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 Schlichtmeier, 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 PPO. He has served as US Parachute Team Leader on several occasions. He is also a parachuting judge with international ratings from the FAI and CASA and was selected as the Chief Judge at the 2012 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 Champlain 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.

Jerry Bourquin, D-22, Gold Wings 42, and Jumpers Over Eighty Society #96, joined the US Army in 1951 and served in the Korean War before earning his skydive wings in 1957. In 1973 Jerry was a founding member of the STAC 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 Service Champions.

Dan Brodky-Chenfield, D-8414, 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, skydive 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-585, served as the Parachute Club of America’s/USPA’s executive director for 12 years until the organization moved from Monterey, California, to Washington, D.C. in the mid-1970s. In 1982, 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-1705, as its executive director in 1994 shortly after he retired as George N. Bush’s White House staff. He served on USPA’s board as a national director from 1979 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 1958, Helmut Schlecht, DivA #11, has represented Germany as a competitor and team leader in World Championships, international competitions and National Championships in Germany. In 1970, 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 Federation Aeronautique 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 D1050 and SFN30 at Edwards, 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 Snook, Hungary, under the invaluable leadership of Gene Paul Tucker.

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.

More about the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

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” Brodky-Chenfield, Norman Heaton, Chris Needels and Helmut Schlecht. The fundraiser is expected to raise nearly $100,000 for the museum.

Beginning Thursday, October 9th, parachute center operators will be guests of the museum board at an early bird reception, hosted at the Parachute XP Wind Tunnel near the Raeford drop zone. During the reception, members of AntiGravity and XBF 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 another great social event 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, is the exciting Sun Path Canopy Piloting Open competition – which actually begins Wednesday – where incredible 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.

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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 near in nearby Fayetteville. It is impossible to quantify what this esteemed group of skydivers has done for our sport worldwide. Joining them in their special limelight will go down in history as a unique and special evening.

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Sunday, October 12th, 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 to register and to view a schedule of events.

Larry K. Bagley
The National Skydiving Museum gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its donors in 2013. **We regret any errors or omissions in this list.** If you plan an an error or missing name, please contact us at skydivingmuseum.org so that we may correct it.

**Chairman's Circle ($100,000—$499,999)**
- Perris Valley Aviation Services
- DJ Associates, Inc./Jean Beck

**Chairman’s Circle ($50,000—$99,999)**
- Tim & Colleen D’Annunzio
- Paraclete Real Estate Holdings, LLC/
  Founder’s Circle ($50,000—$99,999)
- Lowell M. Bachman Family/
  Chairman’s Circle
- Leonardo Da Vinci Circle
- Charitable Fund Pledge ($1 million & above)

**Bronze ($500—$999)**
- United Parachute Technologies
- Simon and Priscilla Repton
- Chuck MacCrone
- Joe and Sherry Kittinger
- Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc.
- Bourdon Forge Co., Inc.

**Silver ($1,000—$4,999)**
- John Higgins
- Parachute Industry Association
- Parachute Industry Association
- Systems Technology, Inc.
- Staff at UPT
- Vivian Schmucker
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- Lenny Potts
- Jeremy Popp
- Michael Ibrahim

**Platinum ($10,000—$24,999)**
- Kris Knight
- Kestrel ($25,000—$49,999)
- Kirk Knight

**Gold ($5,000—$9,999)**
- Michael Kearns
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- Bill and Pat Wenger
- Mary Jane Dickson
- Herb and Barb Ahting
- Paul and Jan Works
- Kimberly and Joseph (Joe) Kittinger Sr.

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- Skydive Chicago
- United Parachute Technologies
- deLorean Club of Ohio
- Chattanooga CVB

**Bronze ($500—$999)**
- Thomas and Joseph Wood
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- Patricia Pope
- Riker Financial
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- Len McGlynn
- Bob Lewis
- Jeff and Carol Jahns

**Remembering Our Donors: Thank You!**
- Herb and Barb Ahting
- Paraclete Real Estate Holdings, LLC
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**Special Events Benefiting the National Skydiving Museum . . .**

**The MIDWEST SKYDIVERS REUNION**

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

A reunion of the competitive teams that came from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, 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 Wisconsin that were actively competing in the 1970s and 1988s. Old-time and those from surrounding states (the other 45) are welcome to attend.

