



**Parachute**

# AKAC Event #31:

# SKYDIVING!!!

Part Deux



October 23, 2005

But first, a word or two by way of explanation...



The bravest among us departed DC the night before, planning to attend "Steak Night" at the airfield with the skydiving staff, then stargaze, and camp out.

The violent pouring rain and frigid temperatures did not dampen our spirits. "It will clear up!" Matt confidently declared. Spoken like a true a\*\* kicker. So we set off into the wilds of Virginia.

But unfortunately, due to the deluge, there was to be no Steak Night, no jovial camaraderie at the airfield, and, more worrisome, no place for us to eat or sleep. Undaunted, we pulled over at a lonely crossroads and attempted to communicate with some locals to find a hotel or a campground.

**The first shopkeeper we visited** appeared to have wandered off the set of the movie “Deliverance” (see BTOR # 15), along with merchandise from that era, undusted. We were unable to decipher her replies to our queries and we feared catching her unsightly skin condition. We tried another small shop across the road.



Framed photos on the wall of **the second store** boasted that Arnold Schwarzenegger had once graced this remote outpost in central Virginia with a visit. Or else the staff are quite good at PhotoShop.

The exceedingly friendly woman behind the counter drew us an elaborately unhelpful road map on the back of her to-do list and insisted we take it with us. We hoped that most of the list items had already been done.



Just as we were despairing of ever finding a place to eat or sleep again, hope shined its glorious light upon us in the form of...



Dean on a previous AKAC trip, showing fluent, simultaneous use of map and GPS locator device all while looking at his shoes. Our hero. Kind of.

...a phone call from a\*\* kicker Dean, in Australia! Despite being on the opposite side of the world, he had internet access (probably kangaroo-powered) and was able to readily locate a nearby campground for us. "Look here," he said encouragingly, "this campground has wireless internet access and only costs \$30 per tent!"

We decided that the fascinating mix of luxurious amenities and outrageous price to sleep on the ground was not what we had in mind. Plus none of us had thought to bring a laptop on a camping and skydiving trip.

Reverting to the original plan, we set off again to the airfield to camp, alone, without steaks.



Matt and Paulraj stargaze on the runway

After we arrived at the deserted, waterlogged airfield, the rain stopped, the stars came out, and we camped, albeit sans boeuf.

Checking out the equipment for tomorrow



Lee and Sally pay long-overdue homage to the mighty number 2 painted on the runway



While our heroes attempted to sleep in their flimsy, non-soundproof tents...

Instead of sugarplums dancing in our heads, we had:

The Orient Express roaring by...

Chooga chooga **CHOO CHOOOOOO!!!!**



the Hound of the Baskervilles howling...



**Aaahhh-ooooooooohhhhh!!!!**

and the Red Baron barnstorming over our heads



**Vvvvvvrrroooooooooommm!!!!**

(actually, Lee slept through the whole thing)



**After that short night, skydiving day dawned clear and mild over the Louisa County Industrial Airfield, the Skydive Virginia hangar, and the A\*\* Kicking tent city.**



**We struggle to rise and shine...**



Just five more minutes, Mom!

"Paulraj, wakey wakey! Time to get out of your tent!"

Later that morning...the rest of the a\*\* kicking group gathers.



Anne looks dubious as she signs her waiver.  
Dismemberment, paralysis,  
coma or death? NO  
PROBLEM!!

Close-up of waiver and  
Jillian's buttons which read  
"Live Responsibly."



Time for the "how not to go splat" class. Chris is our wise and wonderful instructor.



His assistant, Mr. Articulated Wooden Man, demonstrates the correct freefall arch position.

'Kickers listen attentively...



...then practice what they learned on land.



**We get suited up.**  
No pink suit this time. Tyra Banks needed it for the set of America's Next Top Model.



Captain AKAC sez: Fashion  
**ALWAYS** matters. Aarrgh!

## Our Confident A\*\* Kickers are raring to go!



Katie: "Been there, done that, doin' it again"

Jillian: "And I look good doing it!"



Paulraj: "Oh heelll yeah!"

# The plane!

Think she's seaworthy, cap'n?

Uhh, yeah, sure...





**There they go!**



Here they come!

A photograph of a skydiver in a blue sky with white clouds. A large, light blue speech bubble is superimposed on the image, containing the text "Yaaaa!! Eeeeeee!! Wooo!". The skydiver is visible as a small figure in the lower center of the frame.

Yaaaa!! Eeeeeee!! Wooo!

We heard Anne long before we saw her.  
She is now known across much of central  
Virginia as "The Screamer."



Triumphant 'kickers back on land!



Evidence of a wet landing... :)



**The few, the proud...the skydivers, part deux!!!!**

