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Have something to contribute? Email us with your problem and/or solution!



**Strong Enterprises**  
 The Parachute Company With Imagination...

Fall/Winter  
 2002

[www.strongparachutes.com](http://www.strongparachutes.com)

## Tandem Inspection Checklist

Every 25 jumps carefully follow this inspection:

### Hardware

- Hardware functional and tacked
- Return springs on snaps fully functional
- Drogue riser L-link screws, tight
- No cuts, fraying or broken stitches on webbing

### Container

- Grommets secure and in place
- No holes in Cordura®
- No broken stitches
- Velcro® is clean and in place
- Student side attachments are secure with no broken stitches
- Housings securely tacked
- Drogue pouch secure, no holes

### RipCORDS / Release handle

- No kinks or frays in ripcord cables
- Terminal balls are secure
- Pins straight
- No kinks, dents, or loose strands in the 3-ring release cable
- Remove and clean the 3-ring release cables

### Main Canopy

- No holes or tears in the fabric, stitch integrity is uniform and good
- No excessive wear or stretching/shrinkage of the lines
- No broken stitching at cascade line junction
- No cracks in rapide links
- Swedish link good
- No holes in slider, stitching good, no burrs on grommets
- Grommets secure

### Drogue and Main Bag

- Reinforcing tape on drogue body good
- Stitching and **bar tacks** at base of drogue canopy complete
- No holes or excessive wear in the bridle
- No excessive wear and no twists in the Y deflation line
- Bungees not broken or frayed
- Grommets secure

When you have your Reserve repacked have the Rigger check the length of the reserve closing loops. They should be approximately 1 1/4 inches long. We've had gear come in for repair with the closing loops over 2 inches long!

**If you are sending in gear for repair and maintenance, please follow these simple procedures:**

1. Include your name, address, phone number, and instructions when sending your gear in for repair. Our shipping and receiving department takes delivery of a variety of gear on a daily basis for trade in, updates, and periodic maintenance. Please be sure to properly label your gear to avoid delays.

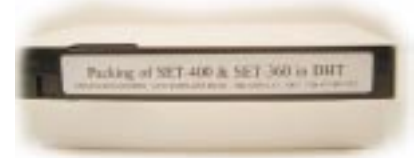
2. It is our policy at Strong Enterprises to return customers' gear with all enhancements, updates and repairs made. If you don't want us to make simple repairs, like replacing Velcro®, missing stitches, easy patches on canopies, and so on, please make those repairs before sending the gear to us. Remember, a qualified Rigger must make all repairs affecting the airworthiness of the system.

Tandem Skydiving is a business, and for many of you the sole source of income. Stop and think about how much money this equipment generates and what is in the best interest of your customers. Keep this gear in top shape and in dependable working condition. We are here to help you conduct your business safely and profitably.

## Strong Enterprises is pleased to announce the use of Mil-Spec Cordura for our products

Background: Several consultations with Dupont and Performance Textiles, as well as our independent testing of the fabric routinely sold as Cordura for use in the parachute industry, confirmed our suspicions that the container fabric being sold by some distributors is not a Dupont product. While it is unfortunately not at all uncommon for some vendors to substitute inferior materials, Strong Enterprises is committed to building our products of only the toughest and most durable fabrics available. To that end Strong Enterprises has decided to purchase Mil-Spec Cordura (Mil-c-43434D Class 3) for use in our container assemblies. Because such large quantity purchases are necessary, at this time we have only black in our Mil Spec Cordura inventory. It is, however, our intention to incrementally boost our inventory of Mil Spec Cordura until we have the typical array of colors you expect.

## Two New Videos Make Packing Easier...



MSET-400/360 Packing Video  
PN 570062 \$14.00



Master Reserve Packing Video  
PN 570061 \$14.00

Training to pack a Strong Dual Hawk Tandem or renewing your packing procedures has just gotten easier. Here are the details:

### SET-400 Packing Video Tape

This presentation shows the easiest way to completely ProPack a SET-400 or SET-360, including a method of packing the drogue so it stays neatly folded until the bridle is stretched out on deployment. At the end of the video is a point-by-point demonstration for performing the 25-jump inspection on the entire system. This video is a great approach to instruction for new packers and a terrific refresher course for experienced packers. Learn the new techniques for making packing easier and for helping your gear last longer.

Order Online! PN 570062 \$14.00

### Master Reserve Packing Video

For the benefit of Riggers we also have on video, Strong Enterprises' approved method of packing the Master Reserve. With years of experience, and thousands of Master Reserve repacks, the Riggers at Strong Enterprises freely share our techniques, easy steps and helpful tips for a safe and proper reserve repack.