**Event Site:** Florida Skydiving Center in Lake Wales, Florida

**Contact a plane captain or Louis at their e-mail address below.**

**Northeast Florida - Brian Festi, Norman Kent and Matt McLean**

**Midwest Florida - John Schulz, Del Rossman, Tony Shower, Dan Poynter, Brian Festi, Norman, and Matt.**

**5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd**

**Charea hughes**

**President / CEO**

**Thank you to our Media and Technology Sponsors:**

**Sun Path Products (2 tables)**
- Vigil America
- United Parachute Technologies
- Vigil America

**Thank you to our members of our "Capitols City" who have included the National Skydiving Museum in their Will:**

- James F. (Curt) Curtis II
- Brian and Renee Gregory

**VISIT www.SKYDIVINGMUSEUM.ORG**

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**CHUTING TIMES**

**Presenting the Dream of Human Flight**

**In memory of GaryPool**
- Nora King

**In memory of all the good times at Papillon**
- Sherry Shower

**In memory of Dick Ravin**
- Ron Zain

**In memory of Jerry Bressler**
- Barbara Roquemore

**In memory of Ralph L. Schauer**
- Laura L. Schau

**In memory of Charles Seymour**
- Chip Seymour

**In memory of Ted Strong**
- Modern Skydiving Co.

**In memory of Mark Sutton**
- Pacific and Atlantic Region

**In memory of Larry Taylor**
- Kate Griesmer and Tony Tracker

**In memory of Gene Paul Thacker**
- Parachute Real Estate Holdings, LLC

**In memory of Jim Wallace**
- Margaret Convery

**In memory of Paul and Mary Thompson**
- For their years of service
- Skydive Dallas

**In honor of John G. (Jack) Johnson**
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- Skydive Dallas
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- Skydive Dallas

**In memory of Charles Schumnick**
- Herb and Barb Ahting

**ADA Aerodynamic Decelerator Systems**
- Technical Committee

**In memory of David Aronson**
- Parachute Real Estate Holdings Co.,
  Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc.,
  Clean Sky Solutions, Inc.

**In memory of Joseph (J.J.) Jenkins**
- Joe and Sherry Kittinger Sr.

**In memory of Joe F. Payne**
- Linda Miller

**3-100 Sequential Event**

**Come join us for a skydiving event like none other! 20-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


**www.lakewalesskydiving.com**
**CHUTING TIMES**

**“Presenting the Dream of Human Flight”**

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**Remembering Our Donors: Thank You!**

A special thank you to those donors who have contributed more than $10,000 to the National Skydiving Museum (through 2012)

William Otis Circle ($1 million & above)
- James F. (Curt) Curtis III
- William Otis
- Charitable Fund

Leonardo da Vinci Circle ($500,000—$999,999)
- United Parachute Technologies
- Myrt Rose
- Trustee’s Circle ($10,000—$24,999)
- Ron Zais
- United States Parachute Association

2012 Donors
- Eagle ($10,000 & above)
- Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc.
- Patricia Beck
- DJ Associates, Inc.
- Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc.
- James F. (Curt) Curtis III

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- Dana and Karen Erskine
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Golden ($50,000—$99,999)
- Jolene Beck
- Performance Designs, Inc.
- Innovative Parachute Systems
- Silver ($10,000—$49,999)
- C.H. Clothier
- Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc.
- Complete Parachute Solutions, Inc.

Bronze ($5,000—$9,999)
- AIBA
- United Parachute Technologies
- U.S. Parachute Association

Thank you to our members of our “Legacy Society” who have included the National Skydiving Museum in their Wills.
- James F. (Curt) Curtis III
- Jack and Barney Gregory

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

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**CHUTING TIMES**

**“Presenting the Dream of Human Flight”**

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The Midwest Skydivers Reunion will be held at Skydive Chicago for four days of skydiving, story telling, gear demonstrations, oral history interviews, and general camaraderie. The Midwest Skydivers Reunion will celebrate the fun of four days of a great time, reconnect with old friends and teammates and remember those who are no longer with us.

**A note: The Skydive Chicago site should be used to register and contact the club.**

- Web site: [www.midwestskydiversreunion.com](http://www.midwestskydiversreunion.com)
- E-mail: info@midwestskydiversreunion.com
- Phone: 815-385-5893

**General Information:**
- The event hotel is the Park View Hotel in Winter Haven Florida. We will have our welcome party at the hotel as well, both in the main center conference room.
- The hotel is only about 15 minutes from the airport.
- The field is only about 10 minutes from the hotel.
- The hotel will also have a “Hero” rate for us starting at just $55/night.
- All reservations should be made directly through the hotel.
- You will be able to capture the completed registration form and then call the DZ at 863-678-1003 to make a reservation.

**Schedule:**
- **October 2nd:** Check in will start at 4pm with a Welcome dinner at the hotel. The reception will start at 5pm and there will be an open microphone where anyone can share their thoughts about the event, and a short video of the event will be shown.
- **October 3rd:** The event will start with a 60-minute meeting on the history of skydiving with an introduction to the history of skydiving with a slide show. The meeting will be followed by a guided tour of the National Skydiving Museum, with a special focus on the history of skydiving and the evolution of the sport. In the afternoon, there will be an optional meet-and-greet session with some of the event’s organizers and other participants. In the evening, there will be a social gathering at the hotel.
- **October 4th:** The event will start with a 60-minute meet-and-greet session with some of the event’s organizers and other participants. In the afternoon, there will be a guided tour of the National Skydiving Museum, with a special focus on the history of skydiving and the evolution of the sport. In the evening, there will be a social gathering at the hotel.
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**Festi, Norman, and Matt**
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Larry K. Bagley

The purpose of the National Skydiving Museum is to recognize and promote the sport of skydiving through public education and awareness; recognize the contributions 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.