

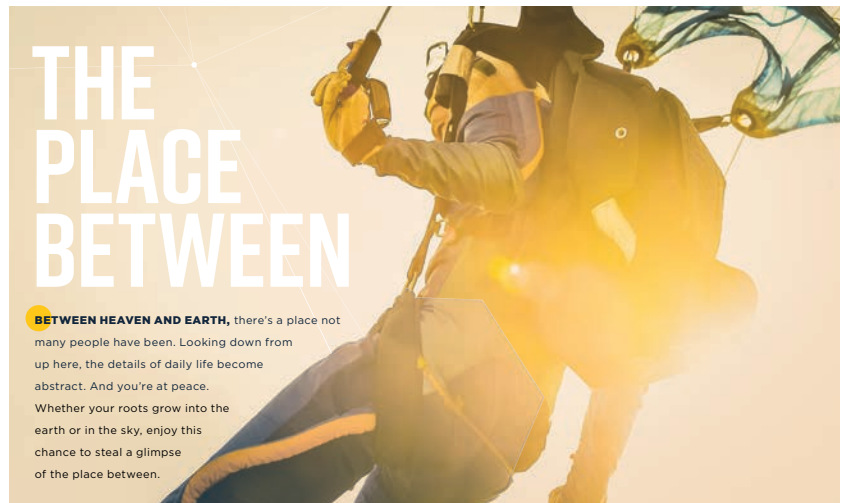
A Peek Behind the Curtain . . .

As with any exciting offering, much takes place behind the scenes before the debut. That is exactly what is taking place at the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame. A team of professionals and volunteers led by Chair Chris Needels has spent the last two years doing extensive research to prepare museum exhibits. Focused on the Parachute Industry Association History of Skydiving gallery, their work has resulted in 21 engaging stories that capture the highlights of our history over time. The result is the content and visuals for inclusion throughout many

of the museum's galleries. In parallel, a third Operation Packrat has continued the process of identifying the items of greatest interest in our collection in preparation for their display in the museum.

Exciting things are also happening at Skydive Arizona. Under the leadership of Shawn Hill, the extensive process of bringing the Presidential Skyvan back to mint condition is underway. When complete, the historically significant aircraft will serve as the entry experience for all museum visitors as it takes them on a virtual ride to jump altitude, then an exit into our signature offering, the fully immersive 360-degree theater with a video floor.

As skydiving is not a traditional sport, neither will we present a traditional museum. Yes, our "museum" will celebrate skydiving's rich history, but don't expect dusty, uninspiring exhibits. Think bold, modern and interactive. With hands-on exhibits and vibrant storytelling, this will be a celebration worthy of our sport. It will be more than a museum . . . it will be an experience. **A SkydiveXperience!**



Breaking News . . . Museum Trustee and Ambassador Gillian Rayner has been elected to the FAI Executive Board for the second time. Gill served as an executive director from 2014 to 2016 but went back to the ISC, where she was president from 2018 until 2024. She stepped down last January at the ISC Plenary Meeting held in Orlando. During all that time, Gill also served in CASI, which is the FAI General Airport Commission, but stood down last week. She was chair for the FAI Statutes Working Group for the last six years, but had to stand down as the result of her election to the Executive Board. The new president is Greg Principato, an American who was previously president of the NAA. There are four new executive directors, and two who have been returned to office. This major change of personnel will create a new dynamic and certainly lead to some change. Congrats, Gill!

Mystery History: Introducing B-1 . . . Alfa Roberta Garrison

Most skydivers are aware that the first USPA-D license went to “Lew” Sanborn, with the first Instructor rating going to Jacques Istel, but what about the first recipients of the lower license categories?

Beginning in 1933, the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) began to issue annual sporting licenses to parachutists. Joe Crane, who is generally accepted as the father of sport parachuting in the US, was on the board of parachute experts that established guidelines for these licenses; he was issued the first national parachuting license. Following WWII, National Parachute Jumpers Association (NPJA) added riggers to their group, becoming fully recognized by the NAA as the sole representative of US jumpers to the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI).

On May 16, 1946, A.R. Garrison was the signatory for the Articles of Incorporation when the NPJA became National Parachute Jumpers and Riggers



Alfa Garrison, B-1, and Joe Crane, C-1

(NPJR). The FAI began issuing licenses through the NAA/NPJR to US jumpers in 1947. Joe Crane was the president, with Garrison as treasurer. A.R. was also the editor of the new NPJR newsletter—predecessor of today’s *Parachutist*. The FAI-sanctioned licenses had three levels: A, B and C, based on the number of jumps. C-license #1 was issued to Joe Crane; B-license #1 was issued to A.R. Garrison. (A-1 was left vacant.)

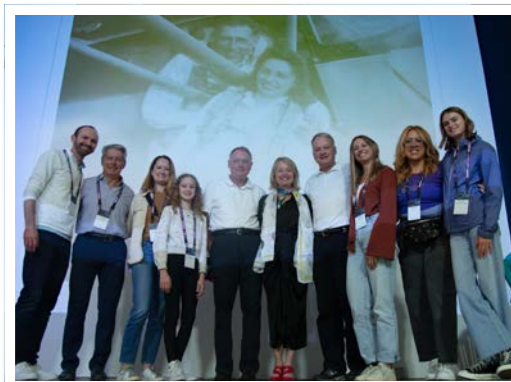
Members of the parachuting community, please allow me to introduce to you: Alfa Roberta Garrison—the first person to achieve a B license in parachuting. We can now add another name to the list of women pioneers of parachuting, alongside Jeanne Garnerin, Käthe Paulus, Tiny Broadwick and Adeline Gray.



