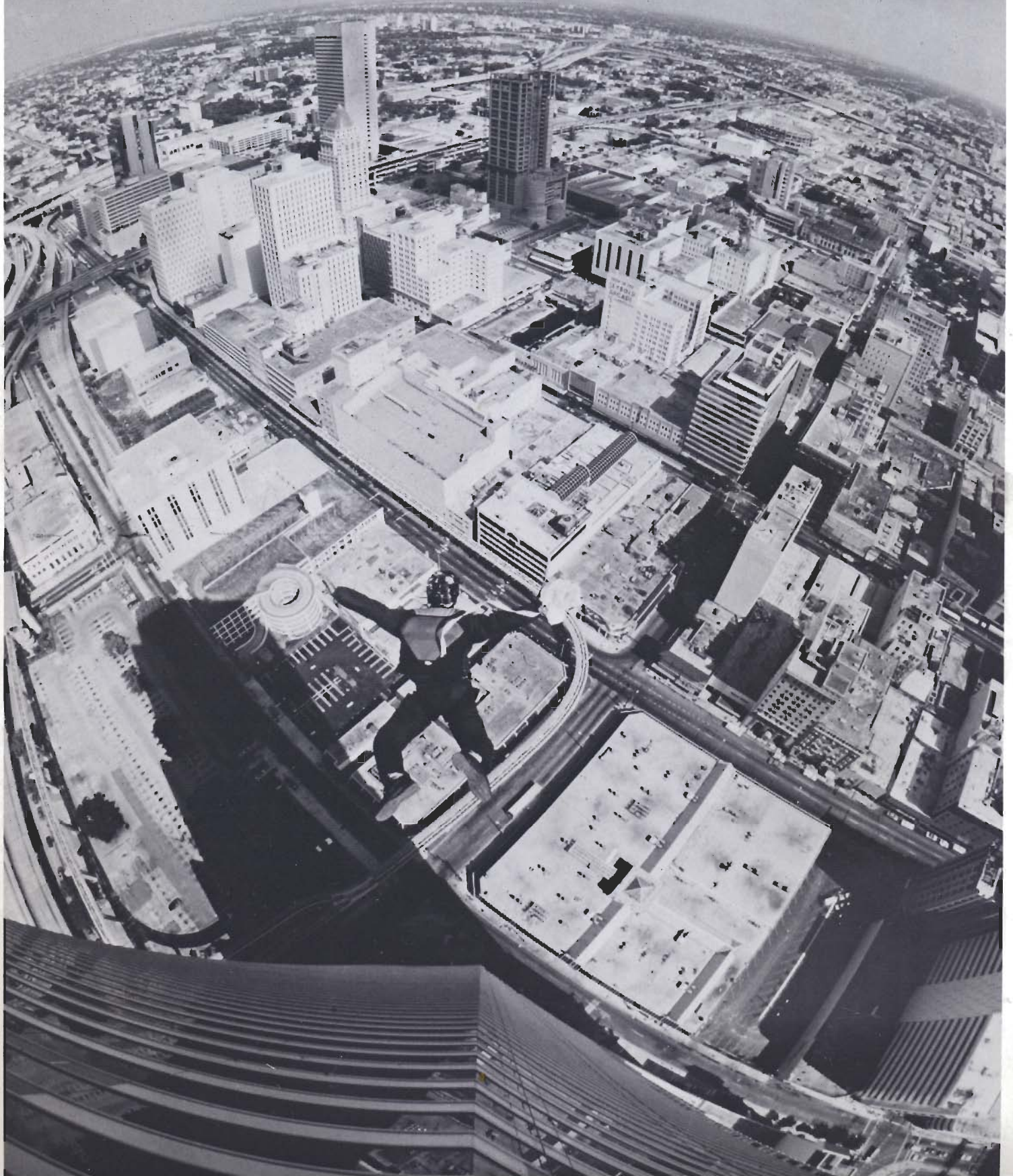


BASELINE



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PARACHUTING'S UNFORGETTABLE JUMPS III

By HOWARD GREGORY

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PARACHUTING'S UNFORGETTABLE JUMPS

Jumping off of the top of El Capitan, a 3,000 foot cliff in the Yosemite Valley in California was legal—for a short time in 1980. Then they banned it.

The following was reported in a front page article in (would you believe) "The Wall Street Journal" (Friday, June 27, 1986):

Sometimes the frustrated rangers stake out a jump site. One morning they caught Robin Heid, the Denver BASE jumper, atop El Capitan. "Out from behind the rocks pop 10 rangers," Mr. Heid recalls. "One of them said, 'All right boys, the game is over. You're coming with us.'"

Mr. Heid says, "I bowed to them, said, 'Gentlemen, have a nice day' and I jumped off." He was arrested by the rangers in a meadow at the base of the cliff.

* * *

The above is only one of the legion of jump stories in the NEW "Parachuting's Unforgettable Jumps III" (A New Completely Revised Third Edition) A regular Who's Who of the celebrities of the parachuting world; professionals and sport champions are interviewed for their funniest, most unusual and most memorable jump stories.

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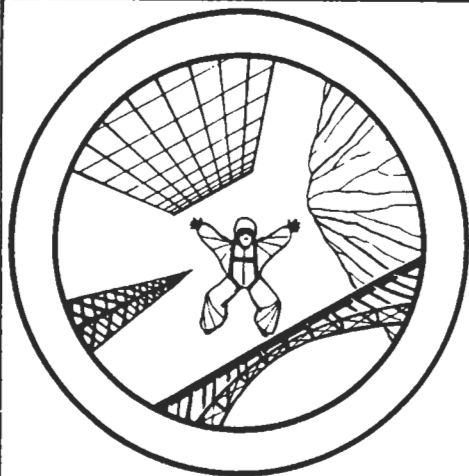
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ISBN 0-9607086-4-2 \$23.95



HOWARD GREGORY

640 THE VILLAGE, #209
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Cover Photo: Randy Harrison free falls from Miami's 650-foot Centrust Building.

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The Ground's The Limit!

BASELINE Magazine is an independent periodical published quarterly by OPC of Houston, Texas. Subscription rates are \$11/year domestic, \$15/year surface mail to all foreign addressees. BASELINE is sold by the volume only; readers subscribing in the middle of the year will receive all current back issues bringing them up to date.

BASELINE is looking for articles, jump stories, news reports, pictures, cartoons, anecdotes, letters, incident reports, editorials and opinions/commentaries. All due credit will be given, and all requests for anonymity will be honored. BASELINE reserves the right to edit material submitted.

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DISCLAIMER: Any time a person leaves the ground, he is risking the threat of injury and even death. BASE jumping, like skydiving, brings along a set of inherent dangers. BASELINE is interested in accurately reporting all news and information pertaining to BASE jumping, controversial or not, in as free and unlimited a manner as possible.

BASELINE Magazine, its editors and staff do not advocate that anyone should BASE jump, nor that anyone should break the law in an attempt to make a BASE jump. Furthermore, we do not endorse or approve any BASE site or specific BASE jump. Any ideas, information or concepts gleaned from this magazine should not be attempted by any reader, except at his own risk and sole responsibility.

BASELINE Magazine

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BASE In The News

Boenish to Publish Newsletter

Jean Boenish has announced her plans to publish a newsletter titled *The BASE Monitor*. According to information received by BASELINE June 3, Boenish will issue her newsletter "periodically" beginning June 1988. The newsletter will be, according to Jean, the "official publication of the United States BASE Association." As of presstime, BASELINE had not yet received a copy.

Rangers Get Stressed Out

After a full-page picture of two jumpers descending El Capitan appeared in the Patagonia Spring 1988 catalog [BASELINE #8], Yosemite Park Rangers were quick to express their disapproval. They started by making an angry phone call to the Patagonia picture editor, taking her to task for her irresponsibility in promoting "an illegal activity in a National Park."

The park rangers soon made a second telephone call to the mail order company, this time requesting the addresses and phone numbers of the two jumpers. Patagonia officials refused to provide the information.

Parachute, Anyone?

The last few months have seen a rash of people falling from high places without parachutes. In March, Frenchman Andre Guittard climbed the barricade at the 187-foot level of the Eiffel Tower and plunged to his death. A BBC cameraman caught the action on film, and provided some spectacular shots to the National Enquirer.

On April 19, a man fell from a 13th floor window of the Federal Reserve Bank in Manhattan. According to a Reuters report, the man, who was not killed by the fall, claimed that he "was pushed."

On May 29 in Naples, Fla., 18-month-old Ryan Lee squeezed through a balcony railing and plunged 10 stories to a bushy tree below. Miraculously the child received only a few scrapes and no broken bones.

Finally, on May 25 in Houston, 30-year-old painter Walter Coody was saved by a safety line while he was painting a 150-foot water tower. The platform collapsed,

leaving Coody suspended in mid-air for over 90 minutes while Houston firefighters performed what local papers later called "a daring rescue." A parachute may have also proved useful in the situation: BASE jumper Andy Smith has previously parachuted from a 150-foot water tower [BASELINE #6].

People

Youngest BASE Jumper

Jamie Walton has two cliff jumps and ten antenna jumps to his credit. There are two things unusual about this: Walton has never jumped out of an airplane. And he is only 15 years old.

Walton began his BASE jumping career when some experienced BASE veterans static-lined him off a 290-foot antenna in the western United States, using a round parachute. After 10 successful jumps during which he developed good exits, stability and awareness, Walton recently free fell a 300-foot cliff. The jump was made over water, also using a round canopy.

Walton has yet to jump out of an airplane, but says he is considering it to practice canopy control with a ram-air parachute, so that he can try some building jumps. Then he will only have a "bridge" left to go for his BASE.

The youngest people yet to earn their BASE numbers have been Rich Stein and Andy Calistrat, who both qualified at age 20. Like Walton, Stein had no airplane jumps, and actually made his first 100 BASE jumps before he ever jumped out of a plane!

Double Zero Awards

Congratulations are in order to Texas jumper Alan Hetherington, who recently made his 100th BASE jump, and Californian Rick Payne, who just made his 200th. Mark Hewitt is rumored to have reached 300, but this was unconfirmed at press time.

Meanwhile the BASE program itself is due some recognition: last month, the number of BASE awardees finally topped 200. The event has fitting timing with Carl Boenish being posthumously

awarded the 1988 USPA Achievement Award, generally considered to be the highest honor in American skydiving.

Held's Jury Hung

A six-man jury on May 9 voted 5-1 to convict Denver jumper Robin Heid of reckless endangerment charges. Because Colorado law requires a jury to either unanimously convict or acquit a defendant of charges filed on them, Heid's jury was declared hung, and he will re-stand trial at an unspecified date.

Heid was originally charged with criminal trespass and reckless endangerment after performing a publicity-stunt jump Sept. 18, 1987, from 1999 Broadway, a 530-foot Denver skyscraper [BASELINE #7,8]. The trespassing charge was dismissed, however, when Heid's attorney (who was working for free) was able to demonstrate that Heid had been escorted to the building's roof by authorized personnel.

Gibson Edits PARACHUTIST

As of Jan. 1988, Austin resident Kevin Gibson has taken over duties as editor of *PARACHUTIST* Magazine. Gibson is former coeditor of the *Southwestern Skies*, a publication which has printed many pro-BASE jumping articles in the past.

Although Gibson's handling of *PARACHUTIST* will ultimately be regulated by the USPA, his involvement will hopefully cast BASE jumping into a little bit more positive light, as evidenced by his tribute to Carl Boenish in the March issue.

BASE Vacation

Foreign correspondent "Dead Steve" Morrell, an Air Force officer stationed in Saudi Arabia for eighteen months, recently came home for a 34-day vacation after spending seven months in the desert. Morrell reports that he made up for his long abstinence from BASE jumping: in one month he took 35 airline flights, visited BASE jumpers in North Carolina, Texas, Arizona, California, Alberta and New Brunswick, and made several jumps from every category object in the BASE cycle.

Now back in Saudi, Morrell continues to try to line up some BASE jumps there. His plans for a legal antenna jump were recently "disapproved" by a 2-star general [BASELINE #8], but Morrell has scouted several cliffs southwest of Riyadh. Any interested skydivers or BASE jumpers in the Gulf area can contact Morrell at PSC Box 95, APO NY 09616-5000.

Places

Canada BASE Bust

Canadian jumpers Sue "Rock Sue" Inglis and Rob "Hutch" Hutchinson ended up in jail late last April after they direct-bag static-lined from Inglis' 250-foot apartment complex in downtown Calgary, Canada. According to correspondent Steve Morrell, who was videoing from the roof and also assisting as bag holder, the pair landed two blocks from their getaway car, and were arrested 50 feet short of making it back. Morrell was able to avoid detection by sneaking down a stairwell.

The pair was thrown in a paddy wagon and taken to the local jail, where Hutch was thrown in a cell full of psychotics, and Inglis was put in with hookers. The pair was held for several hours while the police tried to decide what charges to file. When one of the hookers asked Inglis why she was there, Rock Sue quickly replied: "I was caught cheating at bingo!"

Unable to file trespassing charges (since Inglis lived in a 19th floor apartment in the building which they had jumped), the police finally charged the pair with violations of Canadian Aeronautical Act 4, part 6. According to Morrell, they face a \$5,000 fine and one year in jail if convicted. More information on BASE jumping in Canada is contained in this issue's "BASE Abroad" department, in a report filed by Canadian correspondent Rob Price.

Venezuelan Cliffs

Rodolpho Gerstl reports that three expeditions are signed up for Angel Falls jumps in 1988. The guide company headed by Gerstl and Pedro Luis Gonzales normally charges from \$2,000 to \$11,000 per person for such an expedition, which includes all accommodations for eight days and seven nights, and two jumps from the 3,212-foot waterfall.

Gerstl also reports that last March, he was scheduled to jump a new site known as Kukenam [BASELINE #8]. The cliff is also near a waterfall, and believed to be from 1,400 to 2,000 feet sheer. At press-time, however, no further details were available.

Rocket Man

A Florida iron worker, subcontracted by NASA, made a jump April 16 from a 260-foot gantry crane used to support a Titan IV rocket on Cape Canaveral's Pad 41. The 24-year-old man, who requested anonymity, climbed 50 feet out on a horizontal beam at the 225-foot level and, with the assistance of a friend, direct-bagged his 7-cell Fury canopy. He landed uneventfully, and unnoticed, on the launch pad below.

His BASE jump is believed to be the first on NASA property, but certainly the potential is there for others. The Saturn V rockets (and their attendant crane) are as high as 363 feet, while the vehicle assembly building measures 550 feet from floor to ceiling *inside* [BASELINE #6].

Events

Date Changed

West Virginia's annual New River Gorge Bridge Day will be held Oct. 15, 1988, one week later than usual. A proclamation signed by the governor has permanently moved the date for the annual event to the third Saturday in October. More information is contained in our "USBA Update" section.

