

# Hall of Fame Class of 2011

By Doug Garr

One hundred fifty skydiving enthusiasts and their friends gathered on a rainy Friday evening, September 23, to congratulate the six new inductees to the National Skydiving Museum's Hall of Fame. The new honorees – the late Uwe Beckmann and Steve Snyder, plus Lenny Potts, Tee Taylor, Jacques-André Istel, and Bill Booth – were feted at a gala dinner held at the historic Terminal A of Reagan Washington National Airport in the nation's capital. The inductees were awarded the coveted Hall of Fame blue blazer. Counting the inaugural class of 11 who were enshrined last year in Deland, FL, this brings the total to 17.

During cocktail hour, guests – many of whom had not seen each other in several years – mingled and regaled each other with jump stories from weekends past.

Museum trustee president Lenny Potts



2011 Hall of Fame Inductees:  
 top row from left: Jacques-André Istel, Tee Taylor, Lenny Potts  
 bottom row from left: Steve Snyder, Uwe Beckmann, Bill Booth - Design by David Cherry, courtesy of the USA.

opened the evening's program. Cliff Schmucker, PIA president, thanked the audience on behalf of PIA, title sponsor for the event. NAA president Jonathan Gaffney served as the guest speaker. Then, museum treasurer Curt Curtis took the podium to thank event sponsors and introduce the presenters and the new Hall of Fame members.

The inclement weather neither deterred takeoffs and landings outside the terminal window nor put a damper on the evening's festivities, as the evening raised \$60,000 toward the capital campaign to build the museum. The 4 acres, which the museum already owns, is adjacent to USPA headquarters in Fredericksburg, VA.



Hall of Fame Inductees from left: Kurt Gaebel (accepting on behalf of the late Uwe Beckmann), Bill Booth, Tee Taylor, Lenny Potts, Barbara Snyder Forer (accepting on behalf of the late Steve Snyder) not pictured: Jacques-André Istel Photo by Jerry Irwin

2011 Hall of Fame . . .



From top left: Kurt Gaebel, President, National Skydiving League, accepts the award for Uwe Beckmann Photo by Randy Ottinger; master of ceremonies and museum trustee Curt Curtis presents Jacques-André Istel's plaque to Chris Needels, museum trustee, who accepted on Istel's behalf Photo by Jerry Irwin; NAA President Jonathan Gaffney served as the guest speaker for the event Photo by Jerry Irwin; museum honorary president Lew Sanborn presented Bill Booth with his blazer and plaque Photo by Jerry Irwin; PIA president and museum trustee Cliff Schmucker welcomes the guests — PIA is the title sponsor of the Hall of Fame dinner. Photo by Jerry Irwin



LENNY POTTS AWARDED ELDER STATESMAN OF AVIATION AWARD

The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) announced Lenny Potts as one of four recipients of this year's Wesley L. McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Awards.



Lenny serves as president of the National Skydiving Museum Board of Trustees. Lenny and his fellow recipients will be honored at the NAA Fall Awards Banquet on November 7 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

Jonathan Gaffney, chairman of the Selection Committee and president of NAA, said of this prestigious award, "As the Elder Statesman Award is synonymous with lifetime achievement, these four individuals together have contributed immensely to the advancement of our industry, the defense of our nation, and the fabric of sport aviation in the United States. It is such a great honor to put their names on this most cherished award."

The Wesley L. McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Award was established in 1954 to honor outstanding Americans who, by their efforts over a period of years, have made contributions of significant value to aeronautics, and have reflected credit upon America and themselves.

Now Accepting Hall of Fame Nominations for 2012 . . .

The **National Skydiving Museum Hall of Fame** recognizes and honors those who, through leadership, innovation and/or outstanding achievements have defined, promoted, inspired and advanced skydiving at the highest and sustained levels in the past, present, and for future generations of skydivers.

If you would like to nominate someone for the National Skydiving Museum Hall of Fame, please visit our website for further details and a nomination form, or contact the museum office. All nominations will be kept confidential.

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



## Remembering Ted Strong, D-16, 4/7/1936—10/14/2011



Museum Trustee Dan Poynter presents Ted with his Hall of Fame blazer and plaque in August 2010. Photo by Lara Kjeldsen

A visionary from the beginning and a man with an enormous heart passed away on October 14. Ted Strong was inducted into the National Skydiving Museum's Hall of Fame in 2010, its inaugural celebration.

"Ted Strong. . . An extraordinary man with remarkable accomplishments. An inventor, manufacturer, pilot, and skydiver, Ted Strong loved parachutes and jumping. I knew Ted for 50 years and worked for him for eight. Ted was a mentor and a friend."

—Dan Poynter, D-454



Ted began parachuting in 1958 and trained jumpers at the US Military Academy at West Point until his discharge in 1961. That year, he founded Strong Enterprises, a manufacturer of parachute equipment now based in Orlando, Florida. Ted logged more than 4,900 jumps. In 1984 Ted designed and built the first tandem system, which is now the most common method for training a novice to skydive. He could always be found spending time behind a sewing machine working on new concepts. Ted Strong will be deeply missed.

