Welcome to the official newsletter of the National Skydiving Museum. We are dedicated to building the first museum to recognize and promote the sport of skydiving.

Each year, more than 320,000 people make at least one skydive. Collectively, they make nearly three million jumps annually. Over the past three decades, some four million people have made that jump from a perfectly good airplane. That is a lot of people who have exciting memories -- memories which could be re-lived, if only for an afternoon, at the National Skydiving Museum.

The National Skydiving Museum is the brainchild of William "Bill" H. Ottley, one of the best-known figures in the sport. From hard-core skydivers to tandem jumpers to the curious, the 20,000 square foot museum will offer something for everyone. Our purpose 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 as it pertains to skydiving.

Thanks to a $1 million bequest from Bill Ottley, a generous donation of land from the W. J. Vakos Company and early contributions from museum trustees and other organizations and individuals, the perfect site was acquired along Interstate 95 in Fredericksburg, Virginia next to the U.S. Parachute Association headquarters. Now, we must raise the remaining $5 million to build the museum.

We Need Your Financial Support!

We are kicking off a capital fundraising campaign that will supply the museum with sufficient funds to build the museum. We are looking for major donors as well as small financial supporters. We have various naming rights opportunities for exhibits, programs and rooms. To make a contribution, fill out the form in this newsletter or go to www.skydivingmuseum.org. Your donation is tax deductible.

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Spring/Summer 2009

"Presenting the Dream of Human Flight"

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Meet the Prez . . . L. Len (Lenny) Potts (D-220)

According to museum founder Bill Ottley, one of Lenny Potts' greatest credentials is his readiness to volunteer for anything. This trait is probably why Lenny was just re-elected for a second term as president of the National Skydiving Museum Board of Trustees.

Lenny was born in Keyport, NY, one of ten children. This number is important to keep in mind, because, being the masterful manipulator, Lenny has successfully managed to get all but one of his siblings to make at least one static line jump. Lenny officially began his career skydiving in 1959 at the first American commercial skydiving center in Orange, Massachusetts. Throughout his skydiving career, he participated in many competitions both in the states as well as abroad. By the time he officially retired from skydiving, he had logged 3,500 jumps.

In the late 60s and 70s, Lenny served as the USPA's FAA liaison on Capitol Hill. His personal persuasive-ness was instrumental during the growing years of the USPA.

Lenny has been a driving force in taking the museum from a vision still on paper to owning 4 acres of land and on its way to raising $5 million to build the museum.

Lenny currently resides in Port Orange, Florida.

Visit www.skydivingmuseum.org for a whole new experience.

The museum has enhanced its web page to make it more informative and user-friendly. Visitors can now "take a tour" of the museum through drawings of architectural plans, pictures of items in the collection for display at the museum, a growing gallery of historical photographs and a sampling of old movies. The entire vision still on paper to owning 4 acres of land and on its way to raising $5 million to build the museum.

Please visit www.skydivingmuseum.org and let us know what you think of our new site. You can send your comments to nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org.

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