



CANOPY PILOTING AND CANOPY PILOTING-FREESTYLE AT
SKYDIVE MIDWEST
A USPA STAFF REPORT

“The best part of competition is that through it, we discover what we are capable of, and how much more we can do than we ever believed possible.” -Meet Director Melissa Nelson

This year's National Championships of Canopy Piloting and Canopy Piloting-Freestyle, held at Skydive Midwest in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, presented several hurdles to be overcome. However, first-time Meet Director Melissa Nelson and her event staff, drop zone staff and a tough group of competitors repeatedly rose to the occasion to prepare for and execute a successful meet.

Canopy pilots spent their official practice day battling rolling swells on the Skydive Midwest swoop pond, with winds staying strong and unpredictable. That weather carried into the first few days of competition, with only two full rounds (of nine total) finished after two days of competition. “It’s definitely a major factor,” said open-class competitor Jason Sanders, regarding the difficult weather. “A day and a half off messes with your mindset. Those weather changes introduce adjustments you have to make, and the biggest factor becomes how well you deal with it.”

A less-than-conventional challenge also presented itself in the days preceding the start of competition. Due to a planned Air Force One flight into Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport, the Federal Aviation Administration announced a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) that would ground all general aviation on the first good-weather day of the week. Though there was not much time to do so, Skydive Midwest requested and received a waiver to continue the competition, under the condition that a U.S. Secret Service agent keep the canopy pilots company on their rides to altitude.

Perhaps the greatest obstacle of all continues to be the difficulty and cost of preparing for a competition of this magnitude. Luckily for those participating in the 2022 Nationals, Skydive Midwest drop zone owners Keith and Megan George, who are accomplished competitive skydivers themselves, have a passion for opening up opportunities for others. “While other drop zones around the country were filling in their swoop ponds, Keith was digging up the little landing area we have, just to support the passions of others and give local athletes the opportunity to learn and grow,” said Megan George at the event’s closing ceremony.

By the end of the week, Curt Bartholomew spent almost as much time atop a podium as he did in the sky, winning the gold medal in both the open-class speed and zone accuracy events, as well as a silver in distance, on his way to the overall open-class canopy piloting gold. Alex Hart was the only one to best Bartholomew in an event, taking home the distance gold medal. Silver

medalist Justin Price and bronze medalist Robin Jandle joined Bartholomew on the overall open-class podium. In speed, Bartholomew was joined by Price again, with silver, and bronze medalist Travis Mills. Price and Jason Sanders finished second and third, respectively, in zone accuracy, while Mills received another bronze in distance.

In the advanced class, hometown hero Austin George finished on top at his family’s drop zone, turning a well-rounded performance into the overall gold medal, as well as a bronze in zone accuracy and silver in distance. Chris Brewer finished with the gold in speed, followed by Mark Pierce with silver and Doug Pyra with bronze. Liam Wertheimer won the zone accuracy event, with Brewer and George finishing second and third, respectively, and Brian Weinkamer taking home gold in distance, with George’s silver followed by Sean Kennedy finishing with the bronze.

Canopy Piloting-Freestyle is a separate three-round event in which competitors perform a move (or series of moves) as they swoop across the pond. They’re then judged and scored based on the difficulty of the attempted move and their execution of it. In the open class, Curt Bartholomew won (another) gold, though this one was particularly special—his wife, Jeannie Bartholomew, stood to his right, taking the silver medal in the event. Justin Price rounded out the podium, taking the open-class bronze in freestyle.

Once again, the advanced class saw a local skydiver standing atop the winners’ podium, as Wisconsin Skydiving Center’s Sean Kennedy made the short trip from Jefferson in order to bring back the gold medal in freestyle. Forrest Frizzell and Lee Sibeleski took the silver and bronze, respectively, back to their home drop zone of Skydive New England in Lebanon, Maine.

Across both canopy piloting and canopy piloting-freestyle, guest competitors Richo Butts, Leigh McCormack and Jaime Perez-Avella registered medal-worthy scores.

Canopy pilots set three records during the week. Jason Sanders set the first, with a Fédération Aéronautique Internationale North American Continental Record for distance at 191.25 meters. In the following round, Robin Jandle set the FAI North American Continental Female Record for distance with a score of 129.98 meters. The following day, Nicholas Batsch’s first speed run set the FAI North American Continental Record, with a time of 1.949 seconds.

The event concluded on a high note, with Nelson thanking all those who came together to make the competition possible: the Georges and Skydive Midwest, Chief Judge Kolla Kollbeinsdottir and her staff of judges, judging guru and appointed “Chief of Chiefs” Marylou Laughlin, USPA Executive Director Albert Berchtold, USPA Controller Steve Hubbard and every competitor who came to give their best. “I’m honored to witness the veterans, those of you competing for the first time, and everyone in between,” she said on the final night. “Charge forward, and continue to write history in the sport of skydiving.”



JOSEPH THOMAS

Alex Hart
Gold | Open Speed



JOSEPH THOMAS

Curt Bartholomew
Gold | Open Overall, Zone Accuracy, Speed and Freestyle
Silver | Open Distance



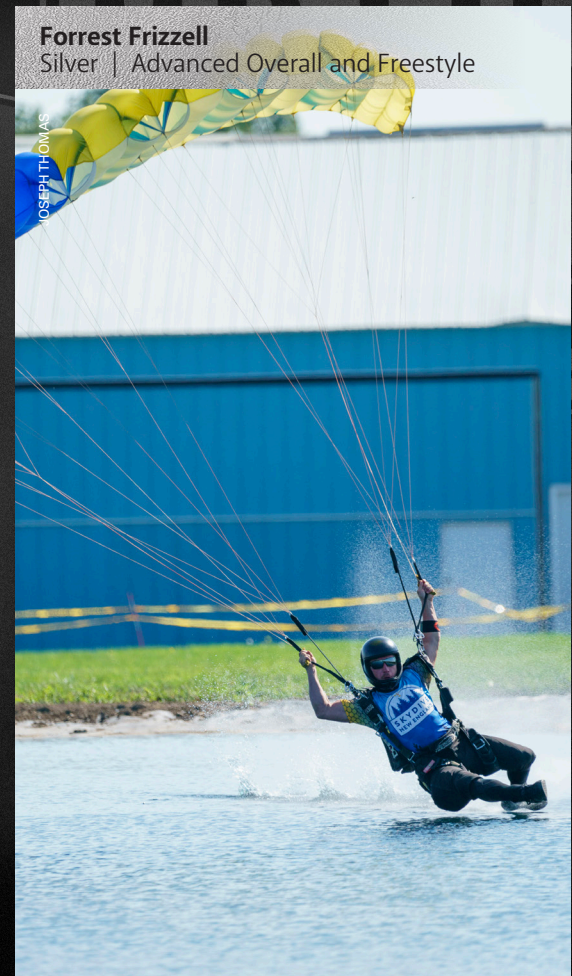
JOSEPH THOMAS

Austin George
Gold | Advanced Overall
Silver | Advanced Speed
Bronze | Advanced Distance



