

# BLUE SKIES MAG COM

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## 2013 DROP ZONE AWARDS

BY BLUE SKIES MAGAZINE READERS

Thank you to everyone who voted in the 2013 DZ Awards. We're excited to present the winners as voted by you, the jumpers! Results on page 8.

Niklas Daniel of AXIS Flight School taking a selfie under canopy with an extension pole over Skydive Arizona with wingsuit pilot Alex Swindle.





Chad Wilcox • www.chadwilcox.com

Best Large Drop Zone winner:  
Skydive Chicago

**Best Staff:** Skydive Chicago

**Staff Runner-Up:** Chicagoland Skydiving Center

*"Manifest! Doesn't matter where, just don't piss them off."*

**Best Load Organizers:** Skydive Arizona

**Load Organizers Runner-Up:** Skydive Chicago

*"Skydive Arizona—Paige Milligan and Chazi Blacksher. As hot as the AZ sun!"*

*"Best load organizer: Carol Clay (The Queen)."*

**Best Locals:** Skydive Chicago

**Locals Runner-Up:** Skydive Elsinore

*"Start Skydiving is an unbelievably supportive community."*

**Best Boogie of 2013:** Summerfest at Skydive Chicago

**Boogie Runner-Up:** Tiki Bar at Skydive New England

*"Summerfest. For real you had to ask?"*

**Best Vibe:** Skydive Chicago

**Vibe Runner-Up:** Chicagoland Skydiving Center

*"Once again, Skydive Mesquite. I always return to my 'home' even though I haven't lived in Nevada for over 6 years. I always go home and meet my new family members."*

*"The people of Eloy [Skydive Arizona] adopt you as family!"*

*"Start Skydiving. Really great folks ... both fun jumpers and staff members. The community in Middletown, OH really supports this business as well."*

**Best Vendor Shwag:** Performance Designs

**Vendor Shwag Runner-Up:** Chuting Star

*"PD Towel ... great to clean up after sleeping with AFF students."*

*"Who cares who gives it out, it's free!"*

**Best Wingsuit BASE Video:** "Dream Lines IV - Wingsuit proximity by Ludovic Woerth & Jokke Sommer"

**Wingsuit BASE Video Runner-Up:** "Unbelievable Wingsuit Cave Flight! Batman Cave, Alexander Polli"

**Best Tradition:** Laying the Numbers at Skydive Orange

*"Skydive Orange's 'Laying the Numbers.' Around or after midnight of their August boogie (sometimes other times) 50-70 jumpers get naked and lie on the direction numbers of the runway, and both ends of the runway. Just be sure to leave your shame and judgment at home."*

Orange's "Laying the Numbers" got the most votes, but you guys shared some awesome traditions that we had to give some print to, even if we don't quite understand them (looking at you, nickel shitting).

**Nickel Shitting**

*"Nickel Shitting at Vermont Skydiving Adventures' end-of-the-year 'Last Supper' party."*

**A-License Forehead Stamps**

*"A-license stamp on the forehead. It readily shows the DZ who we have officially inducted into our ranks."*

*"A-License ceremony in Raeford. They stamp the student's forehead and use their forehead to stamp the A-License card. Then a traditional song of praise is sung for them."*

*"A-License official stamp of approval. Stamped with the A-License stamp on forehead and water dumped on you by everyone as a way to say congrats and welcome to the family of licensed skydivers. WNY Skydiving."*

**A-License Graduations**

*"Skydive Louisiana has their last A-license graduate pass a huge helmet ('Smitty') down to the next graduating student for their first A-license jump."*

*"Aerohio pin dive: Every A-license earner gets a free jump and the entire staff does a 15-way with him, DZ pays for the load."*

*"AFP graduation jumps. Experienced jumpers are invited to participate and they gladly jump with the new skydiver on their own dime to welcome them into the community."*

*"Student graduation—we need more skydivers!"*

*"SCR ceremonies, because who doesn't love smothering newbies in beer?"*

**Beer**

*"Throwing a beer in the hand of a guy/girl that has taught me much through the years ... for no other reason."*

*"Beer Olympics at Chicagoland for Independence Day Boogie."*

*"Couch Freaks, Polyester party, free beer out of an old milk truck, free food, free shwag, free beer, oh free beer."*

*"Sandbar Beer Accuracy at Skydive Kamloops! Typical beer accuracy, except the beer is placed out at the tip of the sandbar in the river beside the DZ."*

