



Summer 2017
Volume 39, Issue 2
\$4.95

Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

If Dreams Had Wings



**Turn Your Kitemaking
Plans Upside Down**

**Finding a
1000-Year-Old
Kite City**

Treasure Island
A City of Two Tales

**Your Convention
Registration
Form Inside**



Celebrating 37 years in the sky
Since 1980, Into The Wind has carried the best-flying kites in the world. For service, selection and the best guarantee under the sun, we let you fly first class at competitive prices.



Check out our website
Shop our complete inventory of Kites and Wind Art at intothewind.com (double the selection that's in our catalog).

Visit our Boulder store
Located on the historic Pearl Street Mall, it has four times the inventory of our website. Touch your kite before you buy it and play with our incredible collection of unusual toys.



Get our 2017 Catalog
Request our free catalog filled with hundreds of all-time favorites and the best of what's new.

Into The Wind

1408-D Pearl Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302
800-541-0314 • www.intothewind.com
Wholesale inquiries invited.

FEATURES

- 12 The Pointy End Goes Down**
By Douglas K. Stout
An exploration into swept-forward-wing single-line glider kites with plans to make your own.
- 18 A City of Two Tales** By John Lutter
Treasure Island hosts all kinds of kite festivals.
- 22 Dreaming about the Greatest AKA Convention in 40 Years?**
Everything you need to know to prepare for this year's convention in Ocean City, Maryland, October 9-14. Go to workshops in the morning, fly on the beach all afternoon and party with friends in the evening. What more could you want? Register now.
- 27 The Winner of the Bob Ingraham Award: Scott Davis**
In this interview, Davis talks about his life and offers some surprising suggestions for re-invigorating the sport kite world.
- 32 In Search of a 1000-year-old Kitemaking Village in Vietnam** By Chris Hanson
An American kitemaker learns to communicate by speaking "kite."



Pg 32

CHRIS HANSON



Pg 22

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 AKA Directory
- 5 Letter from the President
- 6 People, Places, and Things
- 8 Empty Spaces in the Sky
- 35 Regional Reports
- 44 Directory of Merchant Members
- 46 Voices From the Vault *Brooks Leffler*



Pg 18

KELLY MAYHEW-NUNES

ON THE COVER: *If Dreams Had Wings...*
Peter Lynn's Pig flying in Ocean, Maryland,
photographed by its owner, Jo-Ann Rasmussen.



Copyright 2017 by American Kitefliers Association. All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission prohibited.
Not responsible for unsolicited material.



Membership Application

- New Member Renewal Reinstatement
 Do not publish my name in the Directory

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 URL _____
 Other family members joining _____
 Visa/MC/Discover/AMEX # _____
 Exp. _____
 Signature _____

Membership Dues

	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	Amount
Individual (Kiting via 3 rd class mail)	\$40	\$78	\$116	
(Kiting via 1 st class mail)	\$50	\$98	\$146	
Canada, Mexico and Overseas	\$50	\$98	\$146	
Sponsor	\$125	\$250	\$375	

(Kiting via 1st class mail, includes tax deductible contribution)

Additional family members in same household (Per person add \$6/year)

Additional donation dedicated to the Thank You Charlie Program

Please remit in US\$(Sorry we cannot accept Canadian cheques)

For information call 609/755-KITE (5483)

Referred by _____

Local kite club _____

Join online at www.kite.org

Send this form with your payment to: American Kitefliers Association • PO Box 699 • Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

AKA Directory

American Kitefliers Association

Daniel Prentice, Executive Director
 Mailing: PO Box 699, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924
 Phone/Fax: 609-755-KITE (5483)
 Web: www.kite.org
 E-mail: xd@aka.kite.org

Officers and Executive Committee

Nic O'Neill, President
 Anacortes, WA
 706-267-8808 president@aka.kite.org

Phillip Whitaker, First Vice President
 Enid, OK
 580-402-2102 vp1@aka.kite.org

Brett Morris, Second Vice President
 Medford, OR
 541-944-5588 vp2@aka.kite.org

Cel Dallmer, Treasurer
 Philadelphia, PA
 215-722-4092 treasurer@aka.kite.org

Gayle Woodul, Secretary
 Marble Falls, TX
 830-598-2414 secretary@aka.kite.org

Scott Davis, Director at Large
 Puyallup, WA
 253-732-5743 dal3@aka.kite.org

Kelly Mayhew-Nunes, Director at Large
 Clearwater, FL
 727-710-3112 dal4@aka.kite.org

Lindsey Johnson, Director at Large
 Lincoln City, OR
 541-994-7556 dal5@aka.kite.org

Spence Watson, Director at Large
 Bellevue, WA
 206-617-8272 dal6@aka.kite.org

KITING Magazine Editor

Daniel Prentice
 609-755-5483
 E-mail: kitepub@gmail.com

Art & Design

Ellen Baxter

Copy Editor

Susan Gabrielle

AKA Committees

Web/Internet Outreach Education Nic O'Neill 706-267-8808
 Fred Taylor

Festivals / Competitions

Fighter Kites Andy Selzer 856-728-8870
 Kitemaking Jon Burkhardt
 Sport Kites Scott Davis 253-732-5743
 Kite Aerial Photography Jim Powers 610-659-2094

Organization / Public Service

Ways & Means Cel Dallmer 215-722-4092
 Contract Services Gayle Woodul 830-598-24
 Safety & Insurance Paul Koepke
 By-laws Ted Manekin 301-464-1757
 Archives & Records Daniel Prentice 609-755-KITE
 Elections Gayle Woodul 830-598-2414
 Thank You Charlie Program Marla Miller 253-752-7051
 Nominations Kathy Brinnehl 630-271-0765

Administration

Membership Marla Miller 253-752-7051
 Renewal and Retention Daniel Prentice 609-755-KITE
 International Linda Sanders (+61) 88556 2681
 Industry Liaison Daniel Prentice 609-755-KITE
 Club Liaison Mike Dallmer 215-722-4092

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Phillip Whitaker 580-402-2102



Kiting is published quarterly by the American Kitefliers Association and distributed free to members. Please contact the editor for information on submissions, advertising, and deadlines.

on the Web at www.kite.org
 on Twitter at @AKAKiters
 on facebook at facebook.com/akasocial

Autumn issue deadline: July 15
 Winter issue deadline: October 15
 Spring issue deadline: January 15
 Summer issue deadline: April 15

Send address changes to: UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org

Founded in 1964 by Robert M. Ingraham, the American Kitefliers Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites.

Letter from the President



Summer days are just around the corner, and now is the perfect time to take a small break from the excitement of the spring before getting ready for the non-stop kiteflying action in the months ahead. National Kite Month helped us see a spike in interest in kiteflying, the membership ranks are growing, and the AKA Calendar is filling with events for the rest of the year. Chances are you have already made plans for the events you are going to attend, but keep checking the calendar for new events that are being added every week. Who knows? There may be a new activity in your town and you could be one of the first kiteflyers there!

As you make your plans for the summer, include time to attend the 40th AKA Annual Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, October, 9-14. While the Convention Committee is working tirelessly to provide the greatest annual celebration of kiteflying in the United States, they are leaving the hardest work up to you, the members. It is up to each one of us at the AKA to get out there and fly kites. Use the time this summer to touch the lives of strangers, share your passion with others, and spread the joy and love that is kiteflying. Then, get ready to share those stories and achievements with several hundred of your closest kite family members in October.

For myself, this is the time I do all of the Mini Maker Faires and kid events outside of kite festivals. Anyone who has ever attended one of the Maker Faires will agree that there is a certain energy about them—an energy that is infectious, renewable, and free. It is an energy that is fueled by a desire to learn. More studies are showing that the moment you decide to stop learning or stop moving, is the moment your health and mind start to slip. We are fortunate enough to have a passion that unites us. It is not only one that keeps us moving, but is also filled with learning opportunities. Push back against time by pushing outside of your comfort zone and learning something new this summer. I can't tell you it will be easy, but you are lucky to have thousands of other kiteflyers standing there with you. They are eager to celebrate your success, share your new creation, or teach you about what it is they do and how they do it. Reach out to someone who is not within your normal circle of friends. Ask a master kite builder you have admired about his or her technique, or decide that this will be the year you will learn how to fly a pairs routine. Add a kite to your quiver that is completely different than any of your other kites, teach a class, perform a routine, do something that you don't regularly do. Now is the time to make the connections with the people around you, learn what you can from them, and share the passion. You are never too young or too old to do anything with kites.

Make it a point this summer to share your journey, share the troubles, share the joy, share your passion. Many are already sharing their journeys online and they are asking you to join in on the conversation. You can find many of these conversations happening on the AKA Facebook page, on YouTube, on Twitter, Instagram, Google+ and more. When we share what we love, we can easily find a hundred others that love it, too.

Let's get out there now. Let's get out and fly a kite, break a boundary, cross the lines in the sand, and fly with one another. When we do, we fly higher together.

Nic O'Neill



Kiting

people+places+things

South of the Border

ISLA BLANCA, *Quintana Roo, Mexico*: The 9th Annual Festival de Papalotes Isla Blanca, February 25-26, was the biggest one yet, and the beaches were crowded with spectators. Despite its name, Isla Blanca is actually a peninsula north of Cancun. The festival location is ideal for flying, since it is on a strip of beach between the Caribbean and a lagoon and there is always a smooth wind there (pictured at right).

This year, festival organizers Roberto Reyes and Cira Caballero were joined by local kiteflyers from Cancun, Richie and Susan Salvo from Massachusetts, and Penny Lingenfelter from Washington state. Together, they flew demonstrations and provided entertainment to the children and adults by flying a 30-foot octopus, kite arches, spinning bols, and a colorful assortment of line laundry.

The kite festival is a fundraiser for Cancun Pro Kids, which provides homes, schools, and services for abused and abandoned children in Cancun. The event started as an outing for the children, and has grown each year. The festival raised more than \$2,500 for Cancun Pro Kids with a raffle, donations, and by selling kites to the public.

Breaking the Rules

WASHINGTON, *District of Columbia*: (From Jon Burkhardt)—I'm the Head Judge for the Adult Kitemakers' Competition at the Blossom Kite Festival, which follows most of the AKA rules for kitemakers' competitions. One of these is that the Head Judge is the final arbiter of

the rules when unusual situations arise, such as happened April 1, 2017.

A key rule at this festival (following the historical precedents of the Smithsonian Kite Festival, the predecessor to the Blossom Kite Festival) is that the kite must be flown by its maker. On Saturday, Mike Kelley of Heathsville, Virginia, introduced himself and his sons and said, "I didn't make this kite. My father made it 30 years ago, and it's never flown successfully. It was made for the Smithsonian Kite Festival and we'd like to fly it today." After hearing his story of the kite (below), I decided to make an exception.

Thirty years ago, my mom and dad, John and Sue Kelley, came up from Roanoke on the Friday before the festival. We had a lovely time together that Friday evening sitting on the floor with my dad, me, and our three sons



Bob Kelley with the kite's 30-year home, the cigar box; David Kelley, John Michael [Mike] Kelley with the kite made by John A. Kelley.



fixing a kite that dad dropped in the ocean and dragged out. Unfortunately, we were awakened the next morning, the day of the kite festival, with him falling in the hallway of our home. He had a massive heart attack and was gone by 8:30 a.m. that morning.

There have been many times over the years that we thought about flying his kite but it was too emotional for me having grown up flying kites with him

by my side. David, my oldest son (now 40) reminded us that it was almost 30 years to the day that my father passed away and missed his chance to fly his tiny kite in the kite festival. My dad had reasoned that he didn't have the talent to build the fanciest, biggest, or trickiest kite, BUT he could build the smallest kite...and he did.

JON BURKHARDT



DOROTHY ROSS STEWART

Native American artist, John Cadotte. She was flying it for 40 kids and teachers when it escaped. The 500 feet of line and wooden winder provided the exact amount of drag necessary to keep the big kite flying at the right angle as it headed for the Crow Nation's buffalo herd. The sadness of losing the kite was mixed with the poetry of the moment as they watched it get smaller and smaller, and then poof... it was gone.

Kite Festival Returns

CINCINNATI, *Ohio*: Cincinnati's spring kite festival (pictured at right) has returned, after a hiatus of several years. Voice of America Park, where the festival formerly known as "Airwaves" was held, has undergone a change of ownership, and many renovations. Pigs Aloft, the Cincinnati kite club sponsor, has had to build new relationships with the Butler County Metro Parks, which is the new owner and co-sponsor of the renamed "Kites n' MPX Festival."

As a result, April 8 was a good day for making and flying kites in Cincinnati. Butler County Metro Parks did a great job of coordinating parking, traffic control, vendors, and volunteers for kitemaking and the parachute races. Thanks are due to the hard-working volunteers who helped kids make over 130 kites, the Hoosier Kite Society, and many other flyers from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and other parts of Ohio, without whom Pigs Aloft couldn't put on such a show for the guests. Watch for this event in 2018.

On a challenging, gusty day, this four-inch kite—the smallest one in the competition—struggled a bit, but with a little re-bridling and tender attention, flew beautifully. For the judges, there was no hesitation whatsoever: this kite got the official Special Recognition award for the 2017 Blossom Kite Festival.

Where the Buffalo Roam

WYOLA, *Montana*: T.Z. Lee is asking people in the area of the Pryor Mountains, northwest of Wyola, to please keep an eye out for a lost Buffalo kite painted by



T. Z. LEE

Green Energy

ANGLESEY, *Wales*: After determining that their system would not have a significant harmful effect on wildlife, the government agency Natural Resources Wales approved the world's first full-scale "sea kite" project to generate power. The technology uses tidal currents to "fly" the underwater kites through the sea, thereby generating electricity by forcing water through a turbine. While installations will begin this year, impact to the national power grid is not expected until 2019. ▼



RICK AGAR

Easy to fly and when flown in breezes 7 to 12 mph their hips sway in the sky in a delightful dance!

31' Pirate Skeleton
Watch me fly!



Tie Dye Spike Ball Set

Large Sea Turtle

Dolphin Line Laundry

TO FIND A DEALER NEAR YOU OR SEE OUR ENTIRE PRODUCT RANGE PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE. www.premierkites.com



PREMIER KITES

Empty Spaces in the Sky

George S. Weber, Jr.
(1943-2017)

My dad was a kite fanatic, often spotted flying his kites while wearing funny socks, a spider on his hat, and carabiners on his hip. He had cool gadgets, lights, and give-away kites in his bag for kids. We started flying kites at a father and daughter Brownie scout troop kite fly in Dallas in the early 1970s. He was fascinated by the fact that some kites would fly while ours repeatedly bit the dust. By the time we departed the field for the day, Dad had adjusted our kite so that it was flying perfectly! That event sparked an interest in kiting that would never fade, and it's when I became his little kite runner.

Afterwards he researched all things kites, and I recall him speaking fondly of his early correspondences with Richard Robertson and about joining the AKA in 1974! Dad would purchase single-line kites from stores such as Kites Away, Paper Tiger, or Come Fly a Kite, and we would fly them behind our house until Mom called us for dinner. Dad's interest in fighter kites came from seeing a demo of a fighter kite being flown indoors by Master Kiteman Dinesh Bahadur. Although dad did not fly indoors, he did persevere and mastered the flying of fighter kites. Later, Dad met and became instant friends with Lois Card at a kite festival in Dallas, and joined her DFW kite club, Jewels in the Sky.

At the same kite festival we saw Top Of the Line Flight Squadron do team ballet, and shortly afterwards Dad began flying stunt kites. His first was a blue Peter Powell, followed by many others including Spin-off, Wasps, and Flexifoils. A few years later we met the Hadzicki brothers at the Kite Trade Association held in Dallas, and not long afterwards, Dad was flying quads, and became quite good at



JASON MCCALES

it. The rest is pretty much history. Dad visited kite shops everywhere he travelled, and was lucky to attend kite festivals around the world. Closest to his heart was the Junction International Kitemaker's Retreat which he attended for the 10 years it was hosted by Bill Lockhart and Betty Street at the Texas Tech Agricultural Campus in Junction. After years of operating as an international event, Dad also helped support it as a smaller, more regional kite event.

What was his favorite kite, you may ask? No doubt, the fighter kite. He always took a little special fighter kite with him on all of his travels. And, with no exception, mom made sure he had a fighter kite with him when he left this world.

In closing, as dad would say: "Happy trails and kite tails, know your wind direction, check your top knot, and keep your line taut. Namaste."

*Michelle Weber Borland
Carrollton, Texas*



Viola (Vi) Brown

There's a large empty space in the sky for Viola (Vi) Brown as of February 8, 2017, when she lost her short battle with lung cancer. She is survived by her son Dominique and granddaughter Kendra. She is also survived by 10 brothers and sisters.

Along with Andy Selzer, her partner for 34 years, Vi was one of the few remaining founding members of South Jersey Kite Flyers. She was a very valuable member of SJKF, answering the call for help so many times it became second nature to see Vi always "there," and you knew something was wrong if she wasn't. Vi specialized in children's kitemaking workshops, and at kite events I would often look up from flying kites and see Vi and Cel working side-by-side, both with smiles on their faces and never complaining.

Vi was also a big help with the Friday Night Social at Wildwood, prepping food, serving, and finally cleaning up by doing the dishes along with Andy. After Andy's devastating stroke, she continued to work full-time as a school bus monitor and as a liaison between the students, parents, and teachers. She did this while also being the primary caregiver to Andy, never complaining and putting everything first before herself. When her diagnosis was given, they took care of each other until her end, each worrying about the other. We all love and will miss you greatly!

Mike Dallmer
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Source
for kite aerial
photography
kits, kites, & parts
since 1999

www.brooxes.com

more than 1,200 kits sold

Let's Get America Flying!

3 GRAPHIC
COLORS

Little Wing
SPORT KITE

3 APPLIQUE
DESIGNS

THE BEST ENTRY LEVEL
SPORT KITE AVAILABLE!

Thank you Kitefliers!

KTAF Peoples Choice Award Winner
Favorite Sport Kite of 2015

available at top kite retailers across the USA
Skydog Kites 1-800-243-3370 skydogkites.com

SaskPower
WINDSCAPE
Kite Festival

June 24 & 25, 2017 • Swift Current, SK

Experience the thrill of flying in the wide-open Saskatchewan skies with some of the world's best kite artists and performers.

