



# 2019 International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration!

October 17, 18, 19—Skydive Perris, Perris, California

## SPECIAL 2019 CELEBRATION INSERT



Everyone loves a party, and a tenth anniversary party is special. Join the tenth anniversary of the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration at Skydive Perris, October 17–19, for the ultimate celebration of skydiving to honor and induct the newly elected class of

2019 into the International Skydiving Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees are well-deserving and join an elite club. We have 10 inductees representing Australia, France, Great Britain, Slovenia, and the United States. See their bios on the following pages to learn more about these deserving individuals.

Get in the spirit on Thursday starting with the Early Bird Registration and packet pickup followed by the Early Bird Reception, California-style around the pool and at the Pioneers Lounge, a.k.a. the Bombshelter Bar & Grill. The Early Bird Reception and Pioneers Lounge, sponsored by the Pope Valley Parachute Ranch, is the perfect atmosphere to rub elbows with the pioneers, legends and greats of our sport.

There's nothing like the good-time atmosphere at the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration. The spirited event includes all kinds of activities for participants in the air and on the ground:

- 121 jumpers from 18 countries to make the very first attempts under new IPC rules for a 1st Sequential World Record with Total Break where 100% of the jumpers must move during each transition. Organized by Sequential Games.
- *Skydive from Space Forum* featuring Alan Eustace, who, along with a reproduction of his spacesuit, will captivate with his story of "jumping from the stratosphere" and setting high-altitude skydiving records.
- Luke Aikins and his team will tell the story of skydiving without a parachute into a net in the forum *Pushing the Boundaries, No Parachute No Problem*.
- Pioneers Lunch, sponsored by Strong Enterprises, to honor the pioneers of skydiving; open to all who purchase a ticket.
- Gear Thru the Years will add a Canopies Thru the Years jump featuring 2018 Hall of Fame member Henny Wiggers and Camera Gear Thru the Years organized by Celine Pelletier.
- Path of Excellence Award will be presented Friday afternoon and followed by a BBQ where young and old, pioneers and legends, pros and aspiring champs can

meet, sign log books and take selfies.

- Classic Accuracy Demo
- Wind Tunnel Competitions include a fast-paced two-way mini-meet and a cooperative tunnel game (featuring adorable but annoying goblins). Learn more at <https://furycoaching.com/hall-fame-tunnel-events/>.
- Ten-way speed star competition traces its roots back to Southern California, so there is no better place for serious rivalry and friendly camaraderie than our 10-Way Speed STAR WARS event.
- Breathtaking XRW Tribute Jumps on both Friday and Saturday night will be spectacular sights.
- Tandem Jump Discounts for old and young are 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 10 pillars of our skydiving community at a sit-down banquet and induction ceremony presented by PIA. It is impossible to quantify what this esteemed group of skydivers has done for our sport worldwide and joining them in their special limelight will go down in history as a unique and special evening.



The Hall of Fame Reception, Banquet and Induction



Ceremony sponsored by PIA will be held 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). For a sneak peek at this unique venue, visit [www.marchfield.org](http://www.marchfield.org).

### 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  
Rate \$109 — Ask for the Int'l Skydiving Museum Group  
The cut-off date for the room block is 09/17/2019

#### Red Lion Inn & Suites

480 S. Redlands Avenue, Perris, CA 92570 — 951/943-5577  
Rate \$89 — Ask for the Int'l Skydiving Hall of Fame Group  
The cut-off date for the room block is 10/1/2019

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 2019 . . .



**IRENA AVBELJ**, Slovenia, began jumping in 1986 and became a member of the former Yugoslavian National Parachuting Team in 1988. After Slovenian independency in 1991, she became a member of the Slovenian National Team. She joined the Slovenian Army in 1992 and became commander of the Parachute Training Unit until 2011, when she retired. In 2006, she received the Blovdek Award, the most prestigious Slovenian sports award. Irena has 11,093 jumps and has competed all over the world in various world championships: European Championships, Paraski Championships and CISM Championships. She has placed first overall, first in style or first in accuracy in over 20 championships.



