 in style, and recently promoted Dan the Cameraman. Big thanks to Kollo Shamburov for introducing many to wingsuits.

Photo by Kollo Shamburov



**Achievements**  
AFF Graduate  
Rebecca Jones  
200 Jumps  
Rob Dawson  
500 Jumps  
Rob Lights

Well done to our little foreign friend from Portugal, Filipe, for passing AFF and A Licence and Mr Alun and Miss Jones for passing also. All in all we're having a great year so far and, if the sunny weather continues, I can't wait for the second half! That said, some of us are joining a few members of South Cerney to head to Skydive Perris, 28 Dec – 8 Jan, everyone is welcome. Tony Goodman has promised us all great jump rates – what a guy!

Carl Williams

It is with a little sadness that we say goodbye to G-BGWR, the Centre's 206 and primary jumpship for more than fifteen years. It's gone to continue carrying skydivers at Old Sarum but our Airvan has proved itself to be more than up to the task and we're intending to get a replacement for WR, for even more lift capacity.

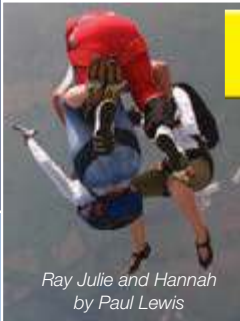
Paul Stockwell, a regular despite having to drive halfway across the country, made his 1,000<sup>th</sup> tandem, nice one. Johnny Galbraith, our other long haul traveller from the Isle of Man finally managed to get his B Licence after two years of ferries. So did John Galbraith, well done all!

The **Tilstock on Tour 2 trip to Empuriabrava from 20 September** is filling up nicely but there's always room for more. It will be a hoot. Let me know if you want to play. Book your place for the **Christmas Party at Hill Valley**. We have been offered a fantastic 'all-inclusive' deal to cover the meal, band, table wine and a free bar all night! What have they done?!! I very much doubt they'll give us the same deal next year (after we've drunk them dry) so book soon!

Colin Fitzmaurice

## Tilstock

**Achievements**  
FS1  
Mike Pritchard  
200 Jumps  
James Doyle  
500 Jumps  
Mike Allsopp



Ray Julie and Hannah  
by Paul Lewis



Martin Wilshaw trying to tell Paul Lewis,  
'We're a bit deep'

## Swindon

Skydive London goes from strength to strength and we've been flying more than last year. Geoff Kent flew the other Airvan from Megara, Greece to Hradec Kralove in the Czech Republic. Tommo and Grant brought some of the UKPS family to join us with the Caravan at Redlands. We had the busiest weekend in our 4-year history with 35 lifts and over 100 tandems, many thanks. Buncey's completed his masterpiece, the fire pit, complete with two cooking plates, will someone stop Brucie buying port and stilton as the beer fridge is full of it!

Brucie's beloved Skydive London jacket was kidnapped in revenge for the baby blue jumpsuit. Follow its adventures by becoming a friend on Facebook (search Skydive London jacket). Emma Green finally completed her 100<sup>th</sup> jump after taking time out to do her degree in Childcare (mainly so she can cope with Brucie) and Babs made everyone do a Fandango and remove their clothes to make an E1 100<sup>th</sup> sign for the landing (see photo).

John Friel was finally persuaded to do a tandem before his course and wasn't nervous at all! We even played a game of Parkin Bingo and told the Ferrari joke to give John the full experience. Thanks to MHW for the camerawork, and congratulations on your 500<sup>th</sup> jump and 2 gold medals filming *Unagi*.

On 18 August Rich Crook is walking 108 miles in 48 hours from Hyde Park Corner to a milestone in Chipping Sodbury – via every pub knowing Rich! It's all for Help For Heroes, you can donate at [justgiving.com/108in48](http://justgiving.com/108in48)

Dylan Griffith-Jones

Emma's 100<sup>th</sup> jump by Steve Bunce





## Skydive Airkix

Photos by Sarah Hall



Tim's Hybrid, we miss you!

The new shower block is complete and sparkling! The Phoenix Bar and Grill is finally up and running, and its full alcohol licence should come through on 3 August. Skydive Airkix has welcomed many new faces and the return of some old ones – Giles, Matt, Mark and Rick are back! (Still wearing the same bright yellow jumpsuit Giles?!). Congrats to Mark on his first demo out of a Lynx helicopter.

Mark Harris has been doing a great job training wingsuiters and handing out the new stickers left, right and centre! Guy Martin and Rob Gray were the first to gain their WS1 and WS2, quickly followed by David Butterell and wingsuit virgin Brian Cumming. Staff members Chris and Trev made their first wingsuit jumps, now they're well and truly hooked! Get in touch if you'd like to try it.

Big thanks to the CRW guys who were here in June, everyone really enjoyed themselves. Special thanks to Chris Lynch for his Wingtips Essentials and Swooping courses. We're planning more, let us know if you're interested.

Outstanding student Tim Shigabutdinov did AFF in April, 50 jumps the first month, then 49 the

next! Tim really wanted to hit the big 100 before he went home to Russia, so on his last weekend managed a fantastic 17 jumps. Forgetting that he hadn't logged his first tandem jump, he did hit his target of 100 so well done! We miss you Tim, visit soon!

Sarah Hall

### Achievements

#### First Freefall

Courtney Connor  
Liam Riley  
Wessam El Ghoul

#### AFF Graduate

Chris Raybone  
Neil Hagan

#### Cat 8, CH1

Luke Morris

#### FS1

Chris Meehan

#### FF1

Graham Rymer  
Chris Meehan

#### 50 Jumps

Cerys Jones

#### 300 Jumps

Pete Mather

#### 400 Jumps

Chris Goatley

#### 500 Jumps

Marcus Barrington

Thumbs up from Nick  
by Stu Morris



## Cark

In our 4-way scrambles, 5 teams scrutinised by cameramen Simon, Gary and Neil, completed three rounds with Dave and Helen doubling up in teams to provide coaching. Only 4 points separated 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> with the winners being *4-Lout* (Gary, Tony, Alan & Helen). Many great comments were fed back and were warmly received by our events team, who arranged the weekend.

Our first Cark Week was blessed with warm bright weather, we jumped every day. Skill levels shot through the roof with transitional verticals being performed generally well, whether intentional or not!

Our big-way weekend, again organised by our events team, was simply fantastic. 10-ways introduced the inexperienced to the idea of slots,



Seven rotate by Neil McLaren

quadrants and docking skills. All went both floating and diving, to learn the different techniques. Big thanks to Dave and H and watch out for more forthcoming events.

Alpha Yankee has been made over after her little bump last Christmas, it's great to see her back in glorious colours with her cheeky grin now splashed along her nose. The ladies' boudoir is complete and work has started on our showers. A lot of hard graft has gone into the building. To turn it around in such a short time is a credit to Ian, Key, Mike and John, well done guys.

Steve Luke has been learning CF, tutored by Tipex, with a 2-stack on his first jump, and a 4-stack the next – blew him away! Beer and barbecue have been on the menu throughout

June. Chief sampler was Jamie Chick who thought the only way to taste a proper kebab was to have at least a couple of Stellas first! Jamie, don't tell your dad about the kebabs!

Liam Riley (son to our Dot) and Courtney 'Bodyform' Conner (beloved of our unhinged one Peter) are both progressing well and have a little competition on who qualifies first. Keep up your outstanding efforts and enthusiasm. It's bye-bye to Nick Markham for 6 months whilst he recuperates with his parents after blowing his student loan on qualifying and the beer fine! Well done to our achievers, see you at the **Northwest Skyfest, 1-9 August**.

Stu Morris

Scrambles winners 4-Lout by Stu Morris



## Achievements

### AFF Graduate

Colin Booth  
Tim Shigabutdinov

### FS1

Lesley Kent

### FF1

Brett Robinson  
Nicola Goy

### WS1

David Butterell  
Brian Cumming

### WS1 & WS2

Rob Gray  
Guy Martin

## Jump Numbers

### 50, 100

Tim Shigabutdinov

### 200

Emma Cooper  
Nicola Goy  
Chris Dodds

### 400

Dom Goy

### 500

Jon Fox

### 600

Allan Eastwood

### 2,000

Brian Knight

# Wild Geese

Queen's University set off for the sunshine of Gap. Loads jumps, many new qualifications and much trying to get someone with a polite English accent to say anything inappropriate. Eddie Monteith is living the dream being a DZ bum for the summer in Empuria, we all hate him!

Gordon Hodgkinson, Ronan Whelan, Col McGovern and Jim Gunning came up from the IPC for some more Irish Record big-way preparations, the first of two skills camps this year. Every time they visit we fluke some good weather. Gordon went to an awful lot of trouble to keep track of statistics specifically for the club news. Sadly I put much less effort into keeping track while moving house and lost them! Sorry Gordon.

6 Wild Geese jumpers set off for Hibaldstow as part of the Irish 28-way team, the *FUNnel Rats*. Unfortunately due to bad weather and way too much sitting about, the team never got into a rhythm, resulting in a flood of Father Ted related Eurovision quotes. Meanwhile Rod McCrory gained competitive swoop experience by entering the German Swooping Open.

Congratulations to all the new FS1 qualified jumpers; Karen, Sandra, Graham and Wendy. I'm obliged to use the phrase 'long time coming' for Wendy (no more carrot cake for me then after this!). We all wish Nick Spiller a speedy recovery. It will be odd not having him around, get well soon buddy.