WindscapeKiteFestival.ca

Lincoln City

Central Oregon Coast

33RD ANNUAL SUMMER KITE FESTIVAL

June 24-25, 2017

At the D-River Wayside, 10 am to 4 pm. Enjoy a weekend at the beach and watch, learn and enjoy this exciting sport. Activities for fliers and guests of all ages! Visit our website for more information!



Empty Spaces
continued...

Pamela Kirk (1954-2017)

On May 1, the lovely and talented Pamela Kirk passed away following a battle with cancer. Pam and I started flying plastic Gunther Kites in the spring of 1983. We thought we were the only adults in Columbus, Ohio, to discover this pastime and started traveling to different parks in the area to find that perfect field. Soon we bumped into other people doing the same thing, many of whom were members of the local central Ohio kite club. They were hosting a convention for a national club called the American Kitefliers Association, and urged us to attend. We did and left with two Japanese Happi coats and enough memories to fill a book. That Christmas, I received one of Don Tabor's Action Kites which Pam purchased from Fran Gramkowski's Hi Fly Kite Company. Little did I know that the die was cast. In 1984, Pam served on the Board of Directors of the AKA as secretary. We started our own kite company, Heads Up Kites, selling at art shows. She also started competing in kitemaking and dual-line events.

We attended the next 14 conventions. Pam liked to compete.



Pam flew with the Top of the Line Team.



At her first AKA Convention in Nashville, 1984.

She always wanted to win but was never boastful and did not do it for the accolades. She did it to achieve a goal and for the personal satisfaction. She was very proud of her time flying with the Top Of The Line Flight Squadron, especially when they won first at World Cup Championships in 1990. She was also very proud of each and every kite produced by her company. She made over 60 different models, from the simplest hata to the most complicated appliqué design. She made each with the same consistent quality of detail, and enjoyed making every one of them.

Pam was very artistic, read music, and played the piano. She was very good with animals and they seemed to love her, too. But her real love, second only to her cat Bubba, was horses. This passion must have shown through at the 1992 Lubbock convention when a mounted Texas Ranger let her ride his horse. Andy King was there and called her "Pony Pam," a nickname I called her many times.

Pam only complained about one thing during her treatment: her fingers and toes were numb due to the chemo. After that, I



did not think she would sew again, but I was wrong. Over the past year, she has made many kites—most of them highly-detailed fighter kites. Pam was strong in spirit and had more courage than I have ever seen in a person. When she was first diagnosed, and then again when she entered hospice care, kiteflyers from around the world sent their love and support to her. Many had seen Pam fly, but did not know her. It made

a difference and I am truly grateful. Maybe they felt what I knew—that Pam was truly a person that loved what she did and was very content with just being Pam, not trying to be anything other than who she was. There must be something about the enjoyment of kites that attracts people with the “kindness” gene. If, in the future, you are flying a kite and would like to quietly offer a little tribute to Pam, I would ask that you include two more passionate kiteflyers and friends of Pam. Sue Taft and Patricia Tabor were both strong, beautiful women, who, like Pam, were taken from us way before their times.

Mike Dennis
Ocean Beach, California



Mike and Pam in 1984.

Fly MARKET
KITEMAKING SUPPLY

You have a vision. We make it fly.

2016 Kitebuilder's Forum
Kite of the Year: Teres
by Sebastian König

Follow us on Facebook for special offers and sales.

www.flymarketkites.com

FLYING SMILES KITES
Life is a journey, not a guided tour.

Historic Corolla, NC
www.flyingsmileskites.com

Kite Kits For Everyone • www.kitekits.com

Kites In The Sky

Quality Kite Kits

Fun to make - fun to fly!
Schools, workshops, parties
~Your event~
Teaching just got easier!

www.Kitekits.com 405-624-6231

Kites Unlimited

Kites of All Types
Windsocks
Flags and Banners
Award-Winning Games
Toys For All Ages
Jigsaws 8-32,000 Pieces!
Card Games & More!

30th Annual Carolina Kite Festival
Oct. 28-29, 2017 Atlantic Beach, NC

Bird Stuff etc...

BE KIND TO YOUR FEATHERED FRIENDS!

The Area's Best Selection of Feed & Seed

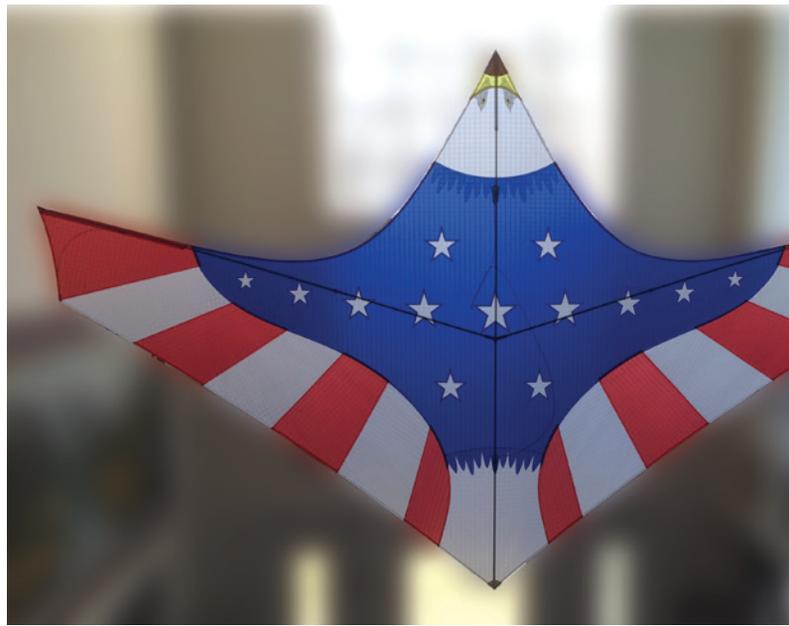
We Carry:
Outdoor Decor, Feeders,
Birdhouses, Bird Baths,
Sloggers, Copper Garden Art.
Music of the Spheres Wind Chimes,
Tilley Hats & More!

Serving CARTERET COUNTY FOR OVER 30 years

Located in Atlantic Station Shopping Center • 252-247-7011 • kitesandbirds.com
1010 West Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach



“Arrow,” a canard kite from 2012.



“Bird of Prey 76PE” from 2016.

DEVELOPMENT OF SWEEP-FORWARD-WING SINGLE-LINE GLIDER KITES

Story and Photos by Douglas K. Stout

Kites are constructed in a variety of shapes and sizes. This is especially true for single-line kites, which can be comprised of a single wing or more complex shapes with multiple wings. When most of us started flying kites, we often started with a diamond or delta kite. The leading edges of these kites are swept back from the nose, so the upper portion of the kite is shaped like an arrow. The arrow shape helped us understand which direction to point the kite relative to the wind. The swept-back leading edges provide stability and are quite common on many single-line and dual-line kites. More complex kites may have a straight leading edge with no sweep across the span of the kite—box kites, flow forms, or cellular kites. A few of us in kiting have been experimenting with leading edges that are swept forward. Although swept-forward wing kites look unique in the air, the aerodynamic benefits are worth the effort, especially for single-line glider kites.

Single-line glider kites have become popular over the past 10 years. Glider kites climb like conventional kites when tension is maintained on the flying line. When the tension on the flying line is released, the glider kite then transitions into a glide under light and no wind conditions. For a kite to transition into a glide, the center of gravity (CG) needs to be very close to the Aerodynamic Center (AC). The AC is the point on the wing where the incremental lift will act, a concept that is fundamental in the science of flight stability. The CG is the location where the kite can be balanced on your finger, when the center of the kite is parallel to the ground. To move the CG close to the AC, we add

weight to the nose of the kite and/or design the kite so the shape and weight allow the CG to be closer to the AC.

I have been intrigued by canards and swept-forward wings since the 1970s. A canard is an aircraft consisting of two wings, with the front wing being smaller in size, which acts as the stabilizer/elevator in a conventional aircraft. In the 1970s, a few of us in my model airplane club built canard control-line model airplanes as an experiment. Mine had a swept-forward anhedral main wing that looked cool and flew well for its size. During the summer of 2010, I began experimenting with single-line glider kites, due to the low wind conditions where I live in northwestern New Jersey. Based on my experience with the canard model airplane and the NASA X-29 that was evaluated from 1984 to 1992, I started exploring canards and swept-forward wings on single-line glider kites in 2012.



NASA X-29 with swept-forward wing and canard control surfaces.

COURTESY OF NASA



My first swept-forward-wing glider kite was a canard, with a swept-forward main wing. It was designed in the spring of 2012 and named the Arrow, due to the color panel layout I selected that gave the appearance of a north arrow on a survey map. The Arrow required a custom joiner to allow the wing spars to angle forward. After the Arrow, I designed a second canard in the spring of 2013 to maximize the area of the front and rear wings and reduce the wing loading, which I called the Rapere. The Rapere has a conventionally shaped main wing with a straight single-piece wing spar. What I found with canard glider kites is that the angle between the canard wing and the rear main wing requires adjustment if one changes the balance point and/or the camber in the main rear wing. Also, the canards were very sensitive to changes in wind and flight speed.

My single-line canard glider kites flew well in light and no wind conditions. In moderate winds, the force

of the wind would cause the front sail to billow when there was tension on the flying line, reducing the performance of the kite.

My first single-surface swept-forward-wing glider kite was the Bird of Prey, which was developed in the fall of 2013. I was intrigued by the layout of the NASA X-29 and the fiction-based XT-908 drone used in the 2013 Robocop 2 movie, which were the motivation for development of the Bird of Prey. The Bird of Prey wing layout was based on the rear main wing of my Arrow canard glider kite. The nose of this glider kite was extended beyond the wing tips to assist in balancing the kite, so minimal nose weight would be needed to obtain the desired glide. The leading edge, wing tips, and trailing edges were curved to allow for tensioning of the fabric. Figure 1 illustrates the shape of the Bird of Prey. Due to the name I selected and the shape of this glider kite, some may think my Bird of Prey was based on the Star Trek Klingon Bird of Prey, but it wasn't. In the 1990s, I used predator birds as my naming convention for my various competition dual-line stunt kites: Falcon, Talon, Raptor and Bird of Prey. I decided to continue with this naming convention for several of my single-line glider kites. Since 2010, I also have designed and built several conventional swept-back-wing glider kites named the Osprey, Eagle, Falcon, Hawk, and Swift, with wing spans ranging from 12 to 96 inches. Since the Bird of Prey looks like a bird in flight with its wings bent forward for landing, the name was a perfect match.

The concern with swept-forward wings on full-sized aircraft is aeroelastic divergence, where the aerodynamic lift of the wing produces a twisting force that rotates the wing's leading edge upward, which can quickly lead to structural failure. On the NASA X-29, anisotropic elastic coupling between bending and twisting of the carbon fiber composite material was used to construct the rear main wing to address this aeroelastic effect. Since my glider kites use a sheet of fabric for the wing, there is no restriction for placement of the wing spars, so I moved them to

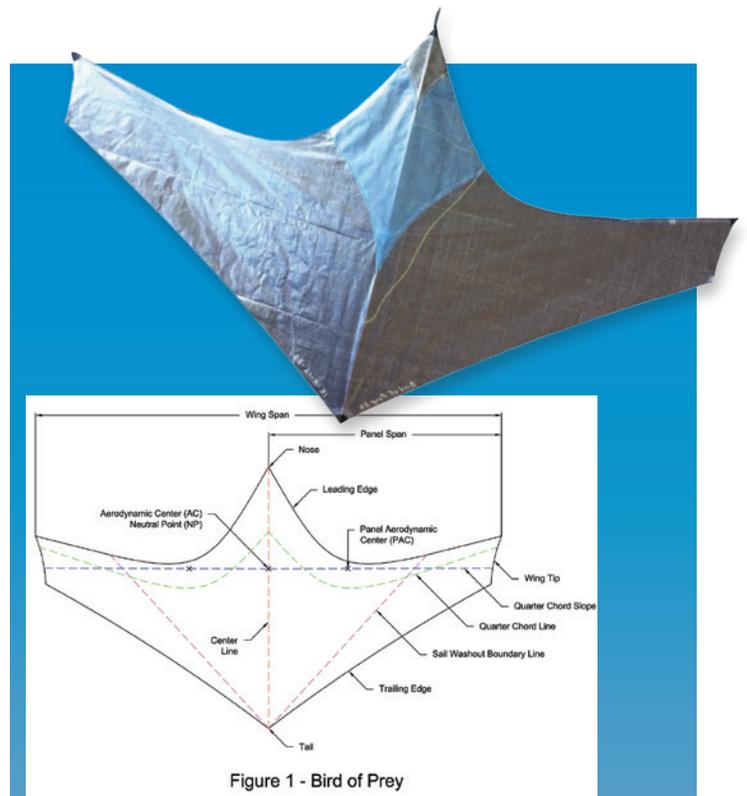


Figure 1 - Bird of Prey

"Bird of Prey 36M" from 2015.

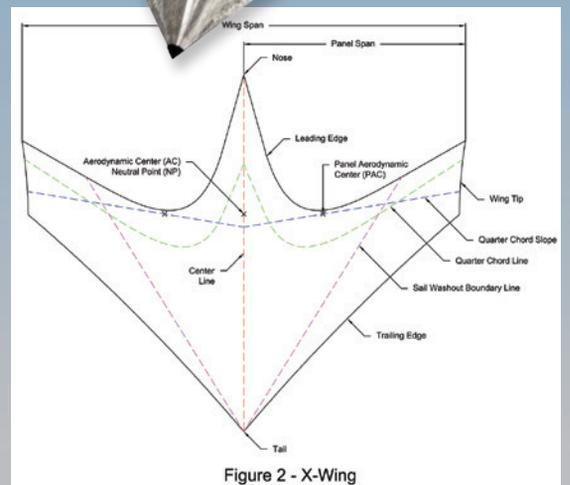
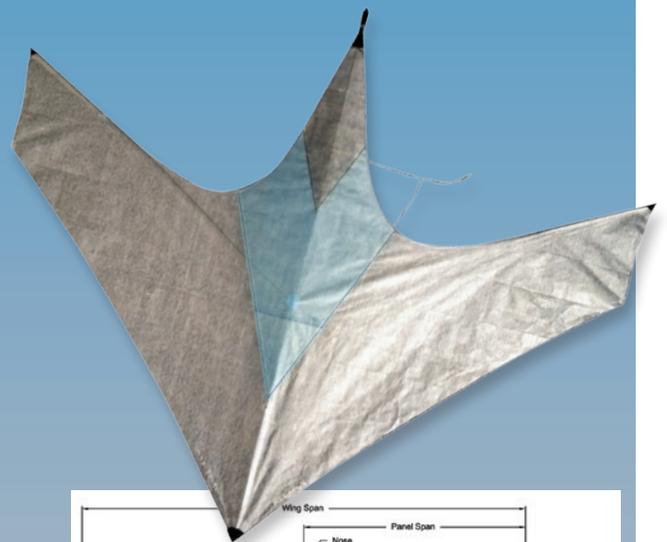


Figure 2 - X-Wing

"X-Wing 36M" from 2017.

the leading edge of the wing. The Bird of Prey also has wing tips with a measurable amount of chord. For each wing tip, a curved batten is used to tension the wing tip and trailing edge of the wing, which allows the trailing edge of the wing to twist upward under aerodynamic loads. These two construction features of the Bird of Prey resolve the aeroelastic effect. The performance of

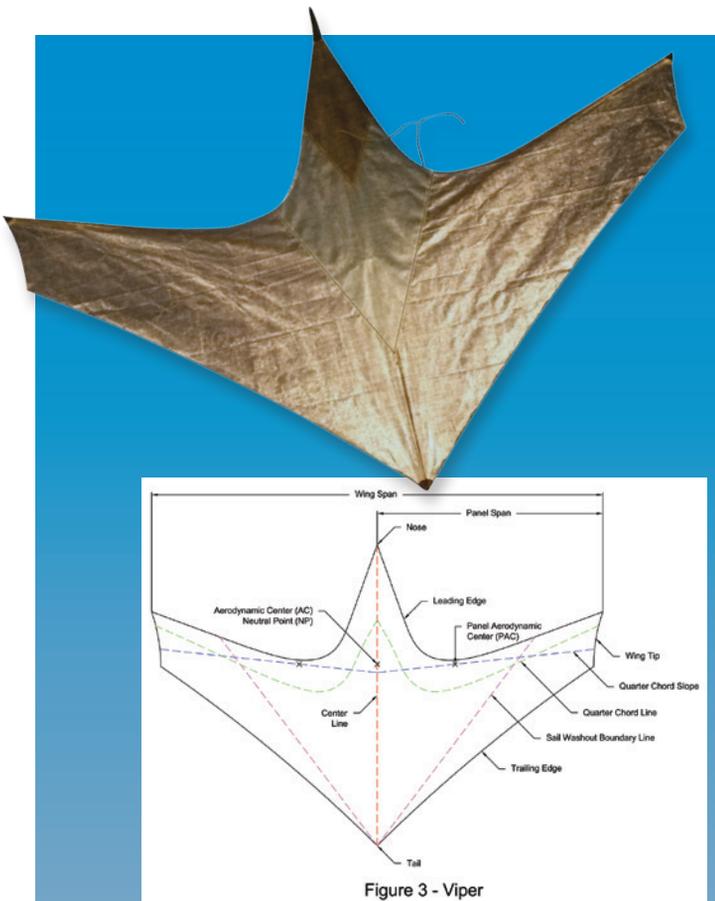
the Bird of Prey glider kites were far better than expected, with very long flat glides, great maneuverability and responsiveness to line commands, when compared to conventional swept-back-wing and canard glider kites.

For indoor flying, I build my glider kites with ultra-light Cubic Tech CTF3 fabric, also known as Cuben fabric. Cuben is a laminated fabric constructed from Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMWPE) fibers and monofilament polyester film. The Cuben fabric is made in various densities, where I measured their lightest commercially-available fabric at about 0.4 ounces per square yard. I also use small diameter DPP high-modulus pultruded carbon tubes from The Composite Store (CST), which sell tubes that are lighter, stiffer, and more resilient than most other pultruded tubes. The Bird of Prey 36 and 36M are made with Cuben fabric and weigh on average 7.4 and 8.1 grams, respectively. The average weights are based on the numerous Bird of Prey 36 and 36Ms I have built for myself and other glider kite enthusiasts in the USA, Canada, and UK. I used these two single-line glider kites for Indoor Single-Line Ballet Competitions in 2015 and 2016.

