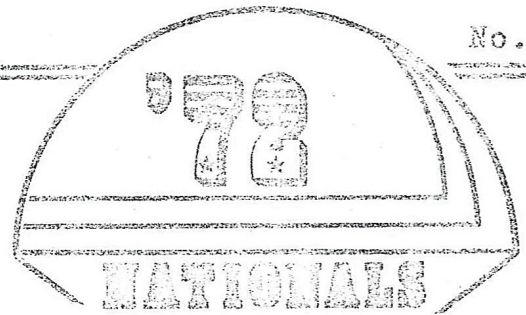


Underground

No. 3

"Six Rings for the star-kings under the sky,
One Ring to rule them all, one Ring to find them."

The Fellowship of the Ring
J. R. Tolkien



Now it's history. For the first time there was a meet to decide the national champions of RW... and it was a hell of a lot of fun. Naturally there were the usual bitches and moans about the usual chickenshit stuff, but mainly the first 10-man Nationals was a good thing.

The event was held just before the annual style and accuracy Nationals because a lot of RW people wanted it there. Three of us represented this desire to USPA at the January BOD meeting and with heavy support from Curtis and Poynter it passed. Marvy, but would it get all garbaged up and hassled-to-death at the site of the '72 Nationals? Nope, it all happened fine.

Curt Curtis and Skratz Garrison laid the plans well cauz there were no serious operational problems. At the meet Skratz honchoed the whole shot and Bill Newell handled the judges. Norm Heaton tried to make the RW people feel at home. Most of the USPA Nationals "helpers" were befuddled about the whole thing and their ignorance presented a minor irritation at most. Nearly all of the competitors thought it was great.

Six teams were invited based on their standings in previous competition. Each team made six jumps. Of the 36 jumps made, 10-man stars were made on 35. Times ranged from a low of 19.6 seconds to about 35 seconds. Importantly, average times were very low. The first place team averaged around 22 seconds and even the fourth place team averaged only 26.6 seconds.

Jerry Bird's All-Stars swooped their way to a well-deserved win. They set a standard of excellence in skydiving that will stand for quite a while. Final standings were:

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jerry Bird's All-Stars | So. Calif. | 22.2 sec. average time |
| 2. Ten-High | Florida | 25.4 |
| 3. V-Mills | Texas | 26.1 |
| 4. All of the Above | Illinois | 26.6 |
| 5. A-1 Unlimited | So. Calif. | 29.4 |
| 6. Flying Farkles | So. Calif. | NA |

Well, statistics are nice but the real thing was the meet itself. Nobody did well in practice. Our team (Hinckley, Ill.) blew two of three practice jumps and the other teams followed suit. Texas had been making real fast stars back home and felt they could win if they kept their times up to average...Florida felt the same way...We hoped our total of 16 practice jumps coupled with a good boogie could turn the trick...A-1 planned to continue their winning streak and the Flying Farkle Family was hopin' that their 250 practice jumps would pay off.

A "new" exit threw everybody's game in the street. You hung somebody OUTSIDE the DC-3 and exited in a gob. . lots of noise and confusion.

The meet started and so did the adrenalin. The All-Stars grabbed a nice load and we boogied into second. Texas blew their plans with their slowest star on the first jump. Florida looked good. A-1 and the Farkles ran into trouble. There was a TV camera mounted on a gun turret and you could watch yourself sky-dive on videotape that night with beer--nice touch, that.

Next day we blew one--got a 32-sec. star that fugged our average all to hell. Florida got a contested rejump and nosed Texas out of second place. The Flying Farkles and A-1 continued to have bad luck.

... The graphic scoring system had to be seen to be appreciated. A glance told you your time and standing. Plaudits to Patmor.

... Women were represented (and not segregated). Illinois, the Farkles and A-1 all had female-type members.

