

Couch Freak Boogie



For one week a year, the members of the Des Moines Skydivers set up shop 100 miles north of their home base to host a campground full of skydivers who jump, eat, drink and celebrate throughout the Labor Day weekend.

The event is called the Couch Freak Boogie and can draw more than 600 jumpers to the Fort Dodge Regional Airport.

The Des Moines Skydivers, also known as the Couch Freaks, were organized as a nonprofit club in 1974. After holding events in Dallas Center, Knoxville and Winterset, the club selected Fort Dodge as its home away from home for the boogie.

The annual event draws jumpers from all over the United States and some foreign countries.

In-air weddings have been performed, polyester costume contests are held every year, and the public can participate in tandem jumps with a tandem master, for a fee. Jumpers must be at least 18 years old.

For less adventurous souls, there is a spectator area set up with bleachers, concession vendors and merchandise tents on the airport grounds. There is no admission fee for the event, and parking is free. Donations are accepted to help cover event costs.