Daisy Chain BASE Jumps

Early last January, Alan Hetherington and George Roso performed what is believed to be the first-known "daisy chain" BASE jump. The method has been known to skydivers for some time, and involves two or more jumpers free falling side-by-side, holding onto each other's deployment handles. The jumper on either end of the formation deploys, and when he gets carried away as he reaches line stretch, he deploys the next person in line. The process continues until all jumpers are open.

On Dec. 31, and again on Jan. 1, Hetherington and Roso adapted the technique for a jump from Los Angeles' Gerald Desmond

Bridge. The pair used the direct-bag deployment method, and exited simultaneously, with Roso in front of Hetherington. Hetherington's bag was held by an assistant standing on the bridge; Roso's bag was held by Hetherington.

As the pair fell away and Hetherington's canopy deployed, Roso's canopy was extracted from the bag which Hetherington was holding. The pair made the jump without incident on New Year's Eve. On New Year's Day, however, the pair thought better about future attempts, as Roso was spooked by a low opening on their second try. And that part is not surprising. The Gerald Desmond Bridge is only 168 feet high.

BASE In Eight

Last April, Australian correspondent Nick Feteris and friend Doug Knowles became the first people to jump all four BASE objects in eight hours. Knowles qualified for BASE 200 (and Australian BASE #28) during the jumping binge.

According to Feteris, the pair began at 3:30 a.m. with a jump from a 400-foot building, followed by a "virgin" 500-foot tower at 5:30. According to Feteris, "There were no worries. After packing, we set out to complete the cycle in order." The pair next jumped from a 160-foot bridge (which Nick described as "a nice low-pressure dive for Doug") before travelling to a 650-foot cliff in Bungonia Canyon. By 11:30 a.m. the pair had completed the BASE cycle.

Kevin Foust and Rick Payne last January made four BASE jumps in 12 hours in four different cities [BASELINE #8], but did not make the jumps from the four categories.

Environmentalists Disapprove

Jean Boenish reports that she has received a firm negative response from the Wilderness Society, one of the three environmental groups which must approve of BASE jumping before the Yosemite park superintendent will further consider authorized jumping from El Capitan [BASELINE #8].

Boenish reports that she will continue to work with the remaining two groups, confident that she can get them to write letters of "non-objection" to cliff jumping. More information is contained in our USBA Update section.

Close Encounters of the Unkind

No Habla Español

Florida jumper Randy Harrison and nomad Rick Payne had climbed less than 100 feet up a south Florida tower when a security guard, chattering unintelligibly, motioned them down. Figuring they could

talk their way out of trouble, the pair descended to discover that the guard spoke only Spanish. Since they could not communicate verbally, Payne and Harrison displayed their intentions with gestures and by pointing to their parachute gear. They must have gotten their point across, because the guard's face lit up and he indicated for them to continue climbing.

Unfortunately, Payne zapped his rig half-way up the tower and, after containing his canopy, he sheepishly returned to the ground for a second time. Harrison finished the climb alone and jumped with no further complications, much to the amusement of the security guard below.

VIEWPOINTS

Replies to Jerry:

"I was most amused after reading your letter."

--Phil Smith

*"You embarrass me and every straight-thinking,
logical parachutist."*

--Robin Heid

To: Larry Bagley - President, USPA
Bill Ottley - Executive Director
Joe Svec - National Director
Eric Pehrson - Southwest Conference
Director
From: Jerry Schrimsher, IE 82
Copy: John Jarchow, FAA
Phil Smith
Andy Smith
Date: May 10, 1982 [sic]

The purpose of this letter is to notify all USPA officers concerned, that USPA rules of common sense have been violated and request that positive and immediate action be taken as defined in our USPA Constitution, By Laws and/or Part 75.

Specific charges are: On or about May 9, 1982, one Phil Smith and one Andy Smith, from the Houston, Texas Area, made a skydive from the 500 foot Reunion Tower Building in downtown Dallas, Texas. This information was received from the TV, Radio and Newspaper Press, and photo and film release provided to the news media.

Mr. Smith and Smith did not have ASO approval for the skydive, and if any Instructor Examiner [sic] approved the skydive, I ask that USPA release his name.

The sneak in - jump - run - hide - massive press and film coverage of this type of skydiving activities by Mr. Smith and Smith,

leaves the rest of the sport parachuting community in a very embarrassing position of trying to explain their action, and the problem if future legislation [sic] is taken by local or state officials to "prevent this in the future."

I request the following steps be taken:

1. If the aboved [sic] named Mr. Smith and Smith are members of USPA that such membership be suspended.
2. If the same individuals have any ratings or awards from USPA that such ratings and awards be canceled.
3. That the named individuals may not participate in the activities sponsored [sic] by, or endorsed or associated with USPA, USPA affiliated clubs, or USPA affiliated [sic] centers.
4. That the USPA BOD exercise its judgment regarding the time element of any and all of the above 3 steps.
5. That the USPA Board of Directors at it's [sic] next scheduled meeting take what steps necessary to change any wording or definition in the BSR's Part 100 to better cope with any future problem of this nature.

Sincerely,

Jerry Schrimsher

IE 82

ASO SW 3

FAA Accident Prevention Counselor
Richardson, Texas

Some of the replies received by Jerry are shown on the next page.

Dear Jerry:

I was most amused after reading your letter to the USPA officers, dated May 10, 1982. Incidentally, Jerry, my copy never arrived, so I had to read the conference director's copy. In the future you can reach me at the above address.

Let me answer your "specific charges" at this time. On May 9, 1982, Andy Smith and I made BASE jumps from the Reunion Tower in Dallas. We did not have ASO or I/E approval, nor did we need it. In case you have forgotten, the USPA BOD issued a statement in September 1981 stating that BASE jumping is not a part of sport parachuting. Furthermore, the Basic Safety Regulations define a parachute jump as a "descent of a person to the surface from an aircraft in flight ..." So you see, the USPA has no interest or jurisdiction in this matter.

I question the wisdom of bringing the FAA into your personal vendetta. They have no jurisdiction over non-aviation activities. By writing the FAA, you have brought a good deal of heat to sport parachuting in the Dallas area.

Jerry, BASE jumping is here to stay, and it can co-exist with sport parachuting. Your refusal to accept that fact will only make things worse for both sports. If everybody shared your attitude towards change, we would still be doing baton passes and landing under flat circulars.

Phil Smith
Houston, Texas

Jerry,

Read with interest your May 10 letter to Larry Bagley and other officials of the U.S. Parachute Association regarding the jump made from the Reunion Tower building in Dallas by Smiths Phil and Andy.

Like you, I share your concern that the actions of certain parachutists might reflect poorly on the average jumper, and I'm equally concerned that if the actions of these irresponsible and/or misguided types aren't curtailed soon, a lot of damage will be incurred by the sport parachuting community which enjoys its sport from aircraft.

I am specifically referring to the circumlocutions of logic employed by you in your decision to contact the FAA and the vitriolic suggestions you made to the USPA BOD people in your letter.

Despite your impressive -- though recently acquired -- USPA credentials, your comments make it obvious you do not pay

attention to the policies developed by the organization of which you are a member, and which you ostensibly represent as a holder of its highest rating. For your information, the USPA Board of Directors adopted, in September 1981, the following statement: *"USPA regards all BASE jumps as potentially very dangerous stunts which are not a part of sport parachuting. We urge our members not to participate in this type of activity."*

"If everybody shared your attitude towards change, we would still be doing baton passes and landing under flat circulars."

Given this position, it is inappropriate of you to comment on these kind of jumps publicly -- other than to reiterate the USPA position as one of its senior unofficial spokesmen -- or to recommend the BOD action you did or *especially* to make your personal opinions known to a government official who is in a position to cause the sport you purport to represent some difficulties if he doesn't recognize your written outburst for what it is: a poorly-thought-out, reactionary attack upon an adventure sport you do not understand but yet claim to have a connection to by virtue of the parachute system utilized in the activity.

If he takes your letter to him at face value, I'm sure he will come to the following conclusion if he is a logically-thinking man: "Why is he sending this to me? This is a non-aviation-related activity. Doesn't he see that?"

And then your credibility will go down when there is a valid circumstance for you to offer your opinion and suggestions.

You are an experienced skydiver, Jerry. You've contributed more to the sport of parachuting than most of the people who

pursue the joys of free fall. Your opinions and views in this area are deserving of respect and thoughtful consideration.

But if you get to be known as the USPA goofball who writes weird letters to the FAA and newspapers whenever someone jumps off a building or antenna, your effectiveness as a representative of the sport parachuting community is diminished. As is the stature of the sport itself.

When you, as *my* representative in the skydiving community, make inaccurate statements based on unsupportable logic, you make me and every other sport parachutist look like a fool because now jumpers are forced to wonder: "If the leaders of the sport are that way, what are the average ones like?"

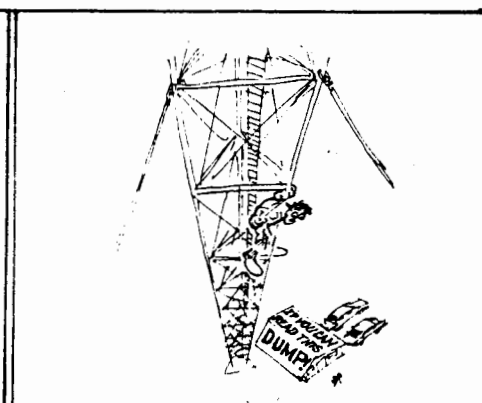
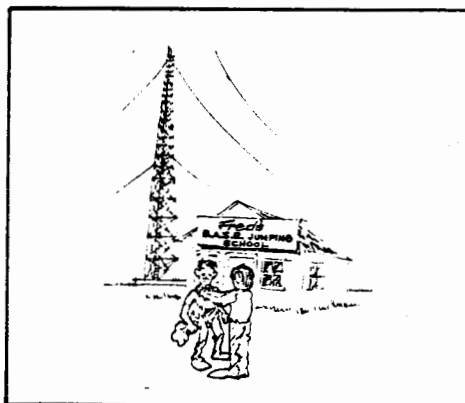
You embarrass me, in other words -- me and every other straight-thinking, logical parachutist. You embarrass me because I can't explain to my friends and co-workers how I can be part of a group of such obviously schizophrenic individuals. I try to tell them not all of us are like that, try to make them believe that only a few of our number indulge in the kind of sophistry that would make a Pravda commentator proud . . .

But it's tough because so many people are ready to dismiss us as crazy to start with that it only takes a brief display of irrationality to confirm their supposition.

Please be more responsible in the future, Jerry. The jury is still out on fixed-object jumping and the USPA's relation to it, so please keep your comments limited to personal opinion -- in private -- and the kind of letter you sent to the USPA.

But let's keep this issue within the confines of the parachuting community until we figure out what's going on, all right? That way we'll avoid damaging our interests inadvertently.

Robin Heid
Denver, Colo.



Letters

Comments by Kittlinger

Enclosed is my renewal to the magazine, which, by the way, is looking better with every issue. I am looking forward to the first full-color cover, and I'm sure it won't be long before you'll be there.

Concerning the negative remarks by Col. Joe Kittinger, I can only wonder why he even attempted a world-record, high-altitude jump. I guess it was a macho thing, but people will probably keep doing it until somebody gets killed. I smell a touch of hypocrisy in the old boy's remarks.

"Why don't all you guys get off Jean's back and let her do what she wants with the Bridge Day money. Don't you all realize how much she's done for us?"

-- Jerry Harendza

Last, but not least, I have a new book coming out soon, a humorous dictionary of skydiving terms, beautifully illustrated by the author, and I recommend that everyone buy a copy, because that way I will make some money. (As soon as I get the books back from the printer, I will send BASELINE a review copy.) The book contains the following definition of BASE jumping:

BASE Jumping - A new sport derived from skydiving, the purpose of which is to make skydiving seem relatively sensible. "BASE" is actually an acronym. To qualify for a BASE number, and be certifiable, BASE jumpers must make at least one jump from four different locations: A balcony (B), an apple tree (A), a staircase (S), and an emporium (E).

Bill FitzSimons
Flint Hill, Va.

FitzSimons is the author of the humorous article "Are You Guys Nuts? A Skydiver Looks at BASE Jumping," which appeared in BASELINE #7. His sequel to that article, "Yes, You Guys Are Nuts," appears in this issue. We are looking forward to his book, and will do a review as soon as we receive it.

-- Eds.

Lirpy Strikes Again!

Steve Morrell and I are already planning on going to Mount Everest. You people have a cruel sense of humor!

John Owens
Matthews, N.C.

Accuracy Meet?

I think it would be kind of fun to hold the first ever accuracy meet on Bridge Day. Awards could be given at the banquet for the best and worst in different classes. Also

this would encourage participants to open higher.

Steve Maday
Rockville, Md.

CRW, Jean Boenlsh

To set the record straight on all this talk of CRW on BASE jumps, I'd like to mention that I witnessed some CRW (off a tall object here in the northeast) by two Muff Brothers from Titusville. They had a stack, then planed it and landed it right on target at 2:00 in the morning.

Also, why don't all you guys get off Jean's back and let her do what she wants with the Bridge Day money. And all you tightwads who have not yet sent your donations to her please do! Don't you all realize how much she's done for us?

Gerald Harendza, BASE 75
Hancock, N.Y.

Yes, I support the USBA revival! The USBA seems no longer to be an "Association," but an official moniker for Jean's personal opinions. I do not believe that she represents all our beliefs and I would fully support a change in this situation. Keep us posted!

Matt McCarter, BASE 17
Orange, Calif.

BASE Jumper Injured

Bad news about Canadian BASE jumper Steve Adams. He was in a plane crash at Raeford and suffered a cracked vertebrae. He'll be wearing a halo for three months and will be out of jumping for a while. The other BASE jumpers in the plane, Joe Stanley, Rob Stanley and Martin Calais were not hurt.

If you would consider going to six issues per year, I'm sure people wouldn't

"The USBA seems no longer to be an 'Association,' but an official moniker for Jean's personal opinions. I do not believe that she represents all our beliefs."

-- Matt McCarter

mind an increase in subscription rates.
Rob "Skypuppy" Price
Ontario, Canada

Canadian correspondent Price's update on the Canada BASE scene appears in this issue's "BASE Abroad" department.

--Eds.

KTUL

Greetings from the north! As I'm sure you know, a new Channel 8, KTUL antenna is being constructed in Oklahoma, and it is no longer a cherry! More to come.

Neil "Neilsen" Smith
Irving, Texas

The 1,909-foot KTUL tower blew over Dec. 26 during a blizzard [BASELINE #7]. Reconstruction began early this year, and the tower was jumped in June by Neilsen, Brad Smith and Terry Goode. The trio was seen by the police, but were able to fly their canopies to a nearby highway and make a clean escape. The tower, needless to say, is now extremely hot as final reconstruction is being completed.

--Eds.

Heeeere's Fred

I just got the spring copy of BASELINE ... nice job guys! It sure is re-

freshening to read BASELINE after the month-by-month dose of male bovine poop fed to the parachuting community by another well-known national publication.

