

The Skydive Experience Project is taking shape...

The Board of Trustees has taken a bold step forward by establishing the *Skydive Experience Project* to develop the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame's planned facility in North Orlando. After approving a comprehensive development program for advancing this



Project, Big Sky Productions has been contracted to set it in motion, with BJ Worth serving as Project Director. Worth resigned as a museum trustee to fulfill this role.

When asked about the initial steps and priorities for the project, Worth shared, "In a project this big and this complex, there are a lot of moving parts—engaging the global skydiving community, establishing a viable business plan, developing exhibits, collecting and assembling artifacts, fundraising on multiple levels, etc. All of which must be coordinated into a well-oiled development machine.

"Our relationship with iFLY is one of our most critical components. iFLY has generously offered to build the museum's 20,000 square foot shell as an integral portion of its North Orlando wind tunnel facility—with the caveat that the museum be fully functional by the time iFLY opens its doors in late 2018 or early 2019. This gives us a three-year window to raise the necessary funds, complete all design work, fabricate the interior and exhibits, and have a professional museum staff fully trained and ready to welcome visitors.

"Our first step in this process will be to engage the global skydiving community—reaching out to all disciplines in all nations who participate in skydiving and its many related activities. We will do this with a compelling website combined with the latest in social media technology. The website will feature a virtual walk-through of the conceptual museum, highlight many activity zones with 100+ potential exhibits, provide a timeline of skydiving milestones through the ages, and provide gifting opportunities for those who wish to help make this dream become a reality.



"The budget for building the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame is north of \$10 million, so we have our fundraising work cut out for us. To add to the \$3 million in donations already raised, we will conduct a capital fundraising campaign that provides opportunities for donors to sponsor specific exhibits at various levels of support. Simultaneously, we will conduct a fun 'challenge' campaign that is tailored to the general 'enthusiast' community.

(continued on back page)

Check out the enclosed insert for pictures from our Sixth Annual Weekend Celebration and Hall of Fame Dinner!



Hall of Fame Eagles Over Oshkosh Wow EAA Airshow Attendees and Set a New Wisconsin Skydive Record

This summer, the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame had a unique opportunity to put on an aerial demonstration never before witnessed at the Experimental Aviation Association’s AirVenture 2015 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. While skydiving has been a part of the largest airshow in the world for many years, large skydiving formations have never been included.

The air show attracts over 500,000 spectators over its week long run with as many as 150,000 on any given day. AirVenture was an extraordinary venue for skydivers from around the world to promote the sport in front of avid members of the aviation community.

World Record skydiver Jim McCormick, along with world-renowned big-way Dive Director BJ Worth, invited 108 of the world’s best skydivers and captains from 15 nations and 23 states. Additional event captains included World Record skydivers T.J. Hine, Louis Tommaso and renowned jump organizer Roger Ponce de Leon. With a unique collaboration between these big-way experts and the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame, the Hall of Fame’s Eagles Over Oshkosh event and team were born.



The team made two high-altitude jumps on Wednesday, July 22nd and Friday, July 24th and one additional low show at the beginning of the night show on Wednesday. The high-altitude jump on Wednesday consisted of three beautiful formations artfully executed by the team. The low show put 115 canopies in the air, distributed the entire length of the crowd line that stretched 2,000 feet.

The crowd response for all three jumps was nothing short of momentous. Multiple team members were told by spectators as they walked the crowd line back to show center that the jumps were the most impressive thing they had ever seen at the show.

In addition to wowing the crowd with the fantastic big-way skydives, Museum Administrator Nancy Kemble organized a Skydive Museum booth in one of the exhibition halls. President/CEO of the Skydiving Museum James F. Curtis and Museum board member Dana Engelstad, along with Gulcin Gilbert and Jimbob Slocum, presented the world of skydiving at three forums at EAA Oshkosh—which included “Being on the 400-way World Skydive Record” and “Pioneers of Skydiving.”

McCormick and national champion skydiver Lise Aune from Norway also presented a forum following one of the jumps that allowed the public to view jump video and ask questions about the jumps and skydiving. Through this exposure at AirVenture 2015, the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame was able to broadcast its world-class activities to hundreds of thousands of aviation enthusiasts.

The Skydiving Hall of Fame Eagles continue to promote the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame with footage of the team’s jumps incorporated into the 2015 EAA highlight video on their main website. The jump footage is in the first minute of the video that is available for viewing at: <http://www.eaa.org/en/airventure/eea-airventure-news-and-multimedia/airventure-2015-videos>

In addition, the Eagle’s jumps over AirVenture are prominently featured in the EAA’s promotional video that it will play continuously at the International Council of Air Shows convention in Las Vegas in December.

Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members

Linda Miller, D-3150



Linda made her first jump in 1968 in Lakeside, CA. In 1973, she moved to Raeford, NC, to hone her skills in the classic skydiving events of style and accuracy. She met her goals by earning a slot on the 1974 US Style & Accuracy Team that competed in Szolnok, Hungary. Before joining the board, Linda served as a board advisor for almost a decade. She is the 2014 recipient of the museum’s Trustees’ Award for her dedication and creative enthusiasm as a board advisor and her many contributions towards bringing the museum to reality. Linda is currently chair of the board’s marketing committee.

