

# Join us at the 2014 Museum Weekend Celebration October 9 - 12

If you think we had fun when Skydive Chicago hosted last year's Hall of Fame weekend fundraiser, you're in for a great time this fall when Skydive Raeford at PK Airpark, North Carolina, hosts the 2014 Museum Celebration



Weekend and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The skydiving community will gather at one of the most famous drop zones in the world to honor the US Army Parachute Team – the Golden Knights – and to induct the Class of 2014 into the museum's Skydiving Hall of Fame – Jerry Bourquin, Dan "BC" Brodsky-Chenfeld, Norman Heaton, Chris Needels and Helmut Schlecht. The fundraiser is expected to raise nearly \$100,000 for the museum.



Beginning Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, parachute center operators will be guests of the museum board at an early bird reception, hosted at the Paraclete XP Wind Tunnel near the Raeford drop zone. During the reception, members of AntiGravity and XP8 indoor skydiving teams will display their amazing tunnel-flying techniques. And for those more interested in jump stories and glad-handing, the Pope Valley Pioneers Lounge will be open for business at PK Airpark.

Friday and Saturday are the big days with action starting early Friday at the golf tournament hosted by the Golden Knights Alumni Association. The Pope Valley Pioneers Lounge will be open all weekend for more harrowing jump stories while the museum's store will have skydiving memorabilia available for sale. Throughout the weekend, there will be other activities including Pioneer Video Capture, the creative museum exhibit, a scavenger hunt, fun jumps, 4-way scrambles meet and the ever-popular online auction.

Running concurrently – and connecting generations of skydivers – with all the fun activities, will be the exciting Sun Path Canopy Piloting Open competition – which actually begins Wednesday – where incredibly talented skydivers will dive their parachutes down and through a precision pylon course over the huge

man-made pond for points and over \$8,000 in prizes. The second annual event promises to dazzle the crowd with spectacular swoops and breath-taking landings.

The Golden Knights, celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary, certainly deserve the honors planned for the weekend and their very impressive headquarters on Fort Bragg will be open to those with credentials allowing them on the military installation. However, many of the artifacts in the museum exhibit at the drop zone will show off some of the team's world championship medals and world record certificates. The All Veterans Parachute Team will kick off the weekend with their tribute jump to the Knights Friday afternoon as part of the welcome reception and BBQ dinner.



Saturday is much more of the same and will draw to a close with the real purpose of the weekend, honoring five pillars of our skydiving community. PIA is the title sponsor of the sit-down banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at the Holiday Inn in nearby Fayetteville. 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.



During the Hall of Fame dinner, the museum will honor Linda Miller with the prestigious Trustees' Award, in recognition of her "dedication and creative enthusiasm as a board advisor and her many contributions towards bringing the museum to reality."

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, will be the wrap-up of the swoop meet when prizes and money will be awarded at noon to those who flew the best and dazzled the most.

Mark your calendars and be a part of the action and history at Skydive Raeford in October. There's something for everyone, so come join us, and let's get this museum built. See the enclosed registration form or visit [www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org) to register and to view a schedule of events.

Larry K. Bagley

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**Thank you to members of  
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The National Skydiving Museum gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its donors in 2013. \*\*We regret any errors or omissions in this list. If you note an error or missing name, please contact us at [nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org](mailto:nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org) so that we may correct our records.

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Nona King

**In memory of all the good times at Pope Valley**

Jo Timmsen

**In memory of Dick Rau**

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Editor: Nancy Kemble

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

**Special Events Benefitting the National Skydiving Museum . . .**

**THE MIDWEST SKYDIVERS REUNION**

Labor Day Weekend August 30-31, September 1, 2014



A reunion of the competitive teams from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin that were actively competing in the 1970s and 1980s. Old-time and modern day skydivers from all around the country will converge on Midwest Freefall for four days of skydiving, story telling, gear demonstrations, oral history interviews, and general camaraderie. The Midwest Skydivers Reunion will celebrate the fun days of a time passed, reconnect with old friends and teammates and remember those who are no longer with us. Due to the interest shown, it has now grown into a gathering of all skydivers of that era, and those from surrounding states (the other 45) are welcome to attend.

Midwest Freefall Skydiving Club—Ray, Michigan

[www.midwestfreefall.com](http://www.midwestfreefall.com) or [www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org)

[www.midwestfreefall.com/about/events/midwest-skydivers-reunion/](http://www.midwestfreefall.com/about/events/midwest-skydivers-reunion/)



**October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
(Thursday—Sunday)

The Heroes Skydiving Team will do challenging high-end sequential skydives throughout the entire event! We will alternate the size of the skydives from day to day to keep things interesting!

Organizers: Louis French, Roger Ponce and Kirk Verner

Plane Captains: Jack Berke, TJ Hine, Jim McCormick, Fortson Rumble, Derek

Thomas and Joseph Wood

Videographers: Brian Festi, Norman Kent and Matt McLean

**100-way Sequential Event**

Come join us for a skydiving event like none other! 20-ways, 100-ways, 50-ways, and then more 100-ways with great friends, amazing skydives, and fun filled evenings!

