

Women In Parachuting

U.S. Team Champ Speaks Up On Women

By Susan Rademaekers

Women have proved themselves in parachuting. We've made it — we've come a long way. As witnessed by the increased caliber of female jumpers across the nation — in relative work; in style and accuracy; in being instructors, judges, scorers, workers, organizers — in every phase of the sport, women are there doing a spectacular job. Women have come into their own and are emerging as competent, skilled jumpers.

The reason? Well, I believe that as women emerge across the world and are recognized as capable human beings, the level of confidence and performance goes up in every area. Instead of being pom-pom girls, cheerleaders, and hangers-on, more women are participating with responsibility, doing their own thinking, planning and organizing, spotting, jumping, and packing. Women are learning, improving, and setting new records.

For the woman (or man) who is just starting out or working her way up in any phase of parachuting, I feel there are three important things that help: determination, determination, and determination. After that I would say, practice, confidence, and ability, in that order. I have

watched some people progress from being the worst students to becoming extremely proficient jumpers. The only reason was their sheer determination to learn and do well. They also asked a lot of questions, something we have all been afraid to do. Questions, no matter how stupid they seem, are important since they serve as a learning tool. It saves a lot of work and frustration and jumping time to ask and find out about something instead of standing around and hoping somebody will help.

I also believe the women (and men) who make it in this sport are the ones who learn to be responsible for themselves. Besides not blaming someone else for their mistakes, they learn what needs to be done and when. They become reliable. That includes packing and getting to the plane on time. It also includes learning to spot, and analyzing and organizing a jump.

Confidence is important to learn. Sooner or later an individual has to gain confidence in herself, her knowledge, and her ability. Too often, many women seem to rely on the boyfriend or etc. for a pat on the head, or a pep talk to buoy them up. When the jumper learns to rely more on herself she begins to do well. Experience has a lot to do with

confidence, and of course, we all need encouragement and attention, especially while learning, and sometimes while competing. But there is a limit. That limit is learning to do your own jumping and your own thinking.

In the style and accuracy events I've watched many a potential winner blow it because of lack of confidence. In some cases it was because she knew she lacked knowledge or experience. In many of those situations, the women had been trained and taken care of by a boyfriend, husband, or big-daddy type. Come competition time, the men had little or no time for hand-holding, and the women did not do well. In any case, there comes a time when a woman must come into her own and rely on herself.

In the student phase of parachuting, I feel that most women do need more training. In particular, each instructor should try to mock-up panic situations (even using a hysterical tone of voice), and practice proper handling of those situations. Many women have to be taught to be more aggressive and demonstrative, and find this to be new and difficult. Since society is still pretty traditional, many of us come from

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Jerry Bird On Women Jumpers

"I have never deliberately excluded women from any of my skydiving teams," says 1974 World Champion Team Captain Jerry Bird. Bird feels that his selection of all-male teams in recent years has resulted from the greater number of skilled relative workers of both sexes available and interested in competition, though the majority are male.

Bird does report, however, that he hasn't found many women that meet his stringent qualifications, and cites their physical handicaps of smaller size and weight and smaller hands and arm muscles as contributing factors. He says that most women relative workers have a lot of work to do to "clean up their act as far as grips are concerned". Though small size may aid in a speedy exit, Bird feels that the exit is secondary to flying the star, and lightweight people of either sex "just have to fly different", as do heavyweights. The average weight of team members of The Wings of Orange was 155 pounds. "back in 1967, '68, '69, and '70," recalls Bird, "There weren't so many skydivers around, and I had women on my teams." Bird named a woman as one of the country's all-time-best relative workers.

When asked about jump-

mastering women students, Jerry Bird offered the qualification that he has only jumpmastered "maybe a dozen or so" student flights, and that teaching first jumpers isn't something he really enjoys. He feels that women are more likely than men to react improperly or not at all in a crisis situation, and recalls two instances where female students stretched ten second delays over twice their intended length without realizing their error. He says that with students generally, a careful evaluation of their state of mind is important, though it won't always allow the jumpmaster to assess whether they will deal with an emergency adequately.

Bird agrees that a possible factor in the high accident rate of women may be their cultural conditioning to rely on someone else during a crisis, rather than to think quickly and clearly and act decisively. He says, "they're more likely to get nervous, or blow it than a man in the same situation".

"Each jumper sets his own safety regulations," stresses Bird. Motivation for jumping is important to safety and to performance: "You've got to really want to jump-for yourself, not for someone else."

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Time Machine

WOMAN MAKES 344 LOOPS: ESTABLISHES NEW RECORD

St. Louis, May 3, 1930

Miss Laura Ingalls, 25, of New York City, established a new women's record for consecutive loops in an airplane by executing 344 loops at Lambert-St. Louis field late today. The former record of 46 loops was held by Miss Mildred Kauffman of Kansas City.

Miss Ingalls made 66 more loops which did not count, as she had to stop to pump gasoline from a reserve tank.

"I'm terribly disappointed about that because my goal was 400," she said.

She ascended at 4 PM and

came down at 5:45 PM (CST). It required one hour and three minutes to execute the 344 loops, at a height of about 8,000 feet.

