

# TANDEM

## Newsletter



ISSUE 40, NOVEMBER 2011

This newsletter is written for:

Packers, Riggers, DZ Operators, Strong Tandem Instructors & Strong Tandem Examiners.

Your comments are welcome.



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## Tribute To A Man Who Lived Strong



### Ted Strong D-16, 4/7/1936-10/14/2011

On October 14th 2011 Ted Strong, Founder, Owner, and President of Strong Enterprises passed away.

Ted envisioned a safer skydiving experience and had the ability, drive and passion to make that happen. Introduced to the sport when gear was military surplus and the terms free fall and relative work were barely whispers, Ted helped lead the sport to what it is today! While in the Army he was a member of the West Point Sport Parachute Club and coached and instructed the USMA Cadet Parachute Team leading them to first place victories.

Ted realized the need for specialized equipment and started Strong Enterprises in his parents' basement. Originally modifying surplus military equipment it took only a few short years for Ted to make the first sport system, and change the way of the sport. It was said at the time that there were two types of people in the sport; those that had the Strong Lo-Po reserve, and those that wished they had one.

Ted didn't stop there instead he simply went on to the next new idea. Tandem! His goal in inventing the tandem system was to provide a safer more controlled environment for the inexperienced to learn to fly. Through the growing pains of countless lessons learned, massive legal debates and fees, and years of FAA and political campaigns Ted never wavered in his desire to bring tandem to the same level of safety and freedom enjoyed by those solo skydivers. Finally in 2001 the rules were rewritten and Tandem was included as a recognized skydiving discipline. Today millions of people around the world are able to enjoy the thrill of skydiving because one visionary never gave up.

Teds passion was infectious, just talk to him for a few minutes and you would start to believe that you could move the stars, and knew that he could. Ted had a way of making everyone feel at ease, welcome, and part of the family. He had a way that let you know you were forever part of the Strong Team. He took pride in his Strong Tandem Team and was always willing to answer any questions, explain any gear, or provide any support necessary to ensure everyone had what they needed.

As our Team Leader has gone to his next great adventure it is now our responsibility as his trusted team to continue his teachings, passion, and commitment to safety during every jump we make. Strong Enterprises will continue to provide support to you our teammates, and look forward to another fifty years providing the excellent service that Ted spent the past fifty years giving to you!

### Do you know?

1. How many Tandem Re-Certification Centers does Strong have world wide?
2. How did "Examiner Safety Handles" come to be?

Answers on page 2

Follow us on  
**facebook**

Profile

# TI/E Brent Berry & T/I John Berry

## Father & Son



**Full name:** Brent Lee Berry  
**Nick names:** Berry  
**Occupation:** Construction Superintendent  
**Home DZ:** Skydive Westex  
**Jumps:** Solo 9000+ and Tandem 4100+

**What made you start skydiving?**  
 My Dad was in the 82nd Airborne with 42 combat jumps and I jumped off everything as a kid.

**How many years have you jumped Strong gear?** 23 years.

**Most memorable jump:** I did a Tandem on the Beach at South Padra Island, TX with my future wife, after the Tandem I had her hooked, she had to marry me then.

**Advice to your fellow Tandem Instructors:**  
 Be professional, keep your head in the game! Follow the rules.

**Full name:** John Michael Berry  
**Nick names:** John John  
**Occupation:** Full time tandem instructor  
**Home DZ:** Skydive Westex  
**Jumps:**  
 Solo 1700+ and Tandem 200+



**What made you start skydiving?**  
 I'm a third generation skydiver if you count my grandfather in the 82 Airborne.. My dad started jumping in the early 70's and started his own DZ in the early 80's. It's in my blood.

**How many years have you jumped Strong gear?** 10 months.

**Most memorable jump:**  
 A hop and pop a couple of friends and I did. We got out at six linked exit and turned some free fly points before we broke off.