**CHUCK COLLINGWOOD**, USA, was on practically every style and accuracy awards podium (National and International) during the 1970s. He was a member of every US Style and Accuracy National Parachute Team during his competing career. Representing the United States in four world championships, he placed in the top 10 overall position three times and brought home gold and silver medals from the 1976 World Championships. He was US Individual Overall National Champion in 1973. As a member of the US Army Parachute Team (Golden Knights), Chuck was selected to six US CISM Teams while winning Overall Military World Champion honors three times. He was named Golden Knight of the Year in 1973. Chuck has always been a quiet leader, inspiring and motivating his fellow competitors and teammates. Chuck returned to the sport when he was asked to serve as US Parachute Team Coach for the 2016 Mondial World Championships in Ottawa, Illinois. He was later appointed by USPA as US Team Leader for the 2018 World Championships in Bulgaria prior to his untimely passing.



**KATE COOPER-JENSEN**, USA, started jumping in 1978 and quickly became a prominent figure in the sport. In 1983, she created Square 1 with Tony Domenico. This was one of the first skydiving stores to also sell through catalogs. In 1997, she started to organize women's formation skydiving world record attempts as well as raising money for breast cancer charities. The group set four FAI Women's World Records for the largest formation skydive. These records are: a 118-way in 1999, a 132-way in 2002, a 151 in 2005 and a 181-way in 2009. More than \$1.9 million was raised. Kate has participated in numerous movies, television shows and commercials. She's been an ambassador of the sport for many years and has never stopped stressing safety as a critical part of skydiving.

**PATRICK DE GAYARDON**, France, was the originator of modern wing suiting. The innovation and validation of his designs of adding viable functional wings to jumpsuits was the genesis of literally being able to cover more horizontal distance than vertical distance. He was the first person to attempt what became known as "proximity flying" by flying near mountain walls in the French Alps in 1997. Also in 1997, Patrick validated the glide ratio he had achieved with his wing suit designs by exiting and then returning to the same aircraft (*Pilatus Porter*) in flight. Although Patrick was the originator of modern wing suiting, his true contribution to skydiving was that of adding sustained lateral movement to jumping, allowing falling to become flying. Above all else, Patrick was an innovator. He took concepts that lay dormant for decades and applied them successfully with the benefit of his ingenuity. Patrick passed away in 1998. *Photo: Philippe Fragnol — ParaMag Archives*



**ALAN EUSTACE**, USA, self-funded a project to find innovative ways to simplify and reduce costs of jumping from space. In doing so, he set a world record for the highest free fall jump on October 24, 2014, over Roswell, New Mexico. He ascended to an altitude of 135,889 feet and his distance in free fall was 123,414 feet. His engineering abilities led him to numerous innovations/inventions, including devising a method to be lifted to jump altitude without need for an expensive capsule by simply being suspended in his pressure suit from a balloon.; inventing a method to keep the drogue chute from entangling in the absence of resistance in space; and finding a means to significantly reduce the likelihood of potentially fatal flat spins while in descent and devising a method to remove body heat and moisture from the heavy pressure suit.





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## Introducing the Hall of Fame Class of 2019 . . . (continued)

**JOHN P. HIGGINS**, USA, made his first parachute jump in 1959, making him a true pioneer in the area of parachuting. He has made a total of 3,600 jumps. In 1964, along with two other partners, he opened "The Chute Shop" in Flemington, New Jersey. John became the sole owner in 1968 and the company name was changed to North American Aerodynamics, Inc. They were the first company to receive approval to modify the Army T-10 and Navy conical reserve to make them steerable and they were one of the first companies to receive a TSO to manufacture a sport harness/container. This first container was the "mini system." North American Aerodynamics designed and manufactured the Jalbert Parafoil Accuracy parachute in the early 1980s. The Parafoil remains the most popular accuracy canopy in the world today. John was awarded the Parachute Industry Association Don Beck Memorial Achievement Award in 2015.



**ANDY KEECH**, Australia, is best known in parachute circles for his three *Skies Call* books of free fall photography. His free fall photography assignments included venues in the United States, Asia, Europe and Africa as a photographer for *Time*, *Sports Illustrated* and *The Times* of London. Previously, he has been an Australian National parachute champion and one of the top scorers on the Australian Team at world competition. He was on the first four-man formation photographed in the world and holds Australia's Master of Sport Parachuting award. As a pilot, Andy has flown for 60 years, holding both private and commercial licenses. It was in autogyros that he set three transcontinental speed records across the US and 29 world class performance records. He is one of only two pilots since the Wright brothers to hold world-class records in all four realms of performance: speed, distance, rate of climb and altitude.

