

# PARACHUTIST

JANUARY—FEBRUARY, 1959

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



NEW PARACHUTE CENTER AT ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

# A Fateful Year

On March 1st a goal towards which the PCA has been striving for over two years was attained. On that day an insurance policy providing complete and inexpensive coverage for all members went into effect. Henceforth every PCA member in good standing will have security and financial responsibility in a sport long considered by the layman to have little or no security or sense of responsibility for property or the public safety. In a very real sense, the new insurance plan marks the coming of age of the PCA.

It is significant that the leading insurance company with whom the contract has been signed has asked PARACHUTIST not to identify it in public print, for it is believed that the stockholders of the company would object violently to the financial gamble involved in such coverage. However, the insurance company feels that if, at the end of one year, PCA members prove to be a good risk, it will be able to publicize widely this pioneering insurance—insurance which could lead to coverage of other such bad-risk sports as skindiving and sports-car racing.

The superstition and ignorance of the stockholders mentioned above is probably the greatest handicap our sport must overcome. For this reason, though the plaintive plea of the insurance company that "in the first year of coverage all PCA members should be *especially careful* to avoid accidents" is somewhat naive—when one's life is at stake all of us are "especially careful"—it is a fact that the accident rate in the next year will do much to determine whether the PCA of the future will be only a small collection of fanatics, or the club of a growing group of healthy, safe and responsible sportsmen.

But with the insurance plan we are facing another, equally serious crisis—an internal one. One third of the PCA membership is in the armed forces, and a small segment of this group has registered strong opposition to the insurance plan because it feels that service insurance provides many of the same benefits.

A careful reading of the question-and-answer insurance form will reveal that in almost every respect the PCA plan either provides benefits *not* included in military insurance or that it provides *additional* insurance. However, the PCA does recognize that under certain circumstances service members will be paying for benefits they already have; therefore, any one who is in the armed forces at the time of paying dues will be billed \$1.00 less than civilian members. A small sum, perhaps, but it should be pointed out that this money is coming out of the PCA's pocket—for the PCA must pay the insurance company \$8.50 for the coverage of each and every member, regardless of status.

Nevertheless, the opposition of some service members still exists. At this critical juncture of the PCA's existence it would be a great pity to lose members because of the cost of an insurance plan of great benefit to the vast majority of the club. Such loss of membership would be a severe blow in this year of decision.

The ill will engendered by the insurance issue between the Board of Directors and a few military members is equally distressing to PARACHUTIST. We need, more than ever before, a membership united and eager to grow. We cannot afford a collection of factions divided by petty quarrels.

The PCA and most of its membership believes strongly in the new insurance plan and in the security, development and responsibility it symbolizes. The future of sport parachuting and of the PCA depends on its safety, its growth and its solidity in the coming year. It is up to each of us to meet this challenge.

# New License Requirements and Annual Registration

With the new license requirements, as printed below and in the new Basic Safety Regulations Booklet issued to all members, U. S. licenses for the first time correspond to the minimum standards of France, Russia, Czechoslovakia, and other countries of long experience in sport parachuting.

Requirements for Class A, C, and D licenses are self-explanatory, but a word of interpretation on the new B license will be helpful. Its purpose is two-fold: to create a fair and valued license for parachutists who have a solid grounding and experience in parachuting, but who have made less jumps than were required for the *old* C license; secondly, to create a test of true ability, in that parachutists qualifying for a Class B license must have a rudimentary knowledge of spotting, pointing, and stability, rather than a mere quantity of jumps.

The requirements and purposes of annual registration are similar to and are based upon the requirements for pilot licenses. Being a safe pilot or a safe parachutist depends in large part on certain skills that must be practiced, and the Board of Directors of the PCA has no more intention of granting a license in perpetuity than it has of holding a board meeting in a C-123 being flown by a pilot who hasn't seen a plane in ten years.

The format of the new license cards will have space for annual registration for several years ahead, but such licenses will not be valid for more than one year unless there is documentary proof that the conditions noted below have been fulfilled.

## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PARACHUTING LICENSES issued by PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

### CLASS A

#### APPLICANT MUST:

1. Have made at least 10 jumps.

### CLASS B

#### APPLICANT MUST:

1. have made at least 25 free-fall jumps including:
  - 15 STABLE DELAYS of at least 10 seconds
  - 5 STABLE DELAYS of at least 20 seconds
  - 1 STABLE DELAY of at least 30 seconds
2. Demonstrate ability to hold heading during free fall, i.e., prevent spin.
3. Have landed within 50 yards of center of a target on 5 jumps with delays of 20 seconds or longer.

### CLASS C

#### APPLICANT MUST:

1. have made at least 75 free-fall jumps including:
  - 65 STABLE DELAYS of at least 10 seconds
  - 30 STABLE DELAYS of at least 20 seconds
  - 20 STABLE DELAYS of at least 30 seconds
2. Complete 2 alternate 360° flat turns to left and right in free fall in 7 seconds or less ;
3. Have landed within 30 yards of center of a target on 15 jumps with delays of 29 seconds or longer.

### CLASS D

#### APPLICANT MUST:

1. have made at least 200 free-fall jumps including:
  - 100 STABLE DELAYS of at least 20 seconds
  - 50 STABLE DELAYS of at least 30 seconds
  - 20 STABLE DELAYS of at least 45 seconds
  - 10 STABLE DELAYS of at least 60 seconds
2. Complete 2 alternate 360° flat turns to left and right in free fall in 6 seconds or less;
3. Demonstrate control in free fall on vertical, horizontal and longitudinal axes of body;
4. Have landed within 20 yards of center of a target on 20 jumps with delays of at least 30 seconds.

### INSTRUCTOR RATING

#### APPLICANT MUST:

1. Hold a valid Class D license;
2. Pass oral, written and practical parachute rigging examinations given by Parachute Club of America;
3. Demonstrate ability to vary both horizontal displacement and rate of descent in free fall, to follow and judge safely a student during free fall.

