

Summer 2014  
Volume 36, Issue 2



# *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

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Fabric Dyeing Ivanpah Buggy Blast Weifang  
National Kite Month UMAKE Berck**

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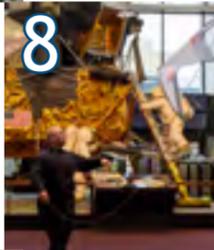


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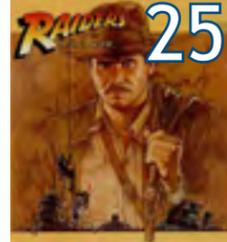


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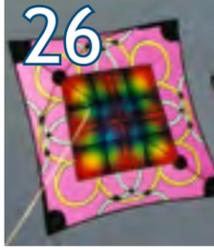


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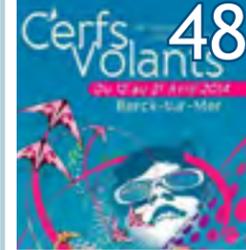
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**On the cover: NASA's Vehicle Assembly Building in Cape Canaveral, FL, by Jared Haworth.**

### Coming in the AUTUMN issue...

- > Show Us Your KAPpie
- > Man Will Never Fly
- > North To Quebec!

### The best deal in advertising!

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Dar al Yasmin

**KITES FOR PEACE**  
**REFUGEE CHILDREN NEED TO HAVE FUN.**  
**BRIAN NITZ HELPED TURN JORDANIAN TRASH INTO SYRIAN KITES.**

Syria's civil war has forced more than three million people from their home. About a million of these refugees live in Jordan and as many as 200,000 have lived in the Zaatari refugee camp near Jordan's Syrian border. I visited nearby Zaatari village where another 500 refugees live. One of the Syrian refugees who lives here is a little girl with a broken shoe. This girl and dozens of other children of Zaatari village learned a little bit about recycling on one of the many cloud-less spring days in the desert.

My family and I wanted to learn about the needs of Syrian refugees. So before our recent trip to Jordan, we asked Green Prophet's Laurie Balbo about volunteer organizations there. Laurie works with Studio Syria and other organizations inside the Zaatari refugee camp. She was also familiar with a French NGO named Dar Al Yasmin (DAY), which means "House of Yasmin." It was named after Syria's fragrant national flower. DAY was formed in 2013 to focus on the needs of families living in Zaatari village.

DAY cofounder Gaelle Sundelin has the crucial mix of organization and language skills, leadership, creativity, optimism, patience, peacemaking and enough pragmatism to recognize that she can't do it all herself. So for this typical Habaybi (caring love) event Gaelle recruited about 50 people from France, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Sudan and Somalia. The young men from these last two countries told me that wars had forced them to leave their homelands and that they hoped to return one day.

We met Gaelle and other DAY volunteers at a bus stop in Amman on Good Friday. We would fill two minibuses with a diverse group of teachers, artists, musicians, an acro-clown circus and my family of four.

Some circus performers tuned their instruments while another handed out plastic clown noses. The troupe burst into song to lighten the mood at security checkpoints and shorten the journey to Zaatari. Our ten-year-old daughter called it the most fun bus ride she has ever been on.

While other volunteers worked on a variety of craft and entertainment projects, my family was asked to help make kites. Gaelle

explained that we would make the kites out of plastic bags and cardboard so that the children would learn about recycling. During the long bus ride north, Gaelle wondered aloud whether we would have enough materials for the kites. I looked across dusty fields littered with plastic bags and wondered how we could ever run out.

Volunteers Muhammad Husseis and Feras Hamwy had built a flying prototype kite made from a plastic bag and decorated with Barcelona football club stickers. This was two days after Real Madrid took home the Spanish Cup but the Barcelona stickers were a huge hit with the kids as were the Cars, Angry Birds, Spiderman and smiley face stickers. I only knew how to say "Hello" and "Thank you" in Arabic, but "Barcelona" was a universal happy word that day.

This was the first valuable lesson for us, these kids aren't so different from our own children or from others we've known in Ireland, the US and elsewhere.

We used a hot glue gun to assemble the traditional "kite-shaped" kites. It must be natural to feel somewhat useless when trying to help others overcome seemingly intractable problems. But I soon found my purpose as goalie trying to keep the children from burning themselves on the hot glue guns. I began to wish we had used duct tape! But then I noticed that these kids were different. Their level of chaotic energy was high but nothing beyond what I'd seen in the Irish Sunday school classes. The difference being that this room full of 30 kids seemed even more manageable than my Sunday school class of 8.

When the kites were finished, the children took them outside and we began to clean up. But the kites were so popular that the word soon spread and we had a new influx of children eager to turn every scrap of plastic and cardboard they could find into a kite. At first we shrugged our shoulders and thought why not?

But when the chaos rose and we decided to pull the plug on the hot glue guns. As they cooled off, a five-year-old boy presented his half-finished kite, flicked out a cigarette lighter and offered to reheat the glue for me. I told him, "La shukran."

That was when someone carried in the little girl. She wore a white and pink floral dress and a beaded bracelet she had made with another arts and crafts group. She handed me the broken shoe. A plastic jewel had fallen off of its buckle.

There was just enough heat left in the glue gun to stick it back on. These children did learn something about recycling on that day. And I learned that even the smallest act of kindness is never wasted. ☒

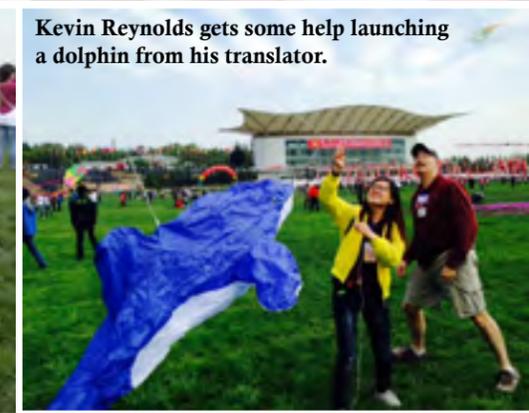
Dar al Yasmin



3<sup>RD</sup> WEIFANG INT'L KITE FEST  
 WEIFANG, CHINA  
 APRIL 19-21, 2014



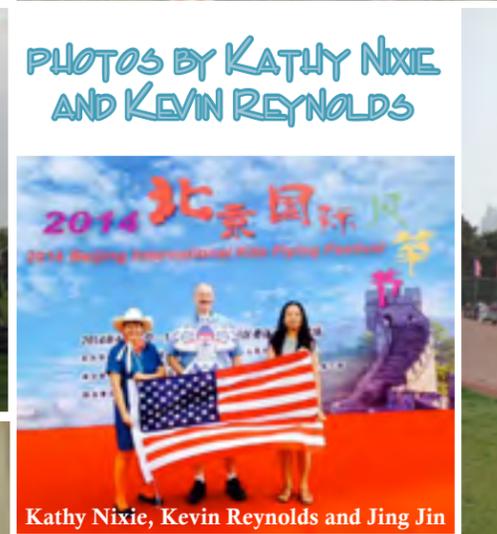
Kathy Nixie made paper bird kites with her new Chinese friends.



Kevin Reynolds gets some help launching a dolphin from his translator.



Kathy Nixie



PHOTOS BY KATHY NIXIE AND KEVIN REYNOLDS

Kathy Nixie, Kevin Reynolds and Jing Jin

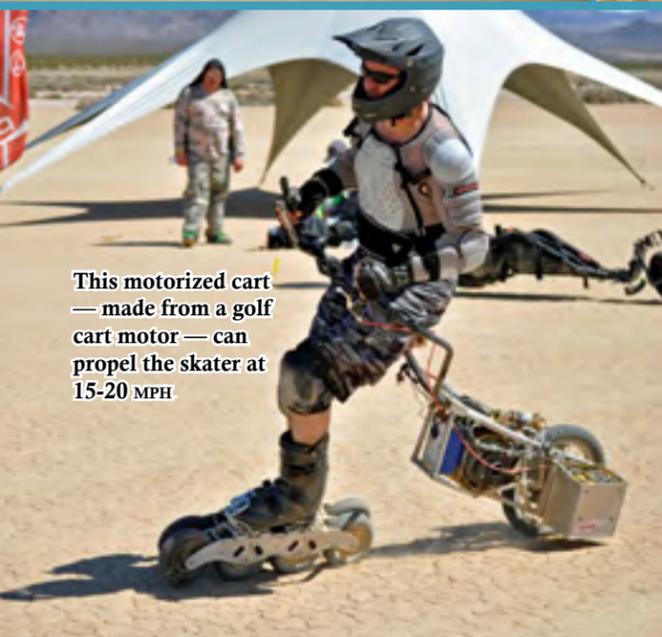


Kathy Nixie at the Kite Museum in Weifang.





PHOTOS BY JOHN CHILESE



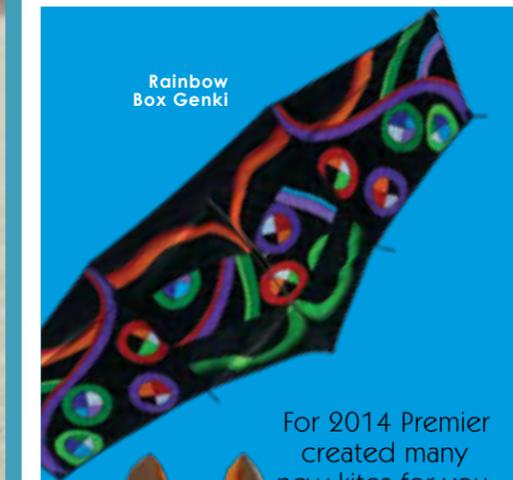
This motorized cart — made from a golf cart motor — can propel the skater at 15-20 MPH.



Custom buggy by Dirk Hemza.



# IVANPAH BUGGY BLAST IVANPAH DRY LAKE, CA APRIL 1-5, 2014



Rainbow Box Genki

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8' Ginger Kitten

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**DYEING FOR A COLOR**  
**RIPSTOP NYLON COMES IN A LIMITED COLOR**  
**PALETTE. WITH FABRIC DYES, RON BOHART**  
**PROVES THAT THERE REALLY ARE NO LIMITS.**

I am into appliqué in a big way. The designs I sew usually can't be appliquéed with standard colors. I might just need a half yard of brown and don't want to wait for it. Or if I just can't find the color I want, I dye it.

It doesn't take long and it isn't hard to do. It's just one of those things that you won't do if you don't know how. Here's how.

Any color is possible through the dyeing process if you use some imagination and a little common sense. I buy standard colors when I need that color. I don't dye black or red, for instance, but any off-color is fair game.

I use Texlon white nylon exclusively for dyeing. I have found that

3/4 ounce Texlon is the best white and the heat of the dyeing process will not effect the material. Challenge and some of the other fabrics have a coating that, if dyed too hot, will make a "crinkle" that cannot be removed. (I buy Texlon seconds, 50-100 yards at a time, direct from their California factory.)

I use iDyePoly dyes. I get them with a 40% or 50% off coupon from Jo-Ann Fabrics, and they run a couple of bucks a color. They're \$3.99 without a coupon.

There are two packets in the package. The dye is in a dissolving gelatin envelope along with a packet of a liquid called Color Intensifier that makes the color brighter. It is a wetting solution and I often use



just a squirt of liquid detergent if I run out. Both accomplish the same end.

iDyePoly comes in eight basic colors: red, orange, yellow, violet, green, blue, brown and black. The company has recently released a dozen new colors, but I have yet to find them anywhere but online. I only use the basic eight.

When I dye I use an enamel pot that holds about four gallons of water. I think you can use aluminum but I have never tried it. CAUTION: the pot you use for dyeing should never be used for cooking. Our family sat down to a festive Thanksgiving dinner with pink mashed potatoes. You will never be able to get it clean enough for cooking again.

Add about three gallons of water to the pot and heat it until it is just short of boiling, or bring it to a boil and let it sit for ten minutes to cool a bit. It needs to be pretty hot but not boiling, about 180° - 200°.

Add what you want from the dye packet and, along with the dye, tear open and add the color intensifier. I cut the packs of color dye open with a scissors and empty what I want from the contents into the water because I think the gelatin of the bag can cling to the wall of the pot, and if it transfers to the fabric it makes a mess.

In the photos shown here, I used red and a bit of green to get a nice brown. I wanted a little brown; a 2' square is all I needed. I found a scrap of white big enough, but when I dye I usually use two to three yards of fabric and save what I don't use for other kites in the future. Over the years I have built up a treasure trove of nylon in a couple hundred colors.

Take your fabric and wet it with warm water in a sink or another container. When your dye is steaming hot but not quite boiling drop the fabric into the mixture and immerse it until it stays under. Stir it frequently to remove all the air from the fabric.



It's important to note that the dark hues are dyed first. It takes ten or more minutes to dye. I dye the dark hues first. Then I dump about half the pot out, add clean water to replace the dye I dumped, and re-heat on the stove to dyeing temperature. The second dye will be lighter in color. I dump again and repeat until I have several 2 - 3 yard pieces dyed in lighter and lighter colors. Even if I don't need the colors, this is the way I build up my



color inventory. You can also add other colors in dribs and drabs to alter the hue of the dye. I just made some dark brown and, as I lightened the mixture, I added a little black to get some light warm grays.

When the fabric is about the color you want, take it out of the dye and rinse it in the sink in tepid water until the water runs clear. This only takes a few minutes and removes the excess dye from the fabric.

Immediately iron the fabric until it is dry. I use a setting just below the "steam" setting, #3 on my iron. Ironing dries the fabric and the

steam helps to set the dye and removes most of the wrinkles.

That's really all there is to it. Dyeing ripstop can give you a nice change from the standard colors. It's quick, easy, and inexpensive. I hate to wait for fabric. That's

one of the reasons I started dyeing. If I need a color I can be sewing it inside an hour instead of waiting for weeks for it to come in the mail.

Dyeing ripstop nylon is not for everybody. It gives a softer piece of material, not the crisp feel of new nylon. If you are not careful the fabric can turn out with splotches and can be lighter and darker in places. Experience helps improve these problems.

It's perfect for what I do and, if you experiment, there are all kinds of blends and interesting tie dyes and patterns that can be achieved. Good luck and good dyeing. ☒



Adrian Conn stirs the pot while Ron Bohart smooth things over.



NATIONAL AIR & SPACE MUSEUM INDOOR FLY  
AND KITES OF ASIA EXHIBIT  
WASHINGTON, DC  
MARCH 22, 2014



Jim Cosca



Paul LaMaster and friend



Jim Cosca



Archie Stewart

PHOTOS BY ANDREW ALBOSTA,  
JARED HAWORTH, NANCY  
HAWORTH, AND DAWN  
HAWORTH



Scott Weider



Mearl Balmer practices  
indoor KAP.



Jim Cosca



David Ashworth



Regional Director Jack Wilson  
talks up the AKA.



Mearl Balmer practices  
indoor KAP.



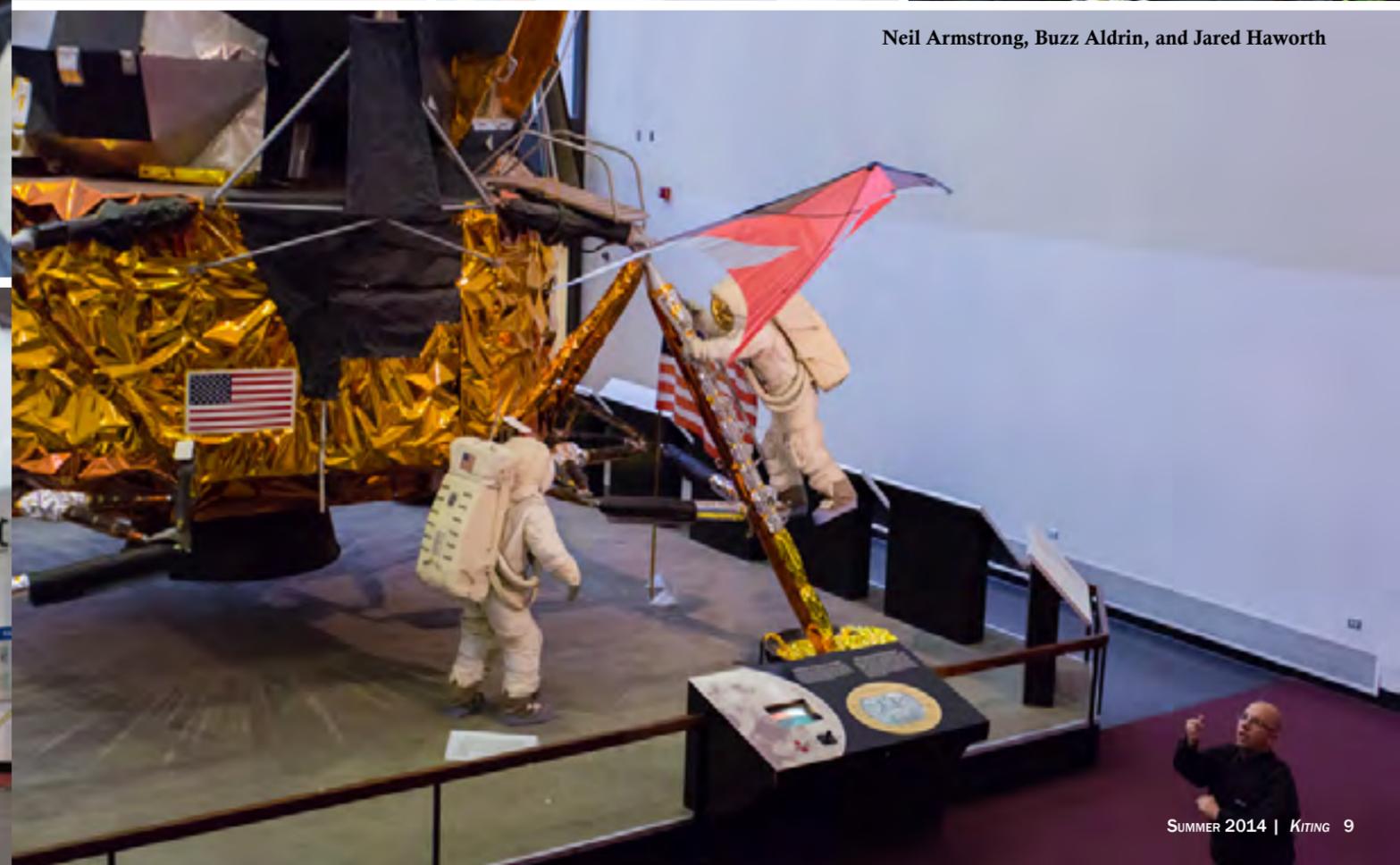
Bevan Brown and Jon Burkhardt



Joyce King



Jeff King



Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Jared Haworth



Adrienne Balmer



Mike Mosman



Scott Weider



Scott Weider

# REGIONAL REPORTS

## Region 1 - New England CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY



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End of term: 2016

Throughout the summer months we can look forward to events such as Kite Festival – SALSA Fiesta in Pemberton Park on the Merrimack River, Lawrence, MA, on June 7, hosted by GroundWorks; NYKE's Keene Valley Kite Festival in Keene Valley, NY, June 15; the Newport Kite Festival in Newport, RI, July 12-13; Revere Beach, Revere, MA, July 20, and reaching into late summer is the Capriccio Kite Festival, Ogunquit Beach, ME, September 16, and Cherry Valley Kite Festival in Cherry Valley, NY, September 27.