The record is official as she was observed by representatives of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, who used field glasses and counting devices to check the number of loops.

Miss Ingalls recently won her transport pilot's license, being the 15th woman in the United States to qualify for such a license.

Editor's note: Six weeks later, Ingalls increased her record to 980 loops.

Quebec Parachutist Honored

The Quebec Federation of Parachuting reports that a parachutist, Louise Cadoret, has been chosen as one of the province's ten best athletes following a dual gold medal performance in competition during the Festival International de la Jeunesse. The award, offered by the Galerie Sportive de Quebec, has been won by a skydiver on one previous occasion. In 1972 Jean-Pierre "Pedro" Blanchet was honored for making 232 jumps during a twenty-four hour period, setting a

new world record.

Louise has received over fourteen awards since 1971, and has been a medalist in the Quebec Championship four times. In 1974, she won gold medals in style and accuracy in the Provincial competition, and the same year she placed 6th in style and 7th in accuracy in the Canadian National Championship. She was honored for this latest victory at the Gala de l'Athlete on January 16th.

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USPA B.O.D. Election

USPA held its Board of Directors meeting in Chicago late last month. Eight new Board members were selected. Election results are as follows:

President - Curt Curtis, Vice President - Stretch Harris, Secretary - Dan Poynter, Treasurer - Jack Bergman. Jerry Rouillard makes the fifth member of the Executive Committee.

Committee Chairmen for 1975 are: Competition - Gene P. Thacker, Safety and Training - J. Scott Hamilton, National Collegiate Parachuting League - King Morton, Membership and direction - Jerry Rouillard, Nominations and elections - Ron Young, Finance and Budget - Chris Needles, Publications - Howard White, Awards - Bill Ottley, Constitution and bylaws - Paul Tag.

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Cosmonauts

Soviet cosmonauts Alexei Gubarev and Georgy Grechko set a Soviet space endurance record in their Salyut 4 space station. The two men passed the old Soviet mark of just under 24 days set by Soyuz 11 mission. US astronauts Gerald Carr, Edward Gibson and William Pogue hold the world space endurance record — more than 84 days in the final Skylab mission which ended on Feb. 8, 1974.

A Skydiver From the Weaker Sex Meets the Amazon Queens

a novelette of sexual bias on the drop zone

by Rip McCord (alias Howard Shrager)

Making my first jump two years ago was such a terrific adventure that I just had to tell my story. My fantastic day began on a sunny Saturday in March of 1973. As I walked onto the field that morning to sign up for my First Jump Course, I noticed many attractive girls walking about, and a group clustered in the office. Why all the girls were looking at me, an average male, I didn't know, but I did overhear them talking about my body. The counter man, a rather scrawny gent gave me the necessary forms to fill out and tried to go about his business, even though the girls in the blue staff uniforms were pinching him and joking about what a wild lover he was.

Directed next to clothing issue, a beautiful blonde asked me my shoe size and what I was doing for dinner. With a smile, I took my gear and walked to the classroom. There were nine in the class, eight females and me. I got the impression that skydiving was a womens sport, but I was still determined to break that barrier and jump. Our first jump course instructor introduced herself as Pauline, she

was a gorgeous and rather well endowed blonde. During class she looked toward me often, and whenever our eyes met she smiled. I gazed upon Pauline as a goddess, she was the experienced skydiver that I so desperately wanted to be, I looked up to her and envied her greatly.

While practicing exits, the girls got a slap on the thigh, but for my command to go I received a nice pat on the posterior, and when practicing PLF's, Pauline always gave me a helping hand up.

Well, the time came, the students were chuted up and the three girls that helped chute the students up gave me double and triple checks to see that my leg straps were properly adjusted and my chest strap nice and snug. We boarded the DC-3 along with the experienced jumpers, The Amazon Queens. The pilot, Vicky, a slightly greying brunette gave the spot to Pauline and the other jumpmaster, Lisa, and we took off. When the plane was in the air, the experienced girls all asked Pauline to introduce me. When my turn to jump came, all

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TRUTH NEWS TRENDSTM

The Sky Journal & Trader

What are they complaining about, anyway?

Most women agree that skydivers are, as a group, amazingly generous, helpful, friendly people, with a ribald sense of humor, but a generally encouraging to all newcomers to the sport.

Women actively involved in skydiving, for the most part seem to agree that with quantities of perseverance and toughness and skill, they can earn places on the big RW flights or in competition.

One genuine complaint, not common, I'm glad to report, to all drop zones, is the absence of women on the staff as instructors, riggers, pilots, administrators. Granted there are fewer women than men to choose from. Still, even parachute center administrators who verbally express a willingness to consider female candidates often ignore their employment applications in fact. Promising male jumpers may be groomed for jumpmaster positions by being asked to assist around the DZ; their female counterparts seem to slip by unnoticed.

A first jump student was quoted as saying, "If there had been just one other woman on the plane, or even around the center for me to look up to, my first jump would have been that much easier".