*NOTICE: All licenses are validated by annual registration. Licensees must make in preceding twelve month period at least:*

2 jumps in order to be issued annual registration validating Class A license;

3 jumps with 10-second delay in order to be issued annual registration validating Class B license;

3 jumps with 20-second delay in order to be issued annual registration validating Class C license;

5 jumps with 20-second delay in order to be issued annual registration validating Class D license or Instructor Rating.

## BASIC SAFETY REGULATIONS

### (Definitions)

STUDENT PARACHUTISTS are persons who do not hold a Class B, C, D, or instructor license.

PARACHUTISTS are holders of *orange Class B license*.

*Privileges:* Parachutists may supervise student jumps in accordance with Parachute Club of America regulations; may jump from all types of aircraft recognized as practical for parachuting; may make exhibition jumps and are eligible for appointment as Parachute Club of America Safety Officers.

JUMPMASTERS are holders of *green Class C license*.

*Privileges:* Jumpmasters may certify qualifications of applicants for Class B licenses; may appoint Parachute Club of America Safety Officers subject to final approval of Parachute Club of America; exercise all privileges of lower license holders.

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# Fort Bragg

Rules and events for individual competition at the Fort Bragg Meet on May 8-10 are printed below for the convenience of PCA members who plan to attend. An entry blank is enclosed. The organizer of the Class II competition is Colonel William P. Grieves, president of the 18th Airborne Sport Parachute Club. 1st Lieut. James M. Perry, of the same organization, is serving as coordinator of the meet. Host clubs are the 18th Airborne Sport Parachute Club, the 77th Special Forces Sport Parachute Club, and the 82nd Airborne Division Sport Parachute Club.

To insure fairness to all competitors and in order that the meet can be run off efficiently, a maximum of fifty entries in the Individual Championship class, and of thirty-five teams in the Sky Diver class will be accepted. Originally, the organizers had hoped to include a Novice-Class A competition, but lack of time, the number of aircraft available, and the uncertainties of weather have made this impossible.

It bears repeating that in all probability Fort Bragg will be the *only* Class II competition to be held in the South this year, so that all eligible regional members, as well as all others possible, should make every effort to attend.

## RULES AND EVENTS FOR CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS AT FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA ON MAY 8-10

### EVENT 1

Jump from an altitude of 12,500 feet; precision landing; 55-60 second delay.

Landing in the center of the circle will be scored 600 points. For every foot away from the center, the score will be reduced by two points; for every inch away from the center, score will be reduced by 1/24 points.

The contestant may open his parachute between the 55th and 60th seconds of free fall. Style of free fall will not be judged in this jump. Possible score: 600 points.

#### PENALTIES:

If contestant opens his parachute below an altitude of 2,000 feet, he will be disqualified from this event.

### EVENT 2

Jump from an altitude of 5,500 feet; 15-20 second free fall; judged on execution of two figure eights and on estimation of style.

Precision of landing will not be estimated in this jump. Possible score: 300 points.

Execution: Immediately after clearing aircraft, contestant will assume a horizontal position, face down, arms and legs in desired position in direction of flight of plane. Starting no earlier than the 5th second, contestant shall execute two figure eights, i.e. a 360° turn to the left, followed by a 360° turn to the right, then another 360° turn to the left, followed by another 360° turn to the right. There should be a minimum of 2 seconds stable fall on the original bearing after completion of the last turn. Contestant may open his parachute between the 15th and 20th second of free fall. Style of free fall will not be judged during the last two seconds before opening of the parachute.

#### PENALTIES:

If contestant opens his parachute before the 15th

or after the 20th second of free fall, he will be fined 50 points. If he opens his parachute below an altitude of 2,000 feet, he will be disqualified from this event.

#### FOR VIOLATING STYLE OF FREE FALLING:

Every second of violation of the horizontal position and of the direction will be fined 10 points.

Every turn to the side will be fined 10 points.

Every dive or sway will be fined 10 points.

An over-turn of more than 45 degrees, or an under-turn of more than 15 degrees will be fined 25 points.

A backfall, somersault, spiral, spin, or disorderly fall will be fined 300 points.

### EVENT 3

Precision landing jump from an altitude of 2,700 feet. Landing in the center of the circle will be scored 300 points. Every foot away from center shall reduce the score by one point. Every inch away from center shall reduce the score 1/12 point.

Contestants must open parachute no later than 5 seconds after clearing plane. Possible score: 300 points.

PENALTIES: If parachute opens more than 5 seconds after contestant has cleared plane, the jump will be considered as executed, but contestant will receive no points for the jump.

Three jumps will be made in each event; the best two out of three jumps will be scored. Only parachutists with a Class C license (or a new Class B) validated by a current Annual Sports Registration will be eligible for the above events.

## RULES AND EVENTS FOR SKY DIVER CLASS (Three-man Team Entry)

### EVENT 1

Individual precision-landing jump from an altitude of 1,000 meters.

Three jumps will be made. Landing in the center of the circle will be scored 150 points. Every meter away from the center will reduce the score by one point. Every centimeter away from the center will reduce the score by 0.01 point. Each jump will be judged separately. Contestants must open parachute not later than 3 seconds after clearing plane.

#### PENALTIES:

If contestant opens parachute later than three seconds after clearing plane, the jump will be considered as executed, but contestant will receive no points for the jump.

The best two out of three jumps will be scored. Possible score: 300 points.

### EVENT 2

Individual jump from an altitude of 5,500 feet; 15-20 second free fall; judged on precision of landing and on style of free fall.

The estimation of precision will be the same as for EVENT 1, the maximum precision score for each jump being 150 points. Style for each jump will be awarded a maximum of 150 points.

Execution: Immediately after clearing aircraft, contestant will assume a horizontal position, face down, arms and legs in desired position in the direction of flight of the plane. He will maintain this position during the whole of the free fall. After opening his parachute, contestant will land as close to the center of the circle as possible.

