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Sport parachute-safety is the theme

By JIM HALLS

The UNB Sport Parajump Club began in March of 1961. Since then well over 250 students have been trained and have made at least one parachute descent. Some have even made enough jumps to obtain their licenses. Over 3,000 jumps within the club have been made without one serious accident. This excellent safety record is directly attributed to the expert guidance by David Corall our instructor and Tom Humes our safety officer.

As most parachute clubs operating in Canada, we are affiliated with Canadian Sport Parachute Association which lays down specific rules and regulations insuring safety among its clubs. UNBSPC is partially supported by the SAA which keeps our club alive and helps to cut costs for the students who join our club. To the new student which just joined all equipment is supplied from the boots to the parachute.

Parachute jumping is not restricted to the male by any means. Within our club there are 22 guys and 13 girls all of whom participate just about every weekend as long as the weather co-operates. Even on the coldest of days everyone is participating during the winter.

What is it really like on your first jump? As a fellow student jumper I would say that you are more excited than nervous. When you see all your other friends make their first jump on the same day you will also jump without any fear of your chute not opening. The modern parachute is virtually infallible due to strict regulations regarding the design and manufacture of the parachute and regulations concerning the jumpers themselves.

On the first jump your instructor packs your chute with you, helps put on the gear, and gives last minute instructions on exiting the aircraft procedures. Your 'static line' (a device which pulls open the chute automatically) is hooked into the aircraft and you sit in the back seat. A jumpmaster goes up with you to assist on your first exit. He points out the 'target' and tells when you should jump. On the way up

as you wait for the aircraft to reach 3000 feet the jump altitude, sometimes, if you are lucky, the jumpmaster will coax everyone to sing! This helps remove a few butterflies you may have. In about 10 minutes time the jumpmaster tells you to sit on the floor with your feet out the door! Then he yells 'cut' and the engine is throttled back. You get out onto the wheel and hold onto the strut. All of a sudden he yells 'go' and you release and kick off and away from the aircraft in a spread eagle arch. Before you can count three seconds your chute has opened with a slight nudge. By using the steering toggles you can direct yourself, by instruction from 'ground control', towards the target. As the ground gets closer to you you put your legs together and eyes to the horizon. As soon as you hit the ground you are anxious to make another jump as soon as possible!

David Corall our chief instructor is also a master rigger who can perform exacting repairs, alterations and test experimental chutes. To date he has little over 900 jumps. He has competed in and judged various world champion competitions. He competed in the French national championships in Vicky, France and was an observer for the Third World Military meet. In 1969 Dave was a team member and leader of the Canadian contingent at the Adricatic Cup Meet in Yugoslavia. Not only is David Corall a keen competitor and worthy instructor but he is also a qualified pilot who often flies our jumpers.

One of the activities planned for this winter by UNBSPC is a series of demonstration jumps during the winter carnival. The most experienced and qualified jumpers are planning to jump into the quadrangle in front of the SUB! The other less experienced jumpers in our club will (hopefully) be jumping on the river. Although details are not finalized it looks as if our club will perform in the winter carnival.

For those of you who are interested in this activity and wish to join please contact Jim Halls in Mackenzie House room 12.

WRESTLING THIS WEEKEND

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SAT UNB VS RICKER 6:00 west gym

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