FOUR-MAN RW

...or, All Parachutists are Created Equal (except some)

In the hallowed tradition of trampling the underdog, 4-man RW took a back seat to the "real" competitors in style and accuracy. In fact the seat was so far back Greyhound woulda had to build a 300-ft. bus to accommodate these outcasts. It was so bad that the 4-man event judge, Ron Radhoff, stood up along with several other people at the USPA annual general membership meeting and said that if USPA continues to treat 4-man RW like second class jumpers, then RW should be eliminated from competition now instead of killing it slowly with an overdose of stupidity. If you were on a 4-man team (I was) you were supposed to get to the DZ at 6:00 a.m. and stay there until 9:00 p.m. for a planned 7 days. 105 hours of sitting on your ass to make six jumps! ...that's one jump every 17.5 hours. So we bitched.

We said to everyone on sight: "Do RW teams rank below style and accuracy jumpers? If not, why are they subjected to this sort of chaos? 4-man RW is becoming less popular at the Nationals...16 teams entered the first year and only 9 entered this year. The reason is obvious no one wants to spend money and 15 hours a day for 7 days to get sunstroke in Tahlequah.

"Currently," we said, "4-man teams are required to stay at the DZ sunup to sunset since they may be called on to jump if conditions are adverse for the other competitors. A style/accuracy competitor doesn't get this treatment. He knows by his helmet number about when he may expect to jump. So he can go into town and eat, swim or sleep til 8 a.m. or whatever. 4-man teams don't have this benefit."

And they heard us and did a good thing. The RW telemeters were set up in another field on Wednesday and RW was run simultaneously with style and accuracy. We made our last four jumps in one beautiful action-packed day. USPA is to be congratulated for this action, even if it was tardy. If USPA continues to run events simultaneously, 4-man and 10-man events will grow and prosper with USPA. If 4-man teams (and 10-man teams) get stepped upon at the 1973 Nationals, then 1974 will probably see separate RW Nationals.

Small-Star Relative Work -- "Perfect speed is being there."

The turret-mounted TV videotape machine made the 4-man event seem like a good pro-football TV game. You could watch exciting sky-dives on the tube and then go do your own. Very progressive.

A battle royale for first place kept things "jumping" ...Greene County-Kentucky went up head-to-head with twice national champions Thunderbow (x-PB&J). Each team sky-dove their asses off and on the final jump, Greene County captured the championship title by a fraction of a second. Fast RW! Greene County did one sequence in 14 seconds! Their time total: 93.5 sec. Thunderbow: 93.7 United West: 130.5

Since our alternate was a full-size 4-1/2 foot bright green stuffed tree-frog named C.G. Godfrog, we naturally called our team "The Godfrogs". They wouldn't let the frog jump without a rig, however, so we placed 5th. C.G. was upset.

After the dust cleared, we followed C.G. on his motorcycle to the secret river parties where sacred group rituals were performed for curing acne and removing warts, etc. These rites included much beer, swimming, frog-listening and etc. The BooHoo said everyone had a high time. C.G. said, "Ribbid."

ABOUT 4-MAN RW TEAM COMPETITION

4-Man RW is an exciting thing to do. It requires an intensity of thought and quickness of reflexes not found in 10-man stars. It is no longer "mass style" as some idiot reported.

Unlike 10-man RW which evolved from the sport, 4-man RW was "invented" by USPA to satiate those of us who dig RW. Lots of brainy people spent many months drawing pictures and writing letters to create this mess. Like Ford's Edsel it had problems. Like, up til now, you

had to practice out of a Cessna 180 series because the exit was all-important. (And we all know that circus exits do not mesh with the realities of RW.) Now, forward-looking members of the USPA Competition Committee have done a far-out thing: they asked the people who do RW how to fix their Edsel. The RW answer was to chop it into a Pinto:

"Recommended changes to Part 51, four-man relative team event." A meeting of some 35 relative workers was called by Ted Webster on 18 June 1972. The following recommendations are made as a result of that meeting. Bill Smith's proposal was accepted almost in its entirety:

"We propose that a change be made in the national 4-man relative work rules to overcome the problem of different exits from different aircraft. We submit that a 4-man star be used as a "base" for each series of maneuvers. When the star is broken off, the stop watch would start. To provide separation each jumper would break off, back loop and then start the first series of maneuvers. No time limit would be placed on the performance of the basic star. Thus it would not matter what type of aircraft a team was practicing with, and each team could come to the Nationals on an equal basis."