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# The Insurance Plan

Under separate cover PCA members will receive shortly a question-and-answer form that will supply all needed information on most of the queries raised by the new plan. The figures below present only the salient features of the PCA's new coverage:

## ACCIDENT

In case of death—\$3,000.00.

Loss of limb or sight—up to \$3,000.00.

Disability (disability need not be permanent but while in effect must be total and continuous)—After 90 days \$40.00 a week up to 100 weeks.

Medical Expenses—Reimbursement, including hospitalization, up to \$1,000.00 for each accident in excess of \$25.00.

## LIABILITY

Public Liability (bodily injury to others)—Each person: \$5,000.00. Each accident: up to \$10,000.00.

Property Damage (to others, including damage to jump aircraft)—\$5,000.00.

*Note:* Damage caused by jump aircraft itself must be covered by normal aircraft insurance if aircraft is owned by a PCA member, for the obvious reason that the insurance company is not prepared to offer PCA members who own planes an extra \$5,000.00 worth of insurance at no extra cost. (This clarifies the note under question 19 in the insurance question-and-answer brochure sent to all PCA members under separate cover.)

It should be stressed that neither the PCA nor any of its directors has received any benefits of any kind from the new insurance policy other than those enjoyed by every other member. Mr. Robert Jones, of Russell, Drowne, Inc., insurance brokers, worked for two years to secure this insurance for the PCA, and richly deserves the insurance commission he received.

Members are covered by the new insurance as soon after March 1 as their dues are forwarded. For further discussion of the insurance plan see the editorial in this issue.

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## FAA TSO C-23

It is expected that the U. S. government shortly will extend FAA regulation TSO C—23, now limited to life-saving, emergency parachutes only, to cover all parachutes manufactured in the United States.

A high government official concerned with the situation has stated unofficially, "Under the present laws sport parachutists in this country can jump out of airplanes with nothing more than a pocket handkerchief if they so desire."

Faced with this situation, the leading insurance company with whom the PCA was negotiating stated that minimum safety standards for parachute equipment would be necessary. The decision of the Board of Directors of the PCA at the January meeting was to adopt Federal standards for life-saving equipment. This satisfied fully insurance requirements, but members should note that they are not covered by insurance unless a parachute bearing the FAA TSO C—23 stamp is used in any accident jump.

For those members whose equipment does not con-

# The Board of Directors Meeting

On January 28th, 1959 the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Parachute Club of America was held in the Amelia Earhart Room of the Wings Club of America at the Hotel Biltmore, New York City. Lt. General James M. Gavin, U. S. A., Ret., Board Chairman of the PCA presided at the meeting. Joe Crane, president of the PCA, George Flinn, Jacques Istel, Wolfgang Lieschke, Lew Sanborn and Warren Youngclaus, all members of the Board of Directors, were present. Also attending were Mrs. Mary Goodhue, legal counsel to the PCA; Robert Jones, of Russell Drowne, Inc., insurance brokers, to answer questions on the new insurance plan; and J. M. Fox, editor of PARACHUTIST.

After modification and discussion, the following items were approved and passed by the Board of Directors:

- the Annual Financial Statement of the PCA
- the insurance plan
- the new dues and calendar payment thereof
- the new license requirements
- the new Basic Safety Regulations
- the master-point system
- the requirements for PCA-sanctioned meets

Wherever necessary to meet new requirements, amendments to the Constitution of the PCA were passed on and unanimously approved by the Board.

All of the above issues are discussed more fully in separate articles in this issue of PARACHUTIST.

Also approved was an amendment to drop sustaining memberships of the PCA. Henceforth all members will be classified as "honorary members" or as "members", and the dues for each will be the same.

Discussed, but not acted upon, was the issue of automatic membership for each PCA member in the NAA, parent body of the PCA. It was decided to table this issue to the next meeting.

An exchange of views was held also on the advisability and means of making the government more aware of the aims of the PCA and of the desirability of its encouraging sport parachuting in the United States. It was decided that the best approach to this purpose would be to talk to interested Congressmen and Senators who are sympathetic to our sport.

The meeting of the Board of Directors lasted five hours; because of the changes made and the issues discussed, they were probably the most important five hours in the PCA's history. Thanks are particularly owed to General Gavin who presided ably and firmly and without whom the accomplishments of the meeting would not have been possible.

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form presently to FAA TSO C—23 standards, it is certain that a number of companies will offer the necessary tests and modifications, if needed, at very reasonable prices.

As a matter of policy, the board of directors of the Blue Bird Press, publishers of PARACHUTIST, have decided to accept henceforth only those advertisements by manufacturers and dealers of equipment bearing the FAA TSO C—23 stamp .

# Stable Exit

by Jacques Andre Istel

The first contact of a parachutist with the air is on exit from the aircraft.

There are at least four good reasons for immediate body stabilized upon exit:

1. The face and body parallel-to-earth position eliminates the possibility of body interference with the proper deployment sequence of the parachute. Stability is therefore particularly important for immediate openings in both static line and free fall jumps.

2. Orientation with reference to ground is immediate and continuous.

3. Positive stability and constant sight of the ground relaxes the parachutist, thereby speeding the learning process and improving individual performance.

4. In style competition the parachutist is judged from the instant of exit.

There are two variables which affect every exit and which are independent of the parachutist. These are 1). the configuration of the aircraft, 2). the airspeed of the aircraft.

Of these two factors, aircraft configuration plays the major part in determining the techniques of exit. Increased airspeed up to 150 mph only dictates adjustments of basic exit method.

Aircraft configurations in turn fall into two broad categories:

A. Poised exits—the most common in sport parachuting (exits from steps, struts, wings or supporting structure).

B. Door exits--(no holds for parachutist once he steps out).

## BASIC SAFETY METHOD

Clear aircraft *in direction of flight* by projecting body rapidly into Basic Stable position (arms and legs spread face down, back slightly arched. Beginners should keep head up).

