



2020 International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration!

October 8–10—Skydive DeLand, DeLand, Florida

SPECIAL 2020 CELEBRATION INSERT

A message from James F. (Curt) Curtis III, President/CEO, Board of Trustees . . .

Regardless of one's age, today's world is unlike anything any of us have ever experienced before; like living in a science-fiction movie but for the loss of life, economic hardship and sense of confusion which are all too real. As this is being written (late April 2020), the U.S., as well as most of the world, is on some degree of lockdown as we try to mitigate the COVID-19 virus. Having said that, efforts are now surfacing to try and bring, via phases, the U.S., as well as other countries, back to some sense of normalcy. It is with this same cautious optimism that we continue preparations and planning for our 2020 Celebration Weekend. We are sincerely hopeful we will once again be able to gather together (six feet apart?) to celebrate the Class of '20 Hall of Fame Inductees and the 2020 Path of Excellence recipients and be with those special friends this sport has brought to each of us. We hope you will include the Weekend Celebration in your future plans.

Join Us for the 2020 Hall of Fame Celebration!

The 11th International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration will take place at Skydive DeLand, DeLand, Florida, October 8–10, 2020. There will be skydiving competitions and record attempts along with plenty of fun jumping and tandem jumps. Other non-skydiving and spectator activities provide a winning combination for one and all.



Join us Thursday, October 8, for Early Bird Registration and packet pickup followed by the Early Bird Reception at the Pioneers Lounge, i.e., The Perfect Spot Restaurant & Bar at Skydive DeLand. The reception, sponsored by the Pope Valley Parachute Ranch, is the perfect time to rub elbows (or fist bump!) with the pioneers, legends and greats of our sport.

There's nothing like the good-time atmosphere at the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration. The spirited event includes all kinds of activities for participants in the air and on the ground including:

- The 10-Way Speed STAR WARS competition is back by popular demand. Put a team together and join the fun. The Classic Accuracy Demo Challenge is returning for a second year—a true crowd pleaser.
- Forums featuring today's most timely topics in the sport of skydiving. Open to all Celebration participants free of charge.
- Friday's Pioneers Lunch honoring the pioneers of skydiving.
- *Gear Thru the Years* sponsored by PIA presents the progression of the sport's transition from military surplus

rigs to today's sleek and modern equipment.

- Path of Excellence Award presented Friday early evening followed by a BBQ where young and old, pioneers and legends, pros and aspiring champs can meet, sign log books and take selfies. After the BBQ, a spectacular canopy formation will light up the night sky over Skydive DeLand.
- Book signings and photo sessions featuring skydiving authors including Joe Kittinger, Mike McGowan, Dan BC and Norman Heaton, among others.
- Trustees award presentation at the Hall of Fame Banquet.
- Breathtaking Tribute Jumps on Friday and Saturday night.
- Tandem Jump Discounts for old and young—the perfect opportunity to get back in the air and share the experience with kids and grandkids.

And much, much more . . .

Saturday will draw to a close with the real purpose of the weekend, honoring 11 pillars of our skydiving community at a sit-down banquet and induction ceremony presented by PIA. This year's inductees are well-deserving and join an elite club. *(See their bios on the following pages to learn more about these worthy individuals and their incredible accomplishments.)*



The banquet will take place at the Daytona Oceanfront Hilton overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. 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. **Join us!**

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Introducing the Hall of Fame Class of 2020 . . .

Bruno Brokken, Belgium—Bruno Brokken was born in Ath, Belgium. His first jump was made in 1980, and he has since made over 26,000 jumps. Bruno is a competition skydiver as well as a photographer. As a photographer, he is in a class that few people can obtain. Some of the more memorable jumps that he has photographed are as follows: 400-way in Thailand, World Air Games, Blue Hole in Belize, Great Pyramid of Giza, Dubai Palm, Stonehenge in United Kingdom, Varadero, Cuba, Muscat, Oman and the 297-way in Anapa, Russia—these just name a few. He is also an expert in filming freestyle competition. Bruno has spent a lifetime dedicated to skydiving and has been and still is a pioneer in our sport.