Events are the best way of introducing the public to the world of kiting. The local kite clubs post events on the local forums, and there are many additional events added almost daily. Don't forget to post your events to the AKA Calendar and participate in as many events as possible. The regional kite clubs are the best source for information about different styles of kite, sizes, and best places to fly, when best to fly or when best not to fly.

The traction kite community has announced that the renovations to Nahant Beach by the Massachusetts Department Of Conservation and Recreation are predicted to be completed by mid-summer.

Coming this fall, the AKA convention promises to be one of the best of our East Coast venues! See you on the field.

Now that the cold and miserable weather is mostly behind us here on the East Coast, it is time to turn our attention to flying, flying and more flying. I myself have penciled in several first-time events to attend as well as those ones that I always make an effort to visit.

This past winter allowed many fliers to work not only on retreat projects, but also their own designs. I am sure that many of those winter projects will see the wind soon if they haven't already.

Like many of you, I always cherish what time I have to fly and when I do I like to make the best of it. Here in our region, as

Greetings Region One. Well, we made it through the last of the winter months.

National Kite Month was successful with over a dozen kitemaking workshops, Kites for Kids classes and kite shows. Our region was very active.



**Glenn Davison taught the physics of flight at the Cambridge Science Festival.**

Several new events hopefully will become annual kite festivals. In Essex, MA, we were fortunate to have fliers from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. A great start for the season at a new and beautiful location. Other new events were held in Bristol, RI, and in eastern Connecticut. There is a new kite store, Skillful Home Recreation, located in Portland, ME.

Other spring events were held at Hammonasset State Park, CT; Colt State Park, Bristol, RI; Revere Beach Kite Festival, Revere, MA; the Annual Autism Kite Day at Bose Mountain, MA; White Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, Cazenovia, NY; and the Bug Light Kite Festival in Maine were just some of the many events promoting kiting.



**Ben Huggett in altitude action in Delaware.**

well as some nearby out-of-region locations, the flying got off to a quick start with kite flies and festivals happening like the Brandywine Kite Festival at the Brandywine State Park in Wilmington, DE; the Voorhees Environmental Park Kite Fly in Voorhees, NJ, to celebrate Earth Day; and the Great Delaware Kite Fest in Lewes. In fact, at the Lewes event, some SJKF members took home early season accolades. Ben Huggett took second place in the "highest kite" race (I won't tell you who and what took first place... or how old) and then Dennis Smith won the ballet competition. With there only being two competitors, it was a tough loss for the other competitor, Jim Cosca. Realistically the big winner was the crowd. Watching these two go at it, Dennis and Jim put on quite a show for the crowd. Our own *Kiting* Editor, Phil Broder, won the Gene Bookhammer Award for Best All-Around Kiteflier.

## Region 2 - Northeast NJ-PA-(lower) NY



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End of term: 2016

Up in North Jersey, Kurtis Jones and the "Overpeck Tribe" are still looking to have a July 19-20 fly at a new location in Bergen County. Again save the date and plan on attending. More information will follow or you can contact Kurtis at [oparadis@me.com](mailto:oparadis@me.com).

Leading up to Memorial Day weekend in Wildwood there have been some great events. Pocono Kite Symphony/Lehigh Valley Kite Society held their 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Kite Day in the Park on May 3. It is not hard to see why this festival has been around so long since it is well run and attended. The community response is always very good. I attended this year again and have seen first-hand knowledge of how well the job that Andy Gelinis and his club members do to put this event on. They are also continuing their 5' club feather banner-making which they display at every event they attend or hold. It is certainly a sight to see. They are also continuing their workshops the Saturday after each monthly meeting.

Another event was the Philadelphia Kite Fly and Food Truck Fair along the Delaware River on May 10. This growing event always has great food and great flying.

The Keystone Kites held their Annual Spring festival in Camp Hill on May 18 along with a picnic on Mother's Day for families of those from other countries attending the US Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA. Then they will be gearing up for their summer kite building retreat. This year Ben Huggett from SJKF will lead a workshop on parafoils. And they will be big ones. These kites will fill the sky all by themselves. If necessary they will be able to lift a lot of laundry or tails. If you have ever been interested in building a large Parafoil but just did not know how to get started, or where to get all that fabric, or how to cut out such a big kite, then this is the workshop for you. If you already have a large Parafoil, or two, or ten, this is your chance to build another one in a design you do not already have. We hope to be getting a lot of big kites in the sky. So please plan on joining the Keystone Kites for this retreat, and RSVP early to Todd Little at [rokkaku6@aol.com](mailto:rokkaku6@aol.com).

South Jersey Kite Flyers will be continuing their third Sunday flies during the months of May through August in Brigantine, NJ. They start at noon and are normally a "bring your own food" event.

I would like everyone in Region Two to try to get to at least one more festival or kiting event this year than what they did last year. Maybe there is an event you always wanted to go to but didn't. Now is the time to plan and see if you can do it. Try and contact someone in that region or in the local club that is sponsoring the event and see how



**Dennis Smith, the best ballet flier in all of Delaware.**

they can help you with lodging or whatever you may need to achieve that goal. I think you will be surprised at how welcomed you will be if you are from outside that area. You will find that the love and fun of kiting you share will get you pretty far. I am trying that this year. Right now I am looking to plan a trip to the Newport Kite Festival in Rhode Island. Maybe for you it could be the AKA Convention!

And don't forget, the AKA Convention is on the East Coast this year in Nags Head, NC. If you have ever been to the Outer Banks you know how great a place this is to see and also to fly. Plan on attending because if you have never been there you will love the place, and if you have been there before it's a beautiful place at that time of year.

## Region 3 - Mid-Atlantic DC-DE-MD-VA-WV



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End of term: 2016

Winter just didn't want to let go this year. It's been a very long time since we had snow in March but sure enough there it was. I was beginning to think that spring would never get here! But spring did arrive and with the buds, blooms and blustery winds came the kite festivals!

The annual Maryland Kite Society Retreat was held in March and even though kitemakers were busy cutting and stitching they took breaks from working on either Bobby Stanfield or Drake Smith's cellular kites to make little cardboard toys. The fifty darling, cutout paper monsters were given to the pediatric department of

Columbia Medical Center and the staff was thrilled to have them. They decorated the children's waiting rooms with them. It was a great public service project.

On March 27, Donald and Serena Jacobs along with Burke May of the Got Wind? Kite Club in Roanoke were invited to speak to the Buchanan Elementary School Science Club. This was the second year for the club to be invited to lead a discussion on all things kiting. More than 40 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were treated to a wonderful presentation of different types of kites. Donald and Burke did some indoor flying in the gym and after the presentation the children were given sled kites that they made on their own. Finally the time arrived to go outdoors and give their kites a try. The wind was perfect that day and every single kite flew high into the air. The event even made the news.

Max Barker and the New Era Kite Club were quite active in West Virginia with hundreds attending their Irish Spring Festival in March, and several other events in April. Max and the club do a fantastic job educating people about kite history and kite safety.

Members from both the Richmond Air Force and Wings Over Washington were busy with organizing and participating in festivals all through April and May.

Kicking off the season was Kite Day at the National Air and Space Museum. Museum goers were once again treated to some of the best indoor kiteflying in the country along with a stunning visual display of kites designed and built by the talented kitemakers in our area. My wife and I even set up an AKA table to help make people aware of our organization.

Sadly, the Blossom Festival the following weekend was a wet soggy mess due to rain. But, there are some fliers out there with a level of dedication that is absolutely astounding. Some may even argue that it's a lack of common sense as most of us have been taught to come in out of the rain. But for Paul LaMaster and Paul Dugard, sloshing around in Gore-tex suits, it was just another day of Rev flying in the park!

On April 5 my wife and I helped at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Frederick County Kite Festival in Winchester, VA, which saw a decent size

## Bee Linzee of Rehoboth Kite & Toy launches a bubble at the Great Delaware Kite Fest.



attendance along with the blustery winds.

Adrienne and Merle Balmer were busy organizing small local events in Bland, VA, and on April 12 at the Prince George County Family Kite Festival at Temple Park.

April 12 was a very busy day with the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bel Air (MD) Kite Festival. Over 400 New Tech kites were given out and the event was a great success with nearly 1500 people showing up to fly kites throughout the day. Children, parents and grandparents alike enjoyed the day flying and picnicking in the park. Allen Ault, the event coordinator, said this was the best festival they've had in the nine years of the event.

Brian Bevins held his 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Yorktown Festival and a small number of us flew for crowds at the Rockfish Valley Kite Flying Festival. So many festivals and so little time!

April 19 was the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Ridge Festival. This event in my opinion is the pinnacle of festivals. Started as a tiny little event in Salem, VA, by the Salem Chamber of Commerce and Terry Murray of Kite Bus Festivals, this event has grown to an astounding attendance of 10,000 people. The field was decorated with beautiful banners and displays along with the sky that was filled with kites of every shape and size. Members from many kite clubs from the Carolinas to Connecticut made the trip. We had WOW, RAF, Got Wind, WACKOS, NYKE, Connecticuters, and Atlantic Coast Kite Club represented. From the talented kitemakers and kitefliers, to the wonderful flag event in which a 40' x 60' American flag is held and



unrolled, this event exemplifies everything that we love about kiting. Family, friends and community.

The New Era Kite Club stayed busy and entertained on April 26 in Wellsburg, WV, and the extremely busy month of April conclude once again with the final weekend's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual MIKE/MASKC event hosted by Jay Knerr and the Kite Loft in Ocean City. First time and novice competitors Tim McMackin, James "Fletch" Fletcher, and Augustus Martin along with seventeen other

competitors battled challenging wind conditions to earn their place, while up the beach the sky was filled with a plethora of kites. There were demos and a lot of Rev flying to wow the crowds. We cannot thank Jay enough for his support.

May started off with the Atlantic Coast Kite Festival in Virginia Beach and mid-May brought the Quetzal Kite Festival in Fluvanna, VA.

In June, we'll be wrapping up our Eastern League season in Richmond with the Old Dominion Sport Kite Competition. This is a great competition with fliers coming from up and down the East Coast.

As we roll into summer and temperatures rise, things slow down but there is always something going on with or without wind. WOW has once again organized an event at the Udvar-Hazy Museum in Chantilly, VA, which should be sometime in August, and the Mile High Kite Fly takes place at the end of August in Beech Mountain, NC.

There are many other events that pop up and most of the clubs stay pretty active so check the club calendars often. The monthly Region Three newsletter does its best to bring you up-to-date information, and please reach out and let me know if you have an event going on. Make sure you mark the calendars for the convention being held on the Outer Banks this year!

Last but not least, welcome to all the new members who have joined us! Hope to see you out there!

### Region 5 - Great Lakes MI-OH



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End of term: 2014

Hello Region Five. It's late April as I write this, so if I haven't talked about how great your event was, it's probably because I haven't been there yet. I am looking forward

### Region 6 - Midwest IA-IL-IN-MN-WI



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End of term: 2014

Region Six has been busy with many kite-related activities over the last few months. The winter was tough but the kitefliers have been tougher.

We begin with mourning the loss of Charlie Sotich, who was a living legend in the world of kiting, a gentle soul who loved what he did and was loved by all who learned from him and were touched by his passion for the little things in life. All in the world of kiting will miss him.

There were several winter events in February. The oldest is Color the Wind in Clear Lake, IA. This event was the twelfth annual gathering of kitefliers from all over the Midwest. Also featured were 180Go! and Fire and Ice. Organized by Larry and Kay Day, and sponsored by nearly the entire community, it is a great day of kiteflying and community participation. There were good winds and with the falling snow, some of the kites found new flying characteristics as they filled with the fluffy dry stuff.

An event in its first year was the Sky Circus on Ice event on Lake Delavan, WI. This three-day event was sponsored by Gift of Wings, Lakelawn Resort and the Delavan Chamber of Commerce. It was well attended and featured Chicago Fire, the Windjammers and Connor and Amy Doran. Friday flying was indoor and Saturday and Sunday were great days for all the performers and the host of spectators. The cold temperatures kept the ice sculptures intact.

to the Great Lakes Kite Festival in May, and Breeze on the Bay in East Tawas in June.

The next event will be the Lyon Township Festival. This will be the sixth year for this event. It has moved dates so it could be expanded into the larger Lyon Township Kite Festival Extravaganza, July 17-20. It will be at the James F. Atchinson Memorial Park in South Lyon, MI. It will include carnival rides, petting zoo, RC racing tournaments, pedal tractor pull, laser light shows in the evenings, antique tractor show and pull, mass kite ascensions, big kites, a hot air balloon evening glow, and sport kite ballet demos from on Saturday.

Efforts are under way to try to have another event at Lake St. Clair Metro Park. But there are no firm dates for that yet. There

Another February event in its first year was the Long Lake Winter Festival, sponsored by the Long Lake Chamber of Commerce near Spooner, WI. It was put together with organizational help from Chow Chong of Unique Flying Objects and the Wisconsin Kitefliers Club. There was a shortage of wind but great camaraderie and bonding with the local spectators.

The U-MAKE kite retreat took place on February 28 - March 2. It was well attended with Robert Brasington and Ralf Maserski as featured instructors. The products created from the workshops were outstanding.

Numbers don't lie and they keep going up! This year's Kite Komotion festival organizers in Shipshewana, IN, ordered 500 sled kites, which were gone in a matter of two and a half hours. Another 50 could have easily been built since families were still trying to line up for the workshop after the cutoff mark. Angie Chau writes, "Words could never do justice to thanking the amazing kitefliers who drove from various points to color the Amish skies! The Wisconsin Kitefliers Club even braved the rain early Friday morning to help with two live TV segments for a South Bend station. The weather on Saturday was just about perfect: bright sunny skies, moderate temps in the mid-to-upper 60s, steady winds averaging a healthy 15+ MPH. It's always a good sign when both the big and less-than-big kites can fly together. Thanks go out to Simon Crafts, Adrian Conn, Windjammers, Dave Bush, Fire and Ice trio, Paul Fieber, the Blues Brothers, the first-time appearance of Team Kite Komo-

Just another beautiful day in Clear Lake, Iowa.



Dean Murray

tion, and too many others to name here!"

Wind - lots of wind! That, plus warm temperatures and plenty of sunshine describe the weather for the second annual Kites Over Hoover Park, in West Branch, IA. In addition to local Iowa attendees, many people stopped in to see what was going on when they saw the big show kites from I-80. Jon Pelinski from the East Coast just happened to be driving by when he spotted the show kites. Tom Clark, and Ann and Tony Killip put on the great show with their large kites despite the very strong winds from the east. 180Go! performed at the festival, with team captain Mike Kory and team members Rose Kory, Mike Stephenson, Mikey Devereaux, David Kovacs, and Steve Anderson. In addition, Shari Devereaux provided learn to fly lessons for a good portion of the day. Since the festival was sponsored by the Hoover Museum and Library, there was a history interpreter helping the kids learn about kites and history - Ben Franklin attended in costume to give perspective on kites and kite flying - and to direct kids to the build-a-kite tent.

Other happenings in the Region include National Kite Month displays in various areas including at the New Berlin Public

### Region 4 - Southeast AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN



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End of Term: 2014

Hey everybody, here are some great things going on in our Region.

From Jay Nunes, "Kiting Tampa Bay has had another super busy New Year. After February's Kite Mania, we continue to host our monthly flies and had a very special Dean Jordan Birthday Fly. On April 26 we made 200 more miniature kites for the Children's Cancer Center's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. That's a grand total of 1100 kites made and given away."

John Lutter writes, "Russ and Pat Mozier and the Central Florida Kite Club put together another great Kites Over Avalon

event in East Orlando in March. While the fields had been drastically reduced due to recent construction, over 300 kites were made and flown by the area kids.

"In April, the CFKC was invited to incorporate a kite festival into the Indian River Festival in Titusville. Members from the CFKC, Kite Stop, and Kiteman Productions put on a single-line kite show that included a 100' Peter Lynn Octopus and lots of big kites from Premier Kites. Scouts from Troop 488 helped give out over 250 kite kits to local children and their families."

Justin Wheeler from the Emerald Coast Kite Club writes, "We had a couple flies in April: April 11 at the Fort Walton Beach Kitty Hawk Kites location, and April 12 we flew for the Walk For A Cure for the Arthritis Foundation at the Community Maritime Park in downtown Pensacola."

From Chuck Holmes, "We had a great Spartanburg International Kite Fly on March 31 here in South Carolina. Several members of the WACKOS attended

and put on quite a show for the estimated 1000 people who attended. The end result of the five month long Spartanburg Soaring initiative has been a lot of attention placed on kiting and a new kite club in our region called, what else, Spartanburg Soaring.

Thanks for everyone who sent in their reports. A big thank you to our new President John Lutter for appointing me as Region Four Director. Our region has grown tremendously the past few years and I will do my best to help continue that process. I want to ask everyone for one favor. Next time you're out flying take time to share your passion by handing your kite to another.

Kiting Tampa Bay's miniature kite build.





Bob Turicik did some KAPping at Milwaukee's Veterans Park.

Library by Mark Ledvina and one put on for the veterans in the Appleton, WI, area by Tom Townner.

The Wisconsin Kites kids kite-kit making workshop took place in March where approximately 30 club members made over 1,200 kits.

In mid-April, there was a nice event sponsored by Chicago Kite/Kite Harbor, in Decatur, IL, featuring Paul

Krekel and Mike Holl.

Whitney Richardson and Maureen Walrath sent in the following information about their group called the Kite Collective. "The Kite Collective is a group of friends that uses kites to connect with the environment, each other and the self in a playful and universal way. Our creative practice is grounded in the use of kites as a physical outlet for finding pause and centeredness; the exploration of urban open space; and ancient tactile process. Born in NYC, we're now based in Chicago and wherever the wind blows."