Now you can practice this fun event out of any type of aircraft. Since there is now no advantage to an acrobatic exit, real aerobatic RW will determine scores. Your ability as an RW flyer is now more important than timing an exit.

ANNOUNCING: THE RW COUNCIL

The Relative Work Council is a loosely knit group of active relative workers who are banding together to see that better things happen for RW more quickly. Some 42 relative workers at the Nationals, representing both 4-man and 10-man RW, agreed there was a need. The RW Council will act to supplement rather than supplant USPA. The USPA Competition Committee (J.P. Thacker and J.R. West) recognize the Council as an advisor to the Committee. All RW Council members must be active in RW and should be a member of a 4-man or 10-man RW team. In addition, Council members must be SCR.

This Newsletter will serve as the communications media for the Council. Duties of all RW Council members are: 1) to voice their opinions concerning the improvement of RW competition to USPA, fellow jumpers and this newsletter; 2) to actively promote RW; 3) to make lotsa RW jumps.

There will be no "Mr. Big" or non-jumping paper-pushers. All RW people have an equal say in controlling their sport. There are no numbers or merit badges except for the SCR and SCS. As agreed at the Nationals, all persons receiving or reading this newsletter are Council member. Depending on the way things move the Council will either expand into an RW Union or a Brotherhood of RW jumpers. You makes the jumps; you makes the choices.

- Firm Proposals (so far) --
1. That circus-exits be eliminated from both 4 and 10-man RW at the Nationals.
 2. That since more USPA members are active in RW than in style/accuracy, USPA spend more money for the benefit of RW.
 3. That other formations besides stars be added to competition
 4. That USPA refrain from prying into the private lives of parachutists. (Referring to bugging of rooms, harassment of jumpers by non-jumping BOD members, condoning placement of undercover policemen, etc.)

ABOUT 10-MAN TEAM COMPETITION

"Recommendations to establish a USPA Part 53: A National Ten-Man RW Event." A meeting of large-star relative workers was hosted by Jerry Bird on 18 June 1972 in Tahlequah following the first National 10-man Star Team Championships.

"...it is the intent to establish a freefall event which will present the opportunity to evaluate the relative work ability and demonstrate the sportsmanship of ten-man teams. ...It is recognized that alternate formations will probably be incorporated into the event. ...The Ten-man championships shall be held

/h/

concurrently with the style/accuracy and 4-man championships. (RW SHALL NOT BE
SUBJECTED TO THE UNREASONABLE DELAYS AND 2ND CLASS SCHEDULING CURRENTLY EXPERIENCED)...
Eligibility: To qualify for the National Championships a team must perform two con-
secutive ten-man stars for a minimum average of 40 seconds under the direction of a
Conference Director. . . a \$100 qualification fee shall be collected and earmarked for
the U.S. Ten-Man Team Fund. . . Teams consist of 12 members...any 10 may jump...only
four substitutions (new people) allowed. . . No wierd exits. . . The overall individual
relative work champion shall be recognized...for scores in both 4 and 10-man RW. "

* * * *

As C. G. Godfrog says:

"You're always a one-man star. To build
something bigger, you gotta do RW."


* * * *



NEWS FROM OTHER PLACES

ALL COLLEGE EIGHT (ACE)

From Dirty Billy Bishop. "I wanted to pass along the new ACE
thing that got started up in Boise at the Collegiate meet. . .
Several colleges were there for a usual college meet of boring
accuracy and style crap, with an unusually high amount of pis-
sing and moaning (sniveling). . . So we decided to do RW. . . With assistance of
Sully Sullivan and Wally Benton and the Silver Tip Skydivers from Missoula we
organized two eight-man attempts using three planes in formation. . . on our sec-
ond attempt we took eleven up and got a good solid 8-man, the first All-College
Eight (ACE). B.J. Worth, 341 University, Missoula Montana 59801, is handling
issuing the numbers. (I talked to Bill Newell about it; he thought it was a
great idea..) I think that promoting ACE will do a world of good for the sport
since almost all ACE jumps will require the cooperation of many people from
many schools and different geographical locations for a long time to come ---
and it was really a gas since that was the first 8-man over Boise and the second
ever in the state!"

