

UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, February 20-22, 2004 Alexandria, Virginia

(DRAFT 2)
April 6, 2004

UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, Alexandria, Virginia
February 20-22, 2004

Table of Contents:	Page
1. CALL TO ORDER	3
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.....	3
3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA.....	3
4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT (MR. BANGS)	3
5. INTERIM ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.....	4
6. TREASURER’S REPORT (DR. SCHLICTEMEIER)	6
7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (MR. NEEDELS).....	6
8. SPECIAL AGENTS REPORTS.....	11
A. IPC DELEGATE (MS. LAUGHLIN)	11
9. OLD BUSINESS.....	13
10. NEW BUSINESS.....	13
A. SKYRIDE	13
11. BOD MEETING SITE SELECTION	14
12. COMMITTEE REPORTS.....	14
A. COMPETITION	14
B. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS	24
C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	25
D. FINANCE AND BUDGET.....	28
E. GROUP MEMBERSHIP	29
F. MEMBERSHIP SERVICES.....	31
G. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.....	32
H. REGIONAL DIRECTORS.....	33
I. SAFETY AND TRAINING.....	33
13. ADJOURNMENT	38
A. Attachment “A”	39

United States Parachute Association Minutes:
Board of Directors Meeting, Alexandria, Virginia
February 20-22, 2004

1. Call to Order

The President, Mr. Glenn Bangs, called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. on February 20, 2004. The Directors present included: G. Bangs, S. Butcher, J. DeSantis, D. Ellisor, J. Farrington, J. Goswitz, L. Hill, M. Laughlin, J. Meyer, M. Mullins, M. Murdock, D. Page, G. Peek, M. Perry, J. Rodriguez, R. Schachner, L. Schlichtemeier, S. Smith, L. Stapleton, D. Stewart, T. Thacker, and B. J. Worth. NAA President, Don Koranda joined the meeting on Saturday.

The President welcomed the gallery and the Directors. The members of the gallery introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

Motion 1: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting, dated June 14, 2003.”

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 2: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to adopt the agenda.”

4. President's Report (Mr. Bangs)

In my nine years of USPA Headquarters and Board involvement, I cannot remember a meeting that was so heavily oriented towards Membership Services; such as this one has been organized and scheduled. To all Committee Chairs, I apologize; the intent of this meeting is NOT to minimize your efforts, for I have had the opportunity to review your agendas, and our perennially heavily loaded Committees, such as Competition and Safety & Training are conducting business with less scheduled meeting time to allow Membership Services to complete the task they began last July, at this meeting.

By the time we conclude our meeting on Sunday afternoon, Headquarters will be provided by this Board of Directors, and led by Membership Services Committee Chair Madolyn Murdock and Membership Services Director Michelle Garvin, on how to deal with currently astronomical insurance rates that USPA has had to endure to service it's members.

We were faced with what appeared to be some very tough choices in July, but due to the diligence and work above and beyond, I am happy to say it appears that we now have some options that are still being evaluated, at this meeting, and if you pay close attention to Chris, Michelle, and Madolyn, you will probably notice what appears to be friction burns on their fingertips from working the numbers and options on the calculators from our prospective insurance quotes.

A great deal of work remains but it appears for a change, USPA and it's membership will be well served by the insurance industry!

5. Interim Actions of the Executive Committee

The following interim actions were conducted by the Executive Committee during the period of July 2003 - January 2004, and are now presented for consideration to the Board of Directors:

XC Interim Action 09/02/03

Motion 3: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to adopt and include the Advanced Canopy Flight section into the next printing of the Skydiver's Information Manual.”

XC Interim Action 09/02/03

The full board had an opportunity to provide input via email prior to the Executive Committee action on the following:

Motion 4: Passed, 19/1/1 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to waive SIM Section 2-1.D.2 “For jumps with a tandem parachute system, skydivers are to be at least the age of legal majority” for Brystal Brodenheimer and a qualified Tandem Instructor.”

XC Interim Action 09/04/03

In September 2003 the Executive Committee also voted to accept a recommendation from the Safety & Training Committee to eliminate the D License test once a USPA member had completed 500 jumps and completed all other D License requirements. The Board opposed this action and this matter was returned to the S&T Committee for further discussion.

Motion 5: Passed, 19/2 (Ms. Meyer)

“Move to refer Interim Motion 9-4-03 (to eliminate the D license) to the Safety & Training Committee.”

XC Interim Action 09/25/03

As the Safety & Training Committee believes that Jamie Wynn, B24214, has completed all requirements for a USPA "D" License, and as Jamie Wynn is presently serving as a US Army soldier in Iraq, and as it is not possible for Jamie Wynn to complete the D License application in his present situation, the following motion was approved:

Motion 6: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to immediately issue Jamie Wynn a USPA "D" License with the provision that Jamie Wynn must submit a completed "D" License application, version effective prior to September 30, 2003, no later than 30 days after his return to the United States. If the completed "D" License application is not received within that 30 days, then the "D" License issued would be rescinded.”

XC Interim Action 10/22/03

Larry Stapleton, Southern Regional Director, requested that the course fee for non-GM DZs be waived for a Coaches Course to be held at West Tennessee Skydiving.

Motion 7: Passed, 17/2/2 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to waive the non-Group Member fee for USPA rating courses for West Tennessee Skydiving.”

XC Interim Action 11/14/03

A waiver request was presented to the S&T committee, which resulted in the following motion:

Motion 8: Passed, 20/0/1 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to waive SIM Section 2-1.J.3 and 2-1.J.5 for a tandem demo into Altell Stadium, Jacksonville Florida on November 20, 2003 using a current and active D licensed jumper dressed as the Jacksonville Jaguar’s mascot.”

XC Interim Action 11/17/03

The Competition Committee requested interim action by the Executive Committee to name Sue Abreu as the Style and Accuracy Team Manager for the 2004 S&A Team that will represent the U.S. at the WPC in Croatia. Ms. Abreu did an outstanding job as the 2003 S&A Team Manager for the Mondial in Gap, France.

Motion 9: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to name Sue Abreu as the 2004 Style and Accuracy Team Manager for the 2004 WPC in Croatia.”

XC Interim Action 11/25/03

The Competition Committee requested interim action by the Executive Committee to name Debbie Wharton as the Canopy Formation Team Manager for the 2004 WPC in Croatia.

Motion 10: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to name Debbie Wharton as the 2004 Canopy Formation Team Manager for the 2004 WPC in Croatia.”

XC Interim Action 12/13/03

The S&T committee has unanimously endorsed a waiver request from J.R. Sides, USPA 71286, for the 3-year waiting requirement from the time the IAD Instructor rating is issued to instructing an IAD course. Mr. Sides is a very active instructor and Instructor Examiner in AFF, Static Line, Tandem, and IAD. He has jumpmastered 139 IAD students, 594 Static Line students, 879 AFF students, 1672 Tandems and 693 Videos. The committee feels he is well qualified to conduct IAD instructor rating courses. Mr. Sides plans to hold IAD instructor course at his DZ prior to the next board meeting.

Motion 11: Passed, 20/0/1 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to wave IRM - Green Section IAD and Static Line Instructor rating- Section 1, D, 1,a. (3 Year waiting requirement to instruct an IAD course from the time IAD instructor rating was issued to become an IAD course director) for JR Sides, USPA member number 71286.”

XC Interim Action 12/17/04

The S&T committee recommended approval of the following Interim action:

Motion 12 Passed, 16/2/3 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to waive SIM Section 2-1.J.3 for a tandem demo into Kitty Hawk NC Kill Devils Hills on December 17, 2003 for Paul Fayard and Bill Booth for non-licensed passengers.”

XC Interim Action 12/23/03

The Competition Committee requested interim action by the Executive Committee to name Jamie Lindsay as the Formation Skydiving Team Manager for the 2004 WPC in Croatia.

Motion 13: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to name Jamie Lindsay as the 2004 Formation Skydiving Team Manager for the 2004 WPC in Croatia.”

XC Interim Action 01/09/04

The Competition Committee requested interim action by the Executive Committee to name Larry Bagley as the Head of Delegation for the 2004 WPC in Croatia. Mr. Bagley has been the Head of Delegation many times in the past and has done an excellent job.

Motion 14: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to name Larry Bagley as the 2004 Head of Delegation for the 2004 WPC in Croatia.”

XC Interim Action 01/15/04

The S&T committee recommended approval of the following Interim action:

Motion 15 Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move to waive IRM Coach Syllabus Section 1.C.1.d "Assists with one complete USPA Coach Course in order to qualify as a Coach Course Director" for Roy Ritter member # 83716.”

6. Treasurer's Report (Dr. Schlichtemeier)

Investment Activities:

USPA Reserve Fund: The USPA Reserve Fund net asset value was \$927,404 as of December 31, 2003. This is a decrease in net asset value of \$138,211 from December 31, 2002. However, \$300,000 was withdrawn from the Fund during the early part of the year to fund the purchase of land at Fredericksburg, Virginia for the USPA Headquarters relocation. Considering this withdrawal, the Fund’s investment activities gained \$161,788, or 21.1% based on the minimum Fund value during 2003.

U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund: The Team Trust Fund net asset value was \$423,005. This is an increase in net asset value of \$81,530 from December 31, 2002. Contributions of \$21,947 were added to the Fund during 2003. Distributions to U.S. Parachute Teams of \$20,720 were made during 2003. Considering both distributions and contributions from the Fund yields an increase in assets from investment activities for 2003 of \$80,303 or 23.5%. Income (dividends, interest and equivalent) for 2003 was \$22,873.

