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# *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



**29<sup>th</sup> AKA  
Convention**

**Dieppe**

**WSIKF**

**Chat with the Champ  
Chen Zhou Ji**

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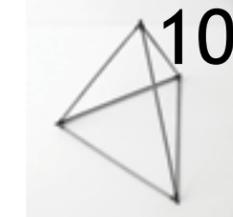
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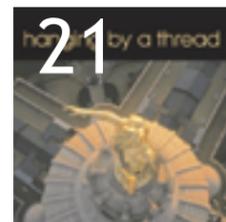
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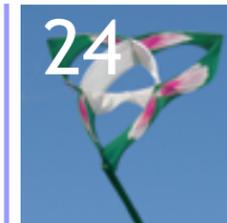


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Founded in 1964 by Robert M. Ingraham, the American Kitefliers Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites.

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## The Votes Are In...

With 1009 valid ballots cast, Susan Skinner was elected President with 608 votes, to Rob Cembalest's 386 votes. Others receiving votes were David Gomberg, Larry Stiles, Gary Engvall, Richard Dermer, Corey Jensen, Lisa Willoughby, Gayle Woodul, and the legendary Puff Cow.

In regional elections, John Barresi, Marla Miller, Wayne Brooks, and Linda Sanders won uncontested races in Regions 9, 10, 12, and 13, respectively. In Region 11, Brian Champie was elected over John Gillespie, 57-43. Complete results are available in the Clubhouse at [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org).

## 2007 Logo Competition

Our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be on the sandy ocean beaches of the beautiful Northwest Coast from October 1-6, 2007. Flying on the beach... what could be better?! Would you like to join hundreds of your kiteflying friends at your convention in this beautiful part of our country with absolutely no registration fee? We will award a free registration to the AKA member who submits the winning logo design for the 2007 Convention.

The logo design will be used on the convention patch, pin, shirts and other convention materials. Your design must look good in formats ranging from 1" to 10". Remember, simple color schemes translate best for silkscreen, cloisonné and embroidery - as well as help keep our production cost down. Make sure your design incorporates the red AKA logo, convention year, city and state. The winning design will look good in color, in black and white, be scalable, and suitable for many uses.

You may be required to submit alternative versions if necessary. Please submit your original design, preferably using vector graphics, to [Annual\\_meeting@aka.kite.org](mailto:Annual_meeting@aka.kite.org) or by mail to Mike Shaw (see address at left).

All entries must be original art work of the AKA member entrant, received no later than February 23, 2007 and become the property of the American Kitefliers Association.

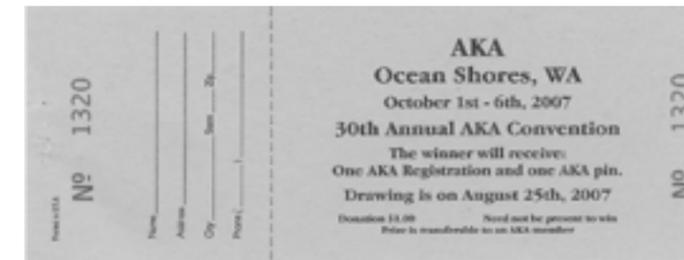
## Free Trip To Ocean Shores!

The lucky winner of a free Convention 2006 registration was Carol Jarvie

of Ferndale, Michigan. For just \$1, you can be like Carol and win a free trip to the Ocean Shores convention in 2007. Contact your regional director, or the raffle lady herself, Marla Miller of Region 10.

## National Kite Month Poster

This year National Kite Month will



run from March 31 till April 30, 2007. To kick this off, the AKA is announcing a little contest. Design the 2007 Rubber Duck Banners designed by Mike Dallmer. Send entries or questions to: [nationalkitemonth@aka.kite.org](mailto:nationalkitemonth@aka.kite.org) The poster will be made available to all who want it, as well as being downloadable from the AKA website.

All entries must be the original art work of the entrant, received no later than January 2, 2007 and become the property of the AKA.



## Requirements

- 8 1/2" x 11"
- Color is preferred
- Must include a blank space for organizers to write in event details
- Preferred format is .doc or .jpg.
- Should include the following logos (available from Mike Dallmer): National Kite Month, American Kitefliers Association, Kite Trade Association International, and the corporate sponsor.

## Planning, Just In Case

Probably the hardest task the Executive Director has is to deal with the death of an AKA member. Changing their status from "regular member" to "Empty Space In The Sky" is always difficult, always an occasion for somber reflection. It is like bidding

farewell to a friend, to a member of the extended family.

It is disturbing how often the families of kites who have passed away have no idea what to do with their loved one's collection of sky toys. We have received calls here asking for suggestions from families not wanting to simply throw kites away or send them to the local Goodwill.

We encourage you to plan now for the disposition of your lifetime accumulation of kites. If your family doesn't want them, leave instructions for

them to go to a fellow kiter, to your local kite club, or to the AKA.

While we are talking about the future, we here at the AKA hope that we have helped you enjoy the sky, that we have added to the simple pleasure of tugging on a kite line. Our goal remains to encourage people everywhere to enjoy flying kites. If you would like to help us continue doing this in the future, please consider leaving a bequest to the AKA in your will. We will use it to open the sky to as many potential kites as possible.

## New Fighter Reps

Need info about fighter kites? Got some to pass along? Contact your new regional fighter kite representative.

### East Coast, Regions #1, 2, 3, 4

Andy Selzer, Sicklerville, NJ  
Woody Woods, N. Dighton, MA

### Mid-States, Regions #5, 6, 7, 8

Terry McPherson, Fenwick, MI  
Dave Young, Duncan, OK

### West Coast, Regions #9, 10, 11, 12

Jay Bell, Lodi, CA  
Steve Bateman, LaMesa, CA

### International, Region #13

Vaino Raun, Ontario, Canada

Twenty years ago, my then-boyfriend asked me to go to the beach and fly kites with him. I pictured us relaxing on a blanket with a kite floating above our head. Instead, that day I flew my first dual-line kite, a three stack of Trlbys. A year later we attended the Washington State International Kite Festival on our honeymoon. For my husband, Darrin, and me, kite flying is a major part of our life. It is with great enthusiasm and a tremendous sense of honor that I write to you today as your president.

When I first announced my run for president, many of my closest friends looked at me and said, "Are you sure you want to do THAT?" Or, "Do you REALLY want to win?" I confess these were questions I had asked myself before putting my name on the ballot. In asking these questions, I found myself reading our mission statement in the bylaws over and over. Every time I read it, I found I had another idea and a bigger smile on my face.

The AKA has an incredible mission statement! We exist to share kiting with the world! I've heard people say that we need to offer more tangible benefits to attract and grow our membership, that we need a larger magazine, more insurance or a better website. But our mission is not to have "customers" of our "products." Our mission is to have partners to help us bring kite flying to the world. Our magazine, insurance and website are tools we use to spread kite flying, not the reason we exist.

We can make awesome strides toward our mission. Our committees and the board of directors are defining our goals for the year. These goals will be combined to form a business plan. As a software development project manager in my day job, it is second nature to me to have a printed objective and a plan to achieve it. Written goals give everyone a chance to participate in a focused effort, so that we can achieve more than we could individually. I invite each of you to contribute to this plan by sending me a letter with your ideas. Then help us by getting involved in accomplishing these goals.

The regional directors of our association have a hard job. These people are truly super heroes who go to extreme lengths to give the AKA a presence and a personal face at as many festivals as possible. With my day job, I will not be able to travel extensively to help them in this task; but we have thousands of members, like you, who could. We are building panels of regional assistants, who can help the regional directors bring this personal touch to more events and members, without expecting our regional directors to be more than human. Would you enjoy keeping in touch with the kite clubs and stores in your area? Would you like to greet new members or perhaps be the official membership recruitment officer for a day at a local festival? Our new regional associates are there to help with all these things. You can have fun helping other kitefliers and at the



same time help the AKA better serve our members and the kiting community at large. Please contact your regional director to get involved.

Membership continues to be an important issue for us. In the early 1990s, sport kiting was a novelty, and the mere appearance of one could stop traffic in every direction. Kiting as a whole rode the wave of curiosity created by them. Sport kites are no longer a novelty; individuals have hundreds of new activities competing for their time. We can no longer ride the wave and expect people to find us; we must learn how to market ourselves to them. Experts on nonprofit management all agree that marketing is essential for a nonprofit to grow or even just sustain themselves. We are not selling a tangible product; but we are selling the intangible idea of kite flying. Russ Faulk has joined the board as the membership chair and is writing the first-ever marketing plan for the association.

There needs to be more to us than marketing and business plans; we need to be reaching out to the next generation of kitefliers as well. Ronda Brewer joins the board this year as the chairwoman for education. It has been a long time since the AKA had a dedicated education chairperson. Ronda and her committee are concentrating on resources for our younger members and teaching kite flying to them. If you are one of our many members who regularly go out to our schools to teach kite making, Ronda would like to hear about your experiences, your successes and your tribulations, so that we can share your knowledge with others. If you are one of our younger kite fliers, Ronda would especially like to hear from you. What do you like most about kite flying and how can we make kite flying more accessible to you?

While the AKA is all about bringing the joy and value of kite flying to the world, we are still subject to the forces of that world. After eight years of no dues increase, it's time to adjust for the effects of inflation. Membership dues will rise to \$35 a year on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Renew now for up to three years in advance at the old rate.

Spring and National Kite Month are just around the corner. Bringing kiting to the world is a tall order, but National Kite Month is up to the challenge. The AKA, in conjunction with the Kite Trade Association International, brings you NKM each year. For 2007, NKM will be March 31<sup>st</sup> - April 30<sup>th</sup>, giving us five full weekends of kiting fun. Get involved by planning your own event now; volunteer to help spread the word and get a NKM proclamation signed in your area. Check out [www.nationalkitemonth.org](http://www.nationalkitemonth.org) or contact Mike Dallmer.

Kiting is a passion best shared; invite someone to join you and your kites on your next

*Susan J. Skinner*

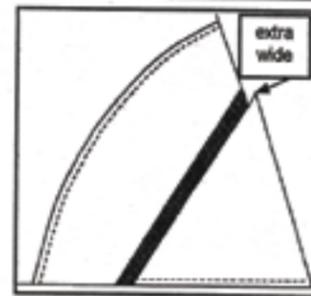
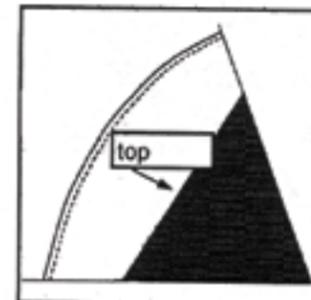
This trapezoidal variation of the dellaporta was taught by Deb Cooley at the 2006 Fort Worden Kitemakers Retreat. She credits John Gabby with the design. The kite is a steady flyer in light to medium winds, but prefers to rise under its own power without having its line tugged.

Cut out a sail from 3/4 ounce nylon with an upper edge 15", a trailing edge 45", and a top-to-bottom vertical length of 54". Decorate the sail as you will. Next, cut out a pie-wedge-shaped reinforcement for each corner, out of the same color fabric as the sail. Match the reinforcements to the sail and sew along the curved edge only.



Cut a dacron triangle for each corner. Both are 3.25" on a side, but

with different angles. Cut another set like the first, only slightly larger. Sew the smaller set of triangles onto the corners, along the top edge (hypotenuse) only. Then line up the bottom edge of the larger triangle to the kite. Sew along one side to the corner of the kite. The extra fabric leaves enough to make the pocket. Try to match up the edge, and finish sewing. Do not sew across the top edge! Repeat this for all four corners.



Once the corners are sewn in, you can edge bind the kite. Use 1" slit tape, folded in half. A progressive zig-zag or any other decorative stitch will work.

Using a long ruler, mark from the top corners to the opposite corners. Draw a line on the pockets. Sew a seam 3/8" to either side of it, making sure that you gather the extra fabric so that the spars will fit into the pocket. On the bottom corners only, burn a small hole on either side of the pocket seam for the bridles.

