

8° Raduno Nazionale dell'Associazione Paracadutistica "40 +" POPS Italia

Relazione del Coordinatore.

Cari Amici Paracadutisti,

Benvenuti al nostro 8° Raduno Nazionale.

Anche quest'anno ritengo doveroso all'inizio dell'Assemblea proporvi di commemorare i nostri Associati che, nel periodo trascorso dall'ultimo incontro, ci hanno lasciati; osservando un minuto di raccoglimento quale omaggio alla memoria di Rodolfo Malacorti e Giampaolo Benetti, entrambi Paracadutisti ben noti per l'attività lancistica svolta a lungo.

A Loro desidero associare quattro Amici POPS non Italiani scomparsi, incontrati sui campi di lancio in occasione dei Raduni: Gary Cullen, Neozelandese, vincitore di due medaglie d'oro nelle gare disputate durante il 10° Raduno Internazionale di Reggio Emilia, Théo Fritschy che fu organizzatore del Raduno Internazionale in Svizzera nel 2004 e José Gomez Legionario Veterano Francese; ad essi si è purtroppo pochi giorni orsono aggiunta Mireille Monin, Segretaria dei POPS Francesi, componente della formazione RW4 tutta femminile "Les Libellules", da tutti ricordata per il gioioso temperamento, il sorriso, l'eleganza della figura, e la cui scomparsa ha suscitato unanime profonda e sentita commozione in quanti ebbero il privilegio di conoscerLa.

Voglia Dio consentire a Loro tutti di incontrare sempre Cieli Blu.

Passando ai momenti lieti vissuti dalla nostra Associazione, mi è particolarmente gradito richiamare ancora una volta la Vostra attenzione e dedicare nuovamente un applauso a:

- Lamberto Serenelli, per il successo organizzativo del 10° Raduno Internazionale dei POPS, conseguito grazie al suo impegno e vincendo brillantemente avversità di ogni genere;
- Daniele Bulleri, che ha svolto il difficile ruolo di Direttore del suddetto Raduno così efficientemente da meritarsi l'assegnazione del prestigioso "POPS Personality Plate Award";
- gli Associati che, partecipando a tale Raduno vi hanno conseguito tutti ottimi risultati, e tra questi in particolare:
 - la formazione RW4, composta da Roberto Carrani, Giuseppe Malavasi, Eugenio Pizzitutti, Claudio Serafini, medaglia d'argento nella gara per squadre Nazionali, sia nella classifica per SOS che in quella generale;
 - la formazione CRW2 composta da Antonio Zatta e Vincenzo Pollon, medaglia d'oro nella propria gara;
- gli Associati ed i loro famigliari che, validamente operando come Staff durante il Raduno Internazionale, hanno dato un apporto determinante al suo buon svolgimento;
- ancora Roberto Carrani e Carlo De Martino che, nello scorso mese di Aprile, hanno fatto parte del gruppo di Paracadutisti primatisti Mondiali per grande formazione nella categoria S.O.S.

Gli Organizzatori di quest'ultima manifestazione hanno già programmato la data del prossimo tentativo. Ne riproduco il messaggio in allegato alla presente Relazione, confidando che anche in tale occasione i POPS Italiani possano essere presenti.

Porto a tutti i saluti di Renato Zaccaria e Giuseppe Malavasi, entrambi impossibilitati a partecipare al Raduno, e sono certo di interpretare il Vostro pensiero inviando Loro i più cordiali auguri di rivederli presto tra noi.

Cogliendo l'occasione della diffusione capillare di questo messaggio tra gli Associati, comunico, a quanti non abbiano già ricevuto l'avviso via e-mail:

- a) che Pat Moorehead ha dovuto cancellare il preannunciato tentativo di Record per formazione riservato ai JOES (Paracadutisti ultraottantenni) nel Novembre di quest'anno a causa delle carenze di adesioni;
- b) che la USPA, nello scorso mese di Aprile, ha emesso un documento "Action Call" che porta all'attenzione di tutti i Paracadutisti praticanti e di tutte le Zone di Lancio l'urgenza di adottare idonee procedure e comportamenti (indicati nel documento stesso) per evitare collisioni in volo a paracadute aperto; tale documento è allegato alla presente Relazione.