7. Executive Director's Report (Mr. Needels)

Challenges for 2003 and how we did:

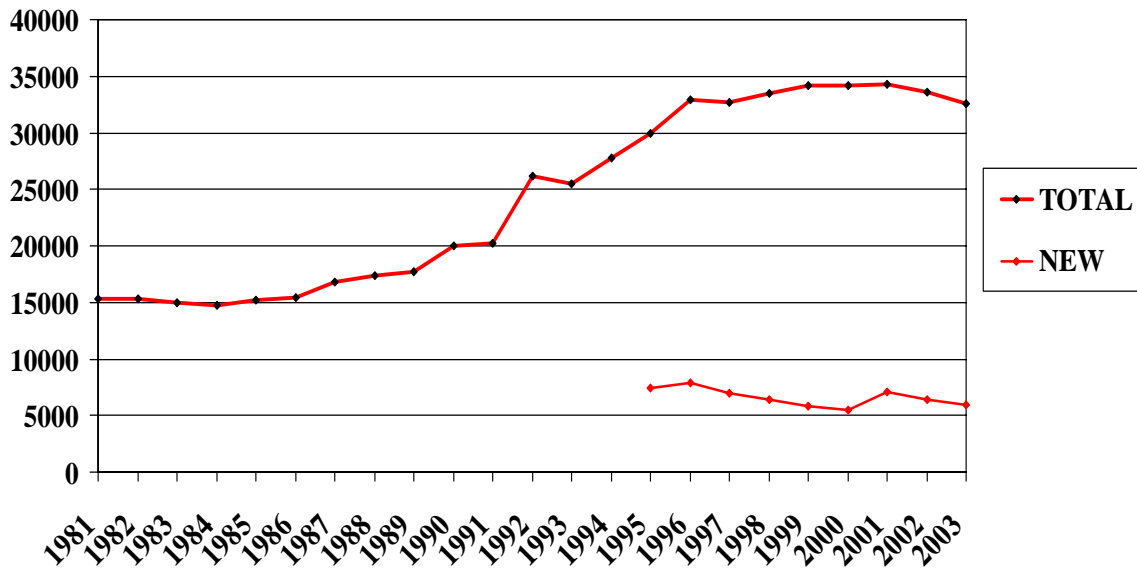
- Build a strong governance team and a cohesive association A-
- Jump start membership growth C
- Protect skydivers and skydiving operations in the new homeland security environment A
- Complete the training restructuring B
- Continue with headquarters relocations and upgrades B+
- Keep skydiving fun and the friendships strong A

Membership Services

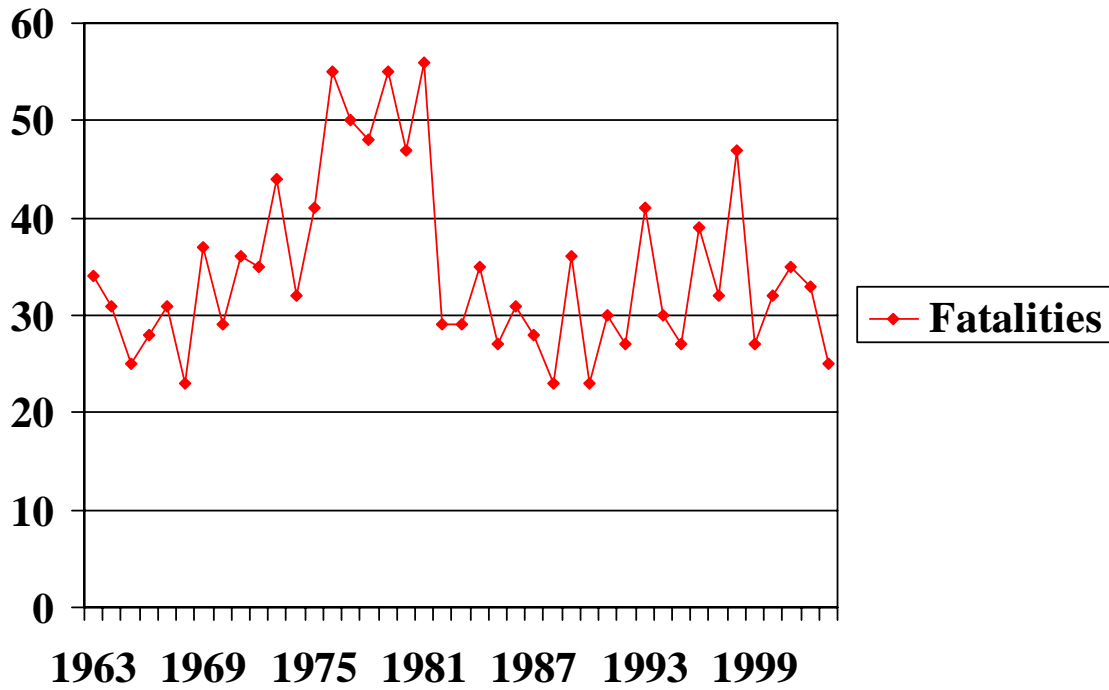
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Regular Members (Year End)	34,322	33,664	32,628
New Members	7,084	6,345	5,960
Renewal Rate	78%	79%	78%

Temporary Members	3,716	3,012	2,684
TIM to Regular	677	647	440
Demo Insurance Policies Sold	467	436	391
Awards Issued			
Tenure	2,073	2,712	2,461
Wings	492	492	394
Badges	489	529	418
RW & CRW	408	465	141
3D	0	21	3

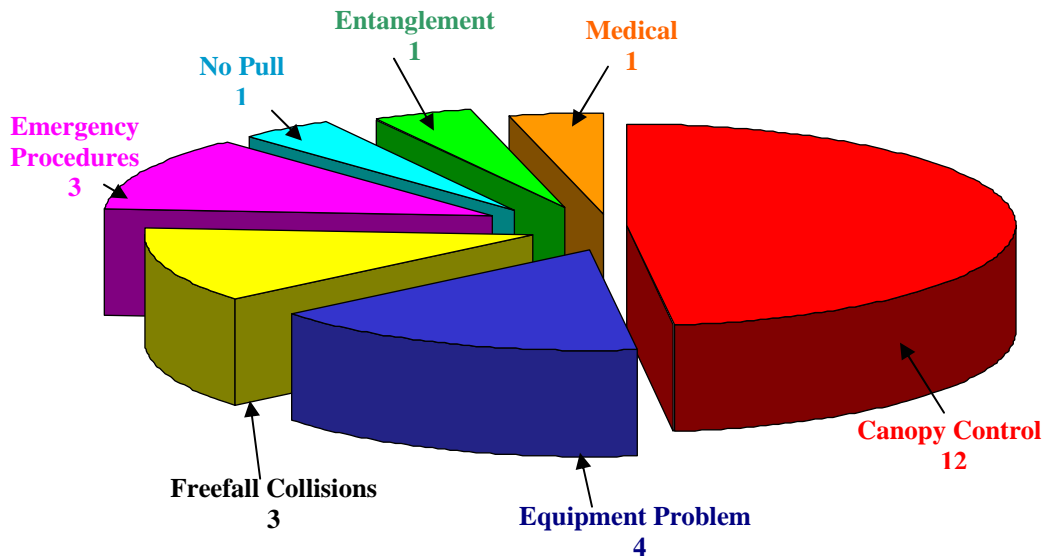
Regular Membership – Through the Years



Fatalities 1963 – 2003



Fatalities by Category 2003



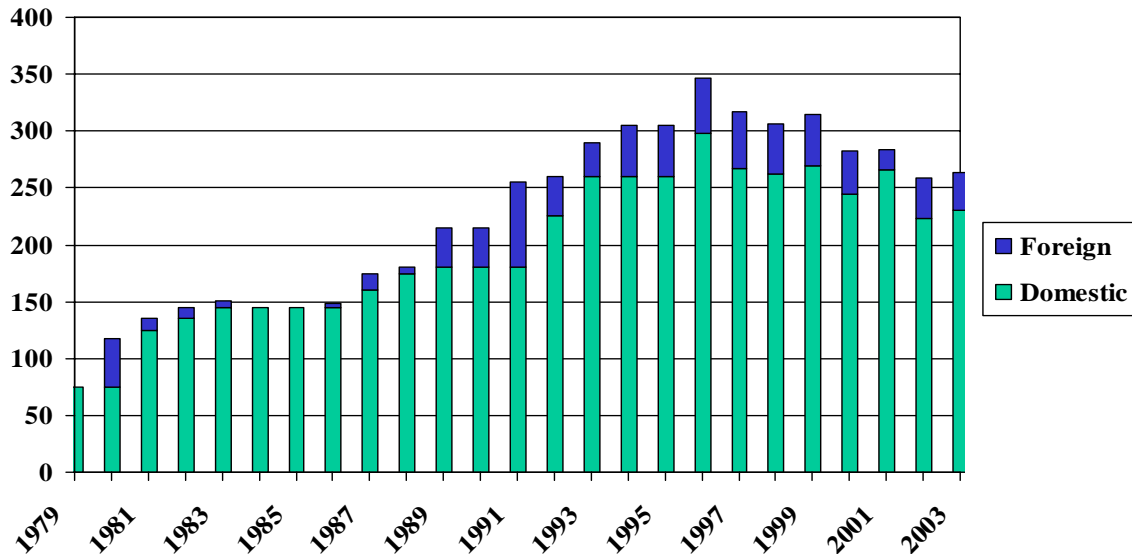
Safety & Training – End of Year

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Licenses Issued	5532	5144	6165
Coach Courses Held	52	114	130
Ratings Issued	367	620	584
Instructor Ratings Issued			
S/L and IAD	345	109	176
Tandem	294	220	159
AFF	245	208	236
Pro Ratings Issued	146	169	169

Group Membership – End of Year

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
New	19	18	26
Renewing	264	241	238
Total	283	259	264

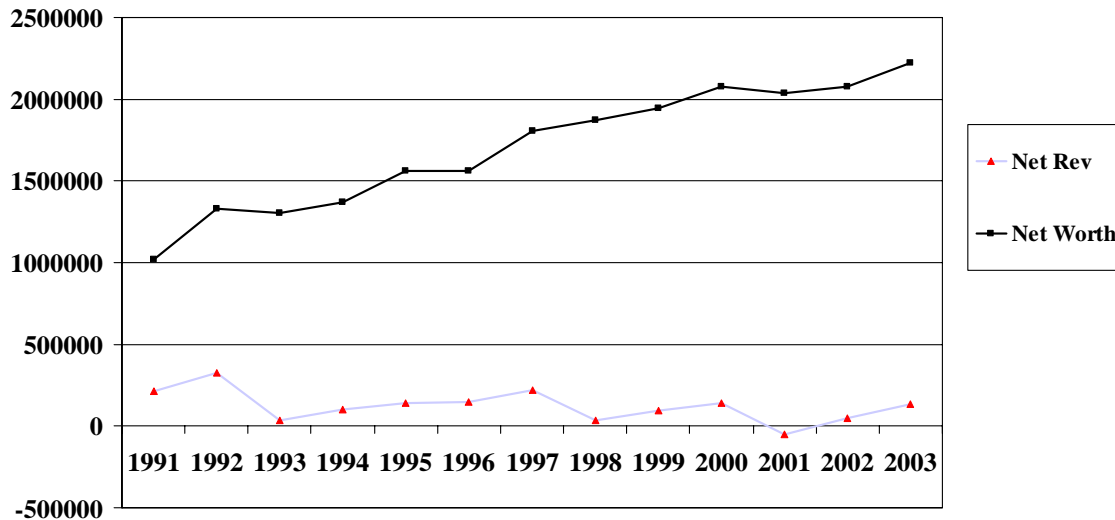
Group Membership – Since Inception



Dollars & Sense

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Net Revenue	(\$47,842)	\$51,179	\$137,621
Operating Reserves	\$303,017	\$423,714	\$354,159
Investment Reserves	\$1,095,209	\$1,065,616	\$927,404
AADF	\$93,340	\$97,248	\$88,843
USTTF	\$322,164	\$341,475	\$423,005
Net Worth	\$2,035,971	\$2,080,395	\$2,223,717