Also mark where the two long lines cross (approximately 14" from the top edge). Cut out a small square of fabric, two layers thick, the same color as where the X marks the spot. Sew the square onto the back of the sail.

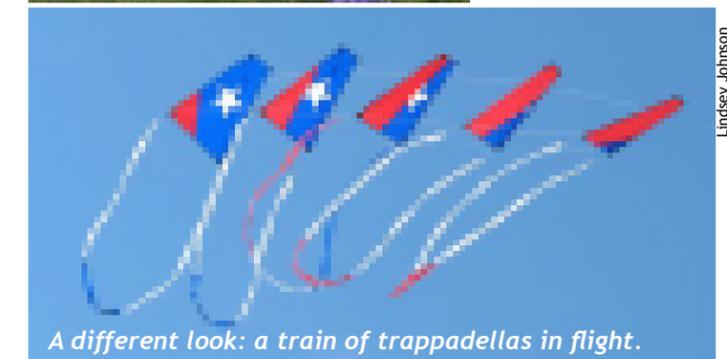
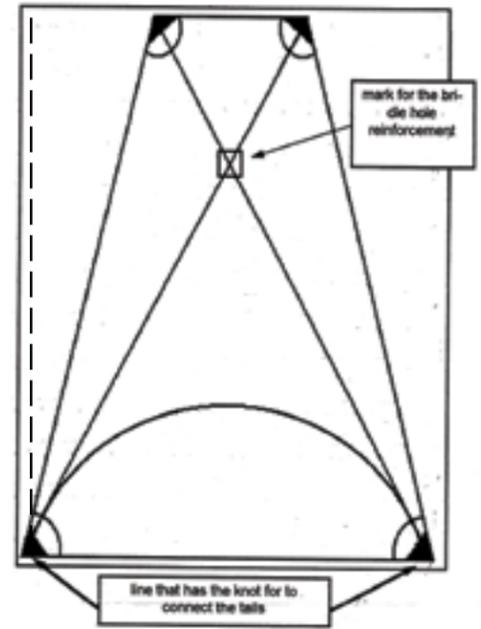
You should add tail attachments. A small loop of gros-grain ribbon or a short piece of line with a knot at the end will work. Sew them onto the trailing edge at the corners.

You will need four spars (.2600 carbon) with two ferrules, making two longer spars. Put one end into the top pocket and measure the length for the spar. It should be cut long enough to make the kite bow! Cut the other long spar to match, put on vinyl caps, and assemble the kite.

With the spars in, you can burn a small hole for the upper bridle attachment, at the reinforced point where the spars cross.

You also need a 1/8" fiberglass or carbon rod for the arched spar on the trailing edge. This should be about 48" long with end caps. Fit it right into the lower pockets, alongside the main spars.

Cut two pieces of line - 86" and 94" - for the bridle. Take the shorter piece and tie it through the holes on the bottom corners. Tie a loop in the longer piece, put it through the upper bridle hole, and larkhead it around the spars. Tie the opposite end to the lower bridle leg to complete the three-point bridle. Attach a split ring to the upper leg to make an adjustable tow point.



A different look: a train of trappadellas in flight.

Lindsey Johnson

# VOICES FROM THE VAULT

## Scott Spencer

by Patti Gibbons

Back in the 1950s between sock hops, double features at the drive-in, and cruisin' Main Street with slick-haired friends, Ed Spencer and his high school sweetie Nancy started thinking about their future, and went from going steady to steadily attaining the classic American dream. The Philadelphia natives-turned-suburban-pioneers married and had three kids in the new bedroom community of Marlton, New Jersey. Sandwiched between sisters, Scott Spencer emerged from the tot lots and playgrounds of his youth, perhaps a little shy and reserved, but primed for a life with creative spirit that tugged him into the world of organized kite flying at a relatively young age.

Scott took to kite making in his young adulthood with great vigor, even though his earlier experiences gave no indication of this latent passion. In fact, Scott's childhood kite memories are rather raw. One breezy afternoon Scott and his father teamed up to fly what was most likely a paper diamond kite that his dad made and tethered to fishing line on the end of an old rod. His dad cast the kite into the sky and handed the rod over to Scott, sitting atop the backyard fence. Young Scott wailed and turned to his father for comfort and understanding. Eventually the shock wore off and in time Scott befriended other kites. Occasionally Scott, his sisters, and a friend or two from the neighborhood would fly kites in a nearby field when the dairy cows weren't around. The cows must have liked onion grass a great deal — Scott remembers, "their milk tasted funny." Unlike stinky milk, kite flying eventually grew on Scott and he developed an appetite for flying and kite making that's sustained him through adulthood.

In 1978, shortly after Scott graduated high school, his girlfriend returned from a family vacation to Cape Cod bearing a slinky gift that bit his

imagination and irrevocably tilted the course of his life, luring him into the kiting world. As he unwrapped a 35-foot dragon kite, quickly christened "Charlie," Scott admired it and thought, "this is nice, I think I can make one." Scott headed to the local fabric store and purchased supplies and set out, without plans, patterns, or blueprints, to make a 75-foot dragon kite. He had a hunch how to build one and started soaking wood dowels in the bathroom shower. Over the course of a week, he coaxed and bent them into a proto-skeleton for Charlie II. Fools may rush in where halo-wearers make themselves scarce, but Scott, flush with beginner's luck, found victory with his first kite creation — Charlie II flew. And, if he did, "why not make it longer?" Feeling the



thrill of success, Scott had his sights set on 150 feet. Looking back, Scott remembers, "...as for mistakes, they came later."

With the success of Charlie II, Scott started heading out to kite festivals, meeting fellow fliers, and borrowing kite books from the library. Shortly afterwards he started leaving hard earned dough at kite stores. He also discovered *Kite Lines* magazine and "joined the AKA for the newsletter." During what Scott calls the "kiting progression," one "...just grabs anything and everything you can get because

there wasn't a lot going on...the books and things in the library just weren't enough...you want more and more." In the twilight of the disco era, gates to a new world opened wide and Scott charged straight ahead into this new kingdom.

First and foremost Scott considers himself a kite maker. He likes large, intricate kites that challenge his design and fabrication skills. "I loved working with my hands and [kite making] is just another form of it." Scott's background in woodworking and even the sewing skills he picked up as a Boy Scout all helped him get a grip on his kite building. He doesn't consider himself an artist, but rather a "frustrated perfectionist" who gets happiness when others enjoy his work. The ultimate complement for Scott is when "...someone comes up to me and goes 'where'd you get that?'" and he replies "'I made that.' That is joy."

Long trails of dragon tails captivated Scott's imagination and early on he began focusing his building on these stretchy creatures. Scott rented an apartment with a large attic that he turned into his kite-making studio. The roof's pitch left steep ceiling slants, but he used the center of the room to make jumbo kites that were hundreds of feet long. Scott had a personal connection who gave him endless strips of industrial-grade parachute fabric scraps, and these lengthy cut-offs were sewed on and on,

giving life to many dragons in the attic. The compulsion to stretch further and further peaked at 1,033 ½ feet. Scott thought he hit a record, but at about the same time someone in Europe flew a 1,200-foot dragon. In a sense dashed, but an impressive feat nonetheless.

After the Years of the Dragon, Scott expanded his trick sheet to include intricate facet kites. When he achieved mastery with those spindly charmers he got hooked on incorporating graphic elements onto flat kites. A creative mind never sleeps, and a sleepy mind



never creates. Scott's ongoing kite-making pursuits are ever evolving as he digs deeper into what interests him.

Kiting is more than just a creative outlet for Scott, it has also pulled him out of his shell. Shy by nature, Scott finds kiting therapeutic to some degree. For him kiting is a way for him "to be an exhibitionist... and draw attention to himself" in a comfortable way. To some extent, Scott knows the acting bug has bitten him, and catching people's attention through his kites and flying has magically soothed the bashful kid within.

Scott's handmade kite creations may soar and sometimes tumble, but beyond being a kite maker, he is somewhat of an inventor. No, he

didn't invent the kite, but he did originate the whimsical transition tail that flits about at nearly all modern kiting events. In the late 1980s at the Chicago convention, Scott saw Lee Toy playing with a telescopic pole clad with cloth strips. He went home and tried to recreate it but ended up with a "drunken mistake" that turned into the transition tail. Although his designs look rather complicated and daunting to make, Scott confesses, "I'm a lazy person...I wouldn't be doing it if it weren't easy."

Kites have been Scott's passport over the years. Through kiting he's traveled to places he might have missed had he not been a flier. Perhaps one of the more exotic flying trips was an excursion to Columbia. In the late 1990s, this South American government used kites to deliver an anti-drug campaign to its youth. Scott gladly flew for this good cause and found the public reception to be phenomenal. In Columbia "people are so friendly... we were sports superstars" among the crowds of nearly 50,000 people. The spectators cheered visiting fliers on and asked for their autographs, while local children flew Bermuda-style eight-sided tissue and plastic bag kites.

Scott, always a joiner, continues his volunteer spirit at home as well as overseas. At conventions he seeks out

volunteer opportunities because he likes to give back while mingling with a purpose. Lending a hand to staff a convention booth or set up for a field event helps "expose you more to other people." Scott greatly appreciates the social dynamics at kite conventions. Getting together, talking, seeing what people are up to — now that's where the action is for Scott. He enjoys nurturing friendships that develop from their mutual interest in kites. "You have a starting point, kiting, that gives you an openness." However, there is no need to play nametag switch-a-roo when Scott is around, he's not going to catch the humor in those sorts of tricks. "With some of the people it takes me five years to remember their names, but I remember what we talked about four years ago and three years ago ...[I] know what they flew and everything else, but names are hard for me." A rose by any other name is still a rose, and for Scott a kiteflier by any name is still a comrade.

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# Dieppe: Between Flora And Fauna

by Miriam Schafler

For several years I've been listening to wondrous tales about the Dieppe, France kite festival. So this year, I made a hotel reservation in April, and registered with the French Cerf-Volant Festival Committee. Barbara Hall and I found our way using our Eurail passes and the Paris Metro to the Paris St. Lazare Gare. We successfully transferred at Rouen to the Dieppe train. The stationmaster assured us it was only a 10-minute walk to our hotel.



What a nice surprise to find ourselves at a lovely coastal town with open-air restaurants, a marina, fishing fleet, picturesque Saturday market and a Castle museum. Especially tempting are the chocolate shops. A 10-minute walk became an hour stroll.

Every two years just off the beach at Dieppe in Normandy, the French put together a world class kite festival that reminds everyone that peaceful kiteflying is a better alternative than destructive war. This year between September 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, outstanding kiteflyers from 38 countries gathered to share their kites' beauty and craftsmanship to the theme of "Our Planet: Stroll Between Flora and Fauna."

Reminding us how fragile the environment is, the kiteflyers demonstrated their skills for nine days in very light, to light winds with gusts, to no winds under slightly overcast skies. Two large grassy areas in front of a line of hotels along a boardwalk provided plenty of area for handcrafted kites, sport kites, fighter kites and a field for Revs and stacks. A rocky area along the seashore provided more room for public kiteflying and the large inflatables brought by Peter Lynn of New Zealand.

Invited from North America were Don Mock, George Peters, Jose Sainz (representing Mexico) and Lam Hoac (representing Canada). Scott Skinner of the Drachen Foundation was also seen adding to the festivities. It was quite a sight to see the 38 international representatives juggle their creations around in the sky without getting tangled, a testimony to their incredible skills. Maori dancers from New

Zealand peppered the week with their vigorous and beautiful movements.

Thursday was children's day as hundreds of kids and teachers from around France paraded past our AKA tent, organized by Marla Miller and staffed by Ron Miller, Charlie Sotich, Mike and Kay Woodring, Barbara Hall and Miriam Schafler. Despite our limited French-speaking skills, we managed to draw many visitors to our tent with their questions about the USA.