 GIRLS The Santa Nella meet all-girl "Miss American Pie" star team and the ele-
ven-girl star participants inform us that "You don't need balls to make
stars."

MISC. RW

The military has been getting down to it also, Dirty Billy
tells us. "A group of jumpers including Bill Davis, Bob Sparks,
Bob Nichols, Skip Giles, Ed Miller, Val Valpondo (sp?) built the first All-
Military Ten-Man out of a CH-46 helicopter! Took place at beautiful Camp Pen-
dleton. Night RW is catching on BIG -- Even the Elsinore staff now have NSCR's.
Also, a twelve-man has been built and photographed by Mike Jenkins -- these two
jumps took place Saturday night (May 27)."

** "Fireplug" Dave Ellis is SCS#375. He flew in his eighth while filming.

** A 20-man star was built in Stormville, New York, recently. It's the first
outside of California.

** RW Girl Patty Wilson earned her gold 12-hour freefall clock with only 947
jumps. She flew with both a 10-man and a 4-man team at the Nationals.

10-MAN STAR MONEY MEET

\$\$\$1,000\$\$ October 21, 22, 23 in Missoula, Montana. Two DC-3s,
three Twin Beeches at the Missoula International Airport.
EVENT: 5 jumps from 12,5 plus 10-man for time. COST: \$50 per
man. PRIZES: 1st: \$100 cash each man; 2nd: etched plaques
each man; Fastest-star plaques (10). The \$1,000 is guaranteed so please come
swoop in Missoula. Larry Mason, 1728 Phillips St., Missoula, Mont. 59801.

TEAM NEWS

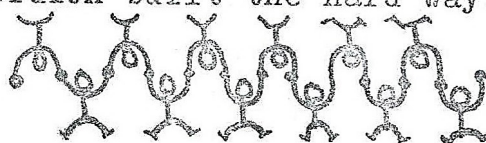
Texas V-Mills. Had a nice party, an 18-man and lots of wind recently. To counter the wind and ensure an un-ending string of big stars they borrowed Fedo and sent Fritz to Illinois (Hinckley) to learn the BOOGIE. Their party/meet is scheduled for October 8-9. Come! A few 10-★ Meet.

Illinois. Hinckley. Will rent Fedo out for weekends to serious Boogie Teams. Also, Hinckley claims some new records. . .an 11-person (2 girls) swimsuit star (the old record was 10) . . .a 12-man accordion built the hard way.

start:



add to ends only:



Calif. A-1 Unlimited. Hasn't jumped much since the Nationals and their demos at Transpo in Washington.

Calif. Flying Farkles. The team that had stayed more or less together for the longest period of time has "reorganized to become less social and more competition-oriented." Several changes in personnel were made at the National

Florida. Z-Hills. Has been spending the summer fun-jumping and polishing their silver medals. It looks like the Z-Hills Thanksgiving meet will be the Woodstock of 10-man meets for this year.

Calif. Jerry Bird's All-Stars. Are now doing some fantastic demos at the World Meet. Neat stuff like a 10-man star to two 5-mans, snowflakes, lines and other beautiful and fun things. Should spread the RW faith to World Meet competitors.

Calif. North-Star. Three visited Hinckley. "Just put us behind your fastest, we'll burn them anyway." They couldn't, but made some nice swoops, including a 15-man. They plan to jump at 10-man meets this fall.

* * * * *

EQUIPMENT NOTES



More about Adidas swooping shoes...from a reader, "I've found even a better model -- SL-72's (\$17). They are made out of blue nylon, so consequently they are washable and guess what -- a way to eliminate the devastating foot stink -- Woolite and cold water. This is especially important since most of us don't wear socks. In fact, sometimes we don't shower, no siree, just step outside and stomp a skunk first thing in the mornin'."