The impetus imparted to the body through the last point of contact with the aircraft must have little or no rotational movement.

## APPLICATION OF BASIC METHOD TO POISED EXITS

The parachutist is ready to take to the air. He may be on a step, on a wing, or seated in the door with hand on strut or door edge. In all exits of this type the parachutist should face forward and exit by throwing his legs backwards and upwards thereby straightening his body into the slipstream and momentarily placing some weight on his hand rest.

The hand rest (aircraft) will pull away from him instantaneously and the parachutist should then draw his arms back to shoulder level and keep his head up (this will keep his back arched).

It must be emphasized that the whole exit should be rapid and smoothly continuous since the exit point must be selected and *sighted from inside the aircraft*.

## APPLICATION OF BASIC METHOD TO DOOR EXITS

In shoving off and outward from the door, the parachutist should be careful not to exert more rotational force than is required to align his body in the direction of the flight of the aircraft. It may be helpful for the parachutist to imagine himself making a flat dive

into a swimming pool, turning in mid-air so that he lands parallel to the pool's edge. However, if this dive is too strong or too weak, parachutist may not be able to align himself in the direction of flight and will find stability more difficult to achieve.

In door exits the arms should be swept back of shoulder level and in a plane parallel to body.

If the door does not permit a standing exit, the parachutist should bend at the knees rather than at the waist.



*Parachutist has sighted exit point, climbs out of aircraft*



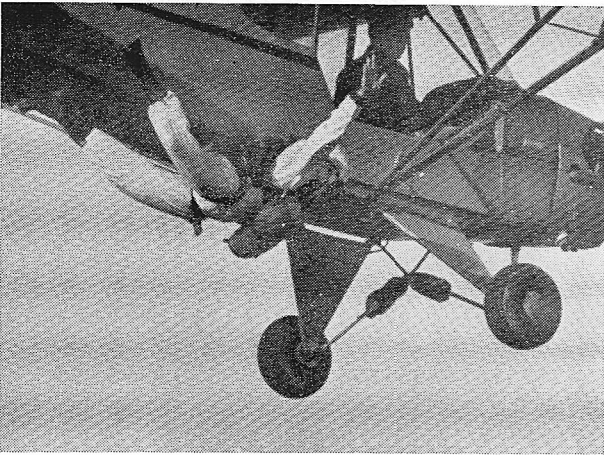
*Parachutist poised for jump, prepares to kick off*



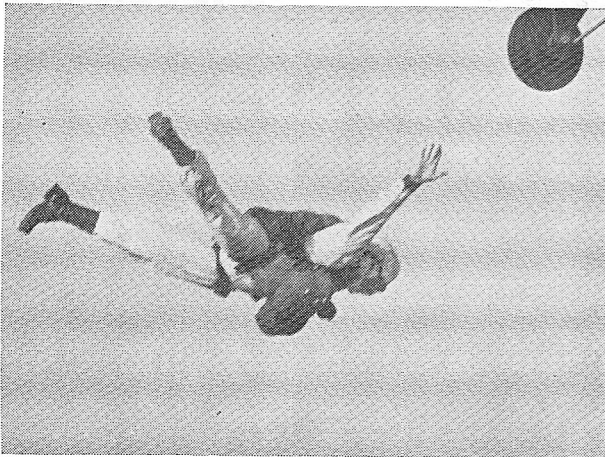
*Parachutist kicks out and up, hands resting lightly on strut as aircraft pulls away, body paralalled to earth*



*Parachutist starts to arch back and spread arms*



*Parachutist achieves arched basic stable position at start of descent*



*On the way. Total time of this sequence is less than two seconds*

#### EFFECT OF AIRSPEED OF AIRCRAFT UPON ALL EXITS

Increased speed up to approximately 120 mph creates an aerodynamic condition which aids stability. In both *poised* and *door* exits the parachutist generally should incline the upper portion of his body more towards earth and sweep his arms further back as airspeed of launching aircraft increases.

A conscious effort to head downwards need be made

only with exit speed ranging from 120-150 mph. Over 150 mph instant stability becomes problematical.

Most common errors in exit are:

1. *Weak kick-off*--This places body roughly in feet to earth position. Arching at this point causes a backward loop.

2. *Bending forward at waist*--Causes back-to-earth position.

3. *Arms not spread*--Loss of lateral stability. Possible barrel roll on exit.

Combinations of these basic mistakes lead to bizarre positions. Students exits should be observed by a competent instructor and discussed in detail immediately after the jump.

The sequence on these pages shows *poised-exit* procedures from difficult aircraft configuration. Note the excellent form of Steve Snyder who appears in the pictures, and who gave generous assistance to the author.

Copyright 1959; this and future articles are part of a forthcoming book. Photographs by Charles Jackson of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

## The National Aeronautic Association

Members may not be aware of the fact that the PCA is an affiliate of the National Aeronautic Association which, as the national aero club of this country, is the F.A.I. representative of the U. S. American parachuting is delegated to the PCA by the NAA; among other affiliated clubs are the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Soaring Society of America, the National Pilots Association, and the Professional Racing Pilots Association.

Attending the NAA convention in December for the PCA were Joe Crane, president, and Jacques Istel, vice-president. Future cooperation among some of the affiliated societies was discussed; it was agreed for instance, that it would be desirable and beneficial to stage meets at the same time and place to provide a wider audience. Possibly the PCA's 1960 National championships might be held in conjunction with those of the Soaring Society and of Model Aeronautics.

The possibility of having members of each affiliated society automatically become members of the NAA was also discussed. This direct connection with the parent body might bolster the support, financial and otherwise, of teams sent abroad by the associated groups to international competitions. By presenting an united front for such support through the NAA, we might better be assured of money to send teams abroad without the usual agonizing scramble for funds.