**Skydiving Makes Me Feel...**  
 ...free and open. The only time I am fully relaxed.

**Advice to your fellow Tandem Instructors:** Remember to fly your body. You can out fly any first time jumper. And have a good time, these people are making their first jump ever, they want your excitement to.

## New T.I.C.C. Cross Over Requirements

Cross-over Candidates will attend the classroom lecture and be required to complete certain TICC jumps according to their experience level.

- **Less than 100 Tandem jumps.**
  - All of Phase I and Phase II jumps.
- **100-499 Tandem jumps.**
  - Level I
  - Level III
  - Level IV
- **More than 500 Tandem jumps.**
  - Level I
  - Level IV

For more detailed information you can review the T.I.C.C. Syllabus, Revision N. Feel free to contact us with any questions at [tandem@strongparachutes.com](mailto:tandem@strongparachutes.com)

## We are excited to announce that Strong Enterprises has joined facebook!

We want to expand our means of communication to better serve you and every Strong customer. No matter where you are at, down the street or across the world, we want you to know and feel you are part of the Strong Family.

Join us on **facebook** at!

[www.facebook.com/strongenterprises](http://www.facebook.com/strongenterprises)

**Let your drop zone and fellow jumpers know so they too can join!**

*Be on the look out for more exciting announcements to come on how we will be able to better serve you!*

## Trivia Answers- Questions on page 1.

1. Strong Enterprises has a total of 14 Tandem Re-Certification Centers World Wide to better serve our customers. You can download the complete listing along with a map guide on our website, [www.strongparachutes.com](http://www.strongparachutes.com), click Information Central / Tandem Information and Forms.
  2. The "Examiner Safety Handles" were developed to insure easy access for the experienced skydiver (not the student), acting as passenger, to the cut away handle and the reserve ripcord in the event the Candidate fails to cut away or activate the reserve during an emergency
- The change came about from an observation made by an Examiner riding as Passenger during a drogue-in-tow malfunction.

*"..I observed that being suspended horizontally under the drogue placed the reserve ripcord slightly down behind my shoulder, and that in order to pull it, I would have to face forward, taking my eyes off the ripcord, and reach back blindly."*



# NEWS "DOWN UNDER"

*Ted & Marcie Travel to Australia & New Zealand!*

## AUSTRALIAN PARACHUTE FEDERATION CONVENTION 2011

Venue Location: *Pullman Reef Hotel and Casino.*

The well organized volunteer organization, had at least four highly visible people coordinating registrations, presentations, sessions and Awards Events. The APF is the organization which controls skydiving and parachuting at nearly all the civilian operations in Australia. With the approval of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) it sets the standards of operation, conducts competitions, issues licenses and instructor ratings, conducts exams and publishes a magazine (ASM) and newsletter to keep its members informed of current events and safety standards.

The conference opened with a Welcome morning Tea, an opening address by APF CEO and a talk given by Andrew Plymton of the Australian Sports Commission. There were four speakers from the US, Norm Kent gave an inspiring very Zen presentation on "Skills Mastery", followed by USPA President Jay Stokes on "USPA and the Future," Tom Noonan gave several talks, "Sport Canopy Evolution", a joint talk on "19 Commandments of Tandem" with Jay Stokes and special comments from Ted regarding commandment #4 the importance of fitting the harness properly before climbing in the airplane. Ted also presented a well attended "Tandem Forum Workshop" on the last day of the conference.



*Main Stops...*  
 -  
 2011 Australian Parachute Federation Conference  
 -  
 Auckland, New Zealand  
 -  
 Queenstown, New Zealand  
 -  
 Nelson, New Zealand

## AUSTRALIA



Ted, Rory Hatchett, and Craig Morris paid a visit to Skydive Cairns, one of two local commercial tandem operations located a few blocks from the conference. A storefront is the base for signing up tandem jumpers and signing waivers. A bus drives them about twenty minutes to the DZ. Next door, stairs lead to a second floor parking garage. A 20' x 40' open air fenced area forms the carpeted "packing room". Three sewing machines, a table for cutting lines, gear packing and repairs are performed here as well as boxes of brochures and general storage for the storefront. Packer Selwyn Macintosh has been packing for 6 years and has 30K pack jobs to his credit. We had a great time at the Awards Ceremony Banquet on the pool deck entering through the "Wildlife Dome" atop the hotel. All the nocturnal Australian wildlife were roaming freely in the large atrium filled with plants and ponds. Ted took the opportunity to sit with Jyro and hash out more details for Strong Enterprises to manufacture the Icarus canopy under license in Florida.



