

Southeast Regional Director Candidates

Acronyms

Ratings And Appointments

| | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| AFF | Accelerated Freefall | ERCD | Examiner Rating Course Director |
| IAD | Instructor-Assisted Deployment | PRO | Professional Exhibition Rating |
| SL | Static-Line | S&TA | Safety and Training Advisor |
| TAN | Tandem | CE | Coach Examiner |

T-Trainer, I-Instructor, E-Examiner (e.g., SL-I=Static-Line Instructor, TAN-E = Tandem Examiner)

Judges

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| AE | Artistic Events | SP | Speed Skydiving |
| AL | Accuracy Landing | WS | Wingsuit Flying |
| CF | Canopy Formation | JE | Judge Examiner |
| CP | Canopy Piloting | | |
| FS | Formation Skydiving | | |

R-Regional, N-National, I-International (e.g., AE-N=Artistic Events National Judge)

Awards

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| CCR | Canopy Crest Recipient | CCS | Canopy Crest Soloist |
|------------|------------------------|------------|----------------------|

Toby Adams

City, State: Cedartown, GA
Age: 39
Profession: Retired Army Veteran/
Pilot/Photographer
Year Joined: 03/15/2021
Total Jumps: 200
Jumps Past Year: 10
Licenses: A-99444, B-61970
**Current USPA Ratings Appoint-
ments:** NJ, RJ
Awards: Not Reported



Hi, I am Toby Adams and I'm asking for your vote for Southeastern Regional Director. I care deeply about our skydiving community and the people who make it what it is. Over the last six years in the sport, I've only logged around 200 jumps, but more importantly, I've built a real appreciation for the friendships, discipline and responsibility that skydiving demands. As a retired Army veteran, service has always been a major part of who I am. I understand what it means to put people first, to listen and to lead with integrity. Those values continue in how I approach skydiving and how I would represent you as Regional Director. I don't claim to know everything, but I do know how to work hard, learn from others and stay committed to a mission. I'm currently working toward becoming a jump pilot, which gives me an even broader perspective on our sport and the many roles that keep it safe, strong and growing. What matters most to me is serving the members of USPA to the best of my ability. I want to be someone you can talk to, someone who will take your concerns seriously and someone who will represent the Southeast with honesty and common sense. We all want a sport that is safer, stronger and welcoming for the next generation of jumpers. If you want someone who believes in service, values community and is ready to work for you, I'd be honored to earn your vote.

Cody Doster

City, State: Statham, GA
Age: 42
Profession: IT Specialist
Year Joined: 05/18/2019
Total Jumps: 1050
Jumps Past Year: 350
Licenses: A-93620, B-53430, C-51359,
D-42955
**Current USPA Ratings Appoint-
ments:** S&TA, AFF-I, TAN-I, Coach
Awards: 1,000 Jump Wings



As an active skydiver in our region, I understand both the opportunities and challenges facing our drop zones, instructors and fun jumpers. I am committed to promoting safety, supporting growth and strengthening communication between members and leadership. My focus will be on advocating for DZ needs, encouraging participation and ensuring policies reflect the realities of our diverse community. I believe in transparent leadership and making myself accessible to hear your concerns and ideas. By working together, we can continue to build a stronger, safer and more connected skydiving community. I would be honored to represent you and serve our region with dedication and integrity.

Erick Kinney

City, State: Deltona, FL
Age: 42
Profession: Not Reported
Year Joined: 04/21/2014
Total Jumps: 3500
Jumps Past Year: Not Reported
Licenses: A-70536, B-40707, C-43208,
D-36998
**Current USPA Ratings Appoint-
ments:** Coach, TAN-I
Awards: Not Reported



Erick R. Kinney brings deep operational, instructional, and manufacturing expertise to the USPA Southeast Regional Director position. A U.S. military Parachute Rigger for over two decades, Erick earned numerous military accolades and civilian commendations. He served as a Military Freefall Jumpmaster Instructor—one of only three certified by U.S. Special Operations Command to teach the USAF course started in 2017—and later supported an elite Guardian Angel reserve unit at Davis-Monthan AFB, coordinating air operations and delivering advanced military freefall training. For over a decade, Erick has served as Operations Manager for multiple parachute, SAR and life-support manufacturing facilities. As president of a longstanding skydiving equipment manufacturer, he leads research, development, testing and evaluation of safety-critical products for sport/experimental aircraft, tandem systems, military applications, emergency bailout, urban air mobility, electric propulsion and unmanned aerial systems. Erick is multi-manufacturer tandem rated and brings current, hands-on insight into both equipment manufacturing and skydiving operations. Centrally located in the Southeast Region (DeLand, Florida), he is well-positioned to represent the diverse needs of drop zones, instructors, competitors and members across Georgia and Florida. Erick is committed to transparent governance under Robert's Rules, advancing safety standards, maintaining strong FAA relations and delivering practical, member-focused solutions that support the growth and integrity of skydiving in the Southeast. Erick Kinney – Dedicated to excellence, safety, and service in the skies.