In the near future NAA hopes to construct an aviation center in Washington, D. C., and possibly office space for the affiliated societies will be made available.

Many affiliates publish their own magazine, and it was decided to exchange news of each other's activities that might be of interest. From time to time *Parachutist* will provide such information on other affiliates.

Interested members will note a small advertisement for the National Aeronautic Association elsewhere in this issue.

# What's Up?

## THE HIGHS OF TEXAS

On Sunday, 23 November, 1959, the University of Texas sponsored an unsanctioned local parachute meet at San Marcos, Texas, which was attended by the University of Texas Parachute Club, the Houston Parachute Club and the Fort Worth Parachute Club. This was the second inter-club meet in Texas in 1958, the first having been held earlier in the fall at Houston on the occasion of the University of Texas-Rice football game.

Twenty-two jumpers participated in the spot jump events, but because of high winds, low ceiling and generally poor pointing only three of the jumpers landed in the 100-yard scoring circle. Best jump of the day was a 16-yard landing by Van Dyke Phillips of Houston.

No attempt was made to draw spectators, but about 500 people from neighboring communities and from the University of Texas campus 30 miles away came to watch.

On December 27th and 28th, 1958, the Fort Worth Sky Divers held a small unsanctioned meet. Other clubs represented were the Houston Parachute Club, the University of Texas Parachute Club of Austin, and the Los Alamos Parachute Club of New Mexico.

Winner of the spot jump was Al Dillashaw of the Houston club, who landed 75 feet from the target. Winner of the 20-second free-fall event was Charles Hillard of Fort Worth.

A total of forty-six jumpers competed in the meet judged to have been one of the most successful held in the Southwest in 1958.

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## Fort Bragg

(Continued from Page Four)

Contestant may open his parachute between the 15th and 20th seconds of free fall. A change of direction of 45 degrees to the right or left may be effected during free fall. The angle of inclination of the body to the horizontal plane may not exceed 45 degrees. Style of free fall will not be judged during the last two seconds before the opening of the parachute.

### PENALTIES:

For violation of style of free fall:

Every second of violation of the horizontal position and of direction will be fined 10 points.

Every turn to the side will be fined 10 points.

A backfall, somersault, spiral, spin, or disorderly fall will be fined 150 points.

The best two out of three jumps will be scored. Score for the entire event will be the total sum of the points for the free fall (a maximum of 150 points per jump) and of the points for the precision landing (a maximum of 150 points per jump). Possible score: 600 points. The team score will be the aggregate of individual scores. Each contestant must compete in both events.

One three-man team from each regularly organized sport parachute club is eligible. All competitors must hold at least the old Class B license, validated by current Annual Sports Registration. Individual Championship contestants may *not* compete as team members.



## Never Underestimate . .

The above photograph is of Miss Genevieve Prust, who represents exactly half of the feminine Class B license holders in the PCA (Mrs. Marge Curtis is the other). Miss Prust was trained by the Midnight Sun Sky Divers of Fairbanks, Alaska. Under the supervision of Ralph Gustafson and Brodie Harrell, who served as jumpmasters. Genevieve has made 20 free falls in temperatures ranging as low as 10°. An extremely enthusiastic parachutist, she lives in San Gabriel, California (address *not* available on request).

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## New Year's Resolution

On the 1st of January, 1959, Ted Strong of the Cambridge Parachute Club and Ellsworth Getchell of the Medford Parachute Club opened their jumping year with a bang by completing the first successful baton pass at Mansfield Municipal Airport, Mansfield, Mass. Their first attempt of the afternoon was unsuccessful, but on the second, a 22-second delay from 5500 feet, the baton was passed from Strong to Getchell in the 18th second of flight. Witnesses verified the feat.

Mr. Getchell writes that he hopes this was the first baton pass of the New Year; we think it's pretty safe to assume so, even though they waited around until 4:30 P. M.

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## Introducing Nancy Hall

For some time members have been complaining—with some justification—of the delays in PCA responses to queries and correspondence. Now, thanks to the increase in dues (which is actually only \$1.50 per member because \$8.50 of the increase is for the insurance premium), the PCA is able for the first time to afford a full-time secretary. Her name is Mrs. Nancy Hall and we trust that her presence will be felt immediately by quick replies to all correspondence. Now if PARACHUTIST only had a secretary we might get the magazine out on time occasionally!



# Official Master-Point System

With the exception of a few changes of definition, the master-point system outlined in the Nov.-Dec. PARACHUTIST was approved at the January meeting of the Board of Directors.

At the suggestion of Joe Crane, President of the PCA, the Board of Directors voted to make the master-point system retroactive to 1 July, 1954, the date of the first participation by an American in sport-parachuting competition. Fred Mason is thus posthumously awarded 10 master points for representing the United States in the 2nd World Championship of Parachuting held in July of 1954.

Sponsors of sanctioned competitions can request and be assigned a class of competition for the purpose of awarding master points upon application to the Contest Board of the PCA. Each contest will be assigned a class on the basis of the number, quality and geographical distribution of parachutists, and on the nature and number of jumps accomplished by each contestant.

The master-point system is reprinted below.

| Classes of Competition            | Lifetime Master Points |           |                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
|                                   | 1st Place              | 2nd Place | 3rd Place (overall) |
| <b>Class I</b>                    |                        |           |                     |
| FAI World Championship Only*      | 10                     | 6         | 4                   |
| <b>Class II ‡</b>                 |                        |           |                     |
| National Competitions             |                        |           |                     |
| Major International Competitions* | 5                      | 3         | 2                   |
| <b>Class III</b>                  |                        |           |                     |
| Minor International Competitions  |                        |           |                     |
| Regional Competitions             | 2½                     | 1½        | 1                   |
| <b>Class IV</b>                   |                        |           |                     |
| Sectional Competitions            |                        |           |                     |
| Sanctioned Local Competitions     |                        | ½         |                     |

\* For World Championships and International Competition *only*, master points will be awarded to the top three Americans in overall placement.