JOSEPH THOMAS

Liam Wertheimer
Gold | Advanced Zone Accuracy



JOSEPH THOMAS

Forrest Frizzell
Silver | Advanced Overall and Freestyle



JOSEPH THOMAS

Justin Price
Silver | Open Overall,
Zone Accuracy and Speed
Bronze | Freestyle



JOSEPH THOMAS

Sean Kennedy
Gold | Advanced Freestyle
Bronze | Advanced Overall and Speed



JOSEPH THOMAS

Jason Sanders
Bronze | Open Zone Accuracy



JAVIER ORTIZ

Jeannie Bartholomew
Silver | Open Freestyle



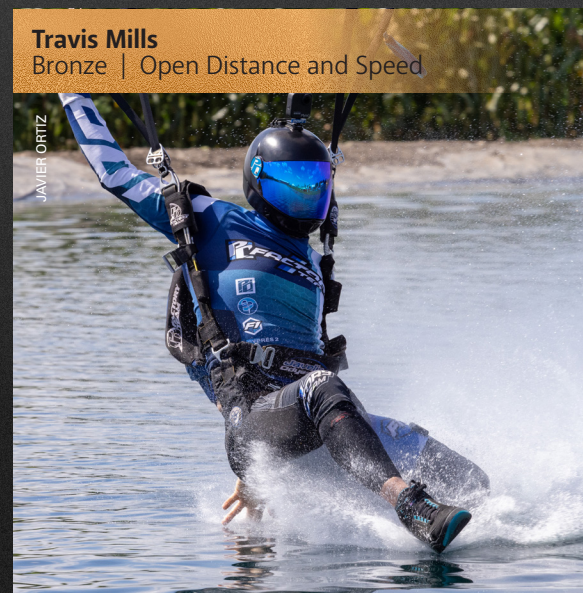
JOSEPH THOMAS

Lee Sibeleski
Bronze | Advanced Freestyle



JOSEPH THOMAS

Robin Jandle
Bronze | Open Overall



JAVIER ORTIZ

Travis Mills
Bronze | Open Distance and Speed

CANOPY PILOTING

Open

MEET DIRECTOR: Melissa Nelson
 USPA CONTROLLER: Steve Hubbard
 CHIEF JUDGE: Kolla Kolbeinsdottir
 DISTANCE EVENT JUDGE: Alison Bawden

SPEED EVENT JUDGE: Jim Rees
 ZONE ACCURACY EVENT JUDGE: Vera Asquith
 JUDGES: Jenifer Gordon, Lee Schlichtemeier,
 Melissa School



U.S. National Rank/Score	Global Rank/Score	Competitor	Zone Accuracy Rank/Score	Distance Rank/Score	Speed Rank/Score
1/640.025	1/634.383	Curt Bartholomew	1/192.857	2/256.249	1/190.919
2/561.004	2/556.101	Justin Price	2/192.307	10/194.601	2/174.096
3/551.937	3/547.615	Robin Jandle	5/170.878	4/240.595	6/140.464
4/549.92	4/544.89	Travis Mills	12/132.653	3/254.883	3/162.384
5/532.791	5/528.335	Alex Hart	14/124.567	1/262.112	5/146.112
6/492.539 (W)	6/488.329	Edward Heady	13/132.573	5/230.306	7/129.660
7/469.499	7/469.499	Curtis Taylor	4/178.571	6/218.095	14/72.833
8/461.575	8/457.966	Patrick Kessler	9/146.388	9/194.928	10/120.259
9/443.055	10/439.263	Jeannie Bartholomew	15/114.364	8/201.240	8/127.451
10/437.755	11/434.234	Sergey Fedetov	11/136.419	12/184.831	11/116.505
11/424.551	13/420.575	V Prib	16/81.571	7/218.028	9/124.952
12/390.111	14/385.655	Jesse Weyher	5/170.878	17/69.900	4/149.333
13/372.071	15/372.071	Nicholas Batsch	7/169.780	16/99.291	12/103.000
14/292.219	17/292.219	Jason Sanders	3/180.219	14/106.000	17/6.000
15/280.965	18/277.951	Darcy King	18/58.398	13/166.152	15/56.415
16/247.23	19/247.23	Ian Bobo	8/161.145	18/3.000	13/83.085
17/237.621	20/237.621	John Haley	19/3.000	11/190.385	16/44.236
18/178.384	21/178.384	Logan Maples	17/75.980	15/102.404	18/0
19/149.232 (W)	22/149.232	Tom Esposito	10/146.232	18/3.000	18/0
G	9/442.575	Joey Allen			
G	12/425.637	Leigh McCormack			
G	16/338.721	Richo Butts			