Faye Cox, Australia—Since her first jump in 1965, Faye has devoted her whole life to skydiving. She and her husband established Manton Drop Zone with a very successful skydiving school in North Queensland, Australia. Faye has been recognized at the highest level in the Australian Parachute Federation as one of only six persons to receive the Master of Sport Parachuting award. She was also awarded the Australian Sports Medal by the government in 2000. Faye was the Secretary General of the ASIANIA Parachute Federation from its formation in 1994 until she retired 25 years later. She has always worked to develop and promote greater participation by the Asian and Australasian countries in all aspects associated with skydiving.

Chris J. Gay, USA—Chris has been instrumental in developing the skydiving discipline of Canopy Formation (CRW) around the world. His success is reflected in the 15 world records between 1994 and present day that he has helped to pilot and engineer. His love for competition has not only won him bronze, silver and gold medals in both national and world competitions, but has driven others to perfect their skills. His expertise has allowed him to participate in many events worldwide, allowing spectators the opportunity to visualize the beauty of diamonds in the sky and encouraging more participation in the sport.



Russ Gunby, USA—Russ had a varied career in skydiving. He was the executive director and president of the Parachute Club of America. He was an innovator and author of the first book devoted to the instruction and training of skydivers when he published *The Basic Handbook of Sport Parachuting* in 1960. While in print, it is estimated that over 100,000 copies of this little handbook were sold. Russ was responsible for the very first set of basic safety regulations of the PCA/USPA. Russ also started the Area Safety Officer program and the conference area concept for representatives serving on the PCA Board of Directors. This is still in vogue today. He passed away in 1982.

Larry Hill, USA—Larry started his first DZ in 1977 with a Cessna 182. Here he was a one-man show—serving as instructor, rigger, mechanic, pilot and DZO. He would later move again until finally ending up in Eloy, Arizona, where he adopted the name “Skydive Arizona” for his DZ. Since moving to Eloy, Larry has successfully hosted 13 National Parachuting Championships, 2 World Parachuting Championships, 4 World Cup Championships and 8 Collegiate Championships. He was also instrumental in the development of the OmniSkore judging system. He was awarded the prestigious Faust Vrancic award in 1997. In short, Larry has devoted his entire adult life to pursuit of the betterment of the sport of skydiving.



Xiaoli Lai, China—Xiaoli made her first jump at the young age of 14. Since that time, she has amassed over 7,200 jumps. In 1988 she became a member of the Chinese National Parachute Team. She became captain of the Chinese Women’s Team in 1992. Xiaoli was the Chinese National Accuracy champion for 7 consecutive years from 1991 to 1997. She is a former world champion in women’s accuracy. As a competitor, while competing in national and world competitions, she has won 22 gold medals, 4 silver and 4 bronze. Xiaoli was employed by the Aero Sport School of Sichuan for 21 years as an athlete. Xiaoli was awarded the honor as one of Sichuan’s 10 best athletes.

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Introducing the Hall of Fame Class of 2020 . . . (continued)

jeanni McCombs, USA—jeanni was a strong early female presence in the male-dominated sport of skydiving. She made 2,985 jumps before her untimely death in 1981. As D-251, she was only the fourth woman to earn a D license. Although she competed in the individual events, she was drawn to relative work from the start and excelled at organizing women's "stars," which led to some of the first 4-, 8- and 10-woman stars and eventually to a world record 13-woman star at Elsinore on April 7, 1973. But perhaps jeanni's greatest contribution was her tireless promotion, not only of women in the sport, but of the sport itself.



