

"I just love the fact that the sport of BASE jumping is attracting more and more awesome chicks from around the world. It is great to have them on the edge of an object as it creates such a cool vibe that can only be positive for our growing sport... I hope this will help attract more girls into the sport of BASE jumping and show women around the world that they can do anything in life, and in male-dominated sports, with beauty and finesse and of course a lot of pink! I was stoked to be a part of it. Thanks girls."

—Douggs

"This was the first world record I've been in, and it was just amazing. It's way different to jump with girls and I really enjoy it. It all started with dancing at the exit point, which was so much fun (everybody loves dancing, right?) and then the jump itself. It's just awesome when you step off the edge and you know that you're falling at the same time together with nine other girls and looking at them, see them smiling. I'm glad that everything worked out so well and that I was able to meet and jump with every single one of you, thanks for having so much fun together!! For me it was an awesome experience and I'm really looking forward to the next record. Let's go girls, we'll beat it!"

—Maria McFly Steinmayr (Austria)

"I was so excited and honored to be a part of the women's world record in Kuala Lumpur. It's rare for me to be jumping with women at all and to be a part of such a talented group of amazing ladies from all over was such an awesome experience. Doing a multi-way BASE jump can be a really dangerous thing so you have to have complete trust in every jumper involved, but with these girls I knew that everyone would do their part and was confident we could pull it off safely, and we did! I can't wait to be a part of a bigger one!"

—Suz Graham (Canada)

"Being part of the girl's world record in Kuala Lumpur this year has been an exceptional experience for me. I am normally not one to do big-ways but this time it was different. Having Douggs, with his experience as the lead organizer, and knowing and respecting the BASE ladies that were going to be on this jump made me really want to be part of this event and today I am very happy I was. I loved how we all motivated one another already before gearing up; it was fun seeing how everyone was just as excited as I was. And after having briefed the jump for the last time, it was great how everyone danced and wished each other a good and safe jump. When Douggs started giving the countdown, everyone... on the tower counted with us. It was such a special yet intense moment and by the time we stepped off I felt everyone's positive energy. The part of the jump that actually frightened me the most was being under canopy with nine other people but as soon as my parachute opened that fear faded and became the most beautiful moment of the jump... It's been an honor to be part of something so unique, but the best part of it was that there were only incredible women on this jump, which I respect, admire, and love very much. A big thank you to Douggs for making this happen and the PCA boys of course—Brandon, Charlie, and Elliot."

—Jenny McZolla, Switzerland

Women's BASE World Record

BY LIKA BORZOVA

Wow, many exciting events happening in the world of skydiving and BASE jumping this year! In reading my Facebook news feed, I can't stop smiling—my friends are such superheroes! People within both sports have dreamt up new ideas to challenge themselves, joining with a partner to collaborate at times, then recruiting team members to execute. Setting world records along with the main goal of having a lot of fun.

Yes, I said Facebook. A while ago some very BASE-passionate Brazilian girls created a group—of course it was kept a secret at the time. The group is called "BASE Ladies" and it looks as if we finally have a comprehensive list of 120 women from around the world who are active BASE jumpers. Members post videos and comments and there are always a lot of happy faces with beautiful smiles, exchanging of high fives on video. The group page is perfect for making plans to attend different events together and adding in some cool chick jumps on our own at the same time.

There was a post inquiring how many ladies were going to be in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the KL Tower BASE Jump 2012. So the idea was seeded online to attempt a record jump, should all the elements be in place.

The KL Tower BASE Jump 2012, in my opinion, is the best, best, best event of the year thus far. The event was four days and two nights of jumping from the 1,099' (335m) roof. The 2012 event hosted 91 BASE jumpers from 17 countries completing over 2,200 BASE jumps during the event, plus one women's world record.

The event boasted such a cool crew of very skilled jumpers, supported by super nice sponsors and partners (including a coffee one, which fit in perfectly with my personal coffee addiction). Even the briefing was akin to a skydiving event; the most experienced BASE jumpers were introduced to the public on hand for the event. The more seasoned BASE jumpers were open to sharing their knowledge, and in a way coach others; they debriefed videos and followed the progression of the newly baptized KL jumpers. Even without mentioning the women's big-way BASE jumping world record, the KL event with its high number jump count, sunshine and good weather, the laughing, silly exit plans, crazy flips, cool videos, and a super awesome party at the end made it in one word: EPIC!