Women in positions of responsibility at the DZ will draw women into the sport, and will encourage those women who do jump once to stick with it, work hard, and give their best with no excuses for poor performance. Women have been jumping as long as there have been parachutes. Come on, parachute centers, get with it!

Jennifer M. Phillips

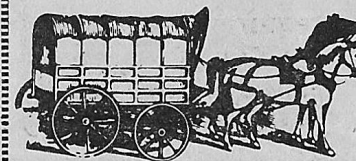
female parachutists and show it in their attitudes toward us. Perhaps her own attitude is at fault. I have jumped several times at the Orange Parachuting Center and have always been well treated by the male staff as well as male jumpers who were, in fact, most helpful. Since I am 57 years old, one could hardly question their motives. I'm also very glad to be a woman — it has great compensations not available to the male in later years, inter alia. Certainly women have a right to parachute if they so choose but they should be willing to accept the fact that we are invading an area which was exclusively male for a long time. It is only natural that we will, from time to time, encounter some opposition as we do in other fields. I have lived long enough to know that men are delightful creatures, given half a chance. If we persist in trying to emasculate them, however, they aren't going to like it, and we aren't going to have any fun. So get with it, lady parachutists, and accept the situation the way it is. Enjoy!

Helen R. Lewis
Rensselaer, N.Y.

Are women really an 'invasion force'? I think we are merely growing into lifestyles that are necessarily and properly integrated with those of men. If we "emasculate" men, we dehumanize ourselves. As a female jumper trained (at Orange) by males, I am grateful for the help and consideration I received as a student. I am less grateful for the teasing, natural among good friends, but out of place and distracting in a professional relationship. I thank no one for letting me escape criticism I deserved at times, or for excusing me when I failed to perform at full capacity ... because "girls tend to have more hard pulls", because "girls tend to make less aggressive exits", or whatever. Those who earned such complaints were, in my experience, in a minority, but they were there. We must take ourselves seriously as jumpers before we can hope to have others take us seriously.

Ed.

I AM MOVING



Attach old address

My new address is:
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City

State

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Letters

Dear Editor:

The cry for equal treatment of female jumpers has been raised before, but the latest issues of TNT and Spotter were quite vocal. I feel compelled to comment.

At the Malone Parachute Center, we have always attempted to treat individual jumpers as individuals. Abilities differ without regard to sex. I would assume that the ratio of males to females is comparable with other operations and I don't recall any female jumper being treated unfairly. One must be careful to differentiate between criticism constructively given and discrimination based on sex. If a girl is incompetent as a jumper, she should expect to be so informed and not develop a "they're all male chauvinist pigs" attitude.

There are a few variations in practice on the part of our staff which may leave us open to some criticism. I will make these practices public so that self-proclaimed defenders of women's rights may take whatever action is deemed necessary to make desired changes:

1) Harness adjustment — (a) We have attempted to convince female first jump students that it is necessary for the instructor to have one hand inside the harness when adjusting legstraps. On occasion we have told them it had to be inside the jumpsuit. (b) We have, (in special cases) used the technique of manual breast-flattening while hooking up the chest strap.

2) Aircraft procedure — (a) Some female students have been made to sit on the jumpmaster during climb. (b) Jumpmasters (with one exception do not fart in the aircraft with females aboard. I have not known a female to fart in the aircraft.

3) Exit procedure — Instead of the conventional slap on the leg, a healthy 'goose' has been utilized on girls. A problem did develop on one jump: a

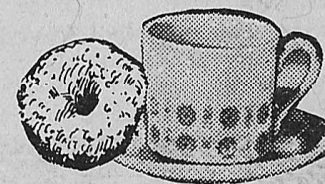
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RIPCORD STOPS KILL

GET THEM OFF!

Dear Ed.

In regard to Jim Heydorn's death: there is no reason to believe he had a main-reserve entanglement. It was observed from the ground that both canopies were streamering side by side. On the ground his main and reserve were lying separately, the reserve having a hole in the skirt and the sheathing ripped off some lines. His ripcord was found entangled in his lines with bits of sheathing imbedded in the cable.

A closer estimation of what occurred would be that Jim experienced a pack closure and fired his reserve without releasing his main ripcord, or releasing his main ripcord but failing to clear it from the housing and throw it away. The ripcord entangled in the reserve lines was the probable cause of the reserve malfunction.

The main canopy deployed either simultaneously, or shortly after the reserve and malfunctioned. The malfunction (a streamer) could have been possibly caused by Jim's body position for reserve deployment, or his body position due to the reserve malfunction.

Tony deRosa
Utah

Jack Lombard also wrote in with similar information. Thanks to you both. The account as printed was the result of a phone conversation to Arizona shortly after the accident. This more complete and accurate version should warn other jumpers to get rid of that main ripcord before deploying a reserve!

Ed.

Dear Editor:

I strongly disagree with the woman jumper who states in a recent letter to TNT that men resent



QUIDNUNC



Introducing Quidnunc, the rumor spreading gossiping columnist. If you have heard any unusual comments or have been eavesdropping send it to Quid. He'll see to it that everyone finds out.