Regarding my naming convention, the number after the Bird of Prey name is the wing span of the glider in inches, when assembled. This allows for easy identification of the glider kite size. The “M” after the wing span indicates it was made from multiple panels of Cuben fabric, each with a different density to assist in balancing the glider kite. The indoor versions of the Bird of Prey have a very light pull on the flying line, even when flown outdoors in winds up to 4 miles per hour (mph). This is the result of the swept-forward wing, the ability for the wing to twist upward along the outer portion of the trailing edge, and the balance point. The outdoor versions of the Bird of Prey are normally flown in winds up to 10 mph, with very light pull on the flying line.

In January 2017, and with the help of Mike Dallmer of the South Jersey Kite Flyers (SJKF) and Daniel Prentice with the American Kitefliers Association (AKA), I obtained approval to fly indoors at my town’s school on a weekly basis. This new indoor practice venue allows me to fine-tune my indoor glider kites and practice potential indoor routines. With the weekly practice sessions and the invitation to fly at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum (NASM) in Washington, DC on March 25, 2017, I was inspired to explore a new glider kite layout. In February 2017, I started sketching a new swept-forward-wing kite, which would be more extreme than the Bird of Prey. I use AutoCAD to develop each conceptual design for my glider kites. I then import the shape of the kite into Airplane CG Calculator (CGCalc_1.05_03.xlms, January 23, 2011), developed by Dr. Daniel T. Prosser. This program provides me with various aerodynamic attributes of the design, which includes the location of the AC to help me determine the initial location for the CG. I use AutoCAD to complete the design and make full-size templates for construction.

For the new swept-forward-wing glider kite, I started with the outline of the NASA X-29 rear main wing, which has an extreme



“The Viper 36M” from 2017.

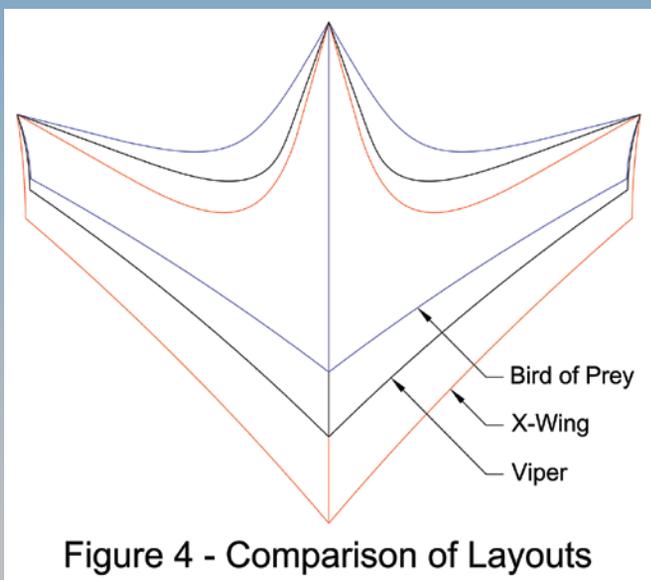


Figure 4 - Comparison of Layouts

forward sweep. The forward sweep of the X-29 rear main wing is 30 degrees for the leading edge and 45 degrees for the trailing edge. I drafted the outline of the X-29 rear main wing and then became very creative with what it would look like as a flying wing. For this experimental prototype, I named it the “X-Wing” in recognition of the NASA X-29. Figure 2 illustrates the shape of the X-Wing. For the prototype, a wing span of 36 inches was selected, which would allow me to compare this prototype to my contest proven Bird of Prey 36M. The X-Wing 36M has 37 percent more wing area than the Bird of Prey 36M and weighs 10.8 grams. The wing loading for the X-Wing 36M is the same as the Bird of Prey 36M, so weight would not be a factor in the evaluation between these two kites.

Regarding flight performance, in test flights the X-Wing 36M is a pleasure to fly. It is very stable, which I attribute to the long center and the forward wing sweep. It appears the forward wing sweep provides stability like traditional kites with swept-back wings. The amount of forward-wing sweep and the wider wing tips would not allow the wing spars to tension the trailing edge of the wing as desired. Also, the trailing edge would move upward by 18 degrees, as compared to 13 degrees for the Bird of Prey. The turn for the X-Wing 36M was flat and graceful, which I attribute to the extreme forward-sweep of the wing and the vertical movement of the trailing edge. When comparing the Bird of Prey 36M to the X-Wing 36M, the Bird of Prey 36M is more responsive and reacts instantly to flying line input, but will illustrate poor line commands. The Bird of Prey 36M also can be flown more aggressively.

Based on the positive flight characteristic X-Wing 36M, my next step was to design a prototype that would blend the positive flight characteristics of the Bird of Prey 36M and the X-Wing 36M. Beginning with the X-Wing layout, the forward-wing sweep and the wing tip chord were reduced so the trailing edge could be tensioned more like the Bird of Prey. The center length was reduced to allow the glider kite to be more responsive. This prototype was also constructed like the Bird of Prey 36M, with three different panels of Cuben fabric. Based on the shape and panel layout, I altered my naming convention away from predator birds and selected the name “Viper,” because the wing shape and associated panels look like a “V.” Viper was also the call sign for the top teaching pilot in the 1986 movie “Top Gun.” Figure 3 illustrates the shape of the Viper. Figure 4 shows a comparison of the Bird of Prey, X-Wing, and Viper layouts. The Viper 36M has 10 percent more wing area than the Bird of Prey 36M and weighs 9.0 grams. The wing loading for the Viper 36M

is the same as the Bird of Prey 36M and X-Wing 36M, so weight would not be a factor in the evaluation between these three kites.

Regarding flight performance, the Viper 36M combines the excellent performance characteristics of the Bird of Prey 36M with the more forgiving characteristics of the X-Wing 36M. The glide slope for the Viper 36M is flatter and longer than the Bird of Prey 36M, which is an unexpected and pleasant surprise. Also, the Viper 36M can be flown very slowly in a climb, without stalling and/or transiting into a glide. This characteristic was hard to believe at first and now is used as part of my indoor routines. When placed in a stall, the Viper 36M has a very

forgiving and gentle recovery. The evaluation took place at three indoor venues, where one location had calm air and two locations had air currents due to the heating and cooling systems. The evaluation was performed by me and several other gifted indoor kiteflyers in the Northeast, along with a new indoor kiteflyer.

My Bird of Prey 36M and Viper 36M are both a joy to fly, but for a venue with any air currents, the Viper is now my first choice and was used at the NASM. For those of us who have flown dual-line stunt kites in the past, the Bird of Prey 36M is like a trick kite that can be flown smoothly and precisely, if one is smooth and attentive to the line commands. The Viper 36M is like a team precision kite, which flies smoothly on its own and can be made to perform more aggressive maneuvers with the right line commands. At a recent indoor kite fly, a beginner kiteflyer, who had never flown indoors

before, tried various indoor kites provided by me and other attending kiteflyers. To my pleasant surprise, this kiteflyer kept coming back to fly my Viper 36M, and became quite proficient with it by the end of the evening.

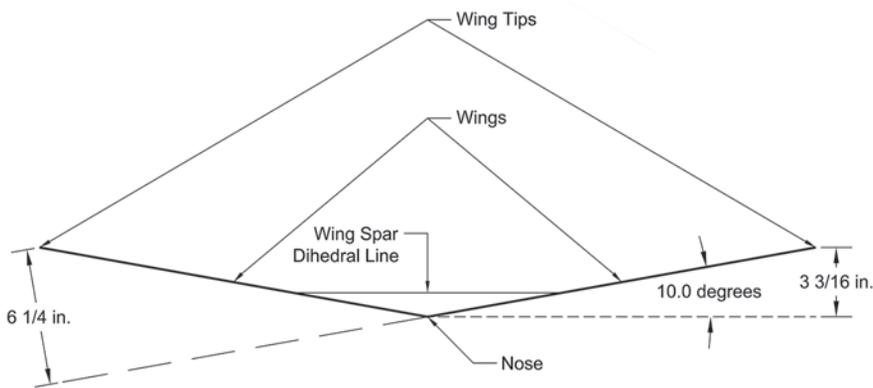
Since development of the Viper 36M, I built a smaller version called the Viper 18 that is fun to fly like the Bird of Prey 18. A Viper 48 and 76 are under development, which will be made from PC31 like the larger outdoor versions of my Bird of Prey.

In closing, I would like to thank Mike Dallmer for encouraging me to write this article, the numerous kiteflyers who provide me with inspiration to explore new kiting concepts, my family for their patience while I develop each design and sequester myself in my workshop, and to Tomas White, a close friend and a kiteflyer who machines aluminum kite pattern templates and line winders for me. ▼

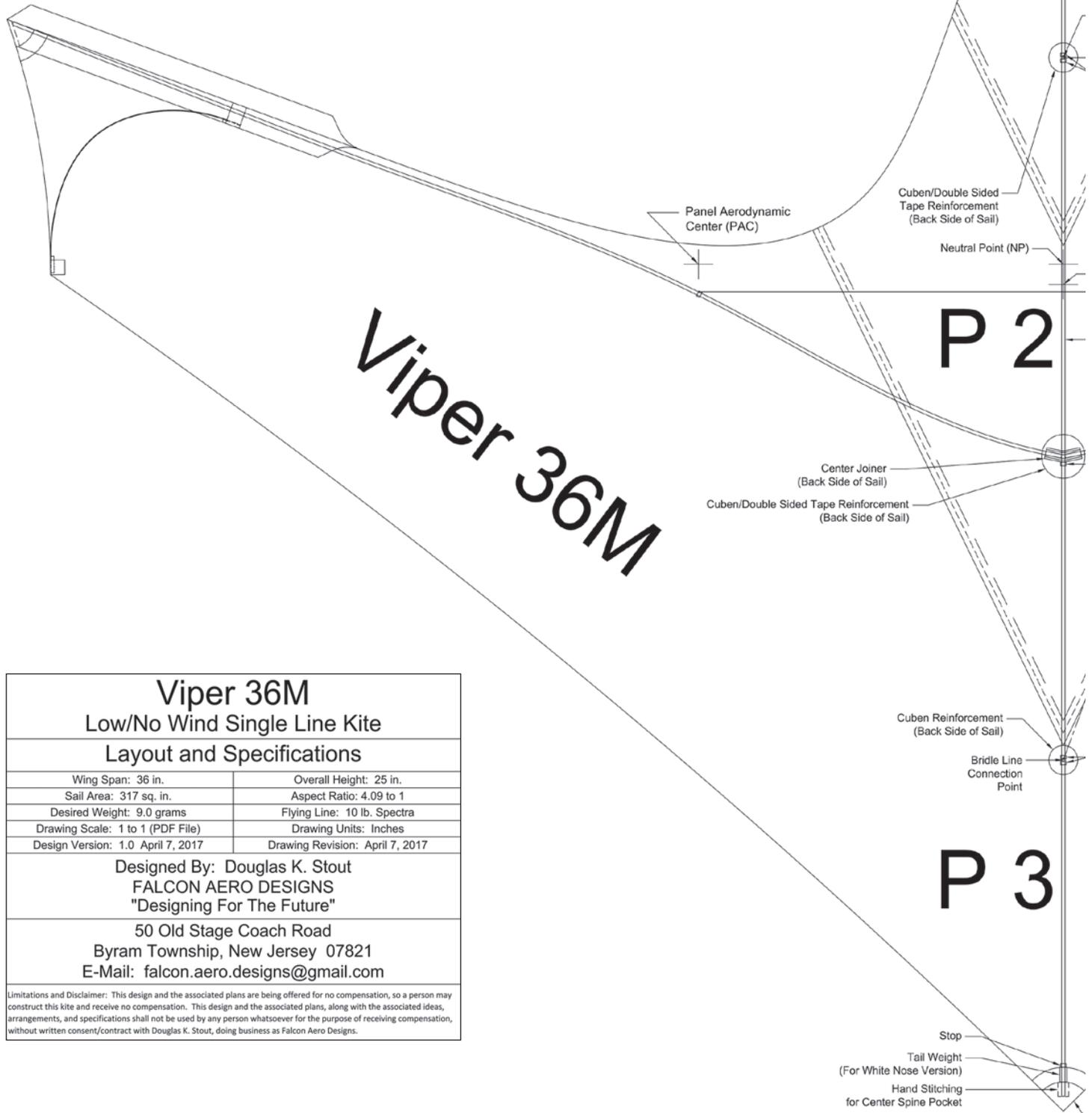


ANDREW ALBOSTA

Stout flying his “Viper 36M” at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, March 25, 2017.



Dihedral Angle - View from Nose



Viper 36M Low/No Wind Single Line Kite Layout and Specifications	
Wing Span: 36 in.	Overall Height: 25 in.
Sail Area: 317 sq. in.	Aspect Ratio: 4.09 to 1
Desired Weight: 9.0 grams	Flying Line: 10 lb. Spectra
Drawing Scale: 1 to 1 (PDF File)	Drawing Units: Inches
Design Version: 1.0 April 7, 2017	Drawing Revision: April 7, 2017
Designed By: Douglas K. Stout FALCON AERO DESIGNS "Designing For The Future"	
50 Old Stage Coach Road Byram Township, New Jersey 07821 E-Mail: falcon.aero.designs@gmail.com	
<small>Limitations and Disclaimer: This design and the associated plans are being offered for no compensation, so a person may construct this kite and receive no compensation. This design and the associated plans, along with the associated ideas, arrangements, and specifications shall not be used by any person whatsoever for the purpose of receiving compensation, without written consent/contract with Douglas K. Stout, doing business as Falcon Aero Designs.</small>	

Treasure Island

A City of Two Tales

By John Lutter

Photography by Kelly Mayhew-Nunes



Lisa Willoughby and Scott Weider take a break from judging the sport kite competition on Treasure Island, where the sun sets over the Gulf of Mexico.

An interesting fact about Treasure Island, Florida, is that it was not originally named Treasure Island because of pirates, but because of a real estate scam. Several early landowners attempted to boost sales of their properties by first burying and then pretending to discover a couple of wooden chests on the island's beach around 1915. But in the kiting community, Treasure Island (or TI for short) is best known for its wide, sandy beach with plenty of room for even the largest kites, and where the only things buried in the sand are kite anchors.

Two of the most popular hotels for kiteflyers are the Thunderbird Hotel and the Bilmar Beach Resort. "You can check in and walk out of your room and fly kites all weekend long," according to Kelly Mayhew-Nunes from Kiting Tampa Bay and one of the organizers of Kitemania South. "You don't need a car to get around; you can walk to restaurants of all price ranges, bars, live music on the beach, shops, and much more. Another great thing about TI is our sunsets. Now that we have a new boardwalk with a wall, you can sit and watch it nightly."

Jack Wilson from Virginia agreed. "It's a great beach. It's warm for most of us northerners and the winds are awesome when coming off the water."

It is no wonder that Treasure Island has become a premier location for two popular kite events in January and February. But while they share the same location, the events themselves are organized very differently and illustrate two sets of attitudes about what kite festivals can be.

TREASURE ISLAND SPORT KITE FESTIVAL: For over 20 years, Treasure Island has been the home of the Treasure Island Kite Festival and is arguably the largest kite festival in Florida. Held during the Martin Luther King holiday in January,

the TI Festival allows kiteflyers from “up north” a respite from the winter weather for a weekend of typically mild temperatures. When asked why they come, many, like Kurtis Jones from New Jersey, simply answer, “Warmth.”

The TI Festival is a traditional kite festival with fields set up for competition and lessons, along with plenty of room for large show kites. The general public is encouraged to fly their own kites, or to purchase kites on site and join the fun. Joe Fala, owner of Windworks, is the official kite vendor and organizer of the event. “I started doing the festival just to keep it going,” he explained. That was eight years ago, and during that time money and resources have been an ongoing challenge. While many of the major kite manufacturers donate kites and send representatives to the kite festival, it isn’t as easy to get funding for the festival as it once was. “It has been a learning process,” Fala said, “But I now have a great team of people who help put the festival on. I went to the city and now have two weekends for my kite festival.” (He also organizes a kite festival over Veteran’s Day weekend in November.)

The Treasure Island Festival is focused on introducing kites to the general public. Advertising and marketing are geared toward bringing the public out to the fields and periodic raffles are done throughout the day. After 20

years, spectators have come to anticipate the show of kites every year. Organizers depend on both paid and volunteer personnel to keep the festival running smoothly.

The Eastern Sport Kite League has been holding the Treasure Island Sport Kite Championship as part of the festival for many years. Competitors from all over the East Coast travel south to attend. “As a competition, what makes it great is the large spectator and competitor turnout,” said Jack Wilson, the Eastern League Sport Kite Commissioner. “The league and the kiteflying community as a whole are especially fortunate in that we have a local school teacher who has started an after-school kite club, and there’s a kite shop which helps support it. This year we had eight novices [from the program] ranging in ages from 12 to 16. All eight competed in both the precision and ballet disciplines.”

“It was awesome to see the teens and pre-teens from the local kite club who participated in the competition,” said Kurtis Jones. “They had the full attention of a beach audience who even booed some low scores from the three judges. That means they were involved, which is a great thing.”

Joe Fala, along with Gary and Maggie Engvall of Rhode Island, have also introduced a kite building program with a local school where the children are given a set of kitemaking supplies and encouraged to come up with their own

designs. During the festival, the kids brought their kites out and a group of kite builders helped them tweak their designs and fly them.

Just like many other festivals around the country, the TI festival is not as big as it once was. Challenges from the city in terms of prohibiting cars on the beach has limited the amount of vendors, which had previously helped defer



Steve Polansky's custom stack of quads.



Harvey Tidall, Fred Taylor, Dave McIntyre and Lisa Taylor at Kitemania.

some of the costs of the festival. It also reduced the overall excitement around the festival. Fala has had to get creative with his kite sales and now sets up his beach kite “store” outside the rooms at the Thunderbird Hotel and arranges for Feola’s Restaurant to put a grill out there as well.

One of the other challenges to this festival is natural. The beach has pockets of sea oats which can grow as tall as six feet. In an effort to reduce the impact of people on the

sea oats, the City has stopped manicuring the beach like it once did, and while this is great for the sea oats, it limits the locations kiteflyers can fly.

KITEMANIA SOUTH:

First of all, it’s important to understand that Kitemania South is NOT a festival. It’s a

seed was planted for the event. This led to a number of people chiming in that they, too, went to Treasure Island in that time period. Thus, Kitemania was born simply as a group of kiteflyers who decided to vacation at the same time and in the same place.