Advanced

OVERALL



SPEED



ZONE ACCURACY



DISTANCE



U.S. National Rank/Score	Global Rank/Score	Competitor	Zone Accuracy Rank/Score	Distance Rank/Score	Speed Rank/Score
1/615.665	1/607.739	Austin George	3/179.220	2/261.369	7/175.076
2/553.559	3/546.784	Forrest Frizzell	5/148.051	5/244.977	14/160.531
3/553.307	4/544.616	Sean Kennedy	6/131.168	3/248.810	9/173.329
4/540.729	7/531.458	Chris Brewer	2/179.220	12/173.315	1/188.194
5/533.037	6/533.037	Liam Wertheimer	1/190.909	4/246.313	18/95.815
6/504.176	8/504.176	Brian Weinkamer	6/131.168	1/278.914	19/94.094
7/465.086	9/456.98	Adam Mason	14/70.129	8/222.628	10/172.329
8/464.767	10/456.343	Brian Young	15/67.935	7/234.471	13/162.361
9/461.952	11/452.95	Doug Pyra	12/84.415	10/194.794	3/182.743
10/458.195	12/450.738	Justin Fuller	11/87.012	9/219.221	16/151.962
11/445.525	13/437.712	Khoa Nguyen	16/53.245	6/238.269	15/154.011
12/440.1	14/431.516	Jimmy Hutfles	10/116.882	16/151.742	11/171.476
13/432.392	15/423.979	Joe Keiser	13/78.324	11/189.966	12/164.102
14/389.262	17/380.742	Ben Drew	17/49.350	15/161.368	6/178.544
15/388.532	18/379.961	Mark Pearce	8/119.479	18/87.107	5/181.946
16/383.97	16/383.97	Lee Sibeleski	9/118.181	13/165.789	17/100.000
17/371.033	19/362.513	Riley McCarthy	20/35.064	14/162.328	8/173.641
18/322.719	21/314.193	Logan Hall	4/153.246	21/80.344	20/89.129
19/308.419	22/300.088	Mark Pierce	18/44.154	20/81.432	2/182.833
20/301.047	23/291.48	Justin Steffen	19/35.064	19/83.505	4/182.478
21/112.067 (W)	26/112.067	Oliver Gooden	21/3.000	17/109.067	21/0
22/0	28/0	Stephen Boyle	22/0	22/0	21/0
DQ	-/0	Roman Nazarov	-/0	-/0	-/0
G	2/590.903	Jaimie Perez-Avella			
G	5/541.331	Luke Curnow			
G	20/354.795	Tiago Muller			
G	24/198.225	Kobe Hu			
G (W)	25/197.728	Boris Grozev			
G (W)	27/80.485	David Chen			
G (W)	30/0	Bhakta Nall			

Freestyle—Open



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Curt Bartholomew	286.713
2	Jeannie Bartholomew	256.410
3	Justin Price	228.103
4	Travis Mills	226.307
5	Alex Hart	225.320
6	Jesse Weyher	210.012
7	Jason Sanders	190.357
8	V Prib	176.358
9	Ian Bobo	167.407
10	Nicholas Batsch	141.790
11	Patrick Kessler	88.719
12	Robin Jandle	88.641
13	Riley McCarthy	67.511
G	Leigh McCormack	234.826
G	Richo Butts	151.428

Freestyle—Advanced



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Sean Kennedy	269.074
2	Forrest Frizzell	246.856
3	Lee Sibeleski	198.347
4	Joe Keiser	177.745
5	Austin George	144.280
6	Khoa Nguyen	77.451
7	Brian Young	36.460
8 (W)	Mark Pearce	0.000
G	Kobe Hu	141.701

UNITED STATES PARACHUTE TEAM FOR THE 2023 FAI WORLD CUP OF CANOPY PILOTING AND CANOPY PILOTING-FREESTYLE

Canopy Piloting

Curt Bartholomew
Justin Price
Robin Jandle
Travis Mills
Alex Hart
Edward Heady
Curtis Taylor
Patrick Kessler
Jeannie Bartholomew
Sergey Fedetov
V Prib
Jesse Weyher

Canopy Piloting-Freestyle

Curt Bartholomew
Jeannie Bartholomew
Justin Price
Travis Mills
Alex Hart
Jesse Weyher
Jason Sanders
V Prib
Ian Bobo
Nicholas Batsch
Patrick Kessler
Robin Jandle



JOSEPH THOMAS

Nicholas Batsch
Open Freestyle



JOSEPH THOMAS

Jumpers hold a memorial for canopy pilot Kyle White, who passed away the week prior to Nationals.



JOSEPH THOMAS

Khoa Nguyen
Advanced

SKYDIVE MIDWEST



Jesse Weyher
Open

JAVIER ORTIZ



JOSEPH THOMAS





PHOTO BY **DAVID CHERRY** | D-33500

Tiffany Grist of the 2-way MFS open team Apippamy appreciates the sunset before exiting during the 2022 USPA National Skydiving Championships at Skydive Chicago in Ottawa, Illinois.



USPA 2022

NATIONAL SKYDIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SKYDIVE CHICAGO | SKYDIVE MIDWEST

ACCURACY LANDING, ARTISTIC EVENTS, CANOPY FORMATION,
FORMATION SKYDIVING, SPEED AND WINGSUIT FLYING AT

SKYDIVE CHICAGO

A USPA Staff Report | Photos by David Cherry

With two disciplines down and nine to go, Meet Director Melissa Nelson and her event staff (as well as several particularly versatile competitors) made the two-hour drive south from Skydive Midwest to Skydive Chicago in Ottawa, Illinois, for the remainder of the 2022 USPA National Skydiving Championships.

Over the course of the following two weeks, more than 500 competitors would fly on over 600 loads in the skies above the small town of Ottawa. Craig Girard best captured the spirit of the event while standing beside his 4-way formation skydiving team, Hammertime XP, after their training jumps. "We've all known each other a lot of years," said Girard. "We're probably going to be together many, many more years. And we're having a really good time."

Nelson, who continued to run an efficient and enjoyable competition, held briefings for competitors of each discipline as they arrived to the drop zone, including safety presentations from Skydive Chicago Safety and Training Advisor Anthony Ebel and Chief Pilot Emerson Beinhauer.

At the final awards ceremony of competition, DZO Rook Nelson, "Chief of Chief Judges" Marylou Laughlin and Drop Zone Manager Tracey Holman gathered on stage to show their appreciation to Meet Director Nelson, as well as recognize her for being the first female meet director in USPA Nationals history.



Rhevolution XP
Gold | Advanced 4-Way FS



Arizona Airspeed
Gold | Open 4-Way FS



AZ Alpha
Silver | Advanced 4-Way FS



Hammertime
Silver | Open 4-Way FS

4-, 8-, 10- AND 16-WAY FORMATION SKYDIVING

As is typically the case at national championships, formation skydiving competitors showed up in force, with 4-way FS alone featuring 48 total teams across four different classes—open, advanced, intermediate and, for the second consecutive year, the beginner-class test event.

The beginner class, designed to give new competitors an entry point into USPA competitions, made its debut at last year's USPA National Skydiving Championships. "For many years, would-be competitors have contacted USPA and expressed a level of intimidation about getting started in competitive 4-way FS," said USPA Controller Steve Hubbard. "Learning 16 random formations and 16 block formations created quite a high barrier to entry." Now in its second year, the event attracted five teams to participate at this year's Nationals, and USPA will continue to evaluate it as a potential permanent addition to the competition.