Finances – Past 11 years



Challenges for 2004

- Lessen the onerous burden of insurance
- Rejuvenate Membership Growth
- Substantially reduce injuries to canopy pilots
- Complete the instructional rating restructuring
- Protect skydivers and skydiving operations in the evolving homeland security environment
- Complete the association software upgrades
- Complete the design phase of the new Headquarters facility
- Reevaluate the USPA/NAA/IPC/FAI relationship
- Keep skydiving fun and the friendships strong

Sport Promotion – Some near-term options

- Survey jumpers and non-jumpers to find out why they do or do not jump
- Dedicate the next DZO Conference to sport promotion
- Assist drop zones with press releases through education and assistance, while establishing a press release program at the National level for broader audiences
- Re-enter into a sport promotion contract to promote the U.S. Nationals, with the goal of sponsorship and network television coverage
- Capitalize on the jump of former President Bush on his 80th Birthday
- Capitalize on the SOS record attempts
- Prepare media kits which can be used for all of the above and any other attempts which arise

8. Special Agents Reports

A. IPC Delegate (Ms. Laughlin)

The 55th Fédération Aéronautique Internationale's parachuting commission meeting was held in Lisbon, Portugal and was hosted by the Portuguese Parachuting Federation. 37 countries were represented.

Attending from the USA:

IPC Delegate- Marylou Laughlin; IPC Alternate Delegate- Larry Bagley; USPA board member Larry Hill.

Future Schedule of Events:

The IPC is returning to the two-year cycle.

- 2005- World Cup/ World Games
- 2006- Mondial/World Championships
- 2007- World Cup
- 2008- Mondial/ World Championships
- 2009- World Cup / World Games
- 2010- Mondial- World Championships

The US bid to host the World Cup of Formation Skydiving, Canopy Formation, Style and Accuracy and the Artistic Events was accepted. It will be held at Skydive Arizona in Eloy in October 2005 and will use the Mondial format.

Anti Doping:

The FAI will be adopting the WADA code on 1 April. The WADA code can be found at www.wada-ama.org

World Games:

The best of the first 5 nations plus Germany in 4 Way FS, Accuracy, Canopy Piloting, Freestyle and Freestyle will be invited to compete in Duisburg, Germany, July 2005

World Air Games:

The 2005 World Air Games have been canceled and the next possible time for the World Air Games is 2007

Style & Accuracy:

The number of rounds in Accuracy has been increased to 8 plus the semi-finals and finals. The minimum number of rounds, in Accuracy, to constitute a meet has been increased from one to five.

Canopy Piloting:

Canopy Piloting Temporary Working Group has been changed to the Canopy Piloting Committee.

The Committee is actively looking for bidders to host a World Cup in 2004. The bids need to be submitted by 1 April.

Formation Skydiving:

The videographer, in all FS events until 2006, will be allowed to be from a different nation and a different gender but the videographer will not be eligible for medals unless he/she is from the same nation and the same gender. It is also possible to replace the videographer with the agreement of the Meet Director. If this happens then the videographer will not be eligible for a medal.

The semi finals will consist of the teams with the 10 highest placings and the final round will consist of the teams with the 6 highest placings.

Canopy Formation:

The IPC CF 2 Way Rules were introduced for Nations to use at their Nationals and will be posted on the IPC website. The Committee will be evaluating the success of the 2-way event at the national level and the possibility of adding it as another CF first category event in the future. The definition of *Stairstep* has an addition and it is "this may include an additional hand grip, if desired"

Artistic Events:

Freeflying round 2 and 5 have been changed to speed rounds.

Para- Ski:

The size of the dead center disc has been changed to 3cm.

Judging:

The evaluation test passing score for style has been lowered from 90% to 85%.

The US can request the evaluation tapes so that the US judges can be tested and meet the requirement to be eligible to judge first category events.

Technical and Safety:

13 countries reported for the year 2002. There were a total of 73 fatalities in 2002 and that represents 1 fatality per 79,026 jumps made.

The 2002 IPC Safety Survey Report has been given to Jim Crouch.

Sporting Code:

The sanction fee has increased from \$25 to \$50. The increase is to cover the nominated jury and to raise money for the IPC.

Awards:

The FAI Gold Parachuting Medal was awarded to Dr. Dieter Struber of Germany. The USA's nomination of Brenda Reid for the FAI Gold Medal and Scott Rhodes for the Leonardo de Vinci Diploma was presented. Because of the Internal Regulations, the decision will be made at the next IPC meeting."

Election of IPC Officers:

President- Patrice Girardin (France)
1st Vice President- Graeme Windsor (Australia)
Vice Presidents- Rainer Hoenle (Germany)
Ronald Overdijk (Netherlands)
Treasurer- Richard Bennett (Canada)
Technical Secretary- Larry Bagley (United States)

Marylou Laughlin is Deputy Chair of the CF Committee and is an advisor to the Canopy Piloting Committee.

Larry Bagley is Deputy Chair of the Para Ski Committee and is an advisor to the CF Committee.

Schedules:

2004

Anton Malevsky Memorial Meet-Stupino, Russia, 29 June – 3 July
Accuracy Landing and 4-Way Formation Skydiving

World Cup of Champions Style And Accuracy - Kaluga, Russia, 22-28 June

WPC Canopy Formation, Formation Skydiving, Style and Accuracy –
Rijeka, Croatia, 17- 25 September

WPC Artistic Events- Brasilia, Brazil, 13-19 September

2005

IPC Plenary Meeting 2005- Jachranka, Poland, 25-30 January

WPC Para-Ski- Zabljak, Montenegro, 7-17 March

World Cup Formation Skydiving, Canopy Formation, Style & Accuracy and the Artistic Events,
Eloy, Arizona, 23-29 October

2006

WPC Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events, Gera (Thuringen), Germany,
5-11 August

The current rules will be available at www.fai.org/parachuting.

9. Old Business

There was no old business.

10. New Business

A. Skyride

Jan Meyer addressed the full board regarding websites/domain names that are representing themselves as actual DZs. The complaints received by several Board members were discussed. Cary Quattrocchi addressed the Board on behalf of Skyride. This issue will be addressed further in the Group Member committee.

11. BOD Meeting Site Selection

Motion 16: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)

“Move that the Winter 2005 USPA Board of Director’s Meeting be held in Jacksonville, Florida in conjunction with the DZO Conference and PIA meetings.”

12. Committee Reports

A. Competition Committee

Chair: Marylou Laughlin
Members: Larry Hill
Madolyn Murdock
Danny Page
Scott Smith
Tony Thacker
BJ Worth
Larry Bagley (Director of Competition)
Advisors: Don Ellisor, Richard Schachner

SCM Section 1 - General Section (Thacker)

It was mentioned in a couple of After Action Reports that the Meet Director also needs to select a Chief Pilot. The Chief Pilot is mentioned in SCM but there is no area where a Chief Pilot is selected.

Motion 17: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“Move to add, ‘f. Select a Chief Pilot to Section 1-1.3A3.’”

In Section 1-1.3: Management of Competition, the wording for the judge’s ratings should be changed.

Motion 18: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“Change the wording of SCM 1-1.3:B.2.b. from, ‘All judges must be USPA-rated National or International Judges’ to ‘All Judges must be National or International Judges.’”

With the increased jump numbers for license changes last September 30th License requirements in the SCM also needs to be updated.

Motion 19: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“Change SCM section 1-1.4: that all events requiring a D license be changed to a C license and to change all events requiring a C license be changed to a B license with over 100 jumps.”

The following motion is for clarification regarding the status of a team with a guest competitor or a competitor who either competed in any other country’s national championships (other than a U.S. citizen jumping at another country’s nationals as a guest competitor) or represented any other country at an FAI-sanctioned World Cup or Championship.

Motion 20: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“Change SCM 1-1.4:E to read, ‘If any member of a team is ineligible for medals or participation on a US Team, the entire team is ineligible.’ And the old paragraph “E Meet management... should be lettered F.”

At the last meeting the Comp Committee reported out on an interpretation regarding wind tunnel use during the Nationals and that promised a motion for this meeting.

Motion 21: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“Change SCM 1-1.6:B. to read, ‘Once an event begins, no competitor in that event will be permitted wind tunnel use, training or fun jumps.’”

It was discussed that if there is only one competitor, not including guest competitors, in an event that there is no competition and that no medals should be awarded.

Motion 22: Passed, 19/1/1 (Mr. Thacker)

“Change wording of SCM 1-1.15:A to, ‘For all USPA competitive disciplines, appropriate medals or other suitable recognition are presented annually for places first through third to each individual titlist in the individual events and each team member in the team events, not including guest competitors, except:’ and also add paragraph ‘3. If only one enters the event, no medals will be awarded.’”

SCM Section 2 – Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing (Thacker)

SCM 1-1.6G addresses jump order. The intent of this motion is to eliminate “reverse order” and “using final results of Team Accuracy during the last US Nationals.”

Motion 23: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“Change SCM Section 2-1.2B1, to read, ‘Individuals will jump in draw order at the beginning of the rounds.’ Change 2-1.2B2, to read, ‘Rounds nine and ten will be individual accuracy jumps.’ Delete SCM Section 1-1.2B3 – 6.”

