

BIG FALL continued from page 9

Dave a special t-shirt to wear during his jump, along with a couple toy parachutes.

"He said, 'I can't be there, but here are couple things to add to the fun,'" Becky said.

Last May, Becky and Dan both flew to California to meet with Dave at Skydive Perris, located near San Diego. Skydive Perris is a skydiving resort center, with a large fleet of aircraft, and a vertical wind tunnel used both for training and for fun.

"They have one of the bigger jump schools in the country," Becky said. "We did the indoor wind tunnel first ... so we knew what it was going to feel like. The on-ground instruction was pretty quick – we watched an instruction video, and then we had to sign all of the legal forms that are necessary when you do something like this.

"And my instructor, Glenn Pierce, repeated the process we had to follow several times. Even as we're getting on the plane, he's repeating the instructions to me," she said.

Neither Dave, Becky or Dan jumped solo – they each left the plane strapped to their instructor tandem style. Just before exiting the plane, despite the constant advice doled out by Glenn, he still had to gently push on Becky's forehead so that her head would be in the proper position.

There was a lot going through her mind as she looked down from an altitude of approximately two miles to the ground below. Earlier, her heart began pounding as she walked toward the plane to board it. Her pulse rate hadn't slowed any as she and Glenn crouched in the plane's large open doorway, ready to tumble out.

"That was a scary moment, and I didn't ever think about backing out," Becky said. "I wanted to do it, but at that moment, you think 'I'm over two miles above the ground, and I'm going to fall out of this plane.' That message flashes by real fast in your mind, and I think the smart part of your body is going, 'Really?' I had no idea what my pulse had to be at that point.

"Everything to that point had been 'knowns' to me. I've been up in a plane, and I've been up in a small plane," she said. "I know that, but at the moment just before the jump, I didn't know what I was about to experience. I think it's that realization that you are about to do something new and kind of crazy. That was the scari-

est moment."

Once Becky and Glenn left the plane, they were soon falling to earth at over 100 miles per hour. "I think they open the chute at between 7,500 and 7,000 feet," she said, "and we jumped at 12,500. It takes about 30 seconds to fall that far.

"It happens so quickly, and yet sometimes I think the free fall is the part I remember the best of the whole experience," Becky said. "I don't know how much I'm simply remembering from the experience itself, or if it's just from watching the video, but you are so aware of every second of that."

She only knows of one way to describe the experience to those who haven't tried it.

"It feels like flying," Becky said, "because you really are in the air, and because you don't look down, to me that's the way I'd describe it. To me, it was a lot more like flying than falling. You are aware of the air going past you, but the horizon doesn't really change that much during the 5,000 feet that you are falling, because you are up so high."

Just seconds before Becky and Glenn exited the plane, a videographer jumped and recorded her free fall and the opening of the parachute. He also stayed in free fall longer, opening his chute later so that he would land before Becky and Glenn so that he could record their touchdown.

With prompting from Glenn, Becky reached back and pulled the ripcord when they reached about 7,000 feet.

"It's just a snap, because you change the rate of your descent so fast," she said.

Floating to earth under a parachute is obviously different than freefalling, with some unexpected side effects. The maneuvers they had to make, complete with lots of swinging, swaying and turning, was a bit dizzying, Becky discovered.

"During the free fall, I simply looked straight at the horizon," she said, "and after the chute opened, I looked down and I think my inner ear began telling me that part of the jump wasn't as fun. I so thought it would be the opposite. I thought I would be terrified until we could slow down so that I could begin to enjoy it.

"The falling part is exhilarating," she said. "It really was amazing, and that part is over so fast. We've been talking about this for

BIG FALL continued on page 15

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