

TANDEM NEWS

A PUBLICATION BY STRONG ENTERPRISES FOR TANDEM INFORMATION

AAD's and Tandem

There was a "tandem incident" the first of May in England that prompted an inquiry by the British Parachute Association about AAD's on tandem rigs and Strong Enterprises wants you to know their position on the subject.

Evidently, a tandem pair exited a tail-gate aircraft and immediately went into a front loop. Instead of going with the loop and getting stable, the tandem instructor elected to reach down and back to deploy the drogue. That action not only assured the loop, it caused them to roll to the right. The "head down, rolling to the right" attitude resulted in the drogue being deployed across their bodies and ultimately around the instructor's neck.

Thankfully, the video cameraman not only captured the whole incident on film, he swooped in on the unconscious tandem instructor and activated his reserve parachutes.

Because of the inquiry, Bill Morrissey, Strong Enterprises' Tandem Program Director, replied, "At this time, Strong Enterprises does not require or recommend the installation of an AAD on the Dual Hawk Tandem System." Strong's position is based on two factors:

- AAD's available today have not proven themselves reliable enough; and
- A properly trained Instructor with a professional attitude and a true focus on his job is much safer than a possible misfired AAD deploying a reserve into a trailing drogue.

Morrissey ended his letter to the BPA by saying, "...Strong Enterprises' philosophy is that the training of the Tandem Instructor is the single most important element in Tandem Jumping. Therefore, we remain focused on our efforts to have National Aero Clubs agree on the importance of standardizing the minimum prerequisites and training of the Tandem Instructor."

Who Can Purchase Dual Hawks?

Because of recent events pertaining to the sale of Dual Hawk Tandem rigs, Strong Enterprises has adopted a new policy on rig sales. Effectively immediately, the "end user", the tandem instructor, can purchase a Dual Hawk Tandem rig from only two sources—either Strong Enterprises directly OR the Tandem Examiner who certified him.

Strong Enterprises is mandated by the federal government to, in fact, supervise tandem jumping and their job is being negatively affected by "entrepreneurs" in the field acting as "brokers". Of course, if SE doesn't know the qualifications of the person buying and using the rig, they can't monitor the tandem program.

Any exceptions shall be on a "per account" basis through SE's Tandem Department, so call if you have any questions.

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One JM Teaching Technique

As a result of the three-hour discussion during the PIA Symposium in January, 73 participants mostly agreed to a student training program of ten levels--four tandem and five "harness-hold". Below are listed the suggested "levels of performance" and "learning objectives" for a One Jumpmaster Teaching Technique:

■ LEVEL I--TANDEM

- Pre-jump gear check
- Introduce spotting
- Stable exit
- Arch
- Stability
- Turn
- Practice ripcord pull
- Ripcord pull
- Canopy control
- Landing

■ LEVEL II--TANDEM

- Pre-jump gear check
- (Diving) stable exit
- Arch
- Altitude awareness
- Heading awareness
- Leg awareness
- 90° turn
- Practice ripcord pull
- Ripcord pull
- Wave-off
- Canopy control
- Parachute emergencies
- Landing

■ LEVEL III--TANDEM

- Pre-jump gear check
- Unstable exit
- Arch
- Altitude awareness
- Heading awareness
- Leg awareness
- 90° turn
- Practice ripcord pull
- Wave-off
- Canopy control
- Parachute emergencies
- Landing

■ LEVEL IV--TANDEM

- Diving stable exit
- Arch
- Stable freefall
- Practice ripcord pull
- 360° turn
- Altitude awareness
- Leg awareness
- Forward movement (track)
- Aircraft emergencies
- Freefall emergencies
- Parachute emergencies
- Wave-off
- Ripcord pull
- Canopy control
- Landing

■ LEVEL V--NO RELEASE

- Intensive ground school spotting
- Repeat emergency procedures
- Hover
- Leg awareness
- Wave-off
- Repeat Level IV--Stable exit

■ LEVEL VI--RELEASE

- Gripped exit
- Practice ripcord pull
- Hover
- Heading awareness
- Altitude awareness
- Leg awareness
- Spotting
- Wave-off
- Stable pull
- Canopy control
- Landing

■ LEVEL VII--RELEASE

- Gripped exit
- 90° and 360° turns
- Spotting
- Leg awareness
- Re-docks
- Altitude awareness
- Ripcord pull

■ LEVEL VIII--RELEASE

Unassisted stable exit
Leg awareness
360° turns
Sub-terminal control
Wave-off
Ripcord pull

■ LEVEL IX--RELEASE

Diving exit
Stable freefall
Heading control
Leg Awareness
Sub-terminal control
Backloop
360° turns (L&R)
Track
Wave-off
Ripcord pull

■ LEVEL X

Hop & pop

In the One JM program, Level I is mostly meant to introduce skydiving to the student while giving the instructor the opportunity to evaluate the student's ability to cope with the rigors of the sport--a kind of "screening" process. Therefore, little instruction may be necessary--maybe an hour--before the pair would make the jump. More time and effort would be spent on Level II and so on.