\* A Major International Competition is defined as having a minimum participation of three countries and fifteen contestants.

‡ All Class II competitions require a minimum of six jumps accomplished per contestant.

In addition, achievement badges to be sewn on jump clothes will be awarded parachutists by the PCA upon accumulation of specified master-points totals. After earning 5 master points a parachutist will receive a purple badge bearing the designation "Advanced Parachutist," with 10 points a silver badge reading "Master," and with 25 points a gold badge reading "Grandmaster."

## REWARD!

Individual members and club secretaries are urged to submit club news, articles of special interest, and, above all, photographs to PARACHUTIST. \$10.00 will be paid for any full-length article or for any photograph used on the cover of the magazine. The deadline for the March-April issue is April 1st.

# New License Requirements and Annual Registration

(Continued from Page Three)

**EXPERT PARACHUTISTS** are holders of *Class D license*.

*Privileges:* Expert parachutists may authorize civilian night and water jumps; may certify qualifications of applicants for Class B and C licenses; exercise all privileges of lower license holders.

**INSTRUCTORS** are holders of *Class D license with Instructor Rating*.

*Privileges:* Instructors may give parachuting instruction on a commercial basis; meet all requirements for test parachuting; exercise privileges of all license holders.

The new PCA licenses go into effect on 1 March 1959, and no old licenses will be issued after that date. The new licensing system should increase greatly the safety and prestige of parachuting because for the first time licenses will represent actual parachuting proficiency. The fact that these requirements were mailed by FAA Headquarters in Washington to all local safety officers, and the recognition of our licenses by both the Army and the Air Force shows the high regard the government has for our standards.

The new system will also simplify parachuting by giving the responsibilities and privileges of the old C license to holders of the new orange B license requiring 25 free falls, plus minimum proficiency in spotting, pointing and stability.

All old licenses expire on 31 December, 1959. Here is how the new license system works for each class:

*Class A:* No change in requirements. New license with the same license number is sent free of charge. 1959 Annual Registration is included if you have registered your old license.

*Class B:* Send proof as soon as you meet new requirements. A new license with the same license number will be issued free of charge until 31 December, 1959. If you do not meet registration requirements only the license will be sent to you. Proof of qualification for new license should include either your log book or a detailed letter from a licensed parachutist certifying that you meet each of the new requirements.

*Class C:* If you qualify for a new Class C license send proof immediately. New licenses will be issued free of charge until 31 December, 1959. Requirements for proof of qualification are the same as for the B license.

*Class D:* No licenses in this class have ever been issued. Qualified candidates may now apply to the PCA. Unless applicant is known to the PCA either through personal contact or competition experience, flight tests will be necessary. Qualified examiners for Class D applicants are now being appointed by the PCA in Fort Bragg, N. C., Los Angeles, California, and the new parachuting center at Orange, Mass.

**NOTE:** For competitions during the 1959 period of change-over, the PCA will set entrance requirements in terms of both the old and new licenses. After 31 December, 1959 *only* new licenses will be recognized in competitions.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
AS APPROVED AT THE JANUARY 28TH MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PCA

**Everett J. Penny & Co.**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
188 EAST POST ROAD  
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

ACCOUNTANTS' CERTIFICATE

To the Board of Directors of  
Parachute Club of America:

We have examined the balance sheet of Parachute Club of America as of December 31, 1958 and the related statement of income and expense and accumulated income retained for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances, except that we have accepted without independent verification the net proceeds received from parachute meets sponsored by others.

Subject to the aforementioned limitation with respect to our auditing procedures, in our opinion, the accompanying balance sheet and statement of income and expense and accumulated income retained, present fairly the financial position of Parachute Club of America at December 31, 1958 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Everett J. Penny and Co.  
Certified Public Accountants  
White Plains, New York  
January 22, 1959

PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA  
EXHIBIT "A"  
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

| A S S E T S  | December 31 |           |
|--|-------------|-----------|
|  | 1958        | 1957      |
| Cash .....   | \$1,472.27  | \$ 478.54 |
| Loan Receivable .....                                      | 150.00      |           |
| Inventory of Promotional and<br>Membership Materials ..... | 250.00      |           |
| Office Equipment (at Nominal Value) .....                  | 1.00        | 1.00      |
|  | \$1,873.27  | \$ 479.54 |
| L I A B I L I T I E S                                      |             |           |
| Loans and Accounts Payable .....                           | \$1,743.35  | \$ 177.10 |
| Payroll Tax Withholdings .....                             | 34.83       | 34.84     |
|  | \$1,778.18  | \$ 211.94 |
| Accumulated Income Retained<br>(Exhibit "B") .....         | \$ 95.09    | \$ 267.60 |
|  | \$1,873.27  | \$ 479.54 |

PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

EXHIBIT "B"

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES  
AND ACCUMULATED INCOME RETAINED

