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Vertical Aviation—Skydiving

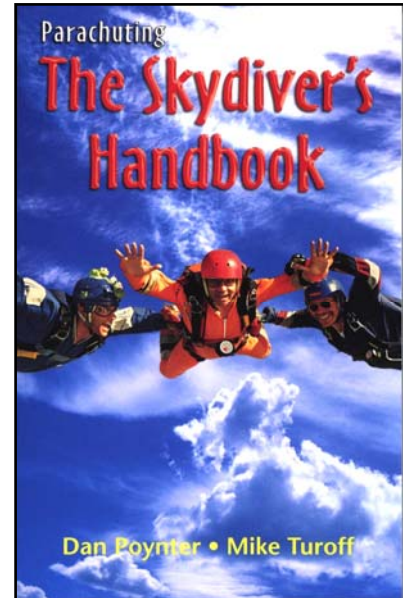
Skydiving! Not just falling in a rapid, vertical tumble for thousands of feet, but exhilarating horizontal flying; the closest we humans have come to unencumbered bird-like flight.

Deflecting their flying surfaces (arms and legs), skydivers can perform aerobatic maneuvers such as loops, rolls and flying inverted.

Skydivers can also fly horizontally. In fact, they can achieve an angle of 35 degrees or more from the vertical, or approaching 1:1. This means that on a sixty-second skydive from 12,500' providing 10,000' of freefall, a jumper can cover 7,000' of ground, or 1.35 miles.

Skydivers can also control their vertical speed between 110 and 190 mph. Freefalling jumpers spread their flying surfaces to fly prone like Superman or sweep them back to stand on their heads. Since their weight remains constant but their drag area can be changed, skydivers can climb and descend—relative to each other. They can exit an aircraft one-after-the-other and then swoop down to make formations on the same level.

And for adrenaline junkies, there is speed. In fact, the *Guinness Book of World Records* calls skydiving the world's fastest non-mechanical sport. Skydiving is high-speed *vertical* aviation.



Today's parachutes are exciting too. Gone are the traditional round canopies, which were purely drag devices. The new airfoil-shaped, ram-air inflated wings provide lift and are flown like a glider. They have a 20-mph. airspeed, a ten foot-per-second sink rate and can be flared for tip-toe landings. Want to know more?

Parachuting, The Skydiver's Handbook is an easy-to-read popular book directed to those looking into the sport for the first time as well as the advance jumper. Authors Dan Poynter and Mike Turoff go into great detail covering every phase of skydiving, canopy flying, safety and equipment. They begin with an overview of the sport and progress to an in-depth study of emergencies; their causes, avoidance and solutions. The book goes on to cover freefall progression, learning to skydive; canopy progression and canopy formation flying; specialized jumping; and all about your parachutes. The Appendix contains a glossary of skydiving terms and a list of books, magazines, drop zones, dealers and videos available worldwide.

Dan Poynter is pilot, past Chairman of the Board of the US Parachute Association and past President of Parachute Industry Association. Mike Turoff is a (jump) pilot and has all the highest skydiving licenses and ratings. He spends his weekends with students, explaining how things happen and applying safety to skydiving.

Parachuting, The Skydiver's Handbook can be found in both bookstores and parachute stores as well as direct from the publisher for \$19.95. Send to Para Publishing, PO Box 8206, Santa Barbara, CA 93118-8206, USA. Telephone: 800-PARAPUB. Add \$4.00 for air shipping. Californians add \$1.55 sales tax. Satisfaction is guaranteed.

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Parachuting, The Skydiver's Handbook by Dan Poynter & Mike Turoff. All new, completely revised ninth edition, 5.5 x 8.5, 408 pages, 260 illustrations. 82,000 in print. ISBN 1-56860-087-9, LC 2003107510. \$19.95.



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