8-way over Garvagh

Photos by Eddie Monteith

Martin McLaughlin

## Achievements

### First Freefall

Jenni Porter  
Kathryn Treacy  
Eoin Brown  
Paddy O'Hagan  
Daniel Rocks

### Cat8

Ryan McCreanor

### FS1

Graham Wallace  
Sandra McMurrin  
Wendy Hyland  
Karen Gallagher

### 50 Jumps

Brian Kelly

### 200 Jumps

Dave Scott

### 500 Jumps

Eddie Monteith  
Johnny Lowe

Martin, Eimar and Connor



FUNnel Rats 28-way



IJumpForHeroes  
by Rab Peterson



Josey Wales by  
Rab Peterson



# Paragon

Knights. A certain Mr Cavanagh and accomplice Mr Illidge emptied our pockets in a way only a couple of Scousers could! Thanks for a great weekend guys, you know you only got your lift record because the Jocks were in town!

Congratulations to Eoin Muir on achieving the 300 jump milestone. Steve Lambert's heading off to pastures new, but hopefully won't be a stranger. James has the possibility of a new career with Ryan Air, keen to add to his budget airline experience gained at Paragon. Best of luck guys.

Mag7 (Pore Free)

The **IJumpForHeroes.com** gang cycled into Errol in June. Having completed the first leg of their impressive 1,000 mile journey from John O'Groats to Lands End, Arklay Purdie, Victoria Ancell and Jamal Abbasi (all made-up names) kept the locals up all night but avoided an ASBO by leaving at Sunday lunchtime just before the cops arrived. Check out the picture of their Marge Simpson style hair-dos – and you thought I moved you round to improve the light! Hope the rest of the trip goes well and all the best with the fundraising.

A few of the troops headed south to witness the fabulous 'Jumping Cocks' in action, a band of elite Scottish paratroopers who currently have nowhere to jump except at one of Scotland's best DZs; Black



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**Achievements**

**First Freefall**

- Declan Manning
- Hannah Francis
- Gavin Doran
- Neil Grice
- Stephen Owen
- James Woodcock
- Simon Soper
- David Manton
- Marie Lythgoe
- Nikki Hesford
- Alan Jeffers
- Jason Wakeling
- Kevin Bradshaw
- Elliot Stone
- Ann James

**Cat 8**

- Fraser McColm
- Alisa-Beth Craig
- James Smith

**FS1**

- Dave Bloomfield
- Matt Jennings
- Tony Strugnall
- David Manton
- Ann Berry

**CH2**

- Tazmin Jackman
- Stephen Burns

**50 Jumps**

- Ann Berry

**100 Jumps**

- Jo Parkinson
- Laura Muller

**200 Jumps**

- Debbie Williams

**600 Jumps**

- Ewan Cowie
- Greg Taylor

# Black Knights



Team Karma at Hib UKSL by John Williamson

With the hot summer sun the BBQ has been sizzling overtime and it's been fancy dress parties galore! First was the safari party and then a popular 'emergency services' theme – although the ambulance crew got a bit confused when they were called out to a dancing injury to find the place full of doctors, surgeons and nurses!

The next day we did an 8-way fancy dress jump to join the fundraising for Christies. Tony Strugnall organised 7 tandems and jumped as

many times as possible in 12 hours – he managed 26 jumps and raised a whopping £10,000, which included a raffle with some amazing prizes (1st prize was of course not a fix – Jeff & Alison, ahem!), and Carol donating her homemade cake sales proceeds. Well done Tony and friends.

The FS coaching roadshow went down well, many thanks to Kev Sargent for giving up his time to teach some valuable skills (along with helpers Neil Henshall and Ian Pringle). Brian Vacher's popular canopy course took place in May, everyone progressed through 10 fully briefed, filmed and debriefed jumps.

Congratulations to *Team Karma* who came 4<sup>th</sup> in the first USKL and won silver at their second comp. Huge congrats to Kay (Chaos) who recently got married to 'Take That' Dave.

**5-6 Sep** sees the **Eddie Davies Cup** competition, open to all experiences. Please all be aware that the old jump tickets are no longer accepted or transferable now – only new style tickets are valid.

*Sam Davis*

Photo by James Stevenson



'Emergency' fancy dress jump for Christies charity by Danny Rowlands



Brian Vacher course by Holly Bee



Naked Sous Chef & fundraiser Tony Strugnall by Alison Illidge

# Chatteris

The atmosphere here at Chatteris has been simply great. Our hovercraft circuit is now complete and a great success, the best part being the water feature! The courses are best pre-booked but can sometimes be arranged on the day if it's not jumpable and we have staff. In true Chatteris style Mike and Andy christened the water feature with a spot of synchronised swimming.

Yo has been running tunnel courses at every opportunity. She is here a lot during August, call her if you're looking for FS coaching. Congratulations to Donna and Paddy Cox who married on 13 June, we wish them a long and happy life together. Well done to Rowena Owen, our newest member of the camera team, it's great to have another girl on our side! Welcome also to packer Tim Hanlon and groundskeeper Gregg Munday. With a hot summer ahead the words BBQ and beer spring to mind!

In May we paid tribute to our dear friend Pat Hammond. A 5-stack scattered his ashes, with others filming (see page 47). Then, a low fly-by over the DZ, releasing the rest of his ashes onto the land he loved and took care of for so many years. It seemed so fitting for him to be a part of Chatteris forever.

*Lorraine Dixcey*



Hovercrafting & synchronised swimming by Lorraine Dixcey



**Achievements**

**CH2, JM1**

- John Hutchinson
- WS1

- Si Chipp
- Bryn Chaffe
- Lloyd Quenby
- Mark Price
- Russell Smith

**50 Jumps**

- John Hutchinson

**300 Jumps**

- Rowena Owen

**700 Jumps**

- Si Chipp

**1 Hour Freefall**

- Conor O'Brien

Pat's Ashes dive by Gary Small



# Lewknor

Vulcan by Mark Stone



Sometimes it is a real privilege to run a DZ – and that's been the case lately, 'down on the farm' with such a great team. The Mail on Sunday borrowed the plane to take shots of the last flying Vulcan bomber the day after it was certified for flight. I had the rare and enjoyable experience of seeing the smiles of Mark Stone and Tim Jones when I gave the 2 spaces on the plane away to them – smiles that were about 10 times wider on their return! Mark's video is on The Mail's website.

Tandems have been flooding in and one group deserve a special mention – they raised £93K in one day from 21 jumpers for Make A Wish! AFF is going great guns as well so we have some new graduates who are finding out what it is like to be off student status, and achieving some major personal milestones

It's all going on down here and we're starting to see an influx of jumpers from other centres popping along to see how it is done 'old school', everyone is welcome so come and take a look.

Martin Harris

## Achievements

- AFF Graduate**
- Isaac Scott
- Alex Jarman
- Juri Puth
- 200 Jumps**
- James Mundy
- 300 Jumps**
- Tracy Curling
- 1,000 Jumps**
- Mark Stone

Mark Stone's 1000<sup>th</sup> jump by Tim Jones



# Peterlee

## Achievements

### First Freefall

Matthew Behringer

Ben Rogers

Craig Hicks

### AFF Graduates

Phil Vipond

Mark Aydon

### JM1

Lucy Eldred

Steve Wood

Stephen Smith

Sarah Boyd

### FS1

Jonathon Jonsky Brown

### CH2

Steve Wood

Sarah Boyd

### 100 Jumps

Tom Derbyshire

Oli Clark

Steve Wood

### 200 Jumps

Bruce McKee

Tom Berryman

### 1,200 Jumps

Dave Taylor



Steve Mankini Man by Mal Smith



Nick Brown by Alan Thompson

The Let returned to Skydive Airkix, Sibson. Thanks guys, can we keep it next time? Pleeeeeease! A super successful progression week saw a host of activities, including organising by Paul & Audrey Rowe, and Indi and Paul trying CF jump with Cess. Welcome back Ken Glendenning, flying with us again.

In the media, Lisa Shaw from Real FM did a jump for the charity, Zoe's Place, and the BBC returned to film Lisa French doing another tandem for the show, Inside Out. We have a new Uni club, headed by

Craig Wood, calling themselves Northumbria University Trainee Skydivers, ie, NUTS. The name suits!

Steve Wood made his 100<sup>th</sup> jump in nothing but a Borat-style mankini, footwear, skydiving equipment and a smile – but apparently there is photographic evidence of his meat and two veg hanging out in freefall! A 4-way mankini learned from Steve's technical problem and secured their skimpy outfits with string. Of course Craig

Wood had to follow suit to show his NUTS wouldn't let the side down.

The highlight of the Orie'mental night was Colin, dressed as a geisha girl! Having made himself up, he looked like a cross between a panda and the Joker out of Batman, but was propositioned more times than ever before! Good on ya!

Club members have asked me to thank Sue from the Aero Sports Club Bar for listening to members' requests and actioning them. The feedback is very positive and your efforts are much appreciated. Thanks to all who helped out in June's progression week. The August progression week promises to be very busy, get yourselves along for fun and frolics.

Finally we have some very sad news, having lost one of our regulars. Despite his bad habits like stealing food, peeing on tents, his pungent smell, and constant bad hair days, Doogle will be sorely missed. (Doogle was Dave Goodwin's bearded collie, a big softy who really did deserve his Magic Roundabout name. Rest in peace old fella.)

Sue Scott



Paul Hardy by Mal Smith



Oh dear Colin, what have you done by Kirsty Richardson



# Hinton

Photo by Andy Hyman



New CCI Stuart Meacock in tandem  
by Matt Abram

It finally feels like summer's here; the sun has been shining, loads of jumping and the BBQ is out! We said farewell to Doug Peacock who worked as CCI for three years, you did a brilliant job, thank you for all your hard work. Come back and see us! We welcome Stuart Meacock as new CCI, I'm sure your wealth of experience will benefit us all.