According to Kelly Mayhew-Nunes, one of the main forces behind the gathering, “February is a great time of year here in Florida because the weather is great. Most people are looking for a place to get away from the cold and snow, and



gathering of kiteflyers who find the TI event a very special place to fly.

Kitemania South actually started in 2013 with a group of kiteflyers sitting around the fire at Antelope Island Kite Festival in Utah. As kiteflyers often do, they talked about their adventures, and by a few of them simply mentioning they went to Treasure Island for vacation in February, a

Florida is the place to be.”

Weather seems to be one of the many factors that brings kiteflyers from Canada and all over the United States. According to Susan Tinslow, from Renton, Washington, “It’s a perfect time for a kiting event, since our kiting season in the Northwest pretty much stops in September and doesn’t start again until March or sometimes April.”



There’s no competition at Kitemania—just friends and kites.



And the wind cries, "Jimi." Alden Miller's custom quad stack.

Because Kitemania isn't a "festival" there is no need for special permits or any type of official organization. A few informal meetups happen throughout the weekend, such as group meetings for ice cream, or a call ahead to a local restaurant to get seating for 20+ people. "The rest of the time, people can do what they want and fly kites with friends," said Mayhew-Nunes.

While this event is loosely structured, it seems to work. People go where they want to go, do what they want to do, without any kind of pressure to be out on the field by a certain time. Just like in real estate, it's all about location and people.

Kevin Bayless of Utah suggested, "If you want a successful gathering, let the people do what they want. There are certain kite people out there who will draw people to the gathering." Other aspects like food, drinks, music, and bathrooms also help it to grow, and as noted

above, Treasure Island offers all of these conveniences.

There are no designated flying fields, and flyers are expected to maintain their own kites. Since there is no audience besides other kiteflyers, there is no need for orchestrating where kites need to be; it just happens organically. Treasure Island is big enough to accommodate the largest kites anyone can bring. According to Bayless, "Kitemania does that—brings people together, lets them do as they please, and we, in turn, put on a show."

Barry and Susan Tinslow from Washington bring some of their big kites all the way across the country. "We ship ahead about half of what we take, and then check the other half on the flight down."

Others, like Fred and Donna Taylor, come down from Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada in an RV and stay for other festivals in Florida. "What's

not to love?" asked Donna Taylor, "Sand, sun, friends, food, and kites."

COMPARING TISKF AND

KITEMANIA: Obviously, these two events are quite different in how they are organized and run.

The Treasure Island Kite Festival is a traditional festival where permits, field setup, and marketing are integral to a successful event. The general public is encouraged to attend, and competitors travel from all across the East Coast to compete for points. Outreach to the local schools brings children out to fly kites and experience the competitions. It's about the public.

Kitemania is a gathering of kite enthusiasts who love flying their favorite kites together. While they will certainly create a show, and the locals will wander upon them flying, it isn't designed around consumption by the general public. The lack of

organized events lets kiteflyers do what they want with very little planning and scheduling involved.

One thing they have in common, however, is kites and warm weather. And really, do you need much more than that? ▼





AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONVENTION

40th ANNUAL

COMPETITION AND

FESTIVAL

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

OCTOBER 9-14, 2017



*Ocean City Photography by
Jo-Ann Rasmussen*



If Dreams Had Wings...

The AKA was founded in 1964 but it wasn't until 1978 that the organization held its first convention in Ocean City, Maryland. Now, 40 years later, the AKA is excited to celebrate by returning to Ocean City to fly on the same beach where it all started so long ago. The dreams of those kite pioneers will be flying high this October 9-14.

As a flying location, the Ocean City beach has been declared by some to be "The Kiteflying Capital of the World" due to its wide beach, regular winds, and the community's support of kiteflying. Attendees can fly into the local Salisbury/Ocean City airport or drive down from Washington or Baltimore. The kiteflying will be held on the beach between the Kite Loft and our host hotel, The Park Place. There is a wide range of other accommodations within an easy walk.

Ocean City has a modern convention center just a few miles from the flying fields. Convention registrants will be able to take a free shuttle to and from the convention center simply by showing their registration badge. At the center, we will hold our auction, banquets, and meetings. There is a great indoor flying facility for Wednesday night which is something you won't want to miss. On Thursday night, the Fly Market will open with new fanfare as many kite manufacturers have agreed to set up their booths to display what's new for 2018.

Every morning there will be an amazing choice of workshops held in four rooms for two sessions: 9:00-10:15 and 10:30-11:45. We are lucky to have such a generous community of artists who are volunteering time to share their kite passion with convention attendees. All workshops are free to registered attendees only. Some classes require that you bring your own materials while others offer the option of buying materials at the workshop. The list below is subject to change, and an actual schedule (plus a materials list) will be published online no later than September 1, 2017. Go to www.kite.org for more details.

Last but not least, every afternoon there will be lots of kiteflying. In addition to the competitions and mass-ascensions, there will be space for show kites and demos. The public will be invited to enjoy the celebration. The Convention committee has worked hard for the last year to make all this happen and I am honored to have had the time to work with them. I invite you to come join us. Let's celebrate our 40th Grand National Convention!

Phillip Whitaker
Convention Committee Chairman

Workshops:

Christian Baden Powell, APPLIQUE THE CBP WAY: Two sessions to learn how to design and create exquisite ripstop appliqués with multiple colors, tracing paper and hot knife. A hands-on demonstration with a light table.

John Barresi, INDOOR FLYING—BRING YOUR KITE: Folks often think of indoor flying as a “constant effort to survive,” but in this flying workshop we can help you be successful with almost any indoor kite.

Robert Brasington, STAINED GLASS TECHNIQUES: Australian kitemaker Brasington will lead two sessions sharing his secrets and tips about how to choose graphics and convert them into kites that fly in the sky with colors like a piece of stained glass artwork.

Jon Burkhardt, JUDGING HANDMADE KITES: Two sessions, one before the competitions and one after, participants can meet the judges, find out what they are looking for, and how they determine who wins.

Scott Davis, SPORT KITE SYMPOSIUM: An opportunity to meet with members of the sport kite committee and judges to ask questions, make suggestions, discuss rules, and offer ideas and direction for promoting the sport.

Paul Dugard, BUBBLES, BUBBLES, BUBBLES: Learn everything you need to know about making bubbles for small or large crowds including mixing the solution, making wands and producing dazzling bubbles. Two sessions offer theory indoors and practice outdoors.

Ron Gibian, NUTS AND BOLTS OF KITEMAKING: You’ve sewn a beautiful piece of appliqué. Now what? Two sessions explore the mechanics of finishing a kite, from concept to first flight.

Lindsey Johnson, FROM SKETCH TO FLIGHT: Two sessions exploring the world of digital design, fabrication and 3D printing. Learn about printers, plastics and making your own custom kite fittings.

Team KiteLife, QUAD TEAM 101—IT’S EASY: If you are intimidated but intrigued by the idea of quad team flying, this is the workshop for you, as all four members of Team KiteLife will be demystifying the process with this on-field workshop. (BYOK)

Deb Lenzen and Mike Shaw, TIPS ON TRAVELING TO FOREIGN FESTIVALS: How to prepare, pack, and plan a trip to a foreign kite festival, and what to do when you get there. It’s a great adventure!

Ken McNeill, TAPING AND SHAPING: Two sessions concentrating on the use of adhesive tapes for simple sail

construction and advanced three-dimensional sail design. Includes theory and hands-on demonstration.

Nic O’Neill, SOCIAL MEDIA AND CROWDFUNDING: In two separate workshops, the first examines marketing your kite event or business through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, or one of the other major social media platforms. The second looks at how to crowdfund your project.

Daniel Prentice, THE FUTURE OF THE AKA: A roundtable discussion focusing on positive ideas around growing the organization. This is a chance to share your ideas and listen to others.

Cliff Quinn, IF A KID CAN MAKE IT, SO CAN YOU: Make and take a classic 24” diamond kite. All materials will be supplied; just bring your childlike enthusiasm and desire to have fun.

Mark Reed, THE WORLD OF A PROFESSIONAL KITE DESIGNER: What if your cool idea for a kite also had to feed your family? A look inside how we develop Prism Kites from concept to final production.

Lee Sedgwick, MAKING AND FLYING THE YFO: The first of two sessions will be indoors learning how to make your own YFO kite. In the second session, outdoors, you will learn flying techniques whether bridled for single, dual, tri, or quad line.

Drake Smith and T.Z. Lee, MAKE THAT ART FLY: Not all kites begin as kites; some begin as paintings. Learn how to turn a canvas into a flying kite using different platforms and techniques.

Douglas K. Stout, GLIDER KITE AERODYNAMICS: Learn the advantages of swept-forward-wing glider-kites, basic principles of

aerodynamics, and how to use computer tools to evaluate designs.

Phillip Whitaker, A FIRST TIMER’S GUIDE TO THE CONVENTION: Is this your first AKA Convention? It is an opportunity to meet other kiteflyers and to hear ways to get the most from a convention experience.

Sewing Workshops, BRING YOUR OWN SEWING MACHINE: For the first time, the AKA convention would like to offer hands-on sewing workshops. A dedicated room for the machines will be locked when not in use. Several kitemakers have offered to lead workshops including Jon Burkhardt teaching a 40-inch Ohashi and Lindsey Johnson teaching his “Falenas.” Other classes will be added with enough interest.

For participation in the sewing workshops, e-mail the AKA, prior to August 1, at aka@aka.kite.org. Put the words “sewing workshops” in the subject line. Depending on the responses, we will expand this category, or cancel it and use the room for non-sewing workshops. With enough interest, we will e-mail information about all sewing classes, materials, and costs. Here’s to starting a new tradition!



Go to workshops in the morning, fly kites all afternoon and hang out with friends in the evening. Come join us for a spectacular celebration of kiting.

Convention Highlights

Welcome Reception — Monday Evening

Registered attendees are invited to join other kites at the Kite Loft, 511 Boardwalk, Ocean City, for an opening gala and barbeque, compliments of the Kite Loft. This is the first of many opportunities to catch up with long-time friends and to make new ones. Introductions and schedule changes will be announced.

Great Kite Auction — Friday Evening

Friday evening we will gather at the Convention Center for a banquet and The Great Kite Auction. A tradition of AKA Conventions, the Great Kite Auction is the largest fundraiser of the AKA. Members are encouraged to donate modern kites, historical treasures, and other accessories from their collections, then share the fun and excitement in trying to buy some amazing one-of-a-kind masterpieces others have donated. This is a great opportunity for casual flyers and serious collectors. The auction is open to the public, but banquet tickets must be purchased in advance.

Awards Ceremony and Banquet — Saturday Evening

Celebrating a long week of flying and acknowledging another year of kite evolution, the Saturday night banquet will be followed by a full program of awards and remembrances.

Schedule of Events (subject to change)

Monday, October 9, 2017

Hotel Check-in/Convention Registration, Auction and Bag-Raffle Receiving, Flying field set-up, Free Flying time and early evening Welcome Reception.

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Hotel Check-in/Convention Registration, Opening of the Bag Raffle, Auction Receiving, Board Of Directors Meeting, Kite Art Exhibit Opens,



Morning Workshops, Afternoon Mass Ascension on the Field, Sport Kite Competitions Begin, Fighter Kite Competitions Begin, Memorial Fly, Themed Flying on the hour, Free Flying Time.

Evening - Banner Parade,

Annual Business Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Convention Center, 4001 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City.

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Hotel Check-in/Convention Registration, Bag Raffle Continues, Auction Receiving, Morning Workshops, Kite Art Exhibit Continues, Kitemaker's Competition Begins, Sport Kite Competitions Continue, Fighter Kite Competitions Continue, Afternoon Mass Ascension on the Field, Hourly Themed Flying, Free Flying Time.

Evening - Indoor Kite Competition

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Hotel Check-in/Convention Registration, Bag Raffle Continues, Auction Receiving, Morning Workshops, Kite Art Exhibit Continues, All Competitions Continue, Afternoon Mass Ascension on the Field, Hourly Themed Flying, Free Flying Time.

Evening - Opening of The Fly Mart, Miniature Kite Challenge

Friday, October 13, 2017

Morning Workshops, Bag Raffle Continues, Kite Auction Set-up, Kite Art Exhibit Continues, Fly Mart Open, All Competitions Wrap Up, Afternoon Mass Ascension on the Field, Hourly Themed Flying, Free Flying Time, Banner Parade

Evening - Banquet and The Great Kite Auction

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Last Chance Bag Raffle Ticket Purchases, Final Morning Workshops, Bag Raffle Drawing, Ground Display on the Field, Final Mass Ascension on the Field, Kite Art Exhibit Closes, Rokkaku Battles on the Field.

Evening - Awards Banquet

**Meetings will be held at
Roland E. Powell Convention Center
4001 Coastal Hwy., Ocean City, MD 21842
Kiteflying will be on the beach at
Boardwalk and 5th Streets.**

Registration Information

Basic Registration

Basic includes access to all Convention activities, and includes one ticket for the Friday banquet and one ticket for the Saturday Banquet. You also receive one convention logo patch in your registration goody bag and a name badge and lanyard. You must purchase a basic registration in order to compete.

One Day Registration

Allows access to all of the scheduled activities and workshops for that day and allows watching, but not participating in competitions. It does not include a banquet ticket.

Child's Registration

Children under the age of 12 may register for 20% off the fee in place at the time of registration.

Banquet Tickets

Extra tickets will be on sale on a first-come first-served basis for \$50 per ticket. You do not have to be registered for the convention to buy and attend any of the banquets. If you want to ensure your ability to attend the banquets, you are strongly encouraged to pre-register prior to September 18, 2017. The AKA must commit a final banquet count prior to the convention, meaning if you register at the door or try to buy extra banquet tickets at the event, they may not be available.

Please check the following where applicable

- _____ This is my first AKA Convention
- _____ I want to bring my sewing machine for workshops
- _____ I plan to enter the Sport Kite Competition (must have an invitation to compete)
- _____ I plan to enter the Kitemakers' Competition with _____ # kites
- _____ I plan to enter the Fighter Kite competition
- _____ I would like vegetarian gluten-free meals
- _____ I have the following accessibility needs: _____

I am willing to help in the following areas.

- Auction Receiving Set-Up Runner Cashier
- Sport Kite Competition Judge Field Director Pit Boss
- Kitemaker Competition Judge Registration Field Staff

I will arrive on ____/____/____ around ____:____ AM PM

Waiver

In consideration for the right to compete, as well as participate in the American Kitefliers Association 40th Annual National Convention and Grand National Competition (the Event), I hereby hold the American Kitefliers Association, the City of Ocean City, Maryland, the Roland E. Powell Convention Center, the sponsors, promoter, and any and all other persons associated with the Event harmless and release them from any and all liability in connection with my participation. I further agree that the Event may use, without payment permission or restriction any photograph, film, tape, or digital image in which I may appear for any purpose whatsoever. I understand that the AKA does not control the weather and that there will be no refunds given due to cancellation of any events after September 18, 2017. *NOTE: by signing on behalf of a participant less than 18 years old, the parent or guardian also expressly agrees to all of the above agreement.*

Signature



Registration continues on page 26

Registration Form

REGISTRANT NAME 1	BADGE FIRST NAME (IF DIFFERENT)	AKA MEMBER #	
REGISTRANT NAME 2	BADGE FIRST NAME (IF DIFFERENT)	AKA MEMBER #	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE/COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
PHONE	CELL PHONE	E-MAIL	

			QTY	COST	TOTAL
EARLY REGISTRATION <i>postmarked by August 15</i>	BASIC (For five days plus banquets) 1-DAY M T W T H F S (circle day)			\$60	\$230
REGULAR REGISTRATION <i>postmarked by September 15</i>	BASIC (For five days plus banquets) 1-DAY M T W T H F S (circle day)			\$60	\$250
LATE REGISTRATION <i>postmarked after September 15</i> AT THE DOOR	BASIC (For five days, but no guarantee of banquet tickets after Oct. 1) 1-DAY M T W T H F S (circle day)			\$290 \$60	
Child Registration 20% discount					
Extra Banquet Tickets	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday			\$50	
			Registration Total		
Cloisonné Pin				\$8	
Extra Convention Logo Patch				\$8	
All Convention apparel listed below must be ordered no later than August 15, 2017.					
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	red only		\$25	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	red only		\$30	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	red only		\$35	
Women's Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	red only		\$25	
Women's Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	red only		\$30	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	red only		\$30	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	red only		\$35	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	red only		\$40	
Polo Shirt (specify <input type="checkbox"/> Men's or <input type="checkbox"/> Women's)	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	red only		\$40	
Polo Shirt (specify <input type="checkbox"/> Men's or <input type="checkbox"/> Women's)	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	red only		\$44	
Polo Shirt (specify <input type="checkbox"/> Men's or <input type="checkbox"/> Women's)	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	red only		\$49	
Crew Neck Sweatshirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	red only		\$30	
Hoodie	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	red only		\$48	
Hoodie	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	red only		\$58	
Hoodie	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	red only		\$62	
			MERCHANDISE TOTAL		
PAYMENT METHOD <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx <input type="checkbox"/> Check					ORDER TOTAL

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON CARD _____ SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Register online at
www.kite.org
Or mail this form to:
American Kitefliers Assoc.
PO Box 699
Cedar Ridge, CA 95924 USA

In Search of a 1000-year-old Kitemaking Village in Vietnam



Story and Photos By Chris Hanson

There are a few places on earth where GPS doesn't help, and the village of Bá Dương Nội outside of Hanoi is one of them. The streets don't have names and the houses don't have numbers. Our driver was on his phone, talking loudly in Vietnamese trying to figure out what road to take next. I was with my wife Danna, a friend Suzanne from Hanoi, and her assistant and interpreter, Chang. We were looking for the house of Nguyễn Hữu Kiêm, president of the Hong Ha Kite Club in the Dan Phượng district.

Mr. Kiêm shares kite stories and tea with Hanson before heading out to fly.

Six months ago, my wife and I were given an opportunity to go to Vietnam. I jumped on Google to explore kiting opportunities there, and learned about a kite festival in the "1000-year-old-kite village" in the *Vietnam News*. The festival happens on the 15th day of the third lunar moon, which unfortunately was after our planned visit, but I was resolved to visit the village and see the legendary flute kites that they fly.



After some more research, I found the name of Mr. Kiêm. He is an ambassador of the Vietnamese kite, and was featured at the Dieppe International Kite Festival in 2012. All I needed was a way to contact him.

