



# Parachutist

VOLUME 1 . MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK . MARCH, 1960 NUMBER 4

DEAR MEMBER:

**BULLETIN:** Parachute Club of America has been granted an extension by FAA to permit each member thereof to pack the particular parachute to be used by such member for the purpose of sport jumping. This exemption shall terminate June 30, 1960 unless sooner rescinded. And during these three remaining months PCA will again endeavor to have this temporary extension made permanent.

**COMPETITION:** Initial planning completed on both the coming national tryouts for the selection of the US 5-man, 3-woman team in April at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the actual meet at Mousatchevo, Bulgaria, in August. Tryout rules were in February PARACHUTIST and the FAI World Championship rules sent out separately. Now all you have to do is get there!

Initial planning proposed holding local meets, then state meets, followed by national tryouts among the winners of the local and state meets. However, PCA is not yet staffed to set up this type of an organization .... and it does take good organization from the bottom to the top to conduct such competitions and to keep them fair with same judging standards thru-out the country. Then after reviewing the list of "C" license holders, there just isn't enough of them concentrated in any one area or groups to make the plan feasible. So now anyone in the US who has the required "C" license is eligible to compete for a berth on the team at Fort Bragg. We know there are many fine "B" license holders thru-out the country who really want to compete, BUT, it's going to take experience to beat the European teams. We know it's going to take sacrifices for many people to try out and then go to the meet, but every sacrifice that's made will be worth it to bring a World meet parachuting trophy to the US for the first time in its history! Everyone who has ever pioneered a sport has been up against the same things we are now bucking, and if sport parachuting is any good, it'll win out in the long run. They didn't have a winter olympics until some people made some effort and sacrifices to put them where they are today. And while we're on the subject, let's talk about ...

**TEAM FUNDS:** The PCA US Team Fund has exactly \$138.00 in it! It will cost about \$5000.00 for transportation overseas and about \$10 per day per member during training and the meet and about \$500 for entry fees, incidentals, etc. All in all we'll need close to \$15,000 to send the team over and back! An' that's a lot of money! Where will we get it? Well, right now a letter is being sent out to every business connected with and akin to parachuting asking for a tax-exempt donation. Parachute Clubs are also included, as are individuals.

Can YOU help? Certainly. If every jumper in the country donated \$1.00 that would make about \$4000. If each Club gave \$10 that would be about \$3000. That's \$7000 so far and we should be able to get the rest from business which we as sport parachutists assist in supporting.

Clubs can "pass the hat" at their normal week-end jumping which so many citizens come out to see and can contribute what they gather that way. Call on some of your home-town businessmen, particularly if you have someone who is going to the tryouts, for some home town backing and a hellofalot of good local club publicity.

Checks should be made out to and money sent to:

National Aeronautic Association -- Parachute Fund  
1025 Connecticut Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.



This fund will be audited and a report placed in the PARACHUTIST at the completion of the world meet.

AND the club furnishing the most cash toward supporting the world meet will be awarded a beautiful, all chromium fitting, backpack parachute.

FILMS: Some Clubs have written in asking for films and slides showing sky diving techniques. PCA does not own these but we are interested in procuring some for loaning to clubs that need them. Parachutes, Inc., at either Hemet, California, or Orange, Mass., do have some films for rental; however, it would be best to contact them for information. Any members or clubs that have films to loan or rent can let us know what they have -- subject matter, length of film, and size of film -- and we'll be glad to print such a listing for the benefit of all members. We'll also send the list to SKY DIVER Magazine. This also goes for color slides, particularly, good shots of ground training and free fall aerial work. As one member so aptly put it .... there may conceivably be a moderate sales market for reprints of the better films among parachutists and others!

PARACHUTES: Here's some food for thought from G. R. Masterson, the Parachute Club of Canada: "Perhaps parachutists should be invited to observe the advantages of top center pull ripcords for reserve parachutes. Old-time training parachutes were thus equipped and many European countries still use reserves with this configuration, whereby it can be pulled with either hand and yet difficult to open accidentally. Ripcords have been known (we'll vouch for this..Ed.) to catch and open reserves even in four place Cessnas."

"Pilot chute hesitation, in conjunction with stable openings is also of serious concern. Head down position openings have been known to have entangled in or around the parachutist's leg, causing injury. The Czechs were observed, and Loy Brydon suggested, the advantages of packing the pilot chute at the top of the pack, where it would, upon opening in the stable position, eject over the parachutist's head or shoulder into the slipstream." Thank you, Mr. Masterson. Anyone have any further information on this subject?

SAFETY: In line with the above we have an excellent example of the same parachute hesitation with the reserve parachute from Bud Sellick of the Tennessee Parachute Club, Maryville, Tennessee. ".....in reference to turbulent air around the free falling body and how this blanketing effect might cause the canopy to fail to inflate.

"Because the reserve is in front and easy to see, I was in a position to observe this phenomenon with horrifying reality. At terminal velocity during a twenty-second delay I was forced to deploy my reserve. I had rolled onto my back while tucking slightly to grasp the reserve ripcord. After pulling the pin I made the mistake of attempting to thread the ripcord on my wrist rather than throw the canopy away from me as should be done. The silk boiled and bumbled in the turbulent blanketed air. I swept in an armful of silk and heaved it out from my body where it caught the air and deployed. Observers and a portion of movie film indicates close to six seconds elapsed between the pull and the deployment. This is over one thousand feet at terminal velocity!"

Three recently reported close calls in failure to use the reserve at the proper time prompt us to sound the warning gong. Visualize Mr. Sellick's position today were he in a club which permits (and some do!) opening the main at 500 feet!

Correct procedures on use of the reserve are simple. Pull the main parachute ripcord no lower than 2200 feet. At time of pull, either start to verbally count by thousands or continue a previously started count. Depending on the length of your delay and speed, your chute should open in from two to four seconds. If not, time should not be taken to analyze what the situation is. If your position was not perfect, e.g., slightly head down, sideways, feet down, etc., where there is a slipstream over your back, then



you've undoubtedly got a malfunction and should pull the reserve immediately. If your stable fall position was perfect, it is possible that you have a "flutter" wherein the pilot chute has not cleared the vacuum over your back. If you think this, hunch or dip either shoulder, count, and if you don't feel or see the main in a few seconds, pull the reserve and throw the silk away from you.

The best way to avoid using the reserve is to check carefully the main parachute before, during, and after the packing!

NOTES FROM THE PACKING AREA: George Mulcahy, formerly of Los Alamos, NM, now shaping up a parachuting center at Alamogordo, NM, opened in February. This should be the 4th full time center to open. Barrier breakdown: Flash! Staid ole New York has finally legalized parachute jumping exhibitions. The bill to legalize cleared the Assembly 3 Feb without even a debate! And take note Texas and Alaska, although jumping has been illegal in NY up to now, they have the highest number of PCA members of any state in the union .... shame!

ParaVentures, Dave Burt's commercial outfit in Hollywood, is now putting out a news bulletin to the commercial parachute industry. They are also sponsoring the "Golden Ripcord Award" and have awarded the first to PCA's President, Joe Crane, for his many years of selfless dedication to the organizing of professional and sport parachutists in the US. Anyone who would like to contact ParaVentures are welcomed to do so at PO Box 2921, Hollywood 28, California.

The PCA Directors will meet in New York City on 6 April 60. So far it looks like all Directors will be there. On the agenda: finalizing the subdivision of the US into conference areas, modification of TSO C-23 (again!), policy for appointing Safety Officers, revision of the Constitution and By-Laws to conform with the approved conference type organization, more plans for obtaining coordination and backing from FAA, soliciting funds for the US Team, last minute preparations for the Ft. Bragg Tryouts, financial status and operations of PCA, groundwork for the 1962 World Meet in Mass, intercollegiate meet organization, policy on professional and amateur status.

PROGRESS ON NATIONAL PCA ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATION: All members of the Board of Directors concerned appear to favor the proposed plan, excepting some minor details which will be ironed out at the April Directors Meeting. We will write up the April PARACHUTIST right at Fort Bragg after both the Directors meeting and the national tryouts and get all of the details to you around the last of April. Don't leave now. things are starting to warm up!.

COLLEGIATE LEAGUE: Fine letter in from Frederick G. Terry of the West Point Parachute Club, West Point, New York. He states: "....but in order to promote the sport we must first acquaint the schools with the potential popularity of the sport among college students. I was associated with an abortive attempt to form the Collegiate League last year and I think that it's biggest fault was the failure to indoctrinate the colleges and and the students in the concept of sport parachuting.

"In order to support such a College League, West Point would like to set up a schedule of meets with specific college teams. Starting 2 April we would like to have a series of meets with different eastern college teams and are now arranging a multi-college meet at Orange, Mass., for the week-end of 15 April. I would appreciate an announcement in the PARACHUTIST that West Point would welcome any college competition during the forthcoming spring and next fall."

OK Navy, here's your chance! Seriously, the collegiate league will be a definite part in the directors meeting, and, meanwhile, let's hear from any of the other colleges that want college competition. Mr. Terry's address is Company G-2, USCC, West Point, New York, in case you want to contact him.

TROPHIES: Still digging up material on who's got what trophy and the requirements for winning same so must push that info into a later issue.

NEXT ISSUE: (LATE APRIL)

Results of Directors Meeting, NY  
US Team Tryout Winners

Cordially,

PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA



## *Parachutist*

Parachute Club of America  
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In this issue:

FAI WORLD PARACHUTING RECORDS

FINANCING US PARACHUTE TEAM

FAA PARACHUTE PACKING EXEMPTION

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