



RWunderground

Newsletter of the RW Council

No. 7
June 1973

Our goal is to promote and Communicate RW... HELP US! Do RW... Pat SCS-1 and Jan SCS-638

COMBINATION RW AWARDS TO BE MADE

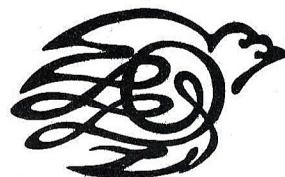


The National Champion(s) of Combined Relative Work will be named for the first time at this year's Nationals. The award trophies will be presented by RWunderground to competitors who place highest in both 4-man and 10-man relative work events.

For more details, see page 2.

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THE WORLD CUP WILL BE HELD IN THE U.S.A.

Plans for the first World Cup of RW are shaping up through the hard work of the relative work sub-committee of the F.A.I. (through the International Parachuting Commission). Event to be held in the U.S.A. (East Coast) in August. South Africa, England, Australia, the U.S.A. are among those expected to attend. For more details, see page 8.

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RELATIVE WORKERS EXPECTED IN LARGE NUMBERS AT THE NATIONALS

NEEDED: RW photos for publicity.
Want dramatic black & whites. 
Bring them to us at the Nationals. *click!*

Between 15 and 30 competition 10-man teams are expected to be in Tahlequah for the National Championships 10-Man Event this year. Competition is expected to be fiercely tight as many teams are reportedly turning out practice 10-mans in the low 20's.

Heavy discussions in Competition Committee meetings to cover many topics relating to RW competition including sequential, alternate formations, representation at the national and conference level, judging, rules, etc.

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plus results of relative work meets, festivals, boogies!
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- A 10-man Team Idea ...page 12 PLUS! Coming Events -- p. 17-18



NATIONAL CHAMPION OF COMBINED RW AWARD & TROPHY



WE ARE PROUD to announce that there will be an award to the RW competitor(s) who places highest in both 4-man and 10-man competition at the Nationals.

These awards will recognize competitors who show themselves to have superior ability in both 4-man and 10-man RW. RWunderground will present handsome trophies, suitably inscribed.

The National Champion(s) of Combined RW will be selected as follows: RW'ers on both 4-man and 10-man teams will receive points based on their overall standings in each respective event. (First place = 1 point; Second place = 2 points, etc.) At the conclusion of both events points will be totaled -- the lowest score is National Champion of Combined RW. It is likely that there will be more than one winner since many 4-man teams are part of a 10-man team.

For example, as I recall last year's Nationals, Rich Piccirilli, Patty (Wilson) Wickliffe, Ted Webster, Father Farkle, Bob Federman, Pat Works and Dick Giarrusso all competed in both 4-man and 10-man events.

The individual with the lowest combined score was Rich Piccirilli. Works, Federman and Giarrusso tied for second place.



	10-man	4-man	Total Points	Overall Rank
Rich Piccirilli	1	7	8	1st
Bob Federman	4	5	9	2nd
Pat Works	4	5	9	2nd
Dick Giarrusso	4	5	9	2nd
Marc Cohen *	4 (alt)	5	9	N.A.
Patty Wickliffe	5	7	12	3rd
Ted Webster	5	7	12	3rd
Father Farkle	5	7	12	3rd
Bill Smith *	1 (alt)	2	3	N.A.

*Alternates must jump in at least one round of competition to qualify.

MEET RESULTS MEET RESULTS MEET RESULTS MEET RESULTS MEET RESULTS MEET RESULTS

Alta Air Park (Utah) Memorial Day Meet, May 26-28.

Five teams appeared for this 10-man money meet of four jumps. The Columbine Turkey Farm took first place with a fast 22.5 second average (fastest star was theirs at 19.8), followed not too closely behind by Dirty Ed's team (a pick-up group with people from Utah & Arizona) and Mike Hurren's team from Brigham City, Utah, in third place, reports Jack Lombard. "Had a good time; sure is a pretty place to jump."

Sparta (Ill.) 10-Man Scrambles, May 12-13.

Competition was divided into two classes -- SCR holders (4 teams) and non-SCR holders (2 teams.) In three rounds, the non-SCR teams made straight 10-mans; the SCR teams had a snowflake and a sequential 10-man to two 5's for added interest (and entertainment.) Large-star attempts netted a 17-man built on the 10-man base provided by Hinckley's Godfrogs.



the most important thing in living
is to reach out and touch perfection
in that which they most loved to do,
and that is to fly."—from Jonathan



MEET RESULTS

3rd Annual Ron Dow Memorial Meet, Santa Nella (Calif.), Easter weekend.

Three teams from Elsinore placed in the top 4: the All-Stars won it with an accumulated time of 90.5 (average 22.6). Peter Abundance took second with a 101.0 (average 25.0), followed closely by the North Star (from Yolo) team just one-tenth of a second slower (accumulated time 101.1). The Wilds' Bunch accumulated 120.6 (average 30.1) for fourth place. 13 teams competed. Fastest star was the All-Stars' first round at 19.5 seconds.

C.G. Godfrog Memorial 8-Man Scrambles, Zephyrhills (Fla.) Easter weekend.

"Probably the most surprising was the random selection of the teams being for the most part equal, and the demonstration of ability to work really well together in the air, although never having jumped as a unit previously ...good vibes, dynamite jumping and a generally amiable atmosphere," reports Flash Gordon. The "Straight-8" team took 1st, followed by the "Ate" team in 2nd and the third slot to the "8-Balls." Five rounds of competition included an 8-man snowflake and an 8-man to two 4-mans. Nine teams participated.

Big Sky Festival, Missoula (Montana) April 27-29.

Rain and wind limited the jumping activities all weekend, though a few high loads were made between the weather fronts. The Boogie proceeded as usual.

International Relative Work Training Meet, Innsbruck, Austria, March 3-5.

91 relative workers from 11 countries managed to get a 2-jump meet off in spite of poor weather, but it was enough to declare 1st, 2nd and 3rd places (England, Germany, Norway.) Fun & games also included some large-star attempts.

NorthWest Conference Meet, Fort Lewis, Washington.

Thanks to Hueys and Chinooks courtesy of Uncle Sam... reports B.J. Worth, "We got a 16-man on our first big star load, then an 18-man on the next load, which is a new record around these parts." The Seattle 10-man team Clear Eye Express (also called Bolivian Turkeys) made the base for each.

Ten-Man Chute Out, Casa Grande (Arizona) March 24-25.

Fifteen teams showed up for good weather, good jumping, a well-run (by Jerry Willsey) meet and \$1000.00 prize money. A four-jump meet with 2 from a C-47 and 2 from Beeches. First place went to Elsinore's All-Stars, second to Peter Abundance and third to the Columbine group (Denver & Casa Grande.)

