



Commitment to Safety

The Art of Continual Improvement

As a Tandem Instructor, you are crucial to the future of our sport. Strong Enterprises commitment to you includes a sub clause: a commitment to safety for both you and your student. We can only make that happen with your help, we'll provide you with the tools but you must commit to use them. Take the time to review procedures and follow written guidelines. There is no greater source of information than you, our amazing Tandem Instructors, we welcome feedback, suggestions, and anecdotes so that we can all learn from our collective experience.



Why Go The Extra Mile?

On the Fourth of July 2014, Ann and her daughter Beth (above) are making their second tandem jumps, together! This trip



Newsletter #42 A Touch of History... Continued

Photo: Ted Strong D-16 taking student Mary Jobe on a drogue less Tandem in September 1983. This was before drogues were incorporated into Tandem jumping.

Bill Morrissey remembers:

To deal with the airspeed of the tandem jumpers, Ted Strong added a drogue onto

has been in planning since they made their first jump two years ago. There have been numerous changes in each woman's life including the addition of a beautiful little girl, but both women were determined to jump again. They saved their money, coordinated family members' schedules, and made the experience a family affair, having the entire family come out to watch and cheer. It is a dream that has come true for the mother/daughter duo.

That is why you go the extra mile as a Tandem Instructor.

Although the jump you are about to make might be your ninth for the day, and you're tired, and you're jumping again tomorrow, your student's experience is once in a lifetime, something that will remain with them forever. They have been waiting nervously, excited, scared, and ready to experience that thrill that, once upon a time, you experienced for the first time too.

From the beginning Strong Enterprises has touted Tandem as a training tool, one that increases the safety and experience of the students. They are not just along for the ride. They are not just a passenger. Seeing your student for who they are, instead of a number, can not only enrich their experience, it can also create a bond that keeps you going. Taking those few minutes to talk with your student and learn a little bit about them might even give you that little boost to make it fun and not just a job.

the newly developed Tandem system. He positioned the drogue so that the jumpers were in a stable, slightly head high attitude. He then sized the drogue to achieve the speed of the video men. In spite of the naysayers insistence that the drogue was a malfunction looking for a place to happen, Ted knew that the future of tandem jumping lay in the use of a drogue. Deployment of the drogue was addressed initially by using a static line. Early on we saw abrasions to the arms of both the instructor and the student and also saw the potential for misrouting the bridle causing the jumpers to remain in tow. To eliminate this Ted and I decided to put a pouch on the bottom of the container and try hand deployment. The 16 ft. long bridle was fed into the pouch in small folds, which resulted in only an arms length portion of the drogue being extracted. In order to extract the remainder of the drogue Ted had to let go of the drogue pud and try to pull more of the drogue out of the pouch. This cumbersome and timely process resulted in the drogue getting sucked into the large burble behind us (the discovery of this burble and its effects caused a major concern). Ted managed to roll us onto our side and blow the drogue off, avoiding any entanglement. Clearly, the drogue was a tool that had potential for disaster, but it was necessary for tandem jumping. To quiet the naysayers I took a drogue equipped Tandem System to DeLand and jumped with John Stark from 13,500 ft while the naysayers were making 5 sec. delays from 5,000 ft. John's enthusiastic comment was "You HAVE to have a drogue!" As a result, drogues are used all



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over the world today.

Even as I write this in 2014, there is a lack of understanding of how important it is to have the drogue assembly be extracted from the pouch in one piece, having the bridle play out from the folded drogue body as it is pitched away from the tandem and into clean air, then have the body unfold when it is above the jumpers and into clean air.

Take this from Bill's story:

If you take nothing else from this little piece of history please understand the importance of properly packing and tossing the drogue. The drogue should always be extracted from the pouch in one piece, extracting the bridle before completely inflating. This ensures that the drogue is in clean air and clear of your burble.



#throwback

A Touch of History

During the development of Tandem, it became obvious that freefall speeds increased shock loads during opening. The first ever tandem malfunction snapped lines, tore fabric and bent the D-ring on opening making it impossible to cutaway. Something needed to be done! Ted Strong's innovative solution was the addition of a drogue. In the beginning, the drogue was static lined, as shown here, yet soon switched to hand deploy. **Stay tuned...** Our next Newsletter will have more on the development of special hardware and how it evolved Tandem System Safety.

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