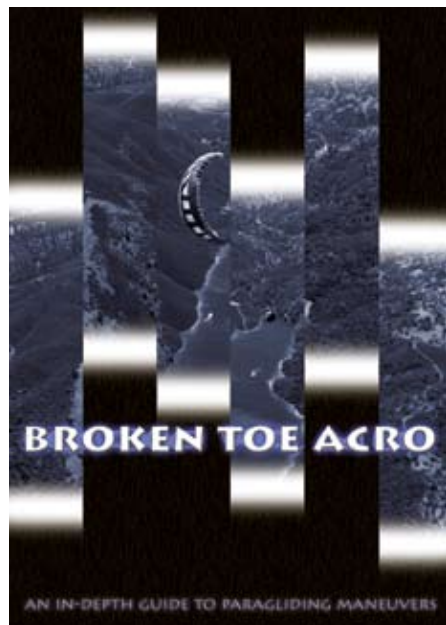




BROKEN TOE ACRO

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The new *Broken Toe Acro* DVD, released in February by Don't Play Dead Productions, is touted as a "full instructional-encyclopedia for paragliding SIV and acro maneuvers," and it certainly comes close to that! Narrated by Enleau and Ann O'Connor, recognized experts in safety-in-flight training and acro, this disk is crammed with over two and a half hours of SIV and acro maneuvers that should educate and entertain nearly any viewer.

Ranging from six to 14 minutes each, the many chapters describe and explain each maneuver, giving the how-to's of what to do (and NOT to do!), and how to best execute it. I was tempted to write "to safely execute," but let's remember that "safe" is a relative concept within the realm of acro. There is no substitute for learning SIV and acro maneuvers from the pros, and doing this in a controlled

and supervised setting should certainly go without saying. But, it never hurts to reiterate that this, or any other, DVD can NOT substitute for individual instruction and human-to-human interaction (as compared to monkey-see, monkey-do). The information presented in *Broken Toe Acro* can supplement your understanding of the subjects, but please obtain proper guidance before trying anything new that you see in this DVD. Consider this advice to be on par with what your mother told you about running with sharp scissors or playing with porcupines (...depending on where you grew up).

This 2 hour 41 minute video is chock-full of instruction, with SIV maneuvers covering full frontal and asymmetric deflations, B-line stalls and descent techniques, pitch oscillations, riser twists and full stalls. Acro maneuvers include round and asymmetric spirals, wingovers, reversals, the SAT, spins and helicopters.

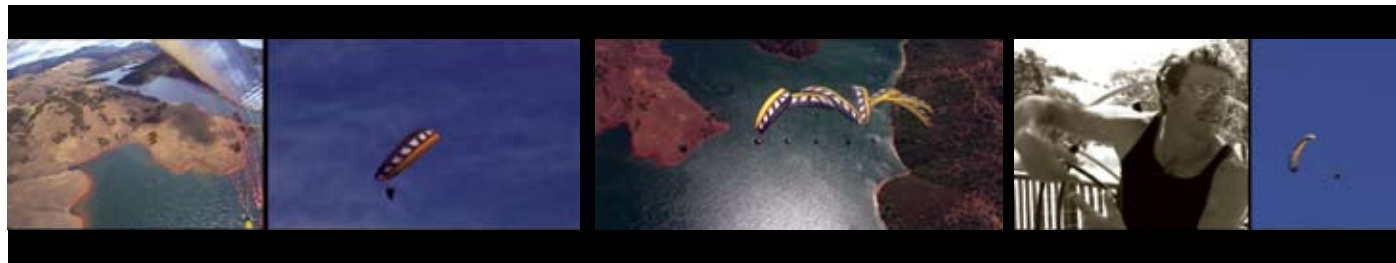
Enleau also gives additional info in a "Master's Tips" section covering stabilo lines, ground (death) spirals, the "SATBack," spin variations and more. Some great info on boat towing is covered by Ann in a "Special Features" section, which also includes a "Welcome to O'Connor Flight School" chapter that I would recommend watching first to set a tone for the other chapters to follow. It includes additional tips and background info from Rob Sporrer and Marty DeVietti (both former USHPA instructors-of-the-year).



The menu structure on the DVD makes it easy to jump quickly to any specific maneuver that you're interested in watching. The SIV and acro maneuvers are first described by Enleau and then demonstrated with in-flight video. Many of the video segments are shown in synchronized split screen, presenting the action from varying viewpoints, and often there is additional voice narration by the pilot as the maneuver is executed.

While I do like this DVD and will recommend it to you, there are a few points that, for me, detract from the overall value. First, the presentation style in many of the chapters appears too informal, with Enleau extemporaneously describing a particular maneuver and pantomiming the actions involved. Often, it is only after a decidedly long commentary that we finally see a short video segment of the actual wing/pilot/maneuver in action. I believe that more of Enleau's invaluable experience would be conveyed if his verbal explanations were accompanied with action video.

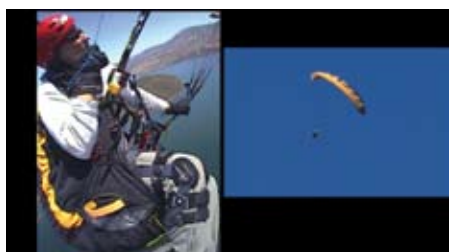
This thought also applies to the abundant warnings given towards what can cause a maneuver to go bad. Alas, too few video examples are shown to better underscore the points being made. So, "Where's the beef?" I ask. I'm sure that with the many hundreds of students the O'Connors have trained over the years that someone must have botched a





maneuver while a camera was rolling! In comparison, Ann's segment on towing does a fine job of blending demonstrative video with straight narrative.

Another thing that strikes me in the video is that many of the maneuvers are shown with the pilot's hands inserted through the brake handles. Speaking



from hard experience, I would caution pilots to seriously consider the consequences of being tied up in the brakes whenever there is a higher-than-normal probability that the sheet is going to hit the fan and chucking the reserve is likely.

Lastly, some narration is occasionally difficult to hear as the speaker faces away from the camera, or because of the conflicting background music. Even so, none of this is a showstopper and I believe this DVD is definitely worth adding to your library.

The *Broken Toe Acro* DVD appears professionally produced and is currently available in NTSC format online at



www.brokentoeacro.com, and from the USHPA online store (USHPA.aero/store). The Broken Toe Acro site also offers some screen shots and trailers from the DVD. Check it out!



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Horizontal photos in slide or digital format with a MINIMUM of 3210 W x 2140 H pixels (6.9 megapixels), although 4013 W x 2675 H pixels (10.7 megapixels) is preferred. Please submit unaltered at the preferred resolution, if possible. Only submit photos taken after January 2005.

Each submission MUST INCLUDE: Signed contributor agreement (1 per photographer) photographers name, mailing address, phone, email address AND a photo caption, location, site name, pilot name, wing type, month & year of photo.

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Please submit digital photos on CD or DVD if possible, but FTP is also available at the link above.

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