The handcrafted competitions were held Friday and Saturday. Beautiful creations by Bill Farber of Australia with his "Walking on the Wild Side", Mme. Theresa of France with her artistic asymmetric creation, Jose Sainz with his gorgeous fan-like paper and bamboo bird, Dutchman Ton Vinkin with his miniature paper cutouts, dragons from Bali and Philippine paper kites attracted my attention. Despite the light winds, Detroit's Windjammers (Gary Maynard, James Kinsey, Michael Carlisle and George Wright III) kept their red, white and blue stacks up in the air for five shows a day. Additionally, they flew in the Friday evening spectacular floodlit show.

To top off the events on the field, we visitors were able to join the invited kiteflyers for a Mayor's reception on Wednesday, where we got to kiss Dieppe's Mayor and his staff on both cheeks and thank them for this wonderful event. Friday evening, we were all transported to a gymnasium near Dieppe's historical castle where we shared a buffet dinner and more camaraderie. Marla even led a few



bus back to the hotel.

Dieppe is a festival for which it is worth saving your money, practicing your French, and setting aside ten days in September 2008. Our public relations outreach was well received, and we will try to continue in coming alternate years to represent the AKA.

We can all further promote world peace by acknowledging the words in a kite arch flying over the entrance to the Dieppe field, proclaiming "One Sky, One World, One Village, One People." Until 2008, au revoir.



For more info about Dieppe, and photos of this year's festival, visit ... [www.carnetdevol.org/reportages/dieppe06/intro.html](http://www.carnetdevol.org/reportages/dieppe06/intro.html)

Marla Miller adds...  
"This was the first time the AKA was recognized by the festival committee and we had the use of a marquee like the other 38 invited countries. I would like to thank the Dieppe Cerf-Volant Organization for such a warm and wonderful invitation to the AKA. Many thanks to Sandrine and Karine for all their hard work helping the AKA."



rounds of "Frere Jacques" and "Alouette" while riding the

# KITE HISTORY

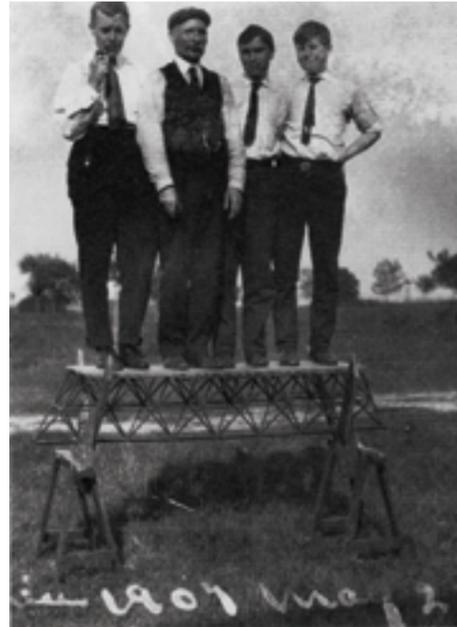
## Bell's Cells

by **Scott Skinner**  
 photos courtesy of the Drachen Foundation and the Library of Congress

After describing Alexander Graham Bell's Sable Island kite (a version of Hargrave's box kite) in the last issue of *Kiting*, I will focus now on the tetrahedrals themselves. The Drachen Foundation Archive holds four early cells without sails from Bell's laboratory at Beinn Bhreagh, made before he had switched to aluminum tubing for the frames in October 1903. The slender 10-inch spars are black spruce, held together with deftly designed connectors (now rusted) made from tin cans. Hector McNeil, Bell's foreman, fabricated the connectors for Bell, and the two obtained a joint patent on them in 1907. J.H. Parkin has said, "It will be evident to those familiar with shopwork that McNeil was a wizard with tools." The cells Drachen Foundation holds support this judgment, as well as Bell's own opinion of his tetra principle – "It is astonishing how solid such a framework appears even when composed of very light and fragile material."

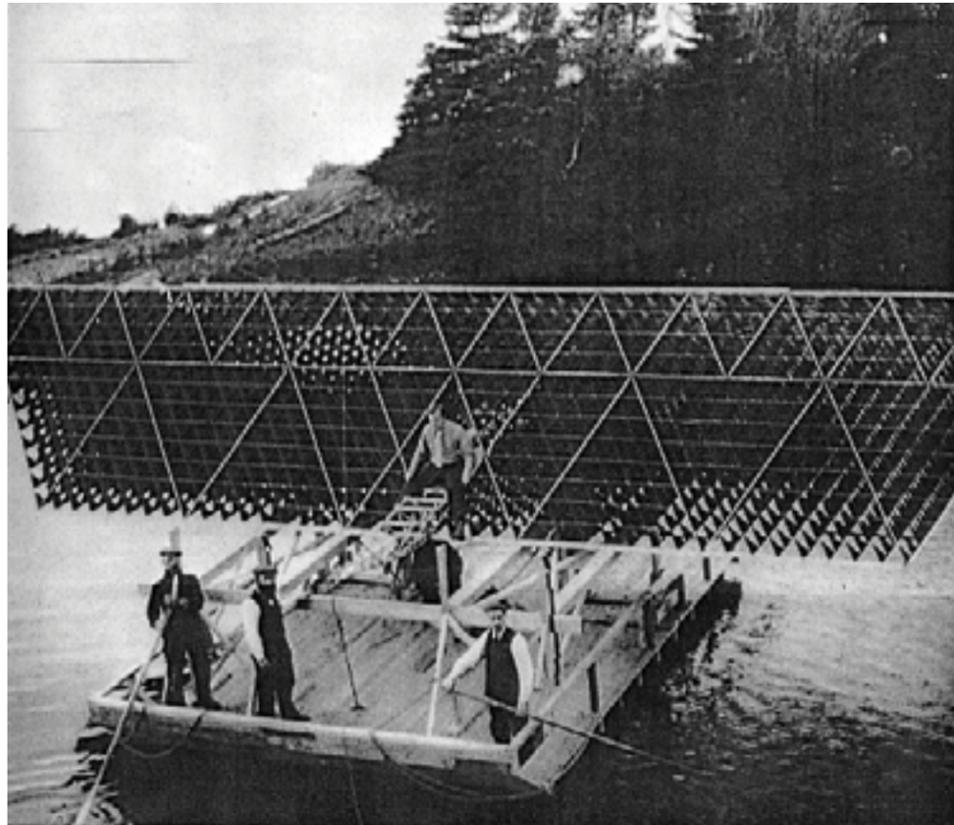
What path had Bell taken to tetrahedral construction? Curiosity had led his exploration in many directions. He had always been fascinated with flight, but witnessing Samuel Langley's flying machine in 1891 had sparked that interest into activity. He began his flight experiments by trying to understand thrust; he constructed rocket- and steam-powered propellers and rotors of various designs to determine how to generate maximum thrust. Then his attention turned to the lifting properties of different airfoils or wing designs, and he had begun his kite experiments in 1896, not only to come to some understanding of lift but to study the properties of wind currents in his pursuit of manned flight.

Bell had worked chiefly with kites based upon Australian Lawrence Hargrave's box kite, a design that had proven its worth in meteorological flights. But by 1902, Bell was incorporating the tetrahedral cell into his kites' designs. (A tetrahedral figure is one in which three equilateral triangles are joined to form a four sided shape.) This configuration had many inherent advantages. The kites were structurally stronger, and by combining the cells of smaller kites into one large kite, the surface area-to-weight ratio was retained. Bell's tetrahedrals reached their apex with 1907's Cygnet, his kite made from 3393 cells, which flew to a height of 51 meters and stayed aloft for over 7 minutes.

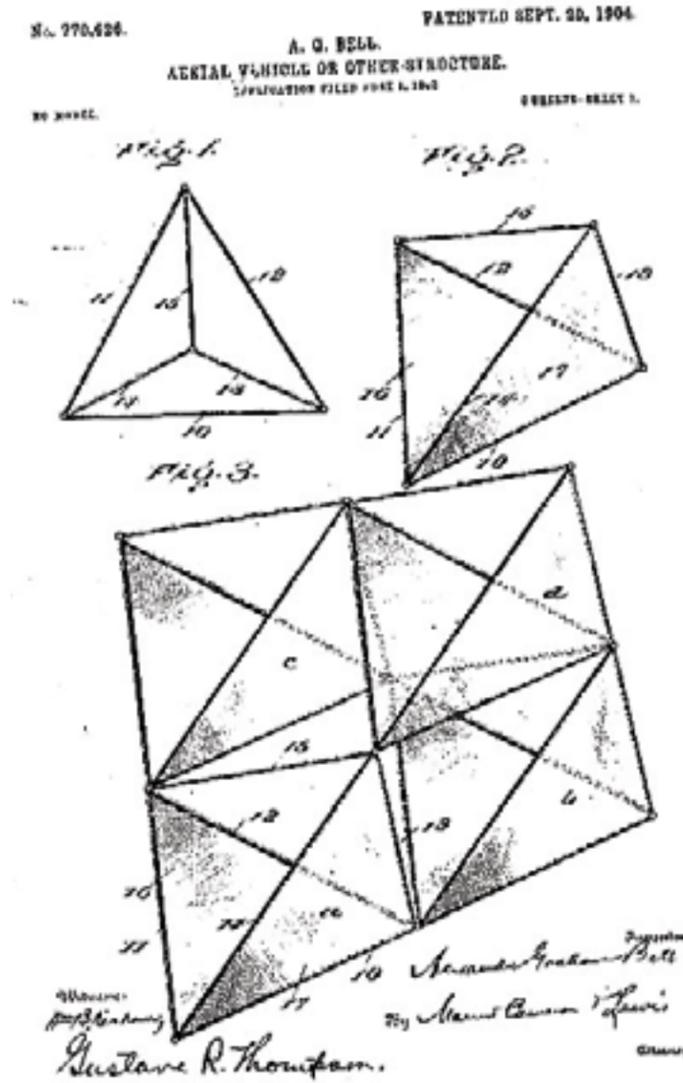


The tetrahedrals also proved to be very stable in flight. One of the most significant design characteristics of kite stability is dihedral: the bow, or angle of wings to one another. As is quickly seen on a tetrahedral cell, if one side of the cell is exposed to more wind than the other, it creates more lift, causing the cell to align itself to an equilibrium position in the wind.

Bell became convinced that stability was the key to manned flight: tetrahedral kites could provide that stability and permit experimentation without risk to human life. The Wrights, however, knew that a certain amount of instability was necessary and important to manned flight. As they had seen with countless beginning bicyclists, a certain amount of muscle memory and repetition would lead to stability, just as it would for the first pilots in their airplanes.

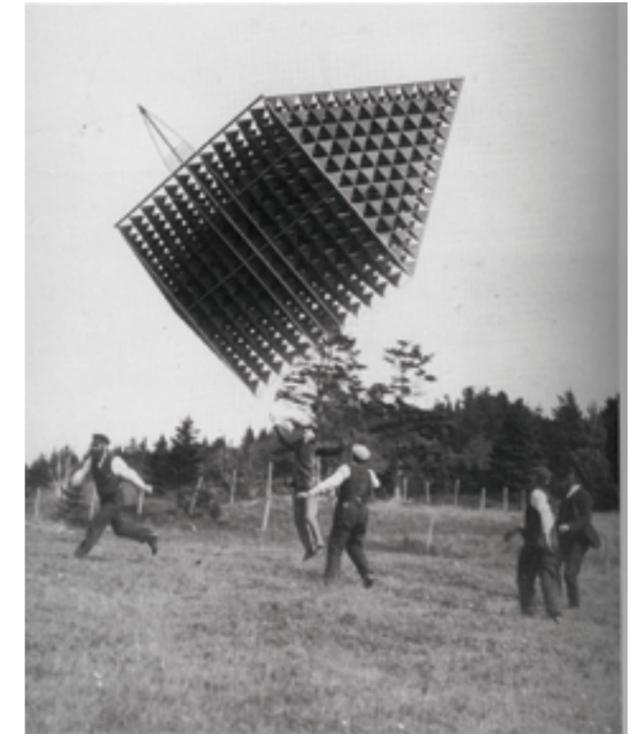


Bell's original patent for tetrahedral cells.