Russian pilot Svetlana Savitskaya set four new woman's time-to-climb records during November 1974 in an E-33B jet. The FAI recognized records were: to 3,000 meters in 41 seconds; to 6,000 meters in 1 minute even; to 9,000 meters in 1 minute, 20 seconds; and to 12,000 meters (39,370 feet) in 1 minute, 59 seconds.

String bikinis may be outlawed in the shopping district of Rio.

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PARACHUTES
INCORPORATED



Letters

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female liked the goose so much that many were required to get her off.

4) Post-Jump activities — During the sessions of suds-guzzling and lie-telling which often follow a days jumping, some females have been lusted after by male personnel. Male jumpers (with one exception) have not been lusted after.

We were always of the opinion that such examples of special treatment represented healthy heterosexual relationships. We are sorry if we have been wrong. I can only add that I don't believe that any person at Malone has been treated unfairly because of sex— other reasons maybe, but not sex. We do encourage female students to persevere and excel. Have we been fair? I suppose that could only be answered by some of the young ladies who have jumped at Malone.

In closing, I invite all females who feel that they are discriminated against at home DZ's to come to Malone and be treated like a king.

Love and kisses,
Larry Sargeant

Your sentiments about encouraging and being truthful with female jumpers are commendable. I have a faint hope that your comments on DZ procedures for women students are exaggerated. You ask if you are being fair; I ask you to consider this.

If you were a first jump student, carrying all that excitement, fear, and concentration on board the aircraft, how would you feel, and how well would you jump if:

1) Your jumpmaster were an exceedingly

I can think of very few cases in the course of my involvement with skydiving where my being a woman has hindered me. On the contrary, even back to the days of my first jumps I can remember only enthusiastic encouragement from my friends and jumpmasters. I never had a female jumpmaster, and most certainly never had any desire to be one.

I was not held back, by any means, but was treated with respect by my instructors, offered helpful advice and sincere flattery when I did well. In fact I progressed more rapidly than the average student.

This may not be the usual treatment offered a woman who comes into our sport, but because of a friend who had been jumping for some time, I got a head start. I had spent some time around the DZ, had some prior knowledge of what to expect, and knew many jumpers beforehand.

My family was anxious, but with me, when I started jumping. They have since confessed that they never expected me to stick with it. They all came out for my first jump, and since have come to appreciate my involvement in the sport -- even my occasional "jump-bum" status.

For the past few months I've been travelling -- drop zone hopping -- and I've had no real trouble anywhere getting to know people or getting on loads. I think being female is even an advantage.

Sure I've heard the little jokes. I took them as they were meant -- good natured -- and enjoyed them as such.

I jump because I love to jump.

Becky DeRosa
California



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I jump because I love to jump.

Becky DeRosa
California

TINY BROADWICK: PARA



Tiny's special lightweight connector link... many parachutists of her day used an old steering wheel to attach the hemp lines to the pack.



Turn-of-the-century America had little to offer a fifteen year old woman, already a wife and mother, working twelve hours a day at a cotton mill down South, but if the alternatives were few, the attractions of that life were even more scanty, and the necessity for escape overwhelming.

So in 1908, Tiny Broadwick, born Georgia Henderson in 1893, strapped herself under a balloon wearing a parachute designed by her foster father, Charles Broadwick, and made her first jump. The event launched a new career as a barnstormer. Traveling around the country, outfitted in a white silk dress and ruffled bloomers, Tiny delighted carnival crowds, who called her "The Doll Girl".

Parachuting had few refinements in the early 1900's. The jumper sat on a trapeze bar suspended beneath the canopy by manila hemp rope, and held on while the wind blew the unmodified canopy through trees, between or into buildings, off the edge of roofs, and into swamps. Broken bones, dislocations, and a narrow escape from a burning balloon didn't deter Tiny, who recalls,

"I was never afraid. I'd go up any time, any place. The only thing I hated was getting back to earth so quickly."

In 1910, Tiny travelled out west, and two years later, she ran into Glenn L. Martin in California. Martin flew Tiny to 2,000 feet in his biplane, where, over Los Angeles she became the first woman to jump from a

Hydroplane, in an aircraft piloted by Martin.

In 1914, Tiny Broadwick gave the first official parachute demonstration to government representatives, among them, General George P. Scrivin, Chief of the Aviation Bureau of the U.S. Army. He watched her buckle on the vest-style parachute and make repeated static line activated parachute jumps. On the fourth jump, the static line wrapped around the aircraft empennage. Quickly reviewing the hazardous alternatives, Tiny decided the safest course would be to cut off all but a short length of the line, and pull this herself once she cleared the aircraft. Thus she became the first woman, and quite possible the first person to make a premeditated freefall parachute jump. As a result of the demonstration, the Army ordered a Broadwick "Coatpack" as its first parachute.

Tiny went on to jump at the San Diego World's Fair in 1915 and 1916. After that, her marriage limited her jumping, though she still managed to jump from time to time. In 1922 she made her last of over 1,000 parachute jumps over San Diego, from a plane flown by Clyde Pangborn.

