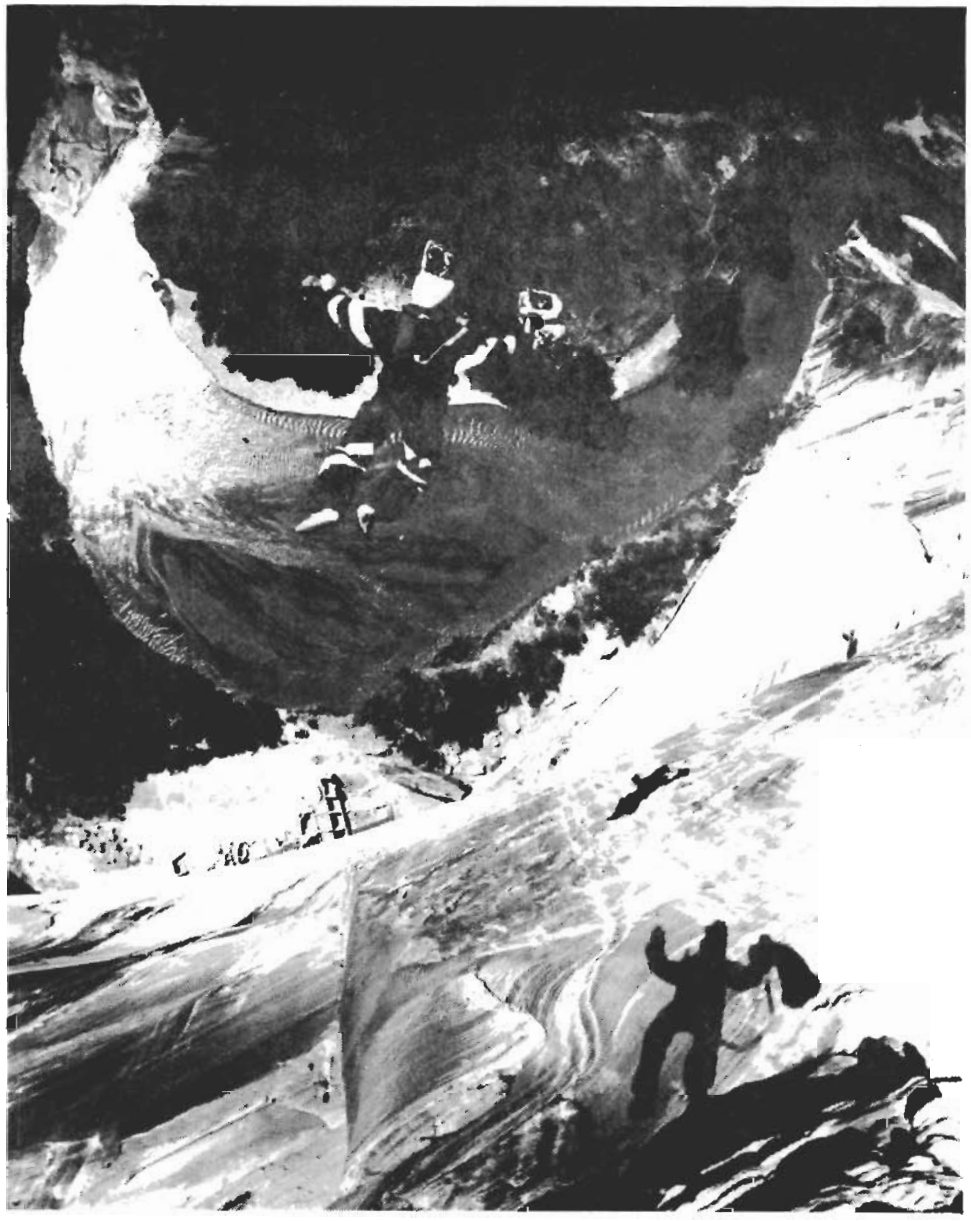
October 1983

BASE

Issue No. 3

the Unofficial Journal of the British Base Association



NeW Equipment & Techniques

Hand-held squares

Train Jumps

New Norwegian Cliff

The BRITISH BASE ASSOCATION is founded for and dedicated to the safety, advancement and positive public image of BASE Jumping in the British Isles. BASE Jumping being the name given to fixed object parachuting.