The FAA stipulates that Reserves be repacked according to the manufacturer's instructions, so we recommend this graphic and informative instruction video be used as an aide to the Master Reserve Packing Manual provided. Please note: the only approved method for packing the Master Reserve is the Flat Pack. We do not approve ProPacking the Master Reserve.

The video ends with high speed/heavy test drops of the Master Reserve. Data from these drop tests were submitted to the FAA and an approval was received for raising the placard deployment speed from 130 knots to 174 knots. These high-speed drops were made with 600 pounds at 210 knots from a Casa 212 at Skydive Lake Wales, Florida. Video footage is from both the ground and from inside the aircraft. Very exciting!

Order Online! PN 570061 \$14.00

## **New & Improved Products**

### **Passenger Main Ripcord Bungee Kit**

*Lost Passenger Ripcords can be a thing of the past!*

Strong Enterprises developed a modification in kit form that is very easy to install and allows the Passenger Ripcord to be retained AFTER it is pulled. No more lost ripcords and a far better device for training because the passenger can actually pull and release the ripcord simulating an actual Pilot Chute release.

The installation takes about 15 minutes. Red TIII rigger seal thread becomes the "weak link" that will break if the ripcord pull is extreme or it gets caught on a line or is pulled beyond the length of a passenger's reach, allowing the ripcord to fully release. PN 822107 \$29.00 Order this and other fine products at our online store! Or for more information call us at 407-859-9317.

### **SET-400 Slider Product Improvement**

Jim Wallace called to exclaim, "What's been done to the SET-400 to make it steer so much easier?" The biggest single change is the improvements we made to the Slider.

Our three Pocket Lipped Slider with six stainless steel grommets is so much better because of the addition of two grommets at the back, separating the control lines from the suspension lines.

It sounds simple but here is what it does:

1. Keeps the control lines from tangling with the suspension lines.
2. Reduces toggle pressure requiring less effort from the instructor.
3. Reduces wear and tear on the lines. Easier to steer, less wear and tear, Simple right? Another improvement: the Slider is now being constructed of a double layer of material for added durability. Update your older SET-400 with this new Slider and you'll notice immediate performance improvement.

PN 660160 \$95.00 Order online!

## **More Safety Tips...**

- To help prevent damage done to the gate on B-12 snaps, replace the Shallow V's on the leg straps with Deep V's.
- Notice a difference in the appearance of the hardware on New Dual Hawks? Strong Enterprises is the first parachute manufacturer to upgrade from cad-plating to nickel-plating on all hardware. The new nickel-plated hardware is corrosion resistant, so it lasts longer, looks like fine jewelry, and best of all is less harmful to the environment. Nickel-plated hardware is far superior to Cad and we're using it on all of Strong Enterprises products.

## **Strong Winner**

Frank Deazley was on a winning team again this year! Frank is the videographer for the intermediate eight-way team, Super Dots, that won a Silver Medal at the USPA National Competition held at Skydive Chicago in September. With over 2000 jumps, Frank makes at least 300 more jumps every year. Part of our research and development team, Frank has drive and ambition, and is a strong contender. Frank won a Gold Medal in last year's Intermediate Eight-Way competition with the team Purple Haze. Congratulations Frank!

## **Tandem Instructor SPOTLIGHT**

**Larry Shumard**

**2500 Dual Hawk Tandem Skydives**

At Snake River Skydiving (<http://members.aol.com/idskydvr/index.html>), "Idaho's Premier Skydiving Center," Larry Shumard was recently christened with pie for completing his 2,000th tandem skydive. Larry is the dropzone owner and a longtime Strong Dual Hawk Tandem Skydiver. When asked, "What have you learned after all these skydives with students over the years," he replied, "Be ready. Expect anything on every jump." With over 21 hours of tandem freefall, and a total of 3625 skydives, Larry ought to know. "I am always confident using Strong tandem equipment. I have never been on a tandem skydive when I had any thought at all about the quality and dependability of the Dual Hawk System, or any doubt about the successful outcome of the skydive."

Congratulations to Larry, for his milestone skydive, and to Snake River Skydiving for another great, safe season of Tandem Skydiving.



*Photos courtesy of Snake River Skydiving.*

**You can now purchase tandem maintenance and repair parts online at**  
**[www.strongparachutes.com](http://www.strongparachutes.com)**

**STEP ONE:** Click on "Purchase Online."

**STEP TWO:** Choose from... Tandem, Pilot Parachutes, Skydiving Equipment, Canopies and reserves, or our famous "Parts Catalog" then just click and start shopping. Every item is clickable to our shopping cart and all major credit cards are accepted.

**STEP THREE:** If you don't find the item that you're looking for, just click on our "contact us" button at the bottom of all our pages and either call us (800) 344-6319 or email us with your question (the contact page has an email directory).

