

TANDEM NEWS

A PUBLICATION BY STRONG ENTERPRISES FOR TANDEM INFORMATION

Thanks for your help!

By now, everyone knows the outcome of USPA's Board of Director's election completed 31 December 1990. By USPA standards, it was a record turn-out in constituency participation.

SE appreciates the response by the Tandem Instructors and Examiners in voting for the candidates that have continually supported the SE Tandem Program, especially Larry Bagley and Sherry Schrimsher. Hopefully, such participation will continue in the form of input to USPA's proposed "3-3" program, now in its developmental stage.

One -Jumpmaster Teaching Technique

For almost three hours during the PIA Symposium in January, 73 people discussed the concept of a "One-Jumpmaster Teaching Technique." Chaired by Larry Bagley, the following premises were established before the discussion began:

- The course would be with one "instructing" skydiver.
- The course would include tandem and "assisted freefall."
- The course would not include static line, and would not be limited by existing programs.
- The course would be considerate of:
 1. Safety
 2. Competition
 3. Marketing
 4. Cost-effectiveness

The discussion was meant to establish:

- Rating(s) to be held by the "instructing" skydiver.
- Number of tandem jumps in course.
- Number of "no-release" assisted freefall jumps.
- Number of "release" assisted freefall jumps.
- List of "learning accomplishments," in order, for each jump, while on student status.
- What can and cannot be learned on tandem.
- List of "learning accomplishments" between "off student status" and "A" license.

In attendance were operators of some very large "student" parachute centers across the country--Don Balch, Jamey Woodward, Paul Fayard--as well as jumpers from Canada, Sweden, Italy, France and Great Britain.

Although the group represented a wide variety of "teaching techniques," some very important points were made and discussed with some rewarding results.

SE realizes a complete course of instruction cannot be totally developed in just three hours. However, significant progress was made towards creating a "One-Jumpmaster Teaching Technique" for the benefit of all the parachute centers that now employ "combination" student training programs.

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Fort Bragg Tandem Tests

As part of the U.S. Army's on-going tandem testing program, Bill Morrissey and Larry Bagley spent a week last month at Fort Bragg. Not only were two military skydivers certified to be civilian tandem instructors, many were introduced to and allowed to jump the Dual Hawk Tandem rig with the equipment pod.

Apparently, very valuable data was gathered by the soldiers to help in their evaluation of tandem jumping and how it augments their mission effectiveness.

Umatilla Instructor Course

Immediately following the PIA Symposium, Bill Morrissey and Greg DePalma conducted a Tandem Certification Course at the Paragators Parachute Center in Umatilla, Florida. One Instructor Candidate and four Examiner Candidates attended the course.

Although bad weather kept everyone on the ground for the first three days, Randall Alley earned his Instructor rating and Jerry Felts, Jack Grabe, Per Myrin (from Sweden), and Mike Schultz earned their Examiner ratings.

Paraguay in April

Because of the very successful trip to Paraguay last December, and the demand for more Strong Tandem Instructors in South America, Bill Morrissey and Larry Bagley will be accompanied by Cesar Aguilar for another trip to Paraguay in April to teach Tandem Instructor Certification Courses. Candidates from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay are expected to attend.

Elio Massagrande, President of the Paraguayan Association of Sport Parachuting, will again host the certification courses and provide the jump aircraft as well as other logistics for the three-week event.

Z-Hills Instructor Course

Bill Morrissey spent 3-6 February at the Phoenix/Z-hills Parachute Center last month certifying five jumpers to be Tandem Instructors. Once again, weather was a factor but, finally, Dick Grave, Chris Quatsoe, Markku Teivainen (from Finland) William Welborn, and, Fred Williams earned their Instructor ratings.

Skydive South Carolina Instructor Course

The first few days of March found Bill Morrissey in Chester, South Carolina, conducting a Tandem Instructor Certification Course for five jumpers. Before the long weekend was over, Allen Broadway, Jim Kowalski, Kally Kowalski, Danny Smith and Jeffrey Smith earned their Tandem Instructor ratings.

Used Equipment

In an effort to assist Strong Enterprises Tandem Instructors in obtaining high-quality, "previously owned" Dual Hawk Tandem Rigs, the following list of equipment is available from SE for purchase:

- Royal blue and black container; rainbow main; Date of Mfr-1986.
- Black and silver container; royal blue/lt. blue main; DOM-1987.
- Black and red container; white with black end cells main; DOM-1986.
- Royal blue container; navy/blue/black/white/purple main; DOM-1990.

