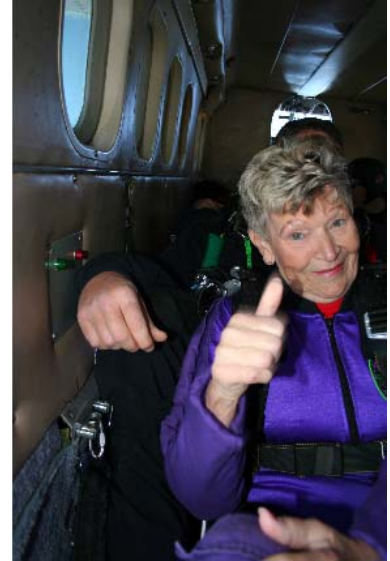


A "Bucket List" Comes to Life!

So, what possesses a 72-year-old mother of three, stepmother of two, grandmother of ten, cancer survivor, and wife of a former race car driver to step out of a perfectly sound airplane at a height of 14,000 feet? It can't be a lack of exciting experiences---she's had more than a few. It can't be the challenges of just living day-to-day---she's had a few of those, too. It must be something else and, in Villages resident Zoe Ann Burt's case, it was the epiphany she experienced last summer after watching the movie, "The Bucket List."

Zoe Ann and her husband, Arthur (a.k.a. "Buster"), each vowed to create their own Bucket List as homage to the movie's impact on them, and sky diving was at the top of Zoe Ann's list. Buster put returning to the high banks of Daytona Speedway—where he raced at the track's inaugural event in 1959—as his number one item, and he accomplished that on February 1. Zoe Ann was next and on February 26 made the trek over to DeLand Municipal Airport to take advantage of "Skydive DeLand" and its "First Time Jumper" program.



Was she nervous? "A little anxious, I guess" Zoe Ann conceded, "Especially about actually stepping out the door." As it turned out, though, this was not a problem. When told her turn was next, she was waiting for her instructor/tandem partner to tell her to stand when, in one swift movement, she was picked up and whisked out of the plane and into open space. Her next sensation was one of tremendous noise, incredible wind velocity, and astonishingly cold air.

Free-falling for roughly one minute at a rate of 160 feet per second gave Zoe Ann little opportunity to ponder the experience. Then at a height of about 4500 feet the parachute mechanism activated, and the real beauty of the experience kicked in, Zoe Ann noted. For the next six or seven minutes, she reports settling into a glide that gave her a feeling of absolute euphoria, surrounded by a brilliant blue sky, puffy clouds, and the peacefulness of flight. During the glide to the ground, Zoe Ann's only comment to her instructor was "Oh my God!" to which he replied "Amen. Now you know why we do this."



Joining Zoe Ann on the jump were her brother, Brad Gaddie from Michigan, and her best friend, Connie Ferrin from Maine. After the shared experience, she reports, all three acknowledged that they've substantially strengthened their bond.

"I've always loved wind and anything to do with space," explained Zoe Ann during a post-jump interview. "I often watch birds in flight," she added, "and I wonder what it must be like to fly like that." Then came the movie and the creation of her "bucket list," and the rest, as they say, is history. The problem

now, though, is that she and Buster need to create a new "Bucket List" so, who knows what might be next for these two!