Fastest star of the meet was "a shade over 22 by the All-Stars," reported Jerry Bird. "Our team, Columbine, entered the meet with one day of practice and made two 24-sec. stars out of the C-47."

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

TEAM NEWS

THE ALL-STARS. Dropped the "Jerry Bird" part of the name when he moved to Denver and then to Arizona. The All-Stars are all "new" for the most part -- having picked up a few former Farkles. Team captainship is a 3-way share between Chuck Wickliffe, Ron Haun and Rich Piccirilli (all on the All-Stars last year.) "Just to let everyone know we can still do it without Bird, of our last eight jumps from a DC-3, six were under 20 seconds and one of them an unofficial world's record of 18.5 seconds. ...We intend to stay #1", writes Ron.

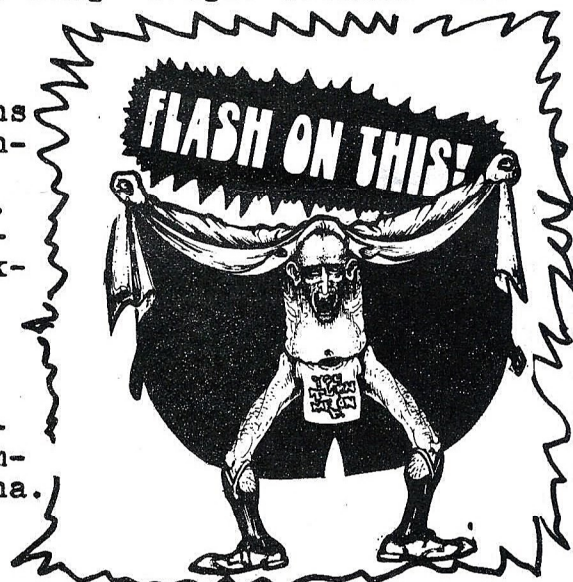
TEXAS. Jumpers around Dallas have started a 10-man team, while the V-Mills team split from Waco a while back and reformed in Austin where aircraft availability was better. They have made several personnel changes.

more team news

CAPT. HOOK'S SKY PIRATES. A new Elsinore group which has three of the Krueger brothers along with other notables has been looking hot. They took 2nd place at the Arizona 10-man meet and also at the Santa Nella Ron Dow meet. Formerly known as Peter Abundance & the Tunnel of Love; the new name is most appropriate given the hook captain Al Krueger bears in place of his left hand. "The name has been changed but the stars are still fast," says team member Patty Wickliffe.

THE WILDS' BUNCH. Another new Elsinore group captained by ex-Golden Knight Dave Wilds. "Only 4 months old and less than half have more than 300 jumps but they got out a 19-second star the other day," says Elsinore correspondent Kitzi Freeman. Took 4th place at the Ron Dow meet. Former All-Star (Jerry Bird era) Bill Stage is jumping with them.

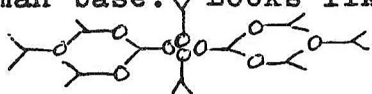
GET-IT-TOGETHER. This Stormville, N.Y. group is practicing again after a winter layoff. "We're already back in the mid and low 20's and are experimenting with two new practice techniques," says member Bob White. "1) Staggered Practice ...we don't practice every weekend. Last year we put in our 'hard knocks' like every competitive team should. Our guys didn't miss a weekend (except weather) from early April to late Nov. This year... we're doubling up on certain weekends and making it one long 'boogie weekend' for practice, large star attempts, wierd formations, etc. So far, it's working great! Our times are as fast as ever; plus we've got weekends off for other stuff. 2) Alternate & Sequential formations ...part of regular practice ...all the conventional stuff -- stars to snowflakes; 10-man to line to two 5's to 10-man, accordions, sunbursts, etc. Most of the formations we attempted were successful on the first try. Another neat trick is picking out the exit order from a hat. Our average weight is around 155 lbs. so it works out pretty good for us."



COLUMBINE TURKEY FARM. This is the group put together by Jerry Bird when he moved with the Columbine operation from Denver to Casa Grande, Arizona. "We will compete at the Nationals this year," he declares. "I'm the only one from my old team so this should prove interesting. I don't plan on doing anything but winning ...of course!" ..They've been averaging 21.6 sec. from a small-door Beech their last 15 or so practice jumps.

GREENE COUNTY. The Greene County Drop Zones (Atlanta, Ohio, Kentucky, etc.) will field two 10-man teams and four (four!) 4-man teams at the Nationals this year. That's lotsa Greene all in one place.

BOLIVIAN TURKEYS. This Seattle group is getting on with practice for the Nationals, too. Built a new maneuver this spring ...a double diamond with a 4-man base. Looks like this: They also built the first 5-point snowflake in the Northwest. Their 10-man times are reported to be in the low 20's.



OSWEGOS AMIGOS. A new 10-man team jumping in Oswego, Kansas, about 1½ hours north of Tahlequah. "Five members are from the former Kansas Homegrown... a 13-man was built over Oswego May 12," writes Jim Johnson.

NORTH STAR. Pope Valley, Calif.'s team is making consistently speedy stars from a small-door Beech and looking forward to the Nationals, says Curt Curtis.

JAMES GANG. Elected not to attend the Nationals this year; frustrated by not being able to get enough practice in among rain, tornados and other bad weather characteristics of a very late northern Illinois spring. Australian Skydiver printed a beautiful two-page photographic spread entitled "Ten-Man Magic" and featuring the James Gang doing sequential RW before the Z-Hills meet with outstanding photography by Andy Keech.

PIECES OF 8. Doing well as always. They are floating 2 people out before the base. Prefer the Otter to the DC-3 for less turbulence on exits.

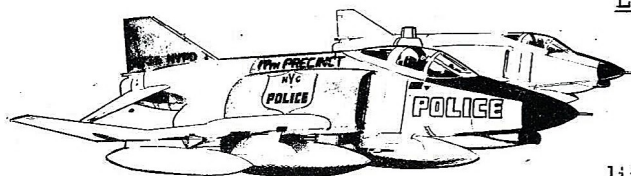
THE HASH TEAM. Going at it since Z-Hills (Thanksgiving) so strong that they have bewitched Bill Ottley into coming down weekends to practice as alternate.

TEN-HIGH BUNCH. Jumps regularly from large aircraft and builds stars (we hear).

GODFROGS. Illinois group that jumps around raindrops and tornados. Team captain Dick Giarrusso recruited Fedo to add a bit of Boogie to their stars.

DELRAY AERIAL CIRCUS. Doing the Swamp Boogie in the sky. Times are fast and stars are fun, sez Flash. "Doing some funny sequential if time allows after initial 10-man."