All four systems: Have been up-dated with modifications as of November 1990; Have black harnesses; Are 425 Master Mains; and, Are \$4,000 each. For more information and exact details, call the SE order desk at

1-800-344-6319

FAA Rule Change Workshop

The PIA Symposium provided an opportunity to give Tandem Instructors and other interested persons a chance to verbalize their concerns about, and make recommendations for the upcoming FAR rule change. One of our goals is to use this information when the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is published in the Congressional Record. We can not participate in the making of the proposal itself, but the system allows for our (and your) comments to their proposal, once it is published. We need to hear from more Tandem Instructors and Tandem equipment owners on this subject. We as a group must be prepared to respond to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking when it is published.

Workshop participants agreed that they are:

For:

- Some rules to be followed. No one wanted a "No rules" situation.
- The Tandem operators having input as to what those rules might say.
- That the rules should be protective without being too restrictive.
- The manufacturers continuing to train the Tandem Instructors, and having the policing powers.

Against:

- The FAA directly controlling Tandem operations. The FAA is too cumbersome, it takes too long to get things done, and the rules are open to too many local interpretations.

Other suggestions included:

- A "National Organization of Tandem Operators." The comments on this subject focused on the need to organize, fund, and operate this kind of organization; and why would we do this when we already have an organization in place--USPA. Concern was voiced on how the Tandem Operators would get USPA to respond to their needs and recommendations.
- That the "Organization of Tandem Operators" itself might be affiliated with USPA, and therefore would be a major influence; or that this "Organization" would be a member of PEA, and try to influence Tandem Operations from that position. PIA will be asked for their comments relative to this feasibility.

The thing that was most apparent was the agreed upon need for some organization of Tandem Operators to lobby for their own future needs.

Tandem is parachuting's "Great Commercial Experience." It is a professional commercial endeavor whose investors had better insure that they are as much in control of their business as is possible.

Strong Enterprises will continue to coordinate the flow of ideas by direct communication with those persons who were present at the workshop in January '91, and all other interested persons who send us their input. If we do not prepare now, we shouldn't complain later.

Upcoming Tandem Instructor Courses

Zephyrhills, FL April 6 For further information contact Strong Enterprises
(407) 859-9317

Pepperell, MA April 12 For further information contact R.W. Shop (603) 673-5867

Down-Plane Causes Hard Landing for Tandem Pair

Tandem Instructor Candidates David Martinchek and Bernie Steinbaugh were making their final jump in Phase I of their training course and were on final approach for a landing into moderate winds when two CReW jumpers in a down-plane passed in front of, and upwind of them. The turbulence caused by the down-plane resulted in a very hard landing by the Tandem pair. Bruised bodies and feelings were soothed by apologies from the down-planers, and everyone was left with a lesson learned.

**LET'S KEEP OUR EYES OPEN OUT
THERE!**

Latest Modification

Effective 1 March, all new Dual Hawk Tandem Rigs will have a new modification to the harness: The Webbing Protector Flaps. Their purpose is to protect the main lift web and horizontal adjustment strap on the instructor's harness from wear caused by the lower connecting strap of the student's harness.

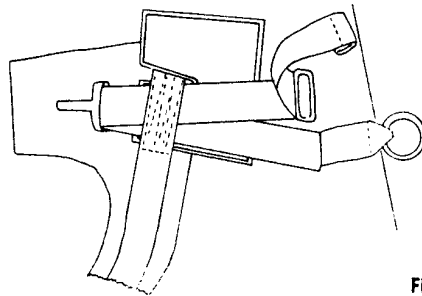
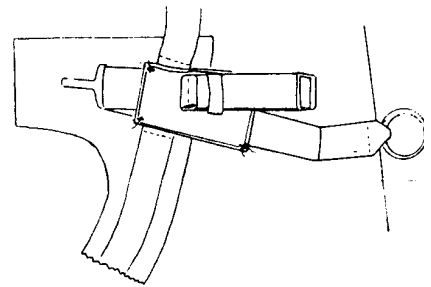


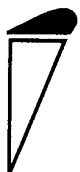
Figure 2



For those rigs in the field, owners can purchase a Dual Hawk Tandem Webbing Protector Kit from SE for \$15 and it can be installed in a matter of minutes by hand tacking.

Each kit includes two pieces of cordura material backed with ballistic cloth, a bobbin of waxed thread, and complete instructions on how the flaps are installed.

To place your order, call the SE order desk at:
1-800-344-6319
Or, for more information, call us at:
(407) 859-9317



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