To honor the creative mind of Bell and to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the flight of the Cygnet, the Drachen Foundation invites you to build a Bell four-cell tetrahedral kite. The Foundation has easy-to-assemble kits with the necessary connectors and dowels, so that your four cells will be compatible with everyone else's.

Once constructed and flown, send in two photos of your creation, one of the kite and one which proves its flyability. A distinguished panel of judges will choose the most interesting applications of Bell's tetra principles and award these individuals a \$250 gift certificate from Goodwind's Kites. Visit [www.drachen.org](http://www.drachen.org) for information.



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10 Kiting | WINTER '06-'07

WINTER '06-'07 | Kiting 11

**A**lmost every time I go kite flying, I am asked the inevitable question: "What got you into kite flying?" Well, the truth is, I never got out. Back when my age was still in single digits, someone thought I should have a Hi-Flyer (diamond) kite. I put many, many happy hours on that kite. It was as much fun tweaking the bridle and bow line to see what would happen as it was to see it sit in the sky.

For the next 20 years or so, that's all I knew about kites. They were diamond, delta or box, made from paper or plastic, and they could be bought in the drug store in March and April, because that was 'kite season'. There came a fateful day in late April when after a long day at work I decided to unwind by flying a kite in the back yard. The neighborhood was not really suited for flying kites, but that made it all the more fun. I had graduated to a Gayla plastic delta by this time. But, in the gusty spring wind, it got tossed around more than releasing line could compensate, and it disappeared into the trees on the hill. I was heartbroken. It wasn't about the loss of the kite so much as it was that kite season was over, no stores would have kites anymore. My kite flying would be put on hiatus for at least 10 months!

A week later I was in Northampton, MA, 100 miles from home, and went past a little store whose sign said 'World on a String'. Could it be? Could there actually be a store that specialized in kites?

Sure enough! Wow! Box kites with wings! What a great idea! I just walked around the shop mesmerized while proprietress Dorothea Szabo watched me, a bit bemused. I think she had seen that look on customers before.

Wait a minute, what's this? This kite has TWO bridles! How come? What? You can STEER it? Gee, if I can steer it, I can steer it away from the tree!

Well, some people are thrifty, but I am cheap. I didn't buy a kite that day. I bought a book: David Pelham's *Penguin Book of KITES*. I started building that day. Dorothea and her husband, Zoltan "Chuck" Szabo, were incredibly supportive of all my building efforts. Chuck once gave an interview in which he proudly proclaimed that four kite builders had come out of his store. I am proud to be one of them.

My first stunt kite didn't come from a store. It was built out of Pelham's book. It was tyvek and wood and Elmer's glue with a vinyl tubing nose-piece. When my wife and I went out to fly it on a small field surrounded by trees on 50 foot cotton strings, there were some, ah, issues. Of course, I was sure that if she just HELD it right....

Well, we lived through it, and the rest, as they say, is history. A lot of my early kite builds were silkspan and balsa, or trash bag.

Through the kite store I got hooked up with other flyers who were nearly as crazy as I was. Through them I learned more about making kites from the real stuff, ripstop and fiberglass. Carbon frames weren't around yet.

Back in the late '80s, when the kiting world was waiting for a California



stunt kite manufacturer to come out with a 3/4 version of its famed Spinoff, I was one of about eight people filling the gap by making a 3/4 version of the kite. How many people can remember Renegades, CC2200s, NoNaMes, and Lasers?

I became associated with Circoflexes, or they became associated with me, by a strange string of circumstances. The Mike Dallmers (father & son) from Pennsylvania had done a lot of work with the kite and had worked out a table of lengths for the 12 bridle lines for a given size of the kite. I merely took it one step further and used their work to draw a plan for a workshop version that could use either of the two most common widths of fabric at that time. The next thing I knew, I was being invited everywhere to teach people how to make the Circoflex kite.

I got interested in Cody kites and wanted to build one. I couldn't find plans, so the only thing to do was start building and figure it out as the project progressed. Cody's favorite number was six, so everything on the kite became a multiple or fraction of six, including the radii for the curves

on the sail.

And then there are the Rokkaku kites. Everyone should have at least one rokkaku. A rokkaku is the kite to pull out of the bag when nothing else will fly.

As much fun and rewarding as building kites can be, repairing them is often more challenging. In a perfect world, a well-executed repair is both invisible and stronger than the original construction. Peter Lynn show kites and all kinds of foils are fun to fix and return better than new.

Another favorite 'non-kite' project is making sets of Catherine's Wheels that counter-rotate. When I make these, I also sew in small sleeves for chemical 'cyalume' lights. We have one that we fly at night when we are camping that has 4 lights in each wheel. We call it the 'Mother Ship'.

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more kite. When a kiter has a gazillion kites, where do they put them? In bags of course. A compression bag is a great way



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to put ten pounds of stuff in a five pound bag. It's great to be able to make a specialty bag whenever a need arises.

Why kites? Unlike any other sport or hobby, there is something in kiting for any ability, any age, any physique. There is always a challenge in that no two days are the same and no two kites are the same. It never gets old, the wonder still hasn't worn off.

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Dave Robinson  
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www.whkf.org.uk

# EVENT CALENDAR

AKA sanctioned events are listed in **BOLD**

## January 1

**GKC New Year's Fly**  
Forest Park  
St. Louis, MO  
Tina Bushey  
618/355-5894  
**GatewayKites@gmail.com**

Cool Fool Fly  
Veterans Park  
Milwaukee, WI  
Jeff Kataoka  
414/277-9121  
**thekswi@yahoo.com**

## January 28

**Frosty Fingers Fly**  
Como Park  
St. Paul, MN  
Ken Wilkowski  
763/536-8552  
**cheapsheep2001@yahoo.com**

## January 11-14

**Oregon Kitemakers Retreat**  
Rockaway Beach, OR  
Diane Weber  
okr1@comcast.net  
**www.kitemakersretreat.com**

## February 3-4

# Check the event calendar at [www.aka.kite.org](http://www.aka.kite.org) for updated info!

AKA sanctioning is available for kite events within the United States and Canada. AKA sanctioning means that AKA members are involved in the administration of the event, that the AKA endorses and approves the event and that those involved in staging and supervising the event qualify for limited coverage under the AKA's liability insurance policy.

Coverage limits:  
• \$1,000,000 per occurrence (\$100,000 for non-member claimants)  
• Fire legal liability: \$300,000  
• Traction kiting activities such as, but not limited to, kite surfing, buggying, and kite skiing are excluded from coverage.

AKA sanctioning is awarded for a kite event of a specific date and time or, through the club affiliation fee, for recurring periodic club events for which the Chair and activities re-

SPI Fun Fly  
South Padre Island, TX  
Bill Doan  
bskites@hotmail.com

## February 10-11

**Kites Over The Bay**  
Fish Creek, WI  
Toby Schlick  
920/868-3769  
**mail@fishcreekkites.com**

## February 16-19

**Maryland Kitebuilding Retreat**  
Frederick, MD  
Jon Burkhardt  
301/424-6976  
**takokichi@comcast.net**  
**www.mdkites.org**

## February 17

**Color The Wind Kite Festival**  
Larry Day  
641/357-6141  
**kiteman@netins.net**

## February 23-25

**Ft. Worden Kitemakers Retreat**

## Port Townsend, WA

**Bob Alford**  
425/392-9144  
**registration@kitemakers.org**  
**www.kitemakers.org**

## March 1

**BASKL Indoor Competition**  
Walnut Creek, CA  
Tracy Erzin  
925/228-1983  
**tracy@baskl.org**  
**www.baskl.org**

## March 4

**Zilker Park Kite Festival**  
Austin, TX  
Bunnie Twidwell kites@zilkerkitefestival.com  
**www.zilkerkitefestival.com**

## March 9-11

**Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat**  
Oregon, IL  
Barbara Meyer  
763/424-2571  
info@makr.info  
**www.makr.info**

main constant. A standard certificate of coverage is available upon request.

AKA sanctioning is automatically nullified by an illegal action on the part of the sponsor or Chair as regards the sanctioned event.

News releases or announcements may not indicate that AKA approves or endorses an event unless and until sanctioning has been granted in writing.

AKA strongly recommends that events have participants sign a waiver and release of liability. It will not affect the level of coverage, but will add another layer of protection for event organizers and participants.

AKA sanctioning costs \$75. Additional information is available at [www.aka.kite.org/sanction.shtml](http://www.aka.kite.org/sanction.shtml) or by calling 800/AKA-2550.

# Past Masters Shine In Iowa

by Deb Lenzen



Robert Lockhart. Past category winners flying during the extravaganza included Mike Shaw and JoAnn Weber. Spectators were entertained when Cliff Quinn brought his double star into the arena and began assembling the kite. Stick by stick and fabric piece by fabric piece, the crowd watched Cliff's masterpiece come to life. There was a huge roar from the crowd as Cliff strapped the bridle lines onto his harness and hauled the giant double star into the Iowa sky. Great applause sounded for all the kites as they were introduced to the crowd.

single-line fly featuring past Grand Champion kites, Member's Choice kites and kitemaking category winners. Grand Champion kites were flown by Cliff Quinn, John Pollock, and Tanna Haynes. Member's Choice winners were flown by Jon Burkhardt, Pete Dolphin, and

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# SPORT KITE CONFERENCES

## Midwest

The buzz went around the banquet hall in Des Moines. Vicki Proudfoot of the pairs team Sky Jesters ran across the room nearly in tears. Finally, David Gomberg had to make an announcement: Fire and Ice was about to become more than a pairs team. Just before the banquet, Paul Koepke proposed to Kathy Brinnehl. A thrilled Kathy said, "Yes!!!!". By the way, Fire and Ice swept first in EIB and EIP. Quite a night for a great couple!

Dave Bush from Portage, MI, in his first season competing, took top honors in NIB and third in NIP. David had to return home right after he competed, to fly demonstrations at the Harvest Lights Festival in Richland, MI, so he was waiting for a phone call from the banquet hall.

Eight-year-old Elizabeth Gordon is following in big brothers Josh's and Zach's footsteps. In her first national competition she finished third in NIB and second in NIP, two-tenths of a point ahead of Dave Bush.

The rest of the Gordon family continued its winning ways: Zach smoked everybody in MIB, knocking off last year's champion, brother Josh, who finished third. Zach went on to finish second in MIP, third in MMB, and second in MMP. The brothers then took second in MPB, three-tenths of point back, and first in MPP by a scant .075 point. Whew!

In EIB Dan Newman of Kenosha, WI, took home wood for second. The family celebrations continued for the Newmans: Alison Newman finished second in EMP.



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Mike and Terri Huff  
360/289-9050  
nw\_conf@aka.kite.org

## PACIFIC

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408/554-8399  
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## CENTRAL

Ron Schultz  
512/632-4337  
cen\_conf@aka.kite.org

## MIDWEST

John Cosby  
269/345-5432  
mw\_conf@aka.kite.org

## NORTHEAST

Speaking of families, Sky Jesters (Dean and Vicki Proudfoot), took third in EPP. Chicago Fire, the Midwest's extended family kite team, took second in both MTP.

As I write this, we are "enjoying" (?) the first snowfall of the winter. It's a chilling reminder of the end of another sport kite season. It's been a fun, exciting, season in the Midwest. But the end of this season means we start looking forward to and planning for next season.

There will be some changes in 2007. Sarah Winkel of the Bourbonnais Township Park District is looking for a new date for the Perry Farms Festival. For the last four years this has been the first competition and festival of the season at the end of April. Spectacular weather the first year showed this was an event with great potential. Three years of REALLY bad weather have taken their toll. We hope Sarah can find a new date to keep this event alive.

## Northeast

It is a pleasure to congratulate all of the Northeast Conference flyers who competed at this year's nationals. Douglas Coates finished first in EIB, Karl Berg finished third in EMB and EMP, Nomes (Douglas and Karl) finished second in EPB, Shawn Tinkham



Ruth Polifrone  
201/843-7223  
ne\_conf@aka.kite.org

804/271-4433  
se\_conf@aka.kite.org

## SOUTHEAST

Laura Stonestreet finished first in MMB and Open Individual Indoor Unlimited Ballet, and Heaven Help Us (Karl and Doug again) finished first in Open Team Train. Thanks to those flyers who flew routines or volunteered your time and talents as judges to make this a truly memorable convention.