|  | December 31           |                       |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|  | 1958                  | 1957                  |
| <i>Income</i>                              |                       |                       |
| <i>Membership</i>                          |                       |                       |
| Dues .....                                 | \$3,910.00            | \$1,385.00            |
| License Fees .....                         | 1,375.00              | 185.00                |
| Registrations .....                        | 260.00                | 6.00                  |
| <br>Total Membership Income .....          | <br><u>\$5,545.00</u> | <br><u>\$1,576.00</u> |
| <i>Net Proceeds from Parachute Meets</i>   |                       |                       |
| Vancouver "Try Outs" .....                 | \$2,949.96            |                       |
| Wilmington Competition .....               | 789.46                |                       |
| <br>Total Net Proceeds from Meets .....    | <br><u>\$3,739.42</u> |                       |
| Sale of Insignias and Emblems .....        | 148.63                |                       |
| <br>Total Income .....                     | <br><u>\$9,433.05</u> | <br><u>\$1,576.00</u> |
| <i>Expense</i>                             |                       |                       |
| <i>Operational</i>                         |                       |                       |
| Contribution to 1958                       |                       |                       |
| U. S. Parachute Team Fund .....            | \$2,779.38*           |                       |
| Trophies and Membership Insignias .....    | 836.77                | 108.20                |
| Subscription to Parachutist Magazine ..... | 805.25                | 127.50                |
| Promotion and Travel .....                 | 477.00                | 132.21                |
| Educational Pamphlets and Supplies .....   | 408.00                | 162.88                |
| Affiliation Fee - National                 |                       |                       |
| Aeronautic Association .....               | 250.00                | 250.00                |
| <br>Total .....                            | <br><u>\$5,556.40</u> | <br><u>\$ 780.79</u>  |
| <i>Administrative</i>                      |                       |                       |
| Salaries and Secretarial Services .....    | \$1,775.92            | \$ 214.15             |
| Stationery and Membership Forms .....      | 720.10                | 109.78                |
| Postage .....                              | 452.92                | 135.00                |
| Legal and Accounting .....                 | 797.00                |                       |
| Payroll Taxes .....                        | 47.05                 |                       |
| Office Fixtures .....                      | 36.55                 | 189.90                |
| Insurance .....                            | 25.80                 |                       |
| Miscellaneous .....                        | 193.82                | 40.13                 |
| <br>Total Administrative Expenses .....    | <br><u>\$4,049.16</u> | <br><u>\$ 688.96</u>  |
| <br>Total Expense .....                    | <br><u>\$9,605.56</u> | <br><u>\$1,469.75</u> |
| <br>Excess of Income or <i>Expense</i> ,   |                       |                       |
| Year Ended December 31 .....               | 172.51                | 106.25                |
| Accumulated Income Retained - Balance      |                       |                       |
| at Beginning of Year .....                 | 267.60                | 161.35                |
| <br>Accumulated Income Retained -          |                       |                       |
| Balance at End of Year (Exhibit "A")       | \$ 95.09              | \$ 267.60             |

*Note*

The foregoing statement does not include expenses for executive and other administrative services.

\* For accounting of these monies see the audited "Financial Report of the 1958 United States Parachuting Team" which was forwarded to members in the October issue of PARACHUTIST.

## Sanctioned Competitions

As promised in the last issue of PARACHUTIST, the official regulations, ratified at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the PCA on January 28th, for PCA-sanctioned parachuting competitions are printed below. Any clubs or members contemplating the organization of a competitive meet--sanctioned or unsanctioned--should read these rules carefully.

### OFFICIAL REGULATIONS FOR PCA-SANCTIONED SPORT PARACHUTING COMPETITIONS

The following conditions will apply to all PCA sanctioned competitions:

1. Only members in good standing of the PCA may take part in sanctioned competitions, except foreign participants who must be members in good standing of their F.A.I.-sanctioned national parachute club.

2. Only affiliated clubs of the PCA may enter team competition.

3. Organizers of PCA-sanctioned competitions are required to furnish crowd liability insurance which will protect the PCA and the organizers against any spectator claim arising from attendance at a sanctioned competition.

4. All events and demonstrations must comply with the Basic Safety Regulations of the PCA as well as with general regulations governing competitions.

5. All funds collected shall be distributed in accordance with a letter of agreement between the PCA and the Department of Defense, *if military participants are involved*. All funds collected shall be subject to audit by Certified Public Accountants.

6. Contestants shall waive all claims in writing against the PCA and the organizers of the competition and their officers and employees, in case of accident, except in the case of gross negligence on the part of the organizers.

7. Contestants must be notified in writing of the rules and scheduled events for a forthcoming competition at least three weeks prior to the competition and must have registered in writing at least ten days prior to the competition in order to be allowed to participate.

8. Proposed events and complete rules for a sanctioned competition *must be forwarded to PCA headquarters at least one month in advance of written registration notice and prior to being mailed to any tentative contestants*.

The number of contestants shall be regulated by mutual agreement between the PCA and the organizers of the competition in accordance with the facilities available and the time allocated each event.

9. Judges and the Contest Director shall be approved by the PCA. No judge or assistant judge may take part in competitions.

10. Contestants entering static line events must possess at least a valid Class "A" F.A.I. international parachutist license. Organizers may run a Novice Event upon receipt of a waiver by the PCA.

11. Contestants entering free-fall events of 8 seconds or more must possess at least a valid Class "B" F.A.I. international parachutist license.

12. No participant may take part in any event or demonstration requiring greater experience than the contestant has actually had prior to the competition.

13. All wind-drift indicators shall be dropped by non-participants in a manner approved by the Chief Judge.

14. All publications, newspaper articles, leaflets, posters, billboards, program or other forms of advertising and publicity related to sanctioned competitions shall bear the inscription "Parachute Club of America Sanctioned Competition."

15. The Contest Director may at any time alter the schedule or program of events if necessary in order to conform to rigid PCA standards for sport parachuting.

16. The Judges shall rule on all disputes which may arise. The organizers may declare in advance that the decision of the judges shall be final, in which case it will be. Otherwise decisions may be appealed in writing to the Contest Board of the PCA.

17. The PCA shall assign a Class II, III, or IV rating to each sanctioned competition. This rating will determine the number of lifetime master points earned by the overall individual winners.

18. The PCA shall charge the organizers a minimum fee of \$5.00 or 10% of gross receipts, whichever is greater.

Further questions on sanctioned-meet regulations shall be directed to the PCA.

## Accident Corner

As promised, PARACHUTIST and the PCA have investigated fully the death of Douglas Harper on July 13th, 1958. James Novak, a reporter of *The Geneva Free Press* was hired jointly by PARACHUTIST and the PCA to make a thorough, on-the-spot investigation of the accident. Thanks to this investigation PARACHUTIST has in its possession a copy of the coroner's report and interviews (of 28 basic questions on the facts of the situation and the cause of death) with the pilot of the plane, Francis Bacon, and with two other members of the Geneva Sky Divers Club, Leroy Norton and Ted Hutzel.