Today, Tiny is a great-great-grandmother, over 80 years old. Among her many awards are The Pioneer Aviation Award (1953), Honorary Gold Wings from USPA, the Curtiss Medal from the OX5 Club of America, a Special Award from the Survival and Flight Equipment Association, and Honorary Membership

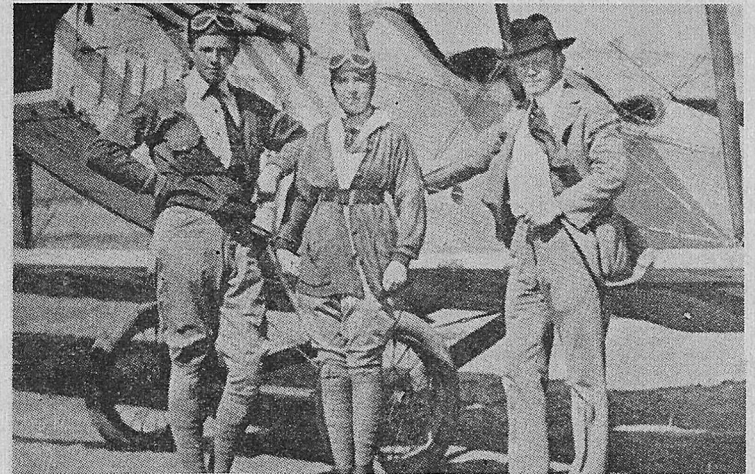


Modelling her Broadwick Coatpack.



Demonstrating an exit from a biplane. Note the stylish jumpsuit, helmet, boots, and reserve. Parachute is the Broadwick Coatpack, demonstrated to the Army in 1914.

CHUTING'S FIRST LADY



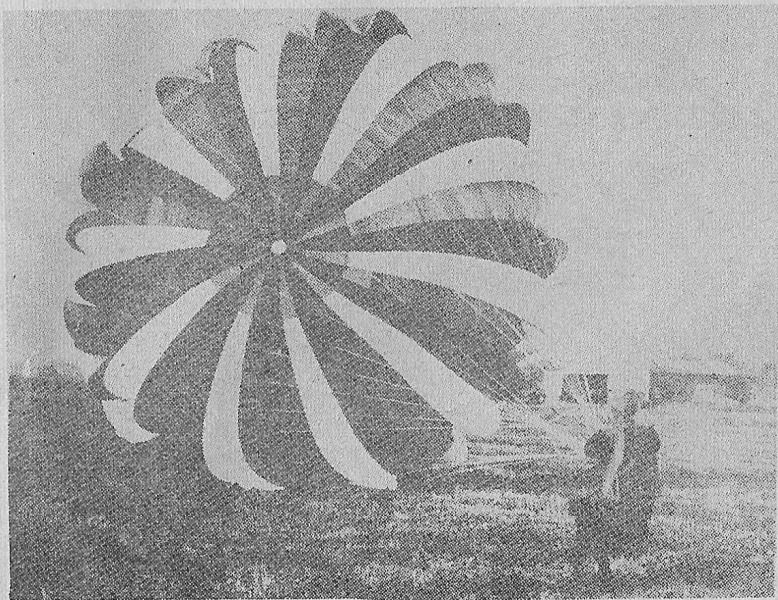
1922. Tiny with Clyde Pangborn (left) and Bimbo, later a mayor of San Diego. She posed for this photo the day of her last jump.