Section 2-1.2J3b specifies the artificial pit, which can only be a foam tuffet. To help with competition and DZ’s management an air tuffet should also be an option. With an air tuffet, compressibility is not a factor.

Motion 24: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“Strike in 2-1.2J3b, ‘an artificial pit’ and replace with ‘a foam or air tuffet’ and delete in 2-1.2J3b, ‘(3) compressibility: 0.15-0.20 kp/sq cm.’”

In the event of a tie in Style and Accuracy there was no rule dealing with breaking of the tie.

Motion 25: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Thacker)

“To add paragraph 3 to 2-1.4B and 2-1.4C, ‘In the case of a tie in the top three places, the tie will be broken by a jump off round. If the tie still exist there will be co medals awarded.’”

SCM Section 3 -Para Ski (Hill)

It was discussed at the last meeting to eliminate the Para Ski event as a National event due to the lack of interest in the event and the inability to find hosts for the event using the established rules. It will still be possible to select a team to represent the United States at the world level if there are members desiring to attend a world meet by using section 11. This motion will require housekeeping action to eliminate the reference to Para Ski from the other sections of the manual. This will be done during the rewrite of the manual:

Motion 26: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Hill)

“Eliminate the Para Ski event as a Nationals event.”

SCM Section 4 - Canopy Formation (Hill)

The IPC has posted a set of CF two-way rules on the website for nations to use at their nationals and local competitions. The committee will review, at the July meeting, the input from local meets using these rules and decide whether a two-way CF test event should be added to the US Nationals.

There was only one change made to the IPC rules that requires a motion to bring our rules in line with the IPC. There was a change to add wording for the determination of the time awarded in the 8-way event. The rest of the other changes were minor changes to the wording of the rules. These changes will be reflected in our rules as minor housekeeping changes. The following motion is made.

Motion 27: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Hill)

“Change 4-1.13: Judging and Recording to add D5. The wording will be the same as IPC rule 6.2.5 (ref IPC, CF, 6.2.5)- If 3 scores fall within a 3-second spread, the score for that jump is the average of these. If only 2 scores fall within a 3-second spread, the score for that jump is the average of the two with the third score discarded. If no scores fall within a 3-second spread, then the Event Judge shall consult with the judging panel to determine whether there is an actual time of completion for the formation. In this case, additional viewing may be used.”

At the 2003 IPC meeting in Brazil the rules were changed to remove the 30-second time limit on the ending of canopy formation activity and to replace it with an altitude of 2500 feet. This was not incorporated in our 2003 rules because the meeting followed our winter meeting. The following motion is made.

Motion 28: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Hill)

“Change 4-1.9A to read, ‘All forms of Canopy Formation jumping must cease by 2500 ft.’ (Ref IPC, CF, 4.2.4).”

SCM Section 5 – Formation Skydiving (Page)

The committee discussed SCM Section 5-1.3 Team Composition, Paragraph: E. There are two separate issues in play regarding this rule.

- 1) The “player coach” issue was discussed at length. The majority of the committee believes, at this time that “player coaches” are a net benefit to the sport. However, the committee will continue to monitor the impact of these participants in this event.
- 2) The “defend your title” issue was also discussed. A dialogue was had about permitting a team one opportunity to defend their title. An additional discussion occurred regarding relaxing the rule to allow former champions the possibility to compete in that category after a three-year hiatus from that event.

In the end, largely because the rules regarding this event have changed every year since its inception, the committee has opted not to change any language in this rule at this time.

A “house-keeping” measure. SCM Section: 5-1.11: Judging and Recording, Paragraph: A, Sub-paragraph: 2. The wording of this rule is going to be relaxed to state “The intermediate class of events and 10-way will be evaluated by a minimum of three judges.”

This motion is to reduce number of team members on a 16-way formation skydiving team from the current number allowed by the rules of 19 down to 18; 16 competitors, an alternate and a videographer. The reality is; this event is usually composed of pick-up teams. Therefore, teams almost never have 19 registered team members. Motion to follow:

Motion 29: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)

“Move to change SCM Section: 5-1.3 Team Composition, Paragraph: C to read: ‘16-Way: Each team may consist of up to 18 members, including a videographer, but is eliminated from competition if, for any reason, it is cut to 15 or fewer members and a videographer.’”

This motion is to clean up the language regarding how penalties are applied to a jump with consecutive infringements. Currently, if a team has an infringement while executing an inter, and then goes on to build the second formation of the block incorrectly, this mistake is actually judged to be two separate infringements. The way the rule reads, the team should actually receive two infringements, for a total of minus three (-3) points added to their score for the two perceived errors. This language change is an effort to remedy this difficult to read and apply rule. Motion follows:

Motion 30: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)

“Move to change SCM 5-1.9: Scoring, Paragraph: A, Sub-paragraph: 3, sub-paragraph b, to read, ‘If an infringement in the scoring formation of a block sequence is carried into the inter this will be considered as one infringement only, and only one point will be deducted, provided that the intent of the inter requirements for the next formation is demonstrated and no other infringement occurs in the inter.’”

This motion is to add the definition of what a “center-point” of a sub-group is. The IPC recently added this definition to their rules. Motion follows:

Motion 31: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)

“Move to add the following definition to SCM Section: 5-1.10: Definitions, Paragraph: D, Sub-paragraph: 6 to read, ‘A subgroup's center-point is the defined grip, or the geometric center of the grips within the subgroup.’”

If a judge requests to view a jump, or a portion of a jump, for a third time, the rule currently requires that that viewing be played all the way to the freeze frame. By adjusting this language, the event judge will be given the discretion to stop a viewing of a jump as soon as the requesting judge has satisfied his or her uncertainty. Motion follows:

Motion 32: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)

“Move to change SCM 5-1.11: Judging and Recording, Paragraph: D, Sub-paragraph: 2 to read, ‘At the end of working time, the freeze frame of the image will be applied to the first two viewings. An optional third viewing will be at the discretion of the Event Judge.’”

This motion is to permit the formation skydiving event judge the option of additional viewings of a 16 way jump as many times as necessary to derive a satisfactory score. The 16 Way event has a great deal of activity happening on the screen that may cause the need for the additional viewings. Motion follows:

Motion 33: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)
“Move to change SCM 5-1.11: Judging and Recording, Paragraph: D, Sub-paragraph: 4 to read. ‘In the 4-, 8-, and 10-way events, the judges may view each jump a maximum of three times at normal speed. In the 16-Way event, optional viewings may be allowed at the discretion of the Event Judge.’”

This motion is to add language into the administrative and judging notes of Section 5 of the SCM to permit the event judge to abort and reinitiate a judges' viewing of a performance if; interrupted for any reason, i.e., power failure, noise disruption, or any unforeseen exigencies that prevent the judges from making a fair assessment. This is a request from the chief judge's after action report from the 2003 US National Parachuting Championships. Motion follows:

Motion 34: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)
“Move to add the following statement to SCM Section 5-2: Administrative and Judging notes: Paragraph F: Other Comments, Sub-paragraph 1 to read: “The event judge is permitted to abort and reinitiate the judging panel’s viewing of a performance if; the viewing has been interrupted before the freeze frame, i.e., power failure, startling noise disruption, or any other unforeseen significant distraction that would prevent the panel from making a reasonably fair appraisal.”

This motion is to add language into the administrative and judging notes of Section 5 of the SCM to remind panel judges to refrain from talking during an evaluation. Motion follows:

Motion 35: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)
“Move to add the following statement to SCM Section: 5-2: Administrative and Judging notes: Paragraph F: Other Comments, Sub-paragraph 2 to read: “Judges may not discuss a competitor’s or team’s performance until; 1) either all the judges have completed their assessment of the jump, or; 2) the Event Judge initiates a discussion.”

SCM Section 6 – Artistic Event (Smith)

The turnout for the intermediate class in Skysurf and Freestyle has declined over the last few Nationals. The committee felt that combining Open with Intermediate would improve the events by having one full class of competitors instead of two that do not have much participation. This discussion resulted in the following motion:

Motion 36: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Smith)
“Move to eliminate Intermediate Skysurf and Intermediate Freestyle

There is a safety issue with intermediate skysurfers using an advanced size board. To address this the committee decided to eliminate the board size requirement since that is not a competitive advantage. However the committee still wanted to require that a skysurfer use a board that met the international competition standards in order to qualify for US Team status. This discussion resulted in the following motion:

Motion 37: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Smith)
“Move to allow any size board but to qualify for US team status, the competitor must jump the board in Nationals that meets international standards.”

The committee discussed the future of the Open Skysurf event at the US nationals. The number of participants in the Skysurf competition has declined and the committee looked at whether it

should continue to be a Nationals event. It was hoped that eliminating the intermediate class would solve the problem of having a competition that did not even award all of the medals. As a result the committee decided not to eliminate the event at this time.

Several changes were made to the rules in the artistic events at the recent IPC meeting. Tamara Koyn has already done quite a bit of work to help integrate these rules into the competition manual. The committee decided to have Scott Smith review this work and the IPC changes and make sure that Section 6 of the SCM reflects the most recent IPC rules. This resulted in the following motion:

Motion 38: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Smith)

“Move to update Section 6 of the SCM to reflect the changes made to the Artistic Events rules at the recent IPC meeting.”

SCM Section 7 - Collegiates (Page)

The committee discussed the historical development of Section 7 from the old Part 50. Larry Bagley will make an effort to research the USPA file system and if the documents are found, the gaps in the current Section will be filled as a “house-keeping” measure. No substantive changes to the rules are anticipated.

The committee discussed changing the status of Freestyle at the National Collegiate Parachuting Championships from a test event to a sanctioned (medal) event. It was determined that the rules for the event are still in the developmental stages; specifically regarding the dive pool, the working time, and the elimination of head-down transitions, so it would remain as a test event for the 2004 Collegiate Nationals. Scott Smith will make the necessary adjustments to the Freestyle Test Event rules.