All who attended the first Tent City Boogie agree it should become an annual event. We basked in glorious sunshine all week. Huge thanks to Mark Harris for his free wingsuit coaching, and congratulations to all who did their first wingsuit jumps and achieved WS1 & WS2. The boys have the bug now!

The week brought lots of achievements, including a new award, HS1 (hay stack 1) – you know who you are! Well done to Scooby Doo for his first freefall – the placement of your tail with a rig on was – er



Dougie Peacock by  
Matt Abram

– interesting! Some jumpers made a tribute jump for Michael Jackson – exiting the plane with a bag of flour on your leg isn't easy! Geoff and Mike say a massive thanks to all the skydivers who attended, "You made it good". See you all there next year and remember, "It's a boogie!"

Congratulations to pilot, Rich, who passed his AFF course and completed all his consols; in his own words, 'How hard can it be? It's only falling!' See page 21. Chris Morris, is now officially out of remission (for cancer), his family held a surprise party to celebrate. It was a great night and the fancy dress looked awesome. Thanks to everyone, Chris was genuinely surprised and said it was one of the best nights of his life! He also got back in the air after 10 months off, due to a knee operation. Nice one Chris!

Congratulations to Dave, Nicola and Megan on their new family addition, and to Mr and Mrs Fryer on their wedding. It was a great day and those at the DZ who didn't attend appreciated the wedding cake and giant pork pie the following Sunday. Our annual **Nish Memorial Scrambles** has been rescheduled for the **August bank holiday weekend** (29-30). See you there!

Natalie Keith



Chris Morris's party by Sarah Roberts



Andy & Clare by Lucy Maycock



## Achievements

**AFF Graduate**  
Bob Shears  
Simon Shears  
**Cat 8**  
Andy Litchfield  
Felix Hay  
Sophie Holdforth  
Andy Green  
Guy Morris  
**FS1**  
Nick Jones  
Charlotte Heywood  
Daniel Timms  
Damon Tai  
Mark Keveren  
**FF1**  
Sarah Roberts  
**WS1**  
Jason Walsh  
Martyn Gray  
Richard Lumb  
James Shipley  
Georgina Impey  
Phil Tzourou  
**WS1, WS2**  
Thomas Lumb

## Jump Numbers

**50**  
Charlotte Heywood  
**100**  
Nick Jones  
Lawrence Fansa  
**200**  
James Shipley  
Fraser Wells  
**300**  
Martyn Gray  
Thomas Lumb  
**400**  
Jason Walsh  
**500**  
Kristin Theyers  
Adam Searle  
**1,700**  
Matt Abram  
**24 Hrs Freefall**  
Matt DW Abram



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*Photo: Matt Abram*

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Colour blind Glynn Somers by Paul Gibbs

Buzz has moved on to live the dream in Brighton. Thank you for your work here, we wish you and your family all the best. At the helm now is Stu Albon, ensuring we all behave ourselves. A bevy of beauties are on hand at manifest to help with your skydiving needs, with Lucy & Amy now assisting Marie-Anne.

We had a great weekend with the Skyvan in May with lots taking the opportunity to jump this cool plane, not seen often over our skies. Music on the way up is a novelty in these parts – the last lift of the last day was just priceless, with 20 skydivers banging their heads to Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody on run-in!

Chas McNeil's son, Josh, received the only possible present on his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, a tandem! Well done Josh, hope to see you in the air again, on your own next! Another family member spreading his wings is Big Al's little brother, Conrad, good luck and keep it up.

A big thanks to Mark and the Top Gun team who were brilliant. Bad weather meant it was a weekend of ground school and DVDs but sometimes that's skydiving in the UK! The campsite looked like a mini-Glastonbury with Amy and her pom-poms, Ceiran and his guitar and Gary keeping us entertained with South African spoons! We look forward to another Top Gun visit later in the year.



Paul Gibbs by big Al

A tandem weekend for the back room staff from Birmingham City Football Club is in the pipeline for September, in aid of their chosen charity, teenage cancer. Well done to Gary Stevens for completing a charity motorbike ride down the whole country.

There are always people around for FS coaching and progression briefs, camping is available and there is a good vibe about the place, especially after jumping at the end of the day – so there's never been a better time to get down to Cerney. It's going to be a great summer here – bring it on!

Paul Gibbs

## Achievements

- CH1, CH2, JM1
- Tony Tongue
- CH2
- Mike Williams
- FF1
- Dave Lewis
- FF2
- Cairan Van Rooyan

## Jump Numbers

- 100
- Mike Williams
- 300
- Gill Lewis
- 400
- Dave Lewis
- 500
- Tim Roberts
- 700
- Nigel Page
- 900
- Andrew Hodgerson
- Alex Murphy



Birdmen by Mike Williams



Cerney sausage grabbers by Mike Williams



**Achievements**  
**Cat 8**  
 Dave Cant  
**Cat 8, CH1**  
 Bart Bartnicki  
 Ania Bartnicki  
 Marcin Warzecha  
 Gary Lebond  
 Natalie Coe  
 Alex Uff  
**CH1, CH2, JM1**  
 Chris Anderson  
**FS1**  
 Leuan Coleman

# Langar

Gary Wainwright

Kieron O'Rourke  
 Dave Harrison  
**FF1**  
 Lee Funnell  
 Jack Johnson  
 Ben Rhodes  
 Ruth Jordinson  
 Chris Hampton  
**FF2**  
 Wayne Glenn

**Jump Numbers**

**50**  
 Gemma Haslop  
 Mark Ward  
 Steven Ward  
 Tom Hanrahan  
**100**  
 Chris Anderson  
 Darren Chaney  
 Lisa Herrell  
 Jim Gowan  
 Dave Harrison  
**200 Jumps**  
 Stef Daunt  
 Emma Pilkington  
**300**  
 Lee Funnell  
 Laura Hampton  
 Tom Woods  
 Chris Hampton  
**400**  
 Donna Williams  
**600**  
 Wayne Glenn  
**800**  
 Ian Taylor  
**1,000**  
 Jo Hawley  
 Chris Smith  
 Paul Cooper  
 Dan Williams  
 Caroline Guest  
**1,100**  
 Guy Dickson  
 Tim Aucott  
**1,200**  
 Blake Hooper  
**1,500**  
 Tom Hartland  
**2,900**  
 Pixie Macleod-Hodgson  
**1 Hour Freefall**  
 Jim Gowan  
 Gail Iles  
 Martin Simmonds  
**18 Hours Freefall**  
 Chris Carroll

We've been super busy! Hot on the heels of Langar Boogie came Go Vertical. Tim Porter, Mike Mackenzie, Martin Kristensen and Al Hodgson organised 1167 jumps from Jan Wildgruber's super-speedy Beech 99. Plenty of premium freefly fun was had with lots taking advantage of the free coaching and gaining FF1s and FF2s. Boogie DVDs are available from the Air Supply shop.

Skydive Choreography brought us an excellent Big-way Beginners, Dave Lewis has been continuing with the Pinch Jump events (see Mag diary and [strollerweb.co.uk](http://strollerweb.co.uk) for dates). Billy Payn, Fiona Birnie and Brian Laithwaite have been nicely filling up any FS gaps with their walk-up organising for all levels.

May saw a change of CCI. After an amazing 30 years at the helm, Dave Hickling handed over the DZ radio to Rich Wheatley. Dave has developed Langar from small piston aircraft and jumping rounds to the busy DZ it is today. He has instructed, coached and encouraged thousands of people to jump, trying all of the different skydiving disciplines on the way. He has hosted many events and brought in all sorts of aircraft including Porters, Twin Otters, Skyvans, Let 410s, AN-28s to complement our two resident Grand Caravans. Dave's now concentrating on managing the airfield and parachute school. A huge thanks to Dave for our awesome inheritance, and congratulations to Rich on his new role. And congratulations to Angela for clocking up 8,000 hours' flying!

Make sure you book time off for **Boogie 2, 12-20 September**. Jan and his Beech return as well as helicopters and balloons! Check our website for latest aircraft closer to the time. Safe Flight School return during the boogie, call the office to book.



Sarah Bailey

Dave Hickling by Brian Knight



Gary Wainwright



Chris Carroll's 50th birthday party by Chris Smith



Aircraft line-up by Tony Danbury



# RAPA

## Achievements

**FS1**  
Vicki Brown  
Terry Sawyers  
Ben Punter

**Cat 8**  
Chris Flowdy  
John Fay

**1,000 Jumps**  
Brendan Divine  
Andy Clark

Several courses have benefitted from the Costa Del Lippspringe weather. The RAPA Stars display team have been wowing the crowds with some tremendous feats of accuracy. Well done to our achievers, and to big Matty who's started on his CP work, injury-free.

More expeds have been down making use of Uncle Toms and the BBQ area whilst Scobes and Bish have practising their AFF with some willing victims – not in the States this time Scooby Do! Scobes has been in hospital for a nose operation, bet the surgeons had their work cut out there!

A warm welcome to Seb Muntz, taking over from Paul Moore who's moving back to the UK and into civvy street after a gazillion years in the Army. All the best to Paul and family, and to Mark Tether on his move to Nethers.

Dave Newton

# Nethers

Photo by Dave Lewis



Nimeton by Leah Frost

Thanks go to Dave Lewis for providing load organising, along with Kate Burn, Mike Lewis and Gordon Hodgkinson, for the May Skyvan weekend. Over 40 people tried all kinds of jumping, including formation loads. Thanks also to the camera crew of Woody, Eddie McBride and Dave Major.

