

# Roman Candle.4

SUMMER 1982.



The Newsletter of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad.

Greetings members and friends, and welcome to this our Fourth issue of our go-ahead newsletter. Who would have thought that we could come so far when our Club was first formed. A great deal has happened since our last issue, and I have quite a bit to report. However as always we have a message from our Chairbear.....

.....Thanks Fred. I have only one thing that I wish to concentrate this time and that is a rejoinder to the open letter in the last issue of Aerrodyn. Quite why this open letter to the BMISS was published in the aforesaid journal escapes me, as I would have thought it should have been addressed to Roman Candle. However be that as it may, for those of you who did not see this letter entitled "THE SPORT OF KOOKS AND KINGS", I can summarise it thus. BMISS, Behave, HUH! After two Jumps I rather think that Parachuting has gone to Dropnik Lockes head. He says that he no longer stands in awe of us Bears, which is odd really as he has yet to survive a total malfunctioning descent.

Recently we did have some Humes trying to apply for membership of our fraternity, by leaping off of a block of flats in West London. The first of these made it safely to the ground so did not qualify, the second failed to survive his total malfunction. Jumping off a block of flats at 150ft, is in the official BMISS opinion, well out of order.

Yet again, our membership is on the increase and I take this opportunity to welcome Brothers POLO and YO-YO. We are shortly to have our first Parachuting Pig member, and rumours also abound of a possible Camel member, whose Hump will be used for storage of his or her Chute. We have been asked on numerous occasions as to who is eligible for BMISS membership and I can only re-iterate that we are entirely non-specist and we are open to all who can pass our membership criteria.

In response to repeated requests regarding the likelihood of the BMISS taking up multiple jumps, I am pleased to report that this is now a routine occurrence. We first tried a multiple at Old Warden, where sad to say, we performed very well despite both LEROY and RASTACHATS repeated attempts to foul things up. Multiple descents give us far more scope as regards malfunctions, therefore BMISS wholeheartedly endorses the same.

Weston Park gave us a good opportunity to practise our multiple malfunction technique. Dropnik Locke, having acquired a Strato 4, was very confident of its ability to lift a large payload. Seven of us ascended and on our first drop, we behaved perfectly. Encouraged by this our dropniks walked right into our ambush and were well and truly bushwhacked. Upon release, Brothers Rastachat and 'Orace performed a perfect 'TOTAL', Leroy fully deployed his canopy, but remained attached to the Dropper, and the piece de resistance was provided by Sue, Rusty, Gamley and yours truly when we fully deployed our chutes and all of us drifted into a large Tree. Perhaps the funniest part of all this was seeing our Dropniks struggling with a large tree branch in order to extricate us all.

On the subject of mucking your Dropnik about, Harold Bear, whose dropnik endeavors to release him via a slow fuse, has found a way to extinguish the same at altitude, whilst letting it burn perfectly at ground level. He did this four times at Blackheath, which resulted in Dropnik Fay chewing his anorak. Your Chairbears run of five 'TOTALS' at Croydon was a perfect demonstration of how it should be done. This I should add was in front of a very interested crowd who were held spellbound. At the Victoria Park Fest, Polo devised a very neat off the cuff 'GO-WRONG' when, during a descent he neatly steered himself onto 'YO-YO's' Canopy, which was able to sustain the two of them.

At the recent Scheveningen Kite Fest, The BMISS made their first overseas descents. To mark this auspicious occasion we decided to perform correctly. Six of our members were lofted under a Scoop 4 and whilst we were awaiting the launch we did discuss the possibility of doing a mass 'TOTAL' above one of the Beach Cafe's. We eventually decided against this as it could have sparked off an Anglo-Dutch War. On our descents we did manage to drift into various back gardens, and one member, who shall remain nameless, nearly reached the High Street, where he hoped to do some Tram Stopping. At least, that's his story.

As we have said before, Radio Control Releases are very nice, but they do suffer from one or two problems. The increased weight involved in multiple drops severely overloads the same. A mechanical release is much more positive and it can cope with far more weight. After many trials the release shown below has proved itself to be very reliable. Made from two lengths of ali tube, three large 'D' rings and Taped together, this release is easily knocked up. The pin is a length of stiff wire. The release shown accomodates up to eight Bears The dimensions given can be adjusted for personal preference but it should be noted that A-B is critical so as to allow the Pin to be fully withdrawn, yet still remaining in situ.

