

A Record Crowd at Skydive Perris for Hall of Fame Celebration

In October, the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame held its 10th annual Hall of Fame Celebration at Skydive Perris in California. The event included the induction ceremony for the 10 newest honorees at a banquet Saturday night at nearby March Field Air Museum. It was perhaps poetic that the podium was situated under a replica of the Wright Flyer in a large venue that maxed out at just over 500



From top left: John P. Higgins (USA), Alan Eustace (USA), Irena Avbelj (Slovenia), Patrick de Gayardon—posthumous (France) represented by Patrick Passe, Chuck Collingwood—posthumous (USA) represented by Debbie Collingwood, Deke Sonnichsen (USA), Andy Keech (Australia). Bottom from left: Tom Sanders (USA), Kate Cooper-Jensen (USA), John "Lofty" Thomas—posthumous (Great Britain) represented by Grace Thomas. Photo by Elliot Byrd

guests—a record turnout according to museum officials.

The museum feted the 10 new Hall of Famers and presented them with the traditional blue blazers that signify the honor. The incoming members of the 10th class—six from the U.S., one each from Great Britain, Canada, Australia and Slovenia—bring this exclusive group to a total of 73 outstanding representatives of skydiving achievements in a wide range of endeavors. Thirty Hall of Famers attended this year's ceremonies.

Two special awards were presented during the weekend festivities. Doug Garr received the Trustees' Award for providing leadership, guidance and assistance in the effort to identify and engage individuals and companies that can make a significant positive impact. He has been an active fundraiser for the museum for several years by representing the Skydivers' Resurrection Award Group.

The Path of Excellence (POE) award honored the 100-Way Canopy Formation World

Record Team who, in 2007 at the Florida Skydiving Center in Lake Wales, set the 100-way Fédération Aéronautique Internationale World Record for Largest Canopy Formation Skydive (a record that still stands today). The POE is specifically for entities—groups, companies, organizations or teams—for significant contribution(s) of enduring high value to the world of skydiving.

(continued on page 2)

Now Accepting Nominations for the 2020 Hall of Fame and 2020 Path of Excellence

Nominations are now being accepted for the International Skydiving Museum's Hall of Fame Class of 2020 and the 2020 Path of Excellence Award.

Only nominations received at museum headquarters by December 31, 2019, will be considered for induction into the Hall of Fame Class of 2020. The committee will deliberate at its meeting in February 2020 in Myrtle Beach. The Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those who, through leadership, innovation and/or outstanding achievements, have defined, promoted, and advanced skydiving at the highest and sustained levels such that they have made it possible for

generations of skydivers to enjoy the sport. All nominations will be kept confidential.

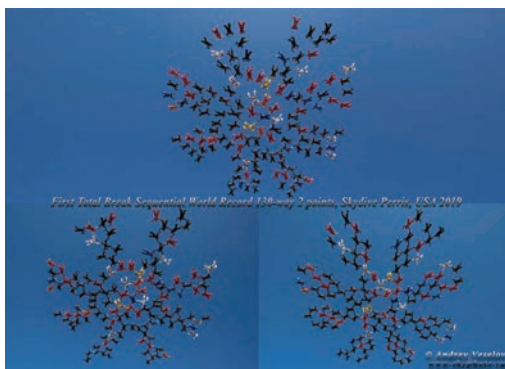
Nominations for the Path of Excellence (POE) Award are due at museum headquarters by April 15, 2020. The POE Award is specifically for entities—groups, companies, organizations or teams—for significant contribution(s) of enduring high value to the world of skydiving.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame or the Path of Excellence, please visit our website for further details and a nomination form or contact Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm, Museum Administrator, at nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org.



Hall of Fame Celebration (cont'd)

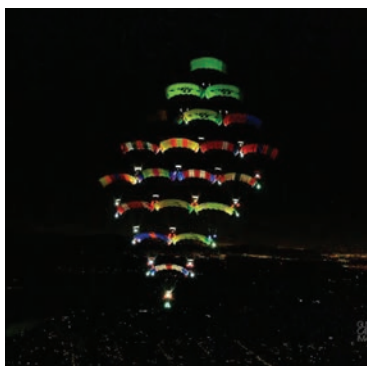
A half dozen special events took place before and during the three-day celebration. History was made on October 14th on



130-way 2 points Photo by Andrey Veselov

the very first try by the Sequential Games skydivers, led by Patrick Passe, with the First Total Break World Record 130-way 2 points. And then they

followed with a 128-way Sparkling Jewel on Friday morning to amaze everyone on the DZ at the stunning achievement. Crowds were also awed by the Canopy Formation (CF) skydivers who performed



CF Night Jump
Photo by Andrey Veselov

brilliantly, earning three new world records: 2 point 43 Sequential CF, then a 3 point 43 Sequential CF on the first try, followed by a 4 point 43 Sequential CF, again on the first try. These were phenomenal achievements by the incredibly talented CREW DOGS. The CF group donned their gear again on Friday

night, after the Path of Excellence

Award presentation, to try for a night record, but this attempt was unsuccessful, primarily due to turbulent weather at altitude. However, the brightly lit canopy formation provided a spectacular light show for the museum crowd.