2009 was third time lucky (well almost) for the Solstice Boogie. The weather could've been better but at least we jumped this time! Tony was back with the Skyvan, and

Caroline Hughes choreographed the load, along with Doug McLelland, Billy Payn, Ronan Whelan and Kate Burn. Thanks to the 100+ people who registered and remained in high spirits despite weather holds. The good humour continued late into the night with an excellent party and live band.

HEAT looking hot by Dave Pratt



Our teams have been collecting hardware, well done! PH36 took gold at the CF Grand Prix at Hib. Army Nemesis won AA silver at Weston's UKSL – Si Bristow claims not to be sore about being beaten into second place – yeah, right! Nimeton won rookie 4-way gold at Hib's UKSL, and Vision took AAA silver.

Team Heat boys have been at it again with some impressive CF on sub-100ft Competition Velocities, Al on the smallest – a 79! Smudge thinks this is a first for a 4-stack on this canopy. They were also joined by Danny, Chris and Fozzy on their Lightnings. Congratulations to newly qualified FS Coaches Louis Schreuder, Alison Stainer, Kate Burn and Marc Le Gresley.

Birthday wishes to Eric Bagwell – 70 years young and still jumping! Congrats to Stu Storey & Mitra who recently tied the knot, and to Rose Ashley & Ed who are now intending to! Good luck to Lee Thomas, off to NZ. Finally, some words of advice from Joe Bickerton – never eat 3-day old cheese sandwiches before doing a demo. They could make you ill in the aircraft all over Scouse!

Kath Salisbury

## Achievements

**FF1**  
Claire Louise Reynolds  
Richard Ham

**FS1**  
Colin Kidgell  
Alexandra Dand  
Richard Targett-Adams  
Laurence Schofield  
Elspeth Frudd  
Gary Davidson  
Vijay Ahuja  
Sarah Watts  
Thomas Bennet

**Cat 8**  
Richard Jones  
Vicky Wellington  
Lawrence Watts  
Mark Benford  
Steve Gillespie  
Carl Hasse  
James Lee  
Michael Kanani  
Harriet Chapman

## Jump Numbers

**50**  
Elspeth Frudd  
Mo Sweeney  
Richard Targett-Adams  
**100**  
Mel Dando  
Laurence Schofield  
**200**  
Fiona Willard  
Steve Brown  
Richard Ham

**300**  
Alison Stainer  
Rob Franklin  
Muz Sutcliffe  
Dave Thornton  
**500**  
Louis Schroeder  
Si Guest  
Graham Nicholas  
**700**  
Leah Parle  
**1,000**  
Harvey Ward  
Dave Leonard  
Lee Thomas  
Neils Hanson  
**1,200**  
Rob Millin  
**2,222**  
Dave Pratt  
**1 Hour Freefall**  
Paul Aubrey-Rees



Louis Schroeder's 500th by Phill Elston



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Hibnosis practice jump by James Stevenson

## Hib



Liz Cass's 1,000<sup>th</sup> by James Stevenson

An excellent Brian Vacher canopy course was very well attended, with everyone improving their abilities. We hosted a BPA FF Roadshow, with coaches Dan Parker, Matt O'Riordan and Jim Harris kept very busy with a huge turnout. Check the achievements list! Alongside this was the POPS Meet with their usual fun and games – it was great to see all the old warhorses! The CF GP was also over the same weekend, with several teams taking advantage. We also squeezed in some Birdman jumps. Caroline Hughes ran a great Skydive Choreography event, developing big-way skills.

Teams are training hard for Nationals. The 4-way UKSL meet is reported on page 12. Our annual 28-way comp had the dual excitement of a jump-off for gold, and a visit from the Irish contingent! See page 26.

We're supporting our fine Armed Forces with lots of tandems for the Jump for Heroes charity. Some of their volunteers stopped by on a Land's End to John O'Groats cycle and were well supported when they passed the bucket around.

Mike Colthart



Hibnosis by John Williamson



Caroline Hughes and Herding Cats win 28-way trophy by John Williamson

### Achievements

#### FS1

Tom Ruttle  
Dave Grimes  
Mike Chiu  
Blythe Davis  
Mick Nunn

#### FF1

Bruce Bryan  
Lee Armstrong  
Scott Marrison  
Aidan Mittra

#### CF1

Leanne James

### Jump Numbers

#### 50

Lisa Stephenson

#### 100

Jo Parkinson  
Karen Simpson  
Rachel Gentle  
Neil Whitehead

#### 200

Debbie Williams

#### 300

Pete Mather  
Mike McNulty

#### 500

Clara Melia

#### 600

Scott Mackenzie

#### 700

Brian Cumming

#### 800

Ane Brentford  
Rai Ahmed

#### 1,000

Caroline Guest  
Liz Cass

#### 1,800

Derrick Kent

#### 3,000

Sally Uren

#### 1 Hour Freefall

Tom Ruttle

## Jersey

Skydive Jersey is in full swing for the summer now with regular openings, dates in the back of the Mag. Visiting jumpers are always welcome (flights from £100.) Experienced jumpers are benefiting from the 8-place Airvan this year, and we are seeing formations again in the skies over the island.

A group enjoyed the altitude in Royan, where Dan Chevalier qualified AFF, and Steve Ahier got his feet on the AFF ladder. Bad weather gave an excuse to try the jungle assault course, which was no walk in the park. Liam and Mally pushed on to see the prize, of a 250m zip slide through the trees, while Head-Down Dan, got his head down in the van, hence the nickname. Congratulations to Liam Hardman, Arthur Symons and Dan Chevalier for qualifying A Licence.

Mally launched the safety boat with the new fleet vehicle, the Shogun, just to prove that it is fully operational, though it's never been used for real yet.

Stop press! Skydive Jersey has just been granted permission to skydive over Guernsey, as part of the **Aviation Week celebrations 7-10 September**. This has

not been possible in the past, due to a technicality in the Guernsey Air Navigation Order, which would not allow an exemption for things to be dropped from aeroplanes, including skydivers. This is a great achievement, thanks go to Alun Griffiths for over 4 years of hard work. The above dates will be the only Guernsey operation in 2009, with plans for more next year, all being well. The drop zone at Guernsey is cleared for tandem and B Licence, ie 100+ jumps. To book one of the first ever Guernsey tandems, or enquire about experienced jumping, contact [mally@skydivejersey.net](mailto:mally@skydivejersey.net).

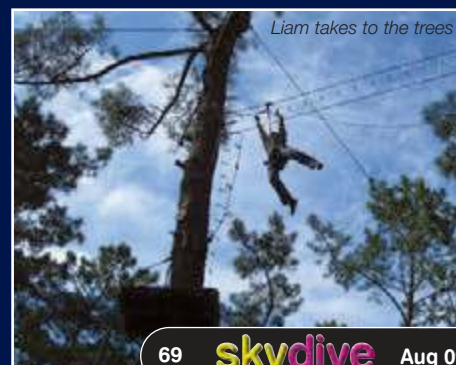
Mally Richardson

Steve Ahier's AFF



Steve and Dan

Photos by Mal Richardson



Liam takes to the trees

# Weston

Phobia 4-way by Geoff Fritz



Photo by Dave Ledward

## Achievements

**AFF Graduates**  
Alex  
Russ Watson  
Gillian Lipscombe  
Anne Herman  
Adrian Shrimpton  
Scott Clarkson  
Justina Kochanska  
**Cat 8**  
Chris Courteney

## Jump Numbers

**100**  
Jason Kelleher  
**200**  
Kirsten McAndrew  
Dan Glaister  
**400**  
Victoria Bradley  
Rebecca Bradley  
**600**  
Laura Head  
Sharron Davey  
**700**  
Graham Wilkins  
**800**  
Ed Massey  
Kate Morris  
**1,000**  
Mark Stone  
Richard Head

Finally, Brian Vacher has broken his curse of never completing a canopy course at Weston! Although the weekend was mostly a washout we were determined to get the 10-jump course finished or we weren't going to let him back! Always a pleasure to see Brian but he brings such rubbish weather! Everyone learnt loads.

Andy Scott organised an D-Day re-enactment which saw loads of jumpers donning camo gear and jumping static line, followed by a run to the bunker, a smokescreen hiding them from possible sniper fire and then firing off a few rounds at 'the enemy'. This helped raise over £375 for Help the Heroes. Brian Vacher's static-line dummy pull was the highlight, what a rubbish DP!

May's UKSL 4-way meet was really lucky with fantastic weather. 22 teams entered, with at least 5 in each category, great! Well done *Phobia*, *Jet Blondes*, *Unagi* and *Gravity* who won their categories – 3 are Weston teams! Thanks to judges Kate, Bob & Liz, and to Jo & Andy for bringing Cametrix. See page 12.

*Storm* went for it in our first team training week, making 70+ jumps in 6 days, with *Phobia* & *Jet Blondes* not far behind in the jump hog stakes. Congratulations to Gurdy & Dave Ledward on their wedding.

We celebrated Andy Scott's 40<sup>th</sup> with a surprise party with everyone wearing something red & white – he's an Arsenal fan! Family, old friends and club members made it a great night. The little fella showed off his singing talents by sucking on the helium tank and serenading the club, hilarious!

We've seen an incredible increase in jumping, the club just keeps on growing and we'd like to thank everyone for their help and continued support. Pilots Mike & Mark are doing a superb job getting the Dornier up, seeing weekends of 50+ lifts is awesome! We sometimes bring in extra aircraft, so far a Caravan and Skyvan, keep checking the website for details. Good luck to all the Weston teams at the FS Nationals.