Congratulations also to all NE flyers who participated in the First Southern New England Kite Championship, in Narragansett, RI. This event was a great start to the 2007 season. Coordinators Forrest and Laura Carey and Chief Judge Scott Weider promised a laid back, novice friendly, fun event and they delivered. Scott looked around and grabbed anyone who looked interested in flying a kite. With the help of other veteran kite flyers and judges, Scott held a novice seminar explaining the intricacies of competition with particular emphasis on the precision discipline.

With the assistance of Doug Coates, who flew the required Novice Precision figures, Patty Tinkham, who acted as field director, and a volunteer panel of judges, the novice flyers looked on, getting an idea of what the figures looked like, how they were scored, and the intricacies of getting on and off the field. Eight flyers then stepped up to compete in precision with three also competing in ballet. In Novice Individual Precision Wen Jeng took first, Nathan Reilly took second, and Jackie Maciel took third. Congratulations also to Buddy Phillips, Samuel Cary, Dick Maciel, Ronald Kitt, and Thomas Cary. Novice Individual Ballet saw Wen Jeng in first, Jackie Maciel in second,

continued on page 20

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and Dick Maciel in third.

OIP saw Shawn Tinkham first, Patty Tinkham second, and Ron Graziano third. OIB results were Shawn Tinkham first, Patty Tinkham second, and Dave Smith third. Shawn also swept OMP and OMB. Full Throttle (Shawn and Ron) placed first in OPB, with Kfan revisited (Mike and Ruth Polifrone) finishing second. That's My line, featuring Joel Brown and Deborah Heid, and Heaven Help Us, featuring Gary Engvall and Karl Berg, finished first and second in Open Team Train.

### Northwest

As we are returning from our Nationals in Des Moines, we look back at a busy competition year for the NWSKL. We held nine outdoor events with an average of more than 25 participants in the competition year ending 2006. We always end our outdoor events in Richmond, BC, which is one of the most picture perfect locations to hold an event. It's a great place to visit and we drew a large number of spectators.

The Northwest had the largest contingent of sport kite competitors at Nationals and we congratulate all our participants. Alan Cunningham brought home five trophies, 1<sup>st</sup> in NIP and EMB and 2<sup>nd</sup> in NIP and OIIU. Alan and Andrew Cimburek placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in EPP as Sky King and Tailspin Tommy. Ron Potts won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in EIP and James Thompson placed 1<sup>st</sup> in EIP and 3<sup>rd</sup> in EIB. David Hathaway took 1<sup>st</sup> in EMP and 2<sup>nd</sup> in EMB. Genesis (Willy Hendrickson, Ron Potts and James Thompson) brought home 1<sup>st</sup> place in both ETB and ETP. In the masters class, Daniel Haigh won 1<sup>st</sup> in MIP and John Barresi took 3<sup>rd</sup>. John Barresi also placed 1<sup>st</sup> in MMP and 2<sup>nd</sup> in MMB by just .1 point. Egan Davis placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in MIB and 3<sup>rd</sup> in MMP. In master pairs, Fly By Nite (Bill Rogers and Daniel Haigh) placed 1<sup>st</sup> in MPB and 2<sup>nd</sup> in MPP while Evidence (James Thompson and Wayne Turner) took 3<sup>rd</sup> in MPP. 6<sup>th</sup> Sense (Daniel Haigh, Bill Rogers and Wayne Turner) took 1<sup>st</sup> in both MTB and MTP and a chance to compete at the World Team Championships.

Our 2007 season started with competitions in Ocean Shores, Long Beach, Seaside and on Whidbey Island where the weather was beautiful and we had one of our largest groups of competitors. The Northwest Sport Kite League was asked to hold a competition at Long Beach as part of the Washington International Kite Festival for the first in many years. We competed over three days, interspersed with the festival events. It was nice to see the large audience that we attracted. The NWSKL has already had three indoor competitions, including a new event in November in Camas, WA. Looks like we will exceed the six indoor events we



held last season.

We have seen a sudden interest in multi-line flying in the northwest. Not only are we seeing more individual competitors but also pairs and a mega-team (iQuad) which seems to recruit new members wherever they go. Thanks John.

We all appreciate the support and ideas of our league president for the year 2006. Don Ostey and his wife Mary have put in many hours to ensure the continuation of the NWSKL.

### Pacific

Greetings, another convention has come and gone with a good showing of Bay Area people! Southern California where are you?

This season should be a good one!

There are going to be plenty of kiting events here in the Bay area, along with workshops and hopefully some fun practice and critiquing sessions.

Our next event in the sunny state of California will be at night at Tice Valley Gym, a beautiful large glass gym in Walnut Creek, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information on directions and times please go to [www.baskl.org](http://www.baskl.org)

Darrin Skinner has written a wonderful sport kite scoring software program. It was used at the AKA convention this year as well as one other event. It should soon be available to everyone.

### Southeast

You shoulda been there! Des Moines that is. We know you've read it before, but we'll say it again! The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Convention was a rousing success in spite of smaller than usual attendance.

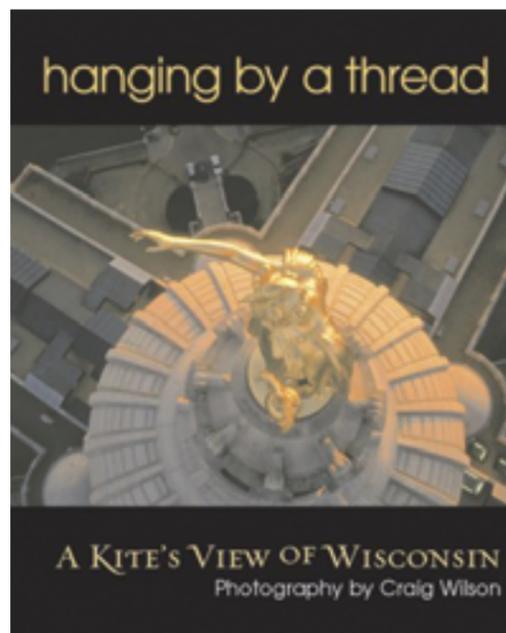
The Southeast was well represented on the awards stage. Doug Charleville is a National Champion again with a first place finish in EIP. Other awards went to Doug and Charles Stonestreet in Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited, and Wing Nuts (Laura Stonestreet and sub, Stoney) in EPB.

Since the last report from the Southeast, in addition to going to the National Convention, fliers have been participating in kite festivals, rewinding CDs, replacing all the old air in their kites with new air, tweaking old routines, and developing new routines in preparation for the start of the 2006-2007 season.

Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition (OBSKC) was in late October. Unfortunately we have recently received word that Georgia International Sport Kite Competition (GISKC) has been cancelled this year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Susan Mason during this difficult time and hope that this competition will be back on the calendar next year.

# KITE BOOKS

by David Medaris



"I've never even had a photo class," Craig Wilson says. But he has entertained some lofty ideas. Perhaps his most high-flown: rig his camera to a kite.

Launching the contraption into a breeze almost 20 years ago, he started snapping away. Early results were hit-or-miss. But with diligence, he soon mastered geometry, perspective, light and composition to yield stunning kite aerial photographs of iceboat regattas, outdoor music concerts and intimate portraits of urban and rural Wisconsin landscapes in all seasons. At exhibitions, his large-scale prints turned heads.

Now, 140 of Wilson's best images are clustered into a book, *Hanging by a Thread: A Kite's View of Wisconsin*. Published by Itchy Cat Press, the 131-page paperback volume (\$23) encompasses — in the words of the kite aerial photographer — a "collection of views of familiar places from a

perspective most people don't get to see."

After what he calls "almost 20 years of farting around," his familiarity with camera, kite, distance and angle affords him a command on full display in *Hanging by a Thread*. The book, he says, "sort of validates all that farting around."

This is self-deprecatory under-appraisal. Printed on glossy paper, *Hanging by a Thread* is a magnificent collection of Wilson's vibrant and varied full-color kite aerial photographs — though I am biased: I have known Wilson for years, own one of his large framed iceboating prints and appear in one of the book's photographs.

Wilson himself appears in several images. Readers can find him by following the kite string that appears in some of the photos.

Some images show a handful of people from eight or 12 feet overhead, others include thousands of college football fans from perhaps 20 feet above the stadium's rim at a 60-degree angle. Whatever the angle or distance, the kite-borne perspective gives all his subjects a terrestrial context.

Wilson uses the term "God's-eye view" to encompass these perspectives — a kind of intimate omniscience that might be exercised by an all-seeing deity who is keeping track of you. Unlike the more remote and static attributes of satellite images, his perspectives are more dynamic and human. "What has always intrigued me about this medium of using a kite is the intimacy, not just with the landscape but with people," he explains.

"Usually, I kind of visualize what I'm trying to do," he continues. "It's not some random shooting around and hope for the best." He is not looking through the camera, he adds, so "it's not like shooting what you're seeing. It's shooting what you're thinking."

Wilson's kite aerial photographs represent a different way of thinking.

David Medaris is a staff writer at *Isthmus*, the *Madison*, *Wisconsin*, *alternative newsweekly*.




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Phil Broder

# WSIKF: 25 Years At Long Beach

by Kay Buesing



performances. Sprints and reel-out competitions by age group for 5-14 year olds put them all “on their mark, ready to go.” The Foster Grandparent Fun Fly matched a child with an experienced kiter, who taught the youngster how to launch and fly a kite that the child got to keep. The Museum’s kitemaking day for kids of all ages made over 400 Americanized Chinese insect kites. They swarmed in the sky.

During all this fun for all ages, the Revolution Team Flyers began to practice their formations to celebrate this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They practically led the crowd to the Long Beach School for the first night of three for folks to enjoy and learn about indoor flying.

Throughout it all, Britain’s Phil Scarfe flew his beloved parafoils. An impromptu “Phil Fly” went on somewhere around this time when 28 kites, all made by Phil, were in the air. Phil’s hero, kitemaker and author Neil Thorburn, came this year, and he and Phil happily visited.

Thursday – the day of the Comprehensive Competition, the NAFKA Kite Challenge, and the day the “Large Kite Area” begins to look crowded – started with a

low cloud ceiling and light winds. The top kitemaking prize went to Marzlie and John Freeman, with 38 out of 40 points for their flag bouncing ball. John’s unique baffle in the ball keeps it from collapsing. Ellen Pardee was second highest point winner with 36.7 on her appliquéd frog arch. Somewhere in this time frame began the novice fighter kite competition with flyers from 12 to 50

years old, who had learned to fly this week had the time of



Twenty-five years ago, the third full week of August, the first Washington State International Kite Festival was born on the Long Beach Peninsula. Compared to this year’s estimated crowds of 8,000 people, the nine participants and the organizers – made up of Harry Osbourn, his Edmond college’s kite club led by future parafoil super builder Doug Hagaman, and some Long Beach Merchants Association’s members who wanted to attract tourism – didn’t promise much. However, the Guinness record for the longest-flying kite was broken that year (and still stands at 180 hours, 17 minutes). This happened because those college boys kept the kite in the air during windless times by pulling it behind a station wagon with the back down.

This 25<sup>th</sup> year began with the kite train engineers’ Pullman breakfast energizing the arches, trains, and stacks. Judging on the ground proceeded. Along the beach approach Mary Yoshimi prepared volunteers to help handicapped folks make and fly kites. Kite train wannabees started making three kites to chug into the sky.

Tuesday, the kite photography workshop was perfect for a no wind morning. John Pollock set up his hand-painted kites in an outdoor gallery perfect for photography. The Club Camps, waiting for the judges, sat comfortably visiting. And rokkaku battles kept adrenaline flowing and visitors’ heads shaking.