Our Hanoi hotel was very helpful: they booked a car for us and phoned Mr. Kiem for a time to visit. When the day finally arrived, I was both excited and worried that things wouldn't work out. The streets of Hanoi are unbelievably crowded and hectic, especially in Old Town. Yet right at noon, our car arrived and our friends Suzanne and Chang were waiting in the hotel lobby.

We drove out of Hanoi to the northeast, and followed the Red River to the east for 45 minutes.

Now here we were, winding down a narrow street, our driver still getting directions on the phone. We stopped at an intersection next to some guys repairing a motorbike, and there he was—Mr. Kiêm, himself! He directed us to a parking spot and led us to his house through a maze of narrow alleyways.

The next couple of hours passed in a blur. We went through introductions, sat for tea, and looked through articles and pictures from various kite events. I presented Mr. Kiêm with a kite I built for him, and he returned the favor with a small flute and a small paper and bamboo kite.

Talking about his travels, Mr. Kiêm laughed about how some people in Dieppe greeted him by singing like his flutes instead of saying hello. That was their way of bridging the language gap and he really thought it was funny.

When I asked Mr. Kiêm about going to the Dieppe in 2018, he said he might not be able to because he is caring for his 102-year-old mother, and being away for 10 days is difficult. I did the math, and his mother was a teenager during the Japanese occupation, a young mother during the French occupation, and a middle-aged mother of

a military-aged boy during the war with America. I could only imagine the stories she could tell.

After a while, Mr. Kiêm disappeared and then returned with some of his kites. While he put one together, he saw me feeling the seam, and we had a moment of communication outside of our language barrier. He knew I was feeling for a reinforcement line inside the seam. He shook his head “no,” and traced the seam from the wingtips to a tied connection in the middle of the sail. My hands mimicked the tips of the kite moving up from the tension of that seam and we both smiled. He showed me a joint in the tail and wordlessly demonstrated that it could come apart, but also



hold its shape when locked together.

Mrs. Kiêm interrupted us to tell us that the wind was up. We all followed Mr. Kiêm back down the alley to a farm field. Our driver took the kite downwind while Mr. Kiêm reeled out line. And with a quick shout, the kite was released, soaring upward. The sound from the flutes was amazing.



Hanson and Mr. Kiem display the kite with its unique flutes as held by Mrs. Kiem below.



Speaking through the interpreter, Mr. Kiem told us the folklore behind the flute kites: “A long, long time ago, the earth and the heaven were still close together, so all the fairies could just go down and have fun with the people on earth. Then one day for some reason, the sky just went higher and higher, separating far away. All the fairies couldn’t go down to be friends with our people anymore, so the people on earth began to feel sad. They decided to make kites so very colorful, and pull them as high as they could, to connect to the fairies. And they added music, so it was like an invitation, calling for their attention, calling them to come down.”

Days later, my wife and I juggled several suitcases down to the hotel lobby. I carefully cradled Mr. Kiem’s kite, wondering how I was going to get it home safely. We waited for our taxi and said goodbye to the staff. Suddenly, the hotel manager, who had been

quite stiff and formal all week, joined us. His eyes zeroed in on the kite and all his professionalism evaporated. Smiling broadly, he told me about how he used to make kites in his village. He fondly remembered the annual kite festivals, and lamented that only the old men still build kites. I’m always amazed at the power of kites to bring out the child in all of us.

Since returning home, I found a wonderful article in *Discourse* from Drachen.org, written by Paul Chapman and Uli Wahl, who also travelled to the kite village in 2011.

I highly recommend their article for more information about the flute kites. They also met Mr. Kiem during their visit. They wrote: “Mr. Nguyễn Hữu Kiem has been responsible for supporting and encouraging young people to maintain their ancient traditions of flute and kite making in the village. He sees this as being important, particularly since five or six

generations of his own family have made and flown kites. He has become famous for making good flutes and beautiful kites. He is concerned for the survival of traditional kites in his village and has devoted his life to ensuring that the younger generations appreciate and participate in this important cultural activity.”

Let’s all hope he succeeds!



Presenting the

Evidence

An Interview with the Bob Ingraham Volunteer of Year, Scott Davis.

Congratulations on the award.



DANIEL PRENTICE

*Davis, bundled-up for
judging in Seaside,
Oregon, 2016.*

Scott Davis: Yeah, that was pretty cool. They caught me way off guard on that one. I heard afterwards that they'd all written something about me and it was very cool, hearing that from my peers. It was straight from the heart.

Seems well-deserved. At present, you are on the AKA Board of Directors, Chair of the Sport Kite Committee, Conference Commissioner of the Northwest, a member of the International Rules Committee, and you fly with Team Evidence. You are the perfect person to ask: what's going on in the competitive sport kite world these days?

SD: That's a tough question. I started a few indoor festivals and I learned that you have to have a vision about how the event is going to be self-sustaining. You need to be

resourceful to find a way to make all the pieces come together and not lose money. Without get-togethers and festivals, kiteflying is so grassroots that it's only when you walk up to a flyer and say hi that you have any contact. But when you have a kite festival, that's another whole story. When people see a big gathering where there's a competition with music playing and teams flying—that's how you get people involved, when they experience that. But where are we now? There are a lot of people wondering what to do next. Those of us on the administrative side of sport kiting see that the way it's been running just doesn't fit. It's not helping the sport to grow.

Flying sport kites in competition mode is a great training ground. Ask all the "big names" how they learned so much, and mostly they'll tell you it was from being in competitions, and having to learn what the judges wanted, how to fly to music, and all that kind of stuff.

Is that what motivated you to start Team Evidence?

SD: Before Team Evidence, I was part of Team Sixth Sense and we were very competitive. Our goal was to go to World Championships and win. We had our run and then my son Brian got old enough that we started flying pairs together. He went to Nationals with me a few years. That stopped when he got to be a senior in high school and started playing football.

So Team Evidence started with me and my son flying pairs. We decided that we'd fly to Christian music because we liked it and we came up with the team name. When he started football, it went on hold for a while. I taught people about indoor flying and ended up working with a lot of youth. Toby Arndt came along and we started flying pairs outdoors working with the same routine that Brian and I started.

After a year, it became obvious to us that we needed to bring in more people because there were a lot of opportunities. We got the idea that it would be good to be able to have other people learn the routines so we could interchange people in the team. My wife, Susan, said that we ended up making a co-op, because we all pitch in to raise the money to get the equipment.

Early on, we had 8-10 people, and it became real powerful how the teammates worked amongst themselves. Teammates, teamwork, and all that stuff are big things, especially in a youth's life. Somebody going through high school who doesn't necessarily fit into the football gang can experience indoor kiteflying or outdoor flying and it's a different kind of sport

that can fit for some kids who don't seem to fit anywhere else. An introvert that busts out with a kite is pretty cool.

Your references to Christian music and the Team Evidence name obviously have significance for you. Can you speak to that?

SD: "Evidence" came out of the knowing that God is real. It talks about how just the fact that we dig into God's word, we grow. Because we grow, we get to look at each other growing into much better people...and that's evidence right there that God is real. Evidence gets used in lots of different ways, but for me that's the strongest definition of where that name comes from. Evidence that God's real is not necessarily about walking up and seeing him, but it's about seeing what happens when you accept Him.

One could say that about everyday life, but does it have a particular meaning for you as it relates to kiteflying?

SD: Kites are just a piece of the ministry. Kites are what get us in the door. We get to go out and fly to Christian music, but really it's the conversations and the relationships.

When you speak of ministry, are you speaking of a particular church?

SD: It's a Christian team but we go to each other's churches. There are people on the team who hardly ever go to church. We have one church that really wants to support us and open their resources to us, but we weren't born of a particular church.

So the evolution of the team after your son, Brian, started playing football was what?

SD: First there was Toby Arndt. He was an AKA champion for indoor. After that, Kristian Slater and Travis Reedy and I went to the World Championships in France. We worked on our routine and the boys thought we were going to be "right in the middle of the pack." We felt pretty good going in and we came in second to last. It was a huge eye-opener for them. They were really inspired and wanted to try "this and that" and understood that it takes more practice than just a couple of weekends to get a routine down. It was pretty awesome.

When you look at the number of competitive teams in the U.S. today, how many teams do you think are flying at master's class level?

SD: There aren't many in that class who could compete at World Championships. I can think of four and most people don't realize we have that many. In the last five years, most people think there's only one or two who could go from the U.S.

If you could wave a magic wand and jump-start the competitive sport kite world in the U.S., what would you change?

SD: That's a tough



DANIEL PRENTICE



Davis has his team name tattooed to his forearm.



WILLY HENDRICKSON

With early teammate, Tobias Arndt, 2011.

question. There are a lot of pieces to it. The end result would be that our national event would be a big deal, well-attended, and highly sought after. It would be fun to have an open freestyle thing where you have a three-hour session of 20 or 30 people flying quad, dual, pairs, team and even single-line and let them mix it up.



MEGAN REEDY

Davis, Slater, and Reedy at the World Sport Kite Championships in Berck, France, 2014.

Have it be more of a festival feel where people are flying to the music and having fun showing what they can do. I've been thinking about that for this year's convention, instead of a mystery ballet, let's have an open kite challenge that could be crazy fun. Let's invite everybody to the convention to join this free-for-all. There are lots of good flyers who haven't been competing lately who are really good at putting on a show.

This brings up the question of requiring people to pre-qualify to fly sport kites at the Grand Nationals. What are your thoughts about that?

SD: For the kind of competition that we have been having, that's a piece of that system that's

an old dinosaur. There are just not enough people right now. Instead of just looking at that one piece, I think we should be looking at: what is this competition about? How can we make it so it's something great for the audience, and tests the skills of the flyers? I don't know if we should keep doing it how we're doing it at all. I look at what happened to STACK, which was basically the European-version of the AKA sport kite circuit and it broke up into regionals; now there's STACK UK, STACK Italy, France, and so on. They do their own thing and have their own championship award.

I see the level of competition we've been having at Nationals and I wonder if it's worth continuing at all. But that's not a popular question. Personally, I think it could be put on hold for a while and let's have some fun with some open free-for-all flying and see who is the greatest kiteflyer in the world is. We can work with our rules book and there are ways to get it done. I have a hard time not wanting to try it because there are so few people coming to compete at the National Championships that there could be an event down the street that is actually bigger.

Would you still have the current disciplines?

SD: This year, yes. But we could add something new and different. I don't know how many people would come to this kind of competition and it would be hard to judge more than 30 people in one session. It can be hard to judge single-line, dual, and quad all together, but it's done in Indoor and we don't bat an eye at that. In Indoor, we judge everybody all together, and it's about flying to the music and putting on that show.

The flyers want to feel like they have competition. If you have everybody flying against everybody, then you're going to get some strong people to come back from retirement just to do that. They don't have to go through the rigamarole of qualifying that they say has gotten boring. They can skip all that and come to this thing at the convention that we're going to call a little bit different—something like "The Showdown." Have one big showdown that lasts

half a day and that could be a lot of fun. On the other days, we could run the competitions we normally do.

That would stir the pot so much that the sport kite community would want to come see it and be a part of it. We have to think way outside the box. That may not be the answer, but there's so many ways other than what we're doing.

A knowledgeable judge should be able to handicap a performance based on what the person is flying...

SD: How we look at it in Indoor is that when we judge a performance, we judge how well they flew to that music and how technically difficult that was. There's stuff that you can do with a single, dual, or quad line that's technically difficult and they're all different, but as a judge, it's part of your job to know what you're judging. I don't think there's any need for any handicaps because I've seen single-line flyers blow everybody away. That's Indoors, but really what's so different about outdoors?

While outdoor competitions have been weakening in the past years, indoor flying has been growing. What do you think that's about?

SD: I think technology finally helped indoor look a lot better. Fifteen years ago, I started the indoor kite festival at Long Beach with the World Kite Museum. Back then, it was pretty raw with the kites weighing twice as much as they do now. The technology of how to build a light kite with certain flight characteristics has been honed in.

To see somebody only 10 feet away from their kite and flying to the music is moving. When there's a story being told with the kite, it's a much more powerful for the spectator. That's true indoors or out. That's the key that's going to awe the audience. With indoor

flying, it is so much closer to them and it's gotten to be quite an art form.

When you talk about the great performances in sport kiting, they were all grounded in their choreography and it's hard to choreograph a kite to music when it's flip-flopping around doing tricks.

SD: Yeah. Outdoor is engaging when you have a team and they're flying choreographed. You won't see good team flying with a ton of tricks. It's about an audience seeing the whole thing move to the music. You see people flying by the seat of their pants to music they know, but it quickly becomes obvious that it wasn't really choreographed or well thought out.

What do you see as the future of indoor flying?



Davis working as head judge at the AKA Convention in 2016 (above) and flying with team in France in 2014 (below).



MEGAN REEDY



Flying in the AKA Indoor Competition in Enid, Oklahoma, 2015.

SD: It's going to keep growing because there's so much room for innovation. Our events get sold-out with Indoor. It's starting to get hard to find and pay for a bigger venue but that's a good place to be. Where we're at now, it's very marketable. It's an amazing dance form.

When Connor Doran flew indoor on "America's Got

Talent" that was a huge boost because a nation got to see indoor kiteflying. It's not unheard of like it used to be.

Do you make kites?

SD: I don't normally, but I have. The team took on a project a couple of years ago and we made 22 sport kites to raise money for the team, to pay for our gear. We've done other things like that but that was a huge endeavor.

When did you first get into kites?

SD: In '99, I was driving by a kite shop and I decided to get Brian a kite as a present. About a month later we were down at Cannon Beach, Oregon flying in way too much wind. Brian flew it for a few seconds and crashed it. I put it back together, flew it, and crashed it instantly and broke three rods. I was hooked. I went back and got a Jam Session so I could have my own kite and it just went crazy from there.

Do you have memories of flying kites as a kid?

SD: High-Flyer diamond kites from the dime store down the street. Once in a while we'd get one as a treat and my mom would take us up to a field. That was in Seattle, a long time ago.

Did you come from a big family?

SD: I was the oldest of four boys. Mom and Dad

were working and I learned to cook dinner and watch over my little brothers. Later, I went to school to be a chef and I did that almost 20 years. I got tired of that and now drive a delivery truck for a bakery and I've been at it for 23 years. I'm 58 and could retire but my retirement doesn't have medical. I'm waiting for everything to fall into place.

We've covered a lot of ground, is there anything else you want to discuss?

SD: I think one of my gifts is teaching and I find it gratifying to work with youth. I love seeing the light bulb come on. Whether it's kiting or not, I think I would be working with youth. But kiting is awesome because it involves skill and fun. It's hard to define why kiting satisfies me, but there's a good feeling to being able to make the kite do what you want it to do. I don't know, there's just something rewarding in sharing that with someone who wants to learn to do that.

I've found out that teaching is more important to who I am and what I do than I realized. I've had cancer now three times—the same cancer—and each time it brought me closer to God and it made me more intent to make each day count. When you start looking at what makes each day count, you find it's the relationships, sharing something that's going to stay with somebody...not just how to fly a kite, but how to respect people, how to do life.

The cancer thing is interesting, too. The doctor told me five years ago that I probably only had two years left so I'm well past the 2% who make it as far as I have right now. I don't live waiting for that day...I keep working at it, keep enjoying it. Even when I go to work, I enjoy work. I talk to my customers and we end up talking about kites and they want to see videos and stuff. It's not the only way to share the meaning of life with people, but it's what I ended up with. It's good to be alive and it's good to be a part of this big thing that we do. ▼

Regional Reports

Region 1: New England (CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY)

Maggie Engvall, Cranston, RI
401-942-3603
RD1@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2019



Spring has come to the Northeast with a bang. After a winter filled with many kitemaking workshops throughout Region 1, AKA members were able to get outdoors and fly their new projects to decorate the sky. It's been a beautiful sight to see.

Kites Over New England Kite Club had their Annual St Patrick's Day and Vernal Equinox fun fly at Hampton Beach, NH. The weather was cold but nice, with lots of friends and kites on the beach.

National Kite Month was filled with library displays and workshops. The schools in Region 1 benefitted from the many kite programs conducted by AKA volunteers, with a special tip of the hat to Archie Stewart who presented countless workshops and events.



MAGGIE ENGVALL

From ConnectiKITERS' February workshop

There are many generous AKA Region 1 Members who do programs about kites in schools, libraries, youth centers, and with many organizations. Below is a great letter written to the AKA by Susan Carlson, Library Assistant, Children and Teen Services, Hamlin Public Library. Hamlin is near Rochester, NY.

I just wanted to share with you some information and pictures about a kite program that we had here at the Hamlin Public Library last night. We were approached earlier in the year by Mark Groh, a local kite enthusiast who wanted to share his passion and love for flying kites. As the library assistant in charge of programming, I love to provide entertaining AND educational programs for the community, and Mark was excited to work with us.

In mid-March, Mark brought bags and bags of kites into the library. I hung them almost as fast as he could assemble them! They brightened up our space and got the attention of everyone who entered the building. Last night we had 22 children and 16 adults attend Mark's program. It was his first public presentation EVER, and he did a great job! I started off with a short kite storytime and then introduced Mark. He shared small kites, huge kites, explained the parts of kites, let the kids touch the kites, passed around reels and kite string, AND donated 12 brand new kites for a drawing for the families. It was WONDERFUL!! Maybe more of your members would be interested in sharing with libraries and community centers in their areas.

*See photos on our Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/Hamlin-NYPublicLibrary/photos/?tab=album&album_id=595893947275809*

People like Mark make a difference in our community when they share their hobbies and encourage others to look away from their phones, tablets, televisions, etc., and, in this case, look up into the sky!

Remember to check the online AKA calendar along with the AKA Facebook pages (<https://www.facebook.com/AkaRegion1>) to find out about the many kite flies and events around Region 1 and elsewhere. Our local clubs have a busy schedule for their

kiteflying. Check out the monthly AKA Region 1 Newsletter for a list of Region 1 kite clubs and what they have going on. Don't miss our region's big festival—Newport Kite Festival, July 8-9, at Brenton Point State Park, Newport RI. I look forward to seeing you at one of our many events.

Region 2: Northeast (NJ-PA & lower NY)

Kurtis Jones, Hackensack, NJ
201-921-5518
RD2@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2019



Hi! Let me introduce myself. My name is Kurtis Jones, and I will be your new RD for Region 2 for the remainder of this year. After being a longstanding member for over 20 years, this is the first time getting my feet wet in an official AKA position. Loving all kite genres, my focus of late has been putting together kite shows that share the art of flying, performance, history, culture, and the science of our sport. The promotional vehicle that has been happily taking up my newly acquired retirement time is called the Wind Wolves Traveling Kite Show, with a nucleus pack consisting of (but not limited to) Victoria, Stevie, Marcus, Eliza, and Uriel. These are all youngsters learning about and flying kites while traveling and meeting new people up and down the East Coast.

