

# Missouri River Valley Skydiving

Training and Recreation in Excelsior Springs, Missouri

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[Steven R. Anderson and Chacy A. Lancaster M.D.](#)


Missouri River Valley Skydiving LLC

2102 W 43rd Avenue

Kansas City, KS 66103

## Overview

Missouri River Valley Skydiving (MRVS) is a skydiving training center that has been in operation since 1974. Originally founded by Tom Dolphin, a Master Rigger of parachute systems, and FAA parachute rigger/examiner, who currently operates the only full service



parachute loft in the midwest region. Tom has over 45 years of experience in the sport of skydiving, has competed at an olympic level in the World Freefall Convention many times over, and worked 37 years as the dropzone owner at MRVS, during which he conducted safe skydiving operations without serious injury or incident.

Tom retired from the business in 2011. MRVS has a 39 year proven record of safe skydiving, with recreation opportunities for the general public as well as elite training programs that produced licensed skydivers of renowned caliber. This extensive history and track record demonstrates that Tom Dolphin's training programs are superior and must be utilized. As current ownership and management, Steve Anderson and Chacy Lancaster have made safety the absolute priority of this operation, and Tom Dolphin's legacy methods have been used as the foundation in this endeavor.

In addition, our equipment is maintained, inspected and serviced by Tom Dolphin and has recently been equipped with the most modern and highest-quality safety features. These updates are vital to running the safest operations possible, and include new Automatic Activation Devices from the leading manufacturer, Vigil, on each and every parachute system used by MRVS.

Furthermore, we have recruited tremendous aircraft. This season, we are flying a Cessna Turbine U206, an exceptional plane piloted and maintained by former NASA test pilot, Van Pray JR. We are also flying a Cessna 182 of Safe-6 Owner/Operator Maj Jason Towns, USAF Retired, who boasts having some of the most airworthy planes in the industry nationwide.

Also, every member of our instructional team at MRVS are experienced, current and valid FAA Third Class Medical holding, USPA Licensed and Certified Instructors, who have been professionally endorsed and approved by Tom Dolphin as competent and capable staff and skydivers. Our staff have a combined total experience of greater than 6,000 jumps and over 50 years in the sport.

In closing, MRVS will operate within Federal Aviation Regulation Parts 105, 91 and all other applicable regulations to flight and parachute operations, including but not limited to the Basic Safety Requirements (BSR) as most currently issued by USPA. Furthermore, all skydiving participants and instructional staff will sign an agreement with MRVS stating that while on the premises, they represent this company and their conduct will reflect that set forth by Dropzone Owners Steve Anderson and Chacy Lancaster in the Flight Operations Manual.

## **S. Anderson - Qualification/Ratings**

1. Accelerated Freefall Instructor Rating (United States Parachute Association Certified)

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- a. The AFF-I rating is the highest and most difficult student instructor rating achievable in the industry. The course has a washout rate of over 70% and only the absolute best and most capable instructors attain the rating.
  2. Tandem Instructor (United States Parachute Association Certified)
    - a. The TI rating requires 3 year in the sport, a minimum of 500 skydives, a D license (expert rating) and endorsement from at least two current tandem instructors and a dropzone owner. Holds Sigma, Vector and Strong endorsements.
  3. Safety & Training Advisor Prior to Dropzone Owner
    - a. Appointed by a USPA Regional Director. Requires an exceptional record of safety and professionalism, both in the air and on the ground.
  4. Over 17 Years in the Sport: >5000 Skydives, D-Licensed Skydiver
    - a. Proficient in multiple disciplines, areas of experience include recreational skydiving, instruction, safety and dropzone operations.
  5. Special Forces Training
    - a. Former Navy Diver Steve Anderson has exceptional leadership skills and experience, and has personally conducted the parachuting training for staff members at Asymmetric Solutions, a tactical training center in St. Louis, for several years.

## C. Lancaster - Qualifications/Ratings

1. B Licensed Skydiver, with >250 jumps.
  - a. Trained in videography, Sigma and Vector tandem parachute packing, sport parachute packing, ground-to-air communications, manifest management, off-airport demonstration jumps, and ground crew operations.
2. Medical Doctor / Physician (Graduating May 2018, KU SOM)
  - a. Supervises compliance of all staff and customers with medical requirements and fulfillment of appropriate documentation.
3. Business Administration Background
  - a. Former lead project controls analyst for Black & Veatch engineering.
  - b. Facilitates business operations; administrative and technical tasks.

## Safety & Training Advisor

1. To support our commitment to safety, MRVS retains a designated Safety & Training Advisor.
2. The principal responsibility of the S&TA is to promote safe skydiving. Toward that goal, the S&TA serves specific advisory and administrative function:
  - a. Observes skydiving operations to verify compliance with the Basic Safety Requirements
  - b. Provides safety and training advice to skydivers, drop zone operators, and rating holders
  - c. Verifies the requirements on D-License applications and rating renewals
  - d. Promotes USPA policies and programs, for example, USPA Safety Day.
3. Our S&TA is a D-licensed skydiver with greater than 25 years experience in the sport, a certified Senior Parachute Rigger, AFF-I, IAD-I, Sigma/Strong TI, and is in his third consecutive year of USPA appointment.