Mike McGowan, USA—Mike has long been known as one of the best photographers in the skydiving business. During the 1980s, USPA authorized and sanctioned the creation of an AFF Training Video. Mike collaborated with Al Gramando to direct, film and edit the first training video for all seven levels of the Advanced Freefall Program. Multiple drop zones integrated these videos into their skydive training programs. In the mid 1980s, Mike, along with Sandy Williams, organized a major 20-way competition at Zephyrhills which became the first meet solely utilizing air-to-air videography to score formation skydiving. This was the birth of air-to-air judging and continues to be the standard in competition skydiving disciplines both nationally and internationally.

Paul Rafferty, USA—Paul's many accomplishments in our sport are difficult to capture because he contributed so much to include winning five consecutive gold medals at the Skydiving World Parachuting Championships in the 8-way event for the following years: 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1995. He also won a gold medal at the 1988 World Cup of Relative Work in the 8-way event. At the U.S. Nationals, he was part of an 8-way team (U.S. Army Parachute Team) that won a gold medal for 9 separate years. During his tenure with the Golden Knights, Paul worked with numerous parachute companies testing their equipment and providing his technical advice regarding their product development. Before his untimely death, Paul had accrued over 15,000 parachute jumps.



Kirk Verner, USA—Kirk has been on the leading edge of formation skydiving for three decades as a competitor, leader and innovator. He has won 66 world- and national-level gold medals, which makes him one of the most successful competitors in any skydiving discipline. Kirk was captain of both the 300- and 400-person world record formations. He has coached thousands of individuals in both indoor and outdoor formation skydiving and has innovated new techniques in both training and flying. He has been a USPA National Director while serving as the chairman of the Competition Committee. He also serves as the U.S. delegate to the IPC. Kirk is among the top skydiving individuals with the volume and quality of both his achievements and his contributions to the sport.

Bruce Wicks, USA—Bruce served close to 30 years in the U.S. Army and, in particular, Special Forces. Bruce was a former commander of the United States Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights. While he commanded the Team, there were 13 national and world champions on the Team. Bruce served as team leader for the U.S. National Parachute Team that competed for the world championship in Sweden in 1988. He was also the team leader for the U.S. National Team that competed in Austria in 1992. Bruce has an extensive judging background as he has judged in 12 different world championships, world cups and/or foreign national championships and 17 U.S. National Championships. Bruce was also one of the architects of the skydive that was performed at the Opening Ceremonies of the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.



Schedule of Events

(subject to change)

Thursday, October 8

All Day Fun Jumping, Sequential Record Attempts, Competition Practice
4-8 pm Early Bird Registration
4-10 pm Early Bird Reception

Friday, October 9

All Day Fun Jumping, Sequential Record Attempts, Competition Practice
10 am-5 pm Registration Open
10 am-10 pm Pioneers Lounge Open
10-11 am Forum — Bill Booth *"Early History of Parachuting"*
12-5:30 pm Skydiving Activities (TBD)
12-1 pm Pioneers Lunch (Tickets Required)
1-1:30 pm Gear Thru the Years
2-3 pm Forum — Bill Booth *"Inventions in DeLand"*
3:30-4:30 pm Book Signings
5-5:30 pm Path of Excellence Tribute Jump
6-9 pm Welcome BBQ
7:30 pm Canopy Formation Night DEMO

Saturday, October 10

All Day Fun Jumping, Sequential Record Attempts
8 am-4 pm 10-Way Competition
9 am-4 pm Registration Open
10 am-5 pm Pioneers Lounge Open
11 am-12 pm Book Signings
12:30-1 pm Gear Thru the Years
1-2 pm Forum — Bill Booth *"Skydiving the Seven Continents and North Pole"*
5:30-6 pm Competition Awards
5:30-7 pm Hall of Fame Reception (Daytona Hilton)
6 pm Hall of Fame Inductees Tribute Jump (Daytona Beach)
7-10 pm Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony (Daytona Hilton)

All activities take place at Skydive DeLand except where noted.

Hotel Room Block Information

We have secured room blocks at several hotels for celebration guests. Space is limited so please make your reservations early.