Although there are several ways to exit an airplane, and the fact that there are so many different airplanes being jumped, there are

two different kinds of exits in this program: "stable" which means no matter how you exit--poised or diving--stability is to be obtained as soon as possible; and, "unstable" which requires the instructor to put the duo in an unstable position and observe the student's reaction to obtain stability.

It was agreed at the Symposium that a very intensive course of instruction should be given before the student was to leave the airplane with his own equipment. That is provided for in preparation for Level V, "Intensive Ground School".

SE expects **EVERY** Tandem Instructor to review the above list very carefully and submit any suggestions or comments as soon as possible. Instructors are using a "One Jumpmaster" program already in the field and they want an approved program for their use **NOW!** Input is necessary from those who are actively teaching students, who understand the economics of skydiving, who believe AFF is a very labor-intensive program, and/or want a One JM Teaching Technique.

Our next step is to develop a name for the course **and** submit a complete program to USPA for their consideration in hopes they will endorse it for use by its Group Members world-wide.

Upcoming Tandem Instructor Courses

- Connecticut Parachutists, Inc.'s 30th Anniversary, 22-23 June 1991, Ellington, CT
- SPECIAL OPS EXPO, 28-30 June 1991, Raeford, NC.
- Canada Day, 29 June-1 July 1991, Gananoque, Canada.
- Brazilian National Championships, 15-21 July 1991, Goiania, Brazil.
- World Free Fall Convention, 16-25 August 1991, Quincy, Illinois.
- Vietnam Veterans Freefall Convention, 31 August-2 September 1991, Terre Haute, Ind.
- U.S. National Skydiving Championships, 5-14 October 1991, Eloy, Arizona.
- Federation of Argentina Parachuting, 17-29 October 1991, Córdoba, Argentina.
- Prior registration is required**-- For more information and registration, contact Strong Enterprises, (407) 859-9317

South America Revisited

By special invitation from the President of the Paraguayan Association of Sport Parachuting, Mr. Elio Massagrande, Larry Bagley returned to Asunción, Paraguay, last month to conduct a Tandem Instructor Certification Course to five Latin Americans--José Saez from Brazil; Alessandro Massagrande from Paraguay; and Medardo Andrade, Marcelo Cabrol and Fernando Conti from Argentina.

Assisted by Cesar Aguilar, President of the Confederation of Latin American Parachuting, and Cindi Jones, an active skydiver from Utah, the course was monitored by the watchful eyes of José Stratmann, President of the Brazilian Parachuting Confederation and Tomás Berriolo, President of the Argentina Parachuting Federation.

All five jumpers completed Phase I and Cabrol finished Phase II during the 10-day course. Massagrande was so pleased with the course results that he ordered two Student Hawks (with drogues) to complement his student training program.

Then, Bagley, Jones and Aguilar accepted the gracious invitation of Berriolo to visit his country and meet with military officials about parachuting--the Air Force is the "FAA" in Argentina. When word got out that Strong Enterprises was in the country, seven jumpers requested an impromptu Tandem Course.

Using the aircraft of all three skydiving clubs at the Lobos airport, 60 miles west of Buenos Aires, and, with the able assistance of Marcelo Vilar (who earned his tandem rating in Chile last December), all seven jumpers--Carlos Barabaschi, Fabian Ciarrlotte, Jorge Espinola, Alejandro Estrada,

Edgardo Guerrero, Guillermo Lascuirain, and, Gustavo Pascutti--completed Phase I during the two-day weekend.

At the direction of Berriolo, the Federation purchased two of the Dual Hawks used in the courses and the club in Córdoba bought one. Approximately 25 Strong Tandem Instructors and eight Dual Hawks are introducing skydiving to Latin America right now!

Bagley will conduct another certification course in Argentina in October after visiting Brazil in July. The Latins love Tandem!

Tandem Tee-Shirts

Thanks to an idea from the Thackers at the Raeford Airport, SE is making available, at a very nominal fee, "customized" Mile High Tee-shirts to all Tandem Instructors.

For a one time set-up charge of \$30, every parachute center can have their name inserted just below the word "SKYDIVE" on each shirt. The cost for 50%-cotton-50%-polyester shirts, is \$6.50 each plus shipping for a minimum order of six dozen.

Just decide the size and design of the letters to be used in the name, the number of each size (S, M, L, XL), the color of the shirts--light colors are best--and call SE (1-800-344-6319) with your order.