As you know I am a skydiver and not a BASE jumper. Still, it aggravates me to no end that an organization which represents itself to be the United States Parachute Association refuses to recognize this part of sport parachuting. Aggravated yes, surprised no. After all, the leadership of that little clique is living proof that frontal lobotomies are still performed.

Keep up the good work and keep in touch.

Fred Greeson
Signal Mountain, Tenn.

Greeson is an outspoken opposer of the United States Parachute Association. He has long been trying to establish a compatible parachuting body, and has promised that BASE jumpers will be welcome in his group if he succeeds.

--Eds.

Virginia BASE

I recently made a jump from a 145-foot cliff in Virginia. I used a direct-bag-deployed Cruiselite; the opening was straight and fast and I landed just at the far edge of the water. I wore a full wet suit because the water was below 47° F.

By the way, a subsequent 200-foot building jump, direct-bagged at night, qualified me for BASE 205. We have some more low stuff planned, including a bridge jump that would qualify me for Virginia BASE #1! (Unless you know better.) I'll forward more photos.

Adam Filippino
Alexandria, Va.

As far as we know, you'll be the first to earn Virginia BASE. Four other states so far have all-state BASE awards, with at least 10 others showing good potential. More information is included in our "USBA Update" section.

-- Eds.

Line Release Revisited

Having read Mark Hewitt's article on the line-release modification a few years ago, I think it has to be the safest method to use for slider-down jumps. However, after trying several canopies in good weather conditions, I still have handling and landing

problems using this modification. This kind of sucks in tight landing areas.

I've seen many good landings with the line-release mod, so I may be doing something wrong. Any suggestions until someone comes up with a good keeper?

Also on an unrelated topic, I've noticed at Bridge Day that a few people use duct tape to keep the velcro flaps out of the way of the risers, but they had so much tape that it covered the bottom and part of the side flaps of the reserve, which may slow down a reserve opening.

Bill Legg, BASE 175
Houston, Texas

The line-release modification used without proper toggle keepers results in a ram-air with greater glide than normal. This is not inherently bad; some hardcore accuracy jumpers have installed modifications to allow them to free their brake lines after a slider-up opening.

As Legg point out, however, the important thing is to be familiar with your parachute's flight characteristics. This is especially true when the landing area is tight, as is so often the case on BASE jumps. This is just one of the areas where toggle keepers are useful in conjunction with the line-release modification. In lieu of this, however, many experienced BASE jumpers who regularly use the line-release mod recommend keeping your toggle out to the side (instead of in front of you), and flaring outwards (instead of straight down).

Undoing the riser flaps on your rig before a BASE jump is a wise idea, as covers held in place by velcro or snaps can cause off-heading openings (or even malfunctions). However, duct tape seems to be an unnecessary extreme, and, as Legg points out, can interfere with other functions of the rig. Simply tucking the riser flaps between the container and the jumper's shoulders should prove sufficient. --Eds.



Adam Filippino direct-bags from a 145-foot cliff in Virginia. Photo by Kurt Lindquist.

Racer Reserves

I am working on a new pilot chute for the reserve on a Racer for use on BASE jumps. Why use a reserve pilot chute designed for terminal? My design will be much larger in diameter, and the closing loops will run through the inside of the pilot chute. The extra size and stronger spring should make for a quicker reserve opening.

The container does not need any modifications as the new closing loops are run through the same holes as already exist in the pack. I've enclosed some drawings, and will send more information when I perfect the system. I would also like to hear from anyone else interested.

When I think of "firing my reserve" on a BASE jump, I want it to come out so fast that it burns hair off the back of my head!

Robert E. Anderson
Towanda, Ill.

Andy's Letter to SKYDIVING

I read with interest Andy Calistrat's letter to SKYDIVING Magazine. I was especially interested to learn of tertiary reserves, as I had never even heard of them before. I would like to get a little more information.

Andy wrote how they work, but is it possible to mount one on a normal skydiving rig, or is a special rig required? How much do they cost? Do they work at terminal velocity? I'd like to know as much as possible.

"I have a question for Calistrat: Who are you to talk about accuracy?!"

A friend and I jumped from an antenna a couple of weeks ago. We both used normal rigs with standard pilot chutes (36 inches), and both of us had problems getting our mains out. This is undoubtedly because of the problem which Andy described in SKYDIVING: too small pilot chutes.

I did, I'm happy to say, identify the problem in free fall, and was just about to pull my reserve when the main inflated. Now I wonder what would have happened if my main would have hesitated just a split second longer, and I would have had time to pull my reserve. Maybe an entanglement between main and reserve canopies? I guess a terish reserve would be safer in a situation like this than my square reserve.

At any rate, my friend and I have both decided not to do any more BASE jumps until we have the proper equipment, such as big pilot chutes and possibly a terish.

Mikael Nordquist
Holmsund, Sweden

The tertiary reserve manufactured by Free Flight Enterprises attaches to any conventional skydiving rig. No special modifications are necessary. The rig, complete with container, free-bag, 20-foot canopy and single Kevlar bridle costs \$325. They are safe to use even at terminal velocity.

--Eds.

Being a six-year, 180-plus BASE jumper, I was shocked at Andy Calistrat's letter in SKYDIVING #83 to "correct" some inaccuracies in recent articles in that publication on BASE jumping.

I have a question for Calistrat: Who are you to talk about accuracy?

As BASE jumping grows, a magazine or newsletter to circulate the information is badly needed. BASELINE Magazine, edited by Andy Calistrat, is such a forum.

Calistrat, however, has upset many BASE jumpers by twisting and changing their stories to make them "more readable." I've had several stories and letters of my own changed, even falsified.

In fact, almost all accidents reported in BASELINE contain erroneous statements and Calistrat's sole opinion on what should have been done. Calistrat lacks experience and dislikes or ignores other experienced BASE jumpers to the point of discrediting their ideas.

In his letter to SKYDIVING, Calistrat talks about Rick Payne's problem with line twists and his attempt to clear them by releasing his brakes and trying to spiral out of the line twists. What was wrong with that? What would Calistrat have done?

He also says that Phil Smith did not have a malfunction. If a radically spinning main that snivels for 800 feet from an 875-foot object is not a malfunction, what is it?

Regarding Steve Gyrsting, Calistrat states that "an extensive study of video tapes of the accident" does not suggest that the plastic pilot chute handle contributed to Gyrsting fatality as reported by Jean Boenish.

Gyrsting died because he didn't have an adequate pilot chute and bridle. Stop nit-picking.

Lastly, Calistrat recommends tertiary reserves for CRW and BASE jumping. I made seven intentional "terish" jumps in 1982. On two of the jumps I had to reel the reserve back in and toss it out again. In each case, a cutaway would have given faster results.

J.D. Walker
Chandler, Ariz.

[Reprinted from SKYDIVING Magazine]

BASE In England

Enclosed is my renewal questionnaire and next year's subscription fee -- please send my BASELINE by airmail!

I haven't been jumping much this year, even from airplanes. I've been concentrating on flying gliders, which is more suited to the UK winter weather. Now that our weather has improved, though, I'll be getting my gear out again.

"It's just like a BASE jump if I close my eyes and imagine a cliff going past."

Next week I'm going ballooning. I have a friend who does balloon joyrides and I help out by driving the retrieval van. In return, if the weather suits, I get a jump. Sometimes I get two, if I do a quick repack after the first jump and then meet the balloon at an intermediate landing area when the pilot touches down for a crew change and more propane. The joyriders seem to enjoy the jumps almost as much as I do! It's just like a BASE jump if I shut my eyes and imagine a cliff going past.

I still don't know if I'll be able to make it to Bridge Day this year. I'm short of both time and money at the moment, but I'll come if I can.

Work is beginning on Britain's tallest building -- an 800-footer at Canary Wharf, East London. It will be a long time before it gets to an interesting height, of course. I have seen the design, and it doesn't look like there will be much of a landing site. Still, there will be interested jumpers following the progress of the work closely! Security is bound to be tight, but it will be worth trying.

Martin Lyster
Oxford, England

NCNB Plaza

by Dennis McGlynn

"On the third evening, however, several things happened to make it a night to remember."

I am happy to report that the NCNB Plaza building in Tampa Bay, Florida, now has a total of eight jumps off it. All were at night.

Overlooking the Hillsborough River and Tampa Bay, NCNB is ideally suited for BASE jumps: it is 33 stories tall and circular in shape. Steve Jester, Kevin Foust and I jumped it one night without incident. Two nights later, Steve and I jumped it again without any problems. The third time, however, several things happened to make it a night to remember.

Jester, Foust and I were together again. Steve went first, without incident. I exited as soon as Steve landed, took too long of a delay, and ended up with a ten-second can-opry ride!

This didn't leave me enough altitude to clear a 20-foot sea wall. Seeing that I was going to hit it, I took quick action at the last second by making a sharp hook turn. This left me aiming directly towards the U.S.S. Requin submarine! Letting up quickly on my toggle, I miraculously splashed down in the salty water right between the submarine and the sea wall.

Paul and Trish, two members of the ground crew, came running over along with three whuffos who had seen the jump. Upon discovering that I was not injured, they began contemplating some way to pull me out of the water over that 20-foot wall.

In the meantime Kevin exited and opened fine, except that he was right over a patrolling policeman! He touched down in a large parking lot, stashed his gear and ran into nearby Plant Park. The police officer quickly called for reinforcement.

All of this was unknown to us as Paul, Trish and the three whuffos searched a nearby construction site trying to find something with which to pull me out of the water. They eventually came up with an old fire hose. They pulled my gear out

first, then me. By this time there were several police cars in the area, and just as I was getting out of the water a police helicopter began swarming over the area, shining its powerful spotlight around!

"Kevin was in Plant Park, trying to avoid detection by appearing to be in deep conversation with some on-looking whuffos. It didn't work: he was wearing a skydiving T-shirt! He was arrested, cuffed and questioned for over two hours."

At this point the cops weren't sure exactly how many people were involved or how many had jumped. Marlen, another member of our ground crew, was arrested, and shockingly passed a sobriety test. Kevin was in Plant Park, trying to avoid detection by appearing to be in deep conversation with some onlooking whuffos. It didn't work: he was wearing a skydiving T-shirt! He was arrested, cuffed and questioned for over two hours.

The police eventually realized that we weren't there to steal or vandalize. They just wanted to know how we got to the top of the building. The truth of the matter shall remain a secret, but Kevin told them we walked right through the front door. The cops didn't buy this, as the building is supervised by many guards and surveillance cameras.

Well, Kevin walked up to the door and it just so happened to be open. A second later a security guard came running out, and told the police that no one had come through the door earlier that night. Not knowing what to say next, Kevin was saved when the cop asked the guard where the

stairwell was located. The guard showed the way and opened the door. The cop asked, "Is this how you got in?" "Uh, yeah! That's it!" Kevin replied.

Not knowing what charges to file, the cops finally let Kevin go, but not before warning him: "If we ever catch you in Tampa again for anything, you're going right to jail." Later, however, when no one was around, one of the cops asked Kevin: "So what did it feel like, jumping off that building?" Kevin excitedly answered, "Man, I was scared to death, but it was great!"

We all went home, where I immediately dumped my reserve and thoroughly washed all the seaweed and salt water out of my rig. Then we cooked hot dogs, drank beer and partied while the Florida sun came up.

About the Author: Dennis McGlynn, Muff Brother #1, is a relative newcomer to the sport of BASE jumping. Having made his first at Bridge Day 1987, 24-year-old McGlynn has accumulated over 24 BASE jumps since. An active skydiver originally from Texas, Dennis now resides in Zephyrhills, Fla.

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Profiles:

Meet J.D. Walker

Joe Walker -- "J.D." to his friends -- is 27 years old and resides in Chandler, Arizona, with his wife Shelley and two children Christie, 7, and Bret, 3. Self-employed as a construction worker, Walker owns a small company which does over a quarter-million dollars of business a year. He was born and has lived all of his life in Arizona.

An experienced and long-time BASE jumper, Walker was among the first to skydive from the Crocker Center building in

Los Angeles. He has 600 skydives, and has accumulated over 192 BASE jumps during his almost 10 years in this sport.

Prolific, opinionative and outspoken, Walker was been known to send gripe letters to both BASELINE and SKYDIVING in the past when he was dissatisfied. For the first of our regular department of "Profiles" interviews, BASELINE recently caught up with J.D. for an exclusive conversation, during which Walker revealed much about himself, both as a jumper and as a person.

BASELINE: How did you get into skydiving?

Walker: Well, we used to live in Coolidge. Back in the '70s, that was the hot drop zone. It was hotter than anything on the west coast. And my old man used to take us out and watch skydiving all the time.

BASELINE: Was your dad a jumper?

Walker: No. My dad had made an emergency parachute jump in the Korean war, out of a radar plane. He had always talked about doing it again, but he never did. But we used to go out there as kids and watch them jump all the time. So I was always into airplanes and parachutes and skydivers and stuff like that.

BASELINE: So when did you finally get to make your first jump?

Walker: For my 18th birthday, my old man bought me a first-jump course. I started out with a T-10 and gutter gear, but I knew I was hooked. I made some more jumps, and pretty soon bought my own rig: an old ParaCommander in a three-pin rig with a chest-mounted reserve.

BASELINE: When did you first hear about BASE jumping?

Walker: About the time I started skydiving. That's when Carl Boenish was doing his first few loads at El Cap. I had

heard of it, and then Carl's movie *Skydive* came out, and it had those two jumps off El Cap on it.

BASELINE: And what did you think at the time?

"Originally I had planned on jumping the Valley National Bank here in Phoenix, which is 480 feet high. And I knew you could do it, I just didn't know how to pack and things like that."

Walker: I thought it was radical. I loved it. I knew I had to do it. And it seemed to be the hip thing to do. Carl Boenish had just finished his jumps at Canyon DeChelly for HBO, and that excited me even more.

BASELINE: So you've met Carl?

Walker: Oh yeah! It was right after he had done Canyon DeChelly, as a matter of fact. He stopped at Coolidge on his way home, for the Halloween Boogie in 1980, I guess it was. '80 or '81, I can't remember. Anyway, that's when I first met him in person. I talked to him about it, and he told me a little more about it and what they were trying to do.

BASELINE: And did you make plans to do a BASE jump with him then?

Walker: Well, I started corresponding with him, because I really wanted to do El

Cap but couldn't. At the time when it was legal, I didn't have enough jumps for a D license. USPA was running the show back then, and requiring a D license for anyone who wanted to jump. I applied for the permit anyway, but they turned me down. So I began looking around for things.

Originally, before I even heard of BASE jumping as four objects, B, A, S and E, there was just fixed-object jumping. Nobody ever put the name "BASE" to it until after the Texas Commerce jumps in Houston. So I was just looking for an object to jump. Originally, I had planned on jumping the Valley National Bank here in Phoenix, which is 480 feet high. And I knew you could do it, I just didn't know how to pack and things like that.

BASELINE: When did you finally hear of fixed-object jumping becoming formalized?