"There are a lot of talented and very good people in and around the sport of skydiving but perhaps none more so than Lowell Bachman and Ted Strong. Now, we've lost them both and although our sport is far, far better because of their being one of us, we have a void that will stay with us forever".

—James F. "Curt" Curtis, III, D-1407

## Pat Moorehead's **TEAM-80!**

On Sunday, November 20th, at Skydive Elsinore, CA, Pat Moorehead celebrated his 80th birthday in a very special 80 skydives, finishing the last resulted in 6 new records for Jumpers Over Seventy (JOS), same for Jumpers Over Eighty generosity, he asked that all be earmarked for the National As of early November, more in Pat's honor.



Pat's event would not have of many, many volunteers. A Elsinore, Team Organizer Jay Stokes, Asst. Team Leader Cindi Bagley, and 60 volunteers who dedicated their weekend to this event.

way. Starting at first light, he made one before dark. Pat's special day jumps in a 24-hour period by World, National and State and the Society (JOES). Thanks to Pat's donations in his honor for the event Skydiving Museum's Building Fund. than \$5,000 had been contributed

been a success without the support special thank you goes to Skydive

Pat's goal is to raise \$8,000 toward the museum's building fund. . . \$100 for each of his 80 jumps. You can still donate to Pat's efforts by visiting [www.skydivingmuseum.org/team80](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org/team80) or by contacting the museum office. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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

Editor: Nancy Kemble

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Visit our website at:  
[www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org)

## Performance Designs, Inc. joins the museum's Falcon Club

A special thank you to Performance Designs, Inc. owner Bill Coe who has pledged \$25,000 to the museum.

Performance Designs has been a leading innovator in ram air parachute design and technology since 1982, producing some of the most successful ram air canopies built to date. When founder and president Bill Coe enlisted the help of now lead designer and vice president John LeBlanc in skyrocketed as together the two performance, quality manufac-



1984, momentum for the company established new standards in parachute turing, and customer satisfaction.

Emphasis on research and the tandem main canopy for

Cell series of canopies. Bill and John then turned their attention to ram air reserves, and after three years of R&D came out with the PD-Reserve, offering reliability, durable construction, and the finest flight and landing characteristics yet to be seen from a reserve.

development led to the early successes of Relative Workshop as well as the PD 9-

R&D has always been one of the pillars for PD's success over the years, and as a result the industry as a whole has benefited from new technologies like Microline, Zero-Porosity fabric, SLinks, and Cross-Brace Technology, just to name a few. Performance Designs is also the only canopy manufacturer in the world with laser-cutting technology for canopy fabrics, a technology fully developed by Bill Coe as he pursued more efficient and consistent means for production.

Since those early days of a two-man shop in the '80s, PD has introduced eighteen different models of parachutes in thirty-five different sizes to the sport skydiving community. Sixteen of which are still being manufactured in some fashion and all eighteen can be found flying at drop zones around the world still today.

The winning team of Bill Coe and John LeBlanc revolutionized the sport of skydiving and continues to meet the needs of today's diverse skydivers with models like the Sabre2, Lightning, Stiletto, Spectre, Velocity, Katana, Storm, Pulse, Competition Velocity, Navigator, Zero, and low-bulk Optimum Reserve. PD has also continued to support the tandem skydiving world through partnership with UPT (Relative Workshop), with the latest technologies in main and reserve tandem systems.

Production does not stop with sport canopies however, as PD has taken the state-of-the-art technology and applied it to various military needs for operational equipment that allows troops to safely conduct and carry out missions in hostile environments. PD currently has 8 operational models in use around the world.

Through the last 30 years Bill and John have been serving the skydiving community with new and innovative technology and designs that have changed with the times. During all of this time, one thing they have insisted does not waiver is customer satisfaction. Everyone at Performance Designs is focused on the concept that if the customer is not satisfied they will not remain a customer.

### Be a part of skydiving history . . . make your donation today!

- Contributor (up to \$99)—Name included in museum log book permanently on display in the museum and an official museum decal.
  - Friend (\$100 - \$499)—All of the above and name listed in the museum's newsletter and receive four complimentary museum passes.\*
  - Bronze (\$500 - \$999)—All of the above and a one-year complimentary admission pass to the museum and VIP events.\*
  - Silver (\$1,000 - \$2,499)—All of the above plus an official National Skydiving Museum Embroidered Cap.\*
  - Gold (\$2,500 - \$4,999)—All of the above plus name recognition on a building brick.\*
  - Platinum (\$5,000 - \$9,999)—All of the above plus name recognition on a building block in a premier location of the museum.\*
  - Other Amount—please indicate amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Admission passes will be distributed upon opening of the museum.

I'd like to purchase a memorial brick. Please send me the memorial brick form to complete.

Check form of payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check (made payable to the National Skydiving Museum) \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card

Credit Card Information: Type of Card \_\_\_AX \_\_\_MC \_\_\_VISA \_\_\_Discover

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Mail contributions to the National Skydiving Museum, 5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA 22407. Please indicate if donation is in memory/honor of a loved one. Donations can also be made online at [www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org).