Jim McCormick sharing a laugh with Garrison’s niece, Deborah Eck • Photo by Javier Ortiz

Alfa Roberta Garrison sadly passed on March 22, 1952, just as sport parachuting was becoming an international sport. Her legacy was nearly lost to our history, until a young relative decided to do a little research into her great-aunt. She reached out to her aunt, who found one line in a *Parachutist* article.

“Actually, here is the timeline . . . Jenna, Alfa’s great-niece, was rummaging through her parent’s basement, looking for useful items for her new chapter in life, marriage just a few months away. While searching, she stumbled upon her grandmother’s Bible. In this Bible were preserved documents (Alfa’s airman’s card, letter/will to JC, newspaper articles, etc.) . . . At the time, I did not know it was Joe Crane in the photo. I started googling any relevant words that might lead to more information and it was I who saw the phrase in one article about ‘B-1 was issued to an A.R. Garrison of which little is known.’ I just had to pursue this because it was time for MORE to be known! . . . I googled which organization might be interested in learning more. (Museum Administrator) Nancy (Wilhelm) led me to the Skydiving Museum, and you know the rest!”—Deborah Eck



Members of Alfa’s family who came to Skydive Chicago to honor her. (Left to right:) Joe Shomperlen, Rich Kalriess, Jamie Shomperlen, Tilly Shomperlen, Ken Ludlow, Deborah Eck, Don Ludlow, Christy Ludlow, Danielle Eck, Della Shomperlen • Photo by Randy Forbes

Written by Robert Lewis

Museum Trustees Introduce a New Logo

During the Hall of Fame Celebration event at Skydive Chicago, the museum's board of trustees unveiled a new logo for the International Skydiving Museum & Hall of Fame, a moment that marked an exciting step forward for our institution.

We'd like to share some insights behind this important decision.

- ♦ The Board of Trustees has a clear mission: to elevate the museum and hall of fame as a symbol of aspiration within the global skydiving community. The goal is for today's skydivers—and future generations—to envision their stories being celebrated within the walls of the museum.
- ♦ In reviewing the museum's previous logo, the board saw an opportunity to create a visual identity that better reflects the spirit and future ambitions of our sport. The new design is intended to resonate with all skydivers, past and present, across disciplines and generations.
- ♦ The bold yellow bars in the logo symbolize speed, acceleration, and action, elements that unite us regardless of whether belly-flying in the 1960s or flying head-down today.
- ♦ The gold represents excellence, while the navy blue speaks to the strength and stability of our community. There's also a subtle nod to our sport's military roots, a reminder of where we began.

This new logo is a proud symbol of the museum's progress, and it brings us closer to realizing the dream of the museum's construction. We hope you feel as connected to this new identity as we do.



Museum Acquires the "Cottingham Collection"



Ray Cottingham



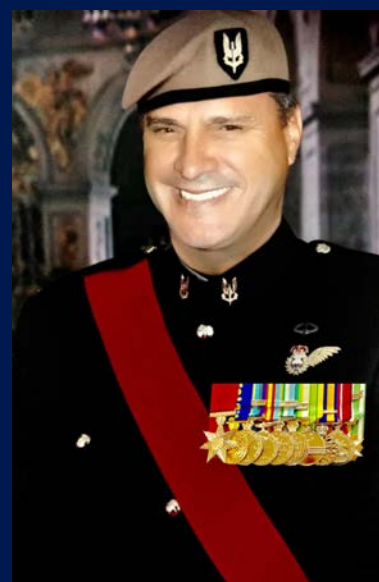
Joan and Ray Cottingham

The museum is beyond appreciative to receive the "Cottingham Collection"; so many thanks to Ray and Joan for this most valuable and meaningful contribution.

Ray, D-1653, has had an outstanding 40-plus-year career as a freefall camera flyer. He made his first jump in 1960 and now has more than 12,000 skydives. He is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and has shot and performed in skydiving scenes in movies such as *Point Break*, *Terminal Velocity* and *Honeymoon in Vegas*, filmed a countless amount of footage for TV programs and ads and shot many still photos that appeared in a variety of magazines. His photo library is a veritable history of skydiving, from the early years of round canopies through today's most sophisticated advances in the sport. Ray is a member of the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Class of 2018.

Thank you, Ray and Joan!

Blue Skies!



Laurie "truck" Sams
1949-2024
Hall of Fame 2022

Breaking News . . . Save the Date for the 2025 Hall of Fame Celebration

Mark your calendars for **November 6–8, 2025**, for the International Skydiving Hall of Fame Celebration at Jump Florida Skydiving in Lake Wales, Florida, USA. Watch our website www.skydivingmuseum.org for details in early 2025.



Nominate NOW for the 2025 Path and Pioneers of Excellence Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the International Skydiving Hall of Fame 2025 Path and Pioneers of Excellence Awards. The deadline is **February 1st**.

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 '70s and before.

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

The Hall of Fame deadline for nominations for 2025 was November 30. Nominations received after that time will be considered for the Hall of Fame Class of 2026.



Museum Advocates Join the Effort!

To create more awareness and support within the active jumper community, the museum is pleased to introduce the Museum Advocate Program. Museum Advocates are prominent and well-regarded members of their local skydiving community who promote the museum while providing their fellow jumpers with the latest information on the project and how they can be part of it.

Museum Advocates . . .

- ♦ Stay informed about the museum through the information they are provided.
- ♦ Post a museum banner, a museum wind blade and update posters at their dropzone.
- ♦ Hand out museum helmet stickers and pull-up cords at DZ events or anytime.
- ♦ Provide fellow jumpers with information on the project, including brochures, when appropriate, and let us know if they need assistance and support in responding to interest or inquiries.
- ♦ Let their fellow jumpers know how they can support the project, should they ask.

We are thrilled to already have over forty Advocates on board at dropzones in the United States, Canada, Spain, Australia and the Netherlands.

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

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