Walker: I read about it in SKYDIVING. Carl sent a press release about the BASE program, explaining what it was and stating that there were four people qualified so far. That was Phil Smith, Phil Mayfield, Jean and Carl. So I called him on the phone and talked to him about it. He told me about the Texas Commerce Tower jumps, and then told me that they had just started jumping the Crocker Center, a 750-foot building in Los Angeles.

BASELINE: When did you finally make your first BASE jump?

Walker: It was in May 1982. I was in California working on a job, running down

to Perris Valley every weekend, and I ran into Carl every once in a while. I talked to him some more, and finally decided I had to try the Crocker Center jump.

BASELINE: Tell us more about your first BASE jump.

Walker: Well, I put together a load with a few Australian jumpers who were also interested. We arranged to meet and jump on Thursday night. They were talking all big about it, but when I showed up to pick them up, they all had excuses for other things they had to do.

BASELINE: So you went by yourself?

Walker: Yeah. I drove up there with a friend who was a non-jumper, and his girlfriend. We had a mobile home and a pickup truck. We got there around midnight, parked right on the street, and I walked into the building. But I couldn't get to the top. It was far enough along to where they had the stairwell locked at night starting at the third floor.

BASELINE: Was there anyone else around?

Walker: Well I ran into these two guys who were up there smoking a doober. I guess I surprised them as much as they did me. I said to them, "Hey, here's what I'm gonna do, please don't turn me in." And they said back, "You just caught us smoking dope. Please don't turn us in!"

BASELINE: These were security guards?

Walker: No, they were just workers. And they were pretty loaded. I guess they had been there since work quit. I told them what I wanted to do, and they were pretty cool, and they told me, "Hey, if you want to get in the building, come back tomorrow around 8 or 9 o'clock." They gave me a hard hat, and they told me to just wear some Levis and a shirt and look like a worker, there's a thousand of them in here and no one will even notice you. Just cover your rig up. So I did that.

BASELINE: You came back the next morning?

Walker: Well, I went back in the mobile home, which was parked on the street, but I really couldn't sleep all night. About 8:15 or 8:30 the next morning I wrapped my rig up in newspaper, put a brown paper bag around that, and walked into the building. There were people *everywhere*. And I was sure I was going to get busted.

BASELINE: Did anyone try to stop you?

Walker: No, but I still took the precaution of walking up the stairway instead of taking the elevator, because I figured that was safer. I walked about 18 flights of stairs, and I was sweating like a pig. It was so nasty and humid and hot. So I said forget this, I'm taking the elevator. I walked over and pushed the button. It took a long time to get there, and my anxiety was building the whole time. Finally the doors opened and this gruffy old guy looks at me and says, "Where're you going?" And I

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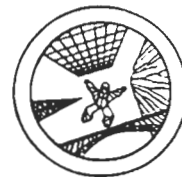
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said: "Well, I wanna go to the roof." And he said, "Well, get in, goddamnit, you're holding up the whole show!"

BASLINE: And he took you to the roof?

Walker: Yeah, he didn't give a shit, he took me right to the top. It was a freight elevator that stopped at many different floors, and people kept getting on and off. I was really nervous so I finally struck up a conversation with two other guys. They had been on the building during the earthquake a few weeks before. They were telling about sitting on a beam 750 feet in the air, rattling around, and that thought scared the hell out of me. It sure didn't help my confidence any!

BASLINE: But it didn't change your mind about the jump?

Walker: Oh no, I was ready. We finally got to the top, which was the 57th floor, and there were a lot of people up there. So I went down a floor, and there were still a lot of people. I finally ended up going to

the 53rd floor, and there were only two people working in a far corner. It was on the upwind side, so I thought great, I'll jump from the opposite corner and they won't even see me.

BASLINE: Is that the way it worked out?

"Finally one of the construction workers steps out of the crowd and says, 'Hey, man, you can't do this. I'm not gonna let you. If you get killed, I won't be able to live with myself, knowing I could have stopped you. Get down.' So I did."

Walker: Not quite. I started putting on my rig, and I was *really* scared at that point. Then just as I was getting geared up the two guys walked over and said, "What the hell are you doing?" Well I was pretty

committed at that point, so I told them exactly what I wanted to do, and they said, "Hell no, we're not going to turn you in. We want to see this, man!"

BASLINE: And you did the jump for them?

Walker: Well first they hid me in a stairwell because they said they had an inspector coming up at any moment. They hid me for a while, it seemed like forever. I had all my gear on, and I just knew that they were going to turn me in, that they were setting me up. But they didn't. I soon heard a knock on the door, and I came out, and there were about 15 or 20 guys who had come to watch.

BASLINE: So you had an audience?

Walker: Yeah, and that made me all the more nervous. I climbed out on the window sill, and stood there for a long time. I just couldn't get the nerve to jump. I kept looking down, and there was my ground crew, looking right back up at me. And I thought to myself, this is just way too

TERTIARY RESERVES

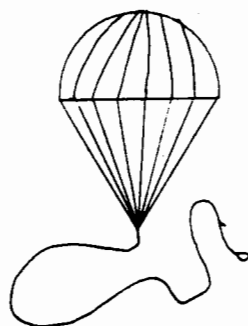
For those jumps when you're too low to cut away, a tertiary parachute gives you a viable option for getting out a reserve. Originally designed as a hang-glider recovery system, the Free Flight Enterprises Tersh is free-bag deployed and chest-mounted on any conventional skydiving harness, no special modifications needed. A 15-foot single Kevlar bridle allows it to safely deploy past a trashed-out main canopy, even during a violent spin: no cut-away is required!

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low. Finally one of the construction workers steps out of the crowd and says, "Hey, man, you can't do this. I'm not gonna let you. If you get killed, I won't be able to live with myself, knowing I could have stopped you. Get down." So I did.

BASELINE: You decided not to jump?

Walker: No, I just needed to rest for a second. The tension had been high, and I needed to step down for a moment and collect myself. Besides, all the other workers were jumping this one guy's case, saying, "Shut up, man! We want to see this fool jump." Eventually the guy left, I got back in the window sill, finally gathered my nerve, and exited.

BASELINE: How did the jump go?

Walker: Not that great. I pushed off hard and went radically head low. Almost in a dive. Then I did an honest three-second delay. You know: "onethrothree-throw!" It was about 1/2 second. Now I had too short of a delay and a 36-inch pilot chute -- back then we didn't know any better -- and I started to tow the pilot chute right away. But I felt something was wrong, so I reached back behind me, grabbed the bridle, and yanked open the container.

I finally got open around 135 or 140 degrees to the right, and my canopy brushed the building as I turned. When I finally got the canopy under control and headed away from the wall, I looked up, and there were hundred of workers yelling and clapping and cheering and whistling. This was 9 a.m. Friday morning downtown Los Angeles. *Everyone* had seen the jump, it seemed.

BASELINE: How was your landing?

Walker: I touched down right in the back of the pickup truck, believe it or not. Very hard landing, but I was very much alive! [Laughter]

BASELINE: And you got away clean?

Walker: Well I hopped into the cabin and we peeled out of there. We drove around while I stuffed my gear in a gearbag, then we returned to the scene to get the mobile home. It must have been about 15 minutes later, and there were cops everywhere. But no one seemed to have remembered the

truck. I just got in the motor home and we drove away from there, clean as could be. And that's my first BASE jump story.

BASELINE: When was your next BASE jump after that?

Walker: Pretty soon, actually. The Crocker Center jump had been on Friday morning, and my next jump was Monday evening. You see, my sister-in-law was getting married that weekend, so I drove straight back to Arizona that afternoon. When I got back into Phoenix I got a hold of Nick Bender. And Nick Bender was one of the original BASE jumpers. He started jumping with Bradley Smith. And Nick had everything but an antenna. So I called Nick and said "Hey man, I just did Crocker." He didn't really believe me, so he said, "OK, I know where there's this 1,000-foot smokestack. Let's go do this smokestack."

BASELINE: And the smokestack qualified as an antenna.

Walker: Exactly. Now I had looked at this smokestack many times before, but never thought it was quite high enough. But I climbed it with Nick, and by the time we got above 300 feet, I knew it was. That sucker was big! So I hopped off that and everything went great.

BASELINE: So now Nick had BASE, and you were halfway there. What as next?

Walker: Well, a couple days later we went and jumped the Glen Canyon Bridge in northern Arizona, and a few days after that I jumped off Saddleback Mountain here. And there I had BASE.

BASELINE: That was pretty fast!

Walker: Yeah, it was. I got BASE in order, and in just over a week.

BASELINE: And you knew you were hooked at that point?

Walker: Oh yeah, without a doubt. There were so many things I wanted to do. At that point I started making big plans, you know: going to El Cap, to Norway, all kinds of stuff. Financial restraints were the only thing kept me from doing the things I wanted to do.

BASELINE: You claim BASE Arrest #1?

Walker: As far as I know, yes. I was the first person to get busted on each of the four objects.

BASELINE: Tell us more about that.

Walker: I've been arrested at El Capitan, that's for a cliff. I've been arrested at Burro Creek Bridge -- three times, actually. The KTAR tower here in Phoenix qualified me for an antenna bust when I got arrested after jumping it. And my last arrest was back in 1985, when I got busted for jumping Crocker Center in Los Angeles.

BASELINE: You were arrested for jumping Crocker Center?

Walker: Yes, this was about three years after I first jumped it. I was back in Los Angeles for a night jump with Jerry Harendza, Kenn Noble and Bret Mauer, and we got separated in the stairwell. Bret was caught by the security guards, and they took him to the bottom, called the police and questioned him. Fortunately he wasn't caught with his rig, and so he made up a story about wanting to go to the roof to photograph the city skyline at night.

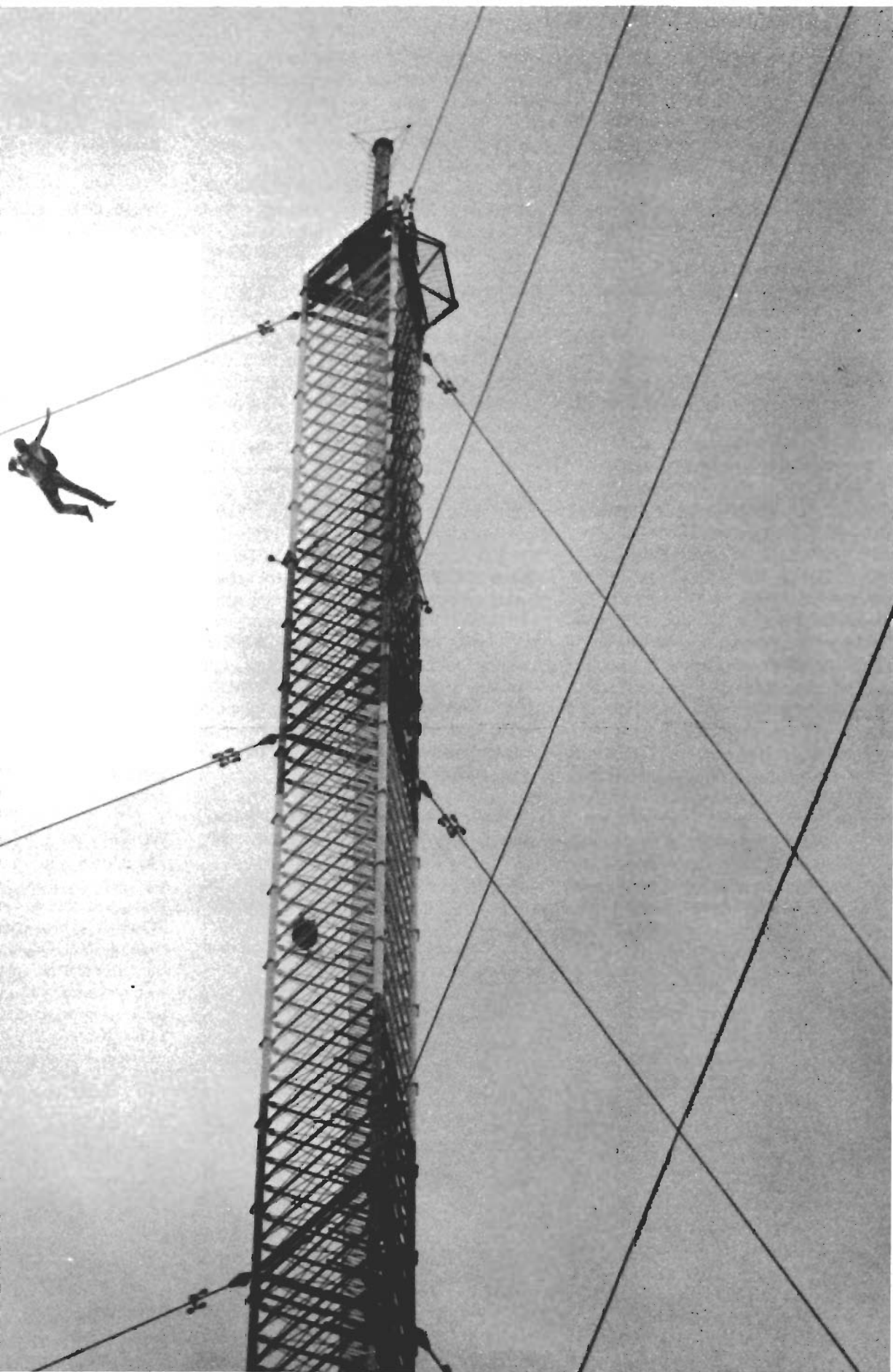
BASELINE: So how did you end up getting busted?

Walker: At first the story was working. The cops had just let Bret go, and he was walking down the street, when suddenly there was this loud **Whack! Whack! Whack!** Three canopies popping open, right off the building. Well needless to say they threw Bret in the back of the car, whipped around the corner, and drove right up to us as we landed. Sirens blazing and lights flashing. We didn't even have a chance.

BASELINE: Did you have to go to court?

Walker: Yes. But of the six or seven times that I've been arrested, that was the only time that the charges stuck. Every other time I've either beat the rap, or had the charges reduced.

The interview with J.D. will be concluded in the next issue.



Photographer Bryan Scott caught this interesting profile shot of Marlen Burford jumping from a south Florida tower.

Antenna Jumping for Beginners

by Phil Smith

Why jump off a "perfectly good antenna?" Assuming you're already a jumper, there could be a number of good reasons.

For one, antennas are tall. Except for rarities such as the cliffs in Yosemite Valley, antennas are by far the tallest BASE objects around. There are a few hundred antennas in the United States alone that are over 1,000 feet tall, and many of those actually reach 2,000 feet! From this altitude, a jumper is given enough time to track, reach terminal velocity, gain significant horizontal separation from the tower, and still open at a safe cutaway altitude.

Antennas are also porous. That is, they allow the wind to blow through and around them while creating negligible air turbulence. With a sufficiently strong wind in the right direction, it would be impossible to have a canopy collision with either the tower or its support cables! Because of this, antennas are generally considered to be the second-safest of the BASE categories; and with sufficient altitude, they are probably the safest.

And, of course, an antenna jump is one of the requirements for earning the coveted BASE award. Whatever the reason, keep in mind that jumping antennas is a lot of fun, not to mention a unique challenge and thrill. With the proper information, it can also be a very safe and rewarding experience.