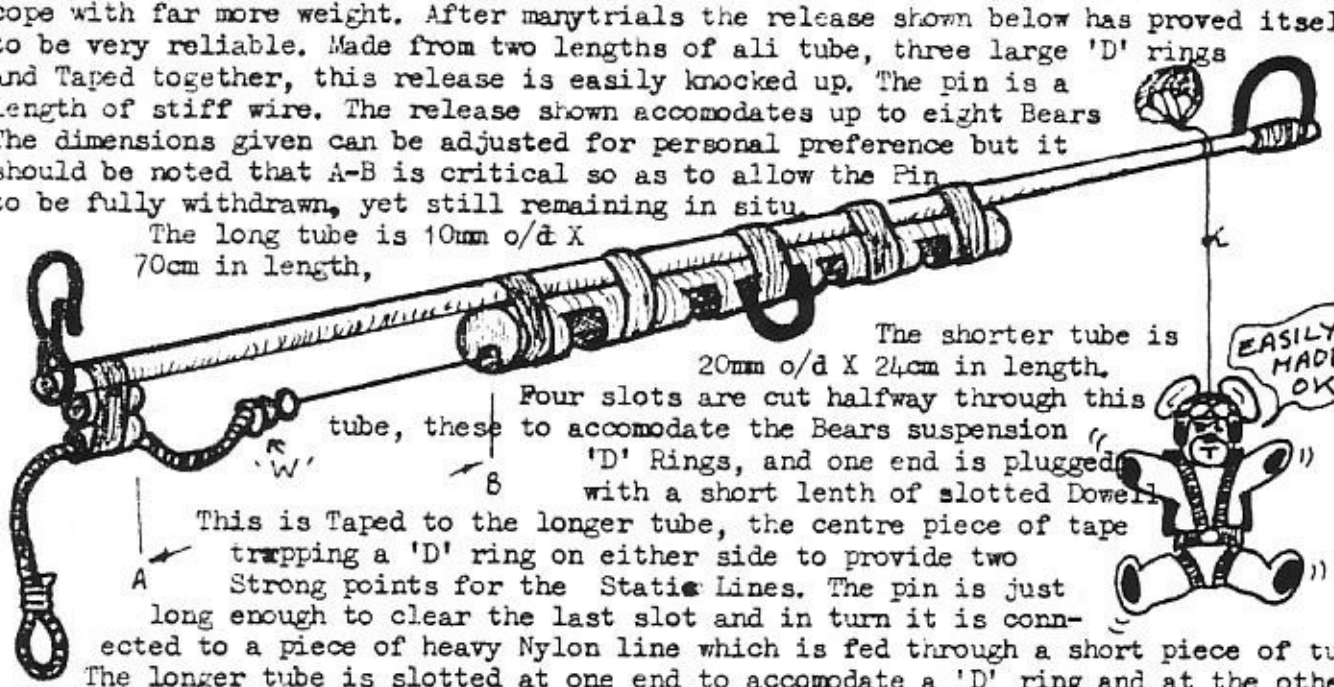
The long tube is 10mm o/d X 70cm in length,

The shorter tube is 20mm o/d X 24cm in length.

Four slots are cut halfway through this tube, these to accomodate the Bears suspension 'D' Rings, and one end is plugged with a short lenth of slotted Dowell

This is Taped to the longer tube, the centre piece of tape trapping a 'D' ring on either side to provide two Strong points for the Static Lines. The pin is just long enough to clear the last slot and in turn it is connected to a piece of heavy Nylon line which is fed through a short piece of tube.

The longer tube is slotted at one end to accomodate a 'D' ring and at the other end a Dog clip enables the Release to be hooked over the Kite line whilst a larks head is used at the other. A metal washer 'W' is epoxied to the Nylon line to provide a positive stop. With the release attached to the Kite line, the Bears in place and a Trip line connected, there is a great deal of scope for engineering premature Drops, Have Fun.



There has been some lengthy discussions as to what is the best material to make chute Canopies from. My Dropnik swears by Unproofed Ripstop as this enables the Chute to be folded small. Dropnik Locke has used Proofed Ripstop with great success on Zodoffs Twelve Foot canopy. Recently however, Dropnik Ron has used Industrial Nylon for two of his Chutes. This works well although it is heavy. Obviously you pays yer money and takes yer choice.

Whilst in Holland we were dissapointed by the absehse of Brother Kobus. We had looked forward to jumping with him on his home ground, still , never mind, we only hope that it was nothing serious that kept him away. This is the main problem with overseas members, we never seem to hear a word from them . Perhaps we'll see Kobus at Old Warden, or maybe even Dieppe, where we plan to perform in order to finally convince the French that 'Les Anglais' really are as 'Crazy as a Two Bob Watch'.....

To those of you Dropniks who enquired as to why we have apparently abandoned the Reserve chute dropping method, I can only say that we fully intend to use this technique again , we have temporarily continued with the single chute method, due to our current intrest in multiple drops. The Reserve chute method really does require a large amount of altitude to enable everything to function correctly. Gamley, 'Orace and yours truly are permanently kitted out for a Reserve chute, it only has to be clipped on and eventually we hope to be able to combine Multiples and Reserve chute descents.



I can now confirm that we do have our first Forcine member, namely Sarah Pig who resides near Rochdale. Already she has made numerous descents, some rather close to a Reservoir and she has developed a method of terrorising Dropnik Walton. This involves 'Hanging Up' until her Dropnik is directly underneath, then performing a 'Total' right onto his head, nice one Sarah , that Outpiggies Miss Piggy. Dropnik Walton also suggests that the EMISS should change their name to the 'TED DEVILS'

////// ..... YOUR NEWS, VIEWS, ANECDOTES, IN FACT ANY OLD PARACHUTING RUBBISH.

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