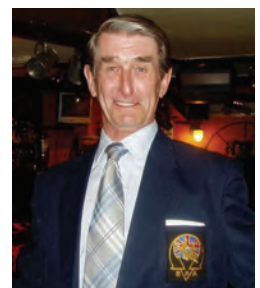


As an aerial photographer, **TOM SANDERS**, USA, is an icon in the sport of skydiving. His photography work in countless TV programs, commercials and movies has brought positive attention to the sport. In 2005, he received the Meritorious Achievement Award from USPA through his photography and cinematography, seen worldwide. Some of the movies and TV clips he has been accredited with are several James Bond films, *Point Break*, *Cheers*, *Terminal Velocity* and *Drop Zone*, to name a few. In 2015, Tom was made an Honorary Golden Knight for his voluntary consultant work in helping the team's aerial photographers perfect their skills. He has also worked with the Army's Delta Force, teaching free fall camera techniques. Tom was in charge of the live video transmission of the skydiving exhibition at the Opening Ceremonies of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. This was the first-ever live free fall exhibition displayed on television worldwide. He also was in charge of free fall photography/videography/cinematography for two of President George W. Bush's parachute jumps.

In 1956, **DEKE SONNICHSEN**, USA, founded the California Parachute Club (CPC). This was the first parachute club in the US and was affiliated with the National Parachute Jumpers and Riggers. Through the late 1950s and '60s, he served as executive VP and later president of the Parachute Club of America, the predecessor of USPA. He was a competitor and a team leader for many US Parachute Teams. Among the competitions that he participated in were: sixth World Sport Parachuting Championship in Orange, Massachusetts, fourth Adriatic Cup in Yugoslavia and seventh WSPC in Germany. Deke was instrumental working with the Security Parachute Company in 1963 to design, test and produce a new system, placing the reserve on the upper back, instead of the front, and with Pioneer Parachute Company, incorporating their Lemoigne Canopy System. He made the first live test jump using this system.



**JOHN "LOFTY" THOMAS**, Great Britain, started skydiving in 1967. In 1969, he took his master rigger rating in the USA with Ted Strong. Soon after that accomplishment, he formed the Thomas Sports Equipment Company in England. Along with Ronnie O'Brien, he developed the bag deployment system which is still in use today. Over the years, he has worked in many films, supplying parachute equipment, giving advice and even occasionally appearing in them. He was an active member of the British Parachute Association for approximately 25 years. During those years, he served on the council committee and was the vice chairman and chairman. As Head of Delegation, he took various British competition teams all over the world. Lofty has been an inspiration to many skydivers of all abilities and levels. He was always willing to make time to listen to them and to offer encouragement and support. Lofty passed away in 2015.



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## Schedule of Events

(subject to change)

### Thursday at Skydive Perris

All Day — Sequential Formation Record Attempts  
All Day — Fun Jumping  
4–8 pm — Early Bird Registration  
T-Shirt Sleeves co-sponsored by DJ Associates, Inc. and SSK Industries, Inc.  
Lanyards sponsored by Cypres2  
4–10 pm — Early Bird Reception/Pioneers Lounge sponsored by Pope Valley Parachute Ranch

### Friday at Skydive Perris

All Day — Sequential Formation Record Attempts  
All Day — Fun Jumping  
10 am–5 pm — Registration Open  
10 am–10 pm — Pioneers Lounge Open  
10–11 am — Forum featuring Luke Aikins: Pushing the Boundaries, No Parachute No Problem  
12–1 pm — Pioneers Lunch sponsored by Strong Enterprises (*separate tickets required*)  
1–1:30 pm — Gear Thru the Years Presentation sponsored by PIA and Dave DeWolf  
1:30–2:00 pm — Canopies Thru the Years featuring Henny Wiggers  
2–3 pm — Forum featuring Alan Eustace: Skydiving from Space, Setting Records sponsored by Lee and Carol Schlichtemeier  
3–4 pm — Book Signings featuring Joe Kittinger, Doug Garr, Norm Heaton  
5–5:30 pm — Path of Excellence Award Tribute Jump  
5:30 pm — Path of Excellence Award Presentation  
6–9 pm — Welcome BBQ

### Saturday at Skydive Perris

All Day — Fun Jumping  
8 am — 10-Way Speed Meet Registration/Briefing  
8:30 am–3 pm — 10-Way Speed STAR WARS Competition sponsored by Skydive Perris  
9 am–4 pm — Registration Open  
10 am–5 pm — Pioneers Lounge Open  
10–11 am — Forum featuring Luke Aikins: Pushing the Boundaries, No Parachute No Problem  
11 am–Noon — Book Signings featuring Joe Kittinger, Doug Garr, Norm Heaton  
1–1:30 pm — Gear Thru the Years Presentation  
2–3 pm — Forum featuring Alan Eustace: Skydiving from Space, Setting Records