On Saturday, the popular 10-way Speed STAR WARS competition included 17 teams—7 more than in the 2018 inaugural competition at Zephyrhills, Florida. After three rounds using USPA Nationals rules with no-show exits, Kate's Club (with Hall of Famer Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld as captain) took first with a 48.78-second total. Derro's (with Derek Thomas as captain) took second with 53.92 seconds, and Some Assembly Required (with Lisa Walker as captain) took third with 65.40 seconds. Gillian Rayner and Lee Schlichtemeier served as judges. Al Krueger, who captained one of the early

successful 10-way teams, the Sky Pirates, served as honorary meet director.

The weekend also included a special re-creation of the first 24-man star (before skydivers used the term "way" to make it genderless) that was completed over Perris on January 16, 1972. It was a significant achievement in its day, and millions saw the photo when it was published on a two-page spread in *Life* magazine. The completed re-created formation brought cheers from the onlookers. Nine skydivers from the original jump were present: Jerry Bird, Al Krueger, Sam Alexander, Ray Cottingham, Stan Troeller, Ron Haun, Dennis Trepanier, Rich Piccirilli (on both the original record and the re-creation jump) and Donna Wardean, who narrated the jump for the assembled crowd.



Luke Aikins' seminar "Pushing the Boundaries...No Parachute No Problem"
Photo by Kay Cottingham Robinson

The three-day celebration also included seminars with speakers as wide-ranging as USPA Northwest Regional Director Luke Aikins, who gained fame three years ago by making a spectacular televised leap from 25,000 feet without a parachute and landed into a 100-by-100-foot net.

There was also a seminar with this year's Hall of Fame inductee,

Alan Eustace, who broke the world's high-altitude freefall record by jumping from more than 135,000 feet after being carried to altitude by a helium balloon while wearing a custom-made space suit (unlike the two other record holders, who used capsules for their ascents).



Alan Eustace Forum
"Skydive from Space"
Photo by Kay Cottingham Robinson

There were a number of book signings: Colonel Joe Kittinger, the Vietnam War fighter pilot and former record holder of the world's highest skydive, signed *Come Up and Get Me*; Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld, the Perris DZ manager and world champion formation skydiver, signed *Above All Else*;

Hall of Fame Celebration (cont'd)

photographers Mike McGowan (*Selections*) and Hall of Fame inductee Andy Keech (*Skies Call*) signed their photobooks; Melanie Curtis signed her life-coaching memoir *How to Fly*; and Hall of Famer and USPA Executive Director Emeritus Norman Heaton signed his weighty history of the sport, *My First 1,000 Jumps*.



Book Signings Photo by Kay Cottingham Robinson

A Camera Gear Thru the Years presentation on



Camera Gear Thru the Years with
Tom Sanders
Photo by Andrey Veselov

Friday featuring early vintage camera equipment to today's small and lightweight cameras complemented the traditional Gear Thru the Years that was shown on Saturday.

There was also a social media contest to celebrate the Hall of Fame 10th Anniversary. Participants took selfies with Hall of Famers and posted them to Instagram. Janine Hayes won the CYPRES and Sonia Holland won the Javelin Odyssey.

James F. (Curt) Curtis III, president and CEO of the museum, summed up the festivities by saying, "It was another absolutely

terrific celebration weekend and induction dinner at Skydive Perris. When I stood



The 2019 Venue Host, Skydive Perris. Owners Melanie, Ben and Diane Conatser Photo by Wade Hessig

at the podium and looked out over the 500-plus attendees and recited the accomplishments of the new members of the Hall, it became abundantly clear how special the people are who comprise our community. Quite simply, they are the best. This is an event not to be missed by any skydiver who cares about the history and legacy of our sport. The Conatser family [DZ owners] and the entire Skydive Perris staff gave us all a weekend to remember."

Doug Garr was a contributing editor to this article.

See newsletter insert for more event pictures!

Chuting Times is a biannual newsletter for museum supporters and volunteers.

Editor: Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm

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Secure Your Legacy . . .

Make the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame part of your legacy when you prepare or update your will or estate plan. For more information on how to join the **Legacy Society**, contact Jim McCormick at +1.970.577.8700 or jm@SkydivingMuseum.org or visit www.skydivingmuseum.org/support/legacy-society.