Roberto Montañez, C-41870



Roberto is the Vice-President and General Manager of Butler Parachute Systems Group, Inc. in Roanoke, VA. Roberto has worked in the parachute industry since 1996, starting work as a research assistant while a student at Parks College of Saint Louis University, where he obtained his B.S. in Aerospace Engineering. During his professional career, Roberto has worked on the design, development, testing and production of parachute systems for multiple civilian and military applications. Roberto also serves as president of the Parachute Industry Association, and is an active skydiver and private pilot.

STARWall... Skydiver & Recognition Wall



Celebrate your career in skydiving or recognize and celebrate the life of someone special (living or deceased) by honoring them with a brick engraved with your personal message. Your brick will become a permanent part of skydiving history on the STAR—Skydiver Tribute and Recognition—Wall that will be prominently located as part of the museum.

You are invited to participate in the STARWall Program for a special donation of \$1,000 (payable at one time or up to 12 easy monthly credit card payments). The Skydiving Museum is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation and all donations are deductible for income tax purposes to the full extent of the law. If you are purchasing a brick for someone special, we will send a letter stating your intentions to that individual or their family.

To make your year-end donation and become part of the STARWall, fill out the donation form on the back page of this newsletter and check the “STARWall” brick line.

Now Accepting Nominations for the 2016 Hall of Fame

Only nominations received by December 31, 2015, will be considered for induction in the Skydiving Museum Hall of Fame Class of 2016.

The Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those who, through leadership, innovation and/or outstanding achievements have defined, promoted, inspired and advanced skydiving at the



highest and sustained levels in past, present and for future generations of skydivers.

If you would like to nominate someone, please visit our website for further details and a nomination form or contact Nancy Kemble at 540/604-9745 or nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org. All nominations will be kept confidential.

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

Editor: Nancy Kemble

Trustees

The Hon. George H. W. Bush
Honorary Chairman

Lewis Sanborn
Honorary President

L. Len Potts
Chairman

James F. Curtis III
President / CEO

Christopher J. Needels
Vice President

Larry K. Bagley
Secretary

Lee Schlichtemeier
Treasurer

Curt Bachman
Trustee

Dana Engelstad
Trustee

Kirk Knight
Trustee

Linda Miller
Trustee

Roberto Montañez
Trustee

Pat Thomas
Trustee

Advisors

Don Jenkins
Michael Kearns
Cheryl Whitford
Pat Works

Nancy Kemble
Museum Administrator
nkemble@skydivingmuseum.org

Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame
5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd
Fredericksburg, VA 22407
Phone: (540) 604-9745
Fax: (540) 604-9741

Visit our website at:
www.skydivingmuseum.org

Skydive Experience Project Is Taking Shape (continued)

“I believe the skydiving community can and will come together to build its museum, but we will need long-term support from the public sector to sustain it. To achieve this sustainability, we will create an environment that provides an overwhelming skydiving *experience* to all visitors. The museum will teach without preaching, by providing interactive displays and exhibits in most activity centers. Each visitor will be able to prioritize their personal viewing of key periods in our sport’s history. Foreign visitors can access portals to the skydiving activities in their homeland. Our motto will be ‘Please touch everything,’ rather than ‘Please don’t touch.’

“The most realistic skydiving experiences will be in the Simulator Center—accessed with a premium fee. Visitors will be fitted with jumpsuits, helmets, and other skydiving and safety gear. By trying out an array of custom simulators, visitors will be immersed in dynamic freefall and canopy flying experiences. Building a huge formation in freefall, flying a wingsuit over steep terrain in Switzerland, swooping over waves and onto a beach, making a demo into a sport stadium . . . it will all be possible. The public will be given this full immersion experience without them having to risk jumping from a perfectly good airplane.



“We plan to ring in the New Year by officially launching Skydive Experience’s engagement campaign at the start of 2016. Anchoring this effort will be a motivating video that captures the essence of why we started jumping and what compels us to continue jumping. This emotionally charged video will attract enthusiasts to the Skydive Experience website and its social media portals.

“We are at a turning point. This project is too big and too complex for any single entity to complete it alone. But if the global skydiving community comes together in support of this project, I am confident that we can build an electrifying home base for our sport and all of its enthusiasts.”

Be a part of skydiving history . . . make your donation today!

- ___ Contributor (up to \$99)—Name included in museum log book permanently on display in the museum.
- ___ Friend (\$100–\$499)—Name included in museum log book and in museum’s newsletter and four museum passes.*
- ___ Bronze (\$500–\$999)—All of the above and a one year complimentary admission pass to the museum and VIP events.*
- ___ Silver (\$1,000–\$4,999)—All of the above plus a museum embroidered cap.*
- ___ Gold (\$5,000–\$9,999)—All of the above plus name recognition on a building block in a premier location of the museum.*
- ___ Other Amount—please indicate amount \$_____

For donations above \$10,000, please contact museum office.
 *Admission passes will be distributed upon opening of the museum.

___ I’d like to purchase a STARWall brick @ \$1,000. Please send me the memorial brick form to complete.

Check form of payment: _____ Check (made payable to the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame) _____ Credit Card

Credit Card Information: Type of Card ___AX ___MC ___VISA ___Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail contributions to the Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame, 5401 Southpoint Centre Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA 22407. Please indicate if donation is in memory/honor of a loved one. Donations can also be made online at www.skydivingmuseum.org.