To nobody's surprise, heavy favorite Arizona Airspeed paced the crowd, taking gold in the open class and outscoring all other teams in every round. Closest to them was Hammertime with the silver, followed by hometown team SDC Rhythm XP with bronze. XPG4 finished as the top female team, and while guest teams may not medal in a USPA Nationals, Qatar's Tigers finished with a medal-worthy performance.

In the advanced class, Rrevolution XP finished on top with gold medals, while in the intermediate class that honor went to SDC Rhebellion XP. While the beginner-class competition is a test event and therefore does not officially receive medals, SNE Gripswitch was recognized onstage for their winning performance in this year's competition.

After the conclusion of 4-way FS, many competitors shuffled into new combinations of skydivers to create teams for 8-way, 16-way and 10-way speed. In the open class of the 8-way competition, XP8 turned in a brilliant performance, outpacing the next best team by an average of almost six points per round on their way to a gold medal. Airspeed 8 followed with silver medals, and Prison9 finished third, earning the bronze. Again, a guest competitor team from Qatar, Falcons, finished with a medal-worthy performance.

In the advanced class, a tight competition finished with Elsinore Jambalaya taking home the gold, and in the intermediate class, Perris Byte rebounded all the way from last place (after a zero-point opening round) to the top, finishing the competition with gold medals around their necks.

Sixteen-way FS, the largest team event of Nationals, saw six teams compete this year for medals. In the end, XP16 stood atop the podium after taking a large lead in the opening rounds and holding onto it for the duration. More Than Adequate took silver, with Dallas Disturbance rounding out the medal-winners with bronze.

Ten-way speed, where instead of building consecutive formations according to a draw, teams are judged by how quickly they can build a formation after exit, was the original FS event at USPA Nationals. This year's champion, Sorta Adequate, won a close competition with the silver medalists, Herding Katz, while Airspeed 10 finished third, earning bronze. The Judges' Choice award, given for the most amusing shenanigans following completion of the formation, went to Who is Jessie King? Given the history of the event, it's fitting that this year's C.G. Godfrog Good Vibes Award, given annually by the previous year's winner to a team that best represents "good vibes and sportsmanship," was presented to 10-way team Bootieless.



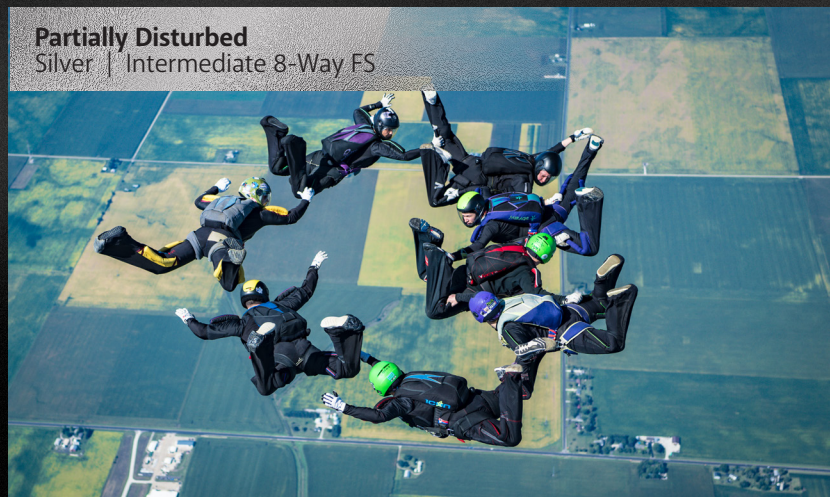
SDC Rhythm XP
Bronze | Open 4-Way FS



Elsinore Jambalaya
Gold | Advanced 8-Way FS



XP8
Gold | Open 8-Way FS



Partially Disturbed
Silver | Intermediate 8-Way FS



Airspeed 8
Silver | Open 8-Way FS



XP16
Gold | 16-Way FS

SKYDIVE MIDWEST II



More Than Adequate
Silver | 16-Way FS

2-WAY MFS, 4-WAY VFS AND ARTISTIC FREESTYLE

While many of the competitors at this year's nationals kept their bellies pointed to earth, there were others that pushed their limits even further. In 2-way mixed formation skydiving, a pair of competitors execute formations that require a variety of body formations—belly-to-earth, sit-flying and head-down—according to their dive flow. This year, the open class saw Fliteshop win convincingly, finishing eight rounds with a total of over 50 points more than any other team. Seeing Double finished with silver, and Leeroy Jenkins took the bronze. The advanced class saw a much tighter medal race, with Ew, Joey just edging out the field to take gold.

4-way vertical formation, in which competitors keep a consistent head-down body position while completing a series of formations, was one of the most anticipated events of the competition, due to the favorites being hometown team and world champion Skydive Chicago Core. Nobody was surprised, then, when they outpaced

the other four teams in the open class and won gold, even with strong performances by silver medalists Arizona Anthem and bronze medalists SDC Retirees. Why Not, gold medalists in the advanced class, finished strong with their highest score of the competition on their final jump, while in the intermediate class, AF Origin dominated (including a 22-point second round!) in their gold-medal performance.

Artistic freestyle, in which two skydivers (including the camera flyer) interact in a series of aerial sequences, saw four teams compete at this year's Nationals. While it was otherwise an incredibly close medal race, defending champion XP Ascend was clearly the class of the competition, winning each round convincingly on their way to another gold medal. The remaining teams fought tooth-and-nail for second place, with XPVision eventually separating from the group to take the silver. In third place, Human Aerodynamics went home with the bronze.



Ew, Joey
Gold | Advanced 2-Way VFS



Fliteshop
Gold | Open 2-Way VFS



Seeing Double
Silver | Open 2-Way VFS



Why Not
Gold | Advanced 4-Way VFS



AF Orion
Gold | Intermediate 4-Way VFS



Arizona Anthem
Silver | Open



XP Ascend
Gold | Freestyle



SDC Core
Gold | Open 4-Way VFS



XPVision
Silver | Freestyle

WINGSUITING-PERFORMANCE AND WINGSUITING-ACROBATIC

The second week of competition at Skydive Chicago was marked by wingsuiters shooting across the sky. The acrobatic event, in which three-person teams execute a series of maneuvers and docks, saw three teams compete this year. FlatSpin, the favorite to win the event, may have exceeded expectations anyway, finishing with five perfect scores (of seven total rounds) on their way to the gold medal. Pteam Pterodactyl finished with silver, though MOEmentum was right on their tails, earning bronze.

