



# 2021 International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration!

October 7–9 Skydive Perris, Perris, California

## SPECIAL 2021 CELEBRATION INSERT

### *A message from James F. (Curt) Curtis III, President/CEO, Board of Trustees . . .*

*Hello all—as we move through 2021, the overall health and morale of the country appears to be on an upward trajectory, inclusive of the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame! Just a few days past our most successful Grand Reveal (except for the weather) and Luncheon, the excitement is palpable! Every one of us has been through this difficult time together and we are all appreciative of how difficult the past year has been. I am hopeful you and your families have remained healthy. As we begin to return to some sense of normalcy, we invite you to join us as we gather to celebrate the Hall of Fame Classes of 2020 & 2021, the Path and Pioneers of Excellence and Trustees Award recipients as well as to visit with the many friends this special sport has brought each of us. We assure you we will remain vigilant to assure we stay safe and all necessary guidelines are followed. I look forward to seeing you in Perris October 7–9! Until then, stay safe and all the best, Curt (C)*

## *Join Us for the 2021 Hall of Fame Celebration!*

What better place than Skydive Perris to celebrate the return to normalcy?! Join us October 7–9, 2021, at Skydive Perris, Perris, California, USA, for the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration. It will be a very special year inducting both the Hall of Fame Classes of 2020 and 2021!



But it will be more than that . . . it will be old friends and new ones, once again gathering to warm hugs or fist bumps . . . gathering and chatting face-to-face. Who isn't ready for that!

The weekend begins on Thursday, October 7, for Early Bird Registration and packet pick-up followed by the Early Bird Reception at the Pioneers Lounge, i.e., The Bombshelter Bar & Grill, at Skydive Perris. The reception, sponsored by the Pope Valley Parachute Ranch, is the perfect time to meet and greet with the pioneers, legends and greats of our sport.

And speaking of our favorite sport, there will be skydiving competitions and record attempts along with plenty of fun jumping and tandem jumps. Other non-skydiving and spectator activities provide a winning combination for one and all.

- The 10-Way Speed STAR WARS competition is back by popular demand. Put a team together and join the fun. The Classic Accuracy Demo Challenge is returning for a second year—a true crowd pleaser.
- Forums featuring today's most timely topics in the sport of skydiving. Open to all Celebration participants free of charge.
- Friday's Pioneers of Excellence Lunch honoring the pioneers of skydiving will also be the venue for the presentation of the new Pioneers of Excellence Award and Tribute Jump.

- The Path of Excellence Award will be presented Friday early evening followed by the Path of Excellence Welcome BBQ, sponsored by Sun Path Products, Inc., where young and old, pioneers and legends, pros and aspiring champs can meet, sign log books and take selfies. After the BBQ, a spectacular night pyro demo jump will light up the night sky over Skydive Perris.
- Book signings and photo sessions featuring skydiving authors including Mike McGowan, Dan BC, Melanie Curtis, and Melissa Lowe, among others.
- The 2020 Trustees Award recipient will be recognized during the Hall of Fame Banquet.
- Tandem Jump Discounts for old and young is the perfect opportunity to get back in the air and share the experience with kids and grandkids. And much, much more . . .

Saturday will draw to a close with the real purpose of the weekend, honoring the pillars of our skydiving community. The evening will begin with a Tribute Jump by the International Skydiving Museum Demo Team followed by a reception and a sit-down banquet and induction ceremony presented by PIA. This year, we will be inducting two classes, 2020 and 2021, into this elite club.



The HOF Banquet will take place at the March Field Air Museum (MFAM). MFAM displays nearly 80 historic aircraft spanning nearly 100 years of aviation history. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the museum during the cocktail reception sponsored by the Skydiver Resurrection Award Group (SRA). Please join us as this esteemed group of skydivers takes their spot in history!



The purpose of the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame® is to recognize and promote the sport of skydiving through public education and awareness; recognize the contribution to skydiving by its participants, suppliers and supporters; capture forever the history of the sport via its events, equipment, and personalities; and enhance aviation safety.

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## *Introducing the Hall of Fame Class of 2021 . . .*

**Omar Alhegelan, Saudi Arabia**—Omar Alhegelan was one of the pioneers of competitive freefly skydiving. He has won multiple national and world championships and has even more national and world freefly world records to his credit. He was the first FAI-sanctioned Freestyle World champion, World Air Games and World Games gold medalist. Omar's adventure skydiving has spanned the world. He has HALO jumped over the Mount Everest region since 2008, over the geographic North Pole, led an expedition that opened skydiving in Union Glacier, Antarctica, and even BASE jumped the world's tallest building, just to name a few. For 20-plus years, Omar has given back to the sport by mentoring and coaching skydivers to improve and reach not only their freeflying, but their life goals as well. More importantly, through his coaching, Omar has reduced accidents among the freeflying community.