A special thank you for those who sent me information for this article including Angie Chau, Steve Anderson, Shari Devereaux, Chrystal Dunker, Scott Fisher, Mark Ledvina, Steve Nicol, Dave Zavell and Bob Klopke.

Keep looking up and hold on tight!

**Region 7 ~ Great Plains**  
CO-KS-MO-ND-NE-SD-UT-WY



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End of term: 2014

festivals at Longview Flights of Fancy. Such a beautiful open field there.

From Roger Kenkel with Show Stopper Kites, "National Kite Month is in full swing for us in Nebraska. SSK traveled to Larned, KS, for a fun fly at the Santa Fe Trail Center. Our gracious hostess was Becca Hiller, an avid kiter and center director who, along with her staff put on a wonderful festival. We put about 50 kites in the hands of children and adults alike. Seeing the smiles on the families' faces reminded me of memories long ago as a child and a reminder of why I still love kiting today. I can't think of a better way to kick off NKM.

"It was a cold day in Grand Island, NE, April 28, as six classes of preschoolers came marching onto the field not knowing what to expect. Most of these kids have never seen a kite much less flown one. So the focus was to get a kite in everyone's hands. We talked about kite safety and types of kites but mostly focused on flying. They were seriously happy kids. The 'insane grown-up' with all the kites even left with a re-invigorated spirit and warm fuzzies in his heart."

The first Wheat Ridge Kite Festival had a good start. Vendors, bol races, and kids kiteflying. We flew at a field of our own, Bethanie Wilson joined us, she was in town en route to Fort Collins from Utah.

On April 27, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Collins Kites in the Park was cancelled due to extreme winds and rain. With no rescheduling planned, the festival will return in late April 2015. The Rocky Mountain Kite Club opted to have an impromptu club fly that morning, 20 miles south, at Sandstone Park in Longmont, where we had our potluck lunch and milder weather with varying wind speeds (0-15MPH) and intermittent sprinkles.

More Nebraska festivals to come, Kites & Castles in Ogallala, July 26, and Callaway Kite Flight, Labor Day weekend. We need your help to make both of these prairie kite festivals a big success. The organizers and Region Seven are serious about rebuilding these traditions. Many kites say they will return this year, some after several years' absence.

There's a kite festival near Jackson Hole, WY, planned for the weekend of August 23-24, contact me for details.

Kitemakers in Arvada have the right attitude.



**Region 8 ~ South Central**  
AR-LA-NM-OK-TX



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End of term: 2014

Your vote counts! On average about 25% of the AKA membership votes in any given election. Understandably, more people vote when they are also voting for a new Regional Director. Region Eight has an average of about 130 members, so on average, about 33 people from Region Eight vote for the AKA President each year. AKA elections are coming up soon. You will be receiving ballots for election of a new AKA President and your new Region Eight Director!

The Friends of the San Antonio Parks Foundation held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Fest of Tails: Kite Festival and Dog Fair. It started out slowly because of weather, but turned out to be a beautiful day and fantastic event. The Festival is a family fun fly and owes its kite flying expertise to Gayle Woodul's Go Big or Go Home team.

Steve and Linda Rogers of Kaleidokites in Eureka Springs, AR, sure know how to multi-task. It seems that hosting a party, sponsoring a kite festival and raising money for wild animals is just second nature for them. It should be, they've been doing it for 24 years. The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Eureka Springs Kite Fest was held March 22. Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge hosted the event in the Ozark Mountains. Steve and Linda sponsor the event as a benefit for the 135 or so wild animals who call the refuge their home. Lions, tigers, monkeys and bears, oh my! A crowd of over 800 people gathered on the mountain ridge to fly hundreds of kites, enjoy the scenery and listen for the roar of the wild animals. Kitemaking was a big hit with the kids. A local band and the rokkaku kite raffle were a hit with the adults. AKA members from three states brought kites to share. My Delta/Double Box/Wing Swept "Barbara" decided it had flown enough. After taking a right turn, it dove and took five other kites to the ground with it. The winner of the rok was flying it for the first time and landed it in a tree, shattering a spar. The high flying Jon Burkhart Kachina was a crowd pleaser. Not 24 hours after being purchased, it decided to break its line and fly like no one was watching. It didn't get far, landing in the tree line below the hill. Charles Thompson's Roto-Extreme decided it was not going to fly by itself, so Charles attached it as line laundry on a lifter and it flew quite well. Wild animals, scenic views, wonderful

weather, great food, new friends, old friends, kites of all colors, shapes and sizes, lots of people... it all adds up to a whole lot of fun! Thank you to Steve and Linda for hosting yet another successful festival and a job well done.

Carveth Karmer explains why it's so much fun to be a guest teacher at your grand children's school or really any school: "We built 21 kites in Abigail's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class yesterday. The winds turned out perfect. We flew in a new grassy field and didn't have a single tangle. Absolutely amazing! A first time for me! They only got to fly about 20 minutes before having to leave for the school buses. It made my day when two of the little boys told me that they were going home to fly right away.

Cold weather and predicted rain cut down on the attendance at the Arlington Legacy Parks event on April 5 this year, but everyone had a wonderful time. The wind was light and a challenge for the candy drops and DAKO handled the challenge! The candy drops were the highlights of the day for the kids! The light winds were perfect for fighter kite pilots! A large area of the field was marked off for the candy drops and exhibition flying. Big Mike's was the kite vendor and kept the public supplied with their kites and accessories. Several of the JOTS members flew their kites at the event. Chris Bangma and his DAKO members kept the event going and were very supportive of the event. We all look forward to next year.

Friday (School Day) at the 10<sup>th</sup> Kite Fest Louisiane brought morning rain that kept a few schools away, but those that showed up were treated to a free kitemaking workshop under the big tent and then some indoor flying in the gym adjacent to the flying field. Later that evening, an appreciation banquet was held at the West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau facility for sponsors, dignitaries, volunteers and kites. Sharon Stam, the event director, welcomed all and announced that West Baton Rouge was officially declared the Kite Capitol of Louisiana. Saturday was much better with the rain holding off until right at the end of the day when the fireworks started right on cue. The field was filled with smiling faces and colorful kites all day long. The indoor kitefliers had a nice crowd in the Port Allan High School gym each day. The food booths had the usual line of hungry kites and the kite display tent with Dr. Kite stayed busy. Gayle Woodul and her Gayle Force group filled the sky and field with kites, banners and of course, the now famous Bubble Man! The talented Rev Riders and End of the Line teams also took turns entertaining the crowds

throughout the weekend.

On Sunday, the threat of rain kept everyone on the lookout, but next year we expect to do it all again in much better conditions. After all, when you go nine years with no rain-outs, the odds are in your favor for good kiteflying weather! Prior to the event, Marshall Harris, an AKA member since 1989, was interviewed by local news magazine *Country Roads*, putting a spotlight on his kitemaking and involvement in Kite Fest Louisiane.

Albuquerque's Alta Mira Kite Fest was well attended with approximately 2000 visitors. Kites were everywhere! Beautiful kites were brought in by Deb Lenzen, Mike Shaw, Carveth and Luella Kramer, Kerry and Jennifer, Sam and Barbie, Brad Martin and Walt and Dorothy Mitchell. Doug and Diane Bailey ran the Kite Hospital and were heroes for so many, saving kites to fly again. Barbara Ware and Marti Dermer managed the kitemaking area. Dennis Ware did double duty in the kitemaking tent and field triage. The excitement and motivation of this festival is contagious.



Marti Dermer in action in Albuquerque.

Jason McCaleb of the Tulsa Wind Riders has been doing a great job on Facebook promoting kiting and kiting activities in Region Eight and surrounding areas. Just in the past few months Jason became a member of the AKA in honor of Richard Dermer.

Thanks to Ray Knox, Phillip Whitaker, Marshall and Sandra Harris, and George Weber for contributing to this report.

**Region 9 ~ Intermountain**  
ID-MT-OR



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End of Term: 2015

While winter was still hanging around in the Northwest, I ventured to Southern California and got a taste of summer by spending some time in Huntington Beach. This was my first time at Kite Party and I had a fantastic time. It was great to see kite friends from all over the world and make new memories. I counted about a dozen members from Region Nine in attendance. I also met Glen Rothstein, AKA Region Twelve Director and thanked him for providing the wonderful weather. The beach was awesome. I am not used to the beaches being groomed every day by a machine to take out any trash and level the field. After they are done in the morning the beaches looked like groomed sand traps at any resort golf course. The weather was terrific in the upper 70s with no clouds. I could get used to their winters. Looks like Kite Party will need to be on next year's must do list.



Flying at Idaho State University.

Taking time out from the norm to fly is always fun. On a family trip to Portland I called Ron Bohart to meet and do some flying. We met at Tigard High School baseball field. Winds were almost nonexistent, but we flew a little and watched my grandkids run around with indoor kites and have fun. Thanks Ron for a great afternoon.

The Rogue Valley Windchasers held their April Fun Fly in Crescent City, CA. Club President Wayne Griffith had a historic flight. He has in his collection several Prism Nexus five stacks. Flying one of these dual-line five stacks takes some strength. To

control and fly two of these five stacks, one five stack in each hand, at the same time is amazing. He also flew them as one stack of twelve. Well done Wayne.

Bill Hayes reported the Idaho State University Science and Engineering Festival was held in April. Hands-on activities were designed to teach the applications of many scientific disciplines. Among these were building catapults, launching stomp-rockets, playing with DNA [Editor's note: this is how the zombie apocalypse will begin!], and learning the physics of kiteflying. The ISU kite club, Bengal Breeze, explained the physics of kites and provided all the kites for kids to build, decorate and fly. The happy fliers provided the giggles and joy.

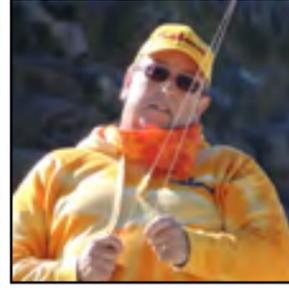
Phil Burks shared about a group of Portland kitefliers that went to Boring, OR, in April and dazzled an elementary school of almost nine hundred kids with indoor flying demonstrations. The fliers even persuaded a couple of teachers out onto the floor to learn how to fly in front of the kids. The kids and staff really enjoyed the performances. This was the third time for Phil at the school, but the first time for the other fliers. This group usually does not fly in front of crowds, but they all agreed if you are having fun then the kids will have fun as well. They all want to go back again next year.

Lincoln City will have their summer kite festival June 28-29. The theme this year is *Unleashed*. This is always one of my very favorite events. You never know which way the D River will flow to the beach and so it always makes for interesting kite fields. Last year they had record crowds attending and I am sure that will be the case this year. Whether there are strong winds or just a slight breeze the kitefliers put on a great show. July 18-20 will be time for the Southern Oregon Kite Festival in Brookings. This community does such an amazing job of putting on such a top notch festival. Showcased are master kitemakers, sport kites, big kites and lots of friendly people. The festival is on a field with invited fliers only, and the spectators begin setting out their chairs the night before. It is an event that you need to get to early so that you don't miss a single thing. It's a great time to get up close and personal with the kitefliers and master kitemakers.

I am doing my part to support AKA by volunteering as Region Nine Director and VP2, flying my AKA banner at many events, gaining new members and buying AKA raffle tickets each month. Ask yourself what you could do to help AKA grow. It's such a great way to promote the love of kiting.

Here comes another Northwest summer! Some of what happens in the spring is preparation. The Westport Windriders have been planning and preparing for the annual summer kite festival that they host July 11-13.

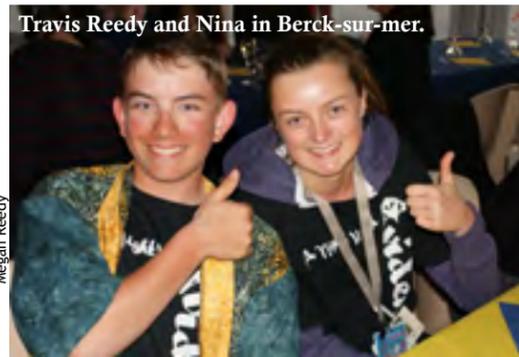
**Region 10 ~ Northwest**  
AK - WA



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End of Term: 2015

I hear there will be some fun changes, and I hear the excitement they have as they get ready. Andy and Brenda are also gearing up for their big summer event, Ocean Shores Festival of Colors, June 7-8. At the recent Northwest Sport Kite League annual meeting, there was an idea brought forth to try out the mixed format at the Ocean Shores festival competition. Running two sets of results for both the AKA and the event will be fun for the scorekeeper, but everyone is excited to give it a try. The Annual NWSKL meeting was a good place to hear about festival and competition plans. The league had a great meeting with a lot of input from the fliers. It sounds like there will be a strong effort to make time for clinics and workshops. A branching out to share the fun of flying and competing.

Travis and Megan Reedy, Kristian Slater and I just returned from our trip to Berck for the World Sport Kite Championship. We thank all who helped get us there, it was an honor and a blessing to represent you. At age 13, Travis was the youngest to ever compete at the WSKC. Travis writes, "France was a real experience. Just going to a different country was amazing. This trip was an awesome opportunity for me and the team to go to a different country to express our feelings about God. Also, the trip opened up all of our minds to a new place in this world with different food, shopping, and meeting new people. And yes, we flew kites a lot! One of the people I met was Gérard Clement, the host and organizer for the event. He is an amazing person to meet and he also taught me some new words in French like 'bonjour madam mussel.' The next person I met was Nina, a girl my age, one of the spectators who was working at a candy shop for an internship. I went with some teammates to her



Travis Reedy and Nina in Berck-sur-mer.

Megan Reedy



Team Evidence  
with Chief Judge  
Andrew Taylor

house and wow, the way they live is amazing and it is just an experience that I will never forget. Now if I were to tell somebody where to go for a vacation, I would encourage people to go to France."

**Region 11 ~ N. California**  
Northern CA-NV



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End of Term: 2015

Could our drought be the reason we get a new kite festival in the Sierras? I've been working with some folks from Lake Huntington (about one hundred miles east of Fresno) to help them create their first kite festival. According to Lake Huntington Resort's management, the seemingly ever-present summer winds allow them to host sailing regattas. Unfortunately for the sailors, California's drought has left Lake Huntington at just 30% of its normal level. The result is that all of the planned sailing events have been cancelled! Since the receding shoreline left them with acres and acres of sandy beaches, and since the site is a proven windy location in summer, they are hoping to host their first kite festival this year. Though it is still early in their planning process they hope to be able to announce an event date soon. It is likely to be sometime in mid- to late-August. I will do my best to keep all of you posted as this event develops.

**Pessimists see stumps. Kitefliers see lots of potential anchors at Lake Huntington.**



Before we know it the crazy three ring circus that is the Berkeley Kite Festival will be upon us, July 26-27. If you are interested in being part of the Festival Crew there is always room for more help. We can use help with field set-up on Friday afternoon, as well as with our expanded litter control program throughout the event. One new element of our plan is to have local civic groups, such as Scouts and Circle K, form litter patrols. Another new part of our plan is to basically bribe kids and families with a treats-for-litter exchange program. Bring us a bag of litter and we will give you a prize. Some have suggested candy as the treat but it might be more fun to have a special custom pin that is only available to those who participate in the litter exchange program. If you have any ideas that you think will help us be more successful with this program please let me know.

Hope to see you on the flying field soon, but until then may the wind be forever at your back.



AirZone's Darrin Skinner  
and Aaron Champie in  
Berck-sur-mer.

Megan Reedy

Greetings Region Twelve! It's been very busy here in our region, and not just on the coast.

The San Diego Kite Club again brought their unconditional kiting to the Mission Viejo Up in the Air Festival where they shared the sky with the Orange Coast Radio Control Club. On hand were SDKC President Dave Corning, First Lady Iris Corning, Past President Dan Willan, Kite Dude Rick Spergeon, Don and Monica Foxx, the awesome Sherry Campas and family along with yours truly. I have noticed great success when RC clubs and kite folk get together. When it's too windy for the RC's, the kites go up and they complement each other very well.

Keeping in RC/kite mode, the SDKC has also partnered up with the Silent Electric Flyers of San Diego and are holding monthly indoor flies the last Friday of the month at Alliant University. This is a breakthrough in our region and I know all of us appreciate the efforts of the club for turning this into a reality. Stay tuned for another venue in the LA area soon.

National Kite Month rolled in and gave us four events on the same weekend. The Otis Festival in Santa Monica featured legendary kitemakers George Peters, Melanie Walker, Tom Van Zant, Bobby Stanfield, Ali

**Region 12 ~ Southwest**  
Southern CA-AZ-HI



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End of Term: 2015

Fujino, Ron Gibian, José Sainz and Tyrus Wong. Year four should be even more spectacular.

Another great NKM event that day was the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara Kite Festival. Perfect weather allowed the 2000 participants to enjoy a day filled with color in the sky. There was a touching moment when the family of festival co-founder Chris Bahadur raised a kite of her design into the air, honoring her memory. The kite was also signed by family and friends prior to flight.

The Santa Maria Discovery Museum held its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Kite Festival to an appreciative crowd that were treated to sport kite demos from Team Too Much Fun, the Kite Kids and N-Sync, bol runs by the Ventura County Kite Flyers and tail chases with ground crew support by the kiteflying family of Jimmy and Monica Weston.

Longtime AKA member Robert Loera and his crew from the Hawai'i Kiteflyers Association supported the Wo Hing Museum's Chinese Kite Festival in Lahaina. Ancient traditions were shared and Robert also loaned a collection of his kites for a month-long display at the museum.

Shaun Farmer yet again put on another great Morro Bay Kite Festival. A full spectrum of events packed the two day event. Sport kite demos from both Northern and Southern California fliers, show kites from



SDKC's Monica Foxx  
at Mission Viejo.

Don Foxx



Dave Heffermen

Launching the Chris Bahadur memorial kite at the Santa Monica Kite Festival.

co-organizer Brian Champie, the Berkeley Kite Wranglers and others filled the north beach, and Penny Lingenfelter delighted the kiddies with her interactive “Mario” show. Winds were high on Day One with 22 knots sustained through the afternoon, which sandblasted Sam the Sound Guy and yours truly on the mic. Saturday night, the fliers were treated to a great fish and chips dinner courtesy of festival sponsor Giovanni’s Fish Market. Two joyful, yet tearful moments also adorned the festival as the Jim Streatly Memorial Candy Drop handled by George Halpin and friends shared sweets for the well-behaved children along with a moment to remember seven-time festival announcer David Woods, who passed unexpectedly earlier this year.