Event Site: Florida Skydiving Center in Lake Wales, Florida



More Info:

<http://www.lakewaleskydiving.com/Heros2014.pdf>  
or [www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org)

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



## Board of Trustees has new leadership and welcomes new trustee

At its bi-annual meeting held February 19 in Chattanooga, TN, the National Skydiving Museum Board of Trustees unanimously elected James F. (Curt) Curtis III as its new President / CEO. Lenny Potts, who has served as president since December 2005, will now hold the title of Chairman. Joining President Curtis on the executive committee are vice-president Chris Needels, secretary Larry Bagley, treasurer Lee Schlichtemeier, and Dori Bachman as the fifth member.

The board also welcomed new trustee, Kirk Knight. Kirk, D-6709, has made more than 5,400 skydives and is an active jumper with ratings as an AFF Instructor Examiner, Coach Course Director, and PRO; he has served as US Parachute Team Leader on several occasions. He is a parachuting judge with international ratings from the FAI and CISM and was selected as the Chief Judge at the 2014 World Military Parachuting Championship. He holds FAA ratings as an airline transport pilot in airplanes and a commercial instrument rating in helicopters. Kirk is currently a liaison officer at US Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL, and also serves on the Command's parachute demonstration team. Kirk is a 35-year Army veteran with multiple combat assignments in infantry and aviation and was Commander of the US Army Parachute Team. He holds several education degrees, including a B.S. from Embry-Riddle University, an MBA from Chaminade University, and a Ph.D. from Northcentral University. Kirk is also a major donor to the museum and holds the naming rights for the museum's Library of Parachuting.



## INTRODUCING THE HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2014. . .



**Jerry Bourquin**, D-22, Gold Wings #2, and Jumpers Over Eighty Society #96, joined the US Army in 1951 and served in the Korean War before earning his jump wings in 1957. In 1960, Jerry was a member of the STRAC Team, which became the US Army Parachute Team – the Golden Knights. While on the team, he was the Competition Team Leader and served as a competitor on the US Style & Accuracy Teams from 1961 through 1964. He was National Style Champion in 1964, second overall twice (1962 & 1964), and the 1965 All Services Champion.



**Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld**, D-8424, or Dan BC, as he's known, helped form the world-class four-way formation skydiving team, Arizona Airspeed 20 years ago and earned several national and international awards before assuming the reins as Skydive Perris' drop zone manager in California. Author, motivational speaker, skydiving coach and world champion, Dan has led and inspired many in our sport to become much more than they ever thought they could be.



**Norman Heaton**, D-565, served as the Parachute Club of America's/USPA's executive director for 11 years until the organization moved from Monterey, California, to Washington, DC, in the mid-1970s. In 1981, Norm was honored with USPA's highest non-competitive award, the Lifetime Achievement Award for contributing "substantially and uniquely to USPA's greatest growth." Now living with his wife, Betty, in Oklahoma, he remains involved with the sport's activities as a USPA Executive Director Emeritus.



USPA hired **Chris Needels**, D-1765, as its executive director in 1994 shortly after he retired from George H.W. Bush's White House staff. He served on USPA's board as a national director from 1975 through 1980, and was commander of the US Army Parachute Team at Fort Bragg, NC. It's impossible to quantify Chris' contributions to our sport and his accomplishments will last long into the next generation. A very active member of the skydiving community, Chris is vice-president of the National Skydiving Museum and lives with his wife Conny in eastern Virginia.



Since 1968, **Helmut Schlecht**, DFV # 13, has represented Germany as a competitor and team leader in World Championships, international competitions and National Championships in Germany. In 1976, the U.S. Army Parachute Team recognized Helmut as an Honorary Golden Knight and not long after, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, in recognition of Helmut's outstanding services for the sport and his home country, honored Helmut with the Federal Cross of Merit. The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) honored the exceptional achievements of Helmut for sport parachuting by awarding him the Gold Parachuting Medal.

## Linda Miller to Receive 2014 Trustees' Award

The National Skydiving Museum is proud to honor Linda Miller with the 2014 Board of Trustees' Award for Distinguished Service in recognition of her "dedication and creative enthusiasm as a board advisor and her many contributions towards bringing the museum to reality." The presentation will be made during the museum's Hall of Fame Induction Banquet October 11, 2014, at Skydive Raeford in North Carolina.

After her first jump in 1968 at a little drop zone in Lakeside, CA, Linda continued her enthusiasm for the sport, especially her competitive drive, earning D3150 and SCR401 at Elsinore, CA. In 1973 she moved to Raeford, NC to hone her skills in the classic events of style and accuracy. She accomplished one of her goals by earning a slot on the 1974 US Style & Accuracy Team that competed in Szolnok, Hungary, under the inimitable leadership of Gene Paul Thacker.

For almost a decade, Linda has served as an advisor to the National Skydiving Museum's board of trustees and has been the catalyst and enthusiasm for almost every project since then. As President James F. Curtis put it, "when discussing skydiving museum projects, Linda Miller is right there! Her total dedication – time, effort, talent, enthusiasm, participation, out-of-pocket expenses, etc. – have been rock solid."

Please help us congratulate Linda on this well deserved honor. To read Linda's full story, visit [www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org).