LONG-ESTABLISHED DROP ZONES SHUT DOWN BY LOCAL AIR-PIGS



Elsinore Paracenter is sweating out a decision under consideration by the California Department of Aeronautics that might possibly close Elsinore for good. The center has been shut down for the past several weekends when the Department, without warning, lifted Larry Perkins' permit to operate a drop zone.

This was done largely because three unfortunate fatalities had occurred there in the past couple of months. California parachutists are writing letters of protest; legal proceedings to get the center back in operation are underway.

Lakewood, N.J. is suffering from an anti-noise ordinance passed by the Town of Lakewood. This ordinance prohibits any plane from circling, hovering or loitering over the DZ if that plane emits 60 dbs. of noise detectable from ground level. And aircraft putting out students at low altitudes is a violation.

RW'ers from a Beech at 7200 ft. don't make enough noise to violate the ordinance, but student jumping would be curtailed. Says Don Moro, "Right now we are still jumping but without student support (future RW freaks) the drop zone will probably have to close. This matter is now in litigation... I only hope other DZ's are not under this type of unfair regulation... Hope we all can continue to fall united..."

Illinois parachutists also face restrictions on their activities from the Illinois Dept. of Aeronautics which wants to make drop zone operators to obtain 90-day renewable permits. Additionally, individual parachutists would be required to pass a state-administered exam and carry with them while jumping a state permit to jump out of airplanes.



Southern California Relative Workers Speak Out on 10-Man Competition

74 relative workers from southern California (Elsinore) signed this letter asking that USPA "be extremely cautious in changing 10-man star competition."

Southern California is the birthplace of large-star RW and of the 10-man star meet. World Records held by S. Calif. RW'ers are too numerous to mention. Their letter deserves serious consideration by all relative workers:

USPA Competition Committee
Monterey, Calif. 93940

February 4, 1973

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to call to the attention of U.S.P.A. the opinions of the Southern California Relative Workers.

The F.A.I. has recently adopted 10-man star relative work for International Competition. It is now the responsibility of U.S.P.A. to select a National 10-man star team to represent the United States at the F.A.I. 10-man star World Championships. The U.S. Team will have to be selected on the ability to build 10-man stars, not other formations or sequential relative work.

Another problem in sequential relative work is judging. 4-Man Competition cannot be judged adequately at this time. How could we hope to judge 10-man sequential relative work?

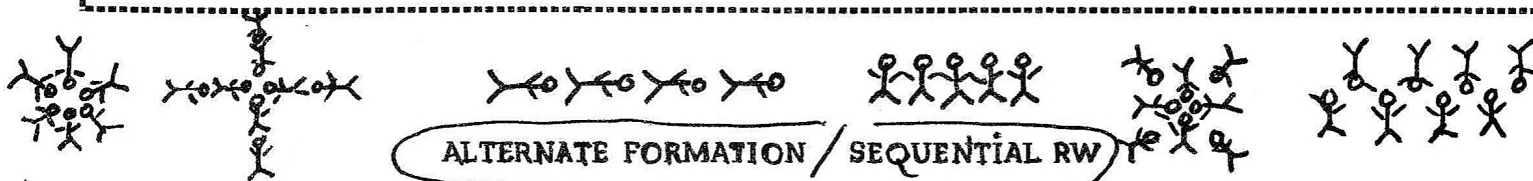
10-man star teams have not yet become as fast or consistent as is humanly possible. Until such time as there are several 10-man teams within seconds of each other at the conclusion of the National Championships, any suggestion to introduce other formations or sequential relative work is premature.

The ideas in the Relative Work Underground newsletter are not necessarily compatible with our views.

We respectfully request that the Competition Committee of the United States Parachute Association be extremely cautious in changing 10-man star competition so soon after its acceptance in World Competition.

Sincerely yours,

(74 signatures)



IN TEN-MAN RELATIVE WORK many groups across the country have been doing alternate 10-man formations for several years.

Present and former teams including the All-Stars, A-1, Farkles, North Star, Seattle Turkeys, Hinckley, Stormville, V-Mills, etc. have all performed snowflakes, accordions, double stars, etc. etc. -- some or all of the known alternate formations.

Sequential RW using a 10-man as a "base" was introduced to many relative workers by Jerry Bird's All-Stars at the XI World Meet. The idea was proposed by Ron Haun who was

team manager (now co-captain of the All-Stars) as a way to further perfect skills at speed stars. Ron and most of his team strongly prefer speed-star competition "until there are more teams who are within seconds of each other at the conclusion of national competition."

The All-Stars used this approach in practice because sequential performed after a 10-man won't affect the performance of the base maneuver (a 10-man star).

In the East and Midwest several meets recently incorporated sequential maneuvers. Here is a report on Z-Hills from Flash Gordon:

"On Sat. nite there was an open discussion concerning future RW events. Speed Stars, sequential maneuvers, Jr/Sr Events, qualification times for the Nationals, etc. There was some controversy concerning speed stars vs. sequential maneuvers. ... Sequential is coming in and at a more rapid pace than expected. Everyone competing in this Scrambles dug the sequential work. A multitude of RW people enjoyed their first snowflake & voluntarily broke 8-mans into skirmish lines & 4-mans."

Here are a few additional thoughts about the subject from others:

BILL STAGE: In an interview with correspondent Kitzi Freeman, Bill pointed out the difference between a true snowflake and a "double star." The former is accomplished when jumpers come in and link up on the legs of two people on the inside circle whereas a double star occurs when a jumper links up on the legs of one jumper on the inside circle. In other words, according to Bill, a true snowflake is built when a jumper links up on the right leg of one jumper and the left leg of his righthand neighbor, both of whom are already secure in slots of the core star.

PATTY WICKLIFFE: (If you were at the World Meet) "you saw the National Championship 10-man team perform some of the most spectacular sequential RW that I have ever seen. That team is a speed team! The speed teams based at Elsinore have been doing sequential RW for years and years! The reason we have not been doing sequential work after our speed stars "lately" is because we have had to lower our practice altitude to 8500 due to increasing expenses ... Did you know that the first snowflakes were made in Elsinore in 1967? ... Sequential RW is not a new thing at the Elsinore DZ. Elsinore has invented and completed formations other than stars for a long, long time."

CURT CURTIS: "...I couldn't agree more that fast, unthought-out changes at this point could do more damage to 10-man RW on the World Scene than any other single move... The decisions that USPA makes affect the jumping public and thus the jumping public must let USPA know what it wants... there are valid agreements & arguments on both sides. IE: by going on into sequential RW it will not effect the performance of the base maneuver (a 10-man star) and will only serve to increase the ability and performance of the participants. It will continue to keep the U.S. one step ahead of the rest of the World in 10-man RW... etc... When it comes time to make "the decision" (future of 10-man RW)... I want to be as sure as possible that the decision made reflects: 1) The best interest for the future of the event and 2) The best interest of those participating in the event."