The British Base Magazine is the unofficial publication of the B.B.A.. Neither the B.B.A. nor the editor, knowingly endorse or condone any foolhardiness or disrespect of any British Law.

The British Base magazine aims to be a medium to disseminate information on or relating to BASE jumping (fixed object parachuting). Later issues will contain the full history of British Base jumping.

The B.B.A. does not encourage or advocate that any one should make a BASE jump.

The British Base Association keeps a record of every one who qualifies for British Base, Night British Base, European Base and Night European Base.

Correspondence from readers is welcomed from all view points. Articles and Photographs can only be returned if a stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed with the original letter. The Magazine will be published by [redacted] the Editor, as an when the need arises.

Finally it must be realised that the British Base Association was forced into existence as there was no established or recognised body to represent British Base jumpers.

It is now a year since the USPA changed its position on BASE jumping following the example of the Australian Parachuting Association. Both Associations' positions now read as follows -
"the parameters of our organisation lie in Sport Parachuting operations from aircraft. While we are aware that parachute descents are being made from other than aircraft, our rules do not cover these descents and we are not in a position to control them."
Those USPA members voting for the new stance were - Bill Hayes, Eric Pehrson, Gary Carter, B. J. Worth, Pat Works, Jim Mowery, Mike Truffer, Gary Douris, Larry Bagley.
The BPA has taken a stand that anyone involved with or that can be proven to have made an unauthorised BASE jump, may be subject to a lifetime ban.

Produced by [redacted]

Enclose a S.A.E. & 50p for further copy.

Address BBA: [redacted]

BALLISTIC TERTIARY UNDER TEST IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jim Handbury is reported to be testing a ballistic tertiary he has designed and is working on live tests with a prototype model. Jim Handbury has become very involved with building Ultralites and felt that pilots needed something more efficient than the hand throw tertiary he pioneered several years ago. He is reported to have invested in equipment to heat and then pressurise a 28 foot Fl.11 canopy into a small tube less than 12 inches long.
The canopy is "shot" out of the tube by an explosive charge at a reported speed of 150 feet a second. The canopy is so compressed it is as solid as a brick and pulls a long single bridle after it so the deploying canopy clears the microlite. This means a pilot or BASE jumper could fire the reserve and be under canopy with minimal height loss. Carl and Jean Boenish have been helping his R + D by filming test firings. Neeedless to say Carl is looking forward to testing the "Terch" as soon as he can.
This Tertiary would make Two chute jumps possible over land at heights that are now only one chute jumps.

NEW RIVER BRIDGE DAY 8th OCTOBER

This October will be the third annual BRIDGE DAY over the NEW River, West Virginia, U.S.A. The bridge will be open to jumpers and pedestrians for six hours. During the BRIDGE DAY celebrations the Police will cordon two of the four lanes off to allow 20 thousand people to wander over the Bridge at their leisure throughout the day.

The NEW RIVER BRIDGE spans a natural gorge and is 890 feet high: usual delays from this height are 2/4 seconds. A 4 second delay would put you open around 600 feet up, with slider down. The Bridge was first jumped by John Noakes, back in 1980 when El Cap was the main BASE site, along with Brad Smith and Brian Hinney. One month later they were at the bridge with Carl and Jean Boenish who flew over from L.A. and they all made a jump.

The jumps can be seen on Carl's BASE TAPE 1. A couple of months before Bridge Day 1981 Phil 'Smitty' Smith and friends hd gained the go-ahead for BASE JUMPS to be a part of the celebrations; during the six hour time-window for the celebration five Jumpers made 11 jumps. The 3,000 people on the bridge loved every minute of it. The jumpers found it rather strange having so many people crowding round them. The first Bridge day was a total success and the organisers invited USBA to come back the following year. 1982 Bridge day saw 42 jumpers turning up to jump the bridge. At the end of the six hour time-window the Bridge log was swelled by 110 jumps.
The following statistics were compiled:

One jumpers made six jumps
Five jumpers made five jumps
Five jumpers made four jumps
Several jumpers made two and three jumps18 jumpers made one jump

Rick and Randy Harrison made the first two way hook-up leaving side by side with a hand hold, swinging round into a two-way once in freefall. One brother dumped out at two seconds while the other smoked it down doing a 4 second delay...

