

Spring/Summer 2011

"Presenting the Dream of Human Flight"

# Celebrate the Hall of Fame Class of 2011

Join us for a special evening in our Nation's Capital as we induct six legends of skydiving into the National Skydiving Museum Hall of Fame. The 2011 honorees are: Uwe Beckman, Jacques-André Istel, Lenny Potts, Steve Snyder, Tee Taylor, and Bill Booth. (You can learn more about each inductee on page 4.)

The 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 past, present and for

and sustained levels in the future generations of skydivers.



Please Join Us For The

National Skydiving Museum Class of 2011 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

**Lenny Potts** 

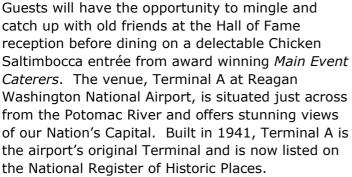
Friday, September 23, 2011 at the Historic Terminal A Reagan Washington National Airport Washington, DC

RSVP on enclosed registration form.

Cupcakes have been featured on Oprah and in People Magazine and even has its own weekly TV series on TLC, "DC CUPCAKES."

Following dinner, the Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized for their many achievements and contributions to the sport of skydiving and presented with his or her Hall of Fame Blue Embroidered Jacket.

Seating for the Dinner is limited. There are also numerous sponsorship opportunities to show your support. Details and registration information can be found on the enclosed form.



For dessert, guests will be treated to D.C.'s favorite destination for gourmet cupcakes. Georgetown



The historic Terminal A at Reagan Washington National Airport is the venue for the 2nd



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A special thank you to those donors who, cumulatively, have contributed more than \$25,000 to the **National Skydiving Museum** 

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Editor: Nancy Kemble

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# D<sub>T</sub>Associates, Inc

joins the museum's Falcon Club

A special thank you to DJ Associates, Inc. owners Jean Beck and her son Mike Beck who have pledged \$25,000 to the museum.

Since 1976, DJ Associates has been a proven supplier of high quality parachute and military hardware for a variety of industries all over the world specializing in small quantity orders of webbing, tapes, nylon, hook & loop fasteners, backpack hardware, buckles, loops & slides, cargo restraints, straps, cable ties, commercial aircraft seatbelt components, stainless steel, plastic and black hardware.

DJ Associates was born "with a huge tightening of the belt and a prayer or two" in the garage of Jean and Don Beck in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Armed with years of experience in the parachute industry, Don wanted to fulfill a lifelong dream to set up his own business. The company would sell to the "cut and sew" industry. Anyone with a sewing machine, an empty garage, and an idea was a potential customer.

Through his business conversations, Don soon voice. In January 1977, Parachute Equipment Industry Association was formed with Don serving as chairman. In 1985, the name was changed to Parachute Industry Association (PIA).

In 1982, DJ Associates moved into a converted horse barn situated on four acres on the outskirts of town with room for expansion. That same year, they acquired three companies in Paris, Texas in the background music and sound industry.

In April 1987, Don was stricken with Wegner's disease, a rare disease with no cure. Don passed that June and Mike stepped in to run the company full time. In 1996, DJ received ISO certification to insure the quality of the products the company furnished and to improve customer service.

Today, both Mike and Jean continue at the helm of DJ Associates and are closely involved with PIA activities. Jean says that if Don were here today, he would look around, be very pleased at how far we have all come, but ever the optimist would say, "it can only get better."



2010 Hall of Fame Inductee Colonel Joe Kittinger and wife Sherry attend the reopening of the Col. Joe Kittinger Park in Orlando. The aviation-themed park was named in Kittinger's honor in the mid-90's but temporarily demolished for a highway expansion. Museum Board of Trustee President Lenny Potts was on hand to congratulate Joe



# Introducing the Hall of Fame Class of 2011. .

The late **Uwe Beckmann** of Germany was an active participant in the CIP (International Parachuting Committee) of the FAI. He participated in discussions of early relative work events, including baton pass relays and stars. In 1994, he was awarded the FAI Gold Parachuting Medal, "for an outstanding accomplishment in connection with parachuting." In 1979, he collaborated with the late Larry Yohn in writing a book, "Sky Diving."





The father of modern skydiving in the US, Jacques-André Istel immigrated from France as a boy and began parachuting in the US in 1950.On a visit to France in '55, Jacques learned techniques of controlled freefall which he brought back to the US ending the days of flailing between exit and deployment. He formed the first US team to compete at the 3rd World Meet in Moscow and introduced collegiate competition. In 1957, with Lew Sanborn as VP, he created the world's first private parachute company.

realized the parachute industry needed a louder Lenny Potts officially began his skydiving career in 1952 in New Jersey with the US Special Forces and his civilian skydiving career in 1958. By the time he officially retired from skydiving, he had logged 3,500 jumps and participated in competitions both in the states and abroad. In the late 60's and 70's, Lenny served as the USPA's FAA liaison on Capitol Hill. His personal persuasiveness was instrumental during the growing years of the USPA.





The late **Steve Snyder** was an aeronautical engineer, aviation pioneer, and skydiver. He learned to fly at 16 and to skydive in college becoming one of the first competitive skydivers in the US. After college, Steve started his own parachute jumping school and, with Charlie Hillard, was one of the first two Americans to pass a baton in mid-air. He had several patents for aviation products including one for a rectangular-shaped parachute design.

**Thelma "Tee" Taylor** made her first jump in Arizona in 1961 and continued to jump in the Dallas area while she worked as a flight attendant for American Airlines. In the 1963 Nationals, Tee qualified for the US Team, and participated in the World Meet in Leutkirch, Germany winning first place in style, placed in accuracy, and won the Individual World Women's Championship. She also competed in the 1964 Nationals in Salt Lake City.





Bill Booth took up skydiving in 1965 and became an instructor in 1967. In 1972, he started United Parachute Technologies, a parachute manufacturing company now located in DeLand, FL. Bill has been awarded 12 US and foreign patents for skydiving safety systems. In the 1990s, he formed Polar Expeditions, Inc. and with his Russian partners led six parachuting expeditions through Siberia to the North Pole.