Ash Kemp

Michael Jackson memorial dive, with one white glove, by Dorz Harwood



D-Day re-enactment shot by Mark Rayson



# Cornish

Photo by Ross Houlston



June saw a steady stream of charity tandems, Precious Lives raising a huge amount of money over a 3-day weekend. Many thanks to Mary Muffin for her continued support of this well deserved local charity, and thanks also to Chrissie for a well run weekend.

Well done to Sean Ferris for his B Licence, jumping on Perranporth, and being on the ever-growing beer board! Phil has started jumping camera, whilst Ross has completed his first 'payer' and is officially ordained into the camera team. Nice one guys.

Beach jumps were great fun followed by the obligatory beer in The Watering Hole. A big thanks to Dave Lock for his help during our busy times, may they continue. We have been given clearance to use Bodmin Airfield as an alternative DZ, so we look forward to a busy summer with AFF and RAPS.

Paul Yeoman

Paul Yeoman tandem by Ben Wood





We had our annual quiz & Indian night in May, thanks to the Ox & Plough for putting up with us and our noise! Gavin Rixon made a great quizmaster. The winning team included Grant (honest, no cheating!) but he put the prize money behind the bar (guilty conscience?!).

Welcome to new member and freefly coach Will Walls, available for coaching most weekends, call the office to check. Tim Porter is also still available by appointment, and Annie Glasius is now a qualified freefly coach too. Well done to our newly certified tandem instructors, Gavin Rixon & Steve Wickham. They can't work out why Tomo takes all the young pretty girls and they get the big hairy blokes!

UKPS hosted the Pathfinder Platoon, who gained a great deal of experience and qualifications.

Thanks to Grant for squaring everything away, things ran swimmingly!

Congratulations to Grant

Richards, now officially Club Chief Pilot. Grant & Tomo say a huge thanks to Tony Knight

who, although 'retired' as Chief Pilot, will still be flying the Caravan some days so Grant can do some jumping!

UKPS made a trip to Redlands in June whilst Old Buckenham hosted its annual air show. The Caravan and plenty of club jumpers enjoyed glorious weather in the West Country, doing 32 loads. Thank you Bruce and Co for making us so welcome, it was fab!

It's the last chance to get your ticket for our **Summer Cocktail Party on 8 Aug at Banham Zoo**. Our annual **Scrambles is August bank holiday**, registration 8am on Saturday. Anyone with an A Licence is welcome, come along for fun learning from the expert team coaches! There will be a prizegiving party along with more very random prizes from Mr Wickham. For event info, check the club zone at [ukparachuting.co.uk](http://ukparachuting.co.uk)

Susie Richards

### Achievements

#### Cat 8

Rob Bradbury  
Michael Burns  
Josh Scott-Fawcett  
John Scott  
Richie Suttie  
George Teece

#### FS1

Tom Howard  
Chris Mayhew

#### FF1

Chris Packer

### Jump Numbers

#### 50

Mark Packer

#### 100

Peter Colville  
James Langdale  
Chris Packer  
Rob Bellman

#### 200

Gareth Jones  
Tibi Paven

#### 300

Paul 'Isaac' Newton



Paul Isaac filming Andy Page tandem



Gav Rixon and Steve Wickham before their tandem course by Grant Richards



POPS at rest by Julie Shew

## POPS

occasion. Top POP UK No 2, Lofty Thomas and his wife Grace made a very welcome appearance and Lofty presented the prizes.

Accuracy gold went to Bob Gibbs, silver to Mike Whyborn (to quote Mike 'a miracle' and I didn't hear anyone disagree), and bronze to Caroline O'Hagan. The 3-way Scrambles gold went to Don Taylor, Caroline O'Hagan and Dick Barton. As always, Hit 'n' Rock was fiercely contested. For the first time in memory the one-off bid to be the fastest finished in a dead heat! 14.4 seconds. Mike Nunn and Dick Barton both received gold medals and are pleased to share the trophy for 6 months each.



Colin's bum landing by Aine Harris

Bronze went to Colin Sutcliffe who with his 'dodgy leg' had to make a 'bum landing' but still managed to get his backside in the rocker in 21.6 seconds.

Niels Hansen is still working on an SOS British FS Record, see [pops.org.uk](http://pops.org.uk) or ring him, 07981 982931.

Dick Barton

## BCPA

Numerous students (and now ex-students) celebrated finishing their exams with some well deserved dropzone time, BCPA style. Saturday saw the clouds close in, the B-cert briefs begin and the DVDs put on repeat. Fun was had by the Scotland clan who stood in a circle throwing a boomerang (you know who you are) before a brave call by the dropzone staff saw the bar open at 16.30.

Coinage and cocktails started the evening's festivities outside in the warm outdoors. Ed and Marc unleashed some unexpected cheese which livened up the mud-slide fuelled crowd and a conga was soon making its way around the bar. To try to prevent another frustrating weather day on Sunday, some garments were lost for a windsock dance before sleep. The weather remained unchanged in the morning – much to the relief of some! – but by the afternoon the evening rituals began to pay off and the patient ones were rewarded with glorious weather and good skydives.

Thanks to all those who've made this another exceptional BCPA year and a big well done to those that have progressed. See you in September to finish the year with a bang – the BCPA Nationals!

Will Cooke



Photo by Marc Fletcher

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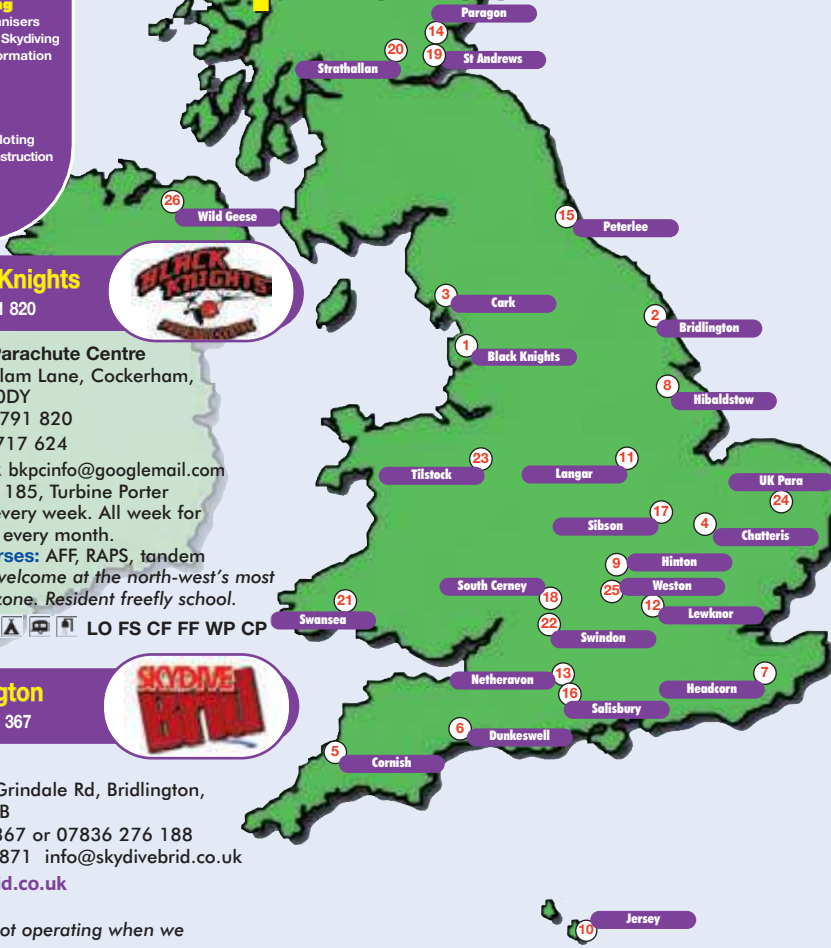
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**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
*Always a warm welcome at the north-west's most accessible drop zone. Resident freely school.*

LO FS CF FF WP CP

## 2 Bridlington

01262 677 367



**Skydive Brid**  
 East Leys Farm, Grindale Rd, Bridlington, E Yorks YO16 4YB  
 Tel: 01262 677 367 or 07836 276 188  
 Fax: 01262 401 871 [info@skydivebrid.co.uk](mailto:info@skydivebrid.co.uk)  
[www.skydivebrid.co.uk](http://www.skydivebrid.co.uk)

*This centre was not operating when we went to press*

## 3 Cark

01229 889 516



**North West Parachute Centre**  
 Cark Airfield, Flookburgh, Nr Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 7LS  
 Tel: 01229 889 516 Weekends: 01539 558 672  
 Fax: 01772 787 106  
[skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk](mailto:skydive-northwest@totalise.co.uk)  
[www.skydivenorthwest.co.uk](http://www.skydivenorthwest.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** PAC 750XL  
**Open:** 9am-9pm, weekends & bank hols, weekdays by arrangement.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
*Set in beautiful surroundings of the Lake District. We aim to make everyone feel welcome.*

LO FS CF FF WP

## 4 Chatteris

01354 740 810



**North London Parachute Centre**  
 Chatteris Airfield, Nr Stonea, March, Cambs PE15 0EA  
 Tel: 0871 664 0113 Fax: 0870 787 4909  
[info@ukskydiving.com](mailto:info@ukskydiving.com) [www.ukskydiving.com](http://www.ukskydiving.com)  
**Aircraft:** Nomad  
**Open:** 8am-8pm Tuesday-Sunday in summer. 9am-dusk, Wednesday-Sunday in winter.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, rounds, tandem  
*A friendly, progressive drop zone with excellent facilities that are constantly being updated.*