...AS THE WORLD TURNS...

World RW Cup

Site of the Relative Work World Cup 1973 has been changed once already. France cancelled their bid for the Cup and it will now be held in the U.S.A. -- somewhere on the East Coast and tentatively August 4-12. There's a good chance it will be Fort Bragg, N.C. where military support will guarantee plenty of large aircraft and good facilities. **ED.NOTE: Fort Bragg, August 4-12 definite**

The rules have been drafted and experience in using them, writes Eilif Ness, chmn. of the FAI/CIP RW Sub-Committee, "will be the basis for the 1975 rules." The rules are part of the FAI Sporting Code Section V, Part 3, and some may be deviated from, he points out. One rule in particular states that each country may enter a team of 10 competitors and 2 alternates -- from which both the 10-man and the 4-man teams must come, but Ness suggests that the National Aero-Clubs and their competition committees in each country should adjust this rule as they see fit because it is not intended to eliminate specific groups of jumpers from competition.

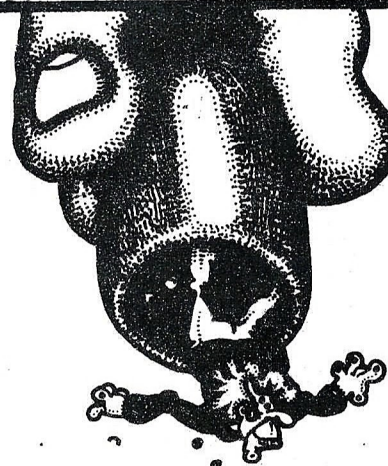
Accordingly, USPA has voted to send both a 10-man team (plus 2 alternates) and a 4-man team (and alternate) to represent the U.S.A.

That relative work is gaining importance on an international scale is evidenced by its inclusion in the 8th Adriatic Parachuting Cup to be held in September in Portoroz, Yugoslavia. Both 4-man and 10-man events will be part of the program, and as Ness points out, "Since this is coming from an East European country this is really parachuting history. ...organizationally this is probably the best run competition that you can find anywhere."

Another FAI/CIP Sub-Committee member, Bert Wijnands of the Netherlands, writes: "I hope the coming World Meet RW gets the attention and support of all RW people to show a lot of sceptic officials that it deserves all the support needed."

ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL 10-MAN STAR MEET is planned by Cliff Wilken & Brian Street at their Israel Skydiving Centre (they call it the "Stars of David" meet.) Date is August 12-18 and they invite "all relative workers the world over, either as teams or as individuals ...To make it truly international, 'scratch' teams will be assembled and accepted."

Transportation is being arranged at rock bottom prices on El Al airline. For more information, contact Cliff Wilken at 53 Sakolov St., Tel Aviv, Israel.



THE RW FREAKS IN PANAMA are stoked about their first 8-man, a virgin group of SCR's, according to correspondent Steve Fugleberg. "Everything went so smoothly that we wonder why we hadn't been able to do it before. Everybody came in in exit order, and we had it by 7.5 ...What a trip..."

Since then the Panama people have also put together a 9-man and a 6-point snowflake among their smallish bunch of jumpers. The 9-man included Army dude Mike Steel, SCR-123, who stopped off in the Canal Zone with the U.S. Army team on their way to the Pan-Am meet in Argentina.



ELSINORE'S ATTEMPT TO PUT TOGETHER a 30-man this spring was "less than a rousing success," reports correspondent Kitzi Freeman, "but we are undaunted and will probably try again this summer."

After three postponements on previous weekends, the weather finally permitted two attempts May 6 from a DC-3 & Twin Beech in formation. The first attempt yielded 23 ...less than 20 on the second attempt. An annual Tobe Radecke Memorial Record Large-Star Attempt has been established by Elsinore jumpers.

DON'T HAVE A TWIN BEECH?

In Tallahassee, Fla., three aircraft were used to put together the Swamp Hollow Skydivers' first 8-man!

"...we finally got access to another 182 and hope to be putting together 8-mans soon," wrote Jay Boynton, SCR-1768. A few weeks later brought news from Wierd Max Moody, SCR-1685, that they'd done it.

The city manager of Cairo, Ga. let them use his aircraft to make the attempt but he wouldn't pull the back seat. So they stuck four in the club's 182, three in the borrowed 182, and the 8th man by himself in a 172 with the seat in and door removed. There were 5 cherries on it.

"This was our 5th try at anything bigger than 4 and our first try with eight people in the air," said Max.

Sort of points out the ingenuity of RW'ers who learn to work with what they've got!

PATTY WILSON, SCR-118, AND CHUCK WICKLIFFE, SCR-266, married in March. On a mountain overlooking the Elsinore valley; attended by many jumpers, most of whom jumped in at the site.

I.F.A. NEWS



The new International Freefall Association has issued their safety regulations. They are now offering a discount of 10 per cent to clubs or DZ's joining as a group. Each member of the group pays \$9.00 for membership, a year's subscription to Skydiver magazine, insurance, 2 decals and a nifty patch. Write IFA, P.O. Box 30147, Los Angeles, Calif. 90030

mmmm

BE SAFE. We've lost some of our fellow RW'ers recently. . .all unfortunately tragic deaths because they could have been prevented so easily. . . with a little carefulness.

Are we forgetting some of the basic safety rules in RW jumping? When a star breaks, turn 180°.. and track (don't EVERYBODY track for the spot either) . . .wave off. . .never dump right in the pack. . .When the relative work stops, don't stop thinking.

WSCR ♀

All-Girl Record

9

Eighteen feminine relative workers were assembled at Elsinore April 7 by Patty Wickliffe for the annual all-girl star attempt. A new record -- legal 12 -- was set on the first try, from two Beeches. The 13th was on wrists when it was broken for altitude.

There will soon be an official patch for the new Women's SCR award. Bill Newell and Bill Stage will help keep things straight -- numbers are in the 20's currently. Patty says that men are entitled to earn a WSCR patch, but only by coming in 9th or later on an all-girl star... "a tremendous feat deserving of recognition ...the patch was designed by Robbie Skinner with men and women in mind."



Bill Newell (SCR-3) & Bill Stage (SCR-5) Starcrest

The Bob Buquor Memorial Star Crest is a nonpolitical, non-profit organization designed to list, record and award for certain relative work freefall accomplishments. We support all phases of parachuting and are for other organizations and associations that do likewise. We also welcome legitimate groups who choose to associate with us for the benefit of RW or parachuting in general. At this time the United States Parachute Association has recognized the SCR & SCS as outstanding marks of achievement in relative work, and as a principal reason for the growth of relative work. And at the

same time the International Freefall Association has chosen to use the SCR numbering system for their members who are qualified. However, this does not mean that either USPA or IFA will take over the duties of the BBMSC, nor does it mean an individual has to belong to any of the 3 in order to belong to the other. Hence freedom of choice. The Bob Buquor Memorial Star Crest will continue to maintain as it has over the past 6 years a completely neutral stand in issues not related directly to its concern. Bill Stage has been helping in the Star Crest and would like to start a special file on parachuting records and attempts. Anyone having useful information in these areas may write him. Strength through unity is our motto. Divided we stand, united we fall.