Red, white, and blue events were all day Wednesday as well as the Senior Fighter Kite Challenge and Ballet

their lives. The winners beat the organizer to the awards tent for pictures and ribbons. Richard Dermer reeled in new AKA members and showed adults how to make sled kites, sending them off with materials to teach the beloved “flies anywhere” kite to others.

Friday there was kite movement everywhere. The Revolution Team had at least 12 kites flying like the pros they are. World Cup fighter kite competition, and also sport kite competition began, while Mass Ascension #1 filled Field A. The large kite area looked like an underwater scene with eight and more bols acting like sea plants, and a cat or two, an elephant, and a few other creatures swimming on the top among schools of fish and octopoda. The dune east of the ocean scene sprouted non-creature kites. Everything is on auto pilot and went until after the fireworks and night fly.

Before dawn Saturday, heading toward the beach to get their preferred parking spots, the wind had that “I’m blowing for you today” feel. The superbly organized NWSKL put things in order so that single line events and the choreographed competitions intermingled happily. The teddy bear drop went off safely for the 182 participants and all but one bear, which just took off into the dunes. The Parade of Colors led by Al “Uncle Sam” Councilman, who has been its marshal every year, began with eight banners and continued with unimaginable color on poles. It was backdropped by the 18 bols hoping to establish a record for that many flying at one time. Only 17 seemed to keep going but the crowd had so much fun cheering the bols. The mayor of Long Beach gave an official welcome and presented keys to the city to the invited guests. Competitions kept going and made a slot for the Cody Kite Fly. Rick White was excited about the seven new flyers among the over 100 participants. Flying at their very best, the dozen Revolution flyers followed with a choreographed show, which included a number 25 in the sky. It was magic.

Sunday was a quieter day, especially for kite flyers. Some folks started home; others were flying kites and saying goodbye to friends they might not see again until next season. Lary Zilar’s memorial ceremony was a very special moment. As the wind picked up so did the final Mass Ascension, Quad line ballet, and Hot Tricks.

This 25 year old festival is run by seven volunteer local folks chaired by Jane Holeman; created by at least 26 Beach Event chairmen (kite flyers) headed by N. Evonne Miller, and happily working where needed are 200 other volunteers. It’s an amazing fete!



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# 29TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Oh, there's nothing halfway  
About the Iowa way to treat you..."

With apologies to the singing townfolk of the fictional River City in "The Music Man," Iowa treated us pretty well. For six days we gathered in our own river city, at Waterworks Park on the banks of Des Moines' Raccoon River, and put on a show the likes of which the Hawkeye State had never seen. We had Chinese dragons. Humongous flags. Mid-air fighting. Ballet with four strings. Ballet with no wind. Flying bears. John Wayne in the sky. Not to mention workshops, auctions, raffles, new friends, old friends, pranks, jokes, not being able to use the toilet without buying a ticket from Marla first, poolside indoor flying, a brush with airport security....

Oh, we could let some long-timers tell you all about it, but instead we thought our first time in Des Moines would be best described by first-time convention-goers. Here's what they thought....

WOW! I had a great time! Lots to do! Great people! I enjoyed working at the AKA table and at the auction with the Dermers.

Pam Bowden, Wisconsin Rapids WI

My first time experience to an AKA convention was fantastic. I talked to more people in one week from all over the country than I probably would in a year. Lots of great people flying all different kinds of kites. I'm a person who loves to videotape events along with taking pictures too, and I sure got lots of great footage and pictures. The mass ascensions were a lot of fun and I did them all. The workshops were great, I attended several. Although there may be something that didn't go right, or something that could be better, the bright side is when you're flying kites and with friendly people you can't help but to have fun and enjoy yourself. With this convention being close to home, I couldn't pass up the chance to come, and I'm very glad I did. Thank you.

John Hlavacek, Bellevue NE

A whole week of good weather (though bumpy winds), great kites, and absolutely WONDERFUL people. What more is there to say? Workshops were amazing! Sport kite flying was superb. And it was also wonderful to see the kitemaker's comps up close and personal. But beyond that, just the sheer number of incredible people



was tremendous. Some are "names," but some aren't too! I love the people.

Dave Shattuck, Portland OR



Exceeded expectations!!! I came alone, not knowing what to expect or who I would be able to socialize with. I was welcomed and never felt alone or out of place. The weather was beautiful. I met world champions and finally had the opportunity to see LIVE the fabulous kites I had previously only seen in magazines. The magazines DO NOT do the kites justice! It was spiritual.

Glorious T. Wright, Bloomington MN

While no event is perfect, we did enjoy the near-perfect flying weather and meeting many new fellow kitefliers from around the nation. We are planning travels to a couple of new kiting events.

Tony Killip, Wautaga IL

Being an Iowan, the location was wonderful! We really enjoyed the the workshops in the mornings and mass ascensions. We also liked the fighter kites and the Bandanna Gang were the best group of people! Thanks to all the AKA members for making my first convention a great one!

Jenny Monteith, New Hampton IA

I've wanted to come to this festival for ten years now and it utterly exceeded my expectations. My highlight: meeting and flying with the god of Revolutions, Lee Sedgwick!

David Hathaway, Burnaby BC

I had fun at the convention. While Des Moines was my first convention, I have been in kiting for a few years. I enjoyed the hotel in regards to being able to show banners, kites and other colors on the balconies outside our rooms at the Holidome area. The best part of Convention was meeting new people from the US and other parts of the world, as well as old friends. It was a fun atmosphere all week. I enjoyed seeing my wife's logo for the convention on everything. That was a real hoot. There were a lot of workshops, plus several activities going on most of the time (never a null moment). I had been to Kites On Ice in 2002 with my son, Ryan, and had met Craig Wilson there. It was a pleasure seeing and talking with him again. I was fortunate enough to be on the ground crew for the Mega Flag on Thursday. That was big fun! Got to meet Jim Martin. He was a funny guy. But when it came to the Mega Flag he was serious. He had to be. That is a big kite with serious rules. The Flag did fly for a few minutes and it was great fun to see and to help with. I had a good time at convention and hope to go again. Thanks to all the other kitters who attended and made it such fun.

Randy Larkey, Liberty MO

As a first timer, I arrived wondering if we would be wel-

comed by the fellow members... and we were! One big family with a few "strange" cousins thrown in. One thing I saw that made me shake my head was a couple of well-known AKA members who ignored a few basic safety rules. In general, it has been fun, to the point that this will not be our last. We ended up working the AKA table on the field, and that was very enjoyable. Also, we scored a "Friend of Marla" pin, so we really picked up lots of fun trinkets.

Dale Bowden, Wisconsin Rapids WI

AKA members are all my new family; everyone I met welcomed me into their hearts. Thank you. Well worth the money spent on airfares and the numb rear end after 30-odd hours in transit. Warmth. Friendship. Family. Lifelong. Generous. I will cry at farewells. My Christmas card list is now HUGE! Happily exhausted and exhaustedly happy! Just remember... Aussie Aussie Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!

Linda Sanders, Willunga, South Australia

Glad to be part of the 29th annual convention. My expectation was to see the best of the best and meet with other kitters. The festive registration with balloon animals set the pace for our Wisconsin Kitters club. Juggling between workshop classes and outdoor flying was a bit of a challenge. The mass ascensions were great flying with hundreds of other kitters collecting pins, and one of the flies for lost loved ones. We stayed at the Holiday Inn atrium, decorated with kites on the balconies. AKA meeting, Fly Market, kite auction, meeting each other at the cafe, you can't go wrong. I am still amazed with the indoor and outdoor stunt flyers. Odd looking kites that fly and all of us who attempt to defy gravity. When I see this it reminds me of a



quote I heard: "ordinary people doing extraordinary things." Thanks to all the volunteers and Board members who make this happen.

Dennis Lauer, Kaukauna WI

What an event! After reading several years of *Kiting* magazine it was great to meet all the people you read about! People are so friendly just to talk to and so willing to help out and share suggestions. The Bandanna Gang was a great group and do a wonderful job of teaching and helping learn about fighter kites while having a great time doing it. The workshops were informative and the afternoon competitions were great to watch. Don't miss the Hot Tricks and Freestyle! The auction is very entertaining. Go and enjoy!

Jeff Monteith, New Hampton IA

My introduction to the 2006 AKA convention was the year-in-review meeting. Serious business, with the exception of Corey Jensen yelling things from the back of the room. I think that really set the course for the rest of the week. Is everyone here this kooky? Yes. They are. It didn't take long to learn that everyone comes to these festivals to have fun and to celebrate kites. People opened their arms wide and welcomed newcomers like my friend Maggie and I, with all the care in the world. People made sure I had kites to fly, pins to earn and help to place faces to names. Is everyone here this generous and nice? Yes. They are.

Erin Edeiken, Brooklyn NY

# 29TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

## Grand National Results: Sport Kites

### Novice Individual Ballet

1 David Bush	62.700
2 Alan Cunningham	61.500
3 Elizabeth Gordon	55.500
4 Elizabeth Gilson	42.150

### Novice Individual Precision

1 Alan Cunningham	63.575
2 Elizabeth Gordon	52.925
3 David Bush	52.700
4 Laura Stonestreet	48.525
5 Elizabeth Gilson	42.825

### Experienced Individual Ballet

1 Douglas Coates	69.250
2 Dan Newman	67.900
3 James L. Thompson	66.850
4 Paul Koepke	62.900
5 Mark Quirnbach	56.650
6 Donna Houchins	55.500
7 Andrew Cimburek	51.800
8 "Doug" Charleville	51.400

### Experienced Individual Precision

1 James L. Thompson	68.250
2 Ronald Potts	66.975
3 "Doug" Charleville	66.700
4 Dan Newman	65.400
5 Donna Houchins	63.950
6 Andrew Cimburek	63.400
7 Paul Koepke	62.750
8 Mark Quirnbach	60.675
9 Douglas Coates	60.450

### Exp. Ind. Multi-Line Ballet

1 Alan Cunningham	75.600
2 David Hathaway	72.650
3 Karl Berg	70.750
4 Alison Newman	62.650
5 Aaron Champie	62.300
6 "Doug" Charleville	61.000
7 Charles Stonestreet	57.650
8 Laura Stonestreet	55.700

### Exp. Ind. Multi-Line Precision

1 David Hathaway	67.250
2 Alison Newman	54.800
3 Karl Berg	54.050
4 Alan Cunningham	47.175
5 Aaron Champie	45.050

### Experienced Pairs Ballet

1 Fire and Ice	60.950	57.600
2 Nomes		
3 Wing Nuts	51.550	
4 Sky Jesters	49.350	
5 Sky King & Tailspin Tommy	39.700	
6 Blues Brothers	38.700	

### Experienced Pairs Precision

1 Fire and Ice	68.825
2 Sky King & Tailspin Tommy	51.625
3 Sky Jesters	41.100
4 Wing Nuts	39.150
5 Blues Brothers	DQ

### Experienced Team Ballet

1 Genesis	39.750
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### Experienced Team Precision

1 Genesis	58.400
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### Masters Individual Ballet

1 Zachary Gordon	81.700	
2 Egan Davis	79.250	
3 Joshua Gordon	75.700	
4 Daniel Haigh	73.450	
5 Shawn Tinkham	70.800	72.350
6 Patty Tinkham	70.800	
7 John Barresi	69.800	
8 Aaron Champie	68.750	
9 Wayne Fu	58.100	
10 John Gillespie	52.300	
11 Spencer Schubbe	DQ	

### Masters Individual Precision

1 Daniel Haigh	75.975
2 Zachary Gordon	75.325
3 John Barresi	73.350
4 Wayne Turner	72.450
5 Joshua Gordon	72.050
6 Patty Tinkham	70.200
7 Aaron Champie	70.175
8 Shawn Tinkham	66.475
9 Wayne Fu	65.475
10 John Gillespie	60.425
11 Russ Faulk	57.775

### Masters Ind. Multi-Line Ballet

1 Shawn Tinkham	81.600
2 John Barresi	81.500
3 Zachary Gordon	79.150
4 Egan Davis	66.400
5 Douglas Coates	64.700
6 Wayne Fu	61.500
7 Wayne Turner	59.700