This motion is to change the status of sport accuracy at the National Collegiate Parachuting Championships from a test event to a sanctioned (medal) event. Sport accuracy has been a test event at the National Collegiate Parachuting Championships since 2000. The rules are sufficiently developed and the level of participation in this event is adequate to warrant a new separate event category. Motion follows:

Motion 39: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)

“Move to add Sport Accuracy Event to SCM Section 7. This event will be conducted in accordance with the rules used at the 2003 NCPC meet. The necessary administrative adjustments to Section 7, using the current rules, will be supervised by Larry Bagley, with the following direction:

1. There are no separate classes for this event.”

This motion is to add a Team Accuracy Landing event category to “Classic Accuracy” event at the National Collegiate Parachuting Championships. During the competitor’s meeting at the 2003 National Collegiate Parachuting Championships it was determined that there is sufficient interest to add this event to the competition. Motion follows:

Motion 40: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)

“Move to add Team Accuracy Landing Event to SCM Section 7. The necessary administrative adjustments to Section 7, using procedures established in SCM Section 2-1.2 as a guide, will be supervised by Larry Bagley, with the following direction:

1. Each round consists of a team of four competitors making sequential precision approaches as described in Individual Accuracy Landing.
2. There are no separate classes for this event.

This motion is to change the National Collegiate Parachuting Championships random pool, from the current ten (10) randoms to the current USPA Section 5 random dive pool. This change incorporates the remaining six (6) random formations in the into the National Collegiate Parachuting Championships draw. This came from the competitors meeting at the Collegiates. Motion follows:

Motion 41: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Page)

“Move to adjust SCM 7-2: National Collegiate Dive Pool, 4-Way Random Formations to reflect the pool in SCM 5-3.2: Formation Skydiving Dive Pool, 4-Way Random Formations.”

SCM Section 8 – Judging (Murdock)

Materials for the Formation Skydiving Judges Certification Course are in place and have been tested in courses. Tamara Koyn is developing similarly formatted course materials for Artistic Events and will test these materials by holding an AE Judges Certification Course this summer in Eloy to test the materials. Lori Bartless-Harness has agreed to work on a Canopy Formation Judges Course. The dates will be announced.

The committee will also be attempting to fine-tune a method for Judges to report their currency to USPA.

The shortage of judges was discussed again and it was agreed that a concentrated marketing effort was needed to attract judging candidates. We will be working with HQ on the possibility of ads and articles on judges and judging, and prominent announcements promoting courses.

SCM Section 9: Sport Accuracy (Hill)

The team event in sport accuracy has proved to be difficult for the meet management to administer. Jeff Stienkamp the founder of the event supports the elimination of the team event. After discussion it was decided to eliminate the team event. The elimination of this event will require this section to have all reference to team sport accuracy removed at the rewriting of the manual. The following motion is made:

Motion 42: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Hill)

“Remove Team Accuracy from the Sport Accuracy event”

It has become necessary to establish an additional circle around the target area to serve as spectator line so that the competitors and judges can have a clear area to work in. The following motion is made:

Motion 43: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Hill)

“Add to 9-1.9B A second circle at 20-meters in radius from the target should be marked as a spectator line.”

There is no current method to break a tie in this event. The following motion is made:

Motion 44: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Hill)

“Add to 9-1.11A In the case of a tie in the top 3 places the tie will be broken by a jump off round. If the tie still exists there will be no medals awarded.”

SCM Section 10 - National Site Selection (Murdock)

Some errors in the altitudes were noted in Section 10 that are in conflict with the event sections. These were determined to be clerical errors that will be corrected at the next printing of the SCM.

The committee discussed the 2004 National Championships and it was decided that there would be no change to the published dates. It was also determined that Canopy Piloting should remain a test event at the 2004 National Championships.

SCM Section 11 –US Teams (Smith)

Due to the fact that no 2004 Team Managers had been named the US Team members were not announced at the conclusion of their events at the US Nationals. Because the teams never formally received this recognition the committee discussed placing an article in Parachutist Magazine naming the 2004 US Skydiving Teams. The committee is looking in to changing the SCM regarding the process of naming of the US Teams so that the team may be named on-site at the US Nationals.

Lee Schlichtemeier reported to the committee on the investment results of the US Team Trust Fund for 2003. The Committee discussed the establishment of a US Team member contract that would include the withholding of the US Team Trust Fund distributions until after the World Meet and all the conditions of the contract have been met. The committee decided to table discussing the amount of the Team Trust Fund distribution and the US Team Contract until the July BOD Meeting.

Freely coach and organizer Brian Buckland expressed an interest in serving as AE team manager for the WPC this year in Brazil. He has the support of many of the US Team members in these events. That resulted in the following motion:

Motion 45: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Smith)

“Move to appoint Brian Buckland as 2004 US Artistic Events Skydiving Team Manager.”

The committee had decided to eliminate Para-Ski as a Nationals event. This then necessitated the need per SCM Section 11-3 to sanction a competition or competitions to select the team to represent the US at the Para-Ski WPC. It was proposed to use the results from the Canadian Nationals for this purpose. On further discussion it was then suggested that we allow competitors to compete in any countries nationals or any Para-ski meet that is run in accordance with IPC rules in order to qualify for the US Team. At the summer 2004 Board meeting the comp committee will recommend to the BOD selections for the 2005 US Para-Ski Team based on results sheets submitted by competitors. This led to the following motion:

Motion 46: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Smith)

“Move to sanction any countries 2004 National Para-Ski Championships or any other Para-Ski competition that is conducted in accordance with IPC rules and takes place before the summer of 2004 Board Meeting, to select personnel to represent the U.S. as a Special Team at the 2005 WPC of Para-Ski.”

DeLand Majik approached the board to be sanctioned to compete in an IPC Category One Event, the Anton Malevsky Memorial Meet. They were invited by the host and are qualified to represent the U.S. per the requirements of Section 11 of the competition manual. Arizona Airspeed had also been invited to compete. It was discussed that for Arizona Airspeed to be sanctioned to compete they would have to meet the requirement of SCM Section 11. This led to the following motion:

Motion 47:

Passed, 21/0

(Mr. Smith)

*“Move to sanction **DeLand Majik** (Graham Harding, Joey Jones, Doug Park, Shannon Pilcher, Gary Smith, Solly Williams) and **Arizona Airspeed** (John Eagle, Craig Girard, Mark Kirkby, Neal Houston, Steve Nowak) to compete in the 2004 Anton Malevsky Memorial Meet in Russia.”*

Missy Nelson petitioned the board to be sanctioned to compete in Freestyle at the WPC in Brazil. Ms. Nelson explained in her letter that due to the death of her father and an injury that her teammate incurred they were not able to train and compete as they had done the previous year. The committee denied Missy Nelson’s request. The committee based their decision on SCM Section 11 which clearly states that the US Team is chosen from the results of the US Nationals.

SCM Section 12- World Records (Worth)

At the last Board meeting, an ad-hoc committee was appointed to address the possibilities of USPA certifying and archiving national records. This ad-hoc committee was composed of Larry Bagley and Chris Needels (representing HQ), Madolyn Murdock (representing Membership Services), Marylou Laughlin (representing Competition Committee) and myself. As Chair of this ad-hoc committee, I added the topic of certifying State records as well as National records. We met and discussed this matter and reported the following to the Competition Committee.

The committee first addressed the general pros and cons, and determined the following reasons for and against USPA implementing a program to certifying state and national records:

Pros:

- USPA is the national body representing and serving the US skydiving community
- USPA is best qualified to determine which potential record categories are most pertinent
- USPA has the in-house expertise implement & maintain the record certification program
- Generate member satisfaction: Would probably be seen as a positive service to the members
- Could stimulate skydiving events and activities in the field
- Generate positive PR: Would likely generate interest in USPA’s website by members & non-members
- Could probably be implemented at no cost to USPA

Cons:

- Could cause friction with NAA – due strictly to perceived financial considerations
- Could require an inordinate amount of staff time to implement, service & maintain program
- Criteria used to qualify for records could be controversial – members may not agree on criteria
- May not generate positive revenue for USPA (could be offset if program generates positive PR value)

The ad-hoc committee believes that implementing a record certification program would be a positive membership service, and would generate skydiving activities, and state-to-state competition. In turn, the Comp Committee supports this recommendation and recommends that USPA headquarters actively determine the parameters required to implement such a program – including financial considerations, staff time, and website implications.

The following is recommended by the Comp. Committee:

Changing the name of Section 12 of the SCM to “State, National and World Records”

Start the record certification program small and build program to address full compliment of record categories.

Initially, limit program to large formations: Canopy formation, Head down freefall formations, and traditional FS freefall formations.

Develop a “grandfathering” policy to be able to recognize existing record performances – if all the qualification parameters can be met.

Follow FAI procedures, deadlines, etc. as much as possible (so as not to re-invent the wheel)

Qualification process:

State Records: One Regional Judge & one official observer (S&TA, GM DZO, BOD Member, HQ Official)

National Records: One National & one Regional Judge

Participant qualification:

Desired that 51% of participants on state records be residents of state (not practical)

Proposed: Must be USPA members and have certificate of proficiency or show proof of foreign equivalent

Fee:

Charge minimal certification fee per participant (to cover costs of implementing and maintain program)

Proposed: \$10/participant for state records, \$20/participant for national records (not based on HQ input)

Provide the following for each record that is certified

Record Certificate from USPA

Webpage listing record category, date, location, names of participants, photo taken during record event

Certification Process: All electronic: down-loadable forms, on-line application, on-line payment, Eventually, it is proposed that record certification program will include all FAI/IPC record categories, plus any additional record categories that the Comp. Committee approves.

Additional record categories could include such categories as: Most # of jumps in 24-hor period, highest freefall speed, etc.

Recommend that the proposal for this record certification program, and the related proposed parameters, be presented on the USPA website with request for input from the members – once HQ can determine the recommended parameters. This website proposal would be prepared by a joint effort between Competition Committee and HQ.

Request straw poll by Board members to support the further development / analysis of this record program. (It is intended that a motion to establish this program will be presented at the July '04 Board meeting – and that the program will be implemented as soon as possible thereafter.)

I would like to thank the members of the ad-hoc committee for their help in addressing this issue.

SCM Section 13 - FAI / IPC (Worth)

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Florida Skydiving Center in Lake Wales, Florida, to submit a bid to the IPC for USA to host a World Cup of Canopy Piloting at the Florida Skydiving Center in October / November 2004. DZO Betty Kabeller-Hill is prepared to submit the filing fee of \$100 to USPA Headquarters, and the filing fee of \$1000 with the IPC, per the process for submitting bids to host IPC events designated in Section 13. The Committee unanimously agreed to submit the following proposal to the board:

Motion 48: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Worth)

“Move that USPA submit a bid to the IPC for USA to host a World Cup of Canopy Piloting in 2004, to be organized by Florida Skydiving Center, based on the bid submitted to USPA at the February 2004 Board of Directors meeting by Florida Skydiving Center.”