The performance event of wingsuiting, an individual event, is a much different one, with competitors making nine total jumps, three each in time, distance and speed. Competitors are judged on their performance in a 1,000-meter window, at 2,500m to 1,500m above ground level.

In distance, the competitor who covers the most horizontal ground in that competition window wins the event, and this year's winner was Alexey Galda, followed by Chris Geiler with silver and Joe Ridler with bronze. Geiler finished with the gold in speed after winning each of the three rounds in which competitors were judged based on average horizontal speed in the 1,000-meter window. Danny White finished second to earn silver, while Ridler again received the bronze. In the time event, wingsuiters do their best to slow their descent, and the winner is the competitor who takes the longest to advance through the competition window. Galda again stood atop the podium, winning gold in the event, narrowly edging out silver medalist Geiler and bronze medalist Andy Kenny.

With all nine rounds of performance wingsuiting judged, the competition at the top was incredibly tight for the overall medals, with Chris Geiler just barely edging out Alexey Galda to take the gold medal. Galda finished with silver, and in third place, Joe Ridler earned bronze.



FlatSpin
Gold | Acrobatic



Chris Geiler
Gold | Performance Overall and Speed
Silver | Performance Time and Distance



Pteam Pterodactyl
Silver | Acrobatic



Team Fastrax
Gold | Open 2-Way Sequential CF



Elsinore Chops Ahoy
Gold | Open 4-Way Sequential CF



Elsinore Too Wrapped Up
Silver | Open 2-Way Sequential CF

CANOPY FORMATION

Even if formation skydiving was the discipline with the most competitors at this year's Nationals, canopy formation was definitely the loudest. The group of competitors that showed up to Ottawa, many with decades of competition experience, were as gregarious and fun-loving as they were welcoming to the guest competitors.

Both 4-way CF events were incredibly close, with both winners taking gold by only two points. In the 4-way rotations event, where skydivers under canopy swoop from the top of a stack down to the bottom, cycling through the formation, the winner was Jorts Jettison edging out Air Strike, which took silver. Elsinore Has Been Trying to Reach You came in third and earned the bronze. Guest competitors CFR had a medal-worthy performance as well, posting the best score of the event by a large margin.

In the 4-way sequential event, competitors build sequences of formations based on a draw, much like formation skydiving. Again, the competition was tight at the top, with Elsinore Chops Ahoy 4 winning gold medals with a gap of just two points between them and silver medalists Frog Modified. Gangsta Wrap took home the bronze medal, while guest competitors CF4 demonstrated incredible skill with the highest score of the event.

The final canopy formation event was 2-way sequential, with Team Fastrax dominating the competition on their way to gold, doubling the score of all other teams with the exception of Elsinore Too Wrapped Up, who finished with silver. Bad Advice Club earned bronze medals, while guest competitors Qatar Sandstorm and Qatar B both scored podium-worthy totals. In the pro-am class, Elsinore Chops Ahoy finished with the gold.

During the CF events, skydivers noticed an especially high number of female competitors, and decided to take advantage of the opportunity to set a new state record. Ten female athletes (including a female videographer) set the Illinois State Record for Largest Canopy Formation, with a 9-way diamond.

SPEED SKYDIVING AND ACCURACY LANDING

Accuracy Landing photos by Eddie Phillips

The final two events of this year's competition were a blend of new and old—speed skydiving and accuracy landing. In speed skydiving, competitors exit the plane, point their heads at the ground and then have a 7,400-foot window (which must end before 5,600 feet AGL) to fall as fast as possible. The highest three-second average during that window becomes their score, with eight total jumps in the event. Last year's top two finishers, Kyle Lobpries and Niklas Daniel, again thrilled with a tight gold-medal race. Each round finished with one of them as top scorer, and though Lobpries finished first in five of eight rounds, Daniel's three round victories were decisive enough to earn the overall gold. Lobpries finished just behind him, taking the silver medal while the bronze went to T.J. Landgren.

In both the individual and team events of accuracy landing, familiar faces took the podium to celebrate the conclusion of the competition. The individual event was perhaps the tightest medal race of any discipline, which makes sense for an event in which competitors aim for a two-centimeter target. Natalia Velidtchenko was the top performer, winning gold by just 2 total centimeters and barely edging out skydiving legend Cheryl Stearns, who finished with silver. Accuracy judges almost needed microscopes to determine whether James Drummond or Eden Alisa earned the bronze, but after the measurement came down to the thousandths of a centimeter, it was Drummond who medaled by just a hair. It was just 3 centimeters that separated the top four finishers.

In the team accuracy event, Stearns and Alisa led their team Old Bones to the gold medal, while Velidtchenko and Drummond were close behind with Skydive Rick's, earning silver. Z Team finished third, taking home the bronze.



Niklas Daniel
Gold | Speed



Kyle Lobpries
Silver | Speed



Natalia Velidtchenko
Gold | Accuracy Landing



Cheryl Stearns
Silver | Accuracy Landing

The 2022 National Skydiving Championships wound down to a close a few days early, on Monday, September 19. Meet Director Nelson took the stage one last time to thank the drop zone and meet staff, judges and competitors. "Thank you all for keeping the spirit of competition alive," she said. "Competition helps our sport grow, increases our skill and inspires others on their own path."

For the competition's top finishers, that path will continue into next year. The top finishers in each event will qualify for the U.S. National Teams at the 2023 World Cup competitions. While some teams are already set, look for the others to be announced in the coming months!