### Masters Ind. Multi-Line Preci-

### sion

1 John Barresi	84.175
2 Zachary Gordon	79.900
3 Egan Davis	77.125
4 Shawn Tinkham	74.075
5 Wayne Turner	55.875
6 Wayne Fu	55.025
7 Douglas Coates	53.725

### Masters Pairs Ballet

1 Fly By Nite	76.500
2 EOS	76.200
3 O <sub>2</sub>	72.600
4 Evidence	67.600
5 Pyro	66.050

### Masters Pairs Precision

1 EOS	74.100
2 Fly By Nite	74.025
3 Evidence	67.450
4 O <sub>2</sub>	65.825
5 Full Throttle	50.375

### Masters Team Ballet

1 6th Sense	74.133
2 Chicago Fire	73.333
3 AirZone Flight Team	68.867

### Masters Team Precision

1 6th Sense	71.100
2 Chicago Fire	69.067
3 AirZone Flight Team	68.967

### Open Ind. Indoor Unlimited Ballet

1 Shawn Tinkham	87.883
2 Alan Cunningham	81.067
3 Nelson Borelli	78.783
4 Patty Tinkham	74.950
5 Aaron Champie	74.333
6 John Gillespie	68.283
7 John Barresi	67.683
8 Wayne Turner	66.883
9 Paul Koepke	57.733

### Open Ind. Outdoor Unlimited

1 John Barresi	85.292
2 Charles Stonestreet	70.883
3 "Doug" Charleville	63.733

### Open Team Train Ballet

1 Heaven Help Us	55.800
2 Sky Jesters	52.250

## Rokkakuku!

kitemakers identified where possible

photos by Phil Broder and Lindsey Johnson



### Convention Manager's Report

I remember people asking me, "Why are we going to Des Moines, Iowa for our convention? What is in Des Moines?" Well, for those of us who attended the 2006 event, we now know what is in Des Moines! What a fabulous, warm, welcoming city! Our headquarters hotel seemed to be made for the AKA, complete with a Holidome for indoor flying and demonstrations.

The flying fields at Water Works Park were expansive and beautiful, complete with warm sunny days throughout the week. Though the wind was a little mild on a couple of days, we managed to put hundreds of kites in the air and provide beautiful footage for the local media (even though at the start of the week, one newspaper wrote that the public was invited to watch the AKA members fly at Water Works Park, and that admission was only \$87.50!!!!!!).

Each morning the workshops would spill over with people excited and energized by the quality of presenters and programs. Every evening a differ-

ent program was held at the Holiday Inn and attendees were entertained with a cornucopia of events.

Monday night the opening reception was held in the ballroom of the Airport Holiday Inn. Old friends and new acquaintances used the time to reconnect and share their passion for kiting. Tuesday night was the Indoor Fly at AIB College, which was enjoyed



by everyone including the College staff. On Thursday night we had the opening of the Fly Market and Kite Gallery; featuring the beautiful kite aerial photography of Craig Wilson. In the Holidome the Mini Kite and Pin Challenges entertained all who wanted to join in. On Friday, the Great Kite Auction raised over \$27,000, including more than \$6,000 from the Midwest Kitemaker's Project. The Saturday night Awards Banquet recognized and honored the best of the best in the week long flying events. During the Awards program, Darrin Skinner again did a fabulous presentation that featured pictures from archives and the current week's events that played out during the entire evening.

By Sunday morning members were making their plans for departure and promising to be in Ocean Shores, WA where the AKA will hold their 30<sup>th</sup> annual event, October 1 - October 6, 2007. Mark your calendar NOW!

# Grand National Results: Kitemaker's

## GRAND CHAMPION

Chen Zhao Ji 33.33 (Train & Centipede)

## Highest Score

- Flight: Chen Zhao Ji 8.73 (Train)
- Visual Appeal: Jerry Houk 7.67 (Rokkaku)  
Deb Lenzen 7.67 (Flat)
- Structural Design: Chen Zhao Ji 9.20 (Train)
- Craftsmanship: Chen Zhao Ji 8.70 (Cellular)

**Best Use of Traditional Materials:** Chen Zhao Ji

**Mixed Media:** Terry McPherson (Fighter)

**Most Innovative:** Eric Wolf (Train & Centipede)

**Special Recognition:** Steve Ferrel

## Novice

- Jackie Maciel 29.70 (Figure)
- Greg Bethel 29.10 (Cellular)
- Randy Fox 29.07 (Soft & Flexible)

## Cooperative

MAKR Group	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
	6.37	6.73	6.83	7.30	27.23

## UFO

Chris Dodson	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
	6.97	6.37	7.03	7.70	28.07

## Figure

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Jackie Maciel	6.83	7.70	7.23	7.97	29.73
Jerry Houk	6.27	7.13	7.03	7.87	28.30
Deb Lenzen	6.63	7.60	6.63	7.40	28.27
Ed Gry	6.70	6.73	6.27	6.90	26.60
Chen Zhao Ji	—	—	8.70	8.33	17.03

## Soft & Flexible

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Randy Fox	7.03	7.33	7.30	7.40	29.07
Bob Lockhardt	7.03	7.33	6.70	7.63	28.70
Jackie Maciel	6.67	7.13	6.47	7.13	27.40

## Bowed

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
John Pollock	7.37	8.27	7.93	8.93	32.50
Mike Shaw	7.07	8.33	7.00	8.60	31.00
Joann Weber	7.10	8.27	7.20	7.30	29.87
Greg Bethel	6.93	7.63	6.53	7.23	28.33
David Ellis	6.33	6.07	6.80	6.87	26.07
Phil Broder	6.27	6.33	6.27	6.53	25.40
Barbara Hall	5.77	6.70	6.13	6.10	24.70

## Delta

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Mike Shaw	7.27	7.20	7.47	7.67	29.60
Phil Broder	6.87	7.37	6.87	6.97	28.07
Pete Dolphin	6.87	7.60	6.87	6.70	28.03
Ed Gry	6.27	7.23	6.30	7.10	26.90

## Fighter

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum

Andy Selzer	6.70	7.93	6.90	7.63	29.17
Thomas VanBruggen	6.77	7.77	6.77	7.17	28.47
Carl Anderson	6.50	7.63	6.90	7.33	28.37
Terry McPherson	6.23	7.43	6.53	7.77	27.97
William Schumacher	6.37	7.43	6.63	7.30	27.73

## Sport Kite

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Donna Houchins	7.20	8.00	7.10	8.20	30.50
Scott Spencer	6.50	7.50	6.73	7.20	27.93

## Rokkaku

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Jerry Houk	7.67	7.73	8.27	7.77	31.43
Mike Shaw	7.07	7.27	7.33	7.50	29.17
Greg Bethel	6.97	7.33	6.93	6.70	27.93
Randy Fox	6.40	7.47	6.93	7.00	27.80
Dave Ellis	6.53	7.03	6.33	6.50	26.40

## Train & Centipede

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Chen Zhao Ji	6.73	8.73	8.67	9.20	33.33
Eric Wolf	6.80	7.50	8.23	8.80	31.33
Phil Broder	7.03	7.33	6.80	7.37	28.53

## Cellular & Dimensional

	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Chen Zhao Ji	7.20	8.00	8.70	32.87
Deb Lenzen	7.43	8.07	7.47	31.07
Greg Bethel	6.60	7.87	6.73	29.10
Art Hass	6.93	7.33	7.03	29.03
Roy White	7.20	6.27	7.17	28.33
Dick Stolk	7.13	7.63	6.20	27.67
Phil Broder	6.60	6.67	6.67	26.63
Dick Maciel	6.60	6.30	6.70	26.53
John Hlavacek	5.93	6.90	6.40	25.90

## Flat

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Paul Fieber	7.40	7.37	7.63	7.93	30.33
Deb Lenzen	7.67	7.30	7.63	7.43	30.03
Chen Zhao Ji	6.67	7.30	7.60	7.97	29.53
Joann Weber	7.03	7.33	7.20	7.57	29.13
Phil Broder	7.03	7.87	6.60	6.93	28.43
Dick Maciel	7.07	7.17	6.43	7.13	27.80
Barb Hall	6.67	7.23	6.83	6.77	27.50
David Ellis	6.57	7.17	6.73	6.80	27.27
Elmon Morrison	6.90	6.90	6.77	6.70	27.27
Thomas VanBruggen	6.50	7.07	6.60	6.83	27.00

## Arches & Ribbons

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Scott Spencer	6.57	6.37	6.47	6.73	26.13
Ed Gry	6.17	6.23	6.30	6.73	25.43

## Sky Display

	Flight	Visual	Struct.	Crafts.	Sum
Pete Dolphin	7.10	7.40	7.20	7.97	29.67
MAKR Group	6.37	6.73	6.83	7.30	27.23
Jackie Maciel	5.97	6.00	6.33	6.60	24.90
Dick Stolk	5.50	6.03	6.43	6.50	24.47

# Chat With The Champion

by Phil Broder and Deb VonBokern

At age 67, Chen Zhao Ji has been making kites for 60 years. Born in Weifang, the City of Kites, he moved to Xi'an City to teach music at Xi'an Artistic College.

Twenty years ago, he started adding moving parts to traditional Chinese kite designs creating what he calls the



“Air Mechanical Dynamic Kite.” He builds a windmill or wind tunnel into the kite that is attached to gears which make eyes, heads and arms move back and forth, mouths open and close, tongues lash and whiskers whirl.

Mr. Chen works on a small table; he uses a sharpened blade to split bamboo, a hand drill and paint. He bends bamboo over a candle or alcohol lamp. It takes him three months to complete one mechanical kite.

He ties the bamboo parts together with hemp rope, then glues a paper or silk skin onto the frame. He uses raw silk which has been stretched and sized or starched with a bean paste and alum mixture. The starch allows the paint to stick and seals the silk. The watercolor paint is put on in layers, working towards darker colors. A toothbrush is used to make an airbrush effect and to blend colors. He meticulously paints in every feather and detail by hand.

The Dragon is the most complicated kite that he has made so far. It has seven different moving parts; the pearl in its mouth is the windmill, the eyes and tongue move back and forth, the eyebrows and cheeks move up and down, the jaws open and close, and the whiskers twirl. The turbine has eight spokes; the wheel is made from one piece of bamboo that is tapered to fit together in the circle. There is a metal spring that is stretched onto the outer ring that makes a gear. The gears interlock and move easily, allowing for graceful movement in flight.

We sat down with Mr. Chen and his interpreter, Yuan Hsu, shortly before he won eight trophies at the banquet.



**Kiting:** This is your first AKA convention?  
**Chen:** Yes. And fourth trip to America.  
**Kiting:** You use traditional



materials in an untraditional way. How did you arrive at your style?

**Chen:** The traditional Chinese kite has nothing new or modern. It has been unchanged for 1000 to 2000 years. I like to introduce something new. Motion makes the kite come alive. Mechanical gears make things more exciting. The goal is to look like life. Real life is bet-

ter than still life.

**Kiting:** Would you ever use modern materials?

**Chen:** Bamboo is available to me, but I would use modern materials if they were available to me. Carbon fiber is durable and really nice. The problem is heat setting, which I do with bamboo.

**Kiting:** Are there kitemakers outside of China who influence you?

**Chen:** No. There are two or three kitemakers in Weifang who are influential, and one or two more in Xi'an.

**Kiting:** In America you're a superstar, with everyone flocking around you. How are you treated when you fly kites in China?

**Chen:** In 1987 when I made my first mechanical kite, people were really in awe. I still talk to reporters often. Since I was honored as Grandmaster of Art in my province, I have done many interviews.