Point of discussion: USPA HQ will prepare the IPC bid form and submit it to the IPC.

Canopy Piloting (Smith)

The committee decided not to make canopy piloting an official event this year and to have the CP competition at the Nationals in Perris be held as a test event. After discussion it was reported out that:

1. Canopy piloting will be part of the Nationals as a test event.
2. Scott Smith will adapt the CP rules passed at the recent IPC meeting for use in the Open class.
3. The courses will be the same as the 2003 IPC-Go Fast World Cup of Canopy Piloting.
4. Individuals who are not already qualified at the pro level on an established swooping tour will have a method of qualifying on site.
5. Intermediate rules and qualification procedures will be developed that emphasize safety.
6. These rules will be available for posting on the USPA web site by May 1st.

The Committee will decide based on the dates of the 2004 World Cup of Canopy Piloting whether the results from the US Nationals will be used to choose the US Canopy Piloting Team or if the location, for the meet, will need to go out for bid.

B. Constitution and By-Laws

Chair: Mike Mullins
Members: John Goswitz
Gary Peek
Jan Meyer
Scott Smith

(4). Howard Hughes

Motion 53: Passed, 14/0/1 (Schlichtemeier abstained) (Mr. Bangs)
“Move to suspend the membership and ratings of Howard Jeffrey Hughes, USPA member number 91030, for a period of one (1) year for the membership, and a period of three (3) years for the instructional ratings.”

c. Southern Region Section 1-6 Actions:

(1). Marion Sid Sweatt

Motion 54: Passed, 15/0 (Mr. Bangs)
“Move to revoke for life the membership and ratings for Marion Sid Sweatt, USPA member number 84965.”

(2). Ricky Paul Kohnke

Motion 55: Passed, 15/0 (Mr. Bangs)
“Move to ban for life, the renewal of membership and ratings for Ricky Paul Kohnke, USPA member number 102142.”

(3). Charles Edward Staten

Motion 56: Passed, 15/0 (Mr. Bangs)
“Move to suspend the membership for a period of sixty (60) days for Charles Edward Staten, Jr., USPA member number 176048.”

(4). Mathew Federer

Motion 57: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Bangs)
“Move to suspend for a period of thirty (30) days, the membership of Mathew Federer, USPA member number 148936.”

Further action will be warranted against the Assistant S&TA, but Notice of Violation in accordance with Governance Manual Section 1-6.5.B must be followed and will be presented in accordance with published guidelines of the above-mentioned section.

3. USPA member Paul Gundlach from the Central Region petitioned to have his membership reinstated, but at the recommendation of Regional Director Gary Peek the suspension for falsifying his rating renewal and the USPA Freely Award was upheld.
4. The Headquarters Relocation Task Force is now incorporated into the responsibilities of the Executive Committee. All future issues dealing with the ultimate relocation of USPA's Headquarters will be dealt with and through the Executive Committee.
5. Headquarters Relocation
As a BOD we have approved the Capital Improvement Budget for the Headquarters up through Phase II; Headquarters needs new facilities with or without a museum, and it is my recommendation to the Full Board that we continue to move forward with the plan to have a new Headquarters building in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with a tentative ground breaking set for 2005.
6. Insurance Decision

The Executive Committee spent two hours yesterday (February 21, 2004) getting questions answered by the agent providing the quote for our risk policy option, and not to steal any of Madolyn's or Doc's thunder, you are all going to be shocked by the information they are going to present.

7. Corporate Liability

The Executive Committee discussed USPA's last and most recent lawsuits, with one that is currently under litigation. Suffice it to say that our Director's and Officers Liability Policy deductible has risen to \$15,000.00 per occurrence, which will require an allocation of that amount from our reserves to be made by the Treasurer and the Executive Director.

8. USPA Impact with the FAA NPRM

In the FAA's attempt to streamline and privatize its operations, the FAA is seeking to create an Organization Designation Authority (ODA), designees authorized to conduct certain FAA functions such as issue STCs, certificates for riggers, demo jump applications and processing, seating capacity onboard aircraft in the 6,000 pound category or carrying 20 or more passengers. The deadline for comments is May 5, 2004; Headquarters needs "lots of eyes" looking at these proposals and the NPRM can be accessed from a link on USPA's website.

9. Sport Promotion

This is an item that has appeared on many agendas at this meeting, and our Regional and National Directors need to get the ideas and thoughts of the DZOs as to how USPA can find/attract/generate more member interest.

10. USPA/NAA/IPC/FAI

"Big Brother" has finally invaded skydiving in the guise of WADA (World Anti-Doping Administration). Because skydiving aspires to become an Olympic Event, we as a sport, are bound to follow the FAI/IPC lead in ensuring drug free competitors participating in ALL aerospots, and will be required to submit a pool of competitors for random drug testing up to 30 days before any international aerial competitions. More information will be provided by USPA's IPC delegate, Mary Lou Laughlin.

11. Interim Actions Notification

All Executive Committee interim actions will be copied to the full Board and the Executive Director and copied to disc for the next and all future BOD Meetings.

As we arrive for our bi-annual BOD Meetings, we do so with, for the most part, friendship, respect, and cordiality.

During the conduct of our meetings there is much debate, discussion, dialog and exchange of countering points of view, which in my observation has never been conducted more competently, courteously, and professionally, even when there is "much heated debate that produces nothing."

You are all truly the membership's advocates and I thank you and the awesome efforts of the Headquarters Staff for your representation of the membership!

D. Finance and Budget

Chair	Lee Schlichtemeier
Members:	Don Ellisor Larry Stapleton Richard Schachner
Ex officio	Glenn Bangs
Executive Director	Chris Needels

1. Review of 2003 financial results: Presented by Chris Needels and reported in Executive Director's report. Mr. Needels will prepare a brief summary of the 2003 financial results to be published in Parachutist. This is intended to be repeated on an annual basis although its format and efficacy will be periodically evaluated.
2. 2004 Budget: Discussed and accepted. Presented to plenary session during Committee report:

Motion 58: Passed, 21/0 (Dr. Schlichtemeier)

"Accept the document marked 'USPA Annual Operating Budget – 2004 DRAFT' as the 2004 USPA Operating Budget."

3. Information technology update and budget: Presented by Chris Needels. The changeover to new association software is proceeding as well as could be hoped because of the dedication and efforts of Headquarters staff. The remaining items to be paid for are within the original budget and do not require additional capital improvement budget allocations.
4. Third party liability insurance programs: This item was coordinated with and discussed both within this committee meeting and more comprehensively in Membership Services Committee. See Membership Services Committee report for details and required motion.
5. Audit: USPA is converting from cash basis accounting to accrual basis accounting during the 2004 calendar year. The association software changeover includes accounting software changeover. We are currently scheduling an audit to occur as of the end of 2004. This is on schedule but payment for the audit will not occur until 2005. Since the changeover occurs gradually during the calendar year 2004, monthly financial reports will include pooled information from both cash and accrual basis accounting.
6. Accrual basis accounting conversion: See above item 5.
7. Investment results: USPA Reserve Fund and U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund results were presented by Lee Schlichtemeier and are reported in the Treasurer's Report.
8. Headquarters relocation status & budget: This item was presented by Chris Needels and is reported in the Executive Committee and Executive Director's reports. Expenditures budgeted for 2004 are \$49,000 and are itemized in the HQ Relocation Budget. Discussed and accepted unanimously. Presented to plenary session during Committee report.

Motion 59: Passed, 21/0 (Dr. Schlichtemeier)

"Allocate \$49,000 for the Headquarters relocation project. Expenditures to be coordinated with similar progress on the Museum project."

9. Sport promotion: Chris Needels presented information for discussion regarding resumption of sport promotion activities and funding. No actions were taken.

E. Group Member Committee

Chair Jess Rodriguez
Members: Larry Hill
 John DeSantis
 John Goswitz
 Jessie Farrington
Advisors: Ed Scott – Director of Group membership
 Danny Page

Group Membership Committee Meeting was held on Friday, February 20, 2004.

Voting members attending were: Myself, Larry Hill, John De Santis, John Goswitz and Jessie Farrington. Danny Page advisor, Ed Scott, Director of Group Membership and several general members were also in attendance.

Old business

Ed Scott brought the committee up to date on the following:

1. Virginia Liability Bill - Virginia State Legislation to provide limited liability for skydiving has past the general assembly and now is on it's way to the Virginia State Senate for consideration. Prospects look good for passage; USPA intends to use this as a model for other states in future.
2. DZ Insurance Summit - Several attorneys and insurance agents have agreed to work with USPA for potential solutions for lack of general liability insurance for skydiving. USPA hopes to obtain several ideas how to convince airports to let skydiving occur without meeting some airports insurance requirements. The anticipated time for this meeting is March or April the location has not been decided.

New business

1. Sport Promotion - Group Membership Committee all agreed that USPA staff should conduct surveys to help obtain ideas for sport promotion.
2. DZ Wavier for USPA Courses - There are currently two requests for wavier of the course fees to conduct a USPA certification course at a Non-Group Member Drop Zone. The committee voted no on both requests. The first request was for a course to be held in Finland, the committee voted 3 to 2 not to allow the course fee to be waived.

On the second request for a course to be held by Skydown Skydiving, the committee unanimously voted to deny the request based on the Regional Director's information that there is a Group Membership Drop Zone on the same airfield and another GM DZ only 30 miles away.

A continued discussion by this committee for eliminating the fee for holding USPA courses at Non-Group Membership Drop Zones was conducted and no change was made.

3. Group Member Manual - Adoption of the Group Member wording in the GM manual was discussed among the committee. The heated discussion regarding the current verbiage of the GM manual section 1-4A yielded nothing out of committee.

The idea of the topic was to simply bring the manual in line with the current program, however, in reading the changes the committee was split on the word “or” in the following sentence, “Foreign DZs comply with USPA BSRs “or” comply with that country’s aviation and or aviation aeroclub’s regulations relevant to skydiving operations”.

Some in the committee felt the “or” should be “and”, to make the foreign DZs comply with USPA BSRs. There was vigorous discussion regarding this word and whether the Foreign GM DZs are following the BSRs anyway. Out of committee the straw poll was split to change anything or even adopt the new manual wording. Members of committee could not be swayed to change their minds in either direction. By doing nothing the GM manual remains out of date and is not practical to send it out to new or renewing GM DZs.

