

STRONG ENTERPRISES TANDEM NEWSLETTER



IN THIS ISSUE:

ISSUE 3, December 2008

<p>ON THE COVER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Skydive Everest & the Dual Hawk Tandem - Price Increase on the Dual Hawk Tandem <p>Page 1</p>	<p>TIPS, STORIES & HEADLINES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sink/Surge Approach - Unique Cutaway - Tandem Record Attempt <p>Page 2</p>	<p>TRIVIA & OPERATIONAL NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Logo History - Letter of Agreement - Argus & Vigil II Approvals <p>Page 3</p>	<p>SIDE SPIN STORY & NEWS & NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - T.I.C.C. Side Spin - SET Canopies get HMA line sets - Monthly Notes <p>Page 4</p>
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SKYDIVE EVEREST SUCCEEDS WITH THE DUAL HAWK TANDEM SYSTEM

Strong Enterprises makes tandem history at the Top Of The World!

Strong Enterprises Tandem Director Tom Noonan brought three Military Dual Hawk Tandem Systems to Nepal in September for the Skydive Everest expedition held by adventure outfitter High and Wild.

The canopy that did the job? The SET-400 Tandem Main

Never before had such a skydive been attempted in the civilian sector. Exiting from 29,500ft MSL, and landing at 12,500ft MSL at the world's highest dropzone. Nineteen tandem jumps were made during the event and everyone returned home safely with an amazing story to tell. The SET-400s were deployed at 18,000ft MSL, and opened softly and on heading, time and time again. The canopy was flat packed for the event, and everyone that jumped the canopy gained a new found appreciation for flat packing. The Military Dual Hawk was brought into the world's harshest environment for tandem jumping because it has earned a reputation as the most rugged and durable tandem on the market. Skydive Everest proved once again that the Dual Hawk reputation is well deserved.



Tandem Price Increase
 Strong Enterprises strives to keep our tandem prices affordable. As our costs continue to rise, so too must our pricing. As of December 23rd, 2008, the Dual Hawk Tandem System will increase from \$10,800 to \$12,800 (complete with AAD). Purchases made prior to December 23, 2008 will receive current pricing, with 50% down, balance due upon delivery any time prior to March 1st, 2009.

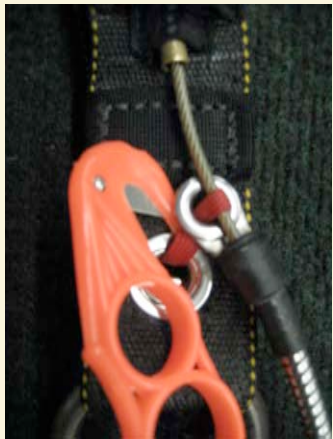


TIPS, STORIES AND HEADLINES

PIC A



PIC B



The Sink Surge Approach - The Safe Way To Build Up Speed

It's no secret that today's modern skydiving parachutes perform more efficiently with greater airspeed. Whether your flying a sub-100 main or a SET-400, additional airspeed provides stronger flares on landing. Unfortunately there is a growing number of tandem instructors today that have begun to make speed inducing toggle turns, low to the ground, to build up speed on landing. Strong Enterprises does not condone low toggle turns to build up speed and strongly discourages any turn over 90 degrees when turning to final.

The safest solution? Return to the Sink Surge Approach for tandem landings. Fly your tandem canopy in half brakes on final until your 100ft off the ground and let up the toggles to return to full flight. You can achieve the same increase in speed without creating any of the dangers of a pendulum-effect toggle turn.

Unique Tandem Cutaway Story

While performing a Tandem Examiner course in the Czech Republic this past year, Strong Enterprises was made aware of a unique cutaway story.

The tandem instructor found himself dealing with a spinning main canopy overhead and despite his best efforts, could not regain control of it. He elected to cutaway the main canopy and proceeded to perform his emergency procedures. He grabbed the cutaway handle and attempted to cutaway, but was surprised to find that despite his best efforts, he could not cutaway.

He subsequently took his hook knife and cut the red 3-Ring release loop on the back of the riser between the cable housing and the riser. (Pic B) He quickly cut the red loop on the opposite riser and activated his reserve. The whole process of cutting away both risers took about 1 second!

