

Letters

Practice Your Track!

I hope this photo, a grab from a video, opens the eyes of many other jumpers, both new and experienced, on the importance of a good track. It was definitely a lesson to me (I am the jumper under the orange canopy) that I needed to practice more.

The jump was a 4-way hoop dive, my 64th jump and first hoop dive. The plan was that the person who held the hoop would pull in place, and all others would track off. I would track off at 4,500 feet and pull at 3,500. The others would pull at 2,500.

I fell way below the formation to start off with, so I just stayed in view and watched them continue the hoop dive. At 4,500, I tracked away (or thought I did) and pulled at 3,500. When I looked to my left, I was shocked to see two jumpers still in freefall, and then I saw them pull. It was scary and an eye-opener. The first words I heard when I landed were, "We need to work on your track."

I read the article in *Parachutist* about tracking ("Tracking—Theory and Application" by Niklas Daniel and Brianne Thompson, September), but after this jump, I went back and re-read it all over again. I did a few jumps just to practice tracking, and as of today, it is

much better! The article written in *Parachutist* was a lot of help! Thank you. I still concentrate on my tracking, and when the time comes to track, I make sure I am doing the best one I can to keep everyone safe!

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