



Sara

Age: 35

Marital Status: married to Steve

Occupation: Full time skydiver

Sponsors: Infinity, Get Hypoxic, Uragan suits, Precision Aerodynamics, Cookie Composites, Larsen and Brusgaard, Skydive Arizona, Skyventure Arizona, Cypres 2

Container: Infinity

Main Canopies: Xaos 68

Reserve Canopies: R-Max 108

AAD: Cypres 2

License and Ratings: Coach, Pro

Championships:

Gold Nationals 2006 for VFS video

Silver Nationals 2007 for VFS video

Gold Nationals 2008 for VFS video

Gold World Cup 2008 for VFS video

Total number of jumps:
5,500

Total number of cutaways: 8

Jump Philosophy:

Find the right combination of being aggressive and being chilled out, and oh ya, breathe!

Steve

Marital Status: Married to Sara

Occupation: Skydiving coach and competitor

Sponsors: Skydive AZ, Skyventure AZ, Velocity Sports Equipment/Infinity, Precision/Xaos, Larsen & Brusgaard, Ouragan Suits, Get Hypoxic, Cypres, Cookie Composites.

Container: Infinity

Main Canopies: Xaos 27/88

Reserve Canopies: R-Max 108

AAD: Cypres Speed

License and Ratings: Coach, Pro, Tandem-Strong/Sigma

Championships:

2008 FAI World Cup - Gold - 4 Way VFS - Arizona Arsenal

2008 US Nationals - Gold - 4 Way VFS - Arizona Arsenal

2007 US Nationals - Silver - 4 Way VFS - Arizona Arsenal

2007 National Record - Longest Sequence in VFS, 19 Points in 35 Seconds

2007 Vertical World Record 69-way

2007 Money Meet - Gold

2006 U.S. Nationals - Gold - 4 Way VFS - Arizona Arsenal

2004 Vertical World Record

2004 U.S. Nationals - Gold - Freestyle - Resident Eloy

2003 U.S. Nationals - Gold - Freestyle - Team Amy & Curtis

2003 U.S. Nationals - Silver - 10 Way - Arizona Airseed

2002 U.S. Nationals - Gold - Freestyle - Arizona Freestyle

2002 U.S. Nationals - Silver - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

2002 World Cup - Silver - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

2002 World Cup - Silver - Freestyle - Arizona Freestyle

2002 European Championship - Gold - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

2002 Red Bull Antigravity Meet Poland - Gold - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

2001 U.S. Nationals - Gold - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

2001 World Air Games - Silver - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

2000 U.S. Nationals - Bronze - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

2000 World Cup - Bronze - Freestyle - Arizona Freeflight

Total number of jumps: 13,000+

Total number of cutaways: 20

Jump Philosophy: It's a very long slow road to get to where you want to be in this sport so be patient and have more fun than anyone else getting there.



Steve & Sara Curtis

interview

Interviewed by Sonnica van Zijl

Of all your jumps, is there one that stands out most?

Steve: A Tandem with a woman named Yvonne. On the way up in the plane she explained to me that she was 85 years old and has had a long happy life. The jump wasn't really any different than any of the other tandems I've done but after we landed I felt a connection with her that I had not felt with any of the other tandems I've done. Something about how calm and totally into what she was about to do has stayed with me all these years.

As a World Champion, what are your skydiving plans for the future?

Sara: World Cup 2009, World Meet 2010, then hopefully some day a World Air Games

What do you consider your most significant life achievement?

Sara: Building our house ourselves while training with Arsenal and working in skydiving.

How did you become interested in skydiving?

Sara: Randomly did a tandem one day and thought it felt funny so wanted to try it again, then again and so on.

Steve: I was listening to a friend of mine talk about his first static line jump and thought, well I'd like to go try that once. After that first jump it was all over. Even though I couldn't afford it I didn't miss a weekend at the DZ for the first three years and I still haven't gone more than 14 days without getting in the air. Nothing has ever kept my interest so completely.

Do you have any suggestions for VFS teams?

Sara: Train in the tunnel, incorporate your camera flyer into everything, ie. dirt dives, debriefs, all training jumps. Camera flyers should train on the inside sometimes to understand the points and how they move.

What has been your best skydiving moment?

Sara: Headdown World Record 69-way was pretty awesome.

What has been your greatest competition moment?

Sara: Having no camera busts at U.S. Nationals 2008.

What has been your weirdest skydiving moment?

Sara: Premature reserve deployment at 11,000ft from head down.

How did you get to your current level of VFS?

Steve: Of course we have done a lot of training but I'd have



Sara & Steve Curtis over Eloy, Arizona
Photo: Benjamin Forde

to say our team composition has a part in our success. You are not going to be able to take 5 people and go dominate just because you're good skydivers. You have to get the right mix of personalities, strength, finesse, talent, dedication and simple love for what you're doing. If I were able to clone myself and make a team of all me, the five of me would get our asses whipped by Arsenal.

How do you continue to motivate yourself?

Sara: I don't experience lack of motivation so much. This stuff is fun.

Steve: I know it sounds corny but teaching this stuff to people and learning from the people around me has all the motivation I need built right in. Don't get me wrong, I do love being at the top of the podium and knowing what it's like to walk up to that first or second step and stop helps keep my foot on the gas but it's all the other stuff that gets me going in the first place.

Did you enjoy Australia and jumping here?

Sara: Yes, it was awesome. Can't wait to come back. Love Australia and Australians!

Due to the bad weather over the camp, how challenging was it to put together a record in 2 days?

Steve: After the first two days of jumping we only got in two jumps per group and they were riddled with all the common mistakes that you always see in these events. Almost every record that I've been involved with has had similar problems and it always amazes me how much different the group looks after 8 or 10 jumps. We knew there was a lot of talent there but the improvement was much more than I imagined it could be. By the end of the third day the group really came together in an amazing way but we still had a few things to work out. By the end of the fourth day if you looked back to the first day's videos you would not think that it was possible that these were the same jumpers. To answer your question though, it really was not all that challenging to put together the record in the end because the talent was there. Some not so current, but no lack of talent. There is no doubt in my mind that it would have been bigger if we had four full days to go at it.

What was the weirdest thing you saw in Australia?

Sara: Saw a shark eat a big mackerel and Brian and Ox going under water to chase it.



Arizona Arsenal in action – Steve Curtis,
Amy Chmelecki, Ty Losey & Jason Peters
Photos: Sara Curtis