

# PARACHUTIST

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1958

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



**Lt. General JAMES M. GAVIN, U.S.A., Ret.**

*Chairman of the Board, Parachute Club of America*

# GAVIN AT THE HELM

"Those of you who pursue sport parachuting today are pioneers in a very real sense. The future of that sport will be conditioned to a large degree by your efforts and your examples."\*

These words of a year ago will be remembered with pride by many sport parachutists; with the sport of parachuting still in its infancy they are as applicable today as they were then. As important as the words themselves are, however, it is the person who wrote them, Lt. General James M. Gavin, U.S.A., Ret., that gives them their particular significance.

The wartime commander of the 82nd Airborne Division—a role which earned him the title of "Mr. Airborne"—had become interested in parachuting as a sport. In October, 1957, General Gavin contributed his paratrooper wings, bearing four combat stars, to be part of a trophy awarded annually to the national champion college parachuting team. At the time, General Gavin was Chief of Research and Development for the U. S. Army. Last winter, with the forthrightness and integrity which has distinguished his military career, he gave up that career to be able to freely express his convictions on military matters. He did so in writing what may well be one of the most important military documents of the space era, his book "War and Peace in the Space Age."

General Gavin is now a vice president of Arthur D. Little, Inc., a scientific research firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is gratifying that in spite of the importance of his concerns in the last year he has pursued his interest in sport parachuting. It was with great pride in our sport that we received on November 10th the announcement that General Gavin had accepted the unanimous nomination to be chairman of the board of directors of the Parachute Club of America.

We believe that parachutists everywhere will share in this pride and satisfaction on hearing that confidence in sport parachuting has been so impressively reaffirmed by one of the outstanding pioneers of our space age.

*\* From a letter to the PCA published in the November-December 1957 issue of PARACHUTIST.*



# Parachutists In Paris

Joe Crane, President of the International Parachuting Commission, and Jacques Istel, alternate U. S. delegate, attended the annual meeting of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale in Paris on December 3—5. The eleven other countries represented were Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, West Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

The convention, scheduled for two days, was held at the headquarters of the Aero Club of France. But even working hours of 9 A. M. to 7 P. M. were insufficient for the business at hand, and the conference went into a third day. Though 6 Rue Galilee was all that most of the 20-odd representatives saw of Paris during the convention, the results of the meetings were well worth their efforts.

The U. S. objectives at the conference were simple—and big:

- I. Simplification, standardization, and elimination of luck in World Championship events.
- II. A foolproof scoring system.
- III. Adoption of realistic standards for International licenses.

All three of the above aims were partly or fully achieved.

I. and II. A radical proposal by France for a single event in the World Championships was seconded by the United States. This event would be a high altitude jump scored on accuracy in landing alone. Excellent style in a free fall is implicit if accuracy in landing from a high altitude is achieved, since the parachutist must guide his body and control his glide to the proper opening point. Thus, style remains important, but the necessarily subjective *judgment* of style becomes unimportant. Accuracy in landing is not subject to such judgment; here measuring and scoring is virtually foolproof.

The luck factor is controlled in the French proposal by scoring only the best six out of eight jumps, thereby eliminating most bad scores caused by wind shifts or factors beyond the control of the parachutist.

The French proposal was approved by the conference and then shelved for a technical violation of the F.A.I. code—it had not been filed in writing 30 days before the opening of the conference. However, the first two of the following events were also endorsed by France and the U. S. and which were passed after a lengthy discussion are true to the spirit and intent of the original French proposal:

1. Individual jump from 2000 meters, 23 to 30 seconds delay, scored on accuracy alone.
2. Group jump from 2000 meters, 23 to 30 second delay, scored on accuracy alone.
3. Individual style jump from 1750 meters, 25

seconds maximum delay. Parachutist will complete five 360° turns and one backward loop upon signal from ground. A choice of three possible patterns of turns and the corresponding signals will be given to contestants only 36 hours before the event. The maximum score of 200 points will be judged on figures alone. Bonus points of 5 per second will be awarded if the contestant finishes the correct turns and loop before the 23rd second.

Only events 1 and 3 will determine individual total score and individual World Champion.

Three United States proposals for event 3 were adopted:

1. All parachutists will be dressed in white helmets and coveralls.
2. Parachutists of at least four countries will be aboard aircraft during style jumps.
3. The order of jumping will be drawn by lot after take off.

Other U. S. proposals for elimination of the luck factor in accuracy jumps and for simplified scoring in the style jump were also adopted.

In the new World Championship only event 3 is at all subjective in scoring. The precautions listed above and the simplified scoring system should eliminate subjectivity and margin of error. The elimination of scoring for style may be possible by 1962; in the meantime, the new events, as adopted, are a distinct advance in parachuting competition and a big step toward a final codification of the sport.

III. It was pointed out that all National licenses are far more stringent than International license standards. The F.A.I. voted that the present standards, as outlined, are a strict minimum and that a member country could add such conditions as are felt to be necessary to qualify for each class of license. The U. S. delegation was completely satisfied by this decision which permits the establishment of new standards for licenses within the United States. It is expected that these new U. S. standards, which conform with those of other leading countries, will become basic world standards at the next F. A. I. conference.

Other new regulations governing the judging of International and World Championship competitions were passed. In the future there will be a minimum of five judges from five countries for World Championships. Judges of International competitions and World Championship must meet high technical qualifications, including past participation in a World Championship. The names of such judges must be filed with the F.A.I. by member countries.

A country organizing a championship must list the names of the judges chosen at least three months before the competition and must give participating countries thirty days in which to file any objections.

The 5th World Championship of Parachuting will

(Continued on Page Seven)

# THE FORT CAMPBELL MEET

by Dave Derence, Public Information Office,  
Fort Campbell, Kentucky

The first National Invitational Sport Parachute meet, held on October 3-5 at Fort Campbell, Ky., saw Nate Pond lead the Goodhill Parachute Association of Woodbury, Conn., to top team honors.

Nate, brother Larry Pond, and Tony Harwood totaled the highest team score in three events at the paratrooper center. An 82nd Airborne Division team placed second, followed by the Cambridge (Mass.) Parachute Club. More than 20 civilian and military clubs entered, making up the largest number of competitors in a U. S. contest

Winning first place in two events, Nate Pond gained top individual honors among 88 contestants by beating out Alva English of Fort Campbell, the host club, and Loy Brydon of the 82nd, who followed in second and third place respectively.

Two jumps were originally planned for each event. The first event was a 3300-foot precision landing contest. The second event was a precision jump from 4300 feet with the parachutist holding a stable position and heading for 14-16 seconds before opening his chute. The third event was a style and precision jump with the contestant leaving the aircraft at 7000 feet and performing a 360° and 180° turn between the 15th and 23rd seconds of free fall. The parachutist was required to open his chute between the 27th and 32nd seconds.

*Peter Haskell, captain of one of the Cambridge teams, wears a look of disappointment after a sudden shift in wind caused him to land in this tree. The reserve 'chute hanging down in front of him enabled Pete to climb to the ground.*



The meet was late in getting started the first day and not all participants were able to jump in the first event. The second day's events ran smoothly. Although tricky wind currents over the drop zone made spotting difficult, most of the jumpers landed reasonably close to the target. The military teams proved surprisingly strong considering the short time they had been organized.

Herschel Rourke of the 82nd Airborne made the best landing of the meet in the first event. He won the event by coming in 2.52 meters from the center of the cross.

The third event started late on Oct. 4th and continued the following day. Jacques Istel, chief judge for the meet acted as jumpmaster for the first sport parachute jump of Maj. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, commander of the 101st Airborne Division and of Fort Campbell.

That evening, General Westmoreland presented trophies to individuals and teams at a banquet held by the Fort Campbell club, and Lew Sanborn, secretary of the PCA, gave the general a parachute log book with his first sport jump recorded in it.

The most serious injury of the meet occurred to the feelings of the acting captain of the Cambridge team, Peter Haskell, when, caught in a sudden wind shift, he landed in a tree some 300 yards from the target area.

## FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

1. Good Hill .....	1923.14
2. 82nd Airborne #3 .....	1735.94
3. Cambridge #1 .....	1617.84
4. 77 Special Warfare #1 .....	1572.40
5. Fort Campbell #1 .....	1502.16
6. 82nd Airborne #2 .....	1374.96
7. Cleveland .....	1293.68
8. Fort Campbell #3 .....	1261.92
9. Cambridge #2 .....	1240.32
10. 18th Airborne Corps .....	1179.62

## OVERALL INDIVIDUAL SCORES

NAME	CLUB	TOTAL POINTS
1. POND, N.	Good Hill	1026.86
2. ENGLISH	Fort Campbell #1	948.42
3. BRYDON	Special War #1	907.48
4. POND, L.	Good Hill	851.28
5. HUGHES	82nd Airborne #3	833.74
6. McDONNELL	Buffalo	803.10
7. STRONG	Cambridge #1	776.32
8. ARTER	18th Corps	760.50
9. KNOX	Gainesville	743.38
10. HASKELL	Cambridge #1	722.20
11. PATRICK	82nd Airborne #2	712.48
12. TAYLOR	Fort Campbell #3	695.56
13. ROURK	82nd Airborne #1	669.62
14. BYARD	Special War #1	664.92
15. WILLIAMS	82nd Airborne #3	654.28
16. MARTIN	82nd Airborne #2	632.06
17. EDWARDS	82nd Airborne #3	629.34
18. STRAUS	Cambridge #2	626.86
19. STONE	Cleveland	604.86
20. GATES	Cleveland	601.40



## Member Gripes

The PCA found members' comments in the recent questionnaire invaluable. The leading criticisms were:

1. Lack of CAA coordination;
2. Lack of standardized training methods;
3. Lack of instruction in elementary and advanced techniques in PARACHUTIST.
4. Desire for more sanctioned competitions.

Some of the points raised are covered in this issue of PARACHUTIST; others will be the subject of future articles and discussions by PCA directors.

There will be more details on member comments after all questionnaires have been evaluated. In the meantime, "keep your criticisms coming to PARACHUTISTS and the PCA.

As requested by subscribers, future issues of PARACHUTIST will carry instruction on the following:

1. Basic Stable Fall, Including Exits.
2. Control in the Horizontal Plane—Two basic Methods of Advance Turns.
3. Control in the Vertical Plane—Forward and Backward Loops.
4. Control in the Longitudinal Plane—Right and Left Barrel Rolls.
5. Precision from High Altitudes.

## CAA Cooperation

The PCA welcomes the appointment of a new CAA Safety Chief, Mr. R. R. Lovering, an old acquaintance of the PCA and an outstanding civil servant. Evidence of the new and closer ties with the CAA is the news that the PCA is forwarding 500 copies of its just-completed revisions of the Basic Safety Regulations to CAA Headquarters in Washington, D. C. The CAA will send out these regulations with a covering letter to its 500 Safety Agents throughout the country.

A fine New Year's present for parachutists and the public alike.

PARACHUTIST regretfully reports the death in an automobile accident on December 5th of Jack L. Stephens, a member of the PCA and of the Fairbanks Parachute Club of Fairbanks, Alaska. Airman Stephens, an enthusiastic parachutist, had recently transferred to Columbus Air Force Base in Columbus, Miss., and was in the process of forming a sports parachuting club at the Columbus base.

PARACHUTIST and all members of the PCA extend their sympathies to Jack Stephens' wife and family.

## Air Force Recognition?

On December 18th, Jacques Istel, executive vice-president of the PCA, met with General LeMay and a top aide at Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D. C. in an effort to clarify the position of the Air Force regarding participation of its personnel in sport parachuting. Though General LeMay knew little about the extent of sport parachuting activities in this country and had obviously not been briefed on the desire of Air Force members to acquire official sanction, he was greatly interested in the implications and training value of Air Force participation. He gave a sympathetic ear to the request for an official regulation clarifying and encouraging such participation, and the PCA is hopeful that action will be taken shortly.

## Future Events

The biggest national meet ever held in this country is scheduled for Wilmington, Delaware on June 6th and 7th. The Delaware Cup Meet will be a Class II (National) competition, and between 50 and 100 parachutists will be qualified to jump, depending on the number of heavy aircraft the PCA is able to have on hand for the event. Competition for the Cup will be based only on accuracy jumps from high altitudes.

Also scheduled for Wilmington on the same date is the first Major-International meet to be held in the Western Hemisphere. Both France and the United States will be represented by a military and a civilian team, each team to consist of five parachutists. Moreover, it is hoped that Canada will participate to make the competition a triangular event. Each team member will make at least six jumps from high altitudes.

Further plans for Wilmington include a static-line event for intercollegiate competition. There is, in other words, something for almost everybody at this meet and, since an impressive attendance of military and congressional leaders from Washington is expected, it is important that PCA members put their best foot forward. Every one qualified should make every effort to try to compete at Wilmington, and all members are urged strongly to attend. Start to make your plans now; this will be a wonderful show and it should be a pleasure to be in Wilmington in June.

On or about May 6th a PCA-sanctioned meet will be held at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sponsors of the event have applied for a Class II Competition license and it is expected that the meet will be designated by the directors of the PCA as a National event. Since Fort Bragg is, at this writing, the only scheduled National competition to be held in the South this year, as many members of the PCA as possible should try to enter. Regional members, particularly, take note.

Further details and instructions for entry applications to both the Wilmington and Fort Bragg meets will be included in the February-March issue of PARACHUTIST.

# Great Expectations

Late in January the Board of Directors of the PCA will hold their annual meeting. The agenda of this meeting will establish provisions, safety regulations and improvements that will benefit directly each member of the PCA as well as the quality and prestige of sport parachuting itself.

First and foremost of the proposed changes is the contemplated insurance plan. Such a plan has been long needed. As many subscribers can testify, financial liability is perhaps the biggest stumbling block encountered in the minds of such people on the periphery of our sport as pilots and airport managers. Too often PCA members have been refused jumps by these men who fear the financial responsibility to be incurred in case of accident. Good insurance coverage will remove many such objections and smooth the path for individuals and the sport alike.

Though the agreement has not yet been signed, tentative provisions of the plan now in negotiation with a leading insurance company include the following *worldwide* coverage:

- I. Medical expenses above \$35.00 and up to \$1,000.00 per policy holder in case of accident;
- II. \$3,000.00 to beneficiaries in case of death;
- III. \$5,000.00 liability insurance per policy holder, with a limit of \$10,000.00 liability insurance per accident. This provision would also protect a PCA club and/or member for damage to any plane involved in an accident, providing that the plane is *not* owned by a PCA club or member;
- IV. The proposed policy will also include a reimbursement feature for disability. Further details on this and on the other provisions will be announced as soon as agreement is reached.

Many military members of the PCA have questioned the usefulness of the above plan to their situation. But service members should note that in all respects save point I. (medical expenses, presumably to be covered by base hospital care) they will benefit as much as civilian members of the PCA. Moreover, if military members are jumping with an affiliated civilian club point I. may well be of value. Finally, the PCA has to take into consideration the fact that only 34% of its membership is in the Armed Forces. Since insurance can only be acquired on the basis of coverage of the complete membership, the PCA does not feel that a policy so desirable to a large majority can be abandoned because of the special, usually temporary, situation of a minority.

More than 75% of the membership polled in the two questionnaires sent out favored the more expensive plan providing greater coverage and benefits. Partly because of the cost of insurance, partly because of increased costs (the business of the PCA now requires—aside from the unpaid help of some directors who give almost half their time to its affairs—the services of a fulltime secretary), the PCA must increase its dues to \$15.00 a year. This is not a small sum, but the

benefits accruing from the higher cost will be well worth the price.

The Directors' meeting will also review the current requirements for Class A, B, C, and D F.A.I. Licenses, and will pass new license requirements generally similar to those published in the July-October issue of PARACHUTIST. Thanks to the F.A.I. ruling made in Paris in December, such new and needed regulations are possible; on official adoption by the Board of Directors they will be published in the next issue of PARACHUTIST.

The agenda of the Directors' meeting also includes new regulations for PCA-Sanctioned Sport-Parachuting Competitions, and these too will be printed in the January-February issue of PARACHUTIST.

Lastly, the Board will take action on a completely new, orderly and fair scoring method for sport parachuting. By dividing competitions into four classes and by use of a *lifetime master-point* system similar to that used in contract bridge, each PCA competitor who has placed well in a sanctioned meet will be awarded lifetime master points to be a permanent part of his parachuting record. These points will be bestowed retroactively to a date to be established at the Directors' meeting.

This system will not only serve as a further spur to competition among PCA members. It has also been devised to contribute one more safety factor to the sport; the master-point principle will provide an unbiased and simple way to assess the experience, quality and skill of each jumper.

The following table indicates the proposed lifetime master-point classification system:

Classes of Competition*	Lifetime Master Points		
	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
	(overall)		
Class I			
FAI World Championship Only	10	6	4
Class II			
National Competitions			
Major International Competitions	5	3	2
Class III			
Minor International Competitions			
Regional Competitions	2½	1½	1
Class IV			
Sectional Competitions			
Sanctioned Local Competitions	½		

\* The definitions and minimum requirements for each class of competition will be published in the next issue of PARACHUTIST.

## Growing, Growing . . . .

Pete Pavlick, of 45 Merchant Street, Newark, has affiliated the Newark Sky Divers Club with the PCA. The first four jumps of the new club were made in cold late December weather at Wallkill, N. Y. by Pavlick and Stanley Wichowski, Jr., C-89. Welcome aboard!



# What's Up?

## Schweinfurt Fallschirmjager

### Himmel-Taucher Klub

For those readers who do not speak German, the translation of the above reads "Schweinfurt Sport Parachuting Sky Diving Club," an organization of nearly 100 military members stationed in Germany. For its jump plane, the club uses an Otter U-1A, a single-engine airplane that can carry nine passengers and, with flaps down, can cruise at 65 knots.

The Schweinfurt club has applied for permission to hold the first European PCA-sanctioned meet. Competition will be restricted to American military personnel stationed in Europe, and will be held in May or June of 1959 at Schweinfurt.

Other sport parachuting clubs in Germany are located in Stuttgart, Hanau, and Bad Tolz, and units arriving from America shortly will provide additional clubs in Mainz and Mannheim.

PCA members planning a trip to Europe can get in touch with the Schweinfurt Club by writing its president, Capt. Phillip C. Miller, Company D, 2nd Battle Group, 38th U. S. Inf., 3rd Inf. Div., APO 36, N. Y., N. Y., or by phoning Schweinfurt Military 8170 or Civilian 83381.

## Pearl From The Antilles

In Puerto Rico, Army servicemen have formed the Antilles Sky Diving Club, located at Fort Brooke, P. R. Members use an L-20 aircraft, and one of the golf courses near San Juan serves as a drop zone because of the limited areas suitable on the island. The club has been encouraged by the Commanding General of the Antilles Area, James W. Coutts, who led the 503rd Parachute Regiment in World War II. President of the club, and senior parachutist with 46 jumps, is Major Archie B. Johnston. The Antilles Sky Diving Club is affiliated with the PCA, and members are encouraged to call when in the Caribbean area. Southern vacation, anyone?

## Accident Corner

The PCA is making an extremely thorough investigation into the death by drowning after a Jump over water of Donald Harper on July 13th near Geneva, Ohio. Harper is the first parachute fatality among PCA members, and preliminary reports indicate that an inexcusable number of basic safety regulations were violated in his jump. The next issue of PARACHUTIST will carry the full story.

## Premier Parachutist

The Aeronaut Leo Stevens Parachute Medal for 1958 has been awarded to Major Robert Oakley of the Air Research and Development Command at Wright Air Development Center, Dayton, Ohio. The award

honors Maj. Oakley's work in the design and development of the T-10 parachute used today by the U. S. Air Force and by Army paratroopers.

The medal, given annually "to the outstanding contributor to parachute research and development, or for the outstanding personal act leading to the saving of lives by means of parachute," was presented to Maj. Oakley at a banquet on October 23rd at the Wings Club in New York City. A U. S. Air Force and Army master parachutist, Maj. Oakley has made more than 135 parachute jumps, among which were the first live jump tests of the XT-9 and XT-10 experimental parachutes, the B-4 parachute harness, and the B-5 automatic back-type parachute.

## The 859 Club

As a service to its members, the PCA will publish early this spring a directory of U. S. parachutists. This booklet will include the names, club affiliation (if any), class of license and master-point totals of each of the 859 current members of the PCA. The collation of names, facts, and figures, and the amount of secretarial work involved will be enormous, so subscribers should understand that a nominal sum may be charged to defray preparation and printing costs of the directory.

Since this will be the first compendium of membership in the PCA, we needn't point out its value; it should become a best seller among members.

## Parachutist in Paris

*(Continued from Page Three)*

be held in the summer of 1960 in Bulgaria. The exact date and place will be announced later.

In an unprecedented move, the Conference, unanimously and by acclamation, re-elected Mr. Joe Crane president of the International Parachuting Commission. The nomination was made by the delegate from the Netherlands and seconded by the delegate from Czechoslovakia. This is the first time in the history of the Commission that a president has been re-elected to a second term of office. Mr. Zhornik of the U.S.S.R. was also unanimously re-elected vice-president, and various delegates testified to the efficiency and good judgment exercised during the terms of office of Messrs. Crane and Zhornik.

Following the Conference Mr. Crane, being unable to present the U. S. position in his function as president and moderator of the Commission, recommended to the National Aeronautic Association the permanent appointment of Mr. Jacques Istel as U. S. delegate to the International Parachuting Commission of the F.A.I., subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the Parachute Club of America.

Parachutists everywhere can take pride in what was accomplished in three days in Paris. Much ground remains to be traveled towards the goal of codification and recognition of the sport, but the Conference was a giant stride forward.

Mr. Tony Peralta 5/58  
1173 12th Ave.  
Yuma, Ariz.



**THERE IS A**  
**PIONEER PARACHUTE**  
**FOR EVERY PURPOSE**

*Pilotless Aircraft Recovery Systems*

*Parachute Deceleration Systems*

*Emergency Escape Systems*

*Stabilization Parachutes*

*Aerial Delivery Systems*

*Radar Reflective Canopies*

*Ordnance Parachutes*

*Personnel Parachutes*

*Troop Parachutes*

*Engineering & Development Services*

**For Sport Parachuting**  
**THE SKY DIVER**

**manufactured by PIONEER exclusively for**  
**PARACHUTES INCORPORATED**

**PIONEER PARACHUTE COMPANY, INC.**  
MANCHESTER, CONN., U.S.A. - Cable Address: PIPAR

In Canada:  
PIONEER PARACHUTE COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED  
SMITHS FALLS, ONTARIO