As this article wraps up, I want to remind all of you of a recent e-mail I sent. The AKA receives many inquiries including requests for presentations, demonstrations, kitemaking and related subjects. If you would like to take part in these activities, please let me know. A reminder that you do not need to be “local” to assist.

With summer approaching, the heat is rising. Hopefully, so are your kites. Best wishes and winds.

**Region 13 ~ International**



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End of Term: 2015

Guaranteed in Region Thirteen that there’ll be a kite festival every weekend, somewhere. [Region13@aka.kite.org](mailto:Region13@aka.kite.org) is how you’ll find me. Chat any time.

Summer reminder: AKA event insurance cover extends to Canadian festivals. Apply for sanctioning here: <http://kite.org/activities/events/sanctioning/>

AUSTRALIA – 17<sup>th</sup> Annual (now over three days) Adelaide International Kite Festival at Easter was blessed with amazing weather for autumn. Lyndall and Simon

Chisnall (NZ), Robert van Weers (NZ), Robert Brasington (Tasmania) and Kevin and I joined with the Adelaide Kite Flyers Association to dazzle crowds of watchers. The semaphore sky sizzled, with guest fliers from Afghanistan showing their style, using knitting wool for the fly lines. Up north at Emu Park, Queensland, the annual Festival of the Wind family day (organised by the local Lions Club) saw the autumn sun entice two redback spider bols by Roger Martin. Loved by the crowds.

BRAZIL – In Favela, Max Cardoso regularly runs kite workshops for the local children to learn and appreciate traditional kitemaking skills using bamboo and tissue paper. Just 25¢ per kite!

CANADA – Not too late for Saint-Honoré dans l’Vent (13-15 June) in Quebec,



They take their flying seriously in Adelaide.

Roger Martin’s redback spider bols.



Linda Sanders



Decorating kites in a Brazilian favela.

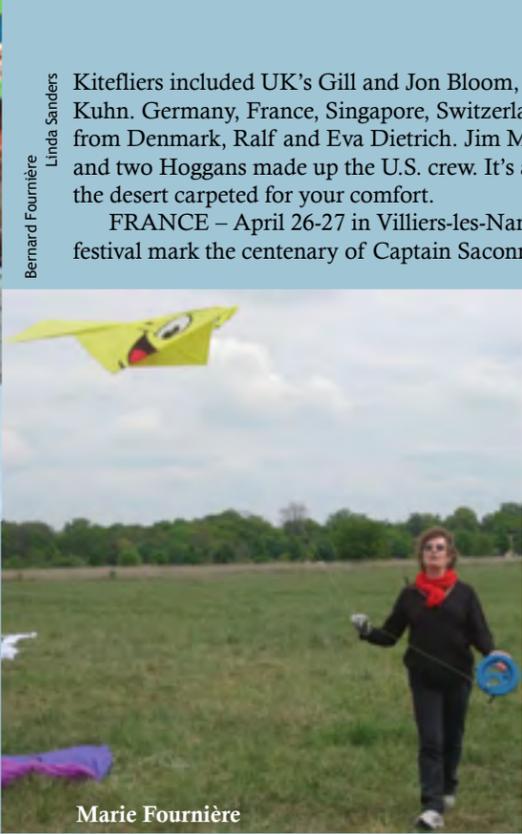
for their 16<sup>th</sup> festival. Facebook for their news (paste *Sthodanslvent* into the Search box). Wow, Ray Bethell’s had another birthday! He says it took four days to answer everyone who wrote, and he wishes he could hear us all sing to him. Slide on up to Swift Current for June 21-22 and the 10<sup>th</sup> Windscape Kite Festival, details at [www.windscapekitefestival.ca](http://www.windscapekitefestival.ca). Easter in Alberta saw the first annual “West Can” kitemaking; Sharon Musto and Bud Taylor, Bev Dockrill, Andrei Chichak and others gathered to make a 29’ snake kite. Even the Easter Bunny came, bringing chocolates and treats. Not to be outdone, the security guard joined in, showing his Somali “aabiteey” kite. The Urban Ninja kitemaking workshop (a Thomas Horvath design) was led by David Tuttle. Everyone confidently completed the task with great results. Watch out for Adrian Conn’s closed-end foil kite soon to be available from Premier Kites. Test flights have been good, he reports.

RUSSIA – Mikhail Genin visited an orphanage in Klin, near Moscow, to fly kites and share his joy with the children. He’s keenly looking forward to the “Day of Russia”, June 12, where kites will be flown in Nizhny Novgorod, “Open Sky 2014”.

NEW ZEALAND – Jim Nicholls (Christchurch area), in between the wet days of autumn, produced his 350<sup>th</sup> kite video in honour of National Kite Month <http://youtu.be/BPXNGF-wlbQ>. Malcolm Hubbert (Auckland area) took his Charlie Watson “pop foil” kite with him on a recent tour of the Chatham Island groups off the east coast from Christchurch. The views? Breathtaking.

KUWAIT – Kevin and I (Australia) joined in the Kuwait International Kite Festival, as organised by Abdulrahman Al-Farsi and team, which was held National Day (25 February) and Liberation Day (26 February).

Max Cardoso



Marie Fournière

Arthur Dibble



A big pile of White Horse Kite Flyers twisted boxes.



Bernard Fournière

Saconney manlifters awaiting flight in Villiers-les-Nancy.

Linda Sanders

Kitefliers included UK’s Gill and Jon Bloom, Kevin Lajoie and Derek Kuhn. Germany, France, Singapore, Switzerland were represented, and from Denmark, Ralf and Eva Dietrich. Jim Martin, Bruce Flora and CJ and two Hoggans made up the U.S. crew. It’s an amazing sight, to see the desert carpeted for your comfort.

FRANCE – April 26-27 in Villiers-les-Nancy saw the Eurovolies festival mark the centenary of Captain Saconney’s man-lifting system, as adopted by the nascent French Army Air force. Marie Fournière’s newly-made kite took to the sky, maybe the first of many?

ENGLAND – The White Horse Kite Flyers’ workshop was standing room only for the twisted box by Jan and Jolanda van Leeuwen. Stunning colours, and every kite a flier. Their next workshop is September 2015.

GERMANY – From Holm Struck, “Kites are my big passion. There is no space for trouble or negative stress. One of my goals in kites is Curaçao and the kite festivals in February.” Holm taught two workshops at Fort Worden, along with Robert Brasington, Dan Kurahashi and Bas Vreeswijk, all with stunning results.



Kuwait International Kite Festival

Malcolm Hubbert in the Chatham Islands.



A very good day at Papalotes en Pozos.



Carol Watson

MEXICO – Wasn’t sure it would happen, but, thanks to Pablo Miller and Glenn Davison, a good time was had by all at 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Papalotes en Pozos. Free as a breeze says it all.

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

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Since the last issue of *Kiting*, the AKA has certainly gone through a few changes. Some of you might even be asking yourself, "Who is this new guy?"

In February of this year, John Barresi resigned his position as President and, in accordance with our bylaws, the duties of President fell to me. I've introduced myself via e-mail, but this may be the first time I've been able to address the entire AKA membership as your President.

Let me start off by offering heartfelt thanks and appreciation to John Barresi. During his time as President he was able to build a unified leadership team that is dedicated to building a better future for the AKA. I wish John well on his next adventure, and thank him for building a great team to work with and solid base for me to stand on.

I come to the AKA as an outsider, never holding office within the AKA before this year, and only having one board meeting under my belt before transitioning into my new role. The last thing I would have imagined was taking over the leadership of our great organization. What I bring to the table is a strong business background, earned as an online retailer in the kiting industry for the last 12 years. I am a web developer in the real world and stunt kiteflier when the wind and time off allows. I am also active in the rebuilding of my community as a volunteer, along with many other business owners and local government and non-profit leaders working as a team, in our very own renaissance. With that said, I really look forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting right to work!

Since I've never been involved in any of the decisions of past Presidents or Boards, I don't feel bound to do things like they've always been done. Although respectful of tradition, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to look at everything with fresh eyes, a fresh approach, and will question why things are being done and will explore how we can make them better.

In the coming months you will see a renewed focus on raising our membership numbers. We are an association dedicated to the education and promotion of kiting so we will want to be proactive

in this area. It is vitally important to recognize that without strong membership numbers, we will not have the resources to adequately perform those functions as we'd like. For the time being, our membership numbers seem to be holding steady, which provides us with a solid foundation to start growing.

During our last board meeting on April 22, the Board of Directors approved the formation of a Marketing Committee, tasked to develop marketing initiatives and messaging that speaks to members and non-members alike. This committee will work with all the standing committees and also focus on developing a strong set of marketing materials. The Board of Directors also approved a Leadership Task Force which will focus on finding and recruiting talented individuals to lead and participate in our standing committees and new projects. It is very important that we get the right people for the right positions. Let's give these committees the support they need to help speak to the next generations of kitefliers and keep our organization going strong.

Financially the AKA, up to this point in the year, is operating under budget and I am optimistic that this will hold for the rest of the year. With the generous support of our members who've donated items, our membership raffles have been doing great. We've also re-opened the AKA General Store, where you can now purchase AKA logo merchandise and other accessories, all of which adds to the bottom line and allows us to offer more and more services to our members.

The sun is shining brightly in the blue sky of the AKA and we have a wonderful Annual Convention planned for everyone! This year's convention will be held in Nags Head, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and it is shaping up to be a lot of fun. Registration forms are included in this issue of *Kiting*, along with all of the convention details. I personally have never been to the Outer Banks, and I'm looking forward meeting all of you there!

I am very excited for the future of the AKA and I am honored and humbled to serve the AKA as your President. We have a very talented, capable leadership team and a Board of Directors that isn't afraid to change things up a bit. We are on solid financial ground, and are moving forward with improvements necessary to grow our organization.

Thank you all for your support. I'll see you all in Nags Head!

*John Lutter*

# AKA NEWS

## AKA History in T-shirts

As the AKA celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, it occurs to us that a lot of kiting history is encompassed on t-shirts. From festival shirts to T's with funny kite slogans, what we wear says a lot about how, why, and where we fly. We want to see your most interesting kite shirts. Send us photos of you wearing some kite history by July 31, and we'll show them to everyone later in the year. Make sure we can read the shirt in the picture! Send your shirt shots to [kitephil@gmail.com](mailto:kitephil@gmail.com).



## Leadership Shuffle

You've probably heard by now, but as spring began several AKA leadership positions changed. John Barresi resigned the presidency, and the job passed to John Lutter. Brett Morris added Second Vice President to his duties as Region Nine Director. Kelly Mayhew-Nunes was appointed to Lutter's post of Region Four Director. Catherine Gabrel took over as Region Eight Director after Guy Blatnick stepped down.

## KAP Rules Changes?

The Kite Aerial Photography Committee made some changes to the rules for the KAP of the Year competition. Before you enter your photo in this year's competition, visit the Kite Photography section on the KiteTalk Forum to see the new rules.

## Show Us Your KAPpie!

First came selfies. Then, thanks to the advent of drones, came dronies. But before all of that were KAPpies... self-portraits taken by kite aerial photographers, like the Cris Benson KAPpie at left. We want to see your best KAPpie, and let *Kiting* readers vote on the best one. To enter, send your KAPpie to [kitephil@gmail.com](mailto:kitephil@gmail.com) by July 31. The photo must be taken in 2014, from a kite, and show the photographer (and anyone or anything else). Online voting will commence in August, with the winning KAPpie printed in the autumn issue.

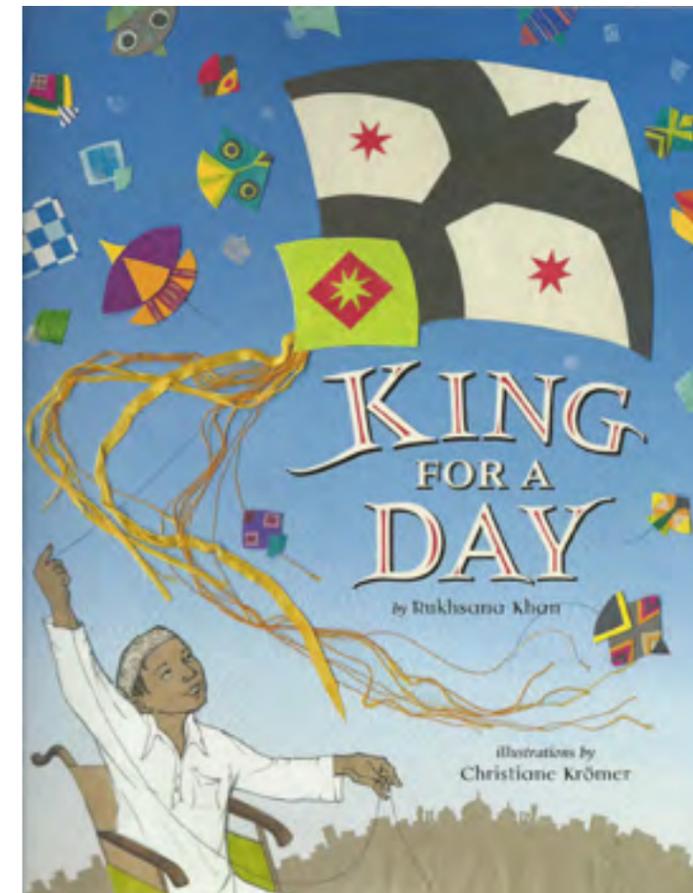
# KITE BOOKS

There simply aren't enough books about fighter kites for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. And there aren't enough books about Pakistani culture for any reading level. *King For A Day* fills both niches, and several more. Pakistani-borne, Toronto-based author Rukhsana Khan has written a children's book that explains the kite fighting tradition of Pakistan's Basant holiday. The young wheelchair-bound hero, Malik, has built a fast fighter, and takes to his rooftop to become the best kite fighter in Lahore. As he cuts down kite after kite with his "special string," he gives the neighborhood bully his comeuppance, and does a kind-



ness for one of the bully's victims. The contemporary story introduces children to a centuries-old holiday tradition in an oft-maligned nation, and teaches a lesson in overcoming life's challenges. The richly textured illustrations by Christiane Krömer, a veteran of showing different cultures and ethnicities, nicely capture the full range of different fighters, and the technique used in fighting.

*King For A Day* is available for \$17.95 from Lee & Low Books, or from a bookseller near you.



# MERCHANT MEMBERS

## ARIZONA

AZ Moonlight Enterprises  
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Tucson, AZ 85740  
520/745-6168  
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1108 Front Street  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
805/772-0133  
[shaunfarmer@msn.com](mailto:shaunfarmer@msn.com)

Harbor Wind and Kite Company  
1575 Spinnaker Drive #107  
Ventura, CA 93001  
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[www.harborwindkite.com](http://www.harborwindkite.com)

Highline Kites Of Berkeley  
6809 Del Monte Avenue  
Richmond View, CA 94805  
510/235-5483  
[www.HighLineKites.com](http://www.HighLineKites.com)

Into The Blue  
11101 S.R. 1  
Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956  
415/663-1147  
[www.into-theblue.com](http://www.into-theblue.com)

Kite Flite Of San Diego  
Seaport Village  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619/234-KITE  
[www.kiteflitesd.com](http://www.kiteflitesd.com)

Must Like Mud  
701 Aldo Avenue, Unit 43  
Santa Clara, CA 95054  
408/914-8812  
[info@mustlikemud.com](mailto:info@mustlikemud.com)

San Francisco Kite Company  
Pier 41, Fisherman's Wharf  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
415/291-8770  
[www.sfkites.com](http://www.sfkites.com)

Second Wind  
1805 N. Highway 1  
Bodega Bay, CA, 94923  
707/875-WIND  
[www.secondwindfun.com](http://www.secondwindfun.com)

Wind & Fun Kites  
Burns Valley Mall  
14824 Olympic Drive  
Clearlake, CA 95422  
707/994-KITE  
[www.windandfunkites.com](http://www.windandfunkites.com)

Up Up And Away Kites  
139½ Main Street  
Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/596-7661  
[www.upupandawaykites.com](http://www.upupandawaykites.com)

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Newport Beach, CA 92661

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Boulder, CO 80302  
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[www.intothewind.com](http://www.intothewind.com)

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Monte Vista, CO 81144  
719/852-3241  
[bug@amigo.net](mailto:bug@amigo.net)

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[www.theflagcompany.us.com](http://www.theflagcompany.us.com)

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Rehoboth, DE 19971  
302/226-KITE  
[www.rehobothkite.com](http://www.rehobothkite.com)

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67 Rehoboth Avenue  
Rehoboth, DE 19971  
302/227-6996

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Extreme Kites  
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St. Augustine, FL 32080  
904/461 9415  
[www.extremekitesonline.com](http://www.extremekitesonline.com)

KiteStop.com Online Store  
[www.kitestop.com](http://www.kitestop.com)

Lighten Up Kites  
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Winter Park, FL 32789  
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Windworks Inc.  
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Zephyr Kites  
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## ILLINOIS

Ade's Kites  
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[www.adeskites.com](http://www.adeskites.com)

Chicago Kite/Kite Harbor  
5445 N. Harlem  
Chicago, IL 60656  
773/467-1428  
[www.chicagokite.com](http://www.chicagokite.com)

The Kite Site  
105 W. Main  
Cabery, IL 60919  
815/953-8303  
[www.thekitesite.net](http://www.thekitesite.net)

## INDIANA

Play With The Wind  
17933 Williamsburg Drive  
Granger, IN 46330  
574/315-6231  
[playwind@comcast.net](mailto:playwind@comcast.net)

Windsongs  
Riverside Market  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219/874-5864  
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Midwest Kites  
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563/823-8337  
[www.midwestkites.com](http://www.midwestkites.com)

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Kansas Kite Connection  
1806 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Great Bend, KS 67530-4110  
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Wind Heaven  
10939 East Harry  
Wichita, KS 67207  
877/604-WIND  
[www.windheaven.com](http://www.windheaven.com)

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41 Shore Road  
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410/289-7855  
[www.kiteloft.com](http://www.kiteloft.com)

Nocturnal Sports  
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203/727-3396  
[www.nocturnalsports.com](http://www.nocturnalsports.com)

## MASSACHUSETTS

Blue Hill Observatory  
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617/696-0562  
[www.bluehill.org](http://www.bluehill.org)

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[www.SeaSideKites.com](http://www.SeaSideKites.com)

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Air-Fun Kites  
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888/AIR-FUN1  
[www.airfunkites.net](http://www.airfunkites.net)

Kiteman Jack's  
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[kitemanjacks@aol.com](mailto:kitemanjacks@aol.com)