**Ian Bobo, USA**—Ian Bobo is one of the select few in the sport to have won world championships in multiple disciplines, both Formation Skydiving and Canopy Piloting. He is still an active member and co-founder of the PD Factory Team and co-founder of Flight-1, a worldwide educational company. Ian has imagined and realized revolutionary new products and has taught thousands of skydivers to be safer canopy pilots. He has led teams and businesses within the sport to the highest echelons of success and after 30 years of skydiving, he still loves to jump and spread the love.

**Lesley Gale, Scotland**—Lesley Gale has been a key organizer for 20 female world, national and European Records, devoting her time to increasing skills and participation of female skydivers. Lesley captained Brit Chicks 8-way 2007–2018, the only all-female national 8-way team. Brit Chicks events raised \$120,000 for charities and generated \$500,000 of publicity for the Red Cross. She has over 100 medals and 34 world/national records. Lesley was editor of the BPA magazine from 1996 to 2010, receiving the Royal Aero Club Nexus Trophy for Aviation Journalism in 2009. She launched her online magazine in 2013, an invaluable resource for our worldwide community.



**Patrice Girardin, France**—Patrice Girardin rose through the ranks of the French Parachuting Federation before becoming president of the International Skydiving Commission. As a competitor, Patrice has been four times world champion, World Cup winner, 25 times national champion, and built the first 36-way diamond in Canopy Formation with his team. He has also held all the possible functions in international competitions and World Air Games as organizer, director and controller, but he is best known for having re-launched the concept of the Mondial in parachuting in 2003 and having organized it with the FFP, a concept in its fourth edition in 2021.

**Roger Nelson, USA**—Roger Nelson was son to an 82nd Airborne Paratrooper. He fell in love with skydiving at the age of 16 and went on to make over 9,000 skydives, developed several world record milestones in formation skydiving, founded the skydiving fraternity Freak Brothers, progressive student training, and created two state-of-the-art skydiving resorts in his lifetime. He also won several national titles in 10-way, and served as a USPA national director from 2001–2002. Roger passed away in 2003.



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## Pleased to be inducting the Class of 2020 . . .

We are excited to "finally" induct the Class of 2020 into the International Skydiving Hall of Fame. We thank all the inductees for their patience as we continue to maneuver our way through the pandemic, always keeping the safety of our guests first in mind. For full bios on the Class of 2020, please visit [www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org) and click on "Hall of Fame." \*\*Posthumous



Faye Cox, Australia



Chris J. Gay, USA



Mike McGowan, USA

Russ Gunby\*\*, USA

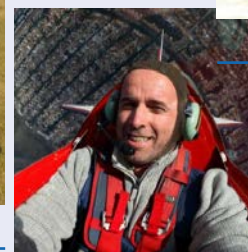


Larry Hill, USA

Xiaoli Lai, China



jeannie McCombs\*\*, USA



Bruno Brokken, Belgium



Paul Rafferty\*\*, USA



Kirk Verner, USA



Bruce Wicks, USA

**Chuting Times** is a biannual newsletter for museum supporters and volunteers.

Editor: Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm

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[jm@skydivingmuseum.org](mailto:jm@skydivingmuseum.org)

Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm  
*Museum Administrator*  
[nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org](mailto:nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org)

International Skydiving Museum  
& Hall of Fame  
1648 Taylor Road, Suite 514  
Port Orange, FL 32128  
Phone: (407) 900-9997

### Hotel Room Block Information

We have secured room blocks at several hotels for celebration guests.  
Space is limited so please make your reservations early.

#### Ayres Hotel & Spa

12631 Memorial Way  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553  
951/571-4141 Ext. 0  
Room Rate - \$105/night  
Ask for the Int'l Skydiving Museum Group  
The cut-off date for the room block is 9/6/2021

#### Holiday Inn Express & Suites - Moreno Valley-Riverside

12960 Day Street  
Moreno Valley, CA 92507  
951/455-3644  
Room Rate - \$109/night  
Code: [Museum Room Block](#)  
The cut-off date for the room block is 9/20/2021

#### Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton - Moreno Valley

12611 Memorial Way  
Moreno Valley, CA 92553  
951/571-7788  
Room Rate - \$129/night  
Code: [Reserve at Hampton Inn & Suites Moreno Valley](#)  
The cut-off date for the room block is 9/10/2021

#### Red Lion Inn & Suites Perris

480 South Redlands Avenue  
Perris, CA 92570  
951/943-5577  
Room Rate - \$79/night  
Ask for the Int'l Skydiving Hall of Fame Group  
The cut-off date for the room block is 10/1/2021

For additional hotels and information for booking online, please visit the museum's website ([www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org)) and click on "Celebration Event" then "Lodging"

VISIT [WWW.SKYDIVINGMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.SKYDIVINGMUSEUM.ORG)