LO FS CF FF WP SU

## 5 Cornish

01872 553 352



**Cornish Parachute Club**  
 Perranporth Airfield, Higher Trevellas, St Agnes, Cornwall TR5 0XS  
 Tel: 01872 553 352 or 07790 439 653  
[cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cornishparachuteclub@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.cornishparachuteclub.co.uk](http://www.cornishparachuteclub.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna 206, guest aircraft by arrangement  
**Open:** 9am-dusk at weekends. Open most other days in summer, call for details  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
*A small but developing club with friendly staff, nice facilities & fantastic views of the Cornish peninsula.*

WP FS CF CP

## 6 Dunkeswell

01404 890 222



**Skydive UK Ltd**  
 Dunkeswell Airfield, Dunkeswell, Devon EX14 4LG  
 Tel: 01404 890 222 or 07718 638 000  
[info@skydiveukltd.com](mailto:info@skydiveukltd.com)  
[www.skydivethewell.com](http://www.skydivethewell.com)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna 206, Twin Turbine Beech King Air  
**Open:** 8am-dusk, Thurs-Sun and bank hol Mons.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
*For midweek operation please call the DZ first.*

LO FS CF FF WP SU

## 7 Headcorn

01622 890 862



**Headcorn Parachute Centre**  
 Headcorn Airfield, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9HX  
 Tel: 01622 890 862 Fax: 01622 890 641  
[info@headcornparachuteclub.com](mailto:info@headcornparachuteclub.com)  
[www.headcornparachuteclub.com](http://www.headcornparachuteclub.com)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna Caravan, Islander  
**Open:** 9am-dusk, Tuesday-Sunday. 1pm-dusk on Monday in summer.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
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LO FS CF FF AC WP

## 8 Hibaldstow

0113 250 5600



**Target Skysports**  
 Hibaldstow Airfield, Hibaldstow, Brigg, N Lincs DN20 9NN  
 Tel/Fax: 0113 250 5600 DZ: 01652 648 837  
[info@skydiving.co.uk](mailto:info@skydiving.co.uk) [www.skydiving.co.uk](http://www.skydiving.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Dornier G92 twin turbine, SMG-92 single turbine, Cherokee 6  
**Open:** 9am-dusk every day.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
*15,000ft on most lifts, host to the BPA FS and Artistic Nationals 2008.*

LO FS FF WP SU

## 9 Hinton

01295 812 300



**Hinton Skydiving Centre**  
 Hinton Airfield, Steane, Brackley, Northants NN13 5NS  
 Tel: 01295 812 300 Fax: 01295 812 400  
[info@skydive.co.uk](mailto:info@skydive.co.uk) [www.skydive.co.uk](http://www.skydive.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** PAC 750XL  
**Open:** 8am-9pm at weekends. 9am-7pm Tuesday-Friday.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, tandem  
*Small and friendly. Bunkhouse, camping & showers on site.*

FS CF FF AC WP

## 10 Jersey

01534 747 410



**Skydive Jersey Ltd**  
 States Airport, St Peter, Jersey JE3 7ZR  
 Tel: 01534 747 410  
[info@skydivejersey.net](mailto:info@skydivejersey.net) [www.skydivejersey.net](http://www.skydivejersey.net)  
**Aircraft:** 8-place Airvan, occasional turbines  
**Open:** Regular scheduled opening days, dates in Diary at back of the Mag. Hours vary with the tide. Please call first before travelling, to confirm.  
**First Jump Courses:** Tandem, occasional AFF trips  
*The only GB beach landing DZ. Operate from international airport. Stunning views of the island, with landings on the beach in St Aubin's Bay.*

LO FS FF WP

## 11 Langar

01949 860 878



**British Parachute Schools**  
 Langar Airfield, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HY  
 Tel: 01949 860 878 Fax: 01949 860 012  
[www.bpslangar.co.uk](http://www.bpslangar.co.uk) [info@bpslangar.co.uk](mailto:info@bpslangar.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** 2 Cessna Grand Caravans, Skyvan occasionally  
**Open:** 9am-8pm (or dusk) every day. 10am start on Sunday. Office open every day, 8.30am-6pm.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
*Lots of aircraft, always lots of jumping, busy every day - midweek too!*

LO FS CF FF WP CP

**12 Lewknor**  
0845 130 7194



**London Parachute School**  
The Byre, Woods Farm, Easthampstead Road,  
Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3AE  
Drop Zone located off Junction 6 of M40  
Tel: 0845 130 7194 Fax: 0845 130 7195  
info@londonparachuteschool.com  
[www.londonparachuteschool.com](http://www.londonparachuteschool.com)  
**Aircraft:** Islander, Cessna Grand Caravan  
**Open:** 9am-dusk at weekends.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
LO FS CF AC WP

**13 Netheravon**  
01980 678 250



**Army Parachute Association**  
Airfield Camp, Netheravon, Salisbury,  
Wiltshire SP4 9SF  
Tel: 01980 678 250 Fax: 01980 678 275  
generalenquiries@netheravon.com  
[www.netheravon.com](http://www.netheravon.com)  
**Aircraft:** 2 Cessna Caravans, regular guest aircraft  
**Open:** Weekends & bank holidays, 8.30am – dark;  
Wednesdays, 12 noon – dark; Fridays, 10am – dark  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
Both civilian and military jumpers are very welcome  
LO FS FF WP CP WI

**14 Paragon**  
01821 642 454



**Paragon Skydiving**  
Errol Airfield, Grange, Errol, Perthshire PH2 7TB  
Tel: 01821 642 454 Fax: 01821 642 656  
billy.gollan@btinternet.com  
[www.paragonskydiving.co.uk](http://www.paragonskydiving.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna 182  
**Open:** 9am-6pm Saturday, 10am-6pm Sunday, all  
year. 9am-7pm Wed-Fri in summer for courses &  
tandems only.  
**First Jump Courses:** RAPS, tandem  
Nice friendly DZ, beautiful scenery, barbecue every  
Saturday night so come along and chill out.  
LO FS CF WP

**15 Peterlee**  
0191 517 1234



**Peterlee Parachute Centre**  
The Airfield, Shotton Colliery, Co Durham DH6 2NH  
Tel/Fax: 0191 517 1234  
enquiries@skydiveacademy.org.uk  
[www.skydiveacademy.org.uk](http://www.skydiveacademy.org.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Airvan, Cessna 182  
**Open:** 8.30am-8.30pm weekends & bank holidays.  
1pm-8.30pm Wed & Fri, weather permitting  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
15 minutes drive from Durham city, 25 minutes from  
Newcastle, centrally located for NE England.  
FS CF WP

**16 Salisbury**  
01722 323 628



**Skydive Southcoast Ltd**  
Old Sarum Airfield, Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6DZ  
Tel/Fax: 01722 323 628  
info@skydivesouthcoast.co.uk  
[www.skydivesouthcoast.co.uk](http://www.skydivesouthcoast.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna 206  
**Open:** 8 am-8pm, weekends & bank holidays  
**First Jump Courses:** Tandem  
Small and friendly. Excellent facilities, 5 minutes drive  
from Salisbury city centre.  
LO FS FF AC

**17 Sibson**  
01832 280 490



**Skydive Airkix**  
Sibson Airfield, Wansford, Peterborough PE8 6NE  
Tel: 01832 280 490 Fax: 01832 280 409  
skydivesibson@aol.com  
[www.skydiveairkix.com](http://www.skydiveairkix.com)  
**Aircraft:** Turbolet 410  
**Open:** 8am-8pm, Tue-Sun in March to December,  
Wed-Sun in December & February. Closed in January.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
Unrestricted altitude, fast climbing aircraft, brand  
new facilities and best of all, one of the cheapest  
UK jump prices.  
LO FS FF AC WP SU

**18 South Cerney**  
01285 868 259



**Silver Stars**  
Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney,  
Cirencester, Gloucester GL7 5RD  
Tel: 01285 868 259 Fax: 01285 861 344  
info@silverstars.org.uk [www.silverstars.org.uk](http://www.silverstars.org.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Finist SMG  
**Open:** Wednesday-Sunday 9am-7pm  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
Military and civilian jumpers are very welcome. Photo  
ID is required. Call or check website for prices.  
LO FS FF CF AC WP CP

**19 St Andrews**  
0845 189 5865



**Skydive St Andrews**  
Osprey Road, Fife Airport, Glenrothes KY6 2SL  
Tel: 0845 189 5865  
skydivestandrews@mail.com  
[www.skydivestandrews.co.uk](http://www.skydivestandrews.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna 185, Turbo Cessna 206,  
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professional service await you at Scotland's newest  
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LO FS CF FF WP SU

**20 Strathallan**  
07774 686 161



**Skydive Strathallan**  
Strathallan Airfield, Nr Auchterarder,  
Perthshire PH3 1LA  
Weekends: 01764 662 572  
Tel: 07774 686 161 Fax: 01236 732 461  
kk.brady@btinternet.com  
[www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk](http://www.skydivestrathallan.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** 3 Cessna 206, Turbine (for various events)  
**Open:** 9am-9pm weekends & bank holidays.  
5pm-9pm Fridays in summer.  
**First Jump Courses:** RAPS, rounds, tandem  
LO FS CF FF AC WP