For more information about “Wind Above, Earth Below,” a film about traditional kitemaking in China featuring Chen Zhao Ji, visit



### Individual Rokkaku Battle

- 1 David Gomberg
- 2 Ronda Brewer
- 3 Jerry Houk
- 4 Andy Selzer
- 5 Randy Fox
- 6 Tom Cross
- 7 Ken Wilkowski

### Team Rokkaku Battle

- 1 Team Bandanna Babies  
(Jeremy Terpening, Tom Van Bruggen, Tom Cross)
- 2 Team Rainbow Warriors  
(Rick Kinnaird, Erin Edeiken)
- 3 Team Past Presidents  
(David Gomberg, Pete Dolphin)
- 4 Team Shock & Awe  
(Ronda Brewer, Dennis Lauer, Ed Grys)

### Experienced Fighter Skills

- |                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Nelson Borelli | 30 |
| 2 Andy Selzer    | 15 |
| 3 Bruce Jarvie   | 15 |
| 4 Carl Anderson  | 10 |
| Jeremy Terpening | 10 |
| Bill Schumacher  | 10 |
| Tom Van Bruggen  | 10 |
| 8 Carol Jarvie   | 0  |
| Sharon Champie   | 0  |
| Terry McPherson  | 0  |

### Novice Fighter Skills

- |                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| 1 Darrin Skinner | 25 |
| 2 John Roberts   | 10 |
| 3 Lynn Berry     | 5  |
| 4 Linda Berry    | 0  |

### Experienced Fighter Line

- |                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| <b>Touch</b>       |    |
| 1 Andy Selzer      | 30 |
| 2 Carl Anderson    | 22 |
| 3 Tom Van Bruggen  | 22 |
| 4 Jeremy Terpening | 19 |
| 5 Terry McPherson  | 17 |
| Bill Schumacher    | 17 |
| 7 David Gomberg    | 15 |
| Sharon Champie     | 15 |
| 9 Bruce Jarvie     | 11 |
| 10 Nelson Borelli  | 10 |
| 11 Carol Jarvie    | 8  |
| 12 Cat Gabrel      | 7  |

### Novice Fighter Line Touch

- |                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| 1 Darrin Skinner  | 13 |
| 2 John Roberts    | 12 |
| 3 Lynn Berry      | 8  |
| 4 Charles Stewart | 7  |
| 5 Paul Duncan     | 4  |
| 6 Linda Berry     | 0  |

## Fightin' Words by Sharon Champie

What a great week for fighter kite enthusiasts! What a great way to celebrate the end of a year that has seen these little kites make their presence felt at more events across the country than ever before.

Thanks to the hard work of Terry McPherson and the Bandanna Gang, we were treated to a full week of fighter activities that challenged and entertained everyone at every skill level. From the very first day as the newest flyers were trying to control their giggles as well as their, to fighter workshops, to the last rokkaku battle, there was something for every one every day.

The experienced line touch event really set the pace for the rest of the week. Flying in fluky, uncooperative winds, twelve combatants flew for six straight hours to complete a full round, each flying a five point match against

every one else. There was such camaraderie and fine sportsmanship shown that I'm sure it will long be remembered by all who participated. Andy Selzer taught us all what it means to be a gracious winner as he thoroughly trounced us all, giving up only three points in all his matches.

A surprising agile, nearly naked Nelson Borelli turned in a performance later that evening in the Indoor competition that also will live in the memories of all. Way to go Nelson! You can see a video of his indoor fighter routine at [www.kitelife.com](http://www.kitelife.com) under John Barressi's coverage of the convention.

Another highlight of the week had to be Andy Selzer's make-and-take fighter kite workshop. With help from the Bandanna Gang again, Andy shepherded 25 enthusiastic builders through the intricacies of making a really nice, competition-worthy, low wind fighter. The kites were so nice that Darrin Skinner used one to handily win the Novice line-touch and skills competitions.



### Edeiken Award

The Edeiken Award is about service to kiting. As we all know, service can mean big things and it can mean smaller day-to-day things as well. This year's Edeiken Award goes to a couple that can be counted on for the big things, and to do the smaller ones without being asked.

Mike and Cel Dallmer are constants in kiting. Whether at smaller flies, major festivals, workshops, local clubs, the AKA Board, or as the leader of a national program, we have come to count on the Dallmers as innovators and contributors.

- The Dallmers coordinated National Kite Month this year, with Mike as Chairman and Cel handling most of the envelope stuffing.

- The Dallmers have been active leaders in the South Jersey Kite Flyers. Mike is serving a fifth year as President. Cel is Hospitality Coordinator

- The Dallmers coordinate auctions for two major festivals each year – Wildwood and MIKE/MASKC. The entire family works on each program. Mike is also co-chair of the AKA Auction.

- Mike is an award winning kitemaker. He has served as a kitemaking judge for the AKA Grand Nationals.

- Mike has helped to develop new plans for the kite community. He has published details for a circoflex and his interpretation of a genki.

- Cel is the driving force behind the annual Wildwood Welcome Bar-B-Que. Mike has traditionally been the chief

ticket-taker.

- Together the Dallmers organize and offer a variety of children's kite making workshops in South Jersey and Philadelphia.

It is hard to miss the Dallmers at any festival in Region 2. And even if you don't know or notice them, you certainly are affected by their efforts and contributions. Mike is always on the field trying to keep the sky filled



with color. And he frequently gives kites away to visiting kids. When not in the middle of the field he is by Cel's side making sure everything is going smoothly.

Cel serves more of a behind the scenes role. She has stood by Mike's addiction to the kite hobby since the beginning, giving up her sewing machine to the cause and allowing him to turn the entire basement into a kite workshop. Together these two wonderful people represent what is best and good in kiting.

### Ingraham Award

The AKA has identified the Ingraham Award, named for our founder, to honor special volunteers who have given the Association ongoing service and support. This year's award goes to two people who were recognized with the very first AKA Volunteer of the Year award in 1994, Darrin and Susan Skinner.

In 1992, Darrin created a multi-level automated telephone system to provide information about the AKA. This seems almost antiquated now, but at the time it was cutting edge. Material used for the phone system became the backbone of AKA's new web page



in 1995 and Darrin became the first webmaster.

Darrin created the first computerized AKA scoring program. He programmed our first online kite calendar. And he created the first online conference competitor ranking system. Darrin has recently completed an overhaul of his competitor scoring program and also the conference ranking system.

Five times, Susan and Darrin managed the Sport Kite Competition at the Nationals.

The Skinners helped found the Bay Area Sport kite League (where AKA membership is mandated). They have each served as president. BASKL was named AKA's first Club of the Year.

Starting in 2001, Susan has chaired each of our National Conventions. She has served on the AKA Executive Committee. In 2005, she administered the World Sport Kite Championships for the AKA.

Programming, managing, organizing, scheduling, and recruiting other volunteers are sometimes invisible tasks and often thankless ones. But someone needs to do the work that allows the rest of us to have fun or be recognized. So it seems fitting to recognize these two AKA stalwarts now with AKA's highest volunteer award.

### Lee Toy Circle Award

This year's recipient is a long-time AKA member and three-time Grand Champion who has taught workshops all over the world. He is a past member of the Kite Art committee, and is on the board of directors for the Drachen Foundation. He willingly shares his work and knowledge, and encourages other artists in their efforts. This year's honoree is Jose Sainz.

Regional Director of the Year  
*Don Murphy, Region 7*

Volunteer of the Year  
*Tracy Erzin*

Club of the Year  
*South Jersey Kite Flyers*

# Miniature Kite Challenge Results

Smallest	Beauty	Flight	Originality
1 Jim Martin 5/8" (smallest tail)	1 Donna Houchins	1 Jim Martin	1 Donna Houchins
2 Donna Houchins 5/8"	2 Joann Weber	2 Susan Skinner	2 Jim Martin
3 Susan Skinner 1"	3 Jim Martin	3 Joann Weber	3 Susan Skinner
4 Pam Bowden 3 1/4"	4 Pam Bowden	4 Donna Houchins	4 Joann Weber
5 Joann Weber 6"	5 Susan Skinner	5 Pam Bowden	5 Pam Bowden

## Size Matters

by Jim Martin  
How I Flew the Biggest, Smallest,

or and Most Kites in Des Moines

Early in 2006, David and Susan Gomberg asked if I would drive out from North Carolina to Iowa, and bring their Mega Flag to fly at the 29<sup>th</sup> AKA Convention. I was looking forward to the convention anyway, and adding in a chance to fly the world's biggest kite for the world's most knowledgeable audience was a very nice bonus.

I also packed my two boxes of miniature kites, and my mini-kite building supplies, as taking part in the Miniature Kite Challenge has been my favorite part of past conventions. Here was a rare chance: to fly the biggest AND the smallest kite at the convention.

Arriving in Des Moines, it became clear that there were going to be some challenges in pulling this off. I was sure we safely had the biggest kite in hand, but wind conditions sounded iffy, with words like "twenty mile an hour gusts" used frequently. On the smallest kite front, due to my brother's recent wedding, I had not built anything really small for the mini kite challenge.

First things first. Flying the big one



was scheduled for Thursday, the mini challenge for Friday. On Wednesday, Scott Atzen and a crew from Water Works Park delivered a twelve-ton, gravel-filled dump truck to anchor us, and the forecast was sounding a lot better. So we were "Go!" to try a flight.

Thursday morning the weather was perfect for the Mega Flag: six or seven mile an hour winds, blowing down the length of the field, and a pleasant temperature to work in. The crew got the kite laid out, under the watchful eye of several TV and print news crews and we let the wind begin to inflate the kite.

As the kite filled with air, I noticed a ripped seam in the back of the kite. Apparently, at our last flight in Dallas a seam had parted unnoticed when we lowered the kite in suddenly gusting winds at the end of the day. After a quick consultation with David and Susan, we decided to fly the kite anyway, and the crowd cheered as the kite inflated and lifted into the air.

Winds were very light, but we flew the kite for about fifteen minutes before a lull let the kite fold up and settle onto the ground. When we discovered that the rip was starting to spread, it was clear we were done. But, we had flown, and I now safely had the biggest kite at the convention under my belt: time to claim the smallest as well.

That night, I made a series of tiny Eddies, pushing the size down as far as I could. A number of non-flying tiny kites were tossed in the bin, but eventually I came up with a little kite 3/4 inch by 1/2 inch, which flew very steadily at about a 30 degree elevation. Rumor was going around the mini-kites that somebody had a tiny box kite smaller than that; later rumor said it had been inadvertently squashed. I also knew that Donna Houchins and Sue Skinner had some very small kites. In the end, it was very close, but I edged out Donna's smallest kite by a whisker, and had successfully taken kite flying at the convention to the extremes, size-wise.

The next day, I was crossing the field, and noticed Terry McPherson lofting a train of Li'l Miss Take fighter kites. Years ago, WACKOS, my home club, and TISKK had competed to fly the most of these kites on one line. Eventually, the WACKOS topped out at 24. Terry told me he had 29, and intended to usurp our record.

In a situation like that, there was only one thing to do: help him, and get a chance to hold the line for a moment and add "most on a line" to a superlative convention.

Thanks to David and Susan Gomberg and the "A" and "B" teams, Charlie Sotich and the mini-kites and Terry McPherson. It was indeed a week of extreme kiteflying.

# A Familiar Name, A New Face

If you were in Des Moines, chances are you saw a twenty-something woman



with a video camera glued to her face. It was none other than Erin Edeiken, daughter of the late Steve Edeiken. In the early 1980s, when Erin was a toddler, her father, founder of the Rainbow Kite Company, was killed while trying to launch the world's largest kite at Long Beach, WA.



Now, Erin is trying to discover the father she never knew. She came to the convention armed with a camera, a volunteer camera crew, and a six-pack of Steve's seminal Rainbow stunt kites. Before week's end, she had learned to fly the kites, let many others try them out, gained wisdom at the knee of Corey Jensen, and by flying alongside Rick Kinnaird in the team rokkaku battle, healed the rift between the Rainbow Warriors and the Mama-Sans. One



week later, she came from her Brooklyn home to Wildwood to present the award named for her father to Mike and Cel Dallmer in person. Her film-making project continues; look for Erin at future conventions and other kite festivals across America as she tries to find out more about the man who helped popularize stunt kites.

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Jim Martin



# Paper In Flight

Throughout the fall, the Maryland Institute College of Art celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Hand Papermaking* magazine with the exhibit "Paper In Flight