Courtyard by Marriott

308 N. Woodland Blvd, DeLand, FL 32720
386/943-9500
Room Rates: \$149-\$159

Hilton Inn Oceanfront (HOF Banquet location)

100 North Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118
386/254-8200
Room Rates: \$139-\$159/night

For additional hotels and information for booking online, please visit the museum's website (www.skydivingmuseum.org) and click on "Celebration Event" then "Lodging"

Path of Excellence Award Goes to the World Team 400-Way

Fourteen years ago, there was a magical moment when something unparalleled in the history of skydiving occurred. This October, at the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration, that spectacular moment and all that went into creating it will be recognized when World Team 2006 receives the Path of Excellence Award. The award is the museum's most prestigious award for groups, companies, organizations or teams recognizing significant contributions of enduring value to the world of skydiving.

On February 8, 2006, 400 World Team skydivers plus 16 freefall videographers filled the sky above Udon Thani, Thailand. They filled it as had never been done before or since when they set the longest standing large formation world record in the history of skydiving. It was a fleeting creation lasting only 4.25 seconds, yet its impact has lasted for years. Not only did World Team 2006 set an enduring record, they are also the only skydivers in the history of the sport to jump from a formation of five C-130 Hercules military transports. The lift capacity for the event was provided by an amazing team of pilots, support personnel and leadership from the Royal Thai Air Force.

Representing 30 countries, World Team 2006 was the largest multi-national sports team ever assembled to pursue a common goal. World Team was a creation of legendary skydiver bj Worth with his wife Bobbie Worth. Together, they led the World Team effort starting in 1994 through an international odyssey of four world record events that culminated in the 400-way. As part of the Royal Sky Celebration, the 2006 event was a tribute to the 60th anniversary of the reign of the king of Thailand.

On October 9, World Team 2006 will receive the 2020 Path of Excellence Award mid-way through the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration at Skydive DeLand. This year will be the third time the Path of Excellence has been awarded and the third time it will recognize an international team for an extraordinary accomplishment. It will be another moment to remember.

Photo by Willy Boeykens



Bob Lewis to Receive Trustees Award

Robert V. "Bob" Lewis is the 2020 recipient of the museum's Trustees Award. The Trustees Award is given at the discretion of the Board of Trustees to thank special friends of the museum for voluntarily contributing services or making other gestures of goodwill to the skydiving museum in furtherance of its principles and objectives. Bob will receive the award during the museum's Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration, October 8-10, 2020, at Skydive DeLand, DeLand, Florida.



From 2010 to 2016, Lewis was instrumental in the creation and roll out of the audio-visual presentations for the museum's Hall of Fame Banquets and Induction Ceremonies. He first worked with Howard White, then subsequently Phil Chiochio. In 2017, he and Chiochio worked together on a Tiny Broadwick presentation which he presented at the event; the following year, he did the presentation from a hospital bed with the on-site assistance of Chiochio. Bob was also instrumental in securing a commitment for Broadwick's equipment and memorabilia for the museum once it is built.

Subsequent to 2017, Lewis has contributed to the museum and the sport of skydiving through his photography, research and writings, many of which appear on social media under the museum's banner. He is always upbeat and very dedicated to the sport's history as evidenced by his accurate postings. Bob, utilizing social media on behalf of the museum, acknowledges birthdays of well-known and respected skydiving personalities including D-1 Lew Sanborn, thus maintaining awareness and visibility for the museum. As a historical writer, he brings great value to the museum through his various research and writing projects including Ladies of Skydiving. Lewis and Chiochio have discussed collaborating on a future project to make videos from Lewis' research which could be incorporated into the museum's galleries after premiering in the in-house theater.

Bob is a museum ambassador, helping to increase awareness of the museum and providing vital and significant support. He also serves as an advisor on the museum's Accessions & Curations Committee. He spends his time away from museum activities on electronic design and engineering. Lewis is not one of those people who just expects someone else to "do it" but rather sees a need and jumps right in. He has a true love of the sport and the people in it.