**21 Swansea**  
07779 019 655



**Skydive Swansea**  
Swansea Airport, Fairwood, Swansea, SA2 7JU  
Tel: 07779 019 655  
info@skydiveswansea.co.uk  
[www.skydiveswansea.co.uk](http://www.skydiveswansea.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Turbine Islander  
**Open:** Weekends, weekdays by appointment  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, tandem  
A friendly club with stunning coastline views  
on three sides.  
LO FS CF WP

**22 Swindon**  
01793 791 222



**Skydive London**  
Redlands Airfield, Redlands Farm, Wanborough,  
Swindon SN4 0AA  
Tel: 01793 791 222 or 01384 351 050  
Fax: 01793 791 133  
info@skydivelondon.co.uk  
[www.skydivelondon.co.uk](http://www.skydivelondon.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Airvan  
**Open:** 8am-7pm Mon-Sat. 9am-6pm on Sundays.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
FS CF AC WP

**23 Tilstock**  
01948 841 111



**The Parachute Centre**  
Tilstock Airfield, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 2HA  
Tel: 01948 841 111  
skydive@theparachutecentre.com  
[www.theparachutecentre.com](http://www.theparachutecentre.com)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna 206, Airvan  
**Open:** 9am-dusk Fridays & bank holidays.  
8am-dusk on Saturdays. Closed on Sunday.  
**First Jump Courses:** RAPS, tandem  
A small but friendly dropzone serving Manchester,  
Liverpool, Wales and the West Midlands.  
LO FS WP

**24 UK Para**  
01953 861 030



**UK Parachuting**  
Old Buckenham Airfield, Attleborough,  
Norfolk NR17 1PU  
Tel: 01953 861 030  
Fax: 01953 861 031  
jump@ukparachuting.co.uk  
[www.ukparachuting.co.uk](http://www.ukparachuting.co.uk)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna Caravan  
**Open:** Every day.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
LO FS CF FF WP CP

**25 Weston**  
01869 343 201



**Skydive Weston**  
RAF Weston on the Green, Bicester,  
Oxon OX25 3TQ  
Tel: 01869 343 201 Fax: 01869 343 194  
skydiveweston@fsmail.net  
[www.skydiveweston.com](http://www.skydiveweston.com)  
**Aircraft:** G92 Dornier  
**Open:** 12pm-8pm Fri. 9am-8pm Sat.  
10am-7pm Sun.  
**First Jump Courses:** AFF, RAPS, tandem  
A friendly drop zone with some of the largest  
facilities and best equipment in the country.  
LO FS FF WP

**26 Wild Geese**  
028 2955 8609



**Wild Geese Skydive Centre**  
Movenis Airfield, 116 Carrowreagh Road, Garvagh,  
Coleraine, Co Londonderry, N Ireland BT51 5LQ  
Tel: 028 2955 8609 Fax: 028 2955 7050  
jump@skydivewildgeese.com  
[www.skydivewildgeese.com](http://www.skydivewildgeese.com)  
**Aircraft:** Cessna 206, Cessna Caravan  
**Open:** Dawn-dusk w'kends, 9.30am-5pm w'kdays.  
**First Jump Courses:** RAPS, tandem  
Friendly atmosphere, fantastic views of north coast,  
excellent facilities, no restrictions, plenty of local  
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# BPA Overseas Affiliated Drop Zones

**Cyprus**  
0035 724 744 337



Cyprus Parachute Centre  
CJSATC, BFPO 58, Dhekelia Garrison,  
Cyprus

Tel: 0035 724 744 337  
Fax: 0035 724 724 330  
info@skydivecyprus.com.cy

[www.skydivecyprus.com.cy](http://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](http://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](http://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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# North London Parachute Centre



*Mike Rust, CCI of North London Parachute Centre (NLPC), operating out of Chatteris, talks to Lesley Gale...*

## How long have you been operating?

NLPC has been in operation continuously since 1997 to the present day. Originally it was a part time weekend DZ but has been full time since 1998. I joined on the second weekend in '97 and have been here ever since.

## What aircraft do you operate and why?

We operate a Nomad N22b. The aircraft was originally used by the US coastguard and came to rest in the mid US. We tried one for a weekend, found that it worked well for our operation and bought ours. It is great for tandems, AFF and RAPS. It takes 13 jumpers and isn't either super quick or really slow. If it were a cricket bowler it would be medium-paced.

## What are the DZ facilities like?

The DZ facilities are good. We have our own canteen, which is very comfortable and has free Wi-fi. We have a house with accommodation, a free bunkroom and free camping on site. Our toilets and showers are good by DZ standards. We have a full time rigging loft run by Kim Newton, who is a Rigger Examiner. We also have a small shop which stocks basic gear such as altis, goggles and gloves. We are dealers for several manufacturers of rigs and jumpsuits.

## Is it true you still offer rounds?

It is not true! We don't offer round parachute courses any more. We were the last place in the country to still do them; Gary Small was the last man to jump one at NLPC on the final day of 2007.

## What's the most popular type of skydiving?

Tandem is the most popular. Our fun jumpers are normally relatively inexperienced, with a mix of FS and freefly with the odd wingsuiter. We offer coaching for FS and all the staff are capable of teaching to a basic level. CF coaching was carried out but, due to the sad demise of its patron Pat Hammond, we no longer have the expertise. We have quite a few jumpers that started with us and compete at a good level who still consider us their home DZ – Strangers for example, who are entering the FS Nationals. We consider them to be ours!

## I've heard you have your own wind tunnel? What's it like?

We have a portable wind tunnel on site. We decided to get one as an onsite activity, mainly for our clients and spectators. The tunnel is approximately 10 feet across. It has some dead air around the sides. You can freefly in it, as the airflow is strong if required.



Photos by Lorraine Dixcey

It doesn't really compare with the main UK tunnels as it is predominantly for solo use. We run FS coaching and also use it to train our students and low experienced jumpers.

## Has it made much difference to the DZ?

It has made a great difference as it is an activity that we can do when the weather gods are unkind. It's really nice to be able to offer people something worthwhile to do when they can't jump.

## Is there anything else to do when it's not jumpable?

We are, as far as I know, the only DZ to have hovercraft on site! Martin Crossley, our owner, has always been keen on hovercraft and decided to get involved and bring them to the DZ. Again this is something that people can do whilst waiting to jump. The hovercraft have proved very popular with experienced skydivers and we also run courses for people independent of the jumpers.

## Have you had a go, is it fun?

The staff run the hovercraft so we all went on a day's familiarisation with the makers, which was great fun and caused our competitive spirit to come out with relay racing and a time trial.

## How much is it?

We run specialised courses for a set fee which last for approximately three hours, or you can buy an 'ad hoc' hour for £25.

## What do you try to make NLPC into?

We make no bones about the fact that we are a professional DZ which is in business to make money. We do loads of tandems – about 5,000 a year. We also train a reasonable number of AFF and RAPS students. We try to look after our low experienced jumpers but also encourage them to travel and look further afield if they wish. We have quite a few experienced jumpers who consider us home but travel to compete all over the place. Ideally we would like to do more with the experienced side of things. Maybe in the future we may run multi aircraft and do just that.





**Do you have a good social scene?**

Like any DZ, the social scene is great! We have the odd get-together and party. The staff do lots of outside activities together. We have a car club run by Gary Small and a motorbike section run by Si Chipp, our Chief Pilot and a keen track day racer. We also do winter activities and have a ski and snowboard section which I run myself.

**How is your relationship with the local community?**

Relationships with the locals are the best they have ever been. In the early days we had a few battles with local farmers and even a group of protesters called 'drone'. However we have done a lot of work to improve that situation, led mainly by the late Pat Hammond who put in a great deal of effort on behalf of the DZ. We have a few local jumpers and always do demos and activities in the neighbourhood such as the local Beavers Group annual visit. We have microlights on site; these guys are well known in the locality and sing our praises. Apparently it takes 27 years to be accepted round these parts but, according to a

native farmer, I will still be an outsider even then! Seriously though, the locals are great, very friendly and helpful.

**Where would you recommend to stay overnight?**

We have a farmhouse for a good price basic stay and several very reasonably priced B&Bs. Camping is free with good facilities.

**Are there any local attractions worth visiting?**

Cambridge, one of the UK's best and most beautiful cities is only 40 minutes away. The fens have their own charm, with fantastic sunrises and sunsets which, because it is so flat, are spectacular. It is also a great place to see the stars at night as the skies are very clear with low light pollution.

**Could the BPA & The Mag be doing more for your DZ?**

I think we are well represented by both the BPA who do loads on our behalf and the magazine.

**And the future? What does that hold?**

The future looks bright. We seem to have lots of business which means we can survive these difficult financial times. We own the DZ, hence we are very unlikely to be closed down. That means that the centre should be here for long time which in turn means that many people will be able to enjoy being trained and jumping at NLPC. Hopefully at some point we will be able to cater more for experienced jumpers and promote the sport in a greater way.

**Anything else you would like to say?**

We are honest about what the DZ does – lots of tandems. However if you want to give us a try, please feel free to pop over and visit. The jumpers are very friendly and enjoy people popping in to say hello. Hope to see you soon!