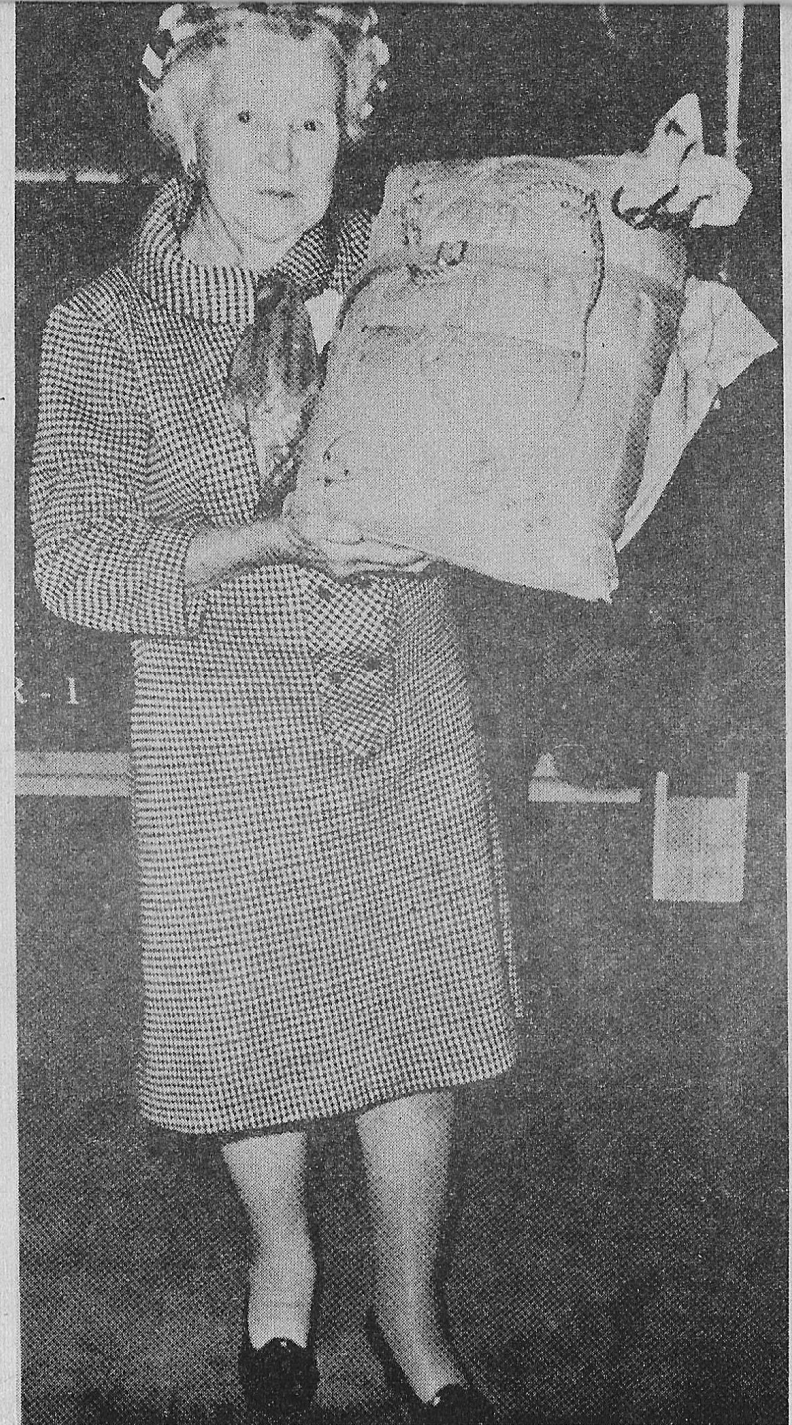
1913. Tiny with Glenn L. Martin. She was 20, and five years into her career.



Tiny Broadwick today ... still active.



Tiny landing after her first airoplane jump, Griffith Park, 1913.



Presenting one of her parachutes to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. This parachute, designed in 1920, has a California static line and pilot chute assist.

Women

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stereotyped situations where, while little boys were climbing trees, falling off roofs, and puncturing the neighbor's tires, we as little girls were playing house, skipping rope, or playing with dolls. During adolescent years, women are taught not to be aggressive; when it comes time to jump out of an airplane, it is not easy to switch from a passive to an active role.

The women that do best as students are ones who have been trained very thoroughly and are determined, or ones who are generally active and confident in sports. Still, encouragement and good training can make the difference for anyone.

Through sport parachuting I've watched many a person, and especially many women gain personal confidence and grow. As they become more competent and skilled at jumping, they start to be happier and more self-confident in themselves in general. It's a beautiful experience.

As for male chauvinism, there is a lot of that in the sport. Since around 75 per cent of all jumpers are male, it can hardly miss. There will be many times when the woman jumper won't be asked on a big load, or to represent a team, or go on a team accuracy stack. Before taking any action, she should find out why. Next, she should keep on asking to go on a jump, and speak up if she thinks she's been given a bad deal. If that doesn't work, she could start organizing her own loads and teams; but above all she should do her best.

There are a lot of really fantastic guys in this sport, and I find that many of the chauvinistic toads are well-meaning, lovable bastards. I have also found that the same turkey men who are always putting women down will

also give lots of help and encouragement to women. They love to be asked for their advice and are happy to share their knowledge. So I utilize the information and ignore any other comments, and then go do my best.

There are a few things that really bug me. One of those is the statement, "Wow, she jumps just like a man." That is meant to be a compliment. In fact, it presupposes that only men are good at the sport. Somehow I can't see petite Patty Wickliffe, or our 1974 Women's Champ Debby Schmidt being mistaken for men, or Gloria Porter — 1973 Champ, or Suzie Joerns who for years beat most men in style. They don't jump like men, they jump like very capable women. They jump like winners. They jump like champions.

There are many excellent women jumpers, judges, and organizers in sport parachuting who deserve credit for their dedication and hard work. Women belong in the sport. The work is hard, and there are battles to be won. To the women in all phases of parachuting — sisters in the sport — who have given so much: you all have my congratulations, my respect, and my thanks. To you all I say RIGHT ON!

Editor's Note:

Susan started jumping at Orange, Mass. She has qualified for the U.S. Team six years in a row, and served as an alternate for a seventh. She was 1971 Style Champ and Pan Am Style Champ. In 1972 she was Accuracy Champ and Overall Champ. In 1973 she was Style Champ, and in 1974 she placed second in Style and Overall. She is currently living in Oakland, Calif.

QUIDNUNC

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Jerry Bird mad 100 parachute jumps during November. He is alive and well in Denver. He plans to have a ten-man team in 1975, and says the opposition will have to go "over, under, around, or through him to win the world title this year".