Jumpers were ferried from the landing area to the packing area in an "Ambulance" with a turn around time of 15 minutes. This year the bridge will feature a cordoned off area for the jumpers to prepare to exit. The USBA will be doing a rig check and encourage hand held pilotchutes; and other than that for the hundred jumpers, expect "THE GROUNDS THE LIMIT".

TRAVEL: New River Bridge is 5 hours drive (250 miles) from Washington Airport. Airfare £300 return booked 21 days in advance.

HAND HELP SQUARE JUMPS

Two Californian jumpers have been doing some experiments with hand-help Square canopies. Inspired by watching Jim Brookhausers' jumps from a 68 foot bridge in L.A. With a hand-held 8 foot round canopy. They had also watched the footage of Frank Donnellan jumping from the same Bridge with a Static-lined Square, which opened before he hit the water ...

Towards the end of last summer they went to the same bridge with two five cell canopies. Technique was to launch off the bridge upright and throw the bundled canopy up for near instant line stretch and wait for the slow moving air mass to inflate the canopy. One of them landed in the water with his canopy open on the bottom surface and pressurising while the other jumper was under the water before the canopy opened.

Neither of them felt like repeating the experience from that height again though luckily their jumps were recorded on film and can be seen on the BASE TAPE TWO. In December Peter Hamond drove north of L.A. to a small quiet road bridge running over a wooded canyon. He and his friend Mark Seckler had previously jumped the bridge with a freebagged static lined Strato Cloud at a height of 250 feet, landing on a road on the side of the hill side. For his hand held square jump Peter opted to exit over the middle where the total height was an estimated 350 feet. The plan being to open and fly to the side to land on the roadside clearing.

He held his canopy, packed as if ready to place in a deployment bag in his right hand, with some of the surplus suspension lines folded on top. The canopy was stackpacked with the nose on the bottom. The front cell walls were pulled round the bundle to be used as carrying handles. Risers were stowed as usual over the back and under the flaps of the main container. The main container was closed by a bungle with a single group of suspension lines.

He walked out to the centre of tie bridge, climbed over the low barrier and composed himself and then launched off, throwing the canopy up. Near instant line stretch and the canopy quickly unfurled as the air speed increased. At 2 1/3 seconds he was flying on bottom surface, canopy turned 90 deg. left and continued to inflate the cells. A successful jump apart from the 90 deg. left turn. Landing was in the top of a small tree, just short of the roadside clearing, everywhere else was solid trees and scrubs.

BURRO CREEK

A few weeks after this Peter and Mark went to a 370 foot Bridge in Arizona and made 8 jumps each over the course of a weekend. The canopies always opened between 50/100 feet but lacked any sort of heading control. Since that weekend Peter and Mark are reported not to have pursued their hand held square jumps any further but continue to jump in the southern California area including a 600 foot office building while it was under construction.

At the end of all this the question is, "Is a hand held square jump a BASE jump: what is the definition of a BASE jump?" The accepted definition is a jump that requires a Parachute as a life saving device which must not be inflated prior to jumping.

Burro Creek is a very remote 370 foot bridge in NW Arizona. It is very quiet with the nearest town being 50 miles away.
It has been a freefall site on several different visits by different BASE jumpers. Nick Bender, a local jumper really likes his bridge. He has jumped it 19 times, mainly free fall with 52 inch pilotchute, by day, by night, from the top, from the superstructure under the bridge. A 2 second delay has been found to be suitable from the bridge, leaving a 200 foot canopy ride to the sandy river bed. A 3 second delay puts you open at 100 feet with a canopy ride of less than 10 seconds: do a 1 second shorter delay and you get a canopy ride twice as long. Nick claims to have made an honest 4 second delay (seemed like a 5) and found his canopy ride to be rather short. A rock test gives a reading of 5 1/2 at this site.