## NEW ZEALAND

### AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Arrived 9:00 p.m. Took a shuttle to the Best West hotel near airport. Hired a Taxi the next day to New Zealand Aerospots. Arrived 11:00 am 26 May. Mark Horning and Francios from the DZ Matamata were waiting for us. Tony Morris came and took us all to lunch. Tony said Peter Gardener planned to come in the afternoon. A four hour conversation covered topics both current and past of Skydiving in New Zealand specifically Tandem. We learned there are three separate governing bodies for Skydiving in New Zealand. All working at odds to each other! Mark and Francios took us to dinner and drove us back to the Hotel. Talked about training and politics in NZ.

### QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND

Lindsay Williams managing director of NZONE picked us up at the Airport. Lindsay has been involved in the sport of skydiving for over 30 years, gaining experience in all elements of the skydive operation including being a qualified skydive tandem master, CSO (Chief Safety Officer), packing technician and qualified pilot. Lindsay first took us for a tour about Queenstown, Got us a great discount at the 5 star Queenstown Hilton newly opened 5 days earlier! We dumped our luggage in the room and went to the drop zone, located about 5 miles outside of town, a beautiful valley in the middle of sheep ranches. Surrounded by majestic mountains and nestled on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown's stunning scenery is inspiring. Dramatic mountains surround the single grass strip. NZONE is the first tandem skydive operator in New Zealand, and has skydived over 170,000 people over the past 20 years!

### Strong T/E Sasa Jojic

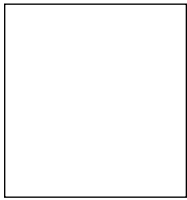
Tandem Operations Manager - Queenstown  
 Sasa has made over 20,000 tandem skydives and is a double Yugoslavian champion with a record five years on his home country's skydiving team. Sasa looks after daily skydive operations and has been with NZONE since 1998. Sasa is both a Tandem Instructor and XLR8 (AFF) Skydive Training Instructor.





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Division of S.E. Inc.

Strong Enterprises  
"The parachute company with imagination"



## Sale! Sale! Sale!

### Tandem Spare Parts Main Care Package

Retail: \$880

**NOW \$750**

*Savings of \$130*

#### Package Includes:

- Drogue
- Y-Line
- D-Bag
- 2 PVC Main Ripcords
- Set of 5 Main Closing Loops
- 5 Thru Loops
- 5 yards of 3/16 bungee for ALS Bag

Total Package Weight: 8 lbs.



### NEW STYLE - Student/Passenger Harness

This product can be purchased without the entire system.

**Price \$515**

*\*10% off with trade-in*

#### New Features

- Lower attachment is closer to the hip/leg area creating more maneuverability for the passenger to arch along with the T/I.
- Provides a more Secure fit to the T/I
- Allows the Passenger to lift legs a lot easier.
- Thicker and wider leg pads adding more comfort



## CONTINUED SERVICE - Strong Enterprises Will Continue to Provide Service for DHT

With the introduction of the long awaited new tandem system, questions have arisen regarding the availability of components and service for the DHT system.

There is no need to worry, Strong Enterprises will continue to build, maintain, and service the DHT system. The new tandem system is a welcome addition to the product line and is not meant to replace the DHT. Strong Enterprises intends to continue building and selling both the DHT and the new tandem systems, as well as all components for both systems.

We understand the importance of continuing to strengthen and build our relationship with our customers and want every customer to know that the new system will not take away from the DHT. Strong Enterprises will continue to make improvements to the DHT and keep it current.