A careful reading of Mr. Novak's report reveals discrepancies on the part of witnesses and a number of violations of the Basic Safety Regulations.

I. Two witnesses feel strongly that Harper's reserve chute knocked him out when he hit the water. This hypothesis is possible, but extremely doubtful if proper equipment and procedures were used.

II. According to Harper's PCA application, his previous jump *almost 8 months before* was his first free fall. He had not even made a dummy ripcord pull prior to this jump. In any case, a second-jump parachutist should never jump over water.

III. All witnesses agree on Harper's hesitation in jumping, but give conflicting reasons for it. But this hesitation indicates lack of sureness and improper procedure. With a wind-drift indicator a target should not be missed by a mile, as it was in this case. Harper's hesitation was undoubtedly partly responsible for this misjudgement of distance; *a second pass over the target should have been made*.

IV. The pilot of the plane was never properly briefed.

V. A streamer different from the PCA standard indicator was used. Whether it was an effective streamer is not known, but apparently it was *not* timed.

VI. When asked who was in charge, a witness said, "Harper was in charge. The jumper always is." *Harper should never have been in charge.* A jumpmaster should have been in charge. But a competent jumpmaster would never have allowed a water-jump by a man of so little free-fall experience, and he would never have allowed a second-jump student to *spot himself* over land or water.

VII Parachutist had never jumper before from the type of aircraft used, a J-4 Cub.

Harper seems to have been a serious parachutist and aside from the infractions noted above appears to have made an effort to follow PCA procedures and regulations.

The *primary cause* for Harper's death appears to be the fact that he landed so far from the boats that no immediate assistance could be given to him.. But the *secondary causes* of death are far more important in this case. Harper had not made a jump in 8 months, he had never used the jump aircraft before, he had only one previous free fall, there was no jumpmaster, jumper was not competent to do his own spotting according to written PCA regulations, and Harper's Army jumping experience (17 static-line jumps) was completely useless in these conditions.

In the past, PCA regulations covering water jumps have not been stiff enough; since last July they have been tightened in the Basic Safety Regulations. But points 5 and 6 of the Basic Safety Regulations in possession of the parachutist at the time of his death were violated. In all probability Douglas Harper would be alive today if he had observed these regulations accurately.

## JACKETS

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## Member Comments

The most persistent demand among the comments in the questionnaires returned to the PCA has been for a reliable "middle-income" (so dubbed by one member) parachute. Good news—see the Parachutes, Inc. advertisement elsewhere in this issue. It is hoped that other manufacturers will follow suit with comparable 'chutes bearing the FAA TSO C-23 stamp.

Note also the Parachutes, Inc. advertisement for the new parachute center at Orange, Mass. There will be more details on the center in the March-April PARACHUTIST.

### NAA NATIONAL AERONAUTIC ASSOCIATION

The U. S. National Aero Club and representative of FAI which has delegated authority over sport parachuting in the U. S. to the PCA.

Annual dues of \$6.00 include a subscription to NAA's monthly magazine "National Aeronautics," reduced aviation insurance premiums and reduced aviation magazine subscription rates.

PCA Members may become active members of NAA for annual dues of \$3.00

### National Aeronautic Association

1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

### PARACHUTES INCORPORATED ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF The First United States Parachuting Center

on  
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*Latest Aircraft and Sport Equipment*  
ADVANCED FREE FALL COURSE  
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Fast Turns, Loops, Rolls, Relative Work  
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*Jumps with your own parachute start at \$2.00*

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Bedford, New York  
Phone: BEDford Village 4-3800

### TO ALL MEMBERS:

The PCA is very much aware of what difficulties many clubs and individuals are faced with in attempting to follow conscientiously the new Basic Safety Regulations and the equipment requirements of the new insurance plan. For this reason, in the difficult transition year of 1959 the PCA will be lenient and understanding in its interpretation of such situations as arise, and generous in granting waivers on such matters as equipment and the size of jump fields.

Moreover, upon application to the PCA all Safety Officers during the calendar year 1959 will be granted the privileges and responsibilities of B license holders. Also during this period the PCA will give greater latitude to its Safety Officers in the field, and will be guided in large part by their recommendations.

If members and clubs will make a faithful effort to follow the spirit and intent of the new regulations, 1959 will be a safe and pleasant year for all of us.

## Wilmington Meet

As we go to press, the status of the Wilmington-Deleware Cup Meet is uncertain. So far, the French team has been unable to raise travel expenses to the U. S. and the Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce has announced that it is unwilling to share a major part of the large financial risk that would be involved in underwriting the expenses of the French team. Further details will be announced in the March-April issue of PARACHUTIST.

## Air Force Recognition

Best news of the month is the following letter, quoted in its entirety:

Department of the Air Force  
Office of the Chief of Staff  
United States Air Force  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Istel:

Thank you very much for the informative briefing on the activities of the Parachute Club of America.

This Headquarters has taken action to announce to all commands that Air Force personnel are authorized to participate in free-fall parachute jumping provided the local commander approves and the sponsoring organizations are sanctioned by the Parachute Club of America. As interest develops, guidance and assistance will be requested from you.

The Personnel Services Division, under the Director of Military Personnel, is the staff agency monitoring this activity. This office is located in Washington, D. C., at 3800 Newark Street, NW. The division chief is Colonel George W. Croker.

Sincerely yours,  
CURTIS E. LeMAY  
General, U. S. Air Force  
Vice Chief of Staff

Not only Air Force members, but all in the PCA will rejoice in General LeMay's action, a further proof of official recognition of sport parachuting.

**THERE IS A  
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FOR EVERY PURPOSE**

*Pilotless Aircraft Recovery Systems*

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