FORMATION SKYDIVING

CHIEF JUDGE: Rina Gallo

JUDGES: Vera Asquith, Deanne Brazelton, Randy Connell, David Grabowski, Christine Howard, Rhonda Kaletz, Tamara Koyn, Hao Ni, Elizabeth Pitts, Jim Rees, Dara Shapiro, Ron Shipp, Gary Taylor

COMBINED FREEFALL CHAMPIONS: Matthew Davidson, Brendan Haddon, Andrew Happick and Niklas Hemlin

2-Way Mixed—Open



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Fliteshop Taylor Buffington, Andy Malchiodi, Jason Peters	134/16.8
2	Seeing Double Matthew Fry, Michelle Hart, Irina Meshcheryakova	83/10.4
3	Leeroy Jenkins Wade Baird, Vincent Faires, Michael Russell	69/8.6
4	HB2	59/7.4
5	Apippany	41/5.1

2-Way Mixed—Advanced



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Ew, Joey Joey Baker, Lindsay Fener, Johnny Gunn	69/8.6
2	AF Lamingo Joe Catlett, Aiden Deidrich, Chad Henderson, Matt Riley, Luke Wojcik	66/8.3
3	The MFs Jagannathan Alagurajan, Sam Lendle, Nicholas Nash	64/8.0
4	Let's Make Colin Watch	51/6.4
5	SDMW Ballistix	46/5.8
6	Boys and Bird	40/5.0
7	CKS	30/3.8
8	CK Syndicate	30/3.8

4-Way Vertical—Open



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Skydive Chicago Core Johnny Gunn, Dusty Hanks, Sam Lendle, Michael Russell, Nicole Senecal, Stephanie Strange	210/21.0
2	Arizona Anthem John Blackburn, Andy Locke, Karlee Locke, Chazi Rutz, Seth Studer	160/16.0
3	SDC Retirees Andy Malchiodi, Timmy McMaster, Rook Nelson, Mickey Nuttall, Jason Peters	157/15.7
4	SDMW Chemtrails	133/13.3
5	Forward XP	76/7.6

4-Way Vertical—Advanced



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Why Not Jagannathan Alagurajan, Brian Benner, Sheryl Benner, Gerard Donadi, Patrick Dunleavy	75/7.5
2	Hustlers Taylor Buffington, Scott Kervick Erika Lopez, Nicholas Russo, Rebecca Wu	64/6.4
3	Wingin' It Daniel Adams, Joey Baker, Ashton Lane, Leslie Menetrier, Jonathan Spaeth	64/6.4
4	SDC Core-n-Trails	52/5.2

4-Way Vertical—Intermediate



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	AF Origin Joe Catlett, Aiden Deidrich, Ryan George, Chad Henderson, Luke Wojcik	64/10.7
2	CSC Freeloaders Omar Al Atassi, Casey Long, Shannon McCarthy, Douglas Smith, Paul Webster	25/4.2
3	Impulse Timothy Boman, Nader Hammoud, Ryan Hanold, Claire Magill, Joshua Magill	5/0.8

4-Way—Open



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Arizona Airspeed Brendan Haddon, Niklas Hemlin, Christopher Kuhlmann, Mikhail Markine, Joey Marshall	258/25.8
2	Hammertime Taylor Buffington, Matthew Davidson, Craig Girard, Andrew Happick, Eliana Rodriguez	204/20.4
3	SDC Rhythm XP Doug Barron, Keith Conner, Carl Kallgren, Charlie McGee, Christopher Webb	196/19.6
4	XPG4	189/18.9
5	SDMW NEXT	185/18.5
6	Lightspeed XP	161/16.1
7	Spaceland Apex	147/14.7
8	Corn Needs Butter	134/13.4
9	SNE Fly Girls	111/11.1
G	Tigers	215/21.5
G	Cheetahs	172/17.2
G	Lions	157/15.7

4-Way—Advanced



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Rhevolution XP Christine Bruchac, Alexander Bucevicius, Chris Normandeau, Radim Studeny, Zachary Winoker	151/15.1
2	AZ Alpha Christina Deglau, Mike Deglau, Mark Kirkby, John Lyman, Ian Pedowitz	147/14.7
3	SDC Rhuthless Jamie Caldwell, Steve Lefkowitz, Keith Nugent, Dan Schultz, Marion Stallworth	143/14.3
4	CK Flying Dogs	136/13.6
5	AF 9-Ball	133/13.3
6	AF Night Fury	126/12.6
7	Elsinore Main Street	120/12.0
8	Perris Bing Bong	119/11.9
9	This is Our Season	118/11.8
10	4s of NotSure	115/11.5
11	Platinum XP	112/11.2
12	AF Zorro	107/10.7
13	Paragon	74/7.4
14	Tummy Team	37/3.7
G	La Playa	57/5.7

4-Way—Beginner (test event)



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	SNE Gripswitch Trevor Donarski, Julia Kenney, Preston Pruett, Chris Thomas, Stephen Vigliotti	46/7.7
2	Cinna Bun Syndicate Heather Culver, Andrew Ericson, Joshua McNall, Max McParland, Brandon Theisen	39/6.5
3	Spaceland Toxic Turtles David Galdamez, John Green, Sarah Jarvis, Brent Royer, Carl Schwenk	32/5.3
4	Rheal Dheal	29/4.8
5	Spaceland Toxic Ex-Girlfriends	25/4.2

4-Way—Intermediate



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	SDC Rhebellion XP Eric Bambach, Greg Bush, Amanda Elkin, Aga Horoszko, Kelsey Strock	128/12.8
2	Cinnamon Roll Fight Club Mary Dalman, Jonathan Kajewski, Brian Nasset, Arthur Rupp, Ryan Weeks	111/11.1
3	Spaceland Toxic Andrew Clayton, Laura Galdamez, Norris Gearhart, John McDonnell, Joshua Schirard	108/10.8
4	AF Tall Boys	98/9.8
5	Spaceland 49 1/2 Fingers	90/9.0
6	Archridge FAM	87/8.7
7	Joanne and the Creepers	83/8.3
8	Anion Flux XP	83/8.3
9	Air Raid XP	82/8.2
10	CSC Constellation	81/8.1
11	AF Artemis	77/7.7
12	Pick Me Up Before You Go Go	72/7.2
13	DeLand Pound Cakes	69/6.9
14	AF PoisEN	60/6.0
15	Frequent Fallers	40/4.0
G	Fouriners	84/8.4

8-Way—Open



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	XP8 Jeana Billings, Elliot Byrd, John D'Annunzio, Jennifer Davidson, Matthew Davidson, Craig Girard, Andrew Happick, Michelle Karamon, Brian Krause, Kirk Verner	222/22.2
2	Airspeed 8 Brendan Haddon, Niklas Hemlin, James Klinge, Christopher Kuhlmann, Steve Lefkowitz, Benjamin Liston, Mikhail Markine, Joey Marshall, Eliana Rodriguez	163/16.3
3	Prison 9 Matthew Acord, Gorka Amian, Brian Ball, Doug Barron, Lauren Byrd, Douglas Hendrix, Scott Latinis, Charlie McGee, Greg Oldendick	123/12.3
4	Bra Nok XP	108/10.8
5	Disturbance 8	93/9.3
6	Monster XP	59/5.9
G	Falcons	172/17.2

