

Skydiving: It's sport of many emotions

By KEN VOYLES

"Of all the thousands of feet you fall, only the last inches hurt."
So said the jump master to me while we stood talking about the sport of skydiving. I had just finished my first-ever jump and was hurtling from a poor landing.
I felt the mixed emotion of elation for accomplishing something so beyond my nature and the pain and sorrow that it was over so quickly.
The sport had caught my fancy. We were standing on the grassy edge of the runway talking as I removed my jump equipment.
It was an experience, to say the least. An experience that some people dream about while others go out and do.
I remember it all well . . .

SITTING IN the office one day with nothing particular to do. My mind wandered over things I could write about. I had always wanted to sky dive and that seemed the natural direction for me to head.
Those thoughts were soon put into motion. Before I knew it, I was at Richmond Airport near Gregory looking out across the runway. It was a cool, sunny day.
The class for novice jumpers is run by Pro Sport Sky Diving. A group of diehard jumpers runs the class. Kathy and Nick Rouskey, Harry Zechman, Dennis Branch and Bill Weber, have accumulated a lot of jump experience.

They proved to be good teachers. There were for men and three women attending the day-long class. We were quickly organized, and soon Nick was giving us some background on the sport and some fundamentals to remember. Like most sports, sky diving teaches the basics.
The governing body for sky diving in this country is the USPA (United States Parachute Association). There are few federal and state regulations, most regulations come from the USPA.
There are several hundred drop zones in the country. Each drop zone is an area permitted for training novice jumpers and for use by regular jumpers.

THE ONLY piece of equipment that need concern the student is the chute. The lifeline contains a main chute and an emergency chute rolled into one.
Moving along covering a lot of ground, Nick explains the three basic commands a beginner must learn by heart. It is probably the most important thing to remember outside of emergency procedures.
The first command is "feet out." Once inside the plane, the first person to jump sits next to a doorless exit. When the command is given by a jump master, the student puts his or her feet on the plane's wheel and grabs the wing strut.
The second command is "step out." It's time to climb out onto the wheel and grab the wing strut. The final command is a simple "go."

Later in the training, Nick brings up those terrible things known as malfunctions. "I really hate this part. It sounds so bad," he says.
There are two types of malfunction. A partial malfunction develops when there is a problem with the chute. It hasn't opened properly, for example. The other malfunction is total, when the main chute fails to open at all.

IF A PERSON jumped from a plane at 4,000 feet without a chute, he would hit the ground in 22 seconds. The student has 10 seconds to react and solve the problem. The sport requires that ability to react.
For a partial malfunction, the novice must remember to do two things correctly and quickly. First, he must cut away from the main chute by pulling two straps near his shoulder line. Then he must pull the reserve chute cord.
For a total failure, the procedure is simple. Just pull the reserve chute. Sounds easy in theory.
The day wears on. The lessons continue, and I become restless for the moment of truth.
I feel fine, but I am sure as soon as the plane takes off the ground my tension will reach new heights.
What exactly happens to the mind through the long process of learning to jump and then actually doing it is difficult to tell.
Not being able to decipher my reactions was a problem until I read and heard my reaction. Total confusion, unable to grasp what was happen-

ing. I hardly speak to anyone. My walk has lost its spring.
BY THE end of the instruction period, I feel tried and worn. It has been a long day, time to jump. The instruction is completed and it's time to go. During the day, all instruction is done on the ground at the airport.
On comes the baggy black jump suit. The black helmet and the work boots. The chute is adjusted by Harry, my jump master.
Into the plane. I am second to jump. We takeoff, and it's the first time in a small plane like this for me. It floats through the air. The ride is smooth, the view is grand.
The first jumper goes. I feel that tense grip come over me. So here I sit by the door looking down at the earth.
Harry connects my static line and give me some final instructions. "Hey, smile," he says. A half-hearted grin crosses my face. Then he commands.
At the command of "feet out," I slowly put my feet out the door onto the wheel and grab the strut against the 70-mile-an-hour wind blast. I can't think of anything but what they have taught me. I keep trying to remember all of the minor things.
"Step out" rings in my ear. I look at Harry. My eyes must have given away my uneasiness (right).
WHEN HARRY says "go," I look at him and hesitate. I am reluctant for that moment. He repeats his command and I throw myself backward into an arch and lose myself in two seconds of

real life . . .
The next thing I remember is the pull of the chute and the feeling of floaty restlessly. I look at the chute to make sure of no malfunctions. It is

twisted in a barber pole but no problem.
The radio at my side crackles. Marty, an experience jumper, directs me down.

Netters ousted in finals

Three Farmington Hills youths reached the finals of their events before being eliminated in the Ann Arbor Junior Open Tennis Tournament last week.
Kenny Davidson of Farmington Hills was defeated in his last match by Malivai Washington of Schwartz Creek, 6-3, 6-0, in the boys' 10 and under singles.
In doubles competition, the team of Kelley Davidson of Farmington Hills

and Wendy Gilles of Plymouth fell to Madeline Willard of Grosse Pointe Farms and Christine Gilles of Plymouth, 6-4, 6-3, in the girls' 12 and under doubles.
John Merdler of Midland and Brad Wayburn of Bloomfield Hills beat Aaron Krickstein of Grosse Pointe and Brad Goodman of Farmington Hills in the boys' 16 and under doubles, 6-4, 7-5.