TEXAS BASERS JUMP TRAIN

We have just received a news flash from the USA. Five jumpers are reported to have jumped from the top of a freight train travelling at 50 mph. over a 300 foot bridge over a river. The jumpers were reported to have had to board the train 50 miles before the bridge and have had a time window of 3 seconds in which to exit from the top of the train while it crossed the bridge. Each jumper was reported to have had a two-man assist crew. If they had missed the jump they would have had to travel another 100 miles to disembark.

There had been an unconfirmed rumour earlier in the summer that a well known TEXAS BASE jumper was seen dressed as a hobo riding on freight trains back and forth over a 150 mile stretch of railroad ...

FREE BAG STATIC LINE

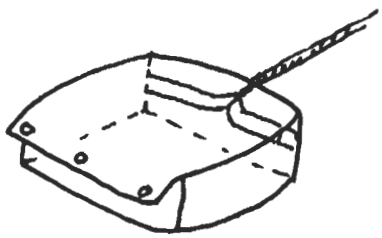
Breakcord can be totally eliminated from static line rigs by the use of a bag as an integral part of the STATIC LINE. This means that there is then far less that can malfunction. One is either under a canopy or swinging on the end of a Static line. Lines can be stowed on the side of the bag and the canopy packed in the usual manner. Jumpers who have tried the system are pleased with it. There has been some speculation that the bag could twist and cause an off-heading opening but as yet we haven't had a chance to examine any photos or try it ourselves. The bridge would be an ideal testing site, in case of an off-heading opening.

Static-line sewn into bag

Canopy packed in bag,

but not attached to static-line.

Pilot chute may still be incorporated



52 INCH PILOTCHUTES

52 inch Pilotshute are a BASE Jumpers dream. They are several times larger than a conventional one. They are ideal for delays up to 3 seconds, after that there is enough air speed for a conventional pilotchute to work with equal effect. Whereas a small pilotchute would drag behind the jumper if released before 2 seconds until the air speed increased. The 52 inch inflates as soon as it reaches the end of the bridle and "appears" to stop while the jumper falls away dragging out the canopy. When doing a LALO jump it is reassuring to exit holding such a large air grabber.

THE TIMES TUESDAY APRIL 5 1983

thatch on a cottage in Babbacombe Model Village, Torquay, which has been renovated

village of Cockington. (Photograph: Martin Keene)

Student survives 260ft plunge

From Our Correspondent, Bristol

A student aged 19 plunged 260ft from the Clifton suspension bridge, Bristol, yesterday and survived. Holidaymakers watched as the youth looked down for a moment and then jumped. His long, black overcoat billowing, he plunged feet first into the icy river Avon.

He disappeared for a few seconds before resurfacing and swimming 40 yards to the bank where he was later pulled out by the police. Last night he was said to be comfortable in the Bristol Royal Infirmary where he was treated.

Miss Lorna Smith, aged 21, a nurse from Corby, Northamptonshire, said: "I just could not believe he was really going to do it. When he jumped I could'nt bear to look and turned away. I thought he had to be killed." Her boyfriend, Mr Dave Hendry, said: "He was sitting with one leg on the parapet. Then he swung the other leg over and looked down for a few seconds. He appeared to be very composed and then just pushed off. He disappeared under the water for a moment before coming back up and swimming very slowly on his back towards the bank.

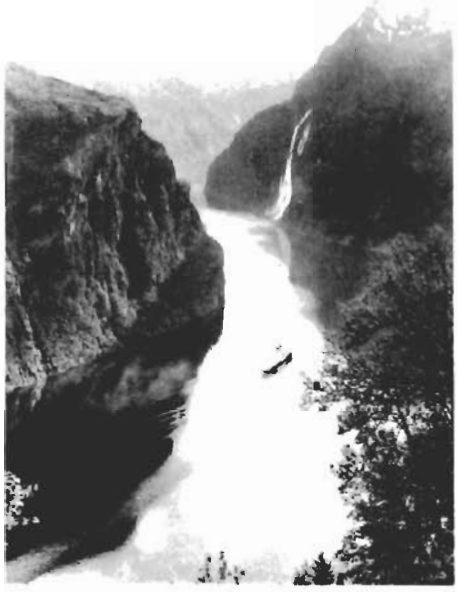
The police said it was lucky that the tide was slack or he could have been swept away by the fierce Avon Gorge currents. Inspector Ronald Powell said: "He is the first person we can remember who has lived."