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[about-kites@earthlink.net](mailto:about-kites@earthlink.net)

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Lincoln City, OR 97368  
541/994-1004  
[www.NWwinds.biz](http://www.NWwinds.biz)

Northwest Winds - Seaside  
19 Broadway  
Seaside, OR 97138  
541/994-1004  
[www.NWwinds.biz](http://www.NWwinds.biz)

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541/994-5812  
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Grandmaster Kites  
216 W. Third Street, P. O. Box 276  
Mifflinville, PA 18631  
570/759-3167  
[www.grandmasterkites.com](http://www.grandmasterkites.com)

KitesRUs  
1482 River Road  
New Hope, PA 18938  
866/548-WIND  
[www.kitesrus.com](http://www.kitesrus.com)

Rascal Kites  
PO Box 1493  
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[www.rascalkites.com](http://www.rascalkites.com)

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843/744-6410  
[larry@dynakite.com](mailto:larry@dynakite.com)

Kites Fly'n Hi  
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[www.bskites.com](http://www.bskites.com)

Big Mike's Kites  
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Santo, TX 76472  
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[www.familyfunkites.com](http://www.familyfunkites.com)

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[www.gzintlinc.com](http://www.gzintlinc.com)

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[www.itsabreez.com](http://www.itsabreez.com)

Life's A Breeze Kites  
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804/405-4515  
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Renton, WA 98059  
206/713-2366  
[www.bigkidkites.com](http://www.bigkidkites.com)

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Seattle, WA 98103  
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[www.greatwinds.com](http://www.greatwinds.com)

Hi-Flyers  
55 Main Street  
Pacific Beach, WA 98571  
360/276-8377  
[hi-flyers@coastaccess.com](mailto:hi-flyers@coastaccess.com)

Ocean Shores Kites  
172 W. Chance A La Mer  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569  
360/289-4103  
[oceanshoreskites@techline.com](mailto:oceanshoreskites@techline.com)

The Kite Shoppe  
866/ROK-KAKU  
[www.thekitshoppe.com](http://www.thekitshoppe.com)

Pizazz Kiteworks  
PO Box 266  
Coupeville, WA 98239  
360/678-6266  
[www.pizazzkites.com](http://www.pizazzkites.com)

## WISCONSIN

Aerial Stunt Kites®  
121 Wrigley Drive  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147  
262/249-0631  
[www.askites.com](http://www.askites.com)

Fish Creek Kite Company  
3903 Highway 42  
Fish Creek, WI 54212  
920/868-3769  
[www.fishcreekkites.com](http://www.fishcreekkites.com)

Gift of Wings  
1500 N. Lincoln Memorial Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414/273-5483  
[www.giftofwings.com](http://www.giftofwings.com)

Gift of Wings  
9955 W. Saint Martins Road  
Franklin, WI 53132  
414/425-8002  
[www.giftofwings.com](http://www.giftofwings.com)

Unique Flying Objects  
2022 Washington Street  
Two Rivers, WI 54241  
866/UFO-4FUN  
[www.uniqueflyingobjects.com](http://www.uniqueflyingobjects.com)

## WYOMING

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

## AUSTRALIA

Kitepower Queensland  
2/10 -22 Hornbrook Esplanade,  
Clontarf  
Queensland Australia 4019  
(+61) 7 3284 1186  
[www.kitepower.com.au](http://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, VI 3218  
(+61) 3 5221 6908  
[www.kitesmart.com.au](http://www.kitesmart.com.au)  
promo code = AKA2013

OzFeathers  
P. O. Box 758,  
Willunga, SA 5172  
(+61) 8 8556 2681  
[www.ozfeathers.com.au](http://www.ozfeathers.com.au)

## CANADA

Aerosport - NB  
439 Vanier St. E  
Dieppe, NB E1A 6X3  
506/854-4042

Boreal Kites/Gothic Design  
45960 Sparta Line  
Saint Thomas, ON N5P 3S8  
519/775-2527  
[eric@gothicdesign.ca](mailto:eric@gothicdesign.ca)

Great Canadian Kite Company  
4517 Harvest Green  
Taber, AB T1G 1A1  
877/382-3956  
[www.canadiankitecompany.com](http://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](http://www.legiteducerfvolant.ca)

The Kite Guys  
2420 Morris Crescent  
Airdrie, AB T4A 2B8  
[www.kiteguys.ca](http://www.kiteguys.ca)

## JAPAN

AGAIN  
Joyfull Tsurumai 1F  
3-14-16 Chiyoda Naka Ku  
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# AKA DIRECTORY

## american kitefliers association

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## KITING magazine

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Annual Meeting Will Smoot 540/471-4949



Autumn issue deadline: July 20  
Winter issue deadline: October 20  
Spring issue deadline: January 20  
Summer issue deadline: April 20

Send address changes to  
[UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org](mailto: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.

# DEBATABLE

## It's The Same Old Song

Have an opinion? Express yourself on the KiteTalk Forum!

Back in 1994, at one of my first sport kite competitions, I was the field director for a young kiter who did a great ballet routine using the music from a popular cartoon.

Flash forward two decades... and there was that same kiter, a bit older now, on the competition field in Seaside, flying the same routine to the same music.

There's no question that some songs are timeless. But does that mean that we should keep flying to them, over and over, ad nauseum? With all the millions of songs available to choose from, shouldn't competitors pick something new on a regular basis?

I can understand developing just one or two kite ballets during a competition season. Putting together a good routine takes time: picking music, choreographing moves, practicing, practicing, practicing. For teams and pairs, it's even more difficult. So you create one ballet for light winds, another for medium winds. Fly it for a year, maybe two.

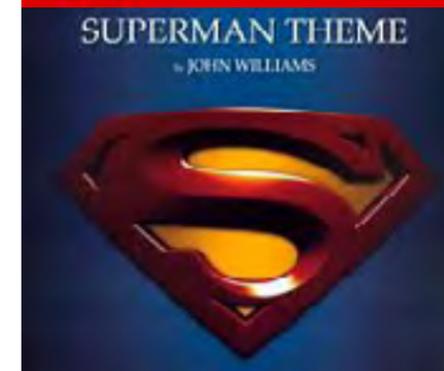
But then, as the song goes, let it go! Pick some new music. Develop a new ballet. Try some new tricks. Change your choreography. Maybe even change kites. If you're using the same music in Masters class that you used in Novice, you're stagnating.

This is particularly true in Open Individual Freestyle, or as it used to be known, Innovative. Part of your score reflects the degree of creativity in your flying. How innovative is it to do the same routine to the same music for several years in a row? Maybe it's time for the judges to force some innovation.

And look at it from the audience's perspective. Do spectators want to see the same show time after time? If your only exposure to kiteflying comes once a year at a local festival, wouldn't it be more exciting to see something new each time, instead of exactly what you saw last year?

Five years ago, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band played one of the best halftime shows in the history of the Super Bowl. And the Boss hasn't been invited back since. The NFL knows that the best way to keep people tuned in and turned on is to shake things up every year. So we get to see Madonna and Bruno Mars and Beyoncé, which isn't exactly a letdown.

If you don't pick new music, people will vote with their feet. And then you won't be using band music, you'll be flying to banned music. ☒



The classics are classics for a reason. People love them. They're instantly recognizable. They're catchy and infectious and you can tap your toe to the beat. That's why we fly to them. There's no reason to change something that already works.

There's also something to be said for giving the people what they want. Have you ever really looked at the audience at a kite competition? There are usually lots of families with small kids, and grey-haired seniors, but not many teenagers and twenty-somethings. So what's going to appeal to them? The theme from a movie that won Oscars a long time ago, or the jarringly metallic sounds of Metallica? Most people watching us fly kites couldn't pick Justin Timberlake out of a lineup, but can quickly conjure images of whip-cracking archaeologists when the theme from *Raiders of the Lost Ark* comes on.

Creating new ballet routines every year is hugely time consuming. Most kites would rather spend that time doing other things: flying shoulder to shoulder with friends, teaching newbies how to fly, or building kites. And this isn't like a 162-game baseball season. There are only a handful of competitions most kites can get to in a season. If you have to spend the first two events of the season breaking in a new ballet, there aren't many more opportunities to fly it after that. By the time it's just right, it's winter. And now we're supposed to start over with a new song?

A lot of kites use ballet routines as demos. We've all seen the Windjammers fly their *America the Beautiful* routine a dozen times. Does it ever get old? Should they change it? The Chicago Fire don't compete anymore, but on the occasions when the whole team gets together at an event, they can pull out the same CD they've been using for years, and everyone on the team knows the routines. *Istanbul (Not Constantinople)* was a great routine back in the day, and it'll still get a crowd cheering today.

So we give them what they want. Maybe *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* has been done to death. It's been 50 years since Mary Poppins took flight, but kites are still evoking her soaring spirit. If a routine won competitions last year, and the crowd cheered, why not use it again? Even Elvis only knew three chords, but he kept using them over and over because they made boys dance and girls swoon. ☒

# PLANNING FOR CERTAINTY

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR KITES WHEN THE INEVITABLE OCCURS? WE ASKED AN ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY FOR ADVICE.

Death and taxes. They're still certainties. Good wind certainly isn't.

And yet we plan for the vagaries of wind. Chances are you've got an ultralight or glider or genki in your bag, for those days when nothing else will stay in the sky. At the other end of the spectrum, you're probably carrying something vented, and a spool of heavier line to tie on when things are blowing sideways.

So why haven't you made plans for the things that are certain to happen? What's going to happen to your kites after you die? If you're smart, you've already made a plan. If you don't care, then anything goes.

It was only a few years ago that a prominent East Coast kitemaker passed away, leaving behind a huge collection of handmade and store-bought kites, with no instructions as to their disposition. He left no will, and his only living relative was an estranged sister. If everything had proceeded according to the letter of the law, chances are that the sister would've eventually become the owner of a large kite collection, which might've then gone straight into a dumpster. Instead, a close friend of the deceased kitemaker staged a daring raid, using a spare key to let himself in and then removing all the kites and kite-making supplies. They've since been auctioned and raffled off, with the proceeds benefitting a well-known kite club. But to be clear, the AKA in no way condones breaking the law like this, even though the ends may have justified the means.

A couple years ago, a Midwestern kiteflier passed away, leaving his widow with a collection that included several large (and valuable) inflatable kites. She wasn't a kiter, and had no need for the kites, but didn't know how to get rid of them. She turned to several experts in the kiting community, presented them with an inventory of the collection, and asked for help in setting a value for each kite. With that information in hand, she was able to sell many of the pieces on eBay, or to interested kites who had read about the situation in online forums.

There's clearly a need to make long-term plans for your kite collection. The logical starting point is with an inventory. What kites do you have? How much did you pay for them? What would they be worth if sold? You need an inventory like this not just for your after-death plans,

but for your insurance policy right now. If your house burned down tomorrow, would you know what kites you owned and how much to file a claim for? Think about it: you probably know the value of insured valuables like jewelry, but what about the value of a kite collection that's probably worth more than your wedding ring? Spend some time with your kites taking stock of what you have. A good inventory list or database — especially if it includes photos — can really pay off.

Next, decide on your plan for what should happen to your kites after your death. In most people's wills, the contents of their home go to a surviving spouse or relative, but that doesn't have to be the case. For instance, it might make more sense for all or some of the kites to be willed to a kite club or another kiteflier. Spell that out in your will so that there's no doubt about it.

But you should also take the additional step of clearly stating what you want the recipient to do with your kites. If you don't care — "I'm giving you these kites so you can go fly them." — that's alright. But if you want the kites to provide a financial benefit, you have to say how. "I would like the club to sell my kites at their annual auction, with the proceeds supporting the SuperDuperAwesome Kite Festival." A simple letter, with copies to your attorney and family and the recipient of your kites, should be sufficient to make your wishes clear. For clarity, you should also designate exactly who should take physical control of the kites. That might be a club officer, a regional director, or just anyone the recipient designates. Alternately, you could ask for your kites to be sold by a family member, with the funds generated by the sale bequeathed to a kite club.

As much as we all enjoy flying our kites, there are serious matters — like safety — that are extremely important but not often discussed. We don't want to talk about it, but we all know it's true: the AKA's membership is aging. More and more, we can expect to be thinking about the disposition of kite collections. Take some time to make your plans now. With the hard decisions out of the way, you'll be better able to enjoy your flying time. ☒



Mike Dallmer

Mike Dallmer



## AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONVENTION

37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

COMPETITION AND  
FESTIVAL

NAGS HEAD, NC

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 4

logo design by Gary Maynard

## Convention Highlights

### Great Kite Auction – Friday Evening

The Great Kite Auction is one of the traditions of AKA Conventions. Everyone has a chance to bid on modern kites, historical treasures and occasionally the Star Farker or its offspring. The Auction is the biggest fundraiser that AKA has so everyone is asked to make a donation or two of kites and kite accessories, and bid as much as you can to make the evening more exciting and help the Association

### Early Bird Reception – Monday Evening

Early arrivals are invited to join other kites and locals at The Blue Crab, a local waterman's tavern. This evening is hosted by HQ Kites and Chris Schulz. This is the first of many opportunities to catch up with long-time friends, and to make new ones. There will even be opportunities to use kayaks and stand-up paddleboards. Everyone is welcome.

### Kite Art Exhibit and Reception – Thursday evening

This year we will enjoy a display of hand-made kites by Christian Baden Powell and a reception hosted by Kitty Hawk Kites and John Harris. Along with the Kite Art Exhibit we will have the Pin and Miniature Kite Challenges, the Kite-athlon, and the opening of the FlyMart. So many exciting things in one evening and so little time for them all.

### “Kite Widows” come see the land of Pirates and the Lost Colony

Activities for the Kite Widows are being lined up; tours to the Currituck Light House, Whalehead Club museum, N. C. Nature Center, Wild Pony Tours, N.C. Aquarium, Ghost Walk at the site of the Lost Colony outdoor drama, and much more. Finally the non-kiter in the family has a reason to come too!

### Schedule of Events

(subject to change)

Monday, September 29, 2014

Early check-in, Auction Receiving, Early Bird Reception

Tuesday, September 30, 2014

Check-in/Registration, Board of Directors Meeting, Workshops, Mass Ascension, Auction Receiving, Opening of the Bag Raffle, Sport Kite Competition, Fighter Kites, free flying and Indoor Competition

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Check-in/Registration, Bag Raffle, Workshops, Mass Ascension, Auction Receiving, Kite-making Competition, Fighter Kites, free flying and Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2014

Check-in/Registration, Bag Raffle, Workshops, Mass Ascension, Auction Receiving, Sport Kite Competition, Fighter Kites, free flying, Kite Art Exhibit, reception, Challenge Night and opening of the Fly Mart

Friday, October 3, 2014

Check-in/Registration, Bag Raffle, Workshops, Mass Ascension, Auction Receiving, Sport Kite Competition, Fighter Kites, free flying, Fly Mart, Banquet and Great Kite Auction

Saturday, October 4, 2014

Bag Raffle Drawings, Workshops, Ground Display, Rokkaku Battle and Awards Banquet

## Basic information

You are encouraged to stay at our host hotel, the Comfort Inn South. Almost all of the indoor activities will be there, shuttles to the kite field will operate from the front door of the hotel and we must have a minimum number of rooms rented to maintain the prices for the meeting, raffle and banquet spaces. Grocery stores, convenience stores and many other stores are located all along the Outer Banks, with some very interesting specialty shops such as the Christmas Mouse and the Decoy Shop. Hospital facilities are three miles north of the hotel, with walk-in medical offices.

## Convention Headquarters

### Comfort Inn South

8031 Old Oregon Inlet Road  
Nags Head, NC 27959  
252/441-6315 You must call this number to get our group rate!

**Rates (not including 12.75% room tax)**  
M-Th Bayfront \$90/night or Oceanfront \$105/night  
F – S Bayfront \$129/night or Oceanfront \$149/night

## Campgrounds

Camp Hatteras  
4250 Resort Rodanthe Drive  
Rodanthe, NC 27968  
http://camphatteras.com  
252/987.2777

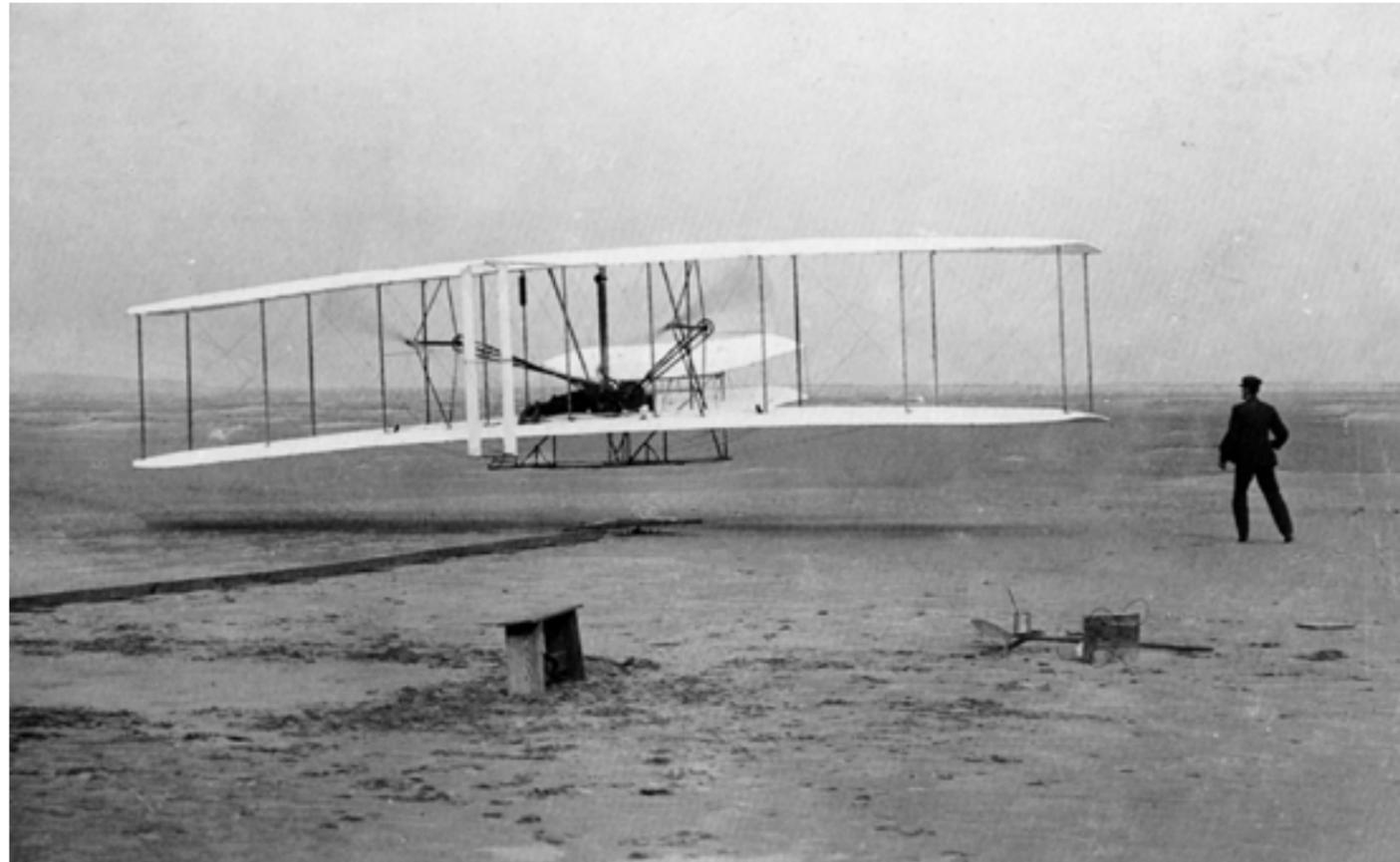
The Refuge at Roanoke Island  
2881 NC Highway 345  
Wanchese, NC 27981  
www.therefuge-roanokeisland.com  
252/473.1096