Metropark attractions

The five Metroparks — Metro Beach in Mt. Clemens, Stony Creek in Rochester/Utica, Kensington in Brighton, Lower Huron in Belleville, and Willow in New Boston — will remain open for swimming through Labor Day, Sept. 3.
Olympic-sized pools are open from 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Lower Huron and Willow parks, and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Metro park.
Kensington's Maple Beach and Stony Creek's Baypoint Beach will remain open from 10 a.m. until dusk. At Metro park, swimming in Lake St. Clair will be available daily through September, from 9 a.m. until dusk.
Dressing rooms and heated showers are available at all locations. Admission to any of the three pools is 50 cents; there is no charge for admission to the beaches, other than the daily vehicle fee of \$2.
Lifeguards are on duty at all locations. For further details, call the following numbers: Metro — 963-3022; Stony Creek — 781-4242; Kensington — 685-1561; Lower Huron — 697-9181; Willow — 654-6287.

Bike-A-Thon is scheduled for Metro Beach in Mt. Clemens on Saturday, Sept. 22.
The Ninth Annual Great Lakes Sailboat Show will be staged at Metro Beach Sept. 27-30. It will feature sailboats in water, small sailboats on shore and equipment in tents. A special admission fee will be charged.
Metro Beach will also be the site of the Eighth Annual Midwest Powerboat Show from Oct. 4 — Oct. 7. Large cruisers in water, small powerboats on land and an equipment tent will be featured. There will be a special admission charge for entry.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
A Nature Cycle tour of Kensington park is set for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29.
Naturalist Dave Mollanen will lead the 2 1/2 hour tour along the bike trail through the park and discuss the wildlife.
Turtles will be the subject of an hour-long program at Kensington entitled "Turtles and Palms."
The discussion will explore man's relationships to turtles as evidenced through legends and popular stories. The indoor program will be followed by an outdoor hike.
Naturalist Mollanen will also lead a canoe trip down the Huron River in an event called "River Life by Canoe," in Kensington park.

SPORTS EVENTS
The National Sailboat Regatta for CL16s will take place on Stony Creek Lake in Stony Creek Metropark on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 15-16, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
The Detroit-area March of Dimes

New swim club

(Continued from page 7B)

miniature copies of Mark Spitz, not so, according to Dull.
"There are some clubs where the primary intent is to develop the outstanding swimmers," he said. "Our philosophy is that everyone who belongs to Atlantis should have the opportunity to improve."
Further that philosophy, the club went out and hired Mark Boerner, a former resident of Grosse Pointe who coached for a while in California and just recently with the Michigan Stingray Swim Association of Farmington, oversees a coaching staff that tries to spend as much time with the marginal swimmers as it does with those swimmers of championship caliber.
The outstanding swimmers do, however, get a little more attention.
"They set goals," said Dull, "and work towards achieving them."
Such swimmers are up at 5:30 a.m. in the sum-

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 20, 1979

The City Council of the City of Farmington Hills held a Special Meeting at the City Administration Center on August 20, 1979. Mayor Oppertbauer opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Councilmembers present were Jones, Sorunen, Deacon, Smith and Dolan. Absent: Alkatech. Others present were City Manager Savage, City Clerk Cairns and City Attorney Bibeau.

Council approved the Cost and Bonding resolution for Greening-Street Water Improvement S.A.D. C124 in the amount of \$17,520.00.
A tie vote was cast for the introduction of Amended Ordinance C22-187, in the NW 1/4 of Section 2, 107 of Glen Acres Subdivision to rezone from RA-4 to B-3. Amended Ordinance C22-188 in the SE 1/4 of Section 35, to rezone lots 13 and 626 of Grand River Crest Subdivision from RC-3 to P-1 was introduced, with a vote of 5 to 1; Deacon opposed.
Amended Ordinance C22-190 located in the NW 1/4 of Section 12 on the Site of Northwestern Highway, S. of Thirteen Mile request from RA-1A to OS-3 was introduced, vote of 5 to 1, Smith opposed.
Council introduced Amended Ordinance C22-190 an amendment to the Farmington Hills Zoning Ordinance, Industrial Research Office District.
Special Assessment District for water improvement on Greening from Burbank to Thirteen Mile Road was established.
Upon recommendation of City Manager the purchase of Squad-Pumper for the Fire Department was awarded to the low bidder at a cost of \$35,104.10.
Approval of contract with the Golf Professional for concessions and management of San Marino Golf Course was given for two years.
Participation agreement with Oakland County and the public school system for installation and maintenance of traffic control light at pedestrian crossing was approved at Middlebelt and East Junior High School.
Council approved participation agreements with Oakland County and the State of Michigan for improvements on 14 Mile between Orchard Lake and Northwestern, Northwestern S. of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake between 12 Mile and 14 Mile.
Awarded the contract for landscaping of City Hall to P.L. LaFontaine & Sons in the amount of \$43,855.
Report on landfill at Holy Cross Church was submitted and accepted.
Report on Special Assessment District financing of sidewalks was heard.
Meeting adjourned at 12:00 midnite.

Respectfully submitted,
FLOYD A. CAIRNS, City Clerk
Approved by MAYOR OPPERTBAUER

Published August 27, 1979

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