Robert Laidlaw

City, State: Deland, FL
Age: 72
Profession: Skydiving Coach and Trainer
Year Joined: 09/01/1992
Total Jumps: 24450
Jumps Past Year: 40
Licenses: D-32405
Current USPA Ratings Appointments: AFF-E, AFF-I, CE, ERCD
Awards: USPA Gold Medal for Meritorious Service 2016



I am running for Southeast Regional Director on the United States Parachute Association Board, focused on strengthening our sport through education, leadership and long-term development. The Southeast is one of the most influential regions in skydiving—globally recognized for training, innovation and progression. It brings together deep experience and a new generation shaping the future. That balance requires strong, forward-thinking representation. My skydiving career spans more than 50 years, beginning as a static line jumpmaster. I have made over 24,000 jumps, competed at the world level in both 4-way and 8-way formation skydiving, and participated in multiple world record events. Coaching has been central to my career, with decades spent developing skydivers, instructors and examiners. As founder of Skydive University, I have focused on advancing how we teach and develop performance. I recently contributed to the rewrite of the 2025–2026 SIM, the 2026 IRM, and the EEM—work that confirmed we are just beginning to modernize skydiving education. If elected, I will prioritize grassroots development and retention, with a clear emphasis on training standardization, real coaching and integrity in leadership. Not surface-level standards, but consistent, measurable systems that produce competent, confident skydivers. Skydiving is strongest when we invest in people and build systems we trust. I would be honored to represent the Southeast and help lead what comes next.

Allison Reay

City, State: Deland, FL
Age: 39
Profession: Test Jumper and Parachute Project Lead
Year Joined: 09/14/2004
Total Jumps: 11,800
Jumps Past Year: 300
Licenses: B-28792, D-29867
Current USPA Ratings Appointments: AFF-I, Coach, IAD-I, PRO, SL-I
Awards: Not Reported



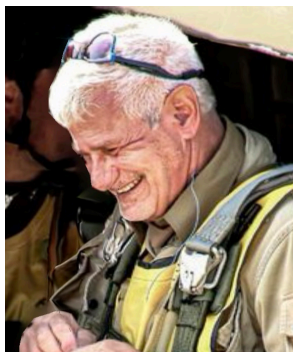
I've worked in the skydiving industry for more than 20 years as an AFF-I, test jumper, canopy coach, and project lead at Performance Designs. Those roles have given me a broad perspective on what's working as well as the challenges we face in our sport. If elected, I will:

- *Be the clear, practical voice for skydivers and drop zones across the Southeast.*
- *Work directly with Drop Zones and S&TAs to efficiently evaluate incidents, identify root causes and develop pragmatic solutions that improve safety without unnecessary burden.*
- *Promote consistent, transparent communication between the membership, DZ operators, and the USPA so issues are resolved faster and lessons are shared widely.*
- *Support coaching, mentoring and resources that help pilots, instructors and jumpers reduce risk and build skill.*

It is my passion for the sport and my desire to give back that drives me to continue serving the skydiving community. I will listen, collaborate and act to make our region safer, more efficient and more responsive to member needs. I ask for your vote and your input — together we'll strengthen the Southeast skydiving community.

Arthur Shaffer

City, State: Winter Park, FL
Age: 64
Profession: DZO
Year Joined: 05/01/1985
Total Jumps: 19,000
Jumps Past Year: 350+
Licenses: C-17853, D-10182
Current USPA Ratings Appointments: AFF-I, PRO, SL-I, TAN-I
Awards: 2,000 Jump Wings, 24-Hours Freefall Badge



Hello everyone, for those who don't know me, my name is Art Shaffer. Currently I am the DZO of Skydive Palatka. I am running for the position vacated by Brandon Radcliff for Southeast Regional Director. So a brief history...made my first jump (IAD) at Williston Skydivers on the 28 January, 1985, since then i have accumulated over 19,000 skydives. I have participated at nationals in Four way RW and Canopy Piloting. I have been on several world records and many more attempts. I have worked in the industry as a tandem instructor, S/L instructor and AFF instructor. I have a PRO rating and participated in many well covered jumps. I have also been a rigger with well over 3100 reserve packs and 135 saves. I have worked on the military side of skydiving in research and development, and also as an instructor. The last few years I have been very involved with the Round Canopy Parachute Team (RCPT). A veterans organization that is helping stem the tide of losing 22 veterans a day to suicide. One of the things I am most proud of. With all of this I think you will be voting for a well rounded skydiver who is bringing a well of experience to the table. Thank you for your vote!