Train your body to be as good as your head thinks it is in just a few paranoia filled jumps. Yes folks, now you can experience a heavy adrenalin rush whilst honing your arm-flapping skills. It works. Format: Have 50-100 8-man or bigger stars, or 50+ full boogie 4-man RW. Have a big jumpsuit. Don't wear a helmet, gloves or boots (tennis shoes are OK but no socks). Make 5-10 swoops. Result: your cloddy body finally figures out what your frenzied brain has been trying to set down.

What about the POD.(Parachute Opening Device)? Who knows the story on the POD (not me). I hear that they are nice, open easy, pack small, exude good theory and the all-nylon versions (PI) burn up (sometimes). They are supposedly hard to pack in the wind. Custom cotton/nylon versions are supposed to be best;

also all-cotton (Security). They prevent lineslump and sleeve-in-the-mod problems.but do they really WORK? ? ?

Papillion is now being manufactured in the U.S.A. from U.S.A. materials.

* * *

Low-Cost RW Jumps, FREE BEER, Boogie (and a 30-man attempt)

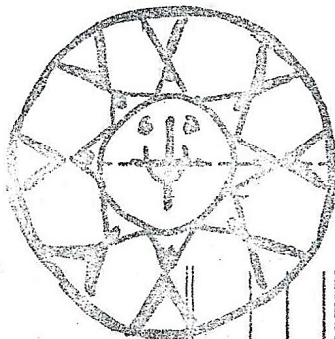
The city of Richmond, Indiana is hosting a Skydiving Festival September 8,9,10. Featured will be low-cost RW loads (\$2.50-\$3.00 for Twin Beech to 10,5). Free Party in a dance hall; FREE BEER (Friday and Sat. nites). Carl Boenish will be there to show four hours of his new RW films, including the 24-man. Door Prizes. . .RW Schools. . .and lotsa RW jumps at actual cost. Thirty hard-core RW'ers will make a serious attempt at breaking the World Record Si star. Rain date is September 23-24. Twin Beech, DC-3 and a flock of Cessnas

Motel rooms \$3.00 per. "Y'all COME!" Tag Taggard (317) 966-5760

This is a new idea and deserves your support. Forward-looking cities like Richmond, Ind. are recognizing the unlimited visual impact of large-star RW and replacing the old FAIRS with SKYDIVING FESTIVALS. Should be fun, and you can't beat the cost.

* * *

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Name _____
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JUMP DATA
Place _____ Time _____ Date _____
Jump No. _____ Position _____ License _____

WITNESSES In Star - (Size of Star _____)
1. _____ 11. _____
2. _____ 12. _____
3. _____ 13. _____
4. _____ 14. _____
5. _____ 15. _____
6. _____ 16. _____
7. _____ 17. _____
8. _____ 18. _____
9. _____ 19. _____
10. _____ 20. _____
ON GROUND: 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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| SCS Engraved Silver Medallion | | | \$20.00 ea. |

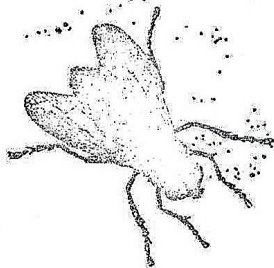
WE NEED INFORMATION ON RW

Who, why, when, where, was it big? was it fun?
Will you recover? (pitty...)

Send us your wisdom; we need input to output.

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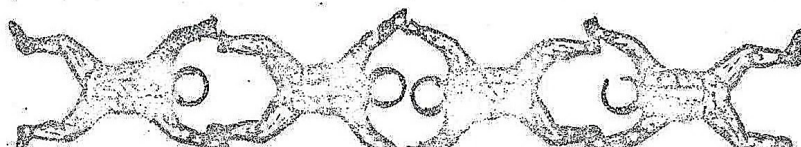
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| _____ | | _____ | |
| state _____ | zipcode _____ | Subscription rates: | |
| I am a: _____ | hard-core relative worker | \$ 1.00 | |
| _____ | other type of parachutist | \$10.00 | |
| _____ | groundhog | \$30.00 | |

A SURVEY: Formations other than round stars should be included in 10-man RW competition starting asap.

_____yes _____no





S. GROSS

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