*Online purchasing with Strong Enterprises has never been easier. Shop from your own home in your time zone.*

## Employee Spotlight



Strong Enterprises would like you to join us in welcoming Dennis Dorris to our growing team of professionals. Dennis joined our company a year ago from a long career of tandem

skydiving and drop zone management, as well as a background in small business as owner of a company specializing in home re-models. He and his wife (also a member of our team: Susan is our CFO) raised two beautiful daughters still living in Texas.

Dennis started skydiving over 30 years ago and has more than 6000 skydives, 1000 of which are tandem skydives. Possessing a very positive outlook, Dennis always goes the extra mile to service customers or answer questions.

A man of many interests, Dennis likes race car driving (he and 2 others built a race car at Strong Enterprises and have been racing at a local track), SCUBA, surfing, hunting and fishing, but his one true love is acting as Director of our Tandem Department. Dennis is the administrator of the Tandem Instructor Certification Course and is very knowledgeable about all matters Tandem.

Strong Enterprises' commitment to excellence and to offering the best of all possible products, services and associates to our customers is exemplified in Dennis Dorris and his continuing service to our clients. Again, welcome to both Dennis and Susan.

## Ted's Safety Review...

Upon inspection of a Master Reserve we received recently, we noticed two Rigging errors, which we felt compelled to bring to your attention:

**1. The bungee chokers (plastic sleeves) on the free-bag were not used to retain the lines.** The bungees, with chokers, keep the lines retained on the bag and allow them to deploy in an orderly fashion. Not using the chokers can cause "line dump" deployment, resulting in a very hard opening. Please have your Rigger refer to Page 12 in the Master Reserve Packing Manual for proper installation.

**2. The reserve was pro-packed.** When we TSO'd the Master Reserve we always and only side-packed it. Side-packing allows a slightly extended opening time and is less stressful on the canopy, the harness and the jumpers.

Caution! Not packing according to the Master Reserve packing instructions invalidates the TSO of the entire system!

By not following the Master Reserve packing instructions to the letter, the Rigger is jeopardizing the safety of your staff and students. Pro-packing the reserve is not an accepted technique.

The combination of these two errors (not using the bungee

## The Rigger's Loft

We recently received a tandem canopy from a customer complaining that it had "hard openings." Upon inspection of the deployment bag we found that the packer was using a mix of bungees and stow bands throughout. Some of the bungees were stretched out to three inches, some less than 2 inches. There were also several different sizes of stow bands on the ALS bag. He had no idea why the canopy opened hard!?

Remember, given proper care, your tandem gear will support you without fail.



### Gear Check: The Strong ALS Bag

1. Check over the entire surface for holes and tears.
2. Check the velcro (hook and pile) and replace if necessary.
3. Check bungees for proper size and length (3/16 x 2"). This measurement is from top of knot to the end of the loop.
4. Check for the correct size of stow bands (3/8 x 2").
5. Check all grommets for proper seating and wear.
6. Check loop at the top of the bag where rapide link attaches.

We have also noticed that some shock cord available from the local hardware store is not the same quality or strength as the bungee supplied by Strong Enterprises. If you have any questions, always call 800-344-6319 and ask us BEFORE you substitute factory installed with anything else!

chokers and pro-packing the reserve) can cause catastrophic failure of the tandem system deployment.

Remember, our packing video can conveniently be purchased online.

Master Reserve Packing Video  
Order Online! PN 570061 \$14.00



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## **Parachute Industry Association (PIA)**

Strong Enterprises will be front and center at the PIA Symposium in Jacksonville, Florida, 26-31 January 2003. Be sure to stop by our booth to say hello. As always, we are very happy to take your equipment orders now and deliver them right to you at the Symposium.

*Save on shipping charges.*

Photo: Brian Erler



### **The History of Tandem is Strong!**

Ted Strong is one of the doers, thinkers, designers and business risk takers who have always had tremendous influence on the emerging parachute revolution. Ted is not merely on the frontier of the parachute industry – he is the frontier. The drogue on tandem equipment is just one example of a Strong Enterprises innovation that was good for the sport as well as the industry.

Ted will be giving a talk entitled “20 Years of Tandem and Still Going Strong!” Look in the Symposium Schedule for the time. You won’t want to miss this talk.

Photo: Brad Slager



### **The Future of Tandem is Strong!**

Tandem Instructors, Drop Zone Owners, et al, keep Wednesday evening the 29th at 6:00 open for the Strong Enterprises Tandem Forum.

Expect a revelation...expect an announcement of such magnitude...expect the exposé of such a surprisingly innovative concept, the enormity of which will alter the future course of how the business of Tandem is conducted.

Come and join us for a fun and enlightening evening, avail yourselves of drinks and hors d'oeuvres, but do come prepared; **a new frontier for Tandem is about to be revealed.**