4. Drop Zone Marketing Practices - Jan Meyer provided the committee with a concise detailed picture of the negative advertising practices being done by “Skyride” and the Atlanta Skydiving Center and its impact on USPA and the skydiving community.

In response to the membership’s concerns and requests for something to be done by USPA, the committee all agreed that the deceptive advertising techniques were unacceptable and that a strong letter of disapproval be written by USPA staff and sent to ASC and “Skyride”.

I would like to thank Jan for her fine work.

5. Temporary Membership Term - Temporary membership currently expires after 45 days, the new database at USPA does not automatically calculate 45 days. A 30-day Temporary membership was proposed to solve this problem. An e-mail survey of the GM DZs was conducted and no objections were made.

Motion 60: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Rodriguez)

“To change the temporary membership to a calendar month term.”

6. DZO Conference - USPA proposes that it sponsor a DZO Conference along with the biannual PIA Symposium, next January 14-19, 2005 in Jacksonville Florida. The committee all agreed that this was consistent with the previous practice and that it was a good idea to do so.

7. Cloud Clearances - Kapowsin Air Sports has proposed that FAA test the application of a clear of clouds requirement for skydivers at their DZ in lieu of the current FAR requirements. Kapowson desires a motion indicating USPA support for the test. The committee discussed the idea and agreed to support the test.

Motion 61: Passed, 19/1/1 (Mr. Rodriguez)

“USPA support a test of the proposed Kapowsin clear of cloud program.”

I would like to thank my Committee members for their teamwork.

G. Membership Services

Chair Madolyn Murdock
Members: Don Ellisor
 Jan Meyer
 Richard Schachner
 Lee Schlichtemeier
 Larry Stapleton
 Djan Stewart
Advisors: Bill Ottley
 Larry Bagley

While there were numerous items on our agenda, all but insurance were tabled to allow us to focus on this very important and time critical issue of import to all 34,000+ members.

Since the 2003 Summer Board Meeting we have reviewed the insurance options available to us such as commercial, risk retention, captive insurance, self-insurance or indemnification programs. These options were discussed during committee conference calls and we also studied all of our insurance claims, both individual liability and demonstration claims over the last 10 years. We reviewed and considered input from our members and Headquarters staff met with numerous insurance agents.

Since the quotes from some carriers were received just hours before the start of this meeting most of our time for the past 3 days have been spent in comparing the quotes and coverage available. This was one of the most well attended Membership Services Committee meetings that I can recall. Thank you to all the Board Members who attended the meetings, participated in the process, and assisted in analyzing the information presented to us.

Some carriers would not write demo policies while others included them with the individual policy or as separate premiums. The quotes varied and included plans with very large deductibles, which equated to self-insurance with catastrophic coverage, and plans that required a heavy administration burden on Headquarters.

While the committee would like to ultimately move to a self-insurance situation, it was finally determined that it was not financially feasible at this time. We have chosen to go with an agent that has experience in aviation and currently writes policies for ICAS performers (International Council of Air Shows) and will lower our overall insurance costs and enable us to continue to provide both individual liability and demonstration insurance to our members. One of their requirements would be an increase in the qualifications for obtaining demonstration insurance. We will be negotiating with the agent and carrier on finalizing those requirements, which will be fair to all and reasonable to verify and administer.

The committee will continue to explore our options for re-insurance in the future, which will allow us to move closer to a self-insurance position.

I would like to apologize to other Committee Chairs for encroaching on their time during this meeting and to thank the members of the Membership Service Committee for your focus and hard work during this meeting and for the past 6 months. The committee is grateful to Michelle

Garvin, USPA Director of Membership Services, for her capable research, and organization that allowed us to have these insurance options available to us.

Motion 62: Passed, 13/5/2 (Ms. Murdock)

“Move to enter into an agreement with Insurance Technologies and Programs to provide individual liability insurance and demonstration insurance to our members effective march 1, 2004. The proposed policy cost and coverage to be as presented to the Board at the February 2004 meeting.”

H. Nominations and Elections

Chair: John Goswitz

Members: John DeSantis
Lee Schlichtemeier
Larry Stapleton
Sherry Butcher
DJan Stewart

Advisors: Madolyn Murdock, Larry Bagley, Chris Needels

The committee received a rewrite of section 3-1 of the Governance manual from Headquarters for review. This rewrite was based on the changes made at the last meeting and the items on the agenda for discussion at this meeting. We spent time going over the document and making corrections to it. A motion will follow concerning this matter. We also reviewed section 3-2 to see that it was in agreement with 3-1. A motion will follow concerning this matter.

We also discussed the part the USPA web site will play in the upcoming election. Starting on November 1, 2004 the site will contain the election material to include the candidates Bio's & photos along with a copy of the ballot. The material on the site will be the same as what is published in the November issue of Parachutist.

Motion 63: Passed, 14/0/1 (Mr. Goswitz)

“To accept the rewritten document Section 3-1 of the Governance Manual to include the handwritten changes.”

Motion 64: Passed, 14/0 (Mr. Goswitz)

“To make the following changes to USPA Governance Manual Section 3-2 Director Candidate Biography Form:

Change Section 3-1.2B2b to Section 3-1.4E as stated in the paragraph on the front of the form.

Remove the words ‘other Personal Information or’ located at the top on the back of the form.

Replace paragraphs two and three located at the bottom on the back of the form with the following:

‘When a candidate provides a personal statement with the Biographic form, it should be typewritten or printed clearly to be reproduced in Parachutist. Because of space limitations, candidates are urged to include only significant facts and to be as brief as possible.

The USPA Nominations & Election Committee is empowered by USPA Governance Manual Section 3-1.6B and 3-1.6C to edit the biographical information and personal statement to meet space limitations, to provide uniformity of verbiage and presentation, and avoid the appearance of misstatement of facts. However, some or all statements are subject to exclusion of the 250 word maximum is exceeded.’’

I. Regional Directors

Chair Tony Thacker
Members: All Regional Directors
Advisors: All National Directors

The Regional Directors met on Saturday, February 21, 2003, 9:00 AM Alexandria, VA

Almost all RD’s were present, it was not a full meeting due to extra meeting time for some committees was necessary, and the meeting started at 9 AM.

John Goswitz brought up meeting with S&TAs.

Jessie Farrington brought up Safety Day emphasis should be more on Canopy landing and off DZ’s landings. The conversation continued about other safety day ideas and encouragement.

Richard Schachner brought up two items: DZ waivers, and the RD being notified. It was discussed that many RD’s are not notified of the waivers. Jim Crouch then offered to email the Director when a waiver was accepted/denied as a form of RD documentation.

Richard then brought up how to approach Bill Booth and the under age Tandem. Richard will meet with Bill and determine at a later date if RD action is necessary.

It was a full meeting as it concluded at 10:00 AM and many things were brought out.

Thanks to all the Regional Directors for doing such a good job.

J. Safety and Training

Chair Mike Perry
Members Mike Mullins
 Jessie Farrington
 Sherry Butcher
 DJan Stewart
 Jan Meyer
Advisor Mike Turoff
HQ Director Jim Crouch

Several Individual Waiver requests were considered resulting in the following motions:

Motion 65: Passed, 16/4 (Mr. Perry)

“Move to waive SIM 7-2B1c ‘have at least 500 jumps on a ram air canopy’ for G. Edward Dixon Member number 98602. Mr. Dickson is seeking a PRO Rating. He has 750 total jumps, 300 on a ram air and 450 on rounds.”

Motion 66: Passed, 20/0 (Mr. Perry)

“Move to waive IRM Section 1D1a, ‘has held a USPA Instructor rating in the appropriate method rating (IAD or Static Line) for at least three years’ and IRM Section 1D2a ‘have conducted at least 100 student jumps in that method’ for James Keeney member number 101872 to permit him to act as an IAD course director.

Mr. Keeney holds SL and tandem IE, AFF IE, Static Line I and coach course director ratings. He has dispatched hundreds of static line students and 30+ IAD students.”

Motion 67: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Perry)

“Move to waive IRM Sec. 1F1(b)(1) ‘acted as an instructor on 15 AFF student jumps within the previous 12 jumps’, IRM Sec. 1F3(a)(3), conduct (i) one category C evaluation jump, and (ii) one Category D evaluation jump for Stephen Erickson member number 88722, and issue a restricted (ground training only) AFF I rating. Mr. Erickson previously held an AFF I rating. He was in an accident that resulted in his inability to skydive. He wishes to reenter the instructional field in a ground training role.”

Motion 68: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Perry)

“Move to waive SIM section 3-1E1 ‘pack own main parachute’ and SIM section 3-1E2d ‘documentation of live water landing training with full equipment in accordance with the procedures in the SIM’ for Akiko Takabayshi, member number 160003 to permit her to obtain a C license.

Ms. Takabayshi suffers from motor dysfunction in her arm and leg that prevent her from being physically able to pack or safely perform live water landing training.

Akiko Takabayshi must wear floatation gear when the intended exit, opening, or landing point is within one mile of an open body of water (an open body of water is defined as one in which a skydiver could drown). [S]”

Motion 69: Passed, 21/0 (Mr. Perry)

“Move to waive IRM IAD/SL Section 1D1a, and Section 1D2a in order to conduct IAD Certification Courses for Mike Turoff.

Mike has been an active I/E in the region for 21 years, conducting S/L and Coach courses at regular intervals. He has held an IAD rating for two years. There are an insufficient number of IAD students to meet the 100 student requirement in his area. No other IAD rating holder in the Gulf Region is qualified to perform this service. (Current IRM requirements are 3 years as a rating holder and 100 actual student jumps in that method.”

Motion 70:

Passed, 21/0

(Mr. Perry)

“Move to waive IRM AFF Sec. 1F1(b)(1) ‘acted as an instructor on 15 AFF student jumps within the previous 12 months’, IRM IAD and Static-Line Sec. 1F1(b)(1) ‘acted as an instructor for 10 IAD or static line (per rating) and five freefall students who have not yet been cleared to freefall self-supervision,’ IRM Tandem Sec. 1F1(b) ‘If more than 180 days have elapsed since the rating holders last tandem jump, the rating holder must log two jumps with a tandem parachute assembly’ and, IRM Tandem Sec. 1F2(b)(1) ‘acted as a tandem instructor on a minimum of 15 tandem jumps within the previous 12 months, including one within the previous 90 days’ for Hitoshi Yamada, member #77975 and issue restricted (ground instruction only) AFF, SL, Tandem IE ratings. Mr. Yamada is a lifetime USPA member. He was in an accident that left him confined to a wheelchair.”