Karin Hart, recently married to Steve Haas will be working as a stewardess out of Denver.

Congratulations to Lakewood First Freefallers: George Peace, Tom Strand, and Rich Michalik.

A world record, though not recognized by the FAI: A Qantas Boeing 747B carried 697 people from storm-devastated Darwin to Sydney, Australia. The airlift, begun after Cyclone Tracy in December, evacuated a total of about 25,000 people.

PI President Istel has been experimenting with an indoor swimming pool in his Orange residence, and is rumored to have opted for a skating rink instead.

Today, one fill-up for an Air Force C-5 cosats about \$17,000, as compared to about \$5,400. in April 1973 . . . don't grumble at high fuel prices when you fuel your Cessna!

Bill Mehr found out that Lancer is more than a brand of wine. (His next project is flying a Twin Beech in fog.)

Bob Gray, John Dery, Tom Mileski, Tony Lombardo, and Larry Williams of Lakewood P.C. and Allen Downs and Mark Walsh of Orange P.C. are now off instruction.

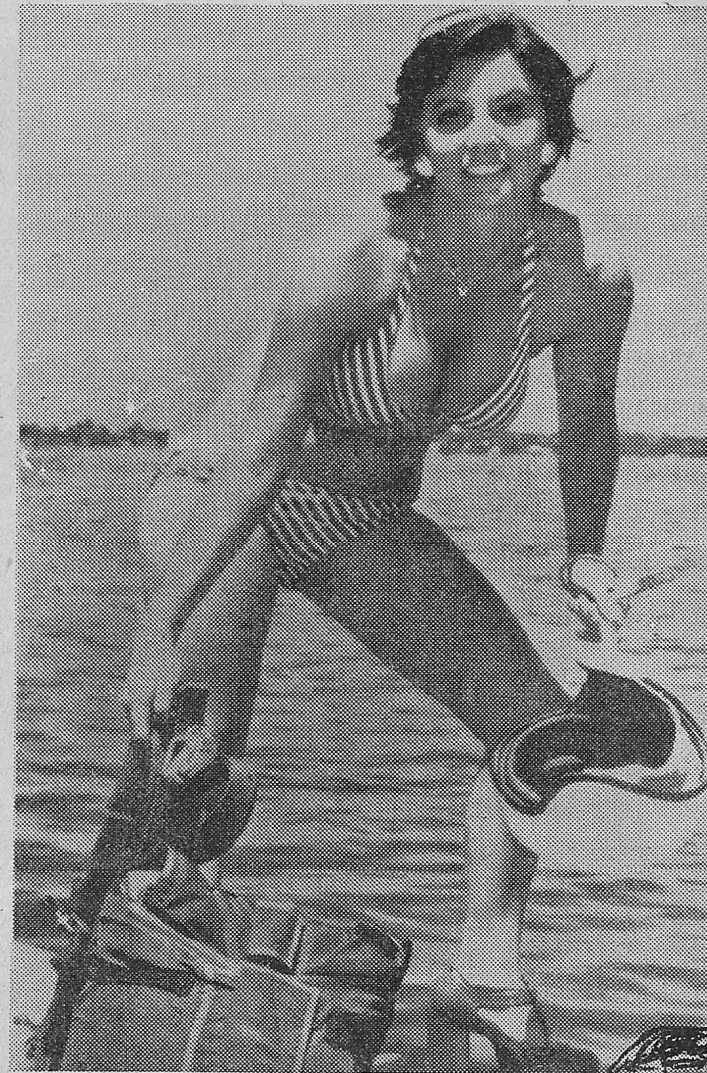
The end of an era has come. Fred Daft is selling his gear. We hope the Smithsonian has been notified.

The United States Hang Gliding Association announced that Bob Willis of Santa Ana, Calif. has been declared National Hang Gliding Champion in the Rogallo Class, and that Jack Schroeder of Redondo Beach, Calif. is the National Champion in the Fixed-Wing Class. More than 200 pilots logged over 1,000 flights during the championship weekend at Trabuco Canyon, near Los Angeles, with no serious mishaps.

Malcolm Forbes' transatlantic balloon crossing will be delayed until December 1975, due to the need for extensive pressure testing of the capsule; and for a favorable jet stream for the journey.

"Howdy" Gilligan earned her SCR, and Don Moro his SCR & SCS on January 12th at Lakewood.

...



CHUTING STAR — When model Vicki Brooks isn't modeling, she's skydiving. She is from Perth, Australia.

Shrager & Amazons

continued from page one

eyes were on me---was this inferior male going to chicken out? No! I told myself, if a girl can do it, so could I. As I stepped to the door, Pauline gave me a kiss on the cheek and the whole plane cheered me on as I jumped. The next thing I knew I was on the ground being kissed and hugged by the girls on the ground crew, I was quite a celebrity on the drop-zone, after all, skydiving is a sport for females, not the frail male.

When the class received the First Jump Course Certificates, the girls got a sturdy handshake from Pauline, but I got a very nice kiss and an invitation to dinner from my goddess, which I eagerly accepted.