## Liability/Insurance

Skydiving Operations are insured by the following entities.

### StarNet Insurance Company

Named Insured: The Individual Members of the United States Parachute Association.

Limits of Liability (Single Bodily Injury/Property Damage): \$50,000/\$1,000,000.

### Aircraft Insurance

Named Insured: Aircraft Owners/Operators

Amount: Private

### Stafford and Stafford Insurance

Named Insured: MRVS

Commercial General Liability (General Aggregate/Each Occurrence): \$2,000,000/\$1,000,000.

## Training and Recreation Programs

### I. Tandem Skydiving

Conservative requirements include:

- a. Must be considered a legal adult by the State of Missouri.
- b. Must weigh less than 220 lbs and will be weighed on site prior to jump.
- c. Must 1. Carry a valid Class I, II, or III Federal Aviation Administration Medical Certificate; or 2. Carry a certificate of physical fitness for skydiving from a registered physician; or 3. Have completed the USPA recommended medical statement.

Tandem skydive securely attached to professional USPA Certified Tandem Instructor

Altitudes Offered: 8,500 - 14,000 MSL.

Training: Consists of threefold orientation including official video instruction through Bill Booth of United Parachute Technologies, in-person instruction via MRVS instructional staff covering aircraft approach and flight process, exit procedure, freefall body position, canopy control and parachute landing, and harness/gear training and review of procedures with Tandem Instructor.

In addition, the following protocol applies to every tandem training/jump experience:

- a. Minimum container opening altitudes above the ground: 4,000 feet AGL
- b. Areas used for skydiving are unobstructed, with the following minimum radial distances to the nearest hazard: 100 meters. Hazards are defined as telephone and power lines, towers, buildings, open bodies of water, highways, automobiles, and clusters of trees covering more than 3,000 square meters.
- c. Manned ground-to-air communications (e.g., radios, panels, smoke, lights) are present on the drop zone during skydiving operations.
- d. The appropriate altitude and surface winds are to be determined prior to conducting any skydive.

### II. Student Programs:

#### Advanced Freefall (AFF) and Instructor Assisted Deployment (IAD)

New conservative requirements include:

- a. Must be considered a legal adult by the State of Missouri.

b. Must be less than 300 lbs, able to jump off of a table or chair, able to tuck-and-roll unassisted, and must agree to make MRVS aware of any physical limitations.

c. Must carry a valid Class I, II, or III Federal Aviation Administration Medical Certificate; or 2. Carry a certificate of physical fitness for skydiving from a registered physician; or 3. Have completed the USPA recommended medical statement.

AFF and IAD are intense skill building courses which upon completion make students eligible to receive official USPA license.


a. IAD primarily focuses on parachute piloting with very limited freefall in initial training, and gradually progresses toward incorporation of more freefall time. This is commonly referred to as learning to skydive “from the bottom up.” Jump altitudes start lower and gradually increase.

b. AFF releases a student at full altitude, offering full freefall training jumps up front. AFF training is more comprehensive in this aspect. **AFF is our preferred method of training**, as it focuses on the total skydiving skill set, and is overseen and directed by AFF Instructors, the highest rated USPA instructors.

Our student programs produce competent parachutists and advance the sport of skydiving.

Training:

- a. All student training programs are conducted under the direction and oversight of an appropriately rated USPA Instructor until the student is issued a USPA A license.
- b. A person conducting, training, or supervising student jumps always holds a USPA instructional rating.
- c. First-jump course mandatory preceding initial student jump, or any jump made after a 30 day period is exceeded without having jumped.
- d. All first-jump non-method-specific training (except tandem) is conducted by a USPA Jumpmaster or higher rating holder or a USPA Coach under the supervision of a USPA AFF or Instructor-Assisted Deployment (IAD).
- e. All method-specific training is conducted by a USPA Jumpmaster or higher (USPA Tandem Instructor or higher for tandem) rated in the method for which the student is being trained.
- f. All students must receive training in the following areas, sufficient to jump safely:
  - i. Equipment
  - ii. Aircraft and exit procedures
  - iii. Freefall procedures (except IAD)

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- iv. Deployment procedures and parachute emergencies e. canopy flight procedures
  - v. Landing procedures and emergencies
- g. Advancement criteria:
- IAD: All jumps must be conducted by a USPA Jumpmaster or higher rating holder in that student's training method. Before being cleared for freefall, all students must perform three successive jumps with practice deployments while demonstrating the ability to maintain stability and control from exit to opening.
  - h. All student jumps must be completed between official sunrise and sunset.
  - i. Maximum ground winds for all solo students: 14 mph for ram-air canopies.
  - j. Minimum container opening altitudes above the ground for all students and A-license holders–3,000 feet AGL
  - k. Areas used for skydiving are unobstructed, with the following minimum radial distances to the nearest hazard: 100 meters. Hazards are defined as telephone and power lines, towers, buildings, open bodies of water, highways, automobiles, and clusters of trees covering more than 3,000 square meters.
  - l. Manned ground-to-air communications (e.g., radios, panels, smoke, lights) are present on the drop zone during skydiving operations.
  - m. The appropriate altitude and surface winds are to determined prior to conducting any skydive.

