

2012 Museum Weekend & Hall of Fame Celebration

"Birth of Formation Skydiving – The Star Crest Recipient Award" By Larry Bagley



The first 8-man star in 1965 led to the creation of the Bob Buquor SCR Awards. Photo by Bob Buquor

It was 45 years ago that Bill Newell, a California skydiver, created the Star Crest Recipient Awards program in honor of his good friend and mentor, Bob Buquor. Since its inception, over 26,000 skydivers have

military surplus double-gore rounds to the very latest and most up-to-date rigs and accessories. Other displays include a theater featuring great skydiving footage, as well as competition, records, training exhibits and a special display on the history of the SCR Award. The Pioneers' Lounge, sponsored by Pope Valley Parachute Ranch, will be reunion headquarters, where old and young can get together to enjoy jump stories and mingle with some of the pioneers and the new champions of our sport — and maybe have a toast or two.

Throughout the weekend, a group of large-formation world-class skydivers will be building 64-way formations to commemorate the birth of relative work. The US Army Parachute Team — the Golden Knights — and the US Air Force Academy Parachute Team have been invited, and they will be joined by canopy piloting and canopy formation teams. Friday evening will be a BBQ where Bill Newell, Jerry Bird and others will walk down memory lane, sharing stories about the SCR Awards program and its contributions to the sport.

Saturday evening will be devoted to the Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony. We expect more than 300 guests to join in the evening festivities, which will include a cocktail reception, sit-down dinner and video introductions for each inductee. Museum trustee Curt Curtis will serve as emcee; Cliff Schmucker, President of PIA, will welcome and greet guests; and Hall of Fame Class of 2010 member Jerry Bird, recognized by so many as the father of relative work, will serve as keynote speaker. Following dinner, the Hall of Fame

(cont'd on page 4)

earned the prestigious award for being in an 8-way formation, making it one of skydiving's oldest and most universal traditions. The National Skydiving Museum will celebrate the SCR Awards and those early pioneers during a fundraising weekend celebration at Skydive Arizona, Eloy, November 9-11.

The weekend will also include the Hall of Fame dinner where 7 skydiving legends will join 17 others in this prestigious club. The 2012 inductees are Carl Boenish (posthumous), Bob Buquor (posthumous), Claude Gillard, Craig Girard, Dan Poynter, and Hank (posthumous) and Muriel Simbro. (See page 4 of this newsletter for inductee introductions.) The Hall of Fame celebration, sponsored by the Parachute Industry Association (PIA), 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.

It all starts Friday morning and continues throughout the entire weekend. There will be exhibit displays with some of the rich history of our sport including, the not-to-be missed, PIA display of parachuting equipment from the early days of



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National Skydiving Museum
5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
Phone: (540) 604-9745
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(2012 Museum Weekend and Hall of Fame Celebration cont'd)

inductees will be recognized for their many achievements and contributions to the sport of skydiving and each presented with their Hall of Fame Blue Embroidered Jacket.

Throughout the weekend, Bill Newell and many of the pioneers of the first 8-way star will be signing logbooks; in fact, Newell has created a special new SCR patch for the occasion. And Colonel Joe Kittinger — a 2010 Hall of Fame inductee — will be on hand with his latest book, *Come Up And Get Me*. Since Sunday will be Veterans Day, the grand finale will also be a tribute to our military veterans.



Skydive Arizona is arguably the largest, best-equipped parachute center in the world, with a dedicated staff, a fleet of large aircraft, and over 300 sunny days each year. Skydive Arizona's owners, Larry & Lil Hill, their talented staff, and their two sponsored teams — Arizona Airspeed and Arizona Arsenal — have promised a very successful, fun-filled weekend.

The goal for the event is to raise more than \$125,000 toward the museum's \$5 million capital program that will raise the necessary funds to build the museum in Fredericksburg, VA. Seating for the Dinner is limited so register early. There are also numerous sponsorship opportunities throughout the weekend to show your support of the museum and to honor our inductees. Details and registration information can be found on the attached registration form and online at www.skydivingmuseum.org.

VISIT WWW.SKYDIVINGMUSEUM.ORG



The National Aeronautic Association awarded the Wesley L. McDonald Elder Statesman of Aviation Award to museum board of trustees president, Lenny Potts. From his first parachute jump in 1952 to his current service on the museum's board of trustees, Potts has dedicated himself to the skydiving and aviation communities for more than 60 years and continues to make a lasting impact today.



Museum treasurer Curt Curtis (left) is presented with the Stefan Banic Gold Medal for his many contributions to parachuting by fellow trustee Christopher Needels. The Stefan Banic Foundation award is named in honor of Slovak American Stefan Banic, an early parachute designer.

INTRODUCING THE HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2012 . . .



The late **Carl Boenish** was considered the father of modern BASE jumping. He was a freefall cinematographer; in 1978 he filmed the first jumps from El Capitan using ram-air parachutes. These were the jumps that popularized BASE jumping more widely among parachutists, likely because Boenish filmed them and presented the footage exceptionally well. Boenish died in a BASE jump off the Troll Wall in Norway.

Bob Buquor (posthumous) played a major role in the beginnings of star formation relative work. Demonstrating an early talent for freefall photography, he began a career that would take him to the top as a commercial freefall cameraman. Bob drowned off the Malibu coast in 1966 during the filming of the skydiving footage for the film *Don't Make Waves*. The Star Crest Recipient Award is dedicated to Bob's driving enthusiasm for relative work skydiving.



Claude Gillard is President of Honour of both the FAI International Parachuting Commission (IPC) and the Australian Parachute Federation Inc. He has been involved in parachuting in one way or another for more than 50 years, has represented Australian skydiving at all levels of sport aviation administration and spent a lifetime dedicated to the advancement of sport parachuting.



Craig Girard started jumping in 1981 and became a Golden Knight in 1986, winning the 1989, 1991, and 1993 World 8-Way Formation Skydiving Championships as well as the 1988 and 1990 World Cups of Formation Skydiving. He left the US Army in 1995 and joined the Arizona Airspeed team as captain of the 8-way team expansion. He is recognized throughout the world as a formidable competitor, world champion, and mentor, having conducted thousands of training camps around the world.

Dan Poynter is an American author, consultant, publisher, professional speaker and parachute designer. Since 1969, he has written more than 125 books, including a dozen on skydiving, parachutes and aviation. He served as president of the Parachute Industry Association, chairman of the board of the US Parachute Association and president of the International Hang Gliding Commission. He is a pilot, a skydiver with 1,208 jumps, and a master parachute rigger.



Hank (posthumous) and Muriel Simbro. Muriel, also known as skydiving's first lady, was the first woman in the US to earn a D license, #78; she was the leader of the first full women's team that the US supported, winning the 1962 World Parachuting Championships, and the first US woman to win a gold medal in a world meet. Hank, D-63, a pilot and aircraft owner, was a member of the third place men's team in 1000 meter accuracy at the 1962 world meet in Orange, MA.