This brings me to a suggestion in support of the AKA's goal of spreading kiting around the globe. Let's find ways to give preteens and teens opportunities to be exposed to kiting through kite clubs and/or leagues, like many other sports in their age bracket. That seems to be working in Treasure Island, FL, where there is a school program with an enthusiastic group of kids named the "Flying Manta-Rays." This project was put together by Brett Volland and sponsored by Joe Fala at Windworks kite store.

We have seen some great events already this year with the 49th Annual Great Delaware Kite Festival at Cape Henlopen State Park, and the Annual Kite Day at Brandywine Creek State Park in Wilmington, DE. It has been a fabulous start to the 2017 kiting season.



Three generations: Jones with daughter, Malika, and grandson Caspian.

From Phil Broder: The Keystone Kites summer kitemaking workshop is August 19-20, and we're making the very cool but easy-to-build drumbox! Walter Corsetti will be down from Toronto to teach the workshop. The \$140 registration price includes lunch on both days, plus a complete drumbox kit with sails (you choose the colors) and all other parts. Registration cut-off is August 1. For details, check the new Keystone Kites facebook page, or their new website at www.keystonekites.org.

Upcoming events are:

June 10: Camp Ockanickon Demonstration and Kite Build in Medford, NJ, 8:30 AM-Noon. Contact Mike Dallmer for more information at mikedallmer@verizon.net or 215-722-4092.

June 17: Summer Fest at Cape May, location Jefferson to Queens, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM. Contact Mike Dallmer for more information at mikedallmer@verizon.net or 215-722-4092, or Doreen Talley at doreen@capemaychamber.com.

June 24: Chester County Balloon Festival. Kiteflying Noon-3:00 PM with the possibility of going back at 6:00 PM, if the balloons cannot fly. Location is New Garden Flying Field located at 1235 Newark Road, Toughkenamon, PA.

Please send me your information on the kite activities for the next issue, and have a great summer!

Region 3: Mid-Atlantic (DC-DE-MD-VA-WV)

Donald Jacobs, Copper Hill, VA
540-293-1325 or
email RD3@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2019



As I write this, we are well into this kiting season and have had a kite festival every weekend (whew!). I want to personally thank all of our Region 3 kites as well as the kites from other regions for putting your skills and passion into this hobby and sharing it with others.

The crowds that come to our events usually don't know what to expect; however, with the first beat of the music, people start lining up next to the barriers, pointing to the sky, and smiling. We do this in hopes of catching that look of wonder, and their smiles bring even bigger smiles to us. We give up our time and money to put on a show just so a child or a mom or dad can get outside and discover why we do what we do. I had the pleasure of knowing a fellow kiteflyer who stated, "It is not about the kites but the people." That's not just true for our kite family, but for all the spectators, too.

If you have discovered this joy—not the kites, but the family of kites—then you understand the main ingredient of the hobby. Such a job is easy to find: just contact a local kite club or festival and get involved. It is not who has the most kites, or the most expensive kite; it is just showing up and getting involved.

We just finished up several big kite festivals: the Blossom Festival in Washington, DC, and the Blue Ridge Kite Festival in Roanoke VA, where thousands of people attended to see us put on a show. Our little festivals in Yorktown, Bel Air, and Rockfish Valley may have had smaller crowds, but they were just as important and allowed us to become more intimate with our audiences.

Some new festivals such as Buena Vista and Bedford were exciting to see. It's also fun to watch in awe as the organizers discover how exciting kiteflying can be. Make sure you put a kite in their hands, too!

I would especially like to thank John Barresi for making the trip to our area to

attend a few festivals. I would also like to thank the following kites who help in so many ways: Maggie and Gary Engvall, Paul LaMasters, Paul Dugard, James Fletcher (Fletch), Melissa Harpster, Alan and Janet Ballou, Brian Seene, Eddie Sprouse, Tina and Mark Heatley, Kristi Perino, John and Karen Mault, Janis Worth, Will Smoot, Jim, Laura, and J.J. Podlasek, Russell Bona, Lilly Dresch, April Cropper, Mike Klaiber, Harold and Elizabeth Ames, Jack and Sharon Wilson, Marc Conklin, Stuart Crum, Holly and Ken McNeill, Joe, Sandy, and Jeremy Whitmore, Scott and Carolynne Hertenstein, Dick and Jackie Maciel, Cliff Quinn, and Charlie and Joan Dunton.

Make sure you check out the Facebook page for AKA Region 3. This will help you keep informed. If you want to further your kite flying by competing, contact Jack Wilson for more information or visit eastern-league.net. Don't forget to get your hotel for the AKA Convention in Ocean City, MD, October 9-14. Registration for the event opens June 1 on www.kite.org. I look forward to seeing everyone on the field. Come meet some new family and friends!

Region 4: Southeast (AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN)

John Layton, Ft. Walton Bch., FL
850-803-7513 or
email RD4@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2019



There's been a lot going on in Region 4 as reported below:

From Anita Wheeler: The Emerald Coast Kite Flyers Club (ECKFC) has had an event-filled spring. Early on, we participated in the first annual "Community Kite Day" at County Line Baptist Church in Enterprise, AL. National Kite Month has been filled with week-end events. The first weekend, ECKFC members provided show kites, demos, and lessons at Kitty Hawk Kites's "Fly Into Spring" kite fest in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Some ECKFC members traveled for the "Kite Fest Louisiane 2017" in Port Allen, LA. The next weekend, ECKFC traveled to Long Beach, MS, for Kewl Kites monthly "Second Saturday Fly." On the third weekend, there was the first—and hopefully

annual—"Riverfront Spring Festival" in Bagdad, FL. Weekend #4 was the "Walk for Mommy and Me" in Milton, FL, where ECKFC provided a kite display, an inflated but grounded 50-foot alligator, and kite education to participants. There was no room for flying, but we handed out kite-making kits to the kids. The last weekend of the month will likely bring an informal gathering of club members to celebrate the end of National Kite Month.

From Chris Barker: Kite flyers along the northern portion of the Gulf coast have been actively flying their kites on the second Saturday of every month in Long Beach, MS. The Emerald Coast Kite Flyers, and Kewl Kites along with many regular attendees are doing a great job perpetuating this regularly-scheduled activity. Everyone is invited to participate.

From Scott Benz: The year found me roaming through the region and beyond. I had the pleasure of sharing the field with so many people in the past months—from Rev Riders family at Richfest, to World's Greatest Kiting in St. Pete, to monthly kite flies in Tampa Bay, to Kite Fest Louisiane with Go Big or Go Home in Port Allen, LA. And most recently, there was the Corolla Quad Clinic with my own Team KiteLife and our El Capitan, John Barresi. Next month, we're going to have another clinic in Detroit, MI, followed by Team Play in Grand Haven, MI. This year is shaping up quite nicely so far. Kitebumbychoice... coming to a sky near you.

From Karen Mault of the Carolina Kite Club: Fort Macon State Park at Atlantic Beach, NC, asked the Carolina Kite Club to provide some color in the sky for their annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 15. Several members flew banners and kites on the beach below the Civil War fort. The most notable kites in the air included a large octopus with two crabs in tow and a 150-foot White Bird dragon kite. A couple of the club members also put on a demonstration of quad-line kiteflying. Visitors to the fort appreciated the kite show and have been leaving comments and complements for the past couple of days.

Don Dixon of Kites Unlimited of Atlantic Beach, NC, and members of the Carolina Kite Club met with some students from Harker's Island Elementary School on Harker's Island, NC, to talk about kites and spend some time flying with them. The weather was warm, the winds were steady, and the kids put a lot of kites in the air. Club members added some more unusual and colorful kites to the variety of kites the children flew. One club member put on a show with his dual-line stunt kites and did a little instruction on how to fly them. There was a lot of color in the sky and lots of smiles closer to the ground.

The Central Florida Kite Club participated in the Avalon Park Kite Day, March 4, 2017. Kiting Tampa Bay members, Russ and Pat Mozier did a kitemaking workshop and kite fly at Avalon Park for the Encore Assisted Living and Memory Center.

Check out the AKA Calendar for an updated list of events, including:

June 3-4: New Smyrna Beach Festival, New Smyrna Beach, FL

June 11: 35th Annual Rogallo Kite Festival and Revolution East Coast Invitational, Jockey's Ridge State Park, NC

July 15-16: 39th Annual Wright Kite Festival, Wright Brothers National Memorial, NC

September 9-10: Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition, The Soundside Event Site, NC

September 17-18: Flying High On The Harbor Kite Festival, location TBD

November 11-12: Veterans Day Fall Fly, Treasure Island Beach, Thunderbird Resort, Treasure Island, FL

November 18-19: New Smyrna Beach Festival, New Smyrna Beach, FL

November 25: Kites with Lights, Jockey's Ridge Crossing, NC

Region 5: Great Lakes (MI-OH)

John Graves, West Chester, OH
513-777-2228
or email RD5@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2017



It has been an exciting launch of the kite season here in the great Midwest. It started with Kites 'n MPX in early April, followed by the new Go Fly A Kite Festival in Springfield, OH. Many of us in Region 5 remember the flying fields at the National Voice of America Museum and VOA MetroParks in West Chester, OH. I'm happy to report that there was wind this year, albeit intermittent at times. I certainly learned a lot about how to put on a festival and plan to put that to good use next year.

One week after MPX, the Hollandia Gardens Association hosted their first Go Fly A Kite Festival in Springfield, OH. It was a fine inaugural event for HGA with a glorious flying field, open on all sides and with good winds all day.

The next weekend was the indoor/outdoor kite fly at the National Museum of the USAF at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, OH. Wonky winds ruled, but still great fun flying, eating, and laughing.

JOHN LAYTON



Teaching the kids in Region 4.

Here's a preview of some upcoming events:

June 17: Ann Arbor Kite Festival, Pioneer High School Front Lawn, Stadium and Main, Ann Arbor, MI

July 14-15: Kite Days@Maumee Bay, Maumee Bay State Park, 1400 State Park Road, Oregon, OH

July 16: Belle Isle Kite Fest, Belle Isle State Park, Detroit, MI

October 9-14: AKA National Convention, Ocean City, MD. Plan on attending, as it is always an opportunity to meet new and old friends and learn from others.

Keep me aware of what is happening with you, your clubs, and your areas. Support your local vendors. Keep 'em flying.

Region 6: Midwest

(IA-IL-IN-MN-WI)

Ed Grys, Shawano, WI

715-526-9399

or email RD6@aka.kite.org

End of term: 2017



The summer edition really covers late winter and spring activities. In our region the premier event is "Color the Wind" festival in Clear Lake, IA, hosted by Larry and Kay Day. Each

year since 2001, it had been on the third Saturday of February. Unfortunately, due to unsafe ice conditions, the event had to be canceled this year. We hope the weather will be better next year.

Other winter events included the Gresham, WI, Lion's Club fishing derby on January 28, where kites were invited to add to the festivities. Bob Klopke hosted the event, and while the winds were up and down, there was a good turnout of kites, good ice, and good food.

This year the Madison, WI, Frozen Assets Festival invited kiteflyers to join in the fun. Sponsored by Madison's Clean Lakes Alliance, kites enjoyed mostly gentle winds on February 4-5. There was also fishing, along with plenty of games and food for kids and adults. This brought back memories of Kites on Ice. Our hope is that the event will continue and grow in future years.

Regionally, we are fortunate to have U-MAKE held in Oregon, IL, each spring. The 2017 edition was held March 3-5, and featured Ron Gibian, Jon Trennepohl, Wayne Brunjes, Rene Maier, Walter Corsetti, Mitch Cordover, Donna Schenk, Phil Broder, Kevin Reynolds, Charm and Ron Linder, and Debbie Von Brokern. Mark your calendar for March 2-4, 2018, as there are some exciting classes in the works for U-MAKE.

Other Wisconsin winter events included the 30th Annual Cool Fool Kite Festival at

STEVE NICOL



The Windjammers flying with Connor Doran at Sky C

Veterans Park in Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Kite Club fly at Lake Geneva, and the Sky Circus on Ice at Lakelawn Resort on Lake Delavan, hosted by Scott Fisher.

The Wisconsin Kite Club had their annual kite kit-making workday on March 18. Several hundred kits were made and are now ready to be used at summer events. A kite auction estate sale was arranged as part of the day's activities, and over \$1,000 was raised for the family.

STEVE NICOL



Lots of happy kitemakers at U-MAKE 2017.



Circus on Ice.

There have been several National Kite Month (NKM) events. One is called the "All Arts Day" held at the Oconto Falls elementary school on April 7, during which time Ed Grys gave a presentation to four classes, followed by kitemaking. A total of 93 kids made kites.

Other NKM events included: the "Hope in Flight: Kites as Tools for Social Justice" in Macomb, IL, hosted by Heather McMeekan; a kite demonstration at Little Scholars Preschool in Stevens Point, WI, put on by Dale Bowden; Birds of Prey in Madison, IN, hosted by Dick Claycomb; Aviation Adventure in Muncie, IN, hosted by S.M. Smith; and Kites in Flight in Wisconsin Rapids, WI, hosted by Dale Bowden.

A year ago, I received and submitted a picture from Steve Shoemaker of his daughter, Marla Shoemaker, working on a kite to celebrate the Cubs winning the 2016 World Series before it happened. Little did we know that she was a prophet. You can see her and the kite picture in the Summer 2016 issue of Kiting on page 42. I haven't heard if she is making another kite this year, but I'm sure the Cubs wouldn't mind if she did.

Please check the AKA calendar or your local club website for all the events coming up this summer and fall. Have a great high-flying summer, keep looking up, and hold on tight!

Region 7: Great Plains
(CO-KS-MO-ND-NE-SD-UT-WY)
Roger Kenkel, Gibbon, NE
308-240-9266
or email RD7@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2017



Spring weather has been pretty ideal here in Region 7 and allowed for an early start in getting outside, dusting off the single-line kites, and practicing maneuvers with our sport kites.

Here is what is happening in the area...

On Easter weekend, two big festivals took place in Kansas at opposite ends of the state. Flights of Fancy on the MCC Campus in Kansas City, MO, was a huge success. Sean Beaver and members of the KC Kite Club pulled out all the stops for another awesome show. No official attendance numbers were reported, but estimates were made at well over 10,000 visitors. Eastern Kansas was the location for the Wind and Wheels Festival. Alan Sparling came in from Chicago to fly his Maxi PL octopus and gecko, among other pieces.

Low winds put a damper on the Arvada Kite festival in Arvada, CO. Robin McCracken, Rachel and Joe Eyman, Steve Silverman, Donald Nash, and other members of the Mile High Kiteflyers came out with some large deltas and stunt kites to perform for an estimated crowd of nearly 5,000 people. Staying in the Colorado zone, John Farrell is planned another amazing festival on May 21, complete with Rok battles, quad-kite demos, and a huge variety of single-line kites on display. As usual, attendance was incredible, surpassing the 10,000 mark. May 27 was the annual Balloonfest in Canon City, CO. Hot-air balloons dominated the early morning landscape and skies. Afterwards, the Show Stopper Kites crew did kite demos flying indoors, and also outside on the festival grounds.

Upcoming events include the Salina, KS, Kiteflyers Retreat Father's Day weekend. June 9-11 is the Jamestown Kite Festival in North Dakota. The Callaway Kite Flight festival in Callaway, NE will be held Labor Day weekend September 2-3. Please con-

tact me with any important news, interesting stories, questions or concerns.

Region 8: South Central
(AR-LA-NM-OK-TX)
Jason McCaleb, Tulsa, OK
785-383-5157
or email RD8@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2017



Does anyone else have a hard time choosing a favorite season? I recently read that Oklahoma City was ranked the windiest city in the United States with a daily average of 12 mph. What they don't add to the equation is how many of those days have rain.

As I write this, we are wrapping up National Kite Month, and it has been a busy one. Several of my kites have taken their turns drying out on the garage floor, not from just flying in the rain but also from some dips in a pond! The past couple of months had a lot of excellent opportunities for kiteflying around the region, and I have certainly taken advantage of them.

As I travelled, it occurred to me how many miles some of you have accumulated on your cars over the years by going to kite festivals. Many members fly quite a distance to festivals, spending time in airports, on planes, and commuting to and from the fields. I have been thinking that it would be neat to award a mileage kite each year for the person with the most miles travelled. It could be a kite in the shape of a tire, or a Genki with an odometer. Surely one of you highly-skilled kitemakers will accept this challenge! I really can't thank all of you enough for the miles travelled and time spent showing your support for kiting and the American Kitefliers Association.

Several school districts around Region 8 have reached out to us in search of people willing to come to their schools and talk about kites. I know some of you would like to see more community outreach events, and I encourage all of you to reach out locally and see if a group would be willing to have you come and speak or fly.

Tulsa Wind Riders President, Larry Stiles, recently motivated his employer to help give 390 kites to a Science, Technology



A Jordan, built by Hugh Hall called "Toots."

and Math program at Jenks Elementary School in Jenks, OK. I was fortunate to be able to attend and help do kite presentations for the kids. The kids will fly their kites, and then volunteers from American Airlines will come and help them design their own kites.

I am super excited to be attending Kites over Enid this year. You have probably all seen it on the calendar by now, and I can't wait to give you my report in the next issue. After that, I will be looking forward to the 24th Annual Tulsa Wind Riders Festival of Kites on Mothers' Day weekend. In June, I may try and venture north into Region 7 for a visit, but will be back in time for LibertyFest Kite Festival in Edmond, OK, for 4th of July.

I would like to thank Park Fleming for travelling from Little Rock to the Art with An Altitude Kite Festival in Eureka Springs, AR, and the Shambargers for travelling to Tulsa from Springdale, AR, for Kite Day at The Garden. I also want to thank Larry Stiles for his countless hours of volunteering for the American Kitefliers Association over the years.

Please feel free to add your event to the AKA calendar or send me any information you would like to get out to the public. I would be pleased to share your story and others would enjoy reading about it.

I hope to see all of you on the kite field somewhere this summer. Drop me a message and let me know where you will be. I would give anything to be able to go to Junction Kitemakers Retreat. I hear it's the best! Who knows where the wind might take me next? Until next time, thank you all for being a part of Region 8.