*"The Beer Board of course."*

**Pieing**

*"The 100-jump pieing is the best tradition out there. As much fun as different DZs have with things they do, the pie (or other 100 celebration) is a huge milestone in all of our careers, and everyone can relate to it, no matter where they're from."*



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Norman Kent • www.normankent.com



Best Mid-Sized Drop Zone winner:  
Chicagoland Skydiving Center

## FOR THE NUMBERS FANS

**Total Ballots Received:** 658

**Category with Most Votes:**

Best Staff, 499 votes

**Category with Highest**

**Percentage of Winning Votes:**

Best Large Drop Zone, 31 percent

*"Having just done my 500<sup>th</sup> I'm going to say pieing. Though it's much more fun to be on the viewing end of that tradition."*

*"At Skydive San Diego we have nearly made a sport out of finding creative new ways to pie the new 100 jump wonders. It has been a blast to be a part of :D"*

### EFS

*"Sleeping with new AFF students and tandems."*

*"The deadly dance of seduction around the only female skydiving student who shows up in late April. Teeth or no teeth, peg leg or no peg leg, facial features better suited for a voodoo ritual and body shape that can be best described as 'handsome' or not ... that's a woman and she has just signed up so let the monkey knife fight of seduction begin!"*

### Being Naked

*"AAS Carolina Skydiving, your 100<sup>th</sup> jump is a naked jump in which the entire load gets naked."*

*"Naked pea pit runs, midnight skinny dipping, Skydive Carolina!"*

*"Naked skydives at Skydive Milwaukee. In the butt cold of winter (see what I did there?)" [Yes we see.]*

### Sunset Anything

*"Skydive Louisiana swoop and chug sunset loads."*

*"Deland sunset 'Biff Bingo.'"*

*"Sunset swoop at Skydive the Farm. Sunman usually ends up naked."*

*"Swooping the pond at sunset at the campground near Virginia Skydiving Center."*

*"Skydive Carolina. The vibe is amazing. They have amazing sunset loads."*

*"Skydance Skydiving, sunset tracking dives."*

*"Randomly finding a beer in my jumpsuit on a sunset high pull."*

*"Sunset tracking over the desert."*

*"Ridiculous staff-sunset-chaos-jumps/swoop n chugs."*

### READER'S CHOICE

A selection of things we didn't ask you about, but you wanted the world to know anyway.

**Best Announcer:** Regan Tetlow

**Best Boobs:** Skydive New England

**Best Comeback from a Shitty Summer Dealing with Airplane Issues and Buying an Awesome Fast and Beautiful C90 Airplane to Make All the Fun Jumpers Happy:** Virginia Skydiving Center

**Best DZ Steak:** The DeHavilland Tenderloin at the Flight Deck bar and grill (CSC)

**Best Packer:** Sam Carrasco, Skydive Orange—it's his art!

**Best Partiers:** Pegasus Airsports of Chickasha, OK

**Best Program for New Jumpers:** Sisters in Skydiving

**Quickest and Safest Load Turns:** Raeford Parachute Center

**Example / Mentor:** Jim Wallace

**Best Puppet Show:** Carl Lambert of Skydive Orange

**Best Vendor:** Matt Siegman from PD

**Best Views:** Blue Ridge Skydiving Adventures. They will be even better next month when the leaves change but the views are the same you get while driving the famous skyline drive except much higher and way cooler. There is a reason it's my home DZ when there are a few other larger ones around.

**Helpful Rigger:** Rory Corrigan, Skydive Spaceland

**Nicest DZ Showers:** Chicagoland Skydiving Center (PORN worthy showers!!!)

**Skydive Elsinore** has the best student program, hands down.

*"Steve and JaNette Lefkowitz are frickin' AWESOME!"*

*"Jill at Skydive Pepperell for making everyone laugh and smile."*

**Best Small Drop Zone:** Lincoln Sport Parachute Club

**Small Drop Zone Runner-Up:** Adirondack Skydiving Adventures

*"Illinois Valley Parachute Club. Very knowledgeable staff who all volunteer their time ... really love the sport and want everyone safe ... The atmosphere is so positive they make you feel part of a family."*

**Best Mid-Sized Drop Zone:** Chicagoland Skydiving Center

**Mid-Sized Drop Zone Runner-Up:** Skydive Dallas

**Best Large Drop Zone:** Skydive Chicago

**Large Drop Zone Runner-Up:** Skydive Arizona 🇺🇸

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