8-Way—Advanced



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Elsinore Jambalaya Emily Bombardi, Amanda Echevarria, Cat Isgrigg, Amanda Lampton, Patrick Lehner, Anders Mattsson, Caden Maydew, Keith Nugent, Erik Prime, Nick Strecker	85/8.5
2	The Gr8 Rhevival Greg Bush, Andrew Clayton, Katie Healy, Samuel LeCrone, Steve Loufek, Kazuyuki Oyama, Dan Schultz, Marion Stallworth, Bradley Wallace	75/7.5
3	Barely Adequate Christina Deglau, Mike Deglau, Laura Galdamez, Kevin Kierce, John Lyman, Ian Pedowitz, LeAnne Schwab, Kelsey Strock, Andrew Yin	73/7.3
4	Elsinore Fault Line	63/6.3
5	Pairaducks	44/4.4

8-Way—Intermediate



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Perris Byte James Boehm, Kristian Caulder, Dillon Cole, Sophia Fillmore, Christy Frikken, Viktor Han, Keri Kunkle, David Schrage, Dmytro Vinichenko	71/7.1
2	Partially Disturbed Karen Bilder, Melissa Coleman, Gary Haass, Jesse King, Alan Levy Sean Moorhead, Randal Morgan, Angela Scoggins, Brandy Verhalen, Elizabeth Victor	60/6.0
3	Carolina Gr8ness Jamie Caldwell, Jason Dolan, Laura Jane Happick, Emily Karr, Deirdre Knobloch, Paul McDonald, Kevin Naftzger, Kelly Turbeville, Christopher Webb	51/5.1
4	Keith's Insubordin8ors	43/4.3
5	Platinum 8	43/4.3
6	Illumin-8	41/4.1
7	Full Moon Rising	34/3.4

10-Way Speed



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	Sorta Adequate Igor Afanasjev, Eric Daniel, Rich Delgado, Laura Galdamez, Kevin Kierce, John Lyman, Ian Pedowitz, Dan Schultz, Angie Scoggins, Kelsey Strock, Andrew Yin	131.99
2	Herding Katz Greg Bush, Anthony Cernera, Christopher Diamantes, David Grabowski, Jens Gronemeyer, Chris Halsan, Kim Hollander, Mario Mauro, Mark Pharr, Alixandra Raymond, Jack Ronalter	137.2
3	Airspeed 10 Jeana Billings, Keith Conner, Rod Cruce, Brendan Haddon, Joshua Hall, Niklas Hemlin, Michelle Karamon, James Klinge, Steve Lefkowitz, Benjamin Liston, Joey Marshall, Kirk Verner	141.81
4	Who is Jesse King?	150.23
5	Bootieless	194.83

JUDGES' CHOICE AWARD: Who is Jesse King?

16-Way



Rank	Competitor	Total/Avg
1	XP16 Doug Barron, Jeana Billings, Anna Brunner, Keith Conner, John D'Annunzio, Matthew Davidson, Brendan Haddon, Joshua Hall, Andrew Happick, Niklas Hemlin, Carl Kallgren, Michelle Karamon, Brian Krause, Steve Lefkowitz, Greg Oldendick, Brenn Richards, Kirk Verner, Christopher Webb	66/11
2	More Than Adequate Igor Afanasjev, Eric Daniel, Rich Delgado, Amanda Echevarria, Laura Galdamez, Craig Girard, Kevin Kierce, Karlee King, James Klinge, Joey Marshall, Craig O'Brien, Ian Pedowitz, Douglas Pinkham, Erik Prime, Eliana Rodriguez, Dan Schultz, Angela Scoggins, Kelsey Strock	49/8.2
3	Dallas Disturbance Erika Barczak, David Bowen, Michael Erickson, Norris Gearhart, Amy Haass, Gary Haass, Larry Henderson, Thomas Hughes, Lucas King, Patrick Lehner, Caden Maydew, Paul Neely, Aaron Perkins, Jonathan Perl, Elizabeth Victor, Christy West, Billy Whitaker, Lawrence Wobker	45/7.5
4	Paradox	29/4.8
5	Fusion 16	18/3.0
6	Squeaky Wheel	11/1.8

C.G. Godfrog Good Vibes Award



Bootieless

WINGSUIT FLYING

CHIEF JUDGE: Scott Callantine
 JUDGES: Jami Pillasch, Tamara Koyn, Mary Tortomasi, Daniel Angulo, Vera Asquith, Ted Chen, Jennifer Jones, Simon Repton, Paul Waschak

Performance | SCORING SYSTEM: skyderby.ru

OVERALL



SPEED



DISTANCE



TIME



Rank/score	Competitor	Suit	Distance	Speed	Time
1/293.8	Chris Geiler	SQ CR+	2/97.3	1/100	2/96.5
2/290.7	Alexey Galda	SQ CR+	1/99.1	4/91.6	1/100
3/265.7	Joe Ridler	SQ CR+	3/88.2	3/93.6	4/84.0
4/254.9	Andy Kenny	SQ CR+	5/79.3	5/90.8	3/84.8
5/250.8	Danny White	SQ CR+	4/81.3	2/96.9	5/72.6
6/233.8	Marcelo Zoni	TS JEDEI 3	6/68.9	7/80.9	4/84.0
7/208.8	Kristina Theroux	SQ CREATURE	8/62.5	8/78.4	7/67.9
G/227.2	Valentin Yankulov	SQ CREATURE	7/67.6	6/87.7	6/71.9
G/153.3	Cesar Estrada Iglesias	SQ AURA 2	9/44.1	9/65.7	8/43.5

Acrobatic



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	FlatSpin Jeff Harrigan, Nicholas Maieritsch, Travis Mickle	2083
2	Pteam Pterodactyl George Hargis, Alex Swindle, Andrew Velasquez	1792
3	MOEmentum Stephany Dibble, Andrew Kenny, Melissa Petitto-Kenny	1609

