

## \$ Now is the Time \$

*A Message from Board of Trustees President/CEO Curt Curtis . . .*

If you've been thinking about contributing to the Museum, the time to do so has arrived. The current timetable calls for the Museum Board, at their Reno meeting (late February '23), to make decisions related to the size of the building and which exhibits will populate the interior upon opening. Between now and then, the single biggest influence on those two decisions will be you, the skydiver! Back in 1976, our founder, Bill Ottley, was asked: "Why a museum?" He replied, "Because this sport will deserve a museum and, in addition, warrant a Hall of Fame." It is up to us to build something reflective of both our great sport and those who made it what it is today. **Let's do it!**



Architectural Rendering of the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame in Kissimmee, Florida

## Historic Skyvan Donated to Museum

We are thrilled to announce that the major components of a historically significant Skyvan jump aircraft have been added to the museum collection, courtesy of the Hill family of Skydive Arizona.

Larry, Liliane, Stephen and Shawn Hill have donated the fuselage, right wing and right strut of the aircraft that was the jump platform for President George H. W. Bush's first two civilian skydives.

The plane will be the centerpiece of the *Flight to Altitude Experience* that will begin every museum patron's virtual ride to



jump altitude and be followed by a virtual skydive in a 360-degree surround vision theater.

The historic

significance of the aircraft will be presented as part of the exhibit.

We thank the Hill family for their continuing generous support.

## An Impressive Group of Hall of Fame Members Attend 2022 Celebration

**Front row from left:** Amy Chmelecki, Norman Heaton, Curt Curtis, Lenny Potts, William Grut (representing Dave Waterman), Bill Booth, Jackie Smith, Solly Williams, Craig Girard, Eliana Rodriguez, Lesley Gale, Larry Hill, Jan Works (representing Pat Works), Scott Hamilton, Henny Wiggers, John Higgins, Ray Cottingham, Bill Morrissey, Norman Kent (representing Deanna Kent), Bruce Wicks

**Back row from left:** Roger Ponce de Leon, Kirk Verner, Alan Eustace, Ian Bobo, Chris Needels, Cheryl Stearns, Bruno Brokken, Mike McGowan, Tom Sanders, Brenda Reid

**Present but not pictured:** Omar Alhegelan, Pete Allum, Chris Gay, Yasu Kubo, Tony Uragallo

Photo by Randy Forbes



**Nominate NOW for '23 Hall of Fame and Path & Pioneers of Excellence Awards**



Nominations are now being accepted for the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Class of 2023 and the 2023 Path and Pioneers of Excellence Awards. The deadline for Hall of Fame nominations is December 31st, and the deadline for Path/Pioneers of Excellence is March 1st.

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.

The Path of Excellence Award is specifically for entities—groups, companies, organizations or teams—for significant contribution(s) of enduring high value to the world of skydiving. In 2021, the Pioneers of Excellence Award was added to recognize entities that contributed in the 1970s and earlier.

Visit our website for further details and a nomination form or contact Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm, Museum Administrator. All nominations will be kept confidential.



**Visit us at the PIA Symposium in Reno!**

Come see us at the Parachute Industry Association Symposium in Reno!

The event is the biannual gathering of the skydiving industry and community. It includes an extensive trade show in which manufacturers unveil their newest products and innovations. The Museum & Hall of Fame will be an exhibitor, using the opportunity to make more people aware of our plans and recruit supporters. We will also be doing some fun things in our booth to engage attendees. Presentations on our plans for our building and exhibits will also be available.

The symposium is February 27 to March 3, 2023, at the Silver Legacy Casino Resort, in Reno, Nevada. (Some of those planning to attend tell us they are going to head to Lake Tahoe after the event for some skiing!)

An additional offering is the board and committee meetings of the United States Parachute Association, which will take place at the same location before the symposium from February 24 to 26.

*Hope to see you in Reno!*



**Museum Trustee Receives FAI Bronze Medal**

Museum Trustee Marylou Laughlin has been awarded the FAI Bronze Medal. This medal was established by the FAI in June 1962. It may be awarded annually, upon nomination by the Secretary General, to a person having rendered eminent services to the FAI in administrative work, in Commissions or Committees, or in the organization of FAI sporting events.

Marylou was nominated for unsurpassed selfless contributions to the sport of skydiving and FAI as a leader, competitor, judge and U.S. representative within the international skydiving community. This was particularly evident when, in addition to her role as meet director, she also took on the role of ISC liaison officer following critical organizational problems and brilliantly master-minded the organization of the Canopy Piloting event at the 2022 World Games that were held in Birmingham, Alabama, last July.

Marylou started skydiving in 1988. She has ferociously advocated for the sport and built upon our competition history. Earning her D license the same year she began, Marylou has more than 4,400 skydives to date, and still counting! She served

as the delegate to the International Parachuting Commission, was the chair of the CF Committee and also vice president. She is well respected and well loved by her colleagues and peers.

Marylou is secretary for the board of trustees of the International Skydiving Museum and serves on the board's Executive Committee. She is also chair of the museum's Path of Excellence/Pioneers of Excellence Committee and co-chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee and a member of the Development and Events Committees.

Marylou dominates other activities as well, holding a private pilot's license and a PADI Advanced Open-Water certificate. An energetic and positive skydiver, Marylou continues to improve the sport and help push the boundaries for a bright future in skydiving competitions around the world!