This is not in any way an advocacy that anyone should make an antenna jump, nor is it encouragement that anyone should break the law in an attempt to make such a jump. For those who choose to do so anyway, it is the intent of this article to provide information which can make the experience as safe and hassle-free as possible.

Now with the "disclaimers" out of the way, let's establish exactly what qualifies as an Antenna jump. As was pointed out in the article "Gimme a 'B', Gimme an 'A'..." [BASELINE #6]: "any object skinny enough that it offers negligible air resistance qualifies as an Antenna." If all you need is an "A" for your BASE award, then a

radio or TV transmitter, smoke stack, totem pole, or even a tall tree would all do the trick. For the purposes of this article, however, only "traditional" antennas will be considered: radio or TV transmitter towers which may or may not be supported by guy wires.

"Jumping antennas is a lot of fun, not to mention a unique challenge and thrill. With the proper information, it can also be a very safe and rewarding experience."

Even within this scope, antennas are amazingly diverse. They vary in height from a couple of hundred feet to a couple of thousand. They usually have ladders running their full length, and sometimes even have elevators. They may or may not have guy wires (you'd be surprised, but some towers as tall as 1,000 feet are not supported by cables of any kind!) Most antennas are sheer, but some become skinnier as they get higher. They may have an overhanging platform at the top. And finally, antennas vary as to the type and power range of transmissions they carry.

The very first step in making a tower jump is selecting a suitable antenna. The ideal choice is one that is local, familiar, and has been jumped before; otherwise, it is time to go scouting.

The easiest way of locating antenna towers is through airman sectional charts, which provide the location and altitude above ground level (AGL) of antennas in the area. You might also ask the nearest FCC office for a listing of the local TV and radio towers. The taller the better (although with proper static-line techniques,

antennas as low as 200 feet can be successfully jumped). As far as height is concerned, keep in mind that a transmitter's effectiveness is determined by its relative height above the receiving sources, not its height above ground level. If you put an antenna on a high hill, it doesn't have to be very tall. It therefore stands to reason that most of the really tall towers are located in the flatter sections of our country.

After selecting an antenna, you should make at least one visit to the site prior to jumping. Make sure there is a ladder. Although many antennas have an elevator (especially the newer ones), don't plan on using it without authorization. The elevator could be alarmed, might draw unwanted attention, and possibly is not in safe condition.

In at least two recent cases, BASE jumpers' use of elevators has resulted in subsequent security systems being installed at the sites. The antennas in question are 1,500 feet and 2,000 feet tall, yet they are now closed to BASE jumpers. At the very least, if you absolutely can't stand to climb and you break all the rules and take the elevator, have the courtesy to send it back down once you have reached the top (so that it will be less obvious that it has been



used).

While scouting the area, check for suitable landing sites, alternate sites, and possible obstructions. Make a careful note of the location of power lines, obstacles, and especially the antenna support cables ("guy wires"): each of the three groups usually attach to the ground in three or four spots, not just one. Look for a place where you could safely conceal your rig for several hours, should you need to leave it and come back for it later. Also find a place where you could safely conceal yourself, should you be seen at the time of the jump.

Ground crew support is very important on antenna jumps. For one thing, a ground crew can keep you updated on wind conditions. The ground winds will be a different speed, and possibly even a different direction, than they are at altitude. A good ground crew will also provide assistance (or call for it) in case of an emergency, and, of course, a quick getaway after the jump. While scouting, therefore, locate an area where the getaway vehicle can be parked. It should be someplace that affords an unob-

structed view of the tower, the landing area, and oncoming traffic.

Before making any type of a tower jump, you should try to find out the hours of transmission and what electronic devices

"Before making any type of a tower jump, you should try to find out the hours of transmission and what electronic devices to avoid. If you use your wits, you can get this information directly from the TV or radio station."

to avoid. If you use your wits, you can get this information directly from the TV or radio station. Check the tower carefully to see if it rests on large glass insulators. If it does, it is an AM tower, and should be avoided if at all possible. Damien Hansen's article "Antenna Tower Radiation Hazards" (BASELINE #7) described many of the potential hazards associated with climbing

and jumping AM towers. At the very least, if you climb on an AM tower, be sure to jump up and only grab the antenna while in mid-air. If you touch the tower and the ground at the same time, you will receive a very strong, possibly even fatal shock.

When visiting the intended site, bring along a compass and make a careful note of the headings of the guy wires. Usually there are three sets spaced 120 degrees apart, so determining the compass heading of just one will enable you to figure out the direction of the remaining two. This information will come in very handy when used in conjunction with data about wind speed and direction.

Packing technique for an antenna jump should be determined based on the height of the tower and the minimum amount of canopy time necessary to fly to a safe landing spot. Two thousand foot antennas allow for an extended delay, and a "normal" terminal velocity opening sequence, so pack for a regular skydive (naturally, be sure that you are having consistently straight and timely openings at the drop zone). For alti-

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tudes between 1,000 and 2,000 feet, you may want to take a shorter delay and pack for a faster opening. Below 1,000 feet, I'd recommend leaving your slider down and wearing a tertiary reserve. And for the very low altitudes, you may wish to consider static-lining either a slider-down square or a fast-opening round (see Mark Hewitt's "Romancing the Rope" in BASELINE #5 for more information).

On the evening of the intended jump, call your local Flight Service Station and get a forecast for both surface winds and winds aloft (3,000 foot forecast is all you need). The ideal situation is when the wind blows directly between two sets of guy wires. If you exit with the wind to your back, you will have little chance of hitting either the tower or the guy wires in case of an off-heading opening (with sufficiently strong winds, it would be impossible to have a collision).

"If the wind is blowing straight down one of the guy wires, don't jump! I have witnessed several close calls because of jumpers not heeding this advice, and I suppose the same is true of the tower jumper death in Virginia in 1982."

If your tower has three sets of guy wires spaced 120 degrees apart, then from "nominal" the wind can only deviate 60 degrees to the right or left before it is blowing straight down one of the guy wires. In this situation, **don't jump!** I have witnessed several close calls because of jumpers not heeding this advice, and I suppose the same is true of the tower jumper death in Virginia in 1982. Theoretically, winds blowing straight down the guy wire will not hurt you, they just won't help you in case of an off-heading opening. Realistically, however, the wind deviates as much as five to ten degrees in a matter of mere seconds. If the wind is reported to be blowing straight down the guy wire, it may well switch over into the next sector unexpectedly. In this case, the wind would actually be carrying you towards the guy wire, and the stronger the wind, the more dangerous.

It is not uncommon for the winds at 1,000 feet to be between 20 - 40 mph, sometimes as high as 50 mph on the plains (even if it is calm on the ground!). In the

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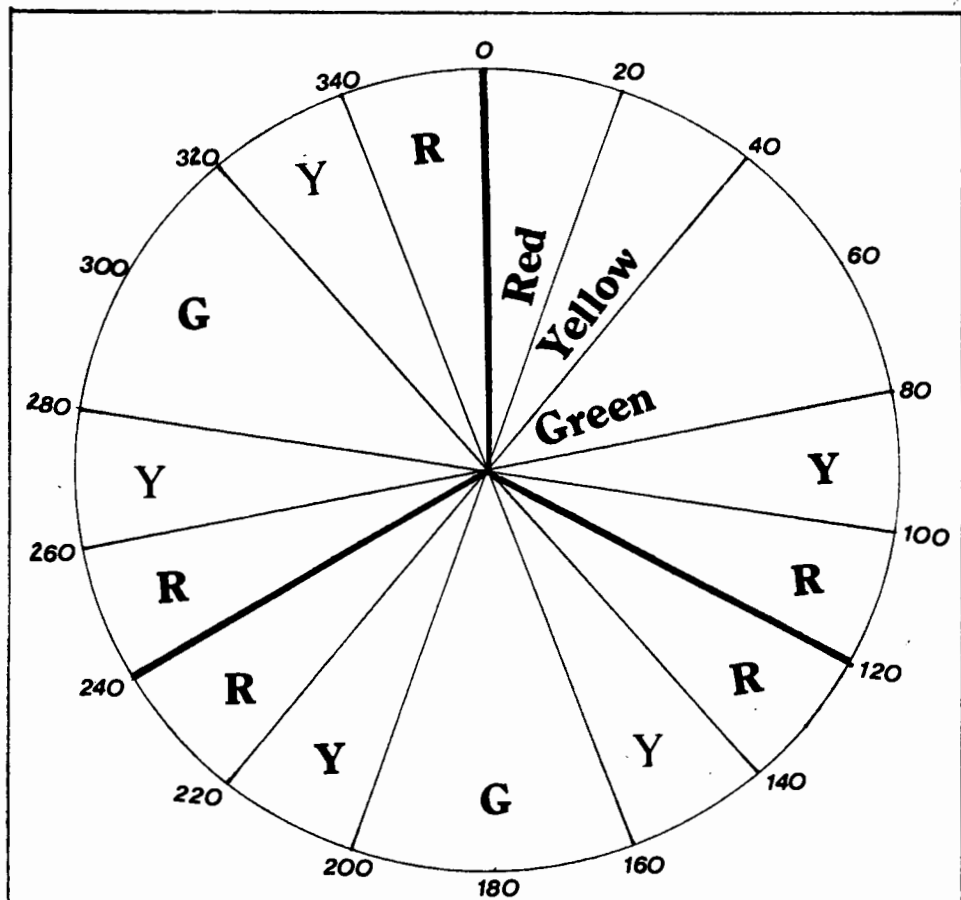
proper direction, this wind is your friend and will serve to carry you farther away from the tower than you could possibly spring or track. And you needn't worry about turbulence, as an antenna hardly creates any. Just make sure that the winds haven't picked up on the ground as well. Ground winds in excess of 18-22 mph should be cause to cancel the jump. Again, a good ground crew can help you here via a two-way radio.

"In the proper direction, the wind is your friend, and will serve to carry you farther away from the tower than you could possibly spring or track."

gearbag will enable you to stuff your gear and make a quick getaway after the jump. You should allow plenty of time for the climb, and also a few minutes to rest after reaching the top. If you plan on climbing during the night and jumping at dawn, begin early enough in the evening so that you won't be caught halfway up the tower at daybreak. However, never plan on spending the night atop an antenna to wait for dawn (unless you are absolutely sure the tower is non-operational during those hours). Broadcast towers emit significant amounts of radiation, and the danger increases with exposure time. If a jump is ever delayed (because of weather, security, or for any other reason), climb back down a few hundred feet and put some separation between you and the transmitter. Radiation decreases rapidly with distance, so even a couple hundred feet will provide a signif-

icant buffer. And the extra effort in climbing down and then back up is well worth the extra safety margin. For the climb itself, I recommend getting an inexpensive pair of gloves. Two thousand feet of steel can do horrors to your hands, and the rungs may be damp and cold. In chilly weather I like to wear a wind breaker and a stocking cap. Goggles are also useful, as the wind has a tendency to blow dust and debris off the tower into your eyes. Food and water are largely a personal preference during tower climbs; personally I think they are an unnecessary luxury which should be left behind. Other items which are useful to have along include a two-way radio (or pocket flashlight) for communications with the ground crew, and a roll of toilet paper -- for the obvious use, and as a wind-drift indicator. There is no "right" way to climb an an-

The chart below depicts a typical antenna with three sets of guy wires. Although the configuration favors winds blowing from compass headings of 060, 180, and 300, this will vary case-to-case depending on the heading of the guy wires on your antenna. This is where the compass used in scouting comes in handy: adjust the chart accordingly and plot out the winds. Anything in the "green" zone is safe to jump. Winds in the "yellow" zone will be much slower in carrying you away from the guy wires in case of an off-heading opening. In this area, therefore, the stronger the better. Winds in the "red" zone are plain unsafe, and you should not jump under any circumstances -- regardless of wind speed. A collision with the guy wires may result, and their threat should not be underestimated: tower support cables are usually made of very heavy and thick steel which can easily slice through lines, shred canopies, and break bones (or even worse). Assuming you have a suitable tower in mind, the winds are right and you have a reliable ground crew, it's time to get started. In most cases, antenna climbs should be done at night, for security reasons. Noon nights provide more cover, and an all-black outfit will make you even harder to spot (both during the climb, and if you have to hide after the jump). A backpack-type gearbag is an essential for a number of reasons. First, you can carry your gear without worrying about an inadvertent deployment (or having to hassle with taping your rig shut). Second, a gearbag will protect your rig from getting scraped up and dirty during the climb. And finally, the



To use the tower wind-tracking guide, find out the guy wire compass directions of the antenna you intend to jump, then adjust the numbers on the circle accordingly. Plot the wind on the chart, and use the color designations as safety references: green indicates a safe jump; yellow indicates caution, and the *higher* the wind speed in this situation, the better; red indicates danger, and the jump should be saved for another time.

tenna ladder; you'll have to figure out what works best for you. The only universal rule is: **don't get in a rush!** Climbing an antenna of even moderate height can quickly become fatiguing if you are out of shape, or simply not accustomed to tower climbing. Take your time, pace yourself, and stop often to rest. Most towers have horizontal crossbeams every ten or 15 feet, on which you can stand and give your arms a break. And every 100 - 150 feet you'll find rest platforms where you can sit down and catch your breath for a few minutes. These platforms also serve ideally as a regrouping point, since different jumpers will inevitably have varying climb rates (for security reasons, though, it is wise to keep the group as small as possible).

As for the climb itself, many people prefer to keep their bodies as close to the ladder as possible, thus doing all the work with their feet and sparing their arms from fatigue. If there is a vertical pipe to one side of the ladder, I use it with one hand while gripping the ladder with the other. Others, however, prefer to grip the ladder firmly with both hands, hang as far back as their arm's reach allows, and then swing widely from side-to-side as they ascend. Again, there is no hard-and-fast rule. Try several approaches and see which works best for you. Just remember to rest often so you don't wear yourself out: it is not uncommon to spend more than half of the time on the tower resting.

Once you have reached the top, you will probably want to spend another several minutes resting before the jump. This is fine, but don't take *too* long: the top of the tower gives you maximum exposure to both discovery and radiation from the transmitter.

At the top, you can use the toilet paper for a homemade wind drift indicator. Make sure that the wind is still the same direction that was forecast. Winds often switch 15 - 20 degrees in a period of 30 or 40 minutes, so if things aren't ideal, you may want to wait them out. But if things are bad, don't be pressured into a jump just because you have made the climb and are all ready to go: it could be the last jump you'll ever make!

Many antennas have a large platform at the top, and this is advantageous in numerous ways: it gives you an overhang for the exit, as well as a place to rest, get geared up, do pin checks on each other, and so on. If there is none, plan on getting geared up and ready at the last rest platform.