### Ocean Waves Campground

25313 NC Highway 12  
Waves, NC 27982  
www.oceanwavescampground.com/html/html/index.html  
252/987.2556

## Houses/Condos

Cove Realty (Debbie Conklin) 800/635-7007



## 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 _____	E-MAIL _____		

	QTY	COST	TOTAL
<b>EARLY REGISTRATION</b> <i>postmarked by August 16</i>	<b>BASIC</b>	\$189	
	<b>1-DAY M T W TH F S</b> (circle day)	\$40	
<b>REGULAR REGISTRATION</b> <i>postmarked by September 13</i>	<b>BASIC</b>	\$215	
	<b>1-DAY M T W TH F S</b> (circle day)	\$45	
<b>LATE REGISTRATION</b> <i>postmarked after September 13</i>	<b>BASIC</b>	\$240	
<b>AND AT THE DOOR</b>	<b>1-DAY M T W TH F S</b> (circle day)	\$50	
Child Registration 20% discount			
Banquet Tickets	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday	\$35	
Registration Total			
Cloisonné Pin		\$8	
Convention Logo Patch		\$8	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$25	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	\$30	
Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	\$35	
Ladies Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$25	
Ladies Short Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	\$30	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$30	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	\$35	
Long Sleeve T-Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	\$40	
Polo Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$40	
Polo Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	\$44	
Polo Shirt	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	\$49	
Hoodie	<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL	\$48	
Hoodie	<input type="checkbox"/> XXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXL	\$58	
Hoodie	<input type="checkbox"/> XXXXL <input type="checkbox"/> XXXXXL	\$62	
Merchandise Total			
Order Total			

**PAYMENT METHOD** Visa Mastercard Discover AmEx Check

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Register online at [www.kite.org](http://www.kite.org)! Or mail this form to PO Box 22365 Portland, OR 97269.

## 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 to compete.

### One Day Registration

Allows access to all of the scheduled activities 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 15 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 \$35 per ticket. You do not have to be registered to buy and attend any of the banquets. Tickets must be purchased one day prior to the first banquet.

please check the following where applicable

This is my first AKA Convention

I plan to enter the Sport Kite Competition (must have an invitation to compete)

I plan to enter the Kitemaker's Competition with  # kites

I plan to enter the Fighter Kite competition

I would like Vegetarian meals

I have the following accessibility needs:

I am willing to help in the following areas. I will arrive on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ around \_\_\_:\_\_\_ AM PM

Auction  Receiving  Set-Up  Runner  Cashier

Sport Kite Competition  Judge  Field Director  Pit Boss  Other

Kitemaker Competition  Judge  Registration  Field Staff

### Waiver

In consideration for the right to compete, as well as participate in the American Kitefliers Association 37<sup>th</sup> Convention and Grand National Competition (the Event) I hereby hold the American Kitefliers Association, the City of Nags Head, the Comfort Inn South, 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. (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 \_\_\_\_\_



## AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

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37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL

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NAGS HEAD, NC

## KITES ON TAP

Barrie, Ontario, is about an hour north of Toronto. The population is over 136,000 but it still has that charming small town feel to it. Barrie's Winterfest, on February 1-2, generates interest from fliers in Ontario and New York too! The gang was looking forward to this year's ice fly.



Gary Mark

Saturday started with some low winds, so several of us went over to the local Flying Monkey microbrewery for sampling and a tour. Their Amber Ale has a kite on the label. It obviously was our favorite choice! After some fun chatting around the bar we had a quick tour and headed back to the flying field.

The winds had finally made an appearance. We managed to put up several kites, large and small. The kites generated a lot of interest and questions from the wandering crowds, two police officers and even the Red Bull girls handing out free refreshments to all. Many gravitated towards the three cherubs dancing in the sky. We managed to get several of the spectators flying our kites. Hand and boot warmers were essential gear for keeping us all nice and toasty.

This year they added the theme of ice and fire to the

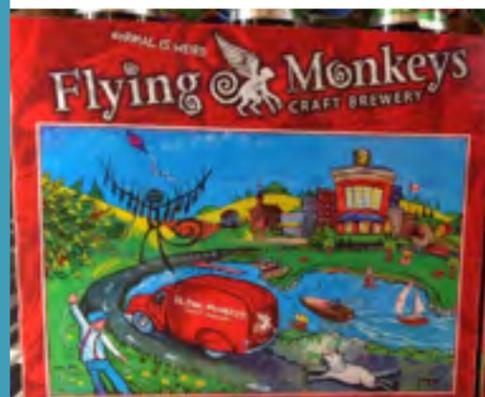
event. We all enjoyed watching the evening show with several fire juggling buskers! It was great fun flying our kites and being part of a truly great annual event! ☒



Thom Shanken, Geoff Maher and Kevin Reynolds



Carlos Simoes



## NORTHERN ROTORS by Sharon Musto

Airdrie (Alberta) High School science teacher Nicole Johnston was exploring alternative energy sources with her students and invited me to build kites with them. The rotor kite lends itself well to studying the Magnus Effect and using kites to generate power, but I have to admit, when it comes to classroom kites I tend to recommend the tried and true. The anticipated success rate has to be 100%. The rotor kite was not on my list of sure-fliers. In fact, I'd never made one before.

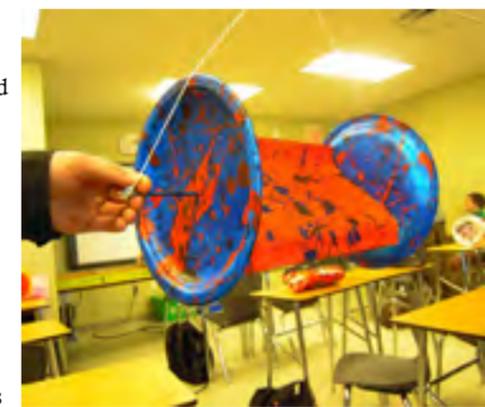
We followed the plans in Lee Toy's *Flight Patterns*, with only one minor hardware change: instead of head-pins, we used eyelet screws. Also, rather than whipping the ends of the rotor axis (hardwood dowel), students wrapped theirs with masking tape.

The project was completed over four separate days spread over several weeks. The first day was spent preparing the rotor vanes; the glue needed time to dry before the Styrofoam

plates could be attached. The second session was devoted to gluing the plates onto the vanes, forming the rest of the rotor assembly. Again, these required drying time. The next session was spent painting the kites. The last step was attaching a bridle and that part was quick and easy. Students were excited to go outside to fly them immediately. Winds were a bit on the low side, enough to

get the kites spinning but not quite enough to provide decent lift. The next day, however, offered higher winds and... lift off! SUCCESS!

Have a look at the website they've been working on [www.potentialkiteenergy.weebly.com](http://www.potentialkiteenergy.weebly.com). ☒



# K - MAIL

Kudos to the AKA Board for approving the “Indoor Kite Committee” and the “Indoor Single Line Ballet discipline”, per Scott Davis’ nice report in the Spring 2014 issue of *Kiting*.

I am even more pleasantly surprised with the making of a special category for Single Line Ballet, out of Indoor Kite Flying. The very enthusiastic response to Single Line Ballet makes my heart really warm.

In response to Scott’s request, here are some thoughts about Indoor Single Line Ballet. The central concept should be art rather than technique. Theater-like art, expressed by the music, pilot’s dressing, pilot’s bodily movements, pilot-kite relationship with each other and

with the theme of the fly, choreography, lighting, props, et cetera.

The art of Indoor Single Line Ballet should have a sense of small space indoor intimacy. The smallest space in the kiting world, while in juxtaposition, the biggest space now belongs to kitesurfing: no less than the Atlantic Ocean (Eric Little knows all about it.)

Small and big, that’s great. These are good signs for the AKA. They suggest that we are getting out-of-the box to flying in the extremes and in between, with much more to be discovered in the art, fun and craft of kiting.

— Nelson Borelli

# EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

## Bob Enright

Bob Enright, age 72, of Fairfield, CT, passed away on April 11. Bob was a retired firefighter for the Town of Fairfield. He was a veteran of the US Navy, serving from 1961-1965 during the Cuban Missile Crisis aboard the USS Enterprise.

Bob and Martha Enright joined the ConnectiKites Club in 1992 and were at the club’s first Kite Sewing Workshop in 1994. They became fixtures at workshops and events. Even when they were both on walkers, they would come out to club activities and help out wherever they could. Bob entered his 12’ delta at the 2005 AKA Convention, winning 3<sup>rd</sup> place in his class. Bob was a great friend of kiting and kites, on and off the field. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Gary Engvall



## Mary Ann Hickman 1948-2014

Mary Ann was married to Mel for over 35 years. They spent many wonderful years together bird watching, traveling to places such as the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Arches, Canyon Lands, and more. The Oregon coast was where they lived for over ten years and Mel was introduced to the world of kiting.

In years past, Mary Ann became an experienced whitewater rafter and manned her own raft. She was always excited to spend a few days on the river and this became the great joy in her life. She was part of a group that called themselves “Wild Women of the River.” This was a river rafting group that would tackle some of Oregon’s toughest Class 4 whitewater. There were many memorable times on the river and she helped save lives of people who ended up in the river without their boat and life jackets.

Mel and Annie joined the Society for Creative Anachronism, a medieval re-creation group that gets together with fabulous costumes and elaborate tents for weekend festivals. Annie loved the fancy costumes and sewed outfits for her and Mel. She especially enjoyed the battles. That brought out her fighting Celtic blood.

In the last years of her life, Mary Ann was able to indulge her creative abilities using the medium of polymer clay. She created whimsical creatures, cats and dragons. Annie loved dragons, the more colorful the better. She made a large dragon with a knight on his horse atop the dragon’s back. That piece has magnets to attach to the hood of Mel and Annie’s car. That attracted many laughs and mystified stares and was an example of her quirky humor. She was a unique talent and Mel and I miss her very much but will remember the fun and the laughter she bought to those who loved her.

Debra Waterston



# EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

## Richard Dermer 1939-2014

Vintage kites from all over the world hang from the ceiling and walls of the late Richard Dermer’s popular Hideaway Pizza restaurant in Stillwater, Oklahoma — and that’s only a fraction of his collection. To many locals, the kites might just seem like another piece of quirky décor. But not so. Dermer, who spoke with us before he passed away in March 2014, was an avid kite enthusiast, and each has a personal meaning.

It’s easy to overlook the kites, because the original Hideaway, located across the street from Oklahoma State University, has become a local institution for myriad reasons: the joint introduced the exotic cuisine known as “pizza” to northern Oklahoma in the late 1950s. When Dermer took over in 1960, he encouraged his college-age staff to think creatively. Dermer’s wife, Marti, decorated one wall with a collage from magazines like *Life* and *Oklahoma Today*. Then, he purchased a series of cheap Volkswagen Beetles for delivery cars, which he let his staff go crazy painting like Herbie the Love Bug, lady bugs, and psychedelic tie-dye patterns.

In the 1970s, Dermer and his Hideaway manager, Gary Gabrel, both chess players, got hooked on playing board games, particularly the Asian game called Go, into the wee hours of the morning.

After establishing a successful game company, Gabrel attended a national toy fair in the early 1980s and returned with a two-string Skynasaur stunt kite. He asked Dermer to fly it with him. That set the Dermers on a journey that led to Richard becoming the longtime regional director and the 1997-1999 president of the American Kitefliers Association, where he helped develop and shape the modern concept of stunt kiting. The couple, who have two sons, have also traveled the world, visiting China, Japan, India, New Zealand, England, France, and Denmark to learn and teach about kites. They often put on educational programs about kites for schoolchildren. And of course, they amassed an international kite collection.

Gabrel, who got the kites wholesale thanks to his toy-industry connections, talked several of their friends into buying and flying Skynasaurs. Then, in summer of 1984, they heard an announcement on KATT 100.5-FM that the Oklahoma City radio station would be sponsoring the state’s first-ever Skydancer Kite Festival, with a stunt-kite competition.

“So four of us piled into the car and drove to the city,” Dermer says, who remembers the contest had no rules. “We were flying Skynasaurs and the other 16 were flying stunt kites that weren’t as good. We had the better toys, and because of that, we finished first, second, third, and fifth out of 20.”

Afterward, Gabrel put in a call to the Skynasaur headquarters in

Colorado and let the company know about their victory. The company offered to foot the hotel bill if the group was willing to represent Skynasaur at the American Kitefliers Association convention in Nashville, Tennessee, the following month.

“So we go to the convention and discover there are several hundreds of these adult kite flyers who are passionate about their hobby,” Dermer says. “I had no idea this little subculture existed. We got skunked in the competition because it was light wind and our kites wouldn’t fly.”

But Dermer and Gabrel met a man at the convention who had been tasked with putting together an American team for the second Weifang International Kite Festival in Weifang, Shandong, China, in April 1985. Richard Dermer asked his wife, Marti, if a trip to China would be a suitable 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary present, and she said yes.

“When we got back from China, people said, ‘Wow, you must know all there is to know about kites,’” Dermer says. “No, I didn’t. I was very much a novice, but I started learning. And the more we got into going to kite festivals and collecting kites, the more I discovered and the deeper the subject became. My kite-book library now runs over a hundred volumes. I learn stuff new every time I go to an event. And I think the kites out in the garage are multiplying when the lights are out.”

Lately, the Dermers’ particular fascination is miniature kites, and they have several hundred, many of which are displayed in cases at a Hideaway dining room. The couple learned miniature-kite building at a workshop led by a renowned expert named Charlie Sotich. Soon, they were involved with a worldwide community that makes, trades, and

collects these tiny kites.

Besides attending kite festivals, putting on educational programs for schoolchildren, and keeping the kite displays at the Hideaway, the Dermers find clever ways to spread kite love wherever they go.

“When we go to somebody’s wedding, the reception always has those little napkins with the bride and groom’s names and wedding bells printed on them,” Dermer says. “You can separate the layers of tissue and get one thin tissue with the name of the bride and the groom. We always bring a little bit of bamboo, monofilament fishing line, sewing thread, and glue. In about 20 minutes, bingo, we’ve made a couple of wedding kites for the happy couple we can present on the spot. We’ve got a lot of those out there.”

*Richard Dermer was the AKA’s Regional Director of the Year in 1991, and Volunteer of the Year in 2007. He won the Robert Ingraham Award in 2000, and the Steve Edeiken Award (with wife Marti) in 2012. The preceding was excerpted from Love at First Kite: How Pizza and Pente Led to One Oklahoman’s High-Flying Obsession, in Collectors Weekly, by Lisa Hix, April 22, 2013.*



# EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

## Charlie Sotich 1933-2014

If Charlie Sotich sold his work by the pound, he would be the highest-paid craftsman in the world.

Sotich is a kite maker, but he does not design the diamonds and dragons that skate across windy April skies. His tiny kites — which he builds out of napkins, postage stamps, sugar packets, and squares of Mylar — are meant to be flown indoors, sailing at the end of sewing thread or silk filament. Outside of Japan, homeland of this precious art, no one makes miniature kites better.

“There are a lot of people who make very nice kites,” says Scott Skinner, president of the Drachen Foundation, an international kite fliers association. “But Charlie is consistently at the top of the heap.”

In April, Skinner took a collection of American kites to Japan for the Fourth Great Miniature Kite Contest. Sotich was the only non-Japanese to win a prize: he took first in the best-in-flight category.

“There’s a very active group and following of miniature kites in Japan,” Skinner says. “Certainly people who are into miniature kites there know Charlie.”

Al Sparling, who knows Sotich through the Chicagoland Sky Liners, a local kite club, once saw one of Sotich’s creations auctioned off for \$55. That doesn’t sound like much, but the kite weighed 0.00035 ounces, making it worth \$2.5 million a pound.

I met the craftsman at Heiwa Terrace, an Uptown retirement home for Asian-Americans where he teaches origami and other crafts. Japanese culture has clearly rubbed off on Sotich. One of his students, Frank Fujimoto, calls him tako-kichigai — kite crazy. Samples of his work — paper animals, ribbons twisted into fish — swing from the ceiling. Sotich has also brought his kites, which he keeps pinned in display cases, like the butterflies whose size and fragility they share. One is made from a Pokemon napkin, another from the cover of a Smucker’s jelly packet. All bear his “chop” — a stamp with the Japanese characters for “small” and “kite.”

In a clear plastic box, Sotich stores another kite too oddly shaped and too artistically bland to be pinned among the rest.

“I call this my square soap bubble,” he says, shaking out a cube of transparent Mylar. He elongates his flying wand — a radio antenna with an alligator clip — and clamps it onto the nearly invisible line. Sotich’s kites would be tattered by wind, so he flies them indoors, making his own breeze by swishing the wand over his head. The cube rises, then floats stiffly around the room, a bubble that will never burst, a bubble you can hold in your hand.

Sotich’s first hobby was building model airplanes, but in the mid-1970s he went with some coworkers to the WIND Kite Festival, where he first saw miniature kites. At the time he was working as a mechanical engineer, building circuit boards for Western Electric. The kites appealed to his skill for precision, as well as his fascination with flight.

“Anything that flies,” he says. “I go for a morning walk and I go

past a park that has pigeons. I watch seagulls. The way they fly, it’s just fascinating. They balance, and if you look closely you can see the tail pivot. When I go on a trip and I see a couple of hawks on the road, I love to watch that.”