Region 9: Intermountain (ID-MT-OR)

**Brett Morris, Medford, OR
541-944-5588
or email RD9@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2018**

As I write this article, we have only had a couple of days above 70 degrees this year. Like most of the West Coast, we have had more rain in the last three months than our annual average. You can imagine why we can't wait to have nicer weather and get out in the sunshine to fly some kites. We did travel to Kite Party in Huntington Beach, CA, to break up our winter rain. We had a really a wonderful time.



I know many people have made some gorgeous new kites this winter and I cannot wait to see them in a warm, easterly wind. Hugh Hall has really been amazing us by creating some gorgeous, big kites. Just wow!

We did some spring cleaning of our kite bags and found some kites needing repair. We also realized that a bag or two were being held together by bungees, which is not a good option. We ordered and received a couple of new kite bags, and now we need to decide which patches to sew on them before we fill them up.

We started out National Kite Month with the Windchasers April First Fun Fly in Crescent City, CA. The weather has been so bad the last few months that this was our first time this year to get together on the beach. We also had a couple of new families come to fly kites at our Fun Fly. After members gave them some lessons, the kids and parents were so excited they joined our club and the AKA. Now that's how you do it.

John Barresi and Wayne Dowler hosted the 2nd Annual 2017 PDX Indoor Jam-boree at the Clackamas Soccer Center on April 1. If you want to learn to fly indoors, this is a great way to get one-on-one instruction from John and others on different types of indoor kites. This year I think they doubled the number of new people learning the joy of indoor flying. This is a must-do event, so keep in touch on Facebook and Like the "Portland Area Kite Flyers."

Here are some events that might interest you in the next few months:

June 17: The 5th Annual Madison Buffalo Jump kite flying day in Madison County, MT. Call T.Z. Lee for more information at 406-698-9369.

June 24-25: The Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival. This year the theme is Xkite-ment. Any guesses where the D River will run this year? This is always a fun kiting event for us as we are reunited with many longtime friends and are always introduced to new, excited kiteflyers. This is where Diane and I got hooked on kiteflying.

July 14-16: The 25th year for the Southern Oregon Kite Festival (SOKF). It all starts with the Friday night Indoor Fly at the Brookings High School. To celebrate the 25th anniversary, SOKF has invited many of the flyers who participated in past years, so this should be a festival you don't want to miss.

August 21-27: The Washington State International Kite Festival (WSIKF). This is a weeklong event that has almost everything for the kite enthusiast and then some. I know it is in Region 10, but it is so near and so big it just oozed into my article.

September 30-October 1: The Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival. This is one of the last outdoor festivals in our region for the year, so plan on this one.

October 9-14: The 40th Annual AKA Convention at Ocean City, MD. Don't forget to start making your plans, as this is one convention you don't want to miss. This is where the first AKA convention was held 40 years ago. Hope to see you there.

Let me know if I can help you with any AKA questions. Be sure to keep your membership current and try to get someone new to join. Get those reservations made and we'll see you on the beach!

Region 10: Northwest (AK-WA)

Pete Zweifel, Federal Way, WA
206-718-3301
or email RD10@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2018



Earth, teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life. Earth, teach me resignation as the leaves that die in the fall. Earth, teach me courage as the tree that stands all alone. Earth, teach me regeneration as the seed that rises in the spring.

Spring has sprung in full bloom and carries with it the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of many a kiteflyer in Alaska and Washington State. To quote Anne Bradstreet: "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

Here are some upcoming kite events in Region 10:

June 18: WKA Father's Day Kite Fly, Magnuson Park, Seattle, WA

June 24: Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck, Grayland Beach, WA

June 24: Seattle Chinese Garden Kite

Festival, 2-6 PM, 6000 16th Ave. SW, north entrance, South Seattle Community College

June 29: PCKA Meeting and Fun Fly, 7 PM, Chambers Bay Central Meadow

July 4: Whidbey Island Kitefliers Fourth of July Celebration, Fort Casey, 11 AM-3 PM

July 7-9: Westport Windriders Kite Festival, Grayland, WA

July 8-9: NWSKL Sport Kite Competition, Grayland, WA

July 15: Whidbey Island Kitefliers Fun Fly, Camp Casey, Couvville, WA, 11 AM-3 PM

July 22: Windriders Fun Fly and Potluck, Grayland Beach, WA

July 27: PCKA Meeting and Fun Fly, 7 PM, Chambers Bay Central Meadow

August 5: PCKA/Pierce Co. Parks "Kids 'n Kites" Day, Chambers Creek Regional Park, Central Meadow

August 19: Whidbey Island Kitefliers Fun Fly, Camp Casey, Couvville, WA

August 21-27: Washington State International Kite Festival, Long Beach, WA

August 23: WKA Annual Meeting, Banquet and Raffle, Long Beach Grange Hall, Long Beach, WA, 5-10 PM

August 24-27: NWSKL Sport Kite Competition, (Indoor/Outdoor), Long Beach, WA

August 31: PCKA Meeting and Fun Fly, 7 PM, Chambers Bay Central Meadow

Region 11: N. California (Northern CA-NV)

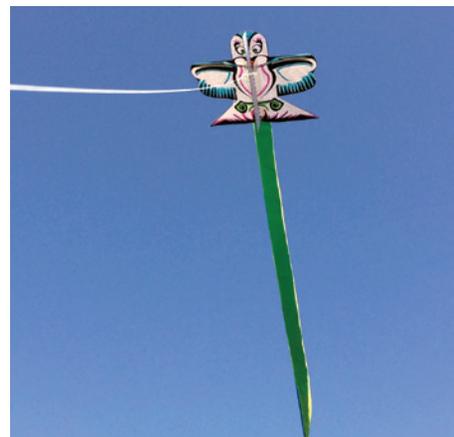
Tom McAlister, Richmond View, CA
510-235-5483
or email RD11@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2018



After one of the wettest winters in decades, sunshine has finally arrived in Northern California. Though the rains were good for our state, kiteflyers are thrilled that sunny skies now seem here to stay.

At least once a year, I use this regional report to encourage members to make a kite or lead a kitemaking workshop. Our good friend John Khan found his inspi-

ration in Jonathan Socher's Swallow Kite plan that was featured in the Spring issue of Kiting. John showed up in Berkeley with about 20 of these kites where they flew well and put smiles on all our faces. I am sure that these fun swallow kites will bring even more smiles to the children who receive them in the coming weeks.



John Kahn's Swallow flying over Berkeley.

In April, Tony Jetland was honored to travel to three kite festivals in China. The festivals took place in the cities of Shanghai, Xi'an, and Weifang. It was Tony's first trip to Asia, and though he had a great time he seems very happy to be back home in California.

The Bay Area Sport Kite League has been invited to do demos at the Fremont Kids 'n Kites Festival on May 20. This event has been a well-attended community event for many years and takes place in Fremont's Central Park.

The end of May brings the San Ramon Art and Wind Fest on May 28-29. Brian Champie has been doing a great job coordinating the Wind Fest's kite exhibition for many years and he always organizes a fun party. Don't miss it!

June brings us the Mountain House Kite Run on June 3rd. It will include a giant kite exhibit and multi-line performances by Team AirZone. Also in June is the Presidio Kite Festival on the 17th. The Presidio event will focus on Free Kitemaking and a Giant Kite Show.

July brings us a new family event at Coyote Point. The Coyote Point Kite Festival is on the 8th. Finally, the end of July brings us back to our own Berkeley Kite Festival on the 29th-30th. One new development at this year's Berkeley Fest will be the addition of a new giant kite exhibition area.



"Bringing down the beast."

It will be coordinated by Tony Jetland. This new area combined with Brian Champie's King of the Hill Gang and Berkeley Kite Wrangler's display should make Berkeley's sky show one of the largest ever!

I hope to be seeing many of you at these upcoming events, or at the Berkeley Marina soon. Happy Flying!

Region 12: Southwest

(Southern CA-AZ-HI)
Glen Rothstein, San Pedro, CA
213-407-3515
or email RD12@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2018



As I type this, National Kite Month is in full swing, I hope you were able to get out and experience some of the events posted on the NKM/AKA calendars. Let me know what you saw and experienced.

Kite Party 15 went off without a hitch, even though lighter winds prevailed on Sunday. Thanks to Dave Shenkman and everyone else who made it a great event, as they always do.

To the North, around the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Tom, Ani, and "T3 Fine," along with members of the Ventura County Kite Flyers, had cloudy skies, peaceful breezes, and a ton of smiles on children's faces for the 43rd Festival of the Kite.

National Kite Month embraced our region early when George Peters, Ron Gibian, and Kevin Bayless joined many others for the 6th Otis College Kite Festival. Honoring the late Tyrus Wong, Tyrus' family was presented with a custom kite produced by George Peters during a ceremony that included festival founder Tom Van Sant. More on this in a future issue. The event also brought some first-timers, including Richard DeLisio with his Octopus and Fugu that the children really enjoyed, along with the Ken Schultz family and their Trilobite. When it was time to "bring down the beast," Schulz called an all-hands-on-deck to secure the 90-foot plethora of fabric to the ground as high winds took over the sky (see photo).

The next day had us in Santa Barbara for their 32nd annual kite festival; the weather did not disappoint. Dave Hefferman and Rakesh Bahadur ran the kids all over the college. Long time visitors Stacey and Duane Drake and Basir Baria added to the colors in the sky.

Be sure to register early for our annual convention and take advantage of the discount via www.kite.org. Best Wishes and Winds...

Region 13: International

(The rest of the world)
Linda Sanders,
Willunga, SA Australia
+618-8556-2681
or email RD13@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2018



Region 13 – where a kite festival happens EVERY weekend.

CANADA – Ray Bethell received hundreds of global greetings to celebrate another birthday. He loves answering everyone's messages, which should keep him busy until his next anniversary!

Saint-Honoré dans l'Vent, Quebec, is on June 16-18, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the airport and festival location: www.sthonedanslvent.com. Their guest list includes Guy Reynolds (UK), The Decorators (UK), Rolf Zimmermann (Germany), Ludovico Bertozzi and Jayne Edwards

(Italy), and Derek Kuhn (UK), plus numerous U.S. and Canadian guests. This year's theme is Aviation, with the night fly focusing on "Heroes from the Sky."

AUSTRALIA – Such activity in 2017! On February 11-12, we travelled to "Binalong Bay Kite Retreat." Robert and Tracey Brasington welcomed us to their idyllic setting, along with German visitors, Frank and Dörte Schulz. Tasmania was refreshingly cooler than the mainland. The winds were offshore at the Bay of Fires, and a few kites went for a swim, but no "kite lives" were lost. Stieglitz, the following day, was more forgiving; the scenery was unbelievable. To complete the weekend, we visited St. Columbas Falls and had some delicious fare at the Holy Cow Cheese Café. "Binalong Bay Kite Retreat" is something you HAVE to do once in your life.

Easter weekend is now world-famous for the Adelaide International Kite Festival. The three fun-packed days drew crowds of over 60,000 who enjoyed...The Phoenix Kite Collective practicing, perfecting, and performing their quadline routines; Robert Brasington seeking pockets of minimal wind to loft his organza-tailed beauties; feather banners from my art series boasting, "Oh yes, there's wind for us!" Prodigal-flyers returned including: Gail and Ray Wilmer from Western Australia; Anne and Peter Whitehead, Malcolm Hubbert, Lyndall and Simon Chisnall from New Zealand; Danny Lau and Leon Chee Wan from Malaysia; Bob Hartley and Phoenix Kite Collective from Queensland. Ian Burrell drove 1200 kms from Canberra; the Duke and Baker families of Victoria came packed to the brim, all adding to our own South Australian contingent producing a beach "choccas" with colour and amazing displays. ("choccas" is short for choc-a-block, or packed full.) It doesn't get any better when your kite festival is in your own backyard. Search Facebook for #AIKF to see photos.

Tourist plans for November 2017? Why not come to Ulverstone, Tasmania? Anke Sauer (Germany) will be running her weekend workshop, talking of kite design and environmental installations. Check out <http://kite.org/activities/events/event-calendar/> under November for details.

NEW ZEALAND – Wellington Airport (known as Middle of Middle-Earth airport) features an amazing Gandalf and the Great Eagles installation as a portent

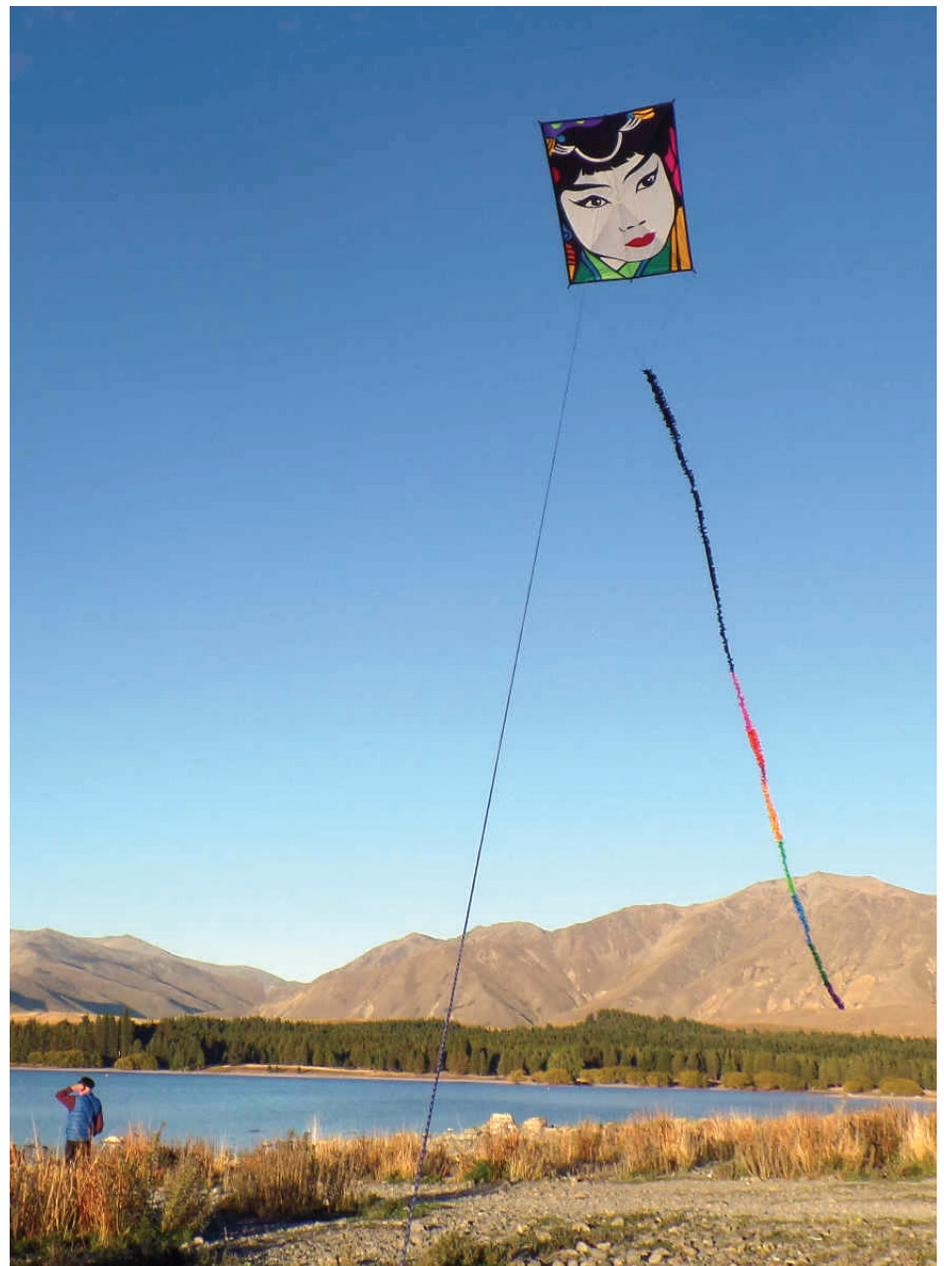
of more stunning scenery to experience. Otaki Beach, north of Wellington, hosted their annual kite festival March 25-26, where their international guest list for 2017 included Kevin and me, Tony Rice, and Trevor Reeves. This festival draws visitors from all over NZ where nobody bats an eye at driving 300 kms or catching the ditch-hopper flight from the South Island (it's less than one hour in the air). Notably, grey weather doesn't faze New Zealanders; they come out in shorts and thongs, carrying raincoats and umbrellas just in case.

We then enjoyed four days driving southwards starting in Ashburton, with a visit to Peter and Elwyn Lynn. Peter gleefully showed us his portable sawmill system housed at The Plains Museum Park

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Lynn, while Simon Chisnall showed Kevin around the Peter Lynn Kites workshop. Lake Tekapo, Oamaru (home of Steampunk HQ), and Christchurch were definitely must-see destinations, so we've vowed to make this festival one to return to.

ENGLAND – It's "Jolly Up" time again soon; get the camper packed ready for August 5-6, where I'll be among local kite-flyers enjoying a Full English Breakfast or two. As always, the Jolly Ups are lovingly hosted by Roy Broadley and Hayley Gillingham. Get details at <http://www.kitesup.co.uk/>.

Until next time, less talk... more fly! ▼



Sanders captures a photo of her "China Lady" flying over Lake Tekapo in New Zealand.