### Saturday at March Field Air Museum

5–5:30 pm — Hall of Fame Inductees Tribute Jump  
5:30–6 pm — 10-Way Speed STAR WARS Awards  
5:30–7 pm — Hall of Fame Reception sponsored by the Skydiver Resurrection Award Group  
7pm–10pm — Hall of Fame Banquet presented by PIA

Hall of Fame Blue Blazer sponsored by Kirk Knight  
Hall of Fame Banquet Wine sponsored by Team Raeford  
Hall of Fame Inductees' Dinners sponsored by Ron and Emily Zais  
Guest Giveaways sponsored by the Law Offices of Robert L. Feldman/Robert & Jeanine Feldman

## Doug Garr to receive Trustees' Award



Congratulations to Doug Garr for being selected to receive this year's museum's Trustees' Award. The presentation of the Trustees' Award will be made during the museum's Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony. The Trustees' Award was established to honor and recognize distinguished achievement of individuals or groups for their exemplary service, selfless giving and personal commitment to the goals and mission of the International Skydiving Museum.

Doug made his first jump in 1969 as a college sophomore. As a senior, his journalism professor, in a seminar, said anyone who sells an article in his course got an automatic A. Doug met Steve Snyder and wrote one of the

first major magazine pieces for *Popular Science* on "The Parachute That Glides Like a Plane," published in August 1971. He got that A. He attributes skydiving for jumpstarting his literary career. The magazine hired him as a junior editor when he was 22 — his first real job.

His log book appeared to end unceremoniously in October of 1983. Then in 2008, he got in a jump plane again ostensibly just to finish a languishing memoir of his days in free fall. The publisher insisted that it needed an ending with at least one more skydive. Well, three jumps later, he bought a parachute, and has been at it ever since. He said it's much better the second time around.

Doug serves as a counselor for the museum and he has been an active fundraiser for the museum for several years by representing the Skydivers Resurrection Award Group (SRA). The SRAers number more than 400 jumpers who returned to the sport after at least a 10-year gap. Through SRA's annual spring drive, Garr has directed more than \$16,000 to the museum. Garr has also written the annual biographies of the Hall of Fame inductees for USPA's *Parachutist* magazine since the inaugural group was inducted in 2010 as well as post-event articles highlighting the weekend's activities.

Doug lives in New York City with his wife, Meg Perlman. They celebrate their 40th anniversary this June. Their son Jake is a high tech entrepreneur.

*Photo by Kat Cottingham*

## 100-Way Canopy Large Formation World Record honored with Path of Excellence Award

The International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame is proud to honor the 100-Way Canopy Large Formation World Record with the museum's Path of Excellence Award. The presentation will be made at the 2019 Hall of Fame Celebration at Skydive Perris, Perris, California, on Friday afternoon, October 18, prior to the Welcome BBQ.

The Path of Excellence Award is specifically for entities — groups, companies, organizations or teams — for significant contribution(s) of enduring high value to the world of skydiving and is a prestigious award in both name and distinction.

On November 21, 2007, the world's largest canopy formation was built, a record that still stands today. The formation was so large that the Miami Air Route Traffic Control Center could monitor the formation on radar to keep other aircraft from coming into close proximity to the formation. The formation weighed 20,388 pounds and was 290 feet tall and 175 feet wide. In comparison, a 747-400 jet is only 231 feet long, and the Wright brothers' first flight was not quite one third the distance as the formation is tall.

It all began in 2001 when a group of jumpers was talking about breaking the current world record of 53. The following year, in 2002, a 56-way unofficial world record was built. In 2003, with new standards and new techniques, multiple 64-way world records were built in one day, and the following day yielded a 70-way world record. 2005 was the next record attempt, and again multiple 81-way world records were built and finished with a successful 85-way world record.

In 2007, the 100-way canopy formation was built on the fifth attempt. The record utilized five aircraft that dropped jumpers from 20,000 feet, 18,000 feet, 16,000 feet and 13,000 feet. The jumpers were from 14 countries, including the United States, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Russia, Canada, Brazil, Egypt, France, Argentina, Belarus, Belgium and Finland.

*Photo by Keith MacBeth*