After investigating the gear, it was found that the Dual Hawk had the old stainless steel cutaway cable without nylon coating. Inspect your systems today, if you have stainless steel cables, replace them with nylon coated cables. Email sales@strongparachutes.com for details.

Tandem World Record Attempt

In January of 2009, SOCOM members Harold "Chip" Bowlin and Kristine Gould will be attempting to raise \$150,000 for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation while setting a world record for tandem jumping in the process. Currently, there isn't an official record for most tandem jumps in a 24 hour period. There are numerous members of the "20 Tandem Club" in the field, having made 20 tandems in a single day on a busy Saturday or Sunday.

Chip and Kristine are attempting to raise the bar a little higher and complete 150 tandem jumps using the Dual Hawk Tandem System within a 24 hour period. With the assistance of Strong Enterprises, Skydive City and a host of other sponsors, the event will surely raise awareness and financial support for an important cause.

Training jumps are currently underway. If you see Chip or Kristine on the field, wish them luck and offer your support!



Strong Enterprises has pledged to support Chip and Kristine as they attempt to set a record!

TRIVIA & OPERATIONAL NOTES



The History of the Dual Hawk Tandem Logo - Did you know?

The Dual Hawk Tandem System logo was inspired by an actual photograph taken of Tandem Director Bill Morrissey during the early incarnation of the Strong Enterprises Tandem Program.



What is a lesser known fact is that the above logo is actually the second generation Dual Hawk Tandem System logo created. The first logo was designed by Bill himself, but was vetoed and subsequently altered to become the logo known around the world today. There still exists original first run logo t-shirts in the field today - if you find one, take a picture with it and send it in to tandem@strongparachutes.com.



Strong Enterprises'
Parachutist in Command Letter of Agreement

All tandem skydiving is performed pursuant to Federal Aviation Regulation 14 CFR part 105 ("Rule 105"). Therefore, I understand and agree to be bound by the following:

- I have read completely and understand Rule 105 and Strong Enterprises' Tandem Standard Operating Procedures (see Appendix C of the TICC Syllabus, Rev. September 1, 1999).
- I agree to be bound by all conditions and requirements of the Rule 105 and all conditions, requirements and recommendations, as may be imposed by Strong Enterprises including:
 - I promise to submit a written record to the FAA and Strong Enterprises, within 48 hrs, of incident, of all tandem jumps requiring a reserve activation, or resulting in injury or death to the parachutist in command or the passenger parachutist.
 - I understand that as a parachutist in command certified by Strong Enterprises I am responsible for the control and supervision of tandem jumping as described in Rule 105.
 - I understand that my parachutist in command certification can be suspended or revoked by Strong Enterprises for cause. I agree to return my certification certificate and card to Strong Enterprises upon written request within 10 days.
- While tandem jumping is performed pursuant to Rule 105:
 - I understand that the equipment must be used in a training environment and that the tandem student/passenger parachutist must be enrolled in a tandem parachuting course.
 - A prepared tandem jump briefing must be used (see "First Tandem Jump Course") during which the student/passenger parachutist shall be briefed on operation of dual harness, dual parachute pack and procedures to be used during an exit from aircraft, free fall and subsequent landing.
 - The tandem student/passenger parachutist must sign a Strong Enterprises approved Waiver and Assumption of Risk Agreement.
 - The tandem student/passenger parachutist must wear proper equipment including altimeter, helmet, goggles and have access to a main parachute ripcord.

I further understand that the ramifications of noncompliance are:

- Revocation of my parachutist in command Certification from Strong Enterprises.
- Possible disqualification of other FAA approved tandem ratings.
- Possible suspension of all Strong Enterprises' tandem operations at the drop zone.
- Revocation of privileges to operate a tandem jumping business under Strong Enterprises' certification, or approval from the FAA.

Signed on the _____ of _____ (day) (month) (year)

Signature: _____ Printed name _____

7/18/01
580358 Rev. A TICC Packet

Parachutist In Command
Letter Of Agreement

Upon completion of a Strong Enterprises Tandem Instructor Certification Course (T.I.C.C.), course candidates are required to sign the above agreement on their Phase I form prior to beginning Phase II training. The agreement requires Strong Tandem Instructors to submit Incident Reports within 48 hours of reserve activations or jumps resulting in injury or death. It also states that passengers MUST be provided altimeters, helmets, goggles and ripcords. These are not optional, they are REQUIRED.



