

OFF & RUNNING!

The final results of the museum's conceptual design project were recently unveiled at the PIA and USPA gathering in early February and the preliminary reviews were enthusiastically positive: "Wow." "Impressive." "Love it." "Great stuff." "Fantastic."

The setting was Chattanooga, Tennessee. The events were the Parachute Industry Association's biennial Symposium, the meeting of the Board of the United States Parachute Association and the USPA Drop Zone Operators' Conference. With so many events taking place in one place at one time, it was the perfect setting to selectively share our plans with important members of the skydiving industry and community.

A massive conceptual graphic of the exterior rendering of the museum that will be built in North Orlando (Florida) was the center point of the museum's booth at the PIA Symposium. Printed seven feet high and ten feet wide, it attracted a great deal of attention. Thirty-one of the exhibitors at the Symposium proudly displayed signs in their booths stating "We Proudly Support the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame."



The process of moving towards ultimately building the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame has now begun in earnest with what can be referred to as the validation phase. During this phase, the plans for the Museum & Hall of Fame are being presented to prominent and influential members of the skydiving community and industry. "These are the people whose support will allow us to move forward," says Development Committee Chair Dana Engelstad. "They are vitally important to us. We are thrilled by their enthusiastic responses."

"Clearly, we are headed in the right direction and momentum is building," commented museum



president and CEO James (Curt) Curtis after the events in Chattanooga concluded.

"In many ways this was a four-day focus group," stated Director of Development Jim McCormick. "We were seeking feedback from people who are very important to us and it was all positive."

Stay tuned for further announcements on our progress toward the ultimate goal of funding and building YOUR museum on our website, in **Parachutist Magazine**, and in our newsletters and museum social media.

In other developments, the newly introduced ambassador program continues to be very popular. Introduced in August, it is now approaching fifty participating ambassadors. "We could not be happier with the response to the ambassador program," commented Development Director McCormick. "The skydiving community is showing that it really wants to see the Museum & Hall of Fame built. All the support is both significant and gratifying."

More information on the Ambassador Program is available at:

www.SkydivingMuseum.org/Ambassador-Program



Be sure to check out the 2017 International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration Event insert and registration form!



Remembering Our Donors: Thank You!

A special thank you to those donors who, cumulatively, have contributed more than \$10,000 to the Int'l Skydiving Museum (through 2016)

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United Parachute Technologies
Vigil America

STARWall Bricks

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The International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its donors in 2016.

***We regret any errors or omissions in this list. If you note an error or missing name, please contact us at nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org so that we may correct our records.*

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BREAKING NEWS!

Internationally known skydiver Graeme K. Windsor of Australia joins Skydiving Museum's Board of Trustees . . . look for a full story in our next newsletter!



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Photos by Jerry Irwin

The museum took a bold step forward in November toward preserving a large piece of skydiving history by announcing the creation of the **Skydiving Photo, Film & Video Archive Preservation Project**. The project initiative was kick-started by the acquisition of the historic **skydiving photo collection of famed freefall photographer Jerry Irwin**, who passed away this February. We intend to expand the entire collection to other renowned freefall photographers and videographers.



Jerry Irwin



Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of D-20,000's Jump

February 10, 1997, President George Herbert Walker Bush stepped on to the podium at the Parachute Industry Association's biennial Symposium and donned a Switlik parachute like the one he used to bail out of his crippled torpedo bomber off the coast of Japanese-occupied island Chi Chi Jima. The next morning, to everyone's surprise, he called one of his former White House staff advisors, who also happened to be USPA's executive director, and declared he wanted to make another parachute jump. After looking at the various first-jump student methods, he unhesitatingly selected Accelerated Freefall (AFF). He wanted to deploy his own parachute, as he had done during WWII.

To make it happen, the skydiving community pulled out all the stops. USPA provided a training faculty. The Army provided a Golden Knight trainer and use of Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona. PIA rallied manufacturers to provide customized and personalized equipment. Larry Hill's Skydive Arizona provided its Skyvan and a place to train, and Tom Sanders put together an expert photography/videography team. Then, for six weeks at both Skydive Arizona and Yuma Proving Grounds, rehearsals were conducted in earnest, with the AFF instructional team practicing every conceivable "What if?" scenario.

Finally on March 24, the former commander in chief arrived on the scene to begin two days of training. And on March 25 — twenty years ago — President Bush shocked the world with his first skydive. And he would go on to make several more. Happy twentieth anniversary, Mr. President. We are proud and honored to have you as the Honorary Chairman of the Board of the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame. Your positive impact on the sport has been huge.



Photo by Tom Sanders