ARTISTIC Freestyle

CHIEF JUDGE: Bryce Witcher
 JUDGES: Tamara Koyn, Jami Pillasch, Mary Tortomasi



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	XP Ascend Jason Brigmon, Jake Carlton	62.0
2	XP Vision Anthony Armendariz, Chris Bess	39.7
3	Human Aerodynamics Samantha Gildersleeve, Mike Sopko	36.5
4	Team Illusions	36.3

CANOPY FORMATION SKYDIVING

CHIEF JUDGE: Natasha Higman
 JUDGES: Cheryl Michaels, Tanya Murnock,
 Jim Rees, Marie Winther

COMBINED CANOPY FORMATION GOLD MEDAL: Sean Jones

2-Way Sequential—Open



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Team Fastrax Nicole Condrey, John Hart, Yuliya Pangburn	167/20.9
2	Elsinore Too Wrapped Up Daniel Dupuis, Sean Jones, Will Kitto	94/11.8
3	Bad Advice Club Hanna Albrecht, Sarah Burriss, Sean Plastine	68/8.5
4	Elsinore Baaaaaaa'd Goats	57/7.1
5	Big Spoon Energy	37/4.6
6	Thunderbirds	34/4.3
G	Qatar Sandstorm	230/28.8
G	Qatar B	168/21.0

2-Way Sequential—Pro Am



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Elsinore Chops Ahoy Jesse DelBono, Dave Hillebrandt, Sean Jones	58/7.3
2	Elsinore Team Safety Brief CF2 Cat Isgrigg, Alex Sarmiento, Kyle Taylor	43/5.4
3	Airstrike 1 Eric Kennes, Keith Tolley, Sean Wynn	38/4.8
4	Elsinore Our Camera Already Left	34/4.3
5	BS	33/4.1
6	Warp Riders	33/4.1
7	Airstrike 2	32/4
8	GIR	28/3.5
9	Meow Meow	19/2.4
10	Chop It Like It's Hot	19/2.4

4-Way Rotation



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Jorts Jettison Don Bromley, Andrew Draminski, Krista Goral, Dave Hillebrandt, Jason McClure, Curtis Shaw	61/7.6
2	Air Strike Steve Archuletta, Eric Kennes, Billy Price, Jason Tilley, Keith Tolley, Sean Wynn	59/7.4
3	Elsinore Has Been Trying to Reach You Steven Davis, Sean Jones, Sarah Lombardo, Pat Marcanio, Brian Stempin	53/6.6
4	Aghlll	51/6.4
5	Elsinore Dawggie Style	49/6.1
6	Elsinore Team Safety Brief CFR	41/5.1
G	Qatar CFR	155/19.4

4-Way Sequential—Open



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Elsinore Chops Ahoy 4 Don Bromley, Charity DeRoo, Sean Jones, Pat Marcanio, Zach Plumb	26/3.3
2	Frog Modified Jorge Chacon, Steven Davis, Jackson Hoffman, Bronwyn Jurkowski, Jason McClure	24/3.0
3	Gangsta Wrap Krista Goral, Mark Klingelhofer, Randy Persi, Curtis Shaw, John Young	21/2.6
4	Elsinore Team Safety Brief CF4	18/2.3
5	The (less) Bad Advice Club	16/2.0
6	Elsinore Pick Up Team A	15/1.9
7	Air Strike	9/1.1
G	Qatar CF4	104/13

SPEED

CHIEF JUDGE: Stephan Kramer
 JUDGES: Deanna Anderson, Kevin Drivas, Jeni Gordon

Individual



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Niklas Daniel	4043.62/505.5
2	Kyle Lobpries	4021.04/502.6
3	T.J. Landgren	3865.45/483.2
4	Jorge Chacon	3591.46/448.9
5	Eugenio Ciurana	3520.58/440.1
6	Matthew Fry	3478.02/434.8
7	Logan Mahone	3474.94/434.4
8	Joe Carder	3368.69/421.1
9	Wade Baird	3202.39/400.3
10	John Stillwell	3197.19/399.7
11	Joel Williamson	3020.15/377.5
12	Brianne Thompson	2929.26/366.2
13	Brandon Jones	2896.16/362.0
14	Montana Miller	2725.74/340.7

ACCURACY LANDING

CHIEF JUDGES: Marylou Laughlin, Matt McManus
 JUDGES: Karen Berling-Morrison, Lee Schlichtemeier

Individual



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Natalia Velidtchenko	0.16
2	Cheryl Stearns	0.18
3	James Drummond	0.19
4	Eden Alisa	0.19
5	Drew Riffle	0.31
6	Walter Samojlik	0.38
7	Dennis Murphy	0.56
8	Martin Jones	0.62
9	Rick Kuhns	0.67
10	Joseph Barron	0.70
11	Matija Bajer	1.01
12	Molly Howsare	1.54
13	John Hill	1.60
13	Denny Hayes	1.60

Team



Rank	Competitor	Total
1	Old Bones Cheryl Stearns, Drew Riffle, Eden Allisa, Martin Jones	1.03
2	Skydive Rick's James Drummond, Molly Howsare, Rick Kuhns, Natalia Velidtchenko	1.92
3	Z Team Matija Bajer, Dennis Murphy, Walter Samojlik	2.86
4	Air Apparent	4.44

U.S. TEAMS FOR THE 2023 WORLD CUPS

Artistic Events Freestyle*:

XP Ascend, XPVision

Accuracy Landing Male:

James Drummond, Eden Alisa, Drew Riffle, Walter Samojlik (pending ISC selection of a World Cup)

Accuracy Landing Female:

Natalia Velidtchenko, Cheryl Stearns, Molly Howsare (pending ISC selection of a World Cup)

Formation Skydiving 4-way*:

Arizona Airspeed

Formation Skydiving 4-way Female*:

XPG4

Formation Skydiving 8-way*:

XP8

Vertical Formation Skydiving*:

Skydive Chicago Core

Speed Skydiving:

Niklas Daniel, Kyle Lobpries, T.J. Landgren, Jorge Chacon, Eugenio Ciurana, Matthew Fry, Logan Mahone, Joe Carder, Wade Baird, John Stillwell, Brianna Thompson, Montana Miller

Wingsuit Performance:

Chris Geiler, Alexey Galda, Joe Ridler, Andy Kenny, Danny White, Marcelo Zoni, Kristina Theroux

Wingsuit Acrobatic:

Flatspin, Pteam Pterodactyl, MOEmentum

host may invite additional teams in events marked with *