Jack Lombard (AZNSCR-23), Casa Grande, Ariz.

Mike McCosh, pres. of Columbine Parachute Center is busy looking for ways to have cheaper Beech loads. He's doing well. 10,500 swoops are \$3.85 each. Anybody knows how to beat that let me know. If not, come to Casa Grande and swoop more for less cash. I hope to see everybody in the country at the Nationals.

Larry Frankenbach (SCR-2171), Memphis, Tenn.

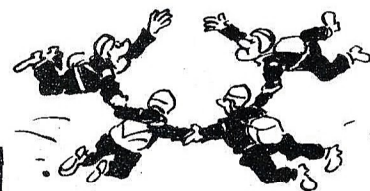
Winds, weather and lack of people are our problems around here. Biggest yet is a 9-man couple weeks ago -- A Beech has just arrived on the scene, so things should start cooking this summer. ...This could be the start though because we have some good RW types within 150-200 miles -- close enough for every other weekend if the weather stays right.

Bob White (NSCR-29), Stormville, N.Y.

...should be the best year for RW yet! At last 10-man meets are catching on outside of California! Stormville is hosting one in May. It's a great place to jump--fantastic jumpships (Lodestar & Twin Beech), tons of camping space, and no hassles. Hope to see flocks of you good RW types there.

Stephen Morrow, Wallace, Idaho

I sincerely would like to read your news. For sure I am an RWer...also I am an underground silver miner and I think of RW all the time I'm underground, so I'm a true RWunderground people.



uspa

USPA ...deserves praise and approbation for starting to support RW. Thank you!

Larry Mason (NSCR-84), Missoula, Montana



On a jump the other day (in the rain) we got a 4-way with the rain really smacking into us and it hurt! After a little thought I figured out why it hurt so much -- it's because you're hitting the pointed end of the rain drop. So you might pass the word along!

Kim Groves, Charleston, Ill.

I'm tired of being kept in the dark. My doctor says RWunderground is the only cure known to science. Can you help me?

Patty Wickliffe (SCR-118), Elsinore

For several months now I have realized the lack of communication that has developed between the East and West. I think that part of the problem lies in the fact that while the West is jumping, the East is writing letters during those cold winter months. We are trying to remedy the situation.

I feel that this year's Nationals will once again bring all RW people together, and that when we are able to speak to our brothers face to face, we'll realize that our differences are few.

Bill Stage (SCR-5), Elsinore

RWunderground and you have done more for RW in the last 1½ years than the west coast has done in 10 years. It seems RWunderground is very responsive. Altho you did it; it now seems like it's ours.

What's Your Sign ?



Diane Kelly has done some astrological research and compiled some interesting statistics about the characteristic signs of competition jumpers, and especially relative workers. Some signs are well-represented while a few hardly make the roll call at all.

Among all competitors (style, accuracy, RW) at last year's National Championships, Pisces-types were big, represented by almost 13% of competitors. Cancer followed closely at almost 12%, while Gemini, Leo, Virgo and Capricorn all accounted for 10%.

She compiled signs of some of the competitors at the Zephyrhills Thanksgiving Meet last November, too. Here's a breakdown among some of the RWers that she talked to:

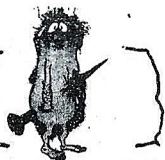
Aries	22	Libra	14	Aquarius	8
Gemini	22	Capricorn	13	Scorpio	7
Pisces	19	Leo	12	Sagittarius	5
Virgo	17	Cancer	9	Taurus	4

Among these relative workers, at least one of the four elements of signs are represented in the top four. The Air trinity by Gemini, the Earth signs by Virgo, the Fire trinity by Aries, and Water by Pisces.

Diane also took a look at girls who jump and here are their astrological fortunes:

Aries	7	Libra	3	Gemini	1	Aquarius	1
Virgo	5	Leo	2	Scorpio	1	Capricorn	1

SCR JEWELRY RIP-OFF ?



also apparently manufacture black market SCR/SCS patches. The Bob Buquor Memorial Star Crest, a non-profit organization, had an attorney write Strong telling him to cease and desist selling Star Crest jewelry.

We've had a lot of letters and calls about it. Here's what some are sayin:

"It's not fair! It's supposed to be an award not a damn piece of jewelry. You have to earn an SCR/SCS. It's supposed to be a memorial to Bob Buquor. You can't just BUY one."

-- Lyle Cameron, SCR-69

"Strong Enterprises had no right to do what they did -- it 'puts down' the SCR and I think they are dishonest to do it."

-- Bill Stage, SCR-5

"Just remember, the dudes that won Blue Max'es, Iron Crosses and Silver Stars didn't wear them on a lighter or key chain, or give them to their favorite chick on a charm bracelet."

-- Bill Newell, SCR-3

"The Star Crest is and has been one of the most important factors in the development of RW. I'd like it to stay that way... Ted Strong is trying to capitalize on the Star Crest; he doesn't have anything to do with the Crest... Strong capitalizing on the Crest will definitely hurt the Crest which will in turn hurt RW. Let's keep the Crest what it is, a non-profit gig for the betterment of RW. Don't buy any Star Crest trinkets from Strong Enterprises!!!"

-- Jack Lombard, AZNSCR-23
Columbine Turkey Farm team

10★ COMPETITION IDEA

Floating. Some competition teams "float" one or two people. The best sub-terminal RW'ers are picked for this -- they're usually light and lanky. They exit BEFORE the base -- the idea is to get the base CLOSER to the last men out of the door for faster times.

I jumped this position at the Z-Hills meet. It's a neat position in that it's all subterminal & you get to see the exit and most of the star building -- it's a heavy visual trip.

Prior to Z-Hills I had zero experience at exiting first and tended to get too far from the base on the horizontal plane in the beginning. I found that by concentrating on keeping the horizontal distance between the base & I as short as possible, the vertical would handle itself. The base should fall faster than a floater.

If you'd like to try it, I suggest you get your base-man to show you how to exit. I exited 1st and was able to enter 4th. The 2nd floater can get in 3rd -- stay on the back side of the star (away from the aircraft) to lessen traffic.

USPA has said they will stop advertising the jewelry in Parachutist.

Newell & Stage say the Star Crest was designed and the organization set in motion in 1968 as described in copyrighted stories in Parachutist and Skydiver. They point out that there seems to be no practical way to be sure Strong's things go to SCR/SCS holders or benefit RW in any way. If it goes to court, they

(cont. p.15)

Dan Poynter floats 2nd and Helen Tyson floats 1st for Pieces of Eight team. They hit right after the pin is made & have found that "when you do it right " it's a fast 4-man. "It's easy," says Dan.