## James La Barrie Joins Board of Trustees

The museum is pleased to welcome James La Barrie as a member of the board of trustees. James is founder and president of Beyond Marketing, the first marketing agency in the world dedicated to skydiving. Over the course of his two decades in the industry, James has earned a reputation for wholeheartedly advocating for his clients, championing a values-based approach to branding and marketing, and empowering business owners to enter into new and exciting phases of their lifecycle.

Originally from Antigua, a small Caribbean island, James was born into a family of hoteliers and entrepreneurs who instilled in him the importance of excellent service. After earning degrees in business administration and marketing, James spent four years as PGA head professional at a golf club . . . and then Skydive Carolina DZO Danny Smith wandered onto the course. For the next nine years, James grew this small dropzone into a multi-million dollar operation, and he's since helped others worldwide accomplish the same.

Today, the Beyond Marketing portfolio represents dropzones and industry-specific businesses of all sizes, from start-ups and mom-and-pops to industry mainstays and household names. James frequently conducts on-site training sessions and presentations around the world, including engagements with the Australian Parachute Federation, British Skydiving, PIA, The US Army Golden Knights, and the USPA. James is a member of the board's Events Committee and an advisor for the Marketing Committee.



## Blue Skies, Col. (Ret.) Kirk M. Knight, Ph.D.

Museum trustee Kirk Knight passed away in August.

Kirk's commitment to the museum was immense. His support singlehandedly funded the Library of Parachuting in the museum, designating all his gifts in memory of former trustees Larry and Cindi Bagley. His support for the project was multifaceted. He was a Museum Ambassador, recruited Ambassadors and even sponsored others as Ambassadors. He also lent his considerable talents to the project by serving on the museum's Facilities Committee, Accessions & Curations Committee and Marketing Committee.

Kirk made nearly 8,000 skydives and was an active jumper with ratings as an Accelerated Freefall Instructor Examiner, Coach Examiner, and Professional Exhibition Skydiver (PRO). He has served as U.S. Parachute team leader on several occasions. He was a parachuting judge with international ratings and ratings from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an airline transport pilot in multi-engine airplanes and a commercial instrument rating in helicopters.

Kirk was a liaison officer at U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and previously served on the Command's parachute demonstration team, the Para-Commandos. Kirk is a 35-year Army veteran as both an enlisted soldier and officer. He retired at the rank of colonel, had multiple combat assignments in infantry and aviation and was commander of the U.S. Army Parachute Team—the Golden Knights.

*Blue skies, Kirk!*



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

Editor: Nancy (Kemble) Wilhelm

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## **Breaking News . . .**

### **Save the Date for the 2023 Hall of Fame Celebration**

Mark your calendars for **October 5–7, 2023**, for the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration at Skydive Arizona, Eloy, Arizona, USA. We will be honoring the Hall of Fame Class of 2023 and awarding the 2023 Path and Pioneers of Excellence Awards. Watch our website ([www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org)) for details in early 2023.



## **We Make It Easy to Donate!**

The museum now has several new ways to accept donations:

- Credit Cards: American Express, Discover, Visa, MasterCard
- Checks
- Wire Transfers
- PayPal
- **New! Zelle** is an ideal way to send money between almost any U.S. bank account. By using the museum's email address ([nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org](mailto:nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org)), you can quickly, safely and easily send money regardless of where you bank, and there is no service charge to either the donor or the museum.
- Direct Deposit: money goes directly from the donor's account to the museum's checking account.

Visit the museum's website and click on **Donate** to access all ways to give. If you have any questions, please contact museum headquarters at 407/900-9997 or [nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org](mailto:nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org).

## **Operation Packrat—Take 2 . . . Join Us and Be a Part of Skydiving's History!**

The museum's Curations Committee has scheduled its second **OPERATION PACKRAT** for April 4–7, 2023, at Sun Path Products in Raeford, North Carolina. Operation Packrat is the identifying, tagging, and storage of hundreds of parachute equipment, documents, film media and instruments donated and acquired by the museum over the last 40+ years. The first Operation Packrat, under the auspices of the Curations Committee and more than 30+ volunteers, resulted in the processing, handling and identification of over 1,500 individual items. And we need to do it again!



We are seeking qualified volunteers to travel to Raeford, North Carolina, and participate in this historic event. We are looking for individuals who are willing to travel to Raeford **AT THEIR EXPENSE** and join the teams of "Old School" jumpers, riggers, pilots, DZOs and others who share a passion for the preservation of the history of our sport.



We are recruiting specialists such as "Old School" riggers and photographers in each of these areas to help identify, document, and log the information into our special museum database program. These groups will have team leaders and members to open the boxes, in many cases for the first time in years, and to identify what we have, grade it as to its suitability for use in the museum, repackage it into standard boxes, and label with bar code ID for storage and future use. Besides the "specialists," we will have a need for many people who can help do the "grunt work." In return for your volunteering

to come and join this endeavor, you will receive a morning coffee break, lunch and dinner, a closing banquet AND a most unique and limited edition T-shirt and sweatshirt commemorating your participation in and contribution to what is guaranteed to be a once (or twice if you participated in the first Packrat)-in-a-lifetime project.

For those who are interested in participating in Operation Packrat, please go to [www.skydivingmuseum.org](http://www.skydivingmuseum.org), click on the "Contact Us" tab, then "Operation Packrat," and complete the form no later than February 1, 2023. We will confirm and be in touch with those who are accepted.