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+44 (0)1949 860 878 bpslangar.co.uk
- ChutingStar** 46  
+1 678 231 2752 chutingstar.com
- Deepseed Ltd** 60  
+64 7 376 7136 deepseed.com
- Dodington's Sports Instruments** 20  
+44 (0)1948 662 179
- Dr Margaret Clamp** 53  
+44 (0)115 9663 633 mclamp@doctors.org.uk
- DZ Sports** 64  
+44 (0)1295 812 101 dzsports.com
- Empuria Apartment (Dave)** 20  
+44 (0)7721 011 615 mauriciapartment.biz
- Equation Financial Services** 53  
08000 725 328 equationfinancial.com
- Everest Skydive** 19  
everest-skydive.com
- Extreme +** 68  
0845 676 0700 extremeplus.co.uk
- Falcon Air** 28  
jump-tandem.cz
- Freefall University** IFC  
+44 (0)870 2000 933 freefalluniversity.co.uk
- Fly Your Body** 53  
+33 685 635 017 flyyourbody.com
- GoJump GmbH Berlin** 11  
+49 30 245 34030 gojump.de
- Heat Sports** 73  
+44 (0)7969 481 219 heatsports.co.uk
- Kit Store** 30  
+44 (0)1622 890 967 thekitstoreltd.co.uk
- Larsen & Brusgaard** 73  
+45 4648 2480 L-and-B.dk
- Livio Piccolo** 28  
+39 338.7271416 skydivefano.eu
- New Zealand Skydiving School** 77  
+64 3 302 9143 skydivingnz.com
- Original Lizard** 20  
+44 (0)1482 635 483 original-lizard.com
- Paragear Equipment** 52  
+1 847 679 5905 paragear.com
- Paratec** 16  
+49 6837 7375 paratec.de
- Performance Designs** 76  
+1 386 738 2224 performancecdesigns.com
- Point Zero** 73  
+44 (0)1295 810 600 pointzero.co.uk
- Rainbow Designs** 20  
+49 339 327 2461 rainbowsuits.com
- Ramblers Parachute Centre** 19  
+61 754 231 159 ramblers.com.au
- Rigs & Things Paraservice** 28  
+1 239 282 8834 para-service.com
- Sky Blue Sports** 53  
+33 (0)492 541 351 skybluesports.fr
- Skydive Empuriabrava** 48  
+34 972 450 111 skydiveempuriabrava.com
- Skydive Marche** 43  
+39 347 875 2507 skydivemarche.com
- Skydive Sebastian** 20  
+1 772 388 5672 skydiveseb.com
- Skydive Spain (Target Skysports)** 36-37  
+34 687 726 303 skydivespain.com
- Skydive UK Ltd (Dunkeswell)** 28  
+44 (0)1404 890 222 skydivethewell.com
- Sunshine Factory** IBC  
+1 813 788 9831 sunshine-factory.com
- Symbiosis Suits** 30  
+44 (0)1622 890 967 symbiosissuits.co.uk
- Target Skysports (inc DZ Shop)** 36-37  
+44 (0)1132 505 600 skydiving.co.uk
- Thomas Sports Equipment** OBC  
+44 (0)1262 678 299 thomas-sports.com
- Way Cool Industries** 53  
+61 (0)8 9242 2222 waycool.com.au

# DIARY

## AUGUST

- 1-2 BPA CF Coaching Roadshow**  
RAPA, Bad Lippspringe, Germany
- 1-2 Pinch Jump**  
Langar strollerweb.co.uk
- 1-3 Men's World Record**  
Irish Parachute Club skydive.ie
- 1-9 Northwest Skyfest**  
Cark skydivenorthwest.co.uk
- 1-15 Aerograd Boogie**  
Russia mattnomoreals@hotmail.com
- 6 STC & Riggers Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk
- 7-9 Speed World Cup Meet**  
Hinton speedskydiving.eu
- 8 UK Para Summer Cocktail Party**  
Applewoods ukparachuting.co.uk
- 8-9 High Altitude & Night Jumps**  
Fano, Italy skydivefano.eu
- 8-10 4-way FS Nationals**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 8-10 VFS Nationals**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 9-16 Picnic Boogie**  
Lapalisse lapalisse-aero.com
- 10-13 Jersey DZ Open**  
Jersey skydivejersey.net
- 10-14 BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)**  
Langar trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 14-16 Canopy Piloting Comp**  
Skydive Pink Klatovy, Czech pinkskyan.com
- 15-17 8-way FS Nats & 4-way Reserve**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 15-17 Artistics & Speed Nationals**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 15-17 CF Nationals**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 15-23 Progression Week**  
Peterlee skydiveacademy.org.uk
- 17-19 ToraTora Artistic FF Comp**  
Cerfontaine, Belgium 4xtremetime.com
- 17-21 BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Pre-Adv)**  
Langar trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 17-21 FS Week**  
Headcorn headcornparachuteclub.co.uk
- 18 Council Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk
- 20-23 Tailgate Freely Boogie**  
Cerfontaine, Belgium 4xtremetime.com
- 21-23 Safe Flight School Course**  
Wild Geese, Ireland safeflightschool.com
- 21 Warm-up for 60-Way Challenge**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 22-23 Skyan and 60-Way Challenge**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 22-23 Outbreak Coaching**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 22-24 8-way, Artistics & Speed Nats Reserve**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk

- 22-28 Armed Forces Championships**  
Netheravon netheravon.com
- 24-27 Jersey DZ Open**  
Jersey skydivejersey.net
- 24-28 Coaching Week**  
UK Para, Old Buck ukparachuting.co.uk
- 28-31 UKS Boogie**  
Hibaldstow ukskydiver.co.uk
- 29-31 Skydive Choreography**  
Hibaldstow skydivechoreography.com
- 29-30 4-way Nish Memorial Scrambles**  
Hinton skydive.co.uk
- 29-30 4-way Scrambles**  
UK Para, Old Buck ukparachuting.co.uk
- 29-30 Speed 8**  
Netheravon netheravon.com
- 30-Sep 6 World Cup (FS & Artistics)**  
Prostejov, Czech Republic ec2009.info

## SEPTEMBER

- 3-6 Big-way Camp**  
Perris Valley, USA jen@square1.com
- 5-6 Pinch Jump**  
Langar strollerweb.co.uk
- 5-6 8-way Speed Nationals**  
Skydive Airkix, Sibson skydiveairkix.com
- 5-6 Andy Kelly 4-way/LAC Meet**  
Headcorn headcornparachuteclub.co.uk
- 5-6 Eddie Davies Cup**  
BKPC, Cockerham bkpc.co.uk
- 5-13 UPT Vector Festival**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 7-10 Jersey DZ Open**  
Jersey skydivejersey.net
- 7-10 Guernsey Aviation/Skydiving Week**  
Guernsey mally@skydivejersey.net.
- 11-13 ESL Finals**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 12-20 Langar Boogie 2**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 14-17 Safe Flight School**  
Langar safeflightschool.com
- 17-20 POPS World Record Attempt**  
Perris Valley, USA cpeckskydiving@yahoo.com
- 19-20 Free FS Coaching & Organising**  
Cark skydive-northwest.com
- 19-23 Funshine Boogie**  
Seville, Spain funshineboogie.com
- 20-27 Tilstock on Tour**  
Empuriabrava colin@theparachutecentre.com
- 21-25 Coaching Week**  
UK Para, Old Buck ukparachuting.co.uk
- 21-27 Women's World Record Attempt**  
Perris Valley, USA jumpforthecause.com
- 23-27 Men's World Record Attempt**  
Perris Valley, USA bigways.com
- 24-30 African Freefall Convention**  
Mafikeng, SA africanfreefall.com
- 26-27 Italian CP Nationals**  
Molinella, Italy flygang.com

- 26-27 FS Scrambles**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 26-27 Scrambles**  
Netheravon netheravon.com
- 26-27 Girls Freely with Pixie**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 26-28 G-Fly Female Freely**  
Seville, Spain funshineboogie.com/gfly.htm
- 28-Oct 17 Everest Skydive Adventures**  
Shyangboche, Nepal everest-skydive.com

## OCTOBER

- 1 STC & Riggers Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk
- 3-4 FS Coaching with Simon Cathrine**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 3-4 8-way Speed FS vs FF**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 3-4 Pinch Jump with Dave Lewis**  
Langar strollerweb.co.uk
- 10-11 Skydive Choreography**  
Hibaldstow skydivechoreography.com
- 12-23 Autumn Sun Boogie**  
Marche, Italy www.epco.aero/Fermo09.pdf
- 13 Council Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk
- 17-18 First Time Formation Loads**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk
- 24-25 Head-down Progression with AI**  
Langar bpslangar.co.uk
- 31-Nov 1 Frostbite Friendly 10-way Speed**  
Hibaldstow skydiving.co.uk

## NOVEMBER

- 9-13 BPA Instructor Course (BI/Adv)**  
Hibaldstow trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 16-20 BPA Instructor Course (CSI/Pre-Adv)**  
Hibaldstow trudy@bpa.org.uk
- 16-28 Mozambique Boogie**  
Bazaruto Lodge exoticsskyadventures.com
- 26 STC & Riggers Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk

## DECEMBER

- 2-6 Canopy Piloting World Cup**  
Johannesburg, SA fai.org/parachuting
- 8 BPA EGM & Council Meeting**  
BPA Offices, Leicester bpa.org.uk
- 13 Tilstock AGM & Christmas Party**  
Hill Valley Hotel theparachutecentre.com
- 19-Jan 3 Seville Christmas Boogie**  
Seville, Spain skydivespain.com
- 25-Jan 3 Christmas Boogie**  
Empuriabrava skydiveempuriabrava.com
- 25-Jan 3 Holiday Boogie**  
Eloy, USA skydiveaz.com
- 25-Jan 3 Christmas Boogie**  
Perris Valley, USA skydiveperris.com
- 26-Jan 3 Christmas Feelgood Boogie**  
Ramblers, Australia ramblers.com.au
- 28-Jan 8 Swansea on Tour**  
Perris Valley, USA info@skydiveswansea.co.uk

### KEY

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



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