SERVICE BULLETIN #22

Only components approved by Strong Enterprises may be used on the Dual Hawk Tandem System



ARGUS and VIGIL II AADs Receive Limited Approval

Service Bulletin #22 (available for download on www.strongparachutes.com) states that only approved components may be installed for use in the Dual Hawk Tandem System. After completing a series of successful independent drop tests in Kingman, AZ, Strong Enterprises has elected to offer a limited approval for use of both the Argus and Vigil II AADs. For specific requirements on each device, please consult our Service Bulletins #28 and #29 regarding AADs available on our website www.strongparachutes.com. The Airtec Cypres unit has been compliant since 1993; the Airtec Cypres 2 is also compliant. If you would like a copy of the Service Bulletins or if have any questions, please email tandem@strongparachutes.com.

SIDE SPIN STORY - NEWS AND NOTES

Side Spins Can Occur At Any Time - Even During Your Tandem Instructor Certification Course!

Strong Enterprises was recently made aware of a side spin that occurred during a Tandem Instructor Certification Course held at the 2008 Couch Freaks Boogie. The jump was a Phase I, Level V graduation jump, where instructor and student deliberately induce a flip to illustrate to the candidate that a flip slows down with each revolution.

This Level V ended up in a Side Spin and the pair began to lose altitude FAST. The Instructor was able to pull the reserve handle and deployed the Master 425 Reserve successfully. The pair landed without incident. Further reports indicated that the Cypres unit fired the cutters as the Master 425 inflated, indicating just how much altitude was eaten up from the side spin.

Use this lesson as a learning tool. Whether you have four tandems or four thousand tandems, a side spin can happen to anyone and happen FAST.

Exiting in a flip is included in the Tandem Instructor Certification Course to safely introduce such an unusual attitude in the controlled environment of a training course. It just goes to show that if it can happen in a course with two experienced skydivers, it can happen in the field as well. Exits that present the tandem pair to the relative wind greatly reduce the risk of a side spin. Flipping unstable exits do the opposite. Use this opportunity to set an example of Tandem Instructor professionalism on your dropzone by leading the way and performing stable exits into the relative wind.

Winter is approaching for many northern tandem instructors as well. Place your Tandem Side Spin Phenomenon in a safe place and organize a staff viewing prior to the start of your 2009 season. For all the year round tandem instructors with a copy, make sure you review it yearly as well. If you find yourself in a side spin, you'll be glad you did.

The Strong Enterprises Tandem Side Spin Phenomenon Video is available on VHS and DVD.

Please contact sales@strongparachutes.com or call (407) 859-9317 to order a copy today. Every tandem instructor in the field, regardless of manufacturer rating, should have a copy of this video and review it regularly.

SET 400 & SET 366 NOW AVAILABLE WITH HMA LINES!

The SET 400 and SET 366 Tandem Canopies are now being offered with 1000lb HMA line sets. 1500lb Spectra line sets will still be provided as the stock line set, but 1000lb HMA is now available for custom canopy orders. Why HMA? The benefit of an HMA line set is that it will not shrink as much as Spectra over the life of the line set. A typical Spectra line set will show outboard line shrinkage in excess of 6 inches if not re-trimmed at 200-300 jumps. As the canopy goes out of trim, it increases the likelihood of malfunctions, including tension knots. HMA stays in trim longer, thereby reducing the likelihood of tension knots and other line related malfunction. Order your next SET canopy and feel the difference (or lack there of) in flight characteristics change as the canopy passes the 300 jump mark. Keep your SET canopy in trim for the life of its line set with HMA. Call today for details!

MONTHLY NOTES

PIA 2009 - RENO, NV

February 2009 is right around the corner. That means the PIA Symposium is only a few months away. Planning on attending? Let us know ahead of time and we can hand deliver orders at our booth!

Tandem Meeting at PIA!

On Tuesday, 02/10/2009, Strong Enterprises will be holding it's biannual PIA Tandem Meeting to discuss Dual Hawk Tandem news. We will be discussing gear updates and training

techniques. Mark your calendars now. We look forward to seeing you in Reno and to the start of another Strong tandem season in 2009. If possible, please email us at tandem@strongparachutes.com to RSVP. Happy Holidays to all, see you soon!