Whether floating will work for your team probably depends on the relative size/wt. ratio of team members, the adaptability of the base-pin to exiting 3rd & 4th, and finally, the entire team must concentrate on RW and not the exit order. (& it don't mean a thing if you don't pull the string.) We'd be interested in other comments on floating from RW'ers with that experience.

Free Fall Relative Work

This summer the BOD meeting at the Nationals in Tahlequah will probably be the site of heavy decision-making concerning the future of your sport: Freefall Relative Work.

Decisions made by competitors there could seriously weaken or strengthen freefall relative work. It's kind of like setting rules and restrictions on the growth of a kitten. With or without the rules and restrictions that kitten will become a cat (unless it dies first.) The rules could help it to be a nice-type cat or a spitting monster.

Here are some things to think about before making decisions about RW:

- I. What is Relative Work? Is it strictly 10-man speed stars? Does it include sequential maneuvers?
- II. Are RW competitors the only people who do "real" RW? What about the non-competitors -- how can we answer to their wants and needs?
- III. If competence at RW is rated strictly by ability to make speed-stars could we eventually have the same mess we got into when competence at parachuting was (is) defined by "skill at style & accuracy"? A large majority of jumpers won't compete in style & accuracy because they don't enjoy the hair-splitting that these events have degenerated into.
- IV. Is there any real need to alter the basic 10-man (speed-star) event? Should we let it alone?
- V. Should there be provisions made for other types of 10-man competitive events?
- VI. Can you compete in RW occasionally & have fun with RW, too?
- VII. What about judges? We must have more and better judges. How?
- VIII. Who should "run" RW? Are you going to delegate your vote to a non-RW participant to handle for you? Does your Conference Director do RW?
- IX. Should SCR rather than a C license be required to enter 10-man RW events at the Nationals?
- X. Should there be the option for teams that want to make competition jumps from 8500 ft.? Teams that can do it consistently in under 25 seconds sure don't need 40-50 seconds of freefall.
- XI. Will aircraft judges be necessary in competition? Some people have pointed out that there are teams which need to pay more attention to the rule banning "circus exits."

RW ANXIETY . . . Overflight of worry has as its bad-news worst feature the destruction of your hard-learned ability to concentrate. . . One of the worst features about worrying is that it destroys your ability to concentrate.



Ed. Last-Minute Note:

Aircraft judges will be used at the Nationals.

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is

HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A 4-MAN RELATIVE WORK TEAM!

first of a series on
How NOT to Do 4-Man RW

or, "Get Your Head Out of Your Ass and Get Started"

Article? by Marc Cohen, SCR-1114
72 Godfrog Team, 4-man
73 Godfrog Team, 10-man
73 RWU Team, 4-man



GETTING STARTED is sometimes the hardest part. Getting started in 4-man RW requires one of the biggest commitments a skydiver can make. Four people who thought they were the most wonderful, free-fallen, swoopen, dyna-MITE, sonofabitchen skydivers ever to scratch their crotch will jump together and probably fubar it up on the first few jumps.

It's not as easy as it looks. It's sometimes as hard on the body as it is on the ego, but with perseverance even a 1000-jump expert can learn to do what is ultimately the most difficult form of competitive RW today -- 4-man sequential RW for time.

In choosing a team the most important thing is to get 4 or 5 (one alternate) toads who can fall together without much effort. That is, they must instinctively fall relative to one another. This does not mean that all four have to be the same size. With the development of bell jumpsuits, mini-pigs, flat conventional reserves and other innovative equipment, size and weight don't make that much difference any more. There are some limits on weight difference between team members, but the ability to fall relative to the other toads in the air is indispensable.

It is also good when teaming up to choose people you like and think you can get along with. Four-man RW is like marriage (it's hard on the nerves) and unless you have a deep respect for the other members' humanity and ability, your team can easily fall apart from the inside or you may wish it would. Everyone must be willing to "de-personalize" themselves for the team. You may go out 10th on a 10-man jump and think you're the best flyer around, but if the position you'd do best on the 4-man is 1st, then that's where you should go. With enough "de-personalization" and enough talent, victory is assured.

There is another way -- and some teams follow this alternate plan. First: Get the meanest bastard on the DZ. We can call him AssHole. A.H. proclaims himself captain of the team by virtue of his temperament. Nobody argues. Second: Get the biggest fellow jumper -- call him Happy. A.H. tells Happy he is going out base by virtue of his size. Happy agrees -- what else? Third: Get the greatest ego on the DZ and let him go 4th. Put a star on his helmet and call him Dude. Then get another person (or a girl) who is easy-going and defenseless and can bounce off all the bullshit that is going to be coming down with this star-studded conglomeration of mis-matched, ill-fitted heterosexuals. You can call this last person Crazy.

This may seem absurd, but in the very political ways that teams evolve while everyone is maneuvering for position, RW teams sometimes do get together in just this way -- or in other ways that are equally as nonsensical.

There is, of course, the question of team captain. Really, it doesn't matter who the team captain is on a 4-man team if the team is a conglomerate rather than 4 individuals, because the attributes of a good team captain should be practiced by everyone on the team. However, every team needs a captain (if for no other reason than to answer the P.A. system at meets and take care of paperwork and other logistics.

What are the important attributes of a team captain? Basically, he is a servant of

the team, not the other way around. He must anticipate everything from personal problems to when to get on the airplane. Most of all, he must be a winner, personally and morally.

The biggest service he will perform is giving members of his team the confidence that they are the best skydivers in the world in any given position. He must instill this confidence without saying it directly; he must believe it; he must be sincere because between intuitive people there is no insincerity. If the captain makes a teammate believe that the only reason he's on the team in the first place is because the captain's a good guy, and that one fuck-up will oust him, then he might as well save his magnanimity. A certain amount of pressure is good but lack of confidence in his team members is not the right kind of pressure.

• (SCR Jewelry---cont. from p. 12)

say, it'll take forever to settle and cost the Star Crest a lot of \$\$.

RWunderground tried to get the other side of the story for you ...we talked to Ted Strong. He said:

"We'd be happy to work out nearly anything with Newell and the Star Crest people -- I'm in the parachute equipment business anyway, not the jewelry business.

"Initially Chet Poland made up dies and paid for it out of the USPA Team Fund. As a favor to Chet, Poynter & I figured out how he could cost it out to benefit the Team Fund. Then Chet made the jewelry. I'm buying from him & not making a lot of money on this. It happened that we were the first to advertise--PI has rights to sell it too. I won't advertise it any more.