Looking back upon my first jump I most thoroughly enjoyed the entire day and much to everyone's surprise, continued jumping and even formed an all male star team, "The Super Sex" although we are looked upon by the rest of the jumpers as sex objects, and everyone laughs at our star attempts, someday, we will be as good as the Amazon Queens. But, until then, we guys will just enjoy this great sport and try to prove to the world that skydiving is not just for the female.

•••

CALENDAR

February

15-16 — **Midwest Parachute Council Meet**, hosted by Central Missouri Parachute Center; three accuracy, two style, two 4-person RW trophies, Bob Atterbury, (314) 642-3296 or Bill Hayes (314) 423-2012; Fulton, Missouri.

FEB. 15-16 2ND ANNUAL DELAND SCR-SCS 8-MAN SCRAMBLES. 2 events, both from 10,000 ft. Event # 1-SCR qualified. Event # 2 SCS qualified. 2 speed stars and 2 formations. All jumps from DC-3's. Entry fee \$35; only cash or travelers checks accepted. FFI: Gary J. Dupuis, RR # 5 Box 106, FL 32720 904/ 734-9803.

24th-28th CPI Midwinter Break. Fly or drive to Z-Hills. Camping on the DZ. Plane leaves Bradley Field Noon Sat. 22nd, returns from Tampa Sunday, March 2nd; round trip air fare \$198. FFI contact Jim Bates (203) 623-5480, Windsor Locks, CT.

March

1-2. **Parachutists Over Porty Society Winter Meet**, Eustis, Florida. Accuracy, 3-man RW. FFI contact Jimmy Godwin, Star Rt., Box 498A, Eustis, FL 32726. (904) 357-7800.

29-30. **East Coast Collegiate Championships**, Roanoke Rapids, N.C. Acc., Style, RW. FFI: contact Jerry Rouillard, P.O. Box 988, Roanoke Rapids, NC 27870. (919) 537-7241.

29th-30th. **2nd All-Woman Parachute Meet**, Pope Valley, California. Accuracy, Co-ed kiss-pass (bring your own guy or use theirs), star work. FFI call Tanya McDonald, (916) 334-1360, or Pope Valley Parachute Ranch (707) 965-3400.

29-30. **Third Annual Easter SCR Scrambles**, Zephyrhills, Florida. Five different formations from 10,500. \$45.00 includes registration. FFI: contact Si Fraser (813) 782-2918.

April

12-13. **Third Annual Bear Valley Para-Ski Meet**, Bear Valley, California. \$2000 in prizes. USPA membership and C or D license required. FFI: contact Kim Sommer, Box 55, Pope Valley, CA 94567. (707) 965-3400.

19-20 — **Ken Roberts Memorial 10-Man Meet**, Yolo DZ, CA. George Morar, 725 Seville Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688 (707) 448-3454.

May

3-4 — **CENTRAL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS, 4- AND 10-MAN RW.** Accepting bids for either May 3-4 or May 10-11. FFI: Dick Giarrusso, 40 W. 36th Place, Steger, IL 60475. 312-754-1839.

3-4. **1975 Pacific Conference Relative Work Championships.** Bids accepted until Feb. 28. FFI: contact Ron Young, 4290 Wilshire Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602.

24th-26th. **Midwest Parachute Council Meet**, Sparta, Illinois. Hosted by the Archway Sport Parachuting Center. Novice (clear & pull to 200), Intermediate (201 to 700), Advanced (700 plus). Three accuracy, two style, two four-man RW. \$5.00 entry fee plus jumps. Trophies. FFI call David Verner (618) 443-2091 or (618) 443-9020, or Bill Hayes (314) 423-2012.

24-25th. **POPS EAST COAST MEET.** Memorial Day weekend. at United Parachute Club's DZ, New Hanover, PA. 3 Acc. jumps and Hit & Rock \$22.00. 2 3-man star jumps against time, scrambles \$9.00. Banquet included with trophies. POPSTAR at-

tempts following meet or next day. Practice jumps Fri. afternoon, 23rd. Must know in advance how many are coming. Send \$5.00 with name and address and number for banquet. FFI: Tom Morrison, Tennis Ave., Ambler, PA 19002. (215) 646-1880. USPA membership required.

June

28-29. **Eighth Annual South Dakota Skydivers Competition**, Lennox, S.D. Acc., style, 4-man RW. Marv Skie Airport. FFI: contact Jim Madison, 1704 Shellyann Dr., Sioux Falls, SD 57103. (605) 336-8279.

July

7TH-8TH. **FOURTH ANNUAL SO. CALIFORNIA POPS MEET.** Location to be announced. 3 Accuracy from 3,500 ft. POPSTAR Patch Attempts! FFI: Len Zak, P.O. Box 14, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

12-27th **1975 National Parachuting Championships** at the Municipal Airport, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Contact: Norman Heaton, USPA, P.O. Box 109, Monterey, Calif. 93940.

September

4-15th **World Parachuting Championships of Relative Work (FAI)** at Warendorf, West Germany. Contact: Uwe Beckmann, D-6083 Walldorf, Havelstrasse 4, Federal Republic of Germany.

Up To The Minute

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