Following the event briefing Chris "Douggs" McDougall, a famous Australian skydiver/BASE jumper who many consider to be a legend and a great person, asked all the female jumpers to gather for a talk. The subject of this meeting was a world record BASE big-way. Douggs offered his help in organizing the jump, since he was the person who organized the previous women's big-way BASE jumping world record. The standing record

was an 8-way done in Kjerag, Norway back in 2004, by jumpers Karin Sako, Karina Hollekim, Winnie Chang, Karen Thomas, Elin Gripen Risvik, Geraldine Fasnacht, Seven and Ginny Stone from Exit 6.

Doing a 10-way from a 1,009' building sounded a bit sketchy when we first began talking, as I'm sure it does to you reading, right? It is sketchy and this is why we did it the right way with thoughtful preparation. We had to take into account the experience levels, canopy sizes and types, and wing loadings—and for this we turned to Douggs, who devised the exit plan.

We were divided into three groups, standing a safe distance away from each other creating horizontal separation. Individual jumpers in each group were supposed to do different types of delays, from PCA (no delay) jump, to approximately a 6-second delay.

To be honest I was freaking out a bit about getting a long-delay slot; the possibility of people, for whatever reason, falling into my canopy was terrifying. And yes, that was the slot I was assigned to (maybe it had something to do with me being Russian). The day was spent invoking the mantra "Go low!"

The second day of KL Tower BASE jumping began with a beautiful morning. I found myself standing on the open deck of the tower with Livia Dickie (New Zealand/Norway), Kjersti Eide and Hege Ringard (Norway), Suz Graham and Jill Kuzman (U.S.), Maria Steinmayr (Austria), Anna Lepeshkina (Russia), Justine Edde (France), and Jenny McZolla (Switzerland). We walked the jump over and over again before breaking out in dance to raise our spirits and get pumped up.

Douggs ruled the exit, calling out, "Female world record jump at KL Tower 2012. Are you ready?" Along with three extremely experienced exit assistants, in unison we replied "We are ready!" giving confirmation to proceed.

I was part of the middle group, stepped off the edge a split second later, and got a great visual of all the openings to the sides of my exit point. I waited on Livia Dickie and Kjersti Eide to do their thing before I opened my canopy just high enough to make the landing zone.

Everybody landed safely and another great day of KL Tower BASE jumping had begun with lots of happy smiles and energy due to a new women's big-way BASE jumping world record.

And I love it! 🍷

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lika Borzova is an experienced BASE jumper, known for her superior tracking skills. Born in Moscow, Russia she now calls the world her home as she travels the globe in search of new life-enriching experiences. When you need to add pages to your passport, you've been some places. One place you can always find Lika is at www.unitedflyinggirls.com.



Chris "Douggs" McDougall



Hege Ringard



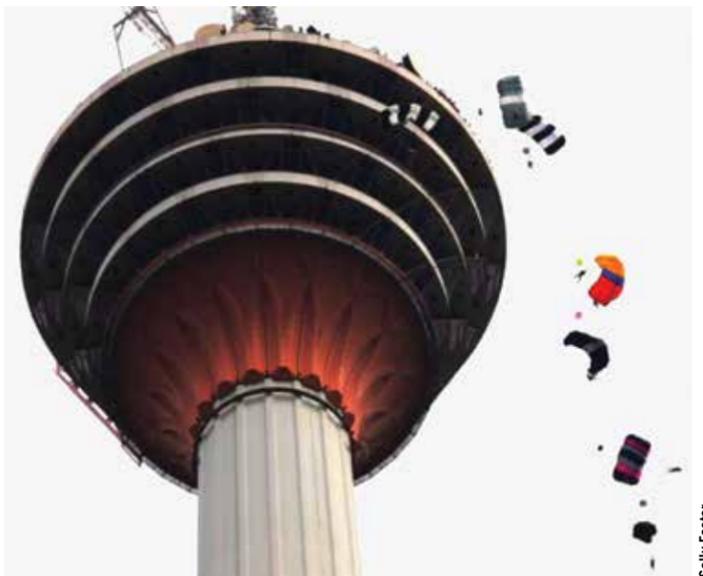
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