Once at the top you will have to select a suitable exit point. If there is no platform atop the tower, the most ideal location is one of the horizontal beams that forms part of the side of the antenna itself. The step over from the ladder may be rather unnerving, but there should be plenty to grip. You can continue to balance yourself while you do a countdown, letting go just a second before exit. Push off head high, watch the horizon, and you should be fine. If the tower is tall enough for an extended delay, you can go into a track after three or four seconds. Before that there is not enough airspeed to do any good. If the tower is not tall enough for a long delay, I recommend having your pilot chute in your hand prior to exit; I don't like the idea of burning up several hundred feet of altitude clawing for my pilot chute!

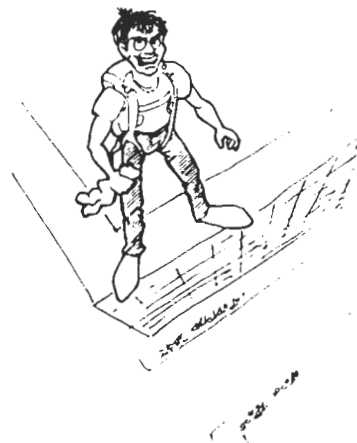
If there is a platform at the top of the antenna, your exit should be a little easier -- or at least, a little less unnerving. The platform will usually be surrounded by a waist-high barricade, and how you get over

it is a matter of personal preference. Some people prefer to climb over, sit on the outside, then stand up and exit in one motion. Still others prefer to balance themselves on the lower of the two bars, then go. Whatever and however you exit, **never** grab or support yourself by any cable, electronic device, or anything that appears like it might either not be stable, or could possibly carry an electrical charge. Also, if you are exiting with a hand-held pilot chute, be very careful of your bridle as you set up to exit.

Once you're in free fall, an antenna jump is pretty much like any other BASE jump. On opening, though, remember that your canopy only has 60 degrees of freedom on either side: after that you run into guy wires. A good wind will help, as will a vigorous exit or enough altitude to track and gain horizontal separation. But never become lax: as with any other BASE jump, be quick on your rear risers after opening, and look up to see which direction your *canopy* is facing (not your body).

Once you are open, remember that the jump is not over until you are safely back on the ground. Keep a sharp lookout for obstacles, especially if the jump is at night. If there are any ground winds at all, chances are you'll have to do a 180-degree turn for landing. On certain antennas, this means you will be landing within the realm of the guy wires; remember that they attach to the ground at several points, so be careful to avoid a collision.

Finally, once you are safely back on the ground, it is best to keep a low profile. Get out of the area quickly and quietly. If necessary, stuff your rig in the gearbag and conceal it in an inconspicuous location; you can always return later when the heat is off to recover your gear. *Have a good one!*



USBA Update

The United States BASE Association

The United States BASE Association (USBA) is an organization dedicated to the "safety, advancement and positive public image" of BASE jumping. Membership in the USBA is extended "to anyone interested in the concept of man jumping off fixed objects, an esoteric aspect of man's age-old dream of self-flight."

BASELINE Magazine is not a publication of, under the control or direction of, or in any official way affiliated or associated with the U.S. BASE Association. Our "USBA Update" section, and the information contained herein, is presented as a public information service to our readers. Contributions to this department are welcome.

Board of Directors

The United States BASE Association is governed by a board of directors consisting of the following people:

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BASE Numbers

The acronym **BASE** is derived from the words **B**uilding, **A**ntenna tower (any tower or stack), **S**pan (any bridge, arch, cable or dome) and **E**arth (any cliff, dam, or similar object, naturally formed or not). Every person who makes at least one jump from each category is awarded a BASE number. According to official rules, "each jump must involve using a parachute as a life-saving device which cannot be inflated prior to the jump."

The original list of BASE awardees was published in BASELINE Magazine, Volume 2, Issue 1, Number 5. The list is updated periodically in our "USBA Update" section. Anyone who has completed the BASE cycle should contact BASELINE at (713) 437-0323 or 931-7709.

<u>BASE Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Australian BASE #</u>
167	Tony Slavec	Australia	14
192	Mick Kelaher	Australia	23
194	Nick DiGiovanni	Oceanside, Calif.	n/a
197	Julian Dayly	Australia	25
198	Peter Embleton	Australia	26
199	Pernilla Feteris	Australia	27
200	Doug Knowles	Australia	28
201	Kevin Foust	Dundee, Fla.	n/a
202	Tim Guy	Huntington, Ind.	n/a
203	Manuel Gonzales		
204	Amy Baylie	California City, Calif.	n/a
205	Adam Filippino	Alexandria, Va.	n/a
207	Charlie Urban	Shreveport, La.	n/a
208	Tim Addison	Irving, Texas	n/a

All-State BASE

Since the BASE award was announced in 1981, a number of jumpers have completed the entire cycle within one state. Object-rich California was the first to claim an all-state BASE, followed soon by Colorado, Arizona and Texas. Virginia and Ohio are each one "letter" away from completing their cycles, while there are several other states with potential for their own BASE. BASELINE will report these achievements as they happen; readers' help in reconstructing the lists from various states will be appreciated.

Texas BASE

- 1 Andy Smith Fredericksburg, Texas
- 2 Richard Castillo San Antonio, Texas
- 3 Dave White Boerne, Texas
- 4 Mike Wright Boerne, Texas
- 5 Kevin Vennel Seabrook, Texas
- 6 Phil Smith Houston, Texas
- 7 Levi Green Mesquite, Texas
- 8 Ernie Long Arlington, Texas
- 9 Charlie Urban Shreveport, La.

Bridge Day Plans Announced

The jumping portion of this year's annual New River Gorge Bridge Day will again be coordinated by USBA treasurer Jean Boenish. Included with this issue is an application form for registering at the event. The completed forms should be returned to Boenish at the address indicated.

Because the 1988 forms were not prepared in time, the enclosed is last year's application. Although they will be sufficient for expressing interest in attending the annual event, Boenish may require jumpers to provide more information or complete additional paperwork.

As mentioned in BASELINE #8, a proclamation signed by the governor of West Virginia April 27 has permanently moved the date for Bridge Day to the third Saturday in October. (The annual event has traditionally taken place on October's second

Saturday.) Bridge Day this year will occur Oct. 15, 1988.

According to Synthia Blake, secretary to the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, "The governor's proclamation only guarantees that *Bridge Day* will occur, not BASE jumping." The Chamber of Commerce has been involved in an on-going battle to maintain the BASE jumping portion of Bridge Day [BASELINE #7,8]. Blake reported that in response to a recent drive for letters, supported by both BASELINE and SKYDIVING magazines, the Chamber has received a substantial amount of mail.

"This is really good," said Blake, "and it seems as if BASE jumping will be allowed this year. But this fight is an on-going battle, and there will no doubt be legislation introduced again this year to ban parachuting during Bridge Day. We still need as many letters of support as we can get."

Blake joins Bridge Day organizer Doug Maddy in requesting that jumpers send letters of support. They can be as simple as a postcard bearing the words "I support Bridge Day and the BASE jumping activities which occur during that event." The postcards should be signed, include a name and address (but no date), and be mailed to the Fayette County Chamber of Commerce, 214 Main St., Oak Hill, W. Va. 25901.

Bridge Day is the annual celebration of the dedication of the 876-foot high New River Gorge Bridge near Fayetteville, W. Va. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., one lane of the bridge is opened to the public, and BASE jumpers are permitted to parachute from the roadway surface.

Participation in the BASE jumping portion of the event is open to any interested jumper.

Report not Ready

A five-man board of inquiry has not yet prepared the final draft of a report dealing with their investigation of the death of Steven Gyrsting. Gyrsting, 25, was killed Oct. 10 during a jump from the New River Gorge Bridge during the annual Bridge Day festival.

The board, headed by Robert L. Whitman and Jason Houck, chief ranger with the National Park Service, New River Gorge National River, convened Jan. 28 to study "investigative reports, video tapes, newspaper accounts and technical information"

in order to determine "the facts and circumstances" involved in Gyrsting's death. Houck mailed BASELINE the board's draft report Feb. 19, requesting comments, suggestions, and BASELINE's internal report used to prepare Gyrsting's fatality write-up in the Christmas 1987 issue.

According to the latest word received from the Park Service, evidence is still being studied and the draft report is still undergoing revisions. The final report is expected to consist mainly of suggestions to the organizers of the jumping portion of the Bridge Day event. "We recognize that the organizers of this event are volunteers, and the cooperation of the BASE jumpers is voluntary," said Houck. "Therefore our recommendations to the jumpers and the BASE association will be just that: recommendations. I don't want to put my rangers in a position of having to check 'chutes or approve or disapprove of certain jumpers."

Houck has promised to forward to BASELINE the board's final report when it becomes available.

Environmentalists Disapprove

Jean Boenish reports that she has received a firm negative response from the Wilderness Society in response to her request for a letter of non-objection to cliff jumping in Yosemite National Park.

The superintendent of the National Park Service (NPS) has required Boenish to get letters of "non-objection" to cliff jumping from various environmental groups before he will further consider authorized BASE jumps from El Capitan. The Wilderness Society was among the groups which the Superintendent named during a meeting with Boenish Jan. 11.

"The Wilderness Society's letter was very negative," said Boenish, "I just don't understand. I thought my proposal was clear enough. But they not only denied my request for a letter of non-objection, they also wrote directly to the Park Service, and stated that BASE jumping was a very bad idea and that laws should be passed against it."

Boenish originally petitioned the National Park Service directly to allow authorized jumping from El Capitan. Parachuting from the 2,200-foot sheer cliff was allowed by the NPS on a trial basis between Aug. 1 and Sept. 9, 1980. The Park Service abol-

ished the program prematurely, stating that the jumpers "conducted themselves in a selfish, cavalier manner and with complete disregard for their responsibility to their fellow jumpers worldwide." The NPS has wanted nothing to do with BASE jumpers since, and has been adamant about their stance to the point of telling U.S. congressmen that "the decision by park management regarding the prohibition of parachuting in Yosemite is firm and no further review is intended." Boenish received no better luck with her initial contacts with the Park Service.

For almost the next two years, Boenish began a process which she described as "cutting through the bureaucratic red tape which exists in the ranks of the NPS" in order to get authorized jumping from El Cap reinstated. Boenish's efforts culminated in a Jan. 11 meeting with the Yosemite park superintendent, assistant superintendent and chief ranger [BASELINE #8]. At the time, Boenish was told that she must get letters of "non-objection to cliff jumping" from various environmental groups, after which Superintendent John Moorehead promised to "write a memo to his superiors in Washington" inquiring as to whether he may proceed.

Boenish said that she remains confident, despite her failure with the Wilderness Society. "I'm sure I can work with the other two groups and get them to approve," she said. She also noted, however, that "The superintendent has only said that he wants to make sure environmental groups, generally speaking, don't object. He only named the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club and National Parks and Conservation Association off the top of his head," Boenish said. "If I get letters of non-objection from those three, he has left himself the option of requesting letters from even more environmental groups. But I'm sure he wouldn't do that," Boenish concluded.

While Jean is still working with the remaining two environmental groups, the NPS is seeking to pass into law a document dubbed the "Compendium," which contains a clause that would specifically outlaw BASE jumping. "Once that's passed, we won't have a leg to stand on with our presentations to anybody," predicted Jean. "But I'm sure the park service is being sincere in their efforts to help us get BASE jumping back at El Cap."

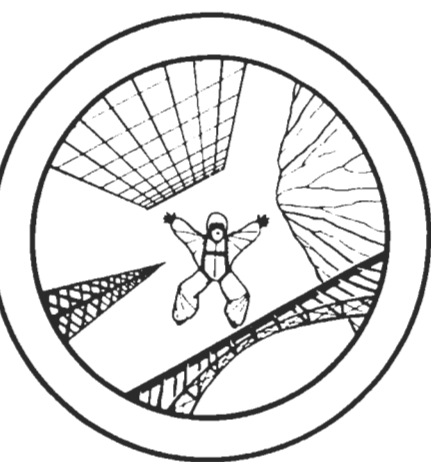
Boenish has requested that jumpers who are appreciate of her efforts should send her contributions to help defray her costs.

BASELINE Update

Art & Artists

Many of the fine drawings and cartoons which appear in BASELINE are the work of Texas BASE jumper Neil "Neilsen" Smith. Smith is a commercial artist who is available to do a wide range of graphic art; he specializes in promotions for the parachuting industry. He can be reached at (214) 255-0029.

Also, the popular "BASE jumper" logo which appears on the BASELINE title page and letterhead is the work of internationally-known freefall photographer Max Derata. The logo is copyrighted by Derata, and used by BASELINE with permission.



Something to Contribute?

BASELINE is always searching for articles, stories, news reports and photographs or cartoons. Our policy has always been to grant anonymity whenever and wherever requested. Our mailing address is shown on Page 3.

Tell em You Saw It in BASELINE!

Much of BASELINE's new look is due to extensive support from our advertisers. So please -- whenever you contact one of our advertisers to inquire about or order their products or services ... tell 'em you saw it in BASELINE!

More or Less?

It's never easy keeping *everyone* happy, and this probably couldn't be better demonstrated than by reading the BASELINE renewal questionnaire forms. Here are a few selected comments we received from various people. Sorry, guys ... we try!

"I enjoy seeing occasional profanity. 'Four-letter words' can embellish a story, and it's a pleasure to read a publication that doesn't believe in censorship for fear of offending the weak-of-heart."

John Owens
Matthews, N.C.

"I wish you'd encourage everyone to keep the videos, letters and articles free from profanity so they can be shown to all groups. A few cuss words can ruin a whole video or magazine."

Don Boyles
Tulsa, Okla.

"I am most impressed by your magazine not presenting articles in a complaining or whining fashion. The material in BASELINE appears positive and unbiased, and that's good for a subject as potentially controversial as BASE jumping."

Jim Hare
Washington, D.C.

"Stop being so damn opinionated!! You have to have an opinion on everything. And stop writing accident/incident reports like you were there. They're always opinionated to the max!!"

J.D. Walker
Chandler, Ariz.

"I hate to suggest more work, but perhaps you're getting enough stuff to now go to six issues per year."

Rob Price
Ontario, Canada

"Be careful about expanding any further. Aim to improve the quality rather than the

quantity now."

Martin Lyster
Oxford, England

"I have really enjoyed the jump stories: Royal Gorge, Golden Gate and many more."

Bill Legg
Houston, Texas

"I disliked the Royal Gorge and Golden Adventure. They were good articles, just kinda boring."

Rod Fugler
Marshall, Texas

"Your 'Viewpoints' department can be canned, since to date it has been essentially self-serving and a forum merely for airing inflammatory expressions of opinion in an effort to keep a fight going. Drop it!"

Ian Sutherland
Durham, N.C.

"I like the fact that you print controversial and negative opinions, as well as favorable ideas."

Bill FitzSimons
Flint Hill, Va.

"Most BASE jumpers are interesting people and lead exciting lives other than just BASE jumping. I would like to read more about any of them."

Bill Legg
Houston, Texas

"I don't like the articles which talk about why people jump or about 'personal freedom.' Both of these are important to me, but not in BASELINE -- leave them to *Psychology Today* or to the ACLU."

Robert Grace
St. Francis, Kan.