Rinnovo l'invito a tutti gli Associati che sono ancora privi di indirizzo e-mail di verificare se, tra famigliari, amici e conoscenti non vi fosse chi, per loro conto, potrebbe ricevere e poi fare leggere loro i messaggi di posta elettronica che, periodicamente ed in aggiunta a convocazione e rendiconto dell'Assemblea annuale, invio. La conoscenza di tale eventuale indirizzo elettronico agevolerebbe i contatti e, non meno importante, alleggerirebbe i costi dell'Associazione.

Aggiungo che i messaggi che invio agli Associati sono costituiti (oltre che da convocazione e rendiconto suddetti) da notizie paracadutistiche e da immagini che non rivestono carattere di riservatezza.

La scelta della località ove svolgere il nostro Raduno è stata fatta considerando le due candidature avanzate nella scorsa Assemblea e valutando le caratteristiche delle relative Zone di Lancio e delle loro strutture.

Al 25.06.2011 la nostra Associazione contava 237 iscritti; con un incremento di 6 unità rispetto alla data di convocazione del precedente Raduno.

Vi rendo conto della situazione patrimoniale ed economica dell'Associazione, quale risultante alla data del 25.06.11.

Nel periodo trascorso, i cespiti dell'Associazione sono stati costituiti dalle quote di iscrizione, versate "una tantum" da ciascun Associato al momento della propria adesione, dai quasi insignificanti interessi percepiti in virtù del deposito del fondo cassa sul libretto postale di risparmio numero 30162570 (che, a fronte dei pochi interessi, non ha per altro spese di gestione) e dalle oblazioni ricevute.

Rispetto al consuntivo precedente, si è avuto un piccolissimo incremento di cassa che, per altro, non consente di modificare in maniera sostanziale le considerazioni già in passato esposte sulla limitata operatività dell'Associazione che ne consegue.

Il patrimonio dell'Associazione, che è custodito dal Coordinatore, comprende un ridotto numero di beni materiali ed un fondo cassa.

Ne elenco dettagliatamente l'entità, per esigua che sia, precisando che i valori citati (quando disponibili) sono quelli "storici" e quindi corrispondono al prezzo originale di acquisto.

I beni materiali sono costituiti da:

- Un contasecondi digitale, utilizzato per la misurazione dei tempi nella gara di Hit'n Rock, del valore d'acquisto di 14,00 €;

- Una rotella metrica da 20 metri, utilizzata per il tracciamento del campo di atterraggio della gara Sport Accuracy e per la misurazione delle distanze nella gara stessa, del valore d'acquisto di 5,90 €
- 3 magliette azzurre col nostro logo, taglie L, S, S, residue dello stock approvvigionato in epoca passata, del valore complessivo di acquisto di 24,00 €
- I boccali in vetro con il logo associativo, residui dello stock approvvigionato in epoca passata, al netto di quelli che, come approvato dall'Assemblea del 2010, furono utilizzati quale simbolico omaggio ai TOP POPS di ogni Nazione partecipante al 10° Raduno Internazionale del 2010 e ad altri partecipanti di particolare spicco e significato.
- 19 serie (ogni serie costituita da medaglia per il 1°, il 2° ed il 3° posto) di medaglie per la premiazione delle gare disputate in occasione del Raduno annuale), del valore d'acquisto di 114,00 €
- Nastro e chiodi per il tracciamento del cerchio di atterraggio per la gara Sport Accuracy, del valore d'acquisto di 8,70 €;
- 10 metri di cordoncino per la sistemazione degli striscioni celebrativi del Raduno, del valore d'acquisto di 2,00 €.

