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<http://www.rainbowskydive.com>  
[info@rainbowskydive.com](mailto:info@rainbowskydive.com)

## **Celebrate the World's Most Colorful Skydiving Event at the 2015 Rainbow Boogie**

August 6, 2015 - Skydivers from across North America and beyond will convene at Skydive Perris this September to raise awareness for one thing they share in common — all are members and supporters of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community. In cooperation with local drop zone regulars, experienced LGBT jumpers will organize big-ways, wingsuit flocks, and more in an environment celebrating positive attitudes and diversity within the sport.

Skydivers regularly have special events over long weekends where daytime jumping is combined with nighttime parties, and refer to these gatherings as “boogies.” The Rainbow Boogie is a hetero friendly event designed to bring together gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community within the sport of skydiving. Skydiving being one of the few sports where all sexes, sexual orientations, and physical bodies types can compete on an equal playing field, the Rainbow Boogie provides an all-inclusive environment for individuals who have never jumped to individuals who have tens of thousands of jumps. The Rainbow Boogie offers anyone the opportunity to experience the thrill of jumping from an airplane.

What began as a one-time event at Nouvel Air, Montreal in 2006 (in conjunction with the 2006 Gay Games) has blossomed into a series of gatherings. Original organizer Mark Rejhon, a Canadian skydiver, later organized events in the US. Previous Rainbow

Boogies have been held outside Philadelphia at Skydive Cross Keys (New Jersey), and at Skydive Chicago in Ottawa, Illinois. This year, a groundswell of support grew to organize a west coast event, and Arizona skydiver Brek Montoya laid the groundwork, contacting several drop zones before deciding to work with Skydive Perris in Southern California.

As one of the busiest skydiving Operations in the world, Skydive Perris is a natural fit for the Boogie. Jumpers travel from all over the world to take part in competition and training events year-round. The drop zone boasts an impressive fleet of modern well-maintained aircraft for jump operations, as well as a state-of-the-art vertical wind tunnel, where beginners and experienced jumpers alike can hone their freefall skills. “When I heard Rainbow Boogie was going to be held at Perris, I immediately made plans to be there” said Houston skydiver Brian Menard, and a regular attendee. “The airplanes turn loads quickly and the facilities will be perfect for getting in lots of jumps and having great parties!” The amenities at Skydive Perris include the onsite Bombshelter Restaurant and Bar, swimming pool, and the on-drop zone bunkhouse. Some motels in the area offer skydiver discounts. Skydive Perris is centrally located from Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego and Palm Springs.

In addition to Skydive Perris’s active sponsorship, the boogie has been attracting attention from other skydiving businesses. Aerodyne Research, which designs, manufactures and distributes high quality sport parachute systems, is also sponsoring the event by donating items for a raffle to be held at the main party Saturday night.

Dan Brodsky-Chenfeld, a world champion skydiver, is the General Manager at Skydive Perris, and is looking forward to

hosting the first west coast Rainbow Boogie. “Skydivers are the most diverse group of people you'll ever meet. Any day at Skydive Perris you'll find people from 18 to 85, from every occupation, economic background, ethnicity and sexual orientation. The one thing we all have in common is an incredible passion for the dream of flight. We love our sport and the amazing community of friends we've found and created here. Hosting the Rainbow Boogie is the perfect reflection of that. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone, meeting new friends, setting world records and of course throwing some unforgettable parties throughout the weekend.”

The 2015 Rainbow Boogie will be held between September 10 and 13. For more information visit <http://www.rainbowskydive.com> and check out the Rainbow Skydivers' Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/rainbowskydivers/>. Anyone interested in making their first skydive during the Rainbow Boogie should contact the Perris Valley Skydiving School at 951-657-1664, [www.skydiveperris.com](http://www.skydiveperris.com)

Skydive Perris: <http://www.skydiveperris.com>  
Contact: [info@rainbowskydive.com](mailto:info@rainbowskydive.com)  
Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/rainbowskydive>  
Phone: Philip at +1 323-363-3851  
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