USAir Makes Good

The problem, as reported in the last issue, was a USAir employee who confiscated Andy Calistrat's boarding pass, and attempted to deny him passage, when Andy tried to carry his rig aboard the plane. USAir has replied to a formal complaint by sending a letter of apology and a check for \$50.

The issue of carrying parachutes aboard commercial flights is relevant to BASE jumpers as much as skydivers. A recent letter-writing campaign by BASELINE has convinced several major airlines to place their policy (of accepting parachutes as carry-on baggage) in their respective computer systems. Should you get hassled on any of the following airlines, just mention these computer codes:

USAir	4-1-5
Eastern	GGBAG G*24 GP15 G*
Continental	GGBAG-G/26L79

Northwest
TWA

GIBAG-PARACHUTE
G/APS/BAG/2/72

More information on getting your rig aboard commercial airline flights without hassle should be contained in an upcoming article in SKYDIVING magazine.

Stay Tuned for More!

The question, as asked on the volume III renewal questionnaire, was: "What articles would you like to see covered in the next year of BASELINE?" Some people gave serious answers, some gave none at all. And some gave answers that were just a little out-of-the-ordinary.

BASELINE contacted those people, and asked if they would write articles on the topics which they themselves suggested. And almost every single person agreed. Assuming they come through, of course, you should see the following articles in the

next year of BASELINE:

"Do-It-Yourself First Aid" and "How to Convince Your Wife that BASE is Safe" by Al Warsh.

"Why Australians Never Get Arrested" and "Treasure Maps to a BASE Number" by Mic Sherwood.

"The BASE Jump Potential of Olympus Mons (a 30,000-foot cliff on Mars)" by Mike Ravnitzky.

"The Aphrodesiac Effect of BASE Jumping" by John Owens.

"The Importance of a Ground Crew Willing to Swap Places and Take the Rap in case of Arrest" and "The Importance of Telling the Police and the Press that you are Close Personal Friends with Robin Heid and J.D. Walker" by Randy Harrison.

VIEWPOINTS

Bill FitzSimons once wrote, "Sport parachuting is a controversial subject and I don't think I'll get any argument on that. If I do, it just proves my point."

It's a foregone conclusion that anything dealing with parachutes and falling is bound to be controversial, most especially among its own proponents. BASE jumping, as the newest and perhaps most radical form of sport parachuting, is especially prone.

Still, controversy is often healthy to the degree that it encourages people to consider alternate points of view, thus providing them with a perspective they may not have previously considered. Towards this end, BASELINE offers a "Viewpoints" department.

Each issue, we publish a letter speaking out against our magazine, a BASE jump, or BASE jumping in general. We then encour-

age readers to send in their replies: tell us why you agree or disagree with the letter; tell us why the arguments the writer made are valid or not. We will select the best replies for publication in the following issue.

This Issue: In 1981, Houston skydiver Joe Svec, who at the time was USPA's secretary, sent the following letter to the Houston Chronicle following some local-area BASE jumps. The paper published the letter in full. Although the material is over seven years old, the views expressed by Svec are still held today by many skydivers. To respond to this letter, simply mail your reply to BASELINE Magazine, "Viewpoints" department, 3202 La Quinta Drive, Missouri City, Texas 77459-3145.

I wonder why the media in this city is suddenly interested in skydivers after ignoring them and their competitions for years. Is it because the recent "fixed object" jumps are more sensational than thousands of skydives made each year in and around Houston by mature, responsible skydivers, or is it because the jumpers are breaking the law?

Any weekend hundreds of skydivers make safe, sane jumps from aircraft in accordance with the basic safety regulations of the United States Parachute Association. In the five years I've been involved in this sport, I haven't seen one reporter at any drop zone.

DeWayne Bruette, who was arrested following his jump from the Texas Commerce Tower, is not representative of the skydiving community as a whole. After the extensive news coverage, I felt responsible skydivers were due equal time, as they got tired of being asked, "Are you one of those crazy guys who jumps

off buildings?"

Instead, just when the publicity over the building jump had died down and we thought the concrete circus was over, two of the troupe who believed they hadn't received enough publicity decided to jump from the Houston Ship Channel bridge. Channel 2 news obliged with full-color coverage -- exclusive films of skydivers breaking the law. Many of us wonder if Channel 2 would have made similar arrangements with a bank robber to enhance ratings.

But the publicity didn't stop with Channel 2. The daring duo emerged from 61 Riesner St. as heroes in the eyes of Chronicle reporter Barbara Karkabi in her recent halfpage article.

A skydiver then decided to glean some media limelight in the middle of downtown on a Saturday afternoon. Unfortunately, fate was not kind to Richard Davis Sept. 6. There were no stories about how daring and wonderful he was, only how bloody and broken he was after

the jump.

Levying a \$75 to \$200 fine on a skydiver who needs his ego caressed is not going to work, as it is a small price to pay for the publicity it generates. There is no easy solution to the problem, but those of us who feel a responsibility to this sport and to the general public will seek a solution.

In the meantime, I find it disheartening that these skydiving outlaws received more coverage than the 1981 U.S. Parachute Team that is presently training for the 1981 world championships to be held in Florida Oct. 8-19. The U.S. team will compete against teams from 23 nations, defending its world title won in France in 1979. I have the honor of being the team leader. It sickens me to see publicity hounds receiving more attention than young men who have practiced for months at great sacrifice to compete.

Yes, You Guys Are Nuts!

by Bill FitzSimons

"Am I looking forward to Bridge Day? Damn Straight!"

As some of you may remember, I recently wrote an article for BASELINE Magazine titled, "Are You Guys Nuts?" I have since found the answer to what I considered to be a rhetorical question. Yes, you guys are nuts, and therefore I am one of you, at least in spirit.

Andy Calistrat, one of the editors of BASELINE, recently invited me to the upcoming Bridge Day, and I have accepted, on the assumption that he has the clout to cut through whatever bureaucratic red tape exists, so that I can make my first BASE jump. This, in return for my articles, for which I am sure you all realize the pay is somewhat less than fifty cents a word.

Good, solid, dependable information on the technical aspects of BASE jumping is hard to come by. I ordered a book from Jean Boenish, but my order must have been lost in the mail, because I never got the book, and the check is still outstanding. I have read everything I can find, and talked to several BASE jumpers, and on the basis of what I know so far, here is what I plan to use at Bridge Day:

My Raven 3 reserve canopy packed with

the slider down in a Racer harness and container. My Raven 4, packed according to Andy's instructions (and, I hope, under his supervision), slider down and maybe with a brake-line release. I will pack the canopy into the container without a bag (if I can discover how you stow the lines), and use a ten-foot bridle and a 52-inch pilot chute which I plan to throw out about fifteen minutes before I jump!

"I have a D license, but when it comes to the safety of my body, I have no pride, and I'll listen to anyone who's made the bridge jump and survived."

My Raven 4 opens very fast, and almost always on heading. Presumably the Raven 3 with slider down will also open fast, maybe even painfully so, but, my friends, the least of my worries at Bridge Day will be a hard opening!

If for any reason I can't make the beach,

I will go into the water. Sorry if this holds things up, but I can't afford a hospital bill at this time. My goal is to walk away from my first BASE jump with a good, positive outlook on things.

If anyone out there sees a flaw in the above plan, please let me know. I have a D license, but when it comes to the safety of my body, I have no pride, and I'll listen to anyone who's made the bridge jump and survived. (I can't afford to buy a tertiary or round reserve for this jump. If I decide to continue in this madness, I will most certainly invest in both.)

Am I looking forward to Bridge Day? Damn straight! I performed at an air show in Texas last weekend, and met a BASE jumper who had jumped at this unique event, and I asked him what it was like.

He said, quite seriously, "You know how, at every drop zone, there's one guy who always wants to do crazy things that everyone is afraid will kill him someday?"

"Yes," I said.

"Well," he said, a big grin on his face, "they'll all be there, at Bridge Day!"

And so will I.

Book, Video & Equipment Review

"If Man Could Fly." Sky's the Limit Productions. 29-minute video, VHS only. \$44.95. 5471 Lake Howell Rd. Suite 105. Winter Park, Fla. 32792

Bryan Scott's new video, *If Man Could Fly*, is the first all-encompassing BASE production since Carl Boenish's "AA" track. It begins with a random montage of exits from at least six different objects, with George Thorogood and the Destroyer's fast-paced and powerful "Nobody But Me" well-synchronized in the background.

Later, it takes the viewers through

jumps from buildings in Miami, towers in Texas and Florida, the Black Canyon in Colorado and the New River Gorge Bridge in West Virginia. Set to the more sedate but equally moving music of Michael Jarre, the second part of the film shows all aspects of BASE jumping: exits, canopy flight and landings.

Interspersed through *If Man Could Fly* are several unique and exciting cuts of David Adcock's bungee jumps from the New River Bridge and the inside of Houston's Hyatt Regency Hotel. Also included is an amazingly clear sequence of

night building jumps.

On the downside, there are several interviews in the video that could be shortened or cut altogether. The entire minute-long Norway episode, which features minimal action, should be eliminated.

If Man Could Fly's price tag (\$44.95) may seem a bit high, but compared to the cost of the many amateurish "throw-together" tapes on the market, it is probably about right. Its 29-minute running time will keep most BASE jumpers excited, and may inspire a novice to attempt a "certifiable" act.

Carl Boenish Honored

by Andy Calistrat

At its February meeting in Virginia, the board of directors of the United States Parachute Association unanimously voted to name the late Carl R. Boenish, BASE 4, as the recipient of USPA's 1988 Achievement Award. The award is described by the USPA as being "the most prestigious non-competitive honor in American skydiving."

Boenish was perhaps the world's best-known and most renowned freefall photographer. His work, which stretches back some 20 years, was enjoyed by jumpers and whuffos alike. His credits include at least two major motion pictures, several skydiving films/videos, and numerous photographs which appeared in *PARACHUTIST* and many other national publications.

Boenish is also widely considered to be the father of modern BASE jumping. As with skydiving, his camera work helped spread the word of not only what was safe, but what was possible. Carl was among the first jumpers to skydive from El Capitan in the late 1970s, and his role in the perfection of the technical aspects of gear and techniques relating to BASE jumping eventually lead to safe jumps from bridges, antenna towers and buildings.

In the early 1980s, Boenish helped the USPA get approval for the short-lived legal jumping program at El Capitan, initiated and administrated the BASE award program, formed the United States BASE Association (USBA), and published six issues of *BASE Magazine*. Carl was tragically killed in July 1984 while jumping from the Trolveggen cliff near Åndalsnes, Norway. He is survived by his wife, Jean, who today still serves as the USBA's treasurer.

Despite Boenish's significant contributions to both skydiving and BASE jumping, the USPA board of directors recognized only Carl's skydiving accomplishments in deciding to name him the 1988 award recipient. For a variety of reasons, including the failure of the El Cap program, the USPA in 1981 decided to disassociate itself from BASE jumping. In September of that year, the board of directors adopted

an official policy stating that BASE jumps are "potentially very dangerous stunts which are not a part of sport parachuting." The board cited only Carl's "significant contributions to [skydiving] as a freefall photographer and movie producer" in deciding to posthumously give Boenish the award.

"Boenish is also widely considered to be the father of modern BASE jumping. As with skydiving, his camera work helped spread the word of not only what was safe, but what was possible."

Prompted by the board's decision, *PARACHUTIST* magazine published a two-page tribute to Carl in their May 1988 issue. Originally written by Carl's mother, Robbie Stewart, and sister, Carol Price, the article was later redone by *PARACHUTIST* (and former *Southwestern Skies*) editor Kevin Gibson. "The piece which Stewart and Price sent was good," said Gibson, "but I wanted something which would be a little more broadly appealing to the general readership of *PARACHUTIST*."

Gibson wrote his article, "Carl Boenish: The Contributor," in cooperation with Stewart and Price, and quoted widely from their original manuscript. Despite the fact that the article does not mention any of Boenish's contributions to BASE jumping, the *PARACHUTIST* article was quite positive, and is considered by many to be a fitting tribute to Carl as a skydiver and as a human being. Stewart and Price have also agreed to share with *BASELINE* the sections of their manuscript dealing with BASE jumping.

Although the *PARACHUTIST* article did not detail Boenish's contributions to BASE jumping, it did mention his involvement. "His fascination with fixed-object jumping took him away from the mainstream of

skydiving during the early '80s," wrote Gibson of Boenish. "He loved both sports and the people in them, so he tried to disassociate himself from a rift that embittered those who felt compelled to take sides on an issue concerning USPA's involvement, and then non-involvement, in BASE jumping."

SKYDIVING magazine was somewhat more blunt about the issue. "The Californian became embroiled in controversy in the late 1970s when he became an active proponent of BASE (or fixed-object jumping," wrote *SKYDIVING* in their April issue. "Boenish's involvement with BASE jumping soured his relationship with some of the leaders of more conventional skydiving."

The article went on to explain the USPA's position on fixed-object jumping: "USPA divorced itself from BASE jumping years ago when its board passed a resolution declaring that jumping from fixed objects was a distinct activity from jumping from aircraft and therefore didn't fall under USPA's purview. The board adopted the resolution because it believed BASE jumping's poor safety record -- and BASE jumpers' penchant for flaunting trespassing laws -- were tarnishing parachuting's public image.

"During the short closed-door meeting preceding the vote on Boenish's nomination," the article concluded, "the USPA board only briefly discussed the controversial aspects of Boenish's contributions. The subsequent vote to name Boenish as recipient of USPA's highest award was unanimous."

Ms. Stewart will be accepting the award on Carl's behalf at the USPA board of directors' meeting Sept. 23 at the Lafayette hotel in San Diego. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., and there will be a reception immediately following, courtesy of the USPA. Anyone interested in attending should contact Western Conference Director Gary Douris at 17655 Grand Ave., Lake Elsinore, Calif. 92330-5913, or (714) 678-1861, no later than Sept. 1.

BASE Abroad:

The Canada BASE Scene

by Rob Price

Due mainly to legal reasons, the BASE scene in eastern Canada has dulled considerably since the halycon days of 1985 and '86. The only object being jumped with any regularity seems to be the 300-foot "Fool's Point" in Bon Echo Park.

1985 was a year of considerable growth for BASE jumpers in Ontario. Many experienced and inexperienced jumpers, fired by the success of early jumps, got into the sport. BASE found its way into the news, both on the front page of the papers as well as on television.

In late 1985 and '86, however, an escalating series of incidents occurred which changed all that. The first run-in with the law resulting in charges was the time Steve Adams and I were caught after jumping a 600-foot antenna at night. We were charged with trespassing and fined \$53 each.

Shortly after this, a "bandit" jump from the Skylon Tower in Niagara Falls created bad publicity, although the jumpers were not caught. Later, still another jumper was arrested after a night jump from a 400-foot communications tower in Toronto; the charge was bumped up to criminal trespass, requiring a court appearance and resulting in a \$300 fine. It's ironic that the first jump from this tower was in daylight, and the jumpers found much to their dismay that the getaway car had a dead battery. The police soon arrived but didn't seem too upset: they provided a jump-start and released the jumpers with only a warning! After this latest jump, however, it became obvious that BASE jumping was being taken much more seriously by the police.