Hundreds of people have plunged to their deaths since the bridge opened in 1864. In 1885, Sarah Henley, a Bristol barmaid aged 24 was saved by her Victorian dress which billowed open and acted like a parachute. She lived to be 85.

Dispute threatens job

NEW CLIFF SITE IN NORWAY

There have now been 12 jumps from
The site is a 150 foot overhanging cliff with a water landing in the brackish Fjord water.
The site is 1700 feet high above the fjord, sea level, with a possible 1000 feet approx. sheer. The last 600 feet shelves steeply into the water. The site is suitable for a 5 second delay with either round or square with slider down, leaving a 1200 foot canopy ride down to the waiting pick-up boats. Local boatowners have been hired to act as pick-ups and a Norwegian interpreter makes the task much easier. So far visiting jumpers have built up a good relationship with the locals at this popular tourist site.



The site is a 1 1/2 hour hike out of Geiranger and is generally a comfortable hike up an Alpine trail which is well used by hikers to view the breathtaking scenery. It can take up to an hour to find a suitable exit point on the top of the cliff. The edge is grass covered with small Alpine trees. The site is jumpable in the summer months only and usually has favourable wind conditions, being sheltered by the surrounding mountains. Accomodation can be found locally on a caomp site or in one of the many local guest houses. So far the site has been treated with respect by the small number of jumpers who have visited it.A master log is being kept by a European

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CANYON DE CHELLY FREE FALLEN

Carl Boenish and friends made a return trip with permission from the Park Service and the Navajo Indian council, the area being part of their reservation and the DZ is part of the ancient burial grounds and therefore a religious site. It is very unadvisable to go down without permission ...

This visit was 2/4 second delay two-ways with round and square canopies. Round canopies being more popular amongst that party of jumpers.

Here is yet another site which has been re-jumped with full permission of the local authorities.

MOAB UTAH. 400 FOOT TWO-CHUTE FREEFALL JUMPS

Towards the end of last summer a group of American jumpers, consisting of Carl and Jean Boenish, Phil 'Smitty' Smith and 'very low BASE pioneer' Jim Brookhauser made several jumps from the 400 foot high cliffs of the Green river.

All the jumps were freefalls taking 3 second delays using 52 inch pilotchutes with a variety of round canopies. Pulled down apex 16 + 20 footers and 26 foot F1.11 R2D4's. What makes these jumps a real breakthrough was the use of hand held 8 foot round reserves. These reserve canopies were held in the left hand on exit. To deploy, the jumpers simply let go of the canopy which would inflate in 20 to 30 feet. This would provide enough drag to pull the jumper into an upright position for entering the water at around 30/35 mph. Jim earned his place on the trip due to his pioneering work with these canopies off a 68 foot bridge in L.A.

The jumpers had originally intended to Static line from the cliffs but dummy drops shouwed that due to the angle of deployment the jumper would swing (pendulum effect) back under canopy and could hit the cliff. Ed.s note When Static lining a Square one doesn't get the same problem due to the canopy surging forward over the jumper, pulling him forwards, away from the cliff. They also dropped a freefall dummy with a round and 52 inch pilotchute. As the deployment sequence was vertical the canopy had none of the formers' pendulum-like motion.

Length of delay chosen was 3 seconds for the simple reason of free fall acceleration as found in the front of a logbook. By the third second a body has fallen 130 feet and the canopy takes a further 75 feet. It is very easy to confuse the height with rock drop height and free fall height, see explanation set out elsewhere in this news letter. Carl was the first one to put the theory into practice and he displayed perfect body form on his delay.

The jumps were filmed by an American Cable T.V. company and the finished documentary was aired on T.V. as part of the 'Challengers' series.