I movimenti della cassa registrati dalla data (20.05.10) dell'ultimo rendiconto in occasione del Raduno di Reggio Emilia alla data del 25.06.11 sono costituiti da:

a) entrate per quote associative	€	200,00	
b) entrate per oblazioni	€	320,46	
c) entrate per interessi attivi maturati	€	8,20	
d) uscite per acquisto chiodi, nastri, cordoncino	€	15,80	
e) uscite per reintegro medaglie	€	88,00	
f) uscite per spese postali	€	233,60	
g) uscite per fotocopie, buste,, colla, raccoglitore	€	95,50	
h) uscite per rinnovo abbonamento sito Web	€	59,18	

i) totale entrate	€	528,66	
j) totale uscite	€	492,08	
k) saldo attivo del periodo dal 20.05.10 al 25.06.11	€	36,58	

Poiché la cassa al 20.05.10 ammontava ad € 880,10, la cassa al 25.06.11 ammonta ad € 916,68 ed è depositata sul libretto di risparmio postale numero 30162570.

Il patrimonio al 25.06.2011, inclusa la liquidità ma al netto del valore dei boccali, ha quindi un valore "storico" complessivo di 1085,28 €

Perdurano pertanto l'impostazione e la condotta gestionali semplici e "spartane" della nostra Associazione.

Auguro a Voi tutti Cieli Blu !

Il Coordinatore
(Bruno Imberti)

Comunicato degli Organizzatori del Tentativo di Record Mondiale per SOS

Messaggio di Carol Redding del 03.06.11:

The SOS World Record Series Event Coordinators are pleased to announce the location and dates for the 2012 SOS World Record. The 2012 event will be held at Skydive Elsinore in Lake Elsinore, Calif USA. The event will be kicked off with a SOS big way skills camp the weekend of April 14th and 15th. There will be a tunnel day at the SkyVenture Wind Tunnel located at Skydive Perris on April 17th. The record attempts will begin on Wed. April 18th and run thru Sun April 22nd. Mark your calendars – this will be the year for 60/60!!

The SOS World Record Series Event Coordinators feel it is important to all the SOS membership that you understand how this decision was reached. Back in the beginning, when many of you had yet to turn even 50, this event was called the SOS Reunion and Record Attempt. Over the years, as the event has grown it has undergone a necessary evolution. The focus of this event is now setting a new record. This shift has created many changes. These changes include the skill level required of each participant and how the event is organized. There is a big difference between getting a bunch of skydivers together to jump and organizing an event that is dedicated to setting a new World Record. While understanding that change has to take place, the SOS event has remained unique to all other record attempts in that each year we also try to maintain the “reunion” type atmosphere. SOS is the only record attempt in which if you do not have the skills to jump on the record team, you are provided with a world class coach and can continue learning and even possibly be moved up to the record team.

In 2012, the SOS World Record Series is going to be focused on attaining the 60/60. That is the mission. To that end, there are many requirements that need to be fulfilled for a successful World Record.

1. There needs to be a facility that can provide the type of aircraft we require which are a tail gate aircraft such as a Sky Van and 2 other aircraft that can hold 23 passengers. There exists this year, for the first time, the possibility based on interest that SOS might require 4 planes. We need a facility that can quickly adapt to that possibility without incurring expense ferry costs that would be difficult for the SOS participants to cover. The facility also has to have a good working relationship with Air Traffic Control so that SOS might be able to get the altitude we require to set a new record.
2. It would work in the best interests of SOS to have a “exclusivity” at the drop zone hosting the record attempts. It would not be in the best interests of SOS to be slotted in with other record attempts, boogies or other large groups.
3. The facilities must be able to have sufficient packing area and packers, onsite food and beverages, debriefing rooms, bathrooms to accommodate a large group and large open landing areas with sufficient “outs” for safe landings.
4. In addition to what the drop zone offers, there needs to be conveniently located accommodations, restaurants, camping and RV facilities.
5. The skills camp and wind tunnel day have become integral parts of the event. Again this year, we watched SOS show up to the record attempts a little rusty or needing some tune-ups and by attending the skills camp they gained the tools they needed to become competent and confident flyers. The wind tunnel is not a requirement, but we have seen the benefits the wind tunnel day has given to the participants in the record attempts, especially those who took part in the skills camp and were able to practice new training in the wind tunnel.
6. The Event Coordinators also have to keep the bottom line in mind – just what is it going to cost the SOS – any ferry fees for jump aircraft, jump prices and whether or not load organizer and video slots are comped.
7. There are many competing events that occur during the skydiving season. To allow for the maximum number of qualified SOS to attend, we need to schedule this event where we have a minimum of other large skydiving events or boogies. It would be best for SOS to hold the event in early spring before a lot of these other events, both here and

in Europe, start ramping up. There is going to be a significant increase in activity also due to the imminent 500 way. It has already been announced there will be a 253 way in Dubai in late Feb. Also, the World POPS is in July and we feel we should avoid conflict with that event.