John Filippi requested a waiver to the requirement to have 3 years in the sport to obtain a Tandem Instructor rating. He was informed by email that this was an FAA requirement, which would need to be pursued through the FAA.

Kim Forrester requested a waiver to the requirement to hold an instructor rating for 3 years and participation in coach courses to become a Coach Course Director. The committee did not see a hardship and elected not to forward the request to the full board.

Discussions of the current waiver request forms revealed some shortcomings. As a result the waiver request form will be modified to include notification of the appropriate regional director and to indicate the requester should allow a minimum of 10 days for waiver request processing

Discussion Issues

PRO Rating and Demo Insurance – With the focus of this board meeting being third party and demo insurance the committee blocked time to discuss this issue as necessary. We were requested to suggest language to be included in the demo insurance describing minimum requirements for each category of landing area. The committee decided that the language already present in section 7 of the SIM was appropriate

The policy of automatically renewing the an instructional rating of an individual that has held the rating for less than one year when their renewal comes due was discussed and resulted in the following motion:

Motion 71:

Passed, 21/0

(Mr. Perry)

“Move to eliminate the Auto Rating Renewal practice.”

The committee had a brief discussion of the capabilities of the New HQ software and its abilities to support S&T initiatives. The largest benefit is the ability of HQ personnel to make a change to a person’s rating in only one location and all appropriate databases will be simultaneously updated.

A discussion making the IRM available for download was tabled pending further research on our ability to safeguard the information and the financial impact of such and action.

While discussing Wind Limits for Tandems the committee decided the Tandem instructor and DZO are in best position to make the decision about wind conditions.

The Staff proposed development of an advanced canopy control courses using information and advice from canopy manufactures and top canopy competitors. The Committee endorsed this idea and encouraged the HQ to continue development of a proposed course.

A motion previously approved by the committee and the executive committee was returned to the S&T committee for reconsideration. The motion was to eliminate the D license test once a USPA member has completed 500 jumps and completed all other D license requirements.

This motion was defeated in committee. Mr. Mike Mullins was in favor of this motion and requested this be noted in these minutes.

While discussing the license test issue it was decided the entire license test procedure should be examined. As a result a sub-committee to examine and make recommendations with regard to the license test program was formed.

Dave DeWolf addressed the committee to discuss policies he believes have a negative impact on Cessna DZs. The committee addressed some of these issues but realizes that improved communications may prevent misunderstandings. The committee thanked Mr. DeWolf for his time and dedication to the sport. We will continue to examine and evaluate his comments. These comments are included at the end of this report. (See Attachment A)

Ratings and Appointments

The committee received an update of the development of a “Train the Trainers Course” From Rob Laidlaw. He reported on the pilots conducted to date and changes resulting from each.

The Chair discussed a meeting he held with headquarters staff with regard to the Train the Trainers Course. It involved identifying what we currently have in the role of certifying new instructors and where we need to go. The Chair revisited this with the committee for their comments.

We currently have a rating called Instructor Examiner. This legacy rating was once the rating required to train and certify new instructors. Due to a shortage in IE’s and the need to expand our instructional base seasoned instructors were permitted to conduct Static line instructional rating courses. With the development of AFF and Tandem training methods it was recognized that specialized skill that were not held by all IE’s were needed to certify instructors in these training disciplines. USPA established Course Directors to meet the need of training instructors in these disciplines. Course Directors were appointed and the title was not considered a rating.

What we need is a rating holder who has been trained and demonstrated the skills necessary to conduct instructional rating courses. These skills include but are not limited to the following: staff management, conflict resolution, adult education theory, learning theory, group facilitation, skill analysis, evaluation techniques, course administrative requirements, and demonstrated skill in the method specific training for the course to be conducted.

The committee agreed with this assessment and continued to endorse the development of the “train the trainers course”

The Committee addressed the issue of naming the rating and the course. A consensus was not met but we agreed to continue to refer to the course as the “Train the Trainers Course” until formally named. We endorse using that title in publications describing the goal of the course development and to promote the pilot courses. We request headquarters staff use all available publications to notify potential candidates of the pilot courses.

In discussing the need for an annual AFF Standardization Meeting the following motion was forwarded to the Full Board.

Motion 72:

Passed, 21/0

(Mr. Perry)

“Move to change IRM AFF Section ID1e from ‘attended the annual AFF Standardization course’ to ‘attend the biennial AFF Standardization course held in conjunction with the PIA symposium.’”

Follow on to AFF incidents

A concern by Jim Wallace and John DeSantis that the SIM does not require Reserve side main handle on student hand deploy rigs was discussed by the committee. The committee decided that a problem did not exist and that the lack of a reserve side activation handle for hand deploy was consistency with the lack of the same requirement for ripcord activated student rigs

A suggestion by Jay Stokes to institute instructional rating renewal certification jumps - follows was discussed. A sub committee of DJan Stewart and Jan Meyer will look into this issue and report back at the next meeting

A discussion of PRO Ratings using high wing loaded canopies requiring a new PRO rating requirements for faster parachutes was discussed. A Sub Committee of Jessie Farrington and Jim Crouch will look into this issue and report back to the committee.

The Relative Workshop has requested that USPA track Tandem Type Rating. The subject was tabled until HQ staff could evaluate the impact of such and action.

Djan Stewart identified Coach Rating and A license Proficiency card sign off requirements may not be clear. The Staff will publish in DZO incoming and S&T newsletter clarification to item #2 of the Coach Rating Course Proficiency Card to indicate real students need not be used to meet this requirement.

The committee received 2 requests for appointment as AFF Course Directors. One request was not received until the meeting started and was not considered. The second was not forwarded to the full board for consideration.

The committee discussed our ability to maintain standardization of instructional rating courses. We decided that audits of selected courses could be an effective method of maintaining that standardization. Procedurally it was decided that a course director would be notified in writing of any courses that may be audited.

Jessie Farrington briefed the committee that the GM Committee will be bringing a motion to support Kapowsin “Clear of clouds” test period.

Due to an interim action removing the requirement for a D license test and the subsequent reinstatement of said test it was decided time was needed to develop the new test and those who received D licenses during the period the test was not required should be grandfathered. This resulted in the following motion:

Motion 73: Failed, 8/13 (Mr. Perry)
“Move to waive the D license test requirement from 1 October 2003 through 30 September, 2004.”

Motion 74: Passed, 19/2 (Mr. Perry)
“Move to waive the D license test requirement from 1 October 2003 through 31 March, 2004.”

14. Adjournment

Motion 75: Passed unanimously (Mr. Smith)
“Move to adjourn.”

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 P.M. on Sunday, February 22, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Madolyn Murdock, Secretary
March 17, 2004

Attachments: “A”

Attachment "A"

Comments to S&T Committee Presented by Dave DeWolf USPA - S&T MEETING

USPA is not just leaving the Cessna DZ's behind, policies developed by the present staff has probably been a big part of the reason why our membership is not increasing.

3 comments heard at the Maytown DZ and I am sure we are not alone are:

- USPA is being run for and by the large DZ's of the group membership.
- Decisions made by USPA have more to do with benefits for the staff and their friends then the general membership.
- USPA is trying to put small DZ's out of business.

We all hope that the above is not true, but actions speak louder than words.

When USPA took away the JM rating and decided that all former JMs would be require to show free fall skills to continue putting out SL students they in one shot alienated many small DZs and for sure a lot of older members who if it were not for them, there would be no USPA. So a lot of them dropped their rating and so took a lot of the fun of this sport away from them. According to Chris Needles a lot of older members were not renewing and he said there would be a study on why. I wonder on how much money he wasted on this study and was the reason we did not hear the results was because USPA was the reason.

So after this "mistake" we are told that that now present JMs are automatically made Instructors and do not even have to give any classes. However those that had dropped their rating were not automatically reinstated. But for new people you must be an I to put out a SL or IAD student. There is no reason why you need flat free fall skills to hold a SL or a pilot chute. You have made it harder for the small DZs to stay in business.

Example: Dave Waight, Ex conference Director, Thousands of jumps, has put out SL students for at least 20 years that I know and done a great job. He only does accuracy and is very good at it. Under today's regs would not be able to be a JM.

Accuracy types, people who just like to jump, and some Free fly people are eliminated from helping out at the DZ, because that is how Cessna DZs exist, by people helping out, not people who make their living in skydiving.

The cost of the mandatory coach system is probably the biggest reason for our membership slow down. It may work for some DZs, but it sure does not work for all DZs. I think that any DZ can charge whatever they want for any service they provide. The truth is that the large DZs have been doing this for years. It is their choice.

To say that the ISP is just suggested methods is not true. Small DZs are fearful of being sued. Anything that requires a waiver to change is pretty much a law, especially in the eyes of a lawyer. But who can grant this waiver? The S&TA can do this. Do you really expect these volunteer persons to put themselves in the liability position that this waiver will do? Why not the DZO? So the DZO wants to change something and now must ask the S&TA to OK it. Something is wrong here.

Before the ISP, when a student could get cleared off of student status much sooner. They could then jump with anyone. Our DZ, like many others, made sure that they jumped with people who could continue to train them. Now they must jump with a coach or instructor until they have an A license. This is an extra financial burden on the student and a resource burden on the DZ.

At a USPA meeting we were told that the ISP was initiated by a request from one person who needed guidance on running his DZ. This was not a mandate.

Why is there not a lot of AFF at Cessna DZs? Small DZs do not have a lot of full time people. To have only 6-7 Course directors is criminal. To monopolize this job for the financial benefit of a few people is also leaving the small DZs behind. If course directors were local and could run an AFF course for say 3 consecutive week ends and not have they or the applicants loose time at work and not have the students pay for their flights and motels, what a wonderful thing that would be.

In conclusion: It's hard to believe that any student who says I will pay 70-90 for a training jump ever had much problem getting people to jump with. As long as we keep people safe and having fun, we are doing our job. The small DZs need the flexibility to do just that. USPA has taken away that flexibility.