

The Ammonoosuc Times



Wow!

FREE!

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Serving New Hampshire's Western White Mountains



OVER WHITEFIELD – Record-setting all-women skydive over the Mount Washington Regional Airport. It was New Hampshire's first all-women six-way "star" jump. Pictured are, Sally Uren, Erin Donovan, Leslie Caron, Jill Gelinaas, Jen Cook, and Jill Kenny. (photo by Chuck Karcher)

The Mount Washington Regional Airport played host to skydivers from SkyDive New England October 17.

Based in Lebanon, Maine, SkyDive New England brought all three of their jump planes to Whitefield's airport in order to accommodate the nearly 50 jumpers from as far away as Connecticut for this special jump event. Their work-horse airplane, a twin engine DeHaviland Twin Otter, capable of carrying up to 23 people, was kept busy all day bringing parachutists to 13,500 feet. From that altitude, jumpers would "free fall" nearly 7,000 feet before opening their parachutes and sailing gracefully back to a soft landing.

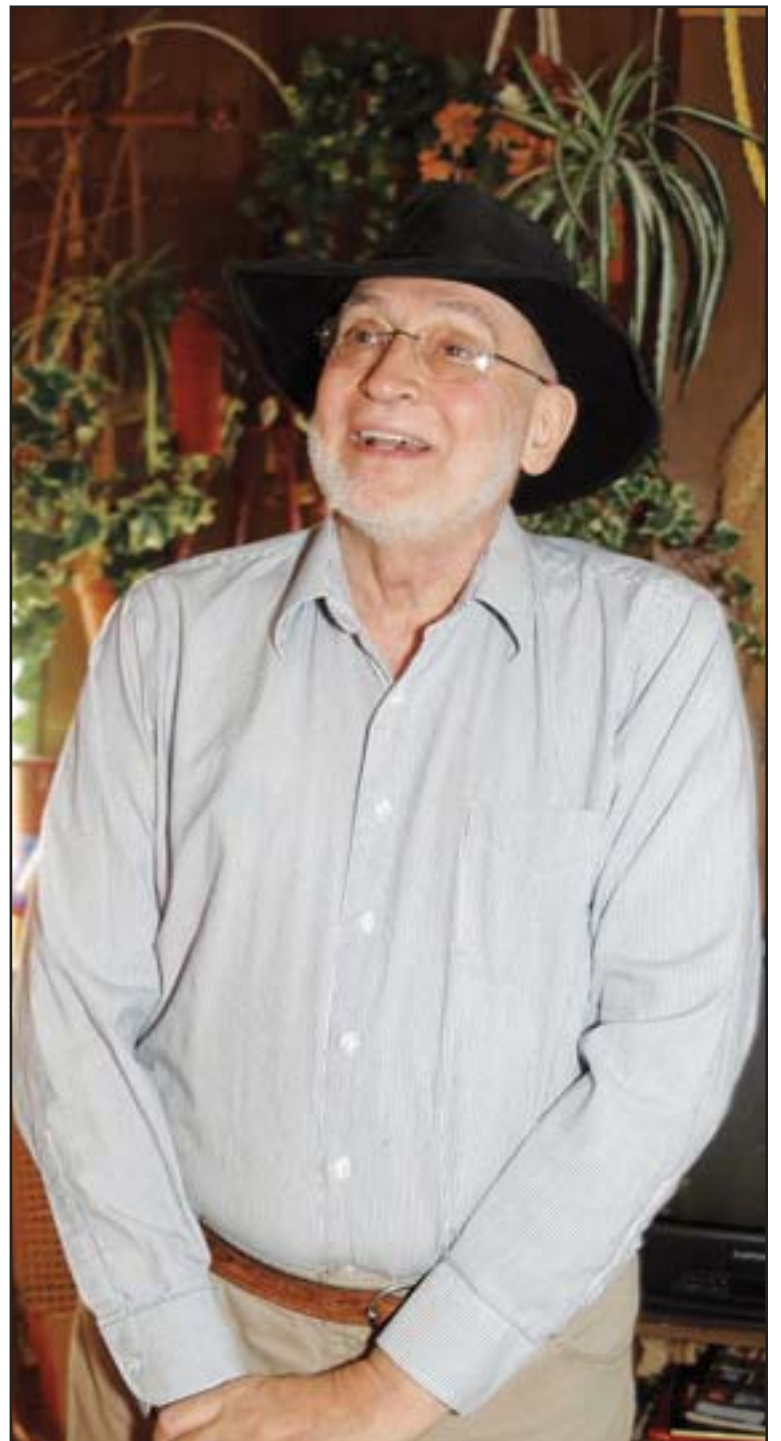
During one jump, a New England skydiving record was set. Never before over the skies of New England had 6 women jumped and formed a "star" pattern.

Throughout the day, jumpers could be seen sailing through the skies, some as singles, some as pairs and still others forming as groups before splitting apart and opening their parachutes. Once opening their parachutes at approx. 5,500 feet, these colorful canopies made an interesting contrast to the fall foliage. Airport Manager, Bruce Hutchings said, "It sure got many people's attention. We had quite a few folks stopping by the airport to watch and many were stopping their cars by the side of Colby Road and Airport Road watching from a distance."

The jumpers included highly-experienced individuals with thousands of jumps and some who were novices. One student jumper was able to complete his required jumps and was awarded his "Jumpers License" at the end of the day. Six individuals also took their first jump.

Many commented on how beautiful the area is. Said one jumper, "To see the snow capped mountains, the fall colors, the beautiful green grass surrounding your airport, the hills, the trees, WOW, this is great!"

For more about sky diving contact SkyDive New England at 1-800-UGO-JUMP or see www.skydivenewengland.com.



Recalling Armand

BY PAUL LISTER

Since the original article, "Is Armand Dead Yet", appeared in *The Ammonoosuc Times* of November 17, 2006, many people have inquired about circumstances surrounding Armand Fillian. He was greatly humbled by the outpouring of admiration and support, but most important to him were the testimonies of those who had to care for dying family and friends who were never sure, even in death, if they had done the right things while their loved ones slipped slowly from their grasp. Even as the terminally ill progress through anger, depression and acceptance, the final stages of grief, our words and actions may seemingly not provide the comfort we want to give but Armand assured us with the validation we so desperately needed.

A number of individuals were concerned about Armand finding religion and, apparently even more so, finding God. To them I would say that in the final hours he clutched Rosary beads perhaps placed in his palm by a relative who is a nun or perhaps on his own accord. He had once described his attempt at reading the Bible as, "It's not Jane Eyre." During one of my visits, a Bible was opened to the Book of Psalms and Armand explained this as, "Friends from the church have been reading this to me but we haven't gotten very far." Finally, during his memorial service, the pastor of the church that had embraced Armand (and indeed

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