8. And last but not least, the things that set the SOS record attempts apart from any other record attempts - is there something for non-skydiving family to do while their loved one is skydiving, is there a place for a social gathering (food, fun, beer and wine, etc.) either at the DZ or a conveniently located, reasonably priced banquet facility, and does the DZ management and staff welcome and support the SOS record attempts?

When the Event Coordinators took all of these factors into consideration, we felt it was in the best interests of SOS to return to Skydive Elsinore in 2012. For the 2011 Record Series, Skydive Elsinore comped Load Organizer and Video slots, charging \$22.00 per jumper for standard altitude exits and \$30 per jumper for exits from 18,000 MSL with oxygen. Price for individual coached Tunnel Training at Perris was discounted to \$190 for a 10-minute block. The local Holiday Inn Express housed SOS participants for \$79.99 a night which included complimentary breakfast and free Happy Hour food with beverage.

Our intent is that by sharing our reasoning, you will understand that this was not a decision that was made lightly or rashly. It was not a decision that was based on East Coast/West Coast politics. Other DZs, in many areas of the country, were considered but we felt that this decision is really what is best for the entire SOS membership.

Bill & Carol Jones

Russ & Julie Manhold

URGENT CALL TO ACTION!

Since late February, there have been five fatalities (and one critical injury) that were canopy-collision related. Every skydiver is asking the same questions: "How is this happening, and why?" It appears that skill level and proficiency are not indicators. One accident involved two jumpers with about 23 jumps each who were the only two jumpers under canopy at the time. Another accident involved a jumper with 17,000 jumps and another with 8,000 jumps, both very proficient and with very little other traffic around them.

It is time that we all accept the responsibility of ending the canopy-collision threat.

We are asking all skydivers to join in this CALL TO ACTION. Individual jumpers must follow the guidelines in the Skydiver's Information Manual that have proven to keep our skies safer when they are applied correctly. Additionally, we are asking that all S&TAs observe and correct poor habits at their DZs. We are asking that DZO's become more involved in canopy safety by establishing canopy flight rules, and safe landing patterns and landing areas. This type of accident MUST STOP, and we all can be a part of making that happen.

Jay Stokes, USPA President

SKYDIVER ACTION CALL

The time has come for us to change the way we are looking at ourselves and those around us and to insist upon a different set of outcomes. We have lost nearly 30 fellow skydivers in recent years to situations in which two canopy pilots ran into each other. Some of these accidents are attributable to jumpers executing "induced-speed" (or high-performance) landings, and others are not. There have been many different circumstances surrounding these incidents, leading to many theories about the causes and steps that can be taken to prevent additional instances. In recent months, USPA Board members and staff have had in-depth dialogue with many skydiving experts and skydivers who care. USPA is committed to canopy education and will continue working on those recommendations. Meanwhile, here are some generally agreed-upon observations, followed by suggestions, some of which can be applied by every one of us.

- Skydivers have become increasingly concerned about their personal safety. Many jumpers are experiencing a substantially increased fear of being unexpectedly, and perhaps fatally, involved in a canopy collision—being struck from behind or above by a more aggressive canopy pilot. Some have publically expressed a lack of desire to jump at drop zones that do not promote a safe canopy flying culture. It is no longer "politically incorrect" to be an advocate of good canopy-flying behavior.
- When skydivers are trained in canopy-flight techniques and (perhaps more importantly) in canopy-flight decision-making, they become better and safer canopy pilots. They make better decisions and are significantly more aware of their surroundings under canopy. Industry experts agree that improving canopy education is critical, but we also know that it takes time.

