

Fans don't have to be boring!



RECREATION

Floating on air

Skydiving soars indoors.



The vertical wind tunnel is a safe high.

ALWAYS DREAMED OF skydiving but scared out of your socks that you'll end up like an insect, splatting into a windshield? There's a more controlled option: indoor vertical wind tunnels capable of simulating freefall.

SkyVenture Colorado, outside Denver, boasts four 300-horsepower fans that generate a 160-mph column of wind, enough to buoy a free-falling skydiver, minus the "where's the rip cord?" panic. Cost: \$40 to \$50 for just less than three minutes of "flight" time.

Although professional skydivers and military personnel have used similar tunnels, "body flying" for the masses is relatively new. How it works: A con-

trolled (wind speeds can be throttled up or down) column of "wall-to-wall" airflow supports "flyers." "One second you're floating, the next you can shoot up 22 feet to the ceiling and then down again," says Brad Hess, of Flyaway Indoor Skydiving in Las Vegas.

"The beauty of body flying is anyone from 3 to 83 can do it," says Dawn Suiter, of the Bodyflight Network (bodyflight.net), an online community of enthusiasts. "There is this amazing sense of freedom. It hooks you almost instantly."

Opening this year from Florida-based SkyVenture: sites in Hollywood, Calif.; Nashua, N.H.; San Francisco; Ogden, Utah; Philadelphia; and Dallas.

