



Parachutist

VOLUME 1 . MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK . DECEMBER, 1959 NUMBER 1

DEAR MEMBER:

Look for some PCA changes as a result of the Board of Directors meeting in New York, 16-17 November. A closer tie-in with NAA activities, a reduction in insurance rates for military members to avoid duplicate government coverage, a national air sports day in coordination with NAA, better FAA backing for PCA Safety Officers, possible removal of the FAA TSO C-23 requirements for sport parachuting equipment, more PCA supervisory responsibility subdivided among four grades of Safety Officers, distribution of PCA authority into sub-regions throughout the U.S., Hawaii and Alaska, new policies for meet stewards, standardized program for selection of the U.S. international team, a change in the format of the PARACHUTIST, some written guidance to Safety Officers on equipment and procedure, and a growth, with your help, in PCA membership.

The meeting was good with the following Directors present: Mr. Crane, Mr. Istel, Col. Grieves, Mr. Lieschke, Mr. Sonnichsen. The East Coast, the military and the West Coast were represented.

Insurance pros and cons were seriously discussed and the final outcome was that the majority of the civilian clubs wanted it while the military was flat against it. Hence the insurance representative, Mr. Bob Jones, endorsed the final resolution to cut the military coverage to third person liability and property damage only, at a reduced premium....\$10.00 annual PCA membership. Coverage for civilian members remains unchanged. Incidentally, if any member knows of any cheaper rates of insurance for the same coverage, we'd sure like to hear about it.

Colonel Grieves sat in on an NAA meeting on setting up an annual national air sports meet and information on this will be put out in a later edition.

Dissatisfaction by the majority present was vociferously expressed in the current FAA TSO C-23 ruling in connection with sport jumping equipment. Result: Mr. Crane is presenting our case to the FAA in Washington to, (1) allow PCA to make our own requirements for sport parachute equipment and procedures and (2) recognize our Safety Officers and give them the FAA backing necessary to control flagrant violations of safe procedures. This then, if approved, would solve the C-23 stumbling block. As soon as we get any clarification on this hot item, you'll hear from us.

On Safety Officers: Plan is to have four grades: Temporary- for new forming groups; Club - Permanent local club SO; AREA - for specific geographical areas; and Master - accredited throughout US's 50 states.

Plan is that these men will have FAA recognition and power to supervise parachute activities. To standardize operation, PCA will issue instructions on equipment, training and procedure standards. Qualifications: Minimum of a Class B ticket and the capability and integrity to enforce safety. Right now a committee is working on a draft of standards to be presented at the January meeting.

Incidentally, the insurance people feel that the rules that PCA sets up regarding equipment and procedures is good enough for them, provided these rules are being followed during a jump in which a claim results. If you have any ideas on what should be in these rules, get your suggestions in to us immediately. Scream now! Don't wait until after they are adopted.

On the touchy subject of delegating the responsibility of PCA throughout the nation, have heart. A committee is working up their recommendations now for the January Board meeting. Committee members are Sonnichsen and Gunby from California, Bosworth from New York. Many possibilities exist here from paralleling football conference areas, FAA field breakdown, NAA breakdown, to the four time zones, divide the U.S. into two, three, four, etc., zones, state divisions and so forth. Again, if you feel deeply on this subject, tell us now! A post card will do. We're not fussy.

Colonel Grieves is already working on getting together the next U.S. international team for the Sofia meet in August '60. His goal: To take over the best seven sport parachutists in the U.S. and beat the Soviet Union! It takes no less than \$5,000 to send over this team...more if commercial aircraft is used. There are many problems in this area, starting with money, but we hope to resolve them all prior to Spring tryouts around Easter. In the meantime, go for your Class C card and practice turns and forward and backward loops. More on this later.

Members are calling for information from PCA and this is as should be. We should be able to give you anything you want, and we want to, BUT, we need your help. We've knocked out the printed PARACHUTIST and, at least for a while, we're going to try this newsletter type which is faster and cheaper in order to keep you informed and include what you want.

Istel is coming out with a book, Brydon is writing one on advanced techniques, and Gunby is printing one on the basic stuff, so among all three, we should have the necessary written basic guidance to go on.

The PARACHUTIST will not contain any more advertising since Sky Diver can handle that end very well...and we will work with SD to the benefit and information of all.

You can help by sending us information which would benefit other members and clubs. It doesn't have to be fancy, just the info and we'll take it from there. If you've invented a double L, triple slotted, 24 blank-gored, ever-ripping, no-risered, rope-harnessed gismo, draw it on the back of an old envelope and we'll print it for all to see! Events, meets, results, center landings, odd injuries or malfunctions, equipment functioning, new ideas, new methods, etc, will get you into the PARACHUTIST for the benefit of all. You take it from there.

Expect a little confusion due to the changeover on the Board. When the smoke clears, we believe that you'll find PCA in a good position to enhance and support our growing sport and its needs. To grow, it needs YOU as a supporter. We can get a hellofalot more done by saying that we represent 50,000 parachutists than 500!

What can you do? Talk sport parachuting to anyone that will listen. Get yourself on as a speaker at the local Kiwanis, C of C, Rotary, Lions, Legion luncheons and dinners. Ask the local TV station for five minutes time and show pictures, equipment, and talk. Call up the newsmen and make a jump just for them. Inform the small airport owner on how sport parachuting will increase his aircraft rentals and enhance the light aviation activity.

Talk to non-PCA members and ask them to join PCA. Granted, we're not as good as we're going to be, but the best way to get anything changed is from within, not as an outsider. We know there are some bugs in the machine, but they're going to be straightened out... with your help!

Here are some things we're planning for the future (other than those we're already working on).

Increased coordination with manufacturers to obtain better and lower priced equipment

Coordination with the Air Force in obtaining facilities and training to prepare members for high altitude jumps.

Assist new forming clubs financially to become operational through no-interest loans.

Get all armed forces regulations standardized with PCA's.

Initiate a national parachute league for collegiate parachute competition.

So you can see where we'll need money and contributing members. A club is only as good as the members in it.

George Bosworth will in the future be handling all your insurance claims. Any correspondence concerning a claim should now be sent directly to: Mr. George Bosworth, 282-B Millicent Avenue, Buffalo, New York.

PCA now has Supplemental Type Certificates on Cessna 180 and 182. You are offered the STC at a charge of \$10.00 (th help defray our costs in obtaining it.)

At the time of the license changeover, you were told you could exchange your old type licenses for the new ones free of charge until the end of 1959. The time has now been extended to 31 March 1960.

Your 1959 membership expired at the end of the year. If you joined after 1 July 1959 you will receive a credit of \$5.00 on your 1960 dues and should send but \$10.00 with your application.

Active Duty Military members - if you want to take advantage of the limited coverage and the lower rates, make a special written request and send it in with your application form and your \$10.00. (If you joined after 1 July 1959, send only \$7.50.)

All Members - please mark your application "RENEWAL".

NEXT ISSUE:

Cordially,

Annual Financial Report
PCA Organization Chart
Clarification of Rule Changes

PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

Parachutist

Parachute Club of America
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In this issue:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

CHANGES IN PCA

NEW MILITARY INSURANCE RATES