- Higher wing loadings increase risk. Canopy pilots that fly at higher wing loadings are not necessarily unsafe, but statistics bear out a higher level of threat to the highly loaded canopy pilot and those who fly in his or her vicinity. Highly loaded canopies fly more quickly and react much more radically to toggle and riser input than lightly loaded parachutes. Skydivers who fly high-performance parachutes must maintain a great deal of respect for the flight characteristics of those parachutes.
- Mixing of standard landing patterns and high-performance landing patterns is dangerous. True separation of landing areas by distance and/or time is crucial. This includes not only the final approach and touchdown zones, but also the airspace above the drop zone where high-performance and standard-pattern flyers may intermix during pattern and/or landing maneuver set-up. Simply put, we can't just paint a line down the middle of the landing area and think that it will provide adequate separation. The total three-dimensional aspect of the airspace and any potential conflicts must be thoroughly considered in the landing zone layout.
- Predictability is the key to safe landing patterns and accident avoidance. Excessive turns in the traffic pattern are exponentially more dangerous than straight-in final approaches following a 90-degree turn from base to final leg. This is true of jumpers busting out big turns to final (180s, 270s, 720s, etc.), as well as the old-school jumper doing S-turns or a braked accuracy descent down the middle of his final approach path. Both can become rapidly unpredictable and result in unexpected outcomes like low-altitude collision-avoidance turns and worse.
- Many jumpers don't pay attention to their surroundings as much as they should while flying their canopies. Everyone needs to pay attention to their environment and look out for everyone else.
- In some cases, the only way to educate is to enforce rules and provide consequences for bad behavior—especially repeated bad behavior.

Here are a couple of ideas that we can implement today. USPA is asking all members to take action to address this situation. There is something that you can do, regardless of your status on the drop zone.

Each skydiver should:

- ✓ Recognize the need to get more training, gain more knowledge and improve your canopy skills. Start now by reviewing Sections [6-10](#) and [6-11](#) in the Skydiver's Information Manual.
- ✓ In air, improve your visual scan and awareness of where others are in the sky. Look not only where you want to fly, but look for where others may be. On final approach, maintain your scan and awareness of others; don't get tunnel vision on your landing spot.
- ✓ Realize that every turn increases the chance for converging flight. When descending into the standard landing area, fly a standard pattern and continue to scan the airspace for any conflicting canopy traffic while keeping your turns to no more than 90 degrees.

- ✓ Set an example through your behavior. Become a proponent of safe canopy flight. Walk the talk, fly the pattern, and share the knowledge.
- ✓ Demand a safe canopy flight environment at your home drop zone. Talk to your DZO, S&TAs and fellow jumpers about it. Insist upon a culture of safe canopy flight.

Each DZO and S&TA should:

- ✓ Establish DZ canopy-flight rules and be certain that they are clearly communicated to all jumpers.
- ✓ Establish and utilize a method for determining and communicating landing direction on each load.
- ✓ Truly separate high-performance and standard landing areas. Consider the approach portion of the airspace and be certain that the opportunity for overlap in differing wind conditions and jump runs is minimized.
- ✓ Be certain the rules for each landing area are well established. Limit turns in the standard landing pattern to 90 degrees. Let your jumpers know that radical diving and speed-inducing maneuvers, as well as S-turns and braked accuracy approaches to the standard landing pattern will not be tolerated.
- ✓ Consider other restrictions on your high-performance landing area, and be sure that everyone knows about it.
- ✓ Consider instituting a "Canopy Safety Monitor" or "Landing Safety Officer" approach, where an experienced staff member is empowered to observe and evaluate canopy flight from the ground in order to provide immediate feedback to errant canopy pilots. This "monitor" could be an S&TA, Instructor or simply a trusted and empowered jumper. This allows the DZ to monitor and address potentially dangerous situations in real time.
- ✓ Step up your use of counseling and enforcement tools to address irresponsible canopy piloting. Your USPA Regional Director will be happy to assist with this process if it is desired.