Thank you to members of our Legacy Society . . . Anonymous, Randy Connell, James F. (Curt) Curtis III, Dave DeWolf, Robert and Jeanine Feldman, Jack and Renee Gregory, Johnny Higgins, Don Jenkins, Michael Shawn Kearns, Kirk Knight, Carol Laithwaite (on behalf of Brian Laithwaite), Linda Miller, Chris Needels, William H. Ottley Charitable Fund, Lenny Potts, Gregory P. Robertson, Larry Stein, Jo Timmsen, and Pat Works.

One-Three-One . . .



That's right. 131. That's how many people have already become Ambassadors for the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame. One hundred and thirty-one people have said, *"Count me in! Let's get this thing built!"* You too can be an Ambassador! You're welcome to join the team. For more information, contact Jim McCormick at

+1.970.577.8700 or jm@SkydivingMuseum.org or visit www.skydivingmuseum.org/support/our-ambassadors.

Thank you to our 131 Ambassadors! Jack Adkins, Anonymous, Curt Bachman, Cindi Bagley, Larry K. Bagley, Lena Bengtsson, Richard "Buzz" Bennett, John Benoit, Kerry Bentley, Robert Bonitz, Peter Bourdon, Jerry Bourquin, Eric "Ric" Braman, Vikki Herst Brooks, David (Dave) Bullen, Sherry Butcher, Manley C. Butler, Jr., Christopher Clark, Debbe Collingwood (in memory of Chuck Collingwood), Robert A. Compton, Ben Conatser, Diane Conatser*, Melanie Conatser, Patrick Conatser, Ray Cottingham, Ben Currin, Curt Curtis*, Dave DeWolf, David Dow, Jack Dunn, Mike Dyer, Dana Engelstad, Alan Eustace, Nancy Fayard, Paul Fayard, Robert Feldman, Mike Fisher, Philip F. Flynn, Elizabeth W. Foster, Cris Fucci*, Jerry Gleim, Nancy Gruttman-Tyler**, David "TK" Hayes, Janine Hayes, Tom "Capt 36" Hayes, John Higgins*, Sarah Henderson (in memory of Frank Halcromb), Mike Horan, Kathryn W. Huff, Jeremiah "Jerry" Jackson, Michael S. Kearns, Roger Kidd, Joe Kittinger, Sherry Kittinger, Kirk Knight**, Peter Kramer, Xiaoli Lai, Ray Lallo, Nancy LaRiviere, Marylou Laughlin*, Marcie LaVanway, Robert V. "Bob" Lewis, Robert C. MacDonald, Marshall Madden, J. Russ Manhold, John Marcaccio, Don Mayer, Jim McCormick, Jan Meyer, Cathy Miller*, Linda Miller, Alicia Moorehead, Pat Moorehead*, Tanya Murnock, Dan Myers (in memory of Kathy Barry), Chris Needels, George Nisson, Norm Olson, Susan Perkins Stark, Doug Pinkham, Steve Pisano, Suzanne Poppenhager, Lenny Potts, Gillian Rayner, James N. Rees, Jr., Sandy Reid, Simon Repton, Robert "Rhyno" Rhynearson, Jose Rodriguez, Myrt Rose, Stephen Salisbury, Tim Saltonstall, Laurie "Truck" Sams SC, Carol Schlichtemeier, Lee Schlichtemeier, Shari Schmidt, Bill Schmitt, Adam Schmucker, Nathan Schmucker, William "Tripp" Schwab III, Lee Sewell, Deke Sonnichsen, SFC Larry Stafford, USA, Ret, Cheryl Stearns, Larry Stein*, Jay Stokes, Fran Strimenos, Robert W. Stumm, John Szumila, Mallory Tarcher, Tee Taylor*, Kathleen Anne Terry, Bill Thetford, Pat Thomas**, Landon K. Thorne, Jo Timmsen, Laura Tyler, Beverly Veley (in memory of Bob Veley), Ed Vickery, Kristin Vines, Chris Wagner, Donna Wardean-Dann**, Tim Weible, Bruce Wicks**, Dick Williams (in memory of Joan Williams), Chris Windsor, Graeme Windsor*, David "Woody" Woodhouse, Jan Works (in memory of Pat Works), Gary Young, and Ron Zais.

Has recruited at least two Ambassadors; **has recruited at least five Ambassadors; *has recruited at least eight Ambassadors.*

Blue Skies Forever!



Nate Pond
Hall of Fame Member
2015

Blue Skies Forever!



Handsome
Dave DeWolf
Hall of Fame Member
2016