With kites, “you’re making something fly, overcoming gravity, imitating the birds,” he explains. “Although the kites don’t come close.”

Sotich’s friends are always handing him odd scraps and suggesting he turn them into kites. This month, Sparling gave him a napkin from a Chinese restaurant in Portsmouth, England. I ask him to make

a kite out of a dollar bill. Sotich — who has done origami with money — takes a mint-crisp dollar from his wallet, folds it in half, bends the top corners outward, and tapes a piece of string about a third of the way from the edge, on the Treasury Department seal.

“Ideally, it’s supposed to be 35 percent from the top,” he says. “I’m a nitpicker.” The dollar drags and flutters through the air — “oscillating and galloping” are the words he uses — so Sotich adds two tails of tinsel. It still drags and flutters. Money can buy a swift kite but it can’t make one. He offers to sell the kite to me for a dollar, which seems like a bargain, considering the work he’s put into it. Then he settles down with more familiar material: a napkin.

Watching Sotich work is like watching a cooking or painting show on public television: focus on a pair of nimble hands, punctuated by spare, disembodied comments. Sotich peels the napkin apart, cuts out a five-inch square, and tries to flatten out the crease. At home he’d do it with an iron, but here in the craft room of Heiwa Terrace he has to use his hands. To make

a spar, the backbone of the kite, he slices a whisker-thin sliver from a strand of bamboo once used in a wok brush.

The cross spar is monofilament fishing line, and the tail is two strands of tinsel. On a test flight, the corners of the napkin bend upward as the kite arrows through the room’s still air.

“You can make one of these probably in half an hour, if you get a little help and guidance,” Sotich says. “The nice thing about making these kites is I make ‘em at home and I test fly ‘em, and I get my fix every day.”

Since Sotich retired from Western Electric, he’s flown all over the world behind his kites. Twice he has been a guest at Japanese kite festivals. EPCOT Center in Orlando invited him to its World Festival of Kites in 1995. Next spring, he’ll teach a kite club in Washington State.

Sotich has even written a book on his passion. He keeps a copy in the pocket of his plaid shirt, which in engineer fashion is cluttered with pencils, business cards, and even a magnifying glass. It takes a moment for him to find *General Rules for Small Kites*. The book is smaller than a postage stamp, and its print is barely legible. The best advice is at the end, on page 11: “Keep it light.”

*Charlie Sotich won the Steve Edeiken Award in 1991, and Lee Toy Award in 2003. The preceding article, by Ted Kleine, appeared in the Chicago Reader in November 2001.*



# EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

## Tal Streeter 1934-2014

Tal Streeter, sculptor and writer of *The Art of the Japanese Kite* passed away on April 17 in Santa Fe, NM. His art and writing were an important link between the worlds of art and kites.

Born in Oklahoma City, Tal grew up in Manhattan, Kansas, a small college town surrounded by a landscape of sky, soaring radio towers, and waving tall grass. This was to have a visceral impact on his work as an artist and writer. Following his education at the University of Kansas, Streeter moved to New York in the 1950s, immersing himself in a tremendously creative and experimental period in American contemporary art.

In the mid-Sixties Streeter started a series of large-scale outdoor public sculptures titled *Red Lines to the Sky*. The best known of these sculptures in the United States, *Endless Column*, was first exhibited in New York City’s Central Park, next to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A 70’ tall minimalist masterpiece, Streeter’s zigzagging red line into the sky is the tallest sculpture exhibited in the public environs of the City. Later it entered the permanent collection of Storm King Art Center, an hour north of New York City.

After the installation of *Endless Column*, Streeter moved to Shizuoka, Japan, to study traditional Asian kitemaking. While there, he had a seminal gallery show at the Minami Gallery (1970), from which the Museum of Modern Art purchased work for their permanent collection. This was the first time kites were shown as art.

Extensive travel in Asia and the Pacific in the ensuing years resulted in essays and books, notably *The Art of the Japanese Kite*. Joining Eastern and Western cultures in their common fascination with the sky and the dream of flight, Streeter’s writing on Japan and its kitemaking traditions and festivals was an immediate classic. The book was a powerful influence on many artists and kitemakers around the world.

The use of the word “art” in relation to something hereto considered a “craft” was no accident. He wrote, “Kites were never simply craft for me, nor were they children’s toys. I recognized that they represented a startling departure from the western categories of art... I wondered if ‘play’ was not somehow imbedded inside serious art.”

Upon his return to the United States he continued a personal commitment to both sculpture and kites. With Jackie Matisse in France, and Curt Asker in

Sweden, they became the western world’s first kite “sky artists,” making and flying their kites in public festivals and exhibiting kites in prestigious galleries and museums around the world. Their show and accompanying book, *Art That Flies*, at the Dayton Art Institute in 1990, proposed yet again kites as art.

Along with four other kite artists at the Fundación Pilar et Joan Miro in Majorca, Spain (1995), they compiled the first *Kite Art Manifesto*: “The primary, simple kite is a vehicle which speaks of joining the spirit and the physical. Kites, then, are tools, mediums of expression in space, meditations on space: structures and surfaces, colors and forms interacting... visual, aural, tactile... The kite line connects the human hand and mind with the elements. Kites offer artists unparalleled opportunity for play, to explore, to experiment, manipulating scale and distance, making an immense space visible, unlocking the imagination...”

Tal was a true public artist who rose above the confines of gallery and museum. He had an eye for the big picture, a powerful understanding of the wonder of flight, and a deep appreciation of the tender and thoughtful response to kites and the sky evoked in a child. For his *Flying Red Line*, he commissioned a 500 ft<sup>2</sup> parafoil with a five mile long red tail. He saw the entire sky as his canvas, and added a vibrant red brush stroke that extended to the limits of human vision and the curvature of the earth.

He has monumental sculpture and work in museum collections across the United States, including the Museum of Modern Art, Storm King Art Center, High Museum of Art, Wadsworth Athenaeum, Milwaukee Art Center, San Francisco Museum of Contemporary Art, and the New Jersey State Library for the Blind, among many others. His last sculpture show occurred right after his first stroke, at the Kansas State Beach Museum of Art in his hometown of Manhattan.

The Friends of the Sky Foundation was established in Santa Fe in 2012 to preserve Tal’s vision and collection of works. The 2000 ft<sup>2</sup> headquarters for this nonprofit artist foundation will be completed in fall of 2014, and provide an exceptional work and living space for visiting artists, writers, and kitemakers, with intimate access to Tal’s books, writings, photographs, artwork, sky-related material, Asian and Sky Art collection in a retreat environment under the enormous New Mexico sky that inspired much of his work and writing.

*David Wagner and Lissa Streeter*

*Tal Streeter won the Lee Toy Award in 1999.*





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AND BRETT HOWARD



# VOICES FROM THE VAULT

## Marla Miller

by Patti Gibbons

You learn a lot by leaving your country," and with around fifty kite trips to the United Kingdom under her belt, Marla Miller appreciates firsthand how kites and international travel help you better understand the sport and admire other cultures. Never traveling much before kites became her passport to adventure, in the early 1990s Marla joined the Westport Windriders and pored over fellow club member Doug Hagaman's travel slides. Doug flew at a kite festival in England and Marla begged to see his slides over and over and over again. Tired of narrating but recognizing her genuine interest, Doug asked, "Why don't you just go there?" The proverbial light bulb blazed above her head and "that's when we put the first trip together." Inspired and excited, Marla set out with ten fellow Windriders for England on her first foreign kite trip and kicked off a lifelong series of journeys that opened doors internationally, brought her friendships from faraway lands, and inspired her to take up leadership roles in organized kiting.

Looking back, Marla remembers being "a little intrigued by kites, but I never got involved." Watching casually from the sidelines, "I was a spectator until '91." At that time Marla worked in a flower shop, and on Christmas Eve she "sent all the girls home" and let one last customer slip into the shop. The collective holiday hustle and bustle verged on chaos in the shopping district, and "people were outside just honking and complaining." With the stress of the season nearing a breaking point, an exhausted Marla remembers telling the

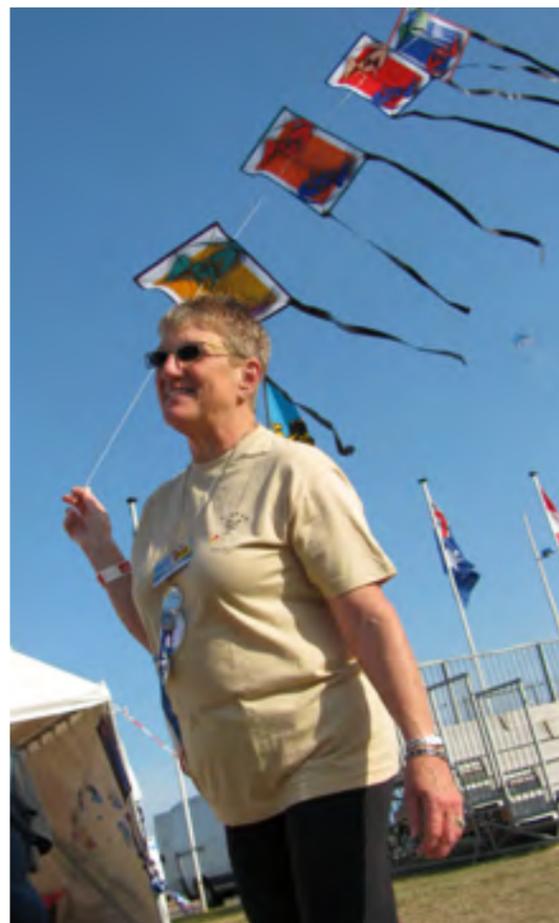
last-minute shopper, "I would like to go to the beach and stick my toes in the sand and just sit there." The man was a beachgoer and told Marla he enjoyed flying kites with others at the coast. Recognizing a glint of enthusiasm in her reaction, he asked, "Would you like to go with us?" The holidays passed and two weeks later she and her husband Ron joined their new friend at the beach in Westport, WA. Intrigued by his stack of sport kites, her unofficial mentor generously invited her on a test drive. As his helping hands passed

the lines to her and he let go, Marla says she "went about twelve feet down the beach on my bum." People laughed, but Marla dusted herself off and was excited by the fun. Pinpointing the moment her life changed, Marla recalled, "That was it, we were hooked."

Riding the wave of exhilaration, the Millers headed to the nearest kite shop and bought their first kite. Soon after, "we bought more kites and more kites, we kept flying, got more involved with the Westport Windriders," and even "started volunteering a bit." Marla remembers their salad days fondly, especially the trips up and down the West Coast where they caravanned in motorhomes with fellow Windriders to kiting events. Marla and Ron joined a merry band and reveled in their newfound kite fun.

Though the Millers mostly tote store-bought kites, Ron's interest in kitemaking led them to explore the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference during their first year or so in kiting. While there, newcomer Marla bought tickets for the raffle and ruffled feathers when her terrific beginner's luck won her fourteen kites. More than just a fortunate windfall, her triumph got Marla interested in kite raffles. The following year, while Ron was busy with his kite classes, Marla lent a hand behind the scenes and learned the ins and outs of charity raffling. From there, she got involved with the AKA's convention raffle. Poised for an overhaul, Marla tinkered with the format, groomed the rules, and in doing so shaved over two hours from the raffle's timeframe. Nearly singlehandedly she helped the club's cash cow grow more successful, but Marla downplays her raffle achievements noting, "I'm just a little aggressive in selling tickets." [Editor's note: A little aggressive? She's reached into my back pocket and removed my wallet!]

Throughout her time in kiting, Marla continued meeting more



people and increasingly got more deeply involved with club activities. In 2001 AKA president David Gomberg approached Marla and asked her to take up a board position. Newly entering the post-9/11 world, for Marla the timing was off. It was a tense period, "I decided to back off for a year," but the following term she accepted the invitation and became a regional director. Serving dutifully, after six years she jumped up to become a director-at-large and helped the AKA further its kiting mission.

Maintaining a brisk international kiting schedule, while continuing to serve kiting nationally through the AKA, Marla also remains active with her local kite club. In 2007 she began her term as president of the Westport Windriders. With a tireless can-do attitude, in 2008, Marla won the AKA's Ingraham Award for her years of service to kiting. In looking back and considering the future, longtime kiter Marla Miller has her eyes on younger members, remarking, "I would like to find a way to really bring them in more" and "keep this all going." ☒



Marla Miller (front row, second from left) with some of the Westport Windriders.

These articles are based on interviews recorded for the World Kite Museum's Oral History Project. The Museum's growing interview archive captures kite memories, experiences, and thoughts from kite enthusiasts and notable fliers. As a former intern Patti Gibbons helped launch the oral history program and remains involved as author of these articles. If you would like to be an interviewer or get involved in any other way, please contact the World Kite Museum at [info@worldkitemuseum.com](mailto:info@worldkitemuseum.com).



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## Red Red Wadi Rum Red

by Jim Powers

During the Arab Revolt of 1917-18 against the Ottoman Empire, T.E. Lawrence roamed the sands of the great Wadi desert, leading a band of desperate men. A true story of adventure. I wonder if he flew kites.

The vast Wadi deserts are covered in red sand with distinctly red mountain peaks thundering into the blue sky above. You can see for many miles. From the top of Mount Um Dami you can see the Red Sea and the Saudi frontier. The Wadi Rum desert is on the eastern side of the Arabian Peninsula near the Saudi border.

Today was a good day. A kite, a bit of wind, bright sun, red sand, a four wheel drive vehicle with half a tank of gas and the open desert to explore. Our local Bedouin guide from Rum village pointed the truck east and we were off into the vast red Wadi desert.

The wind was light and variable, but hey, we were in a desert with a bright sun cooking up. Dust devils skipped across the horizon.

Our first stop was near one of the prominent peaks that jump out of the ground with big red sand dunes wrapped around one side. The folks I was traveling with embarked on a hike up the dunes to the top of the mountain. My Bedouin guide and I had a better idea: go fly a kite! I pulled out my big BKT dopero kite and after a few minutes the big orange and white kite was finding its way up into the skies above the Wadi Rum with smiles around. The first time kiter, my Bedouin guide, was enchanted.

I pulled out my autoKAP rig with the Sony NEX-5t camera and Sony 20mm lens, dusted off some red sand and stuck it on the kite line and prayed for a few more minutes of usable wind. The wind popped up and the kite shot high into the sky above the nearby peak that my friends had just summited. Then the wind pooped out. My guide and I found ourselves scampering up one side of a hill trying to keep the KAP rig and kite up in the air, but this rescue effort was short-lived as the wind reversed directions and began to blow towards me. Not the best feeling as everything up in the air was coming down quickly. The hillside scampering bought some time to save the KAP rig and avoid sticking the kite up high on the mountainside. The KAP rig was the first to meet rock. Lucky for me the ground (or I should say red rock) dropped off below me and I was able to soften the landing for the KAP rig. The kite came down on the other side of the hill out of sight in the red sands below with the line stretched out for close to 100 meters



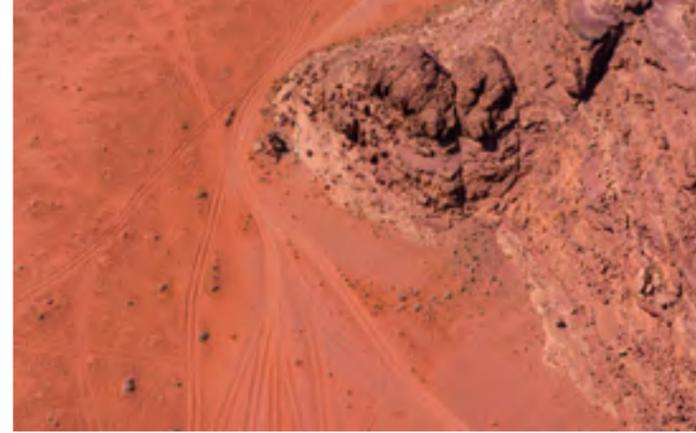
across the craggy rock. A few minutes was required to recover the line and kite with help from my guide. Total flight time was maybe 15 minutes. The camera, KAP rig and kite survived the scare and crash.

We resumed our expedition into the deep wadi passing by cliffs and natural arches. We seemed like mere specks in the sand compared to vast landscapes all around. We stopped along the way to visit a few wild camels. Lawrence felt the same, stating, "Our little caravan fell quiet, afraid and ashamed to flaunt its smallness in the presence of the stupendous hills."

The wind remained soft and unflyable for most of the day. We pulled up to a small rise in the vast open red sands of the wadi to watch the sun set which is always special in the desert. Again, my friends headed for a nearby hill to take in the sights. The wind was 0-3MPH. Not promising at all. Undeterred I set up my big dopero and tried close to five long line (100+ meters) launches to try and catch any whispers of wind higher up, but to no avail. The big dopero floated back to the ground after each try. I threw in the towel and used my Stratospool to wind in the line.

Hope is always nearby and so is the wind! I decided to leave my kite assembled and ready to go (always hopeful) near the waypoint where we stopped, and just enjoy the setting sun. Perfect time for some Frisbee with my guide in the middle of the desert. Our guide had built a small fire and had some hot tea heating up. A good day!

The solar cycle plays an important role with wind, especially in the deserts. As the sun began to set the soft wind reversed direction by almost 180°. The wind speed quickly rose above 5MPH and just as quickly I put down the Frisbee and stuck my kite into the emergent wind. With a smile on our faces my guide and I watched the kite quickly climbed into the vast sky above. The auto KAP rig swiftly followed, with just a short pause to tweak the camera settings (higher ISO and larger aperture opening to swallow as much light as possible). The



KAP rig followed the kite high into the evening sky. A race was on to get high while the wind and setting sunlight were still around. At least the moon was rising!

A special KAP session commenced with a high set of the kite and KAP rig, most likely over 500 meters high in the evening sky. The kite, with the last sun beams lighting it up, was

just a dot high above us with the moon rising and the sun setting. The red evening sky, mountains and red sand produced a spectacular canvas in the heavens above and the earth below to enjoy. My guide and I took turns just holding the kite line and reel. As we sat near the fire sipping tea the surface winds dropped off. We could clearly hear the soft voices of my friends on top of the nearby hill over 300 meters away. Time stood still and the desert air did the same... near the ground. High above the wind stayed steady, the dopero and KAP rig held their own and we just enjoyed the moment flying the kite in the middle Wadi desert. We had close to an hour drive in front of us into the deep desert to reach our Bedouin camp for the night, but we were in no rush. The kite stayed in the air for close to an hour. The Stratospool did its magic and quickly retrieved the line. It was near dark when the KAP rig and kite were finally safely back on the ground.