ARIZONA

AZ Moonlight Enterprises
PO Box 36781
Tucson, AZ 85740
520/745-6168
www.colorofwindkites.com

ARKANSAS

KaleidoKites
1-C Spring Street
Eureka Springs, AR 72632
888/836-6251
kaleidokites@hotmail.com

CALIFORNIA

Candy & Kites
1415 Coast Highway
PO Box 8
Bodega Bay, CA 94923
707/875-3777
www.candyandkites.com

Highline Kites Of Berkeley
6809 Del Monte Avenue
Richmond View, CA 94805
510/235-5483
www.HighLineKites.com

Kite Flite Of San Diego
Seaport Village
San Diego, CA 92101
619/234-KITE
www.kiteflitesd.com

San Francisco Kite Company
Pier 41, Fisherman's Wharf
San Francisco, CA 94133
415/291-8770
www.sfkites.com

Second Wind
1805 N. Highway 1
Bodega Bay, CA 94923
707/875-WIND
www.secondwindfun.com

Up Up And Away Kites
139½ Main Street
Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/596-7661
www.upupandawaykites.com

COLORADO

into The Wind
1408 Pearl Street
Boulder, CO 80302
800/541-0314
www.intothewind.com

CONNECTICUT

Sky Dog Kites
220 Westchester Road
Colchester, CT 06415
860/365-0600
www.skydogkites.com

DELAWARE

Rehoboth Toy and Kite Company
1 Virginia Avenue
Rehoboth, DE 19971
302/226-KITE
www.rehobothkite.com

Rehoboth Toy and Kite Company
70 Rehoboth Avenue
Rehoboth, DE 19971
302/227-6996

FLORIDA

Flyer Kites
3436 E. Atlantic Blvd.
Pompano Beach, FL 33062
954/248-9139
www.flyerkites.com

Kite Stop
224 Cheney Highway
Titusville, FL 32780
321/613-8697
www.kitestop.com

Kite World
115 S. Miramar Avenue
Indialantic, FL 32903
321/725-8336

Kitty Hawk Kites
Harbour Walk Village
34 Harbour Blvd.
Destin, FL 32541
850/837-2800
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
1450 Miracle Strip Pkwy.
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
850/796-0102
www.kittyhawk.com

Windworks Inc.
13009 Village Blvd.
Madeira Beach, FL 33708
727/320-9463
www.floridawindworks.com

Zephyr Kites
www.zephyrkites.com

GEORGIA

Piedmont Kites
1451 Piedmont Avenue, Suite B
Atlanta, GA 30309
404/815-4271
www.piedmontkites.com

HAWAII

Big Wind Kite Factory
10 Maunaloa Highway
Maunaloa, Molokai, HI 96770
808/552-2364
www.bigwindkites.com

ILLINOIS

Chicago Kite/Kite Harbor
5445 N. Harlem
Chicago, IL 60656
773/467-1428
www.chicagokite.com

Smooth Winds
847/606-0086
info@smoothwindkites.com

The Kite Site
105 W. Main
Cabery, IL 60919
815/953-8303
www.thekitesite.net

KANSAS

Kansas Kite Connection
1806 16th Street
Great Bend, KS 67530-4110
316/793-6164

Wings Of The Wind Kites
550 N. Rock Road
Wichita, KS 67206
316/684-8383
wingsofthewindkites@gmail.com

MAINE

Cricket's Corner
41 Shore Road
Ogunquit, ME 03907
207/646-2261
www.cricketscornertoys.com

MARYLAND

The Kite Loft
511 Boardwalk
Ocean City, MD 21842
410/289-7855
www.kiteloft.com

MASSACHUSETTS

Blue Hill Observatory
Top of Great Blue Hill
Observatory Road
Milton, MA 02186
617/696-0562
www.bluehill.org

Sea Side Kites
1 Pleasant Street
Cohasset, MA 02025
781/925-3277
www.SeaSideKites.com

MICHIGAN

Kites & Fun Things
40522 E. Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth, MI 48170
734/454-3760
www.skyburner.com

MISSISSIPPI

Kewl Kites
206 Jeff Davis Avenue
Long Beach, MS 39506
228/206-0322
www.kewlkites.com

MISSOURI

Flying High With Charon
5633 Carlton Drive
St. Louis, MO 63049
636/677-3029
charon56@sbcglobal.net

MONTANA

Livingston Kite Company
113 W. Callender Street
Livingston, MT 59047
406/222-5483
facebook.com/livingstonkitecompany

NEBRASKA

Breeze Catchers
5428 S. 185th Street
Omaha, NE 68135
402/895-2331
www.breezecatchers.net

Show Stopper Kites
600 Pine Avenue
Gibbon, NE 68840
308/240-9266
roger.sskites@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY

Air Circus Kite Shop
1114-1116 Boardwalk
Ocean City, NJ 08226
609/399-9343

Cobra Kites
2608 Route 37 East
Toms River, NJ 08753
www.cobrakites.com

NORTH CAROLINA

Flying Smiles Kites
Corolla Light Town Center
Corolla, NC 27927
252/453-8442
www.flyingsmileskites.com

Kites Unlimited - Atlantic Bch
Atlantic Station Shopping Ctr.
PO Box 2278
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
252/247-7011
www.kitesandbirds.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
412 Front Street
Beaufort, NC 28516
252/728-6670
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
Timbuck II
785L Sunset Blvd.
Corolla, NC 27927
252/453-8845
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
Monterey Plaza
819 Ocean Trail
Corolla, NC 27927
252/453-3685
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
1216 Duck Road
Duck, NC 27949
252/261-4450
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
MP 12.5
3925 S. Croatan Highway
Nags Head, NC 27959
252/449-2210
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
Waves Village // MP40
24502 Hwy. 12
Rodanthe, NC 27968
252/987-2297
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
Island Shops
39432 North Carolina 12
Avon, NC 27915
252/995-6060
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
5848 Hatteras Landing
Hatteras, NC 27943
252/986-1446
www.kittyhawk.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
Community Square
Ocracoke, NC 27960
252/928-4563
www.kittyhawk.com

NORTH DAKOTA

Prairie Wind Kite Company
207 Cimarron Drive
Roseglen, ND 58775
701/743-4500

AKA members receive a 10% discount from these member merchants.

OHIO

What's Up
4500 Chagrin River Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
440/247-4222
judy@kitesonaroll.com

OKLAHOMA

Kites In The Sky
www.kitekits.com

OREGON

Gomberg Kite
Productions Int'l.
PO Box 113
Neotsu, OR 97364
541/996-3083
www.gombergkites.com

In The Breeze
PO Box 6417
Bend, OR 97708
800/847-1417
www.inthebreeze.com

Northwest Winds - Lincoln City
130 SE Highway 101
Lincoln City, OR 97368
541/994-1004
www.NWWinds.biz

Northwest Winds - Seaside
19 Broadway
Seaside, OR 97138
541/994-1004
www.NWWinds.biz

Phantom Star Design
2818 SE 23rd Drive, #C-3
Lincoln City, OR 97367
541/994-5812
www.phantomstarkites.com

PENNSYLVANIA

Burlesque Kites
189 Analomink Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 19301
570/421-6562
www.kitesonconsignment.com

Quinco Kites
1670 Limeport Pike
Coopersburg, PA 18036
610/707-2957
kidskite@ptd.net

RHODE ISLAND

Narragansett Flags and Kites
909 Boston Neck Road
Narragansett, RI 02882
401/782-0318
www.riflags.com

SOUTH CAROLINA

Dyna Kite Corp
5628A Amboy Avenue
N. Charleston, SC 29406
843/744-6410
larry@dynakite.com

Kites Fly'n Hi
The Rainbow Market
40 N. Market Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843/577-3529

TENNESSEE

Flags and Kites
3846 Shores Road
Murfreesboro, TN 37128
615/896-7201
www.flagsandkites.com

TEXAS

About Kites
713/305-6777
about-kites@earthlink.net

B & S Kites
2812 Padre Blvd., Ste. B
S. Padre Island, TX 78597
956/761-1248
www.bskites.com

Big Mike's Kites
8851 CR 946
Celina, TX 75009
214/406-7852
www.bigmikeskites.com

Family Fun Kites
14100 South Hwy. 281
Santo, TX 76472
817/360-2720
www.familyfunkites.com

Fly It Port A
405 West Avenue G
Port Aransas, TX 78373
361/749-4190
www.facebook.com/pages/Fly-It-Port-A-Kite

G & Z International
11424 Chairman Drive
Dallas, TX 75243
214/342-1900
www.gzintlinc.com

New Tech Kites
7208 McNeil Drive, #207
Austin, TX 78729
512/250-0485
www.newtechkites.com

UTAH

A Wind Of Change
2825 Rose Park Lane
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
www.awindofchange.com

VIRGINIA

It's A Breeze Specialties
8221 Little Florida Road
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
804/779-0183
www.itsabreeze.com

Jackite
3612 West Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
877/522-5483
www.jackite.com

Kitty Hawk Kites
320 Laskin Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757/351-3959
www.kittyhawk.com

Life's A Breeze Kites
2715 Fenrother Court
Richmond, VA 23228
804/405-4515
lab@mindspring.com

WASHINGTON

Above It All Kites
312 Pacific Avenue
Long Beach, WA 98631
360/642-3541
www.aboveitallkites.com

Big Kid Kites
14236 142nd Avenue NE
Renton, WA 98059
206/713-2366
www.bigkidkites.com

Brooxes.com
312 N. 83rd Street
Seattle, WA 98103
www.brooxes.com

Great Winds Kite Company
312 N. 83rd Street
Seattle, WA 98103
www.greatwinds.com

Hi-Flyers
55 Main Street
Pacific Beach, WA 98571
360/276-8377
hi-flyers@coastaccess.com

Ocean Shores Kites
172 W. Chance A La Mer
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360/289-4103
oceanshoreskites@techline.com

The Kite Shoppe
866/R0K-KAKU
www.thekiteshoppe.com

Pizazz Kiteworks
PO Box 266
Coupeville, WA 98239
360/678-6266
www.pizazzkites.com

Wind World Kites
115 Pacific Avenue S
Long Beach, WA 98681
360/642-KITE
windworldkites@aol.com

WISCONSIN

Aerial Stunt Kites®
121 Wrigley Drive
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
262/203-5534
www.askites.com

Gift of Wings
1500 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414/273-5483
www.giftofwings.com

Gift of Wings
9955 W. Saint Martins Road
Franklin, WI 53132
414/425-8002
www.giftofwings.com

Unique Flying Objects
2022 Washington Street
Two Rivers, WI 54241
866/UFO-4FUN
www.uniqueflyingobjects.com

WYOMING

Have Kite Will Fly
2141 Essex
Casper, WY 82604
307/472-0753

AUSTRALIA

Kitepower Queensland
2/10 -22 Hornibrook Esplanade,
Clontarf
Queensland Australia 4019
(+61) 7 3284 1186
www.kitepower.com.au

Kitepower Australia 3
302 Grand Parade
Sans Souci
Sydney, NSW 2219
(+61) 2 9529 6894

KiteSmart Australia
21 Roxby Street
Manifold Heights, VIC 3218
(+61) 3 5221 6908
www.kitesmart.com.au
promo code = AKA2013

OzFeathers
PO Box 758
Willunga, SA 5172
(+61) 8 8556 2681
www.ozfeathers.com.au

BRAZIL

Kite Site
Rua Trajano Viera de Macedo, 143
Sao Jose Dos Campos
CEP 12240, Brazil
(+55) 12 8146 2408
info@kitesite.com.br

CANADA

Boreal Kites/Gothic Design
45960 Sparta Line, R.R. #4
Saint Thomas, ON N5P 3S8
519/775-2527
www.gothicdesign.ca

Great Canadian Kite Company
4517 Harvest Green
Taber, AB T1G 1A1
877/382-3956
www.canadiankitecompany.com

Le Gite Du Cerf Volant
935 Rte De La Seigneurie
Saint-Roch-des-Aulnaies
PQ G0R 4E0
418/354-2182
www.legiteducerfvolant.ca

The Kite Guys
P.O. Box 606
4901 50th Avenue
Bentley, AB T0C 0J0
403/658-5483
www.kiteguys.ca

JAPAN

AGAIN
Joyfull Tsurumai 1F
3-14-16 Chiyoda Naka Ku
Nagoya, Achi 460-0012
(+81) 52-339-3830
www.agagas.co.jp/again

NETHERLANDS

Bults.Biz_KAP.com
Broek 2a
Holthees 5824AC
(+31) 478-636707
www.KAPshop.com

SCOTLAND

Gentles Limited
11 Corbiehill Avenue
Edinburgh, EH4 5DT
(+44) 131-3365472
sales@gentles.ltd.uk

UNITED KINGDOM

Kiteworld UK
6 Cottage Grove
Clacton-on-Sea
Essex CO16 8DQ
www.kiteworld.co.uk

Voices from the Vault

Brooks Leffler

By Patti Gibbons

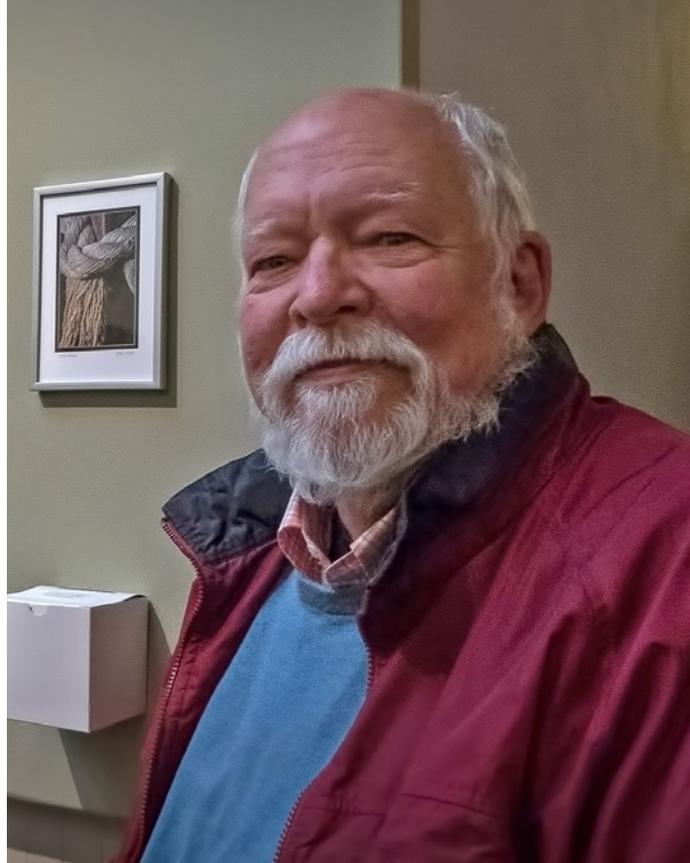
Second-career kitestore owner, first executive director of the AKA, and ground floor member of the contemporary Kite Aerial Photography (KAP) movement, Brooks Leffler's association with kiting has seen him through his working days and into retirement, and flyers worldwide recognize his lasting contributions to organized kiting with gratitude.

Born in the 1930s in San Francisco, Brooks later found himself in Seattle enrolled in the University of Washington's new radio and television program. After graduation, he "stepped right into a job" producing and directing educational television. This was the "beginning of a 25-year career in public broadcasting," one that took Brooks to cities around the country and culminated in a move to Washington, D. C. This fast-paced broadcasting career frazzled him. He recalled that "to escape from the grind of doling out money to the public television stations of the country, I would fly kites on my lunch hour."

As work demands climbed, Brooks explored kiting after hours and his interest expanded. He started attending kite festivals and tried his hand at kitemaking. Hooked, Brooks dove deep into his local kite scene and found an outlet that sustained him. As work became "much too tense and much too political," Brooks realized he needed a change. Around that time, Kites Aweigh, his local kite shop in Annapolis went on the market. Seeing possibilities for a different life, "I decided to take the plunge." The Lefflers purchased the store and Brooks "became a fulltime kite merchant" in 1982.

The first owners of Kites Aweigh approached the store as a hobby, but with some heavy lifting, Brooks "pulled it up by its bootstraps" and created a successful business. Expanding the retail base, Brooks became the wholesale distributor for British manufacturer Greens of Burnley and began manufacturing Brookes Box Kites, his signature line of box kites inspired largely by Bob Price's sturdy rhomboid box kites. According to Brooks, "Although everything was happy for us there, and I liked the kite business a lot," his wife inherited a house in California, and "the opportunity to move was pretty persuasive." In 1987, Brooks sold his kite shop and moved, bringing "the wholesale part of the business, which I developed, with me."

With his newly-streamlined business, Brooks had more time for kiting and began exploring a budding interest in Kite Aerial



CARMAY KNOWLES

Photography. As distributor for Greens' Stratascoop, he thought a bird's eye photo of the kite would look great in full-page color magazine ads, and, around the same time, he was remodeling his kitchen and plans radically altered the shape of his house. "For my own entertainment I thought it would be fun to take some pictures of it." Learning as he went, for eight months Brooks tinkered until he got his shots. He said, "I think after I got into it, I wanted to perfect it," and Brooks began honing his craft.

In the early 1990s, Europe's KAPWA ceased its publication, and Brooks and Steve Eisenhauer approached the AKA with their idea to publish the Aerial Eye newsletter. Working together on the venture, Steve gathered content and Brooks, having novel desktop publishing capabilities at home, put everything together. It was a "pretty good collaboration" and for less than \$100 an issue, the two kicked off their quarterly publishing schedule in the fall of 1994, giving KAP flyers a voice and place to meet.

In the early KAP days, camera rigs were hand-built DIY creations. Brooks standardized the wheel and came up with a camera cradle kit that got cameras up and overhead, allowing even gadget-shy beginners to start taking shots. In 1999, Brooks ran a KAP workshop at Fort Worden introducing his kit, and then went on to fabricate and market them. When he retired, Brooks passed on his KAP rig business to old friend, fellow KAP flyer, and kite merchant Ken Conrad. Over the years, thousands of flyers have gotten their shots thanks in large part to Brooks' kits. ▣

Voices from the Vault articles are based on interviews recorded for the World Kite Museum's Oral History Project. Want to share your story? Please contact the World Kite Museum at info@worldkitemuseum.com.



*Join the effort to preserve
worldwide kite history!*

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership Benefits
 FREE Admission to the Museum • Previews of New Exhibits
 10% Discount in Museum Store
 "Members Only" Special Events

MEMBERSHIP		SPONSORSHIP	
Bronze.....	\$ 35	Box Kite.....	\$250
Silver.....	\$ 50	Diamond	\$500
Gold.....	\$100	Rokkaku.....	\$1,000+

More Information about Membership at:
WORLDKITEMUSEUM.COM
 Post Office Box 964 Long Beach, WA 98631
 (360) 642-4020

WORLD KITE MUSEUM & HALL of FAME
HOME OF THE WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

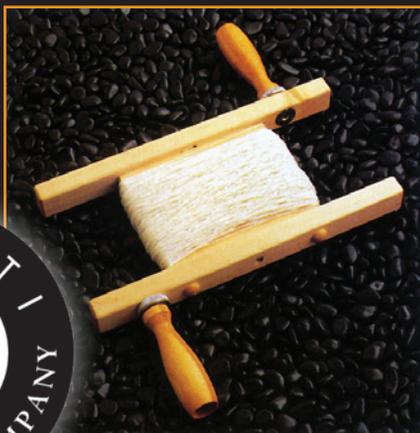


**Hardwood Spools
& Winders**

Made in America

Lifetime Guarantee

**Available from your
kite supplier**



www.shantikites.com

530-470-8884

Kiteflyers making quality kite products since 1974.

