

TANDEM NEWS



A PUBLICATION BY STRONG ENTERPRISES
FOR TANDEM INFORMATION

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Container Mod Keeps Main in Place

Strong Enterprises has recently made several modifications to the main container of its Dual Hawk Tandem rig to help prevent main deployment until the drogue is actually released.

In new DHT rigs, the main deployment bag is now secured into the container

by a spandex top flap with two tuck tabs which are folded into pockets on the bottom flap. This helps keep the bag in the container in the event of a premature container opening. When the drogue is released, its Kevlar bridle opens the tuck flaps and deploys the bag.

The drogue bridle is now routed along a separate channel on the right side flap. This tuck tab flap is also designed to stay closed

until the drogue pulls it open.

Last, the short, curved pin on the main container has been replaced by a 6" flex pin, and is covered by a new tuck flap design (no velcro!) to further prevent the container from opening prematurely.

NOTE: Your existing DHT can be upgraded - call Strong Enterprises for pricing and scheduling information.



New internal and external flaps and closing pin keep the main deployment bag contained until the drogue is actually released. The drogue bridle is now covered with its own flap as well.

With this setup, the bag stays in the main container even if the container inadvertently opens before release of the drogue.

SET-400 Soars

After putting over 1000 total jumps on five SET 400's since last November, T/I's at Skydive Arizona all say they love this canopy. They report that the canopies are easy (and fun) to fly and respond great to light toggle inputs.

Chief Instructor Ron Green says that they've had no malfunctions with the SET 400, and the packers are able to give them very consistent openings.

Pro packing has been one of the keys to Ron's

satisfaction: He says that this packing method gives the best consistency and control in "dialing in" the desired opening. He also believes in making tight line stows when using Spectra line. (Currently, he cuts tandem stow bands into two bands or uses regular 2" rubber bands, and double or triple stows the lines that stow on the sides of the bag.) He adds that he can pro pack a SET 400 faster than the regular packer can stack pack a 425.

Dual Hawk Leasing

We have been working with a leasing agent to help T/I's and DZs finance Dual Hawk tandem rigs. Details were few as this issue of Tandem News went to press:

Lease payments would be about the same as those on a small Volkswagen. However:

1. A VW doesn't pay for itself after 2 or 300 rides.
2. People driving to their local DZ or boogie to make their first skydive won't be satisfied if you simply offer them a ride on the taxiway in your VW.
3. Lease payments on a VW aren't usually 100% tax deductible.
4. While interesting to watch rolling out of a tailgate aircraft at 13,500, VWs are generally useless in freefall.
5. On the other hand, the FAA doesn't get concerned if you try to fit 11 people in your VW.

T/I's - check with your DZs, check the boogie schedules, and see if leasing a DZ (or a personal) Dual Hawk makes good business sense for you. Then call us for more details.

Peter Raymond Joins Strong Enterprises.

Peter Raymond has joined Strong Enterprises as Marketing Manager. Peter has a heavy background in marketing and market research, and will be working with the company to determine what products and services the skydiving community wants and how Strong Enterprises can best deliver them.

Peter has been an active jumper for ten years and is currently a member of Team Air Time, which won second place at the recent ESPN Destination Extreme Free Flight competition in Sebastian, Florida. He was also a member of the 1995 U.S. National Champion 8-way CRW team, and a silver medalist in the 1992 World Freestyle Championships with partner Kazuhisa Kokubu.

News Briefs

Ron Green's 4000th

Ron Green, Chief Instructor at Skydive Arizona in Eloy, used a Dual Hawk to make his 4,000th tandem skydive on May 19. Ron made 840 tandem skydives in 1995 - 60

on the front - and has logged over 12,000 skydives. (Skydive Arizona uses Dual Hawks almost exclusively.)

Instructors Needed

George Ireland of New England Adventures in Lebanon, Maine is looking for tandem instructors with or without gear, AFF instructors and video people: 207-339-1520.

Bill Jones is looking for T/I's for this season. Where? Alaska! Criteria? Be clean cut. Income? He said one T/I made \$27,000 in one season, now to October. He runs a great operation: 805-765-5550

Spectra Opening Shock

The gasping you hear 4,000' above the ground could be the sound a Spectra line dump causes you to make if you don't pay attention to your line stows. Remember that if you switch from Dacron lines to Spectra to also switch from 2" to 1 1/4" stow bands. (And you thought micro line only sliced and diced...)

Side Spin Video

This important video was first introduced at the '95 PIA Symposium. The actual audio portion, as presented by Bill Morrissey, Strong Enterprises' Tandem Program Director, has now been added to this video.

This tape is critical for T/I's to view, and is a required tape to have for TICC Candidates. If you haven't seen it, you can now see and

hear it! It's very impressive.

We are offering this tape for only \$39 (ppd in U.S., \$30 for T/I's or \$25 when buying 20 or more). Available in NTSC, PAL and SECAM.

Proposed FAA Exemption Changes

As you may know, Strong Enterprises has applied for its own exemption last February. In that application we asked for several changes from the present exemption. (#4943):

1. Removal of all reference to "experimental" and "test jumpers."
2. Removal of term "Representative."
3. Major reduction in the paperwork requirement of logging every tandem jump and requiring the exemption holder to gather and maintain that data.
4. Tandem equipment will be used with components either manufactured or approved by the exemption holder.
5. Tandem equipment over eight years of age will need to be re-certified or taken out of service.
6. 25-jump inspection needs to have any required maintenance performed.
7. Notification of any reserve activation or instructor or student injury.
8. The avenue for tandem jumps to be made outside

of a parachute center.

These are some of the changes we have requested. They are all geared towards making tandem jumping safer for the student first, then the instructor, and easier for the parachute center. They also afford some degree of liability safety for the manufacturer.

If approved, this exemption effectively gives you six or seven weeks to see that your equipment has Strong Enterprise components or is taken out of service.

Please write to your local congressmen and senators to see that this application is acted upon and not delayed. (Delay will cause the present exemption to expire and effectively make tandem jumping "illegal" until something else is in place.)

Bill's Travels

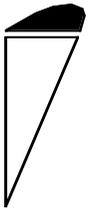
A Tandem Instructors meeting was held for California and Arizona Tandem instructors in Ontario, California on April 19th. Over fifty T/I's, Drop Zone owners and Dual Hawk System owners were present for the meeting. Current topics of concern: Strong Enterprises' separate filing for FAA Exemption; new equipment developments; field problems concerning sexual harassment and drug accusations. It has been suggested that this type of tandem instructor/manufacturer meeting be held at strategic locations around the country

to help keep everyone up-to-date. It is extremely beneficial for Strong Enterprises, as it allows the company to learn first hand of problems in the field and allows Strong Enterprises to present new techniques and equipment first hand.

Bill Morrissey visited ten drop zones through-out the Southwest after the California meeting, and Bill demo'd a brand new Dual Hawk Tandem system with the improved main container and new SET-400 elliptical canopy. The feedback that he was able to gather greatly helps Strong Enterprises develop new products and techniques.

Bill Morrissey's tandem side spin presentation at the Technical Congress held in Paris last February by the International Parachuting Commission was regarded as one of the highlights of the Congress. Chairman Liam McNulty said that Bill's knowledge and research into these Tandem issues and his willingness to spread this information is of great importance to the safety of Tandem jumping, and all involved in this discipline are eternally grateful to Bill for his work.

Moved? Send us your new address!!!



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