Later that night at the camp we had a wonderful dinner cooked in the traditional way under a mound of sand around a camp fire. We shared stories and reviewed pictures on the back of the camera. The Bedouins and friends enjoyed a few glimpses of the KAP images from the skies high above. More smiles, a good way to end the day for this brief visit to the red sands of the Wadi Rum desert in the Arabian Peninsula.

"No man can live this life and emerge unchanged. He will carry... the imprint of the desert... and he will have within him the yearning to return... For this cruel land can cast a spell which no temperate climate can match." — T.E. Lawrence ☒

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## FRENCH CONNECTION

TEAM EVIDENCE'S KRISTIAN SLATER GOES FROM COLLEGE TO COMPETITION DURING A WEEK AT THE WORLD SPORT KITE CHAMPIONSHIP.

PHOTOS BY MEGAN REEDY, LUDOVIC PARMENTIER AND RON DESPOJADO

Headed to Berck, France, as a member of Team Evidence with some pretty lofty expectations of ourselves. We didn't know quite what we were getting into when we decided to head across the pond to take on the best competition in the world while being a part of the biggest field that had ever been put together in the history of the World Sport Kite Championship. For those of you who have never been able to experience this festival, or a festival of this magnitude, it is truly a wonder. The size of the festival is not much larger than WSIKF but the crowds went as far as the eye could see. Every day there were huge crowds. School groups would come and watch as a field trip during their school day.

The people, the food, the flying, all of them were incredible. As a college student getting the chance of a lifetime to go and become almost immersed in a culture that is so different from my own was a great chance to go out and build relationships and see things that I may have never seen. Everything about the experience was so much different than what I was expecting. Beforehand people told me to pack my extra warm clothes, but some days we were wearing shorts and t-shirts (I was still glad I had all my warm clothes though). There were things that I had never seen before, like a wind garden and public officials coming to the awards night, but some of the innovative ideas that are going on there I can't wait to see end up here in America in only a few short years.

While having the opportunity to experience all of this for the first time the team

was also focusing on the competition. Scott Davis had competed as a member of 6<sup>th</sup> Sense at this event a couple of times and had judged just two prior, but Travis Reedy and myself had never flown in front of a crowd of this size. During our first performance on Saturday all of us had nerves going every which way. We somehow were able to relax enough to get through the routine, but we all knew that each one of us could do better. The next day had a similar feel, but by Monday the nerves, at least for me, had almost gone away. We flew

Team Evidence in action.



our routine the best we had ever flown it and were feeling ready for the competition. However, nothing could have prepared us for what was coming in the competition (except for maybe some practice). For each of the three days of competition it seemed as if Murphy's Law had been applied to us. Not everything went wrong, we didn't break a line or a kite, but as far as the wind was concerned it seemed to never blow our way. Mind you, we weren't the only teams getting bad wind, it seemed as if it was that way for everyone, and it was really the difference maker in sorting out the top teams from the bottom teams. But enough with the competition, the team that had won twice (Scratch Bunnies) beat everyone again (taking first each day in each discipline, not sure if that had been done before) and have since announced their retirement from competition.

Once the competition was over then came some relaxation and the awards nights. The first night was the presentation of the inaugural Gérard Awards, named after the festival's organizer Gérard Clement, that were based upon how well teams were able to do their precision figures. The awards were quickly given out and then they had a competition that tested a kiteflier's ability. After winning the Kite-athlon at the AKA Convention last year, I felt that it was important to show well on an international stage. However, this was a team competition and I felt let down by my teammates, Ron Despojado and Lisa Willoughby. After winning my competition, the rest were won by the Russian team. The second awards night, the real awards night, they announced the final results of competition. After a rough couple of days, we were able to avoid last place and after all of the awards were handed out pictures were taken, gifts were handed out, and some people started dancing. The night seemed to last quite a while but eventually we headed back to the hotel for some rest and relaxation.

Gérard Clement (center) joins the flying.



The next morning we woke up ready to begin our last weekend in Berck. We started out the day by test flying many different kites in an attempt to see what the rest of the world was doing, compared to the things we do in our little corner of America. It seemed like we tried out every team's kites and some kites that were being designed to be team kites. We also were given a chance to redeem ourselves after the competition. Saturday night was the night fly and fireworks show. The fireworks show was timed to music and some of the teams were out there flying their routines. There were spotlights to show off kites that were white but not lit up themselves and the night fly was unlike any that I had ever experienced. Afterwards everyone went back to the tent for more socialization. On Sunday we all had to finish packing up our stuff, saying our goodbyes, and last minute shopping. We were able to participate in the parade that went through the town. We finished with 24 hours of traveling to finally end an incredible experience in Berck-sur-mer, France. ☒



The 2014 World Champions, England's Scratch Bunnies.



### Final Standings

	BALLET	PRECISION	TOTAL
1. Scratch Bunnies (UK)	177.96	171.64	349.60
2. Start'Air (France)	173.32	157.42	330.74
3. Cerfs-Volants Folie (France)	169.40	151.40	320.80
4. Air Rex (Japan)	160.04	154.44	314.48
5. AirZone (USA)	152.36	146.80	299.16
6. Cream Team (France)	147.08	135.70	282.78
7. Bogota 2600 (Colombia)	147.36	133.56	280.92
8. Red Alert (Russia)	140.00	129.12	269.12
9. Team Silat (Malaysia)	140.72	125.20	265.92
10. Team Flame (UK)	126.92	136.76	263.68
11. The Dealers (Lithuania)	139.48	113.56	253.04
12. Shanghai Win Sky (China)	125.28	122.22	247.50
13. Team Evidence (USA)	120.00	123.80	243.80
14. Les Mademoiz' Ailes (France)	124.92	109.10	234.02

Japan's Air Rex





# BEHIND THE LINES

NINETY-SIX TIMES IN THREE DAYS,  
RON DESPOJADO STOOD BEHIND  
THE BEST SPORT KITE TEAMS IN  
THE WORLD AND JUDGED THEM.



PHOTOS BY RON DESPOJADO  
AND LUDOVIC PARMENTIER

For the second time in four years I was asked to be a judge at the World Sport Kite Championship in Berck-sur-mer, France. The championship is held every two years at the Rencontres Internationales de Cerfs-Volant. The WSKC was founded by David Gomberg in 2002 as a forum for international teams to challenge for a world championship in kiting. At the time, the World Cup had ceased to exist. The original effort involved the AKA from the USA, STACK from Europe, and AJSKA from Japan. Gomberg proposed Berck as the location to host the championship to Gérard Clement and the rest, as they say, is history. Gérard has been the longtime organizer and driving force behind the event's growth and success. France is logistically the prime venue where the travel budget makes economic sense as far as bringing in the competing teams. The beach and the promenade make for a perfect stage.

I arrived in Paris and boarded a bus bound for Berck with several others. My first dinner was with the Flying Squad Kite Team from England and fellow judge Lisa Willoughby. I ordered one of the local specialties, "moules," which is steamed mussels. When my meal arrived I picked up the foil packet with the picture of the lemon on it and tore it open over my moules and squeezed out the lemon juice.

Hmm... that didn't add too much to the taste. A few minutes later I noticed the others at the table open their lemon juice packet, take out the towelette and wiped their fingers clean. Yes, I thought my towelette was lemon juice so I disinfected my moules prior to eating them.

For the first three days I casually enjoyed the festival, knowing that I would be experiencing an intense judging schedule for the following three consecutive days. There were 14 teams vying for the World Champion trophy, with an additional two teams on display in the Concours de L'Avenir (equivalent to Experienced class). The roster consisted of two teams representing the AKA (AirZone Flight Team and Evidence); one each from China, Colombia, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, and Russia; two from the United Kingdom; and four from France. The Concours de L'Avenir teams from Colombia and France would bring the total to 16 teams that I would have to judge, both precision in the morning and ballet in the afternoon. That would be 96 separate judging assignments. As I saw it, when each team took to the field they had to be "at their best" for between five and ten minutes as they flew either their precision or ballet performance. The judges had to be "at their best" for between five and ten minutes

32 times in a day. This was definitely going to be a judging marathon, not only in physical endurance but in concentration and objectivity.

Lisa Willoughby was the head judge for the first day and announced at the pre-flight meeting the precision figures. On Day One the teams seemed to not totally be "game ready" when they took to the field. Some appeared apprehensive, nervous, or just not concentrating. During the precision session one of the pilots from Team Silat of Malaysia fell while executing a figure. He stayed down and was very slow to respond. First aid was summoned and he was taken off the field. Their figure was considered incomplete. We had to make a decision regarding the continuation of their allotted slot. An on-the-field exception was granted for them to continue their precision after the rest of the teams finished the order. The flier's injury was a recurrence of an existing condition. During the afternoon ballet teams seemed a little more relaxed and we sensed they were getting into the game. It was clear who the cream of the crop could be.



Scratch Bunnies

I was head judge of Day Two. At the pre-flight meeting I announced the precision figures, and had to explain they were not in numerical order as many European teams are used to. All figures are assigned a number for reference and are typically flown numerically, but there was no requirement to do so at this event. The judges also felt the previous day's figures were less than satisfactory as a whole, and one of the figures was repeated. Before they took to the field I reminded them that the final scores will be the two best of their three performances, therefore any team — no matter their first day's performance — could still win it all. The winds were very light and the teams struggled but persevered. A number of wind recesses were called and therefore the precision session ran very long. During the ballet session, the winds never increased and almost all teams set up on the field to accommodate having to back up and create their own wind. I did see one of the teams not set up on a good location on the field, and knew they would run into problems, but as a judge I could not say anything and was surprised they didn't see their situation. In addition, one of the teams had an issue during their precision session and mentioned to me their problem. I relayed the message to my fellow judges, and indeed there was a procedure to address this. Unfortunately the team did not fully follow protocol and their request went unaddressed.

Later that evening I was casually talking to one of the competitors and we spoke about the wind conditions. He hoped Day Three would bring "Goldilocks winds." After a brief discussion I realized he was wishing for winds that are "just right."

The third and final day of the competition arrived and I sensed the teams were ready to go. Pascal Martel of France was head judge of the day. Goldilocks had visited the venue and the winds were smooth, moderate, and as consistent as can be requested. Temperatures were cool but not uncomfortably cold. This was the day the teams had to "leave it all on the field," there was literally "no tomorrow," "the competitive juices were flowing," the teams had to "challenge themselves," and if I can think of more relevant sports clichés I would. The teams without exception upped their performances and this was refreshing to see. In the late afternoon the last ballet was flown and competition was over. There was a mixed feeling of relief and relaxation among the teams and judges as far as the competition component.

Judging the teams was not an easy task. Though we could point and analyze precision figures since they are predefined, ballet was extremely difficult. There were all styles of music and all styles of flying. The music varied from pop songs to overtures, opera, show tunes, movies themes, and techno. It was like the proverbial apples and oranges comparison, with mangos, bananas, and pineapples thrown in. Likewise with their demeanor and character, the teams ranged from casual weekend attitude to machine-like military precision. The entire spectrum was there.

The next few days consisted of full days of demos with the competing teams as well as the recognized display teams. The first day of demos saw increased



Team Evidence: Kristian Slater, Travis Reedy, and Scott Davis.

winds surpassing 20 mph. The tide also came in and encroached onto the field. Some display kites were eventually anchored in the water due to the incoming tide. The speakers that pumped the music onto the field were in danger of damage. In addition, the sound system failed for a period of time, so the kites flew to *The Sounds of Silence* performed by Marcel Marceau. Still, the show continued. That evening was the gala banquet complete with dignitaries, live band, and of course, the crowning of the World Champions. To no one's surprise the Scratch Bunnies from the UK claimed their third consecutive title, with Start'Air from France placing second, and Cerf Volante Folies rounding out the top three.

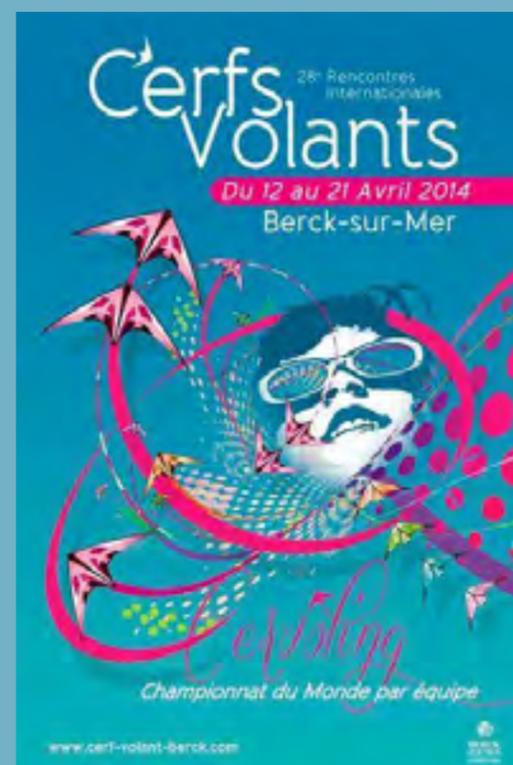
The WSKC portion of the Berck festival is held between the weekends to help bolster the attendance. With the start of the weekend, attendance would increase and the display kites and kite ballets intensified.

The following day the teams were presented in their ranking to the public. In addition, judges and other staff were also introduced. There we were, the 2014 edition of the World Sport Kite Championship, perhaps for the last time sharing the same arena. The PA blared *We Are The Champions*. Immediately after the presentation a mega-fly was on tap, with all the competition teams.

The last day started out somewhat gray with slight drizzle and no wind. It struck me this would be my last day with my kite friends for a long time. We gathered in the tent and were told there would be a parade through town. A lot of us were puzzled; did they really want a parade to happen even though it was a gray and wet morning? Well, most of us gathered with kites and banners, and were accompanied by a marching band with baton twirlers. In an instant the drizzle didn't matter to us anymore and we were proudly walking through the streets making noise, showing off, and having too much fun! It was all smiles with the band playing, the sidewalks full of spectators and people waving from balconies. Of course there would be a parade today! It was also announced there would be sun and wind in the afternoon... and they were right. Final demos were performed and posing for pictures with new and old friends was the order of the late afternoon.

My time at Berck was over. Thinking back on my experience I had to remember I was asked to judge the competition. I felt this was a major responsibility, as well as an extremely high honor. I got the best seat in the house to see the best sport kite teams in the world vie for the World Championship. It was a hard job, but I told someone who asked about my commitment as a judge, "It is the probably the hardest job you'll love."

My sincerest thanks to Chief Judge Andy Taylor, fellow judges Lisa Willoughby, Giancarlo Galli, and Pascal Martel; scorekeeper Susie Jo Skinner, and Field Director Mary Ann Parker, and of course David Gomberg, Chairman and Founder of the WSKC; and Gérard Clement, Chairman of the Rencontres Internationales de Cerfs-Volant. Au revoir, Berck. ☒





Kevin Reynolds, Ralf Maserski and Darryl Waters



Charm Lindner, John Graves and Viola Berg



Maureen Watson



Jim Overmann and Catherine Piotrowski



Robert Brasington and Donna Houchins



Dean Murray



PHOTOS BY RALF MASERSKI, DONNA HOUCHINS, KEN WILKOWSKI, BILL WATSON, AND ROBERT KLOPKE

UPPER MIDWEST AREA  
KITEMAKING EVENT  
OREGON, IL  
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2, 2014



Ralf Maserski and Mark Ledvina



Donna Houchins



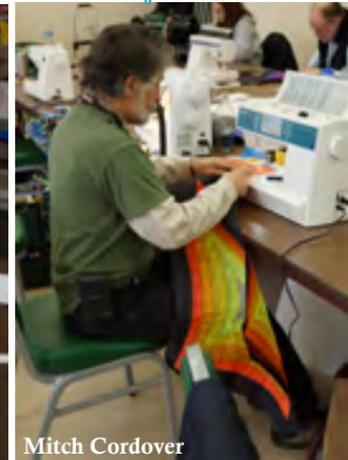
Willy Lugo and Robert Brasington



Robert Klopke



Mark Ledvina



Mitch Cordover



Darryl Waters



Maureen Walrath and Whitney Richardson





Adam Grow



The class gathers around Bobby Stanfield.

PHOTOS BY LARRY AND NANCY KRABLIN AND TERRY ZEE LEE

# MARYLAND KITE SOCIETY RETREAT ELLICOTT CITY, MD FEBRUARY 14-17, 2014

Kitemakers also made 50 paper monsters, which were given to the Pediatric Department at Columbia Medical Center.



Ben Huggett



Adrienne Balmer



Larry Krablin



Drake Smith



James Babst



Travis Zubel



Rob Pratt and Charmayne Umbowers

# FORT WORDEN KITEMAKERS CONFERENCE PORT TOWNSEND, WA MARCH 14-16, 2014



Holm Struck's class



Deb Young



Rich Durant



Wayne Beumer and Robert Brasington



Marlene Richardson and Cliff Quinn

PHOTOS BY  
ROB PRATT  
AND HOLM STRUCK



Gerry and Cliff Pennell



Dorothy Guch and Andrei Chickak



# Kiting

people+places+things

## UNIBUGGY

A kite buggy has three wheels, a tandem buggy five. Land boards have four wheels. But really, who needs more than one? At the Wildwood Buggy Bash in late April, Terence Irani, president of the Electric Wheel Corporation, was blasting down the beach atop his company's Solowheel. The battery-powered device can carry a rider 10 miles at 10MPH on a single charge, and isn't much larger than a briefcase, making it very functional for urban commuters. But switch off the motor, and sure enough, it's ideal for traction kiting. And at places like Ivanpah, where a dying wind can leave long-distance buggiers stranded far from camp, just switch on your Solowheel for a relaxing ride home.



Terence Irani goes Solowheeling in Wildwood.



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Secretary of State John Kerry

## FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

It can be risky to be a kiteflying politician — just ask State Representative David Gomberg about “go fly a kite” jokes during a campaign — but at least two kites now occupy some of the world's loftiest seats of power. Former presidential candidate and current U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is an accomplished kiteboarder, often seen riding in the waters around Nantucket. On the other side of the planet, the world's largest democracy is now led by newly-elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Kites who've attended India's Gujarat International Kite Festival have met Modi, who often greets kites during the festival's opening ceremony and passes out awards. Modi frequently drives the length of the kite field, reaching down to borrow kites from fliers below.

# 2014 AKA Convention

## Opening Reception Pig Pickin'



Monday, September 29th, 4:00 PM

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- Pete Dolphin

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