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## Schedule of Events

(subject to change)

### Thursday, October 7

All Day	Formation Skydiving Sequential Formation Record Attempts
All Day	Fun Jumping
4-8 pm	Early Bird Registration
4-10 pm	Early Bird Reception/ Pioneers Lounge

### Friday, October 8

All Day	Fun Jumping
9 am-2 pm	Formation Skydiving Sequential Formation Record Attempts
10 am	Classic Accuracy Competition/ Demo Jump
10 am-5 pm	Registration Open
10 am-10 pm	Pioneers Lounge Open
10-11 am	Forum
11 am-12 pm	Book Signings
12-1:30 pm	Pioneers of Excellence Award Presentation, Tribute Jump and Lunch (tickets required)
2:30-3:30 pm	Forum
3 pm	Classic Accuracy Competition/ Demo Jump
5:30 pm	Path of Excellence Award Presentation
6-9 pm	Path of Excellence Tribute Jump, Reception and Welcome BBQ

### Saturday, October 9

All Day	Fun Jumping
8-10 am	10-way Briefing (registration must be completed online by noon Friday)
8:30 am-3 pm	10-Way Speed STAR WARS Competition
9 am-4 pm	Registration Open
10 am-5 pm	Pioneers Lounge Open
11 am-12 pm	Forum
12-1 pm	Book Signings
1-2 pm	Forum
3 pm	Classic Accuracy Competition/ Demo Finale Jump
3:30 pm	10-Way Speed STAR WARS Awards

### Saturday at March Field Air Museum

6 pm	Hall of Fame Inductees Tribute Jump
6-7 pm	Hall of Fame Reception
7-10 pm	Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony

All activities take place at Skydive Perris  
except where noted.

## Path of Excellence Award goes to Arizona Airspeed

The original Airspeed team was formed with one goal in mind: to bring the 4-way World Championship Sword "Excalibur" back to the USA. But once the team was together we realized we could do more, wanted to do more. We wanted to push our sport to new levels and share everything we learned with anyone who would listen. We loved and appreciated our skydiving family and wanted to contribute to that community by sharing our love for this amazing sport with them. In victory and defeat we strived to be like the athletes and sportsmen we admired. We believed, and still do, that from the time every person who shares this crazy passion for human flight walks on to a drop zone, they should be treated like family with love and respect. All this was more important than winning. But we wanted it all. We wanted to do all this and win. And I'm proud to say we often did.



But we had no idea what we had started. With the unending support of the Hill Family and Skydive Arizona, the team was able to continue long past its original line up. Some members stayed on and picked up new teammates. The new teammates became the veterans and trained rookies. The team built and rebuilt. Airspeed members developed the unique skill of being able to see the soul of a world champion in a young competitor. They knew how to turn that soul loose.

For 27 years, the Airspeed teams have inspired and motivated skydivers of all disciplines and levels. The sport has been richer for all they've contributed. Each Airspeed teammate has had the chance to become a better athlete and more importantly a better person because of what the sport and our community has given us. For this, we are forever grateful. Dan BC

Just a reminder that the 2020 Path of Excellence Award will be presented to World Team 2006 at the 2022 Hall of Fame Celebration at Skydive DeLand, DeLand, Florida, the weekend of October 6-8, 2022.

## Pioneers of Excellence Award goes to Para Gear Equipment Co., Inc.



Para Gear Equipment Co., Inc. is honored and humbled to receive the first Pioneers of Excellence Award. Para Gear was founded in 1960 by Lowell Bachman and is celebrating its 61st year of doing business! Lowell was born and raised in Chicago, entered the military at 20 years old, became a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and later on the Special Forces. While still in the Army Reserves, Lowell started Para Gear in his parents' basement, moving then to its original commercial location in Chicago and eventual mainstay in Skokie, Illinois.



We have been very fortunate to have staff who have worked here for many years, even as long as 35-plus years. Those people have helped grow Para Gear well beyond its humble beginnings to skydiving equipment sales that serve customers worldwide. Most important, however, are the contributions that Para Gear and its staff have made to the athletes, events and skydiving industry over its lifetime.

Over the years, Para Gear has been seen at numerous national and world skydiving competitions along with helping to support the U.S. team. Para Gear was a founding member of the Parachute Equipment Industry Association (PEIA) in 1977, which was later renamed the PIA. Paul Thompson served as the rigging chair and organized the Rigger Conventions from 1987-1989. Paul developed the idea of a symposium combining the Rigger Convention and manufacturers' exhibits to draw more people. The first PIA Symposium was held in February 1991 and Paul received the Don Beck Award for the concept of the symposium having withstood the test of time on its 10th anniversary.

Lowell was an original and longtime trustee of the museum followed by Dori and now Curt. Para Gear continues to be a supporter of the International Skydiving Museum and is excited to help get it built! Curt Bachman