The death of [Canadian] Rick Stanley in 1986 [BASELINE Vol. 1, Issuc 2] drew wide media attention here. Shortly thereafter, two other events occurred which gave BASE jumping even more bad press. The first was a jumper's ascent of the CN Tower in Toronto. Although the police brought the jumper inside before he could reach the top and jump, the authorities were out for blood. The owners claimed that, because of the temporary closure of the building, they lost around \$40,000 worth of business.

The jumper was fined \$1800 and put on probation. His gear was confiscated, but returned after the trial.

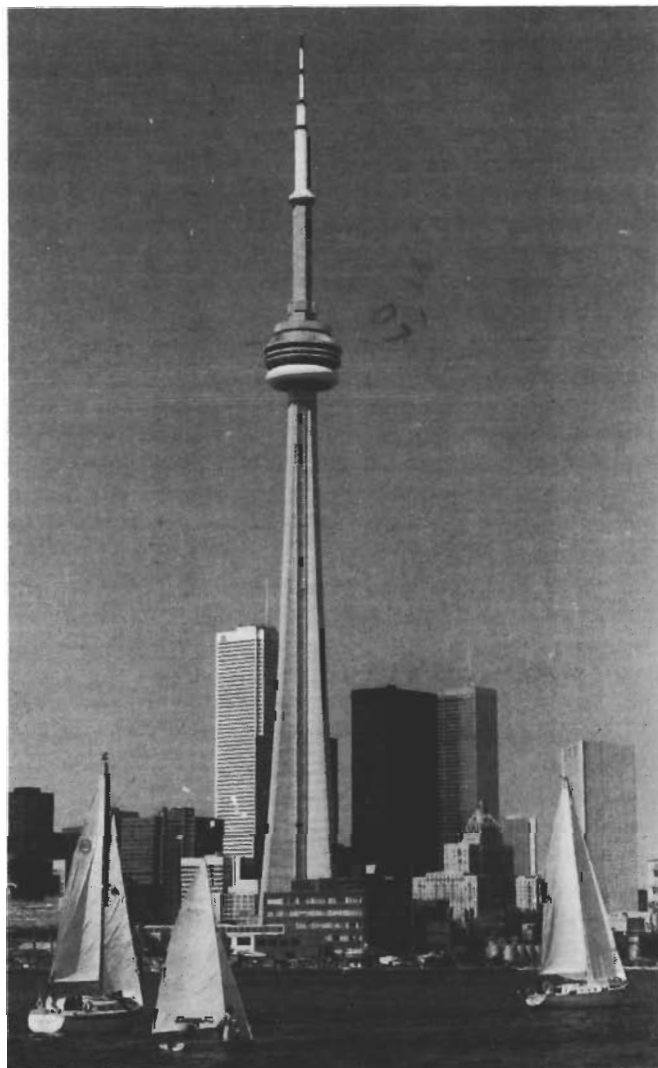
Soon after this incident, a jumper was injured while making a leap from an 850-foot television tower. His canopy hung up on a guy wire, leaving him suspended some 50 feet above the ground. After his three buddies jumped and landed safely he dumped his reserve, intending to climb down it and then drop the rest of the way to the ground. As he started to move around, however, his chute released and he fell to the ground, injuring his back.

The other jumpers hid the gear and summoned help, prepared with a made-up story for the police. After a few days of investigation, however, the police charged all four men. The resulting fines came to about \$5,500, and the injured jumper's gear was confiscated (though later returned).

Incidentally, the owners of the tower, Global TV, had earlier expressed some interest in possibly doing a story on BASE jumping, but after this incident they were extremely hostile.

The gist of it is that most BASE jumps up here are "criminal" offenses, and as such the jumper acquires a criminal record which can have serious repercussions on his personal life. This does not mean that BASE jumping is dead in Canada -- one just has to be much more careful, especially if he has been caught before.

About The Author: Rob Price, "Skypuppy" to his friends, is an active skydiver, BASE jumper and Bridge Day regular. In his new role as our eastern Canada correspondent, Skypuppy will provide us with future updates from the frigid North.



Canada's CN Tower, said to be the world's tallest free-standing structure, rises 1,815 feet into the Toronto skyline.

Reports in this section are compiled from information obtained from jumpers in the field. They are printed here for their educational value, and are divided into three categories: incident reports involve any BASE jumping mishap ending without injury, which others might profit from reading about; accident reports detail BASE jumps which resulted in injury to the jumper; and fatality reports involve any person who was killed as the result of making a BASE jump. Names are generally included with all

reports; however, anonymity will be granted to any subject who specifically requests it.

Please help us insure that the reports in this section are as accurate as possible: if you are involved in, or are witness to, any type of a BASE jumping mishap, contact us with the pertinent details. All it takes is a phone call to (713) 437-0323 or 931-7709, or simply jot down the essential information on a post card and mail it to us.

Accident Reports

Name: Manuel Gonzales **Age:** 26
BASE Jumps: 10 **Skydives:** 300
Main: Fury **Reserve:** 24' Phantom
Container: Racer
Pilot Chute: 44" Home-made
Packing: Slider-down in bag
Object: Cliff **Altitude:** 350'
Delay: 1 second
Type of Jump: Day-time, solo exit, intentional water landing
Nature of Accident: Cliff strike
Extent of Injuries: Ruptured lung

Description

The jumper stood about 15 feet back from the exit point, then made a running dash for the edge of the cliff. When he got to the edge he stopped momentarily, then lunged forward. However, the momentum of his running carried Gonzales over the edge, pivoting him on his feet, and throwing him into a head-down dive. Within one second he was flat on his back, and released his hand-held pilot chute.

As the bag and lines were extracted between his feet, the jumper's canopy inflated facing the cliff (as Gonzales was upside down). Not having made a good exit, he was close enough to the wall that he hit it before he could take any corrective action. The canopy stayed inflated as Gonzales hit the wall violently three times. He fell into the water apparently unconscious.

The boat crew rescued the jumper within seconds. When they pulled him out of the water, they reported that his body was stiff, his face was blue, his jaw was locked and his eyes were fixed and rolled back. He was not breathing, had no pulse, and had defecated all over himself. The boat crew began CPR, but was unable to revive Gonzales. Out of desperation they finally tried the Heimlich maneuver, which caused

the jumper to vomit. He slowly began to breathe again, and was rushed to the nearest emergency room.

Incredibly, Gonzales' only injury was a ruptured lung. He had not broken any bones, but apparently ruptured the lung at the same place where he had punctured it in a previous injury. Doctors drained a substantial amount of fluid from Gonzales' lung, then released him from the hospital.

"While there is nothing wrong with a running start, it must nonetheless be done correctly or may cause the jumper to have a bad exit."

Conclusions

The strengths and weaknesses in this accident can be identified in the order in which they occurred:

1. Running off an object is an act which often does more psychological than physical good. In many cases, a jumper can achieve the same or greater horizontal separation from his exit point by executing a good standing launch.

While a running launch is not inherently any better than a standing one, it does have its pitfalls. A jumper attempting to run off an object can slip, lose his footing, or turn on exit. There is also a common tendency to stop right near the very edge, as happened in this accident. While there is nothing wrong with a running start (if there is enough space to do it safely), it must nonetheless be done correctly or may cause the jumper to have a bad exit.

Running launches can be best practiced into a swimming pool. The jumper should concentrate on running evenly, not stop-

ping or slowing down near the edge, pushing off evenly with both feet on exit (so not to turn in free fall), and launching head high.

2. To his credit, Gonzales pitched out at the appropriate time, despite his poor body position. Deploying in a bad body position may have a variety of results. Not deploying will always have the same result!

3. Although it was not stated that the canopy surged upon opening, the fact that Gonzales violently struck the wall three times indicates that his canopy had too much forward speed immediately upon opening. Square parachutes used for BASE jumps should have their brake settings lowered, and be packed "nose-hidden" [see "Back to Basics" in BASELINE #6 for more details] in order to reduce forward speed and opening surge. This may have given the jumper sufficient time to correct for the bad opening, or at the very least would have significantly lowered the force with which the jumper hit the wall.

4. A further consideration is the choice of the canopy itself. At sites where the opening speed, forward drive, maneuverability and soft landings of a square are not needed (such as this jump from a cliff into water), many jumpers prefer to use round parachutes. Their primary advantage is their lower speed, which carries all of the benefits mentioned above.

5. Finally, the merits of a good boat crew are deserving of mention. Gonzales may well have been clinically dead when his body was recovered from the water; it was the boat crew's expediency in getting to him, and their knowledge of life-saving techniques once they got to him, that enabled them to revive and save Gonzales.

Fatality Reports

Name: Marlen Burford **Age:** 28
BASE Jumps: 37 **Skydives:** 900
Main: Fury 220 **Reserve:** 26' Lopo
Container: Racer
Pilot Chute: 55" **Helmet:** None
Packing: Free packed slider down
Object: Building **Altitude:** 290'
Delay: 1 second
Type of Jump: Night-time, solo exit
Nature of Accident: Collision with concrete sea wall
Cause of Death: Multiple head and internal injuries

Description

The deceased and his partner were jumping from the roof of a 23-story resort hotel into a 20-knot cross wind. The first jumper exited, experienced an uncontrolled canopy ride in the high-speed wind and turbulent air, and crashed into a fence on landing, sustaining minor injuries.

Burford exited seconds later as the ground crew rushed over to assist the first jumper. Because of this, Burford's jump was not witnessed by any experienced skydivers, but only by a handful of whuffos. As best as the incident can be reconstructed, Burford made a good exit and experienced a

normal opening after a one-second free fall. He then either spiralled, hook turned, or was blown violently into a four-foot sea wall. He was found dead, leaning against the concrete wall, with a bashed-in skull, broken leg, and multiple internal injuries.

"This fatality should serve as a reminder that it is never too late to 'chicken out' on a BASE jump, even when standing at the exit point with gear on."

Conclusions

Although winds are usually helpful for avoiding an object collision (especially cross winds on building jumps), 20 knots is pushing the limits of most square canopies, not to mention the significant problem with turbulence created by the building itself and other landing obstructions. Ram-air does not handle well in high-wind situations, especially downwind of obstacles.

If the high-speed winds, turbulent air and tight landing area were all not enough to encourage the pair to forgo the jump, the first jumper's canopy ride should have been. Burford most likely saw the significant canopy stability problems which the first jumper experienced, not to mention his crash landing into the fence. This fatality should serve as a reminder that it is never too late to "chicken out" on a BASE jump, even when standing at the exit point with gear on.

Burford's extremely violent collision with the concrete wall makes it questionable whether a helmet would have done any good. However, it is also quite possible that with proper head gear, this accident may have resulted in nothing worse than broken bones and a concussion. For the small inconvenience it creates, an appropriate helmet seems like a worthy piece of equipment, especially on objects, landing areas or conditions which make the chances of a collision greater than normal.

As with almost all accidents and fatalities, both in skydiving and in BASE jumping, there is usually more than one thing which has gone wrong. Burford's lack of good judgement once confronted with high winds, turbulent air and a tight landing area, combined with his lack of appropriate protective gear (in this case a helmet), resulted in his death. The wise decision would have been to walk away and save the jump for another time.

AT PRESSTIME

Report Released

As BASELINE went to press, a five-man board of inquiry from the National Park Service released their final report on their investigation of the death of BASE jumper Steven Gyrsting. Chief Ranger Jason Houck has promised to mail BASELINE a copy, and more details should be included next issue.

Kukenam Jumped

Three Venezuelans on May 26 successfully parachuted from the 1,450-foot waterfall Kukenam. Rodolfo Gerstl, Anibal Dao and Enrique Velez took five-second delays each, landing uneventfully near the base of the falls. Kukenam is one of the world's highest waterfalls, and is located where the borders of Venezuela, Brazil and Guiana meet.

Cerro Autana Revisited

A group of five Americans and three Venezuelans parachuted onto, and later off of, the 4,000-foot sandstone monolith Cerro Autana early last May. Americans Tom Sanders, Jan Davis, Norman Kent, Deanna Kent and Jon Robbins, and Venezuelans Pedro Luis Gonzales, Anibal Dao and Enrique Velez were involved in the expedition, which was sponsored by Ven Ceramica, Gonzales' employer.

According to Sanders, the group first parachuted onto the top of the monolith, which is located near the town of Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela, from a Cessna Caravan. "Jon did a four-way with the Venezuelans while Norm and I filmed, and Deanna and Jan turned freestyle above us," said Sanders. "Just about everybody had stand-up landings, despite the fact that we were at 4,000 feet ASL."

After spending several days at the top, five of

... Continued on back cover

Photo-Finish



"Dead" Steve Morrell exits from California's 750-foot Auburn bridge

BASELINES

"It is not in giving life but in risking life that man is raised above the animal."

Simone de Beauvoir

"Damn the cops, full gravity ahead!"

Steve "Dead Man" Morrell

"How do I let you talk me into this stuff?"

John Owens

before jumping the Black Canyon

"First ponder, then dare."

Helmuth Von Moltke

"It is only by risking our persons from one hour to another that we live at all."

William James

"A coward runs away . . . but a brave man's choice is danger."

Euripides

"Human progress is made by taking risks."

Bill FitzSimons

"An 876-foot bridge is a terrible thing to waste."

John Hoover

"No illegal BASE jumps will be tolerated."

Roger Nelson

"Succeed or bleed

Make haste or tomato paste

Consume skills or heavy bills

Unravel the mystery or soon become history

Keep your head or hospital bed

Get the knack or face a smack"

from Rock Climber lore

the group rappelled 60 feet down to a ledge which afforded a good exit point and a 2,000-foot vertical drop. "The Kents and Jon Robbins decided to forgo the jump," said Sanders. "Norm and Deanna filmed from a helicopter while Robbins watched from the top." Anibal Dao, a veteran of previous jumps from Angel Falls and at least one Venezuelan building, exited first. Enrique Velez followed, making his first BASE jump. Sanders then executed a two-way with Gonzales, wearing rear-facing helmet-mounted cameras. Gonzales is a veteran of many jumps from Angel Falls; Sanders was making his third BASE jump, having previously parachuted from El Capitan and Angel Falls. Jan Davis exited last, making her first BASE jump.

The 2,000-foot drop afforded delays of between eight and ten seconds, after which jumpers had 2,000 more feet of descent over dense -- but steep -- jun-

good," said Sanders, "but one canopy was trashed in the trees and not recovered."

The last expedition to Autana involved 12 jumpers and occurred during March 1985. The Venezuelan government prematurely ended that trip before the group could BASE jump off the mountain.

Burford Killed

Marlen Burford, a 28-year old BASE jumper from Titusville, Fla., was killed June 5 when he struck a concrete sea wall after jumping from the 24-story Palace Resort Hotel in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Burford died of massive head and internal injuries when he struck the four-foot-high wall under canopy; he was not wearing a helmet.

It was reported to BASELINE that the landing area was tight and the winds were in excess of 20 knots.