"I thought we had an OK from Newell who gave Chet a written agreement to make SCR belt buckles to benefit the Team Fund. People have been wanting to do something like this for years. It just happened to be Strong Enterprises that did it -- We thought we had an OK. I've known Chet for ten years -- I hate to see him hurt."

RWunderground asked if he was manufacturing his own SCR & SCS patches.

"Well..... We get a lot of patch orders. If you wanted them & Newell wouldn't send them...what would you do?...We do make up 8-inch patches."

"We don't want to bad-mouth Strong Enterprises; We just want them to stop," says Newell.

This is all you need to start except for one more quality. Desire. Unless you want to win, you won't. The desire to be a winner must come from way down deep. At the risk of over-emphasizing the competitive aspect it should be re-affirmed that competition is winning and losing. There are many losers -- anyone can join that club. There is only one winner -- a very exclusive group.

With all due respect to desire and the will to succeed, when it comes right down to the wire it is ability that wins.

Everyone has heard the old drone "Just give me somebody with real desire and I'll make a relative worker out of him; I don't need no skygod." That is the most fragrant form of bullshit. Everyone knows a jumper who has a lot of desire, good intentions and a multitude of practice jumps that do him no good.

If given the choice between the good jumper and the sincere jumper with desire, all other things being equal, take the good jumper.

With enough desire a person will succeed eventually, but everyone develops at different rates. RW is more difficult for some than others. The "sincere" fellow may have more fun making jumps away from a serious team. He may develop ability faster without the pressure of a team.

In the next issue of How NOT to Do 4-Man RW, or "Get Your Ass to Expel Your Head if it Won't Fall Out," we will discuss equipment and getting out of the plane with your rig on. Also, anything else that comes to mind. **MARC**

RABBIT BAHEN reports that Snick Quicker Sky Works is planning some nifty new designs for their T-Shirts this summer. Brochure: Snick Quicker, 143-S So. Cedros Ave. Solana Beach, Calif. 91075.

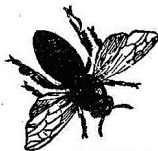
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ? ?

History of the RW Council

reprinted from RWu issue #4, Fall 1972:

Have Faith!

"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 recognizes 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 a 10-man team. . . . There will be no "Mr. Big" or non-jumping paper-pushers. All RW people will have an equal say in controlling their sport. There are no numbers or merit badges except for the SCR and SCS."



BUT A LOT has happened since then. USPA is doing much more to assist RW. A new organization, the International Freefall Association, has been incorporated specifically to cater to the needs of RW'ers. RW is an accepted FAI World Event. We have arrived. As Bert Wijand of the FAI/CIP relative work sub-committee wrote us, "...maybe you should rebaptise it as 'Recognized RW'."

Everyone is either doing RW or claiming they could if only given the chance.

We were originally concerned that some Big-Ego non-jumping political paper-pusher would try to take over RW during its formative stage and make RW "their thing." (And FUBAR it up in the process.) But RW is coming into its own now and should be able to take better care of itself since it's now so large.

RW people in the U.S.A. should decide at this year's Nationals how they will be represented to USPA, the FAI and the new IFA.

If you believe the USPA Competition Committee concept, or the RW Council concept, or some other concept will best serve your sport, now's a good time to set it up. In light of all this, RW'ers should act to formalize their relationships with Aero-Clubs (USPA, IFA, FAI). The original informal Relative Work Council idea is a good one but it isn't formal enough for Now-RW. A decision needs to be made now concerning the relationship of RW to USPA.

The conference director method probably won't work for RW. Conference directors are tied up in running parachuting as a whole. Many are non-RW'ers.

The Competition Committee serves style and accuracy and lately, RW, which competes directly with style & accuracy for attention. Is the Competition Committee representative enough to help RW competition develop rather than hinder it?

The RW Council is meant to be a representative group of RW'ers to communicate their desires directly to USPA. But the 1972 RW Council was quickly outgrown by RW of 1973.

Relative workers need to relate with the FAI RW committee and the new IFA. The RW Council as a union of relative workers is a good idea but perhaps it needs to be formalized. It's your sport -- why don't you do something now -- give your ideas to your starmaster or team captain -- get in touch with IFA, USPA and RWu. Consider the World and the rest of the U.S.A. when you act.

Tomorrow is now in RW. Toads used to jump sloppy fitting gear and skintight jumpsuits and do "ok" ... me for one. But now I am convinced that gear does make a difference. Here are some tried & true ideas for RW gear:



Jumpsuit . . Tailored to you; fits well; bells & big if you're heavy for your size or the situation requires it. . . Harness . . snug-fitting harness system that doesn't weigh over 40 lbs. total (including backpack & canopies) . . Main canopy . . PC-type that lets you down easy and is maneuverable; packs up small . . . Reserve . . reliable and light . . . Main container . . vest-type, no stiffeners . . . shape determined by bag, light . . . Main deployment . . Sherman/Buchmann bag (small) . . . Reserve container . . Pig-type, or if front-mounted, use the Strong Pop-Top. . . Pilot chute . . a 40"-er . . . Boots/shoes . . Adidas tennis shoes, Puma pole vaulting boots, Indian moccasins (wrap-type) or other light-weight, feel-your-feet coverings . . . Gloves . . thin (racing driver's) or none . . . Helmet . . one that doesn't get in the way. (They all do)-- wear none or a soft one (I wear a WWII leather flying helmet or the like) or a semi-rigid one (French-type.) Or if you can't give up the helmet, cut 1" off around the face area of yours and replace the rubber molding. You gotta be able to SEE! . . . Goggles . . some that allow good vision. None available are worth-a-shit. Portia okay but blurry & distorted. Needed is an optically-clear Portia-type. *The Very best gear won't help if you can't do RW, Natch!*

Now, or Soon, somebody's gonna make a main that packs up small and light like a reserve yet lets you down @ 12-16 ft. per second and isn't scary. Both Hank Ascitto and Ted Strong have prototypes. Master rigger Hank calls his the "Piglet System" and reportedly several Elsinore team-members like it for increased speed and mobility in star work.

The whole Piglet (main & reserve) weighs only 23 lbs. in a pack 19" long, 4.5" deep and 13" wide. Main canopy is 22.5 ft. with an inflation diameter of 14.5 ft. Piglet canopy has same glide ratio as conventional PC and has been tested to close to 100% deployment dependancy. Reserve is a 26 ft. modified conical.

PIGGYBACK OR TANDEM SYSTEMS seem to be a tad faster for momentum RW and post-terminal RW. The mini-pigs aren't much different in terms of "feel" at sub-terminal RW than conventional gear, according to taller types (5'9" & over.). Some custom-made pig-gear is so small & light that the entire rig is lighter & thinner & shorter than a conventional main canopy/harness/container. My pig, for example, built by Bill Buchmann, totals out at 34 lbs. and is thinner and only a couple inches taller than a Super Pro backpack! Part of the secret is a small bag that is built around the canopy and tailored to fit the backpack perfectly. In my case, it's a PC.

THE POP-TOP seems to be the reserve container for RW'ers who prefer conventional gear. Those who use Strong's Pop-Top report it works good and doesn't get in the way.

coming events

June 16-17

Richmond RW Boogie !!
Richmond, Indiana

UPDATES

Bigger 'n better than last year... More than 200 expected to attend for big star loads, team practice, FUN RW! 5 Twin Beeches, a DC-3, Cessnas, reasonable rates plus the presence of SCR-3 Bill Newell ... Boogie Sat. nite: live band, buffet, 100 gal. beer all under 40x60 tent! A Do-Your-Own-Thing kind of boogie.

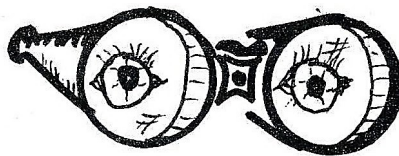
Garth Taggart
513-561-2058

See ya there!

(more coming events next page → →)

JUDGING LARGE STAR

Sequential relative work 8 & 10-MAN



NOW THAT 10-MAN RELATIVE WORK has made the national & International competition level, those most important people -- our RW judges -- are turning their attention to rules for the newest form of 10-man competition -- sequential formations.

A couple of judges at recent meets in the East have sent us some questions to be put to relative workers. They'd welcome any comments from anybody anywhere because the competition in sequential RW, as well as in speed-stars for time, is only as fair as the rules are.

● Si Fraser, chief judge at the Z-Hills Easter Scrambles offers these thoughts:

"We tried some sequential RW in the form of an 8-man to two 4-mans. The watch started on exit and was stopped when maneuvers were complete ... The judging was easy when things went smoothly but when people had to rebuild the second maneuver it was very hard to concentrate & call accurately two separate stars at one time.

"On the two-maneuver stars we gave a half point per person, i.e. 4 points possible for the 8-man and 4 pts. possible for the two 4-mans. This 8-pt. total equalled the 8-pt. maximum for the straight 8-man stars & the straight snowflake.

"We used times for backup and times were needed to decide 2nd & 3rd place as both teams in question had 39 points out of a possible 40. The 1st place team scored 39-1/2 pts. having had a 3-man and a 4-man in the 2-maneuver star.

"We may have set some precedents down there insofar as scoring & judging sequential RW goes but I would certainly appreciate any ideas that any of the readers have."

● Kathy Faulkner & Betty Giarrusso, judges at the Sparta, Ill. 10-Man Scrambles:

"On the straight 10-man jumps, each man in the star was awarded one point after being in 5 seconds (the largest star held for 5 sec. was their score.) On the 2nd jump, a 10-man to two 5's, we waived the 5-second hold on the 10-man and left it up to the judges to decide if it was a clean 10-man (or whatever they made) before breaking up to do the two 5-mans. The scoring on this jump was a possible 20 pts. -- 10 for the 10-man and 10 for the two 5-mans. What really happened was that some of the teams, after getting only a 6 or so, would break up and try for the two 5-mans. So a typical score would have been 6 pts for the 1st maneuver and 3-4 for the two 5-mans...

"The third jump presented some questions ... I'd like to get some ideas from jumpers involved with sequential 10-man RW ... a 10-man snowflake.

"The teams were to make a 5-man star and then have 5 come in on legs. . . one team made a beautiful completed 8-man snowflake with 2 below. We ended up giving them 8 pts. because we had not anticipated the possibility of only a 4-man star being done and so didn't say that the 5-man was to be completed before points would be given for the jumpers on legs.

"Perhaps 4-man sequential RW has already established some precedents that we might take a look at when trying to establish our 10-man sequential RW rules for competition ... 4-man rules waive hold time between maneuvers but say it must involve all jumpers on the load and the maneuver must be a controlled flying formation." next page →

COMING EVENTS:

July 7-8 ☐ SCR Scrambles
Pepperell, Mass.

4 jumps from 10,5 ...including sequential & other formations (8-man)
\$35.00 cost; trophies to 1st & 2nd place teams. Large-star attempts.
Boogie Band Sat. nite.

Don Mayer
603-673-5475

July 28-29 ☐ C-Mills Ten-Man Star
Meet & Good Time Boogie
Caddo Mills, Texas

35 mi. north of Dallas ...
5 jumps & Keg \$35.00 total
Large-star attempts after...
Fritz Jackson
214-238-0290

HERE ARE SOME OF THOSE 4-MAN RULES, taken from Part 50, that could be adapted to 10-man:

Formation -- A completed relative work grouping such as a star, two 5-mans, snowflake, wedge, etc.

Star -- 10 parachutists in flat, stable, face-down position, linked by hand or arm, facing a central point, symetrically arranged so their bodies form approximately equal angles to each other.

Snowflake -- 10 parachutists in flat, stable, face-down position with 5 members of the team linked hand to hand in a 5-man star and 5 members linked hand to leg behind them.

To receive credit for all or any part of a formation, the team members in the formation must be stationary. "Stationary" is interpreted to mean that the relative positions of the participants are not changing substantially so as to distort the configuration from that which is specified.

Formation specifications:

a. All formations performed in this event need only to satisfy the Judges that the formation is completed and controlled.

b. No time requirement for holding the first or second formation is imposed. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that the formation is made and held in a manner and for a period of time sufficiently long so as to be clearly visible from the ground.

c. All formations or maneuvers must be performed in a manner which clearly demonstrates air maneuvering skill and precise control. ...

d. All performances will begin with a star, followed by individual backloops by each team member, followed by ..formations ...

Points assigned as follows:

(1) Each principal Judge will start his watch at the instant when the first required formation (the star) separates. The watch will be stopped when the final formation is completed and stable or when the Judge detects that the team has ceased to maneuver.

(2) In the event of a completed performance, the average time on the Judges' watches, taken to the nearest 1/10th second, will constitute the teams's score ...

Subject: Relative Work!

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OUR THANKS

to correspondent Kitzi Freeman of Specialized Sports PR
for pages and pages of fascinating and noteworthy news about Elsinore
happenings and teams.

and to myriad other correspondents who keep us up on
what's happening relative work-wise and otherwise at their drop zones.
Including:

Flash Gordon
Patty Wickliffe
Curt Curtis
Steve Fugleberg
Max Moody
M.J. Haught
Jack Lombard
Don Moro
Si & Helen
Dick & Betty
My Bone Doctor

Dan Poynter
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**Are you still
fumbling while
others are flying?**
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RWu!

*"As an unlimited idea of freedom,
your whole body, from wingtip to wing-
tip is nothing more than your
thought itself"*

• JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL •

