



Parachutist

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DEAR MEMBER:

Happy New Year and may we wish you the best in jumping throughout 1961.

For Sport Parachuting 1960 was a good year. For one thing PCA doubled its membership. Accidents among PCA members were reduced by 43% over 1959! Many more clubs were organized this past year and we did the best that the US has ever done in world competition. One parachutist came out with an automatic opener for the reserve and others started working on improved models. Publicity was at a new high and almost every major magazine had some item on sport parachuting during the year. And for the first time a commercial sport parachuting film was made and distributed to local theatres for public viewing, and a series is presently being filmed for T-V release. Throughout the year new ideas and methods were hatching, from fancy packing mats to new tracking positions. 1960 probably saw more canopy modifications than any year will ever see..... some good, some bad, some safe, some dangerous, but, we progressed. Two more books on sky diving took shape in 1960 and we hope that they'll be printed this year. Mistakes were made in 1960 also, and we sincerely hope that everyone concerned has profited through these errors. We think PCA headquarters has and we're going to do our best in '61 to make parachuting and PCA the safest and best in the world. Meanwhile.....

FIRST COMMERCIAL FILM: (Delayed Report): For those who haven't already seen it, there is an excellent "short subject" film now on view throughout the country entitled, "A Sport is Born". It was filmed at the Parachute Center, Orange, Mass., in color and Vistavision, by Paramount Pictures and includes baton passes in free fall (filmed by Lew Sanborn) plus a complete rundown from early training to free fall. If you haven't seen it, don't miss it!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, INDIO, NOVEMBER, 1960: Frankly, we didn't think we'd ever get this one written up it lasted two days and covered everything from revising the Constitution and Safety Regulations to making a demonstration jump for the NAA people. But here is a summarized version without any of the arguments.

1. NAA DIVISIONAL AGREEMENT: The Board formally accepted the proposal to make PCA a Division of NAA and Mr. Crane signed the agreement. We'll skip the details on this for now since Mr. Crane explained the affects in his letter to all members late in December. Based on the postcards received back on this and the insurance subject, there does appear to be some confusion on the agreement which we'll clarify as soon as the new office is settled.

2. REPORT ON RECORD ATTEMPT ORGANIZATION: The PCA Records Section is complete and in order and ready to function, thanks to Mr. Steve Snyder of Pennsylvania. The only thing holding up the establishment of records here in the US is the procurement of satisfactory barographs which are required by FAI. We have none. Mr. Snyder went to Washington to confer with aviation officials and could not obtain any information about suitable units. Three letters were written to the Aero Club of France, through NAA, requesting information on the units that they use for record attempts but no replies have as yet been received. Some German units were tracked down and they were too large and delicate. The Directors authorized the purchase of barographs as soon as some acceptable ones are located. The Secretary was directed to publish the entire procedure on how to make a record attempt, either national or international, in a forthcoming information pamphlet on PCA.

3. PCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT FROM MARCH 1959 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1960: PCA ended 1959 with

809 members. As of 31 October 1960 there were 1,500 members, an increase of almost 100%. 74% of the 1960 membership were new with only 26% of the members renewing from previous years! 22% of the membership were military personnel.

4. PROGRESS REPORT ON 1962 WORLD MEET, ORANGE, MASS.: The following steps have been accomplished successfully in the preparation of the 1962 Parachuting Championship:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed Senate Act #627 and created the first official Sport Parachuting Commission in United States history.

The commission is charged with the administration of the 1962 World Championship and with the management of State funds allocated for this purpose. The following five commissioners were sworn in by Governor Furcolo:

Jacques Andre Istel, Chairman
Joseph H. Ellinwood, Businessman
Nathan G. Pond, Manager, Orange Airport
Crocker Snow, Director, Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission
William H. Tucker, Town Counsel, Athol, Massachusetts

The legislature passed a \$25,000 initial appropriation as part of 1960's supplemental budget.

At the federal level President Eisenhower signed a bill inviting the World Championship officially to Orange, Mass., on behalf of the United States. This was the last bill to pass through the last Session of Congress before the new year. The road is now clear for Federal appropriations.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: In view of the resignation of General Gavin and Mr. George Bosworth from the Board of Directors, PCA, the following named men were selected from a nominating committee list and approved by the Board to fill the unexpired terms of both resignees: Mr. Lew Vincent, El Centro, California, (affiliated with the US Navy Parachute Test Center) and Mr. Dave Burt, President, Paraventures, Inc. Incidentally, the remaining current Board of Directors are as follows: Mr. Joe Crane, President and Temporary Chairman of the Board, New York; Colonel William P. Grieves, US Army, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Jacques A. Istel, Parachutes, Inc., Orange, Mass.; Mr. Lewis Sanborn, Director, Hemet Parachuting Center, Calif.; Mr. Darrell Sonnichsen, Lockheed Aircraft Corp., Calif.; Mr. Wolfgang Lieschke, New York City, N. Y.; Mr. Maco Stewart, Galveston, Texas; Mr. Leslie Irvin, Irvin Parachute Company, Calif.; Mr. Gill Rob Wilson, Publisher, "Flying" Magazine, New York; William H. Tucker, Esq., Lawyer, Massachusetts; Maj. R. A. Gunby, (Ret.) PCA Executive Secretary, Calif.

During the Directors meeting Mr. Darrell Sonnichsen was elected by the Board as Executive Vice President to replace Mr. Bosworth and Major Gunby was voted to be the full time PCA Executive Secretary on a paid basis at \$4000 per year effective 1 January 1961.

The terms of the 15 Directors are for three years. Some of these terms have expired. The Constitution now calls for the election or reelection of five new Directors each year, therefore, seven Directors must be voted in by the end of February. A nominating committee was appointed at the Directors meeting to receive nominations from the membership at the new PCA address: PCA, P. O. Box 409, Monterey, Calif. Since there are only 13 Directors at the present time, it will require seven new Directors to fill the Directorship. Those whose terms have expired are eligible for reelection.

Members should bear in mind that a Director should be influential, be capable of attending PCA and NAA meetings, and be a loyal advocate of sport parachuting on a national and international basis! If PCA's Board was composed of only excellent club presidents then who would be spokesman in Washington? Who could go to the FAI conference in Europe and bring the World meet to the US? Etc., etc.

Anyway, we are going after people like top Air Force men, Editors of sports magazines,

Officials in the parachute industry, aviation officials, and the like to get people into the Directorship who don't have to go through a lot of other people to get a job done. Large national corporations lead their board with influential workers and that's what we must do now.

So, in February a slate will be prepared for seven Directors for the PCA Board of Directors from both membership nominations and the nominating committee. Some will be names up for reelection, others will be new. Nominations will be received up to 20 February and if you have a nomination, please send along enough background history for us to publish to show all members that your man is the man who can do the job.

6. NATIONAL COLLEGE PARACHUTE LEAGUE: No report was received on what progress was made during the past seven months on establishing a College Parachute League.

7. COMPETITION RULES: Mr. Istel asked for relief from the responsibility of writing these rules and the Directors agreed that a committee be appointed to propose a standardized set of rules for competition and guidance for operating a parachute meet.

8. HELM'S ATHLETIC FOUNDATION AWARD: The Directors agreed that the PCA would accept the responsibility for selecting candidates to award the Helm's Athletic Foundation Award for the "Parachuting Athlete of the Year". This annual award will go to the outstanding parachute athlete of the year as selected by a committee appointed by the Board.

9. REVISION OF BASIC SAFETY REGULATIONS: Advances made in sport parachuting since the first rules were adopted, plus many sensible requests received from members, plus the set up of the Safety Officer Program, required that the BSRs be modified. Using the experience of members of the US Team, member's experiences and correspondence, and knowledge gained from parachute technicians, a draft was prepared and submitted at this meeting. We are not listing them here because there were over 21 changes in all, and, after much discussion and debate at the meeting, a final draft was approved. This draft has been sent out to representative parachuting groups across America for their comments prior to final publication. Publication to all members will be accomplished prior to the end of February, '61.

PARACHUTING EXEMPTION: FLASH: Just as we go to press an exemption has been received from the FAA in Washington permitting PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA MEMBERS, jumping in accordance with the Basic Safety Regulations under the supervision of Safety Officers, to pack their own main backpack parachute until 1 December 1961. This applies only to PCA members!

FINANCIAL STATUS OF PCA: No annual financial report is enclosed with this issue since Mrs. Hall is closing out the books and auditors are preparing their final report prior to moving the records to California. If received in time, the full 1960 financial report will be included in the February PARACHUTIST.

1961 INSURANCE COVERAGE CHANGE: As all members know, we have been having problems with insurance for parachutists and this is what has held up publication of the PARACHUTIST and 1961 memberships.

Based on last year's accident and injury rate, parachutists should definitely be covered by some sort of policy to cover property damage and public liability claims. Experience has shown that drop zone owners, airport owners and managers, and pilots will readily fly parachutists that have such insurance coverage, therefore having this type of coverage enhances sport parachuting in general.

In the postcard replies sent into PCA in response to Mr. Crane's December letter outlining the proposed insurance rate increase to \$25.00, 87% of the voting members voted yes to insurance, BUT, of this 87%, almost 60% (over half) voted yes only on the condition that, "we retain only P/L and PD", and "throw out the \$3000 death benefit", "make payments in monthly installments", "jump the \$25 medical deductible to \$100 deductible", and many other recommendations, etc., etc. In other words these members voted yes only on the condition that changes be made in the present coverage. Incidentally, 82% voted in favor of making NAA membership compulsory with PCA membership; however, the officers have

decided to "encourage" NAA membership rather than make it mandatory and we hope that you members will back us in this action by voluntarily joining NAA.

Based on the member's recommendations we contacted our eastern insurance broker and a western broker in an effort to contract for the following coverage: The same P/L, P/D, and Personal Injury coverage that we had before and a \$100 medical deductible up to \$1000. for medical expenses. Our company, Insurance of North America, declined to write this as did two other larger national companies. INA did lower their death benefit to \$1000, (retaining the rest of the coverage as before) which brought the full insurance payment per member down to \$18 per year. We then asked to have the coverage optional to members. Again they declined.

After more expensive dickering with insurance companies for what parachutists want and not being able to obtain it, the officers came to the following conclusions:

1. That the mission of PCA is to insure the safety of parachuting, promote and enhance sport parachuting throughout the US, maintain records as established by US parachutists, administer the licensing of parachutists, select a US team, etc. While it is admitted that proper insurance will definitely assist in all of the above missions, it is felt with the implementation of our Safety Officer Program and improvement in the injury rates through better supervision and training, and stronger recognition by State and Federal Aeronautic authorities, that proper insurance coverage can be obtained later as desired by us, the parachutists, and at a reasonable premium.

2. Based on the above, the present insurance coverage expired as of 31 January 1961 and we have renewed only the P/L and P/D coverage for a cost of \$2.50 per member as follows:

Public Liability: (bodily injury to others) each person \$5000, each accident \$10,000.

Property Damage: (to others) \$5000.

We will continue to try to obtain the following coverage at a reasonable rate which will be optional to all members:

Medical Expense: Reimbursement up to \$1000 for each accident to self in excess of \$100

Death: (?) Note: We will probably have to accept a death policy with the medical since this is the basic policy around which the insurance companies write the rest of their coverage.

So, there you have the saga of PCA's insurance. In SUMMARY: The 1960 full coverage expired 31 January 1961 and only P/D and P/L will be a part of the PCA dues in 1961. PCA will aggressively seek favorable medical insurance for PCA members to become available to members on an optional basis.

IMPORTANT: These members that have sent in dues for 1961 will be reimbursed all amounts over \$12.50 submitted. \$7.00 covers the PCA, \$3.00 will go to NAA, and \$2.50 for insurance, a TOTAL of \$12.50 for 1961. We will automatically forward \$3.00 to NAA for all members who have already sent in their dues. However, since NAA membership is optional, we will return the \$3.00 at the request of the member, if he so requests immediately.

3. MILITARY PERSONNEL: Due to the equal use of P/L and P/D by military personnel in jumps away from military reservations, NO reduction is allowed military members. PCA dues are now the same for BOTH military and civilian members alike.

LICENSING PROCEDURE: Effective 15 February 1961 licenses will be processed as follows:

All Club PCA safety officers will verify the qualification of an applicant and make

the following entry in the log book, "Certified Qualified for Class ____ License, date, Club Safety Officer's Signature and Preht. License Number." The log book and application will then be transmitted to the Area Safety Officer who will verify the log book and initial the Club Safety Officer's entry, return the log book to the individual, certify on the license application that the applicant is qualified, and then the Area SO will forward the verified application and fee to the PCA office (P. O. Box 409, Monterey, Calif.) After a PCA check the license will be issued direct to the individual.

Please hold all license requests until after 15 February to enable us to get all necessary instructions out to the Area Safety Officers. A list of the Area Safety Officers will be in the February PARACHUTIST along with more details on reorganization. Also, new license and membership application forms are now being printed.

PARTING COMMENT BY YOUR NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: "As your new Secretary, here is our plan: First, to get the insurance matter straightened out and by the time you receive this a decision was already made. Second, to get the best possible people on the Board of Directors, Third, completion of the Safety Officer Program organization. Fourth, to produce a brochure telling WHY FAI, NAA, and PCA exist, what PCA has done in the past for you the parachutist (because most people just aren't getting the message!), the organization of PCA and its relation with NAA, FAI, and FAA. Fifth, organization of the College Parachute League (Do I hear any volunteers to assist us in this one???). In between time, I'll do my darndest to process your '61 memberships, revise the old forms, renew your licenses, process new memberships, answer your letters and queries, watch over the money, publish your PARACHUTIST, conduct our legal affairs, get some more publicity one-thou-sand.....two-thow-sand.....three-thou-sand..... just give me a little patience these first two months to get situated. By then I'm sure we'll be hard to beat. Thanks for your cards and letters of confidence and support and to the few that have offered their assistance.....you'll be hearing from me! In '61 let's concentrate on good landings and good landing training prior to jumping for it was poor landings that hurt us in '60!"

Cordially,

PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA



PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA

**Post Office Box 409
Monterey, California**

☐ New
☐ Renewal (check one)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to apply for membership in the Parachute Club of America and National Aeronautic Association.

Name.....Address.....
(please print)

City.....Zone.....State.....

Club Affiliation, if any.....

Date.....Signature of Applicant.....

NOTE: APPLICANT NEED NOT HAVE MADE A PARACHUTE JUMP.

Applicants who have jumped previously, please fill out the following information section.

Civilian Parachute Jumps: Static Line.....Free Fall.....

Military Parachute Jumps: Static Line.....Free Fall.....Branch of Service:.....

Additional Remarks:

Please enter my annual subscription for the PARACHUTIST and NAA magazine (if applicable) and send my membership credentials, lapel emblem, and insurance certificate immediately.

Enclosed please find my check or money order payable to the PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA, for the following:

.....PCA Dues (\$7.00) and Insurance (\$2.50)	-	\$ 9.50
.....NAA Membership	- - - - -	3.00
TOTAL	- - - - -	\$12.50

Membership and insurance privileges commence the date your application to the Parachute Club of America is postmarked and expire midnight, December 31.

DUES ARE \$9.50 PER CALENDAR YEAR OR ANY PART THEREOF AND INCLUDE MY ANNUAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PREMIUM. THIS INSURANCE PLAN IS OBTAINABLE ONLY WITH PARACHUTE CLUB OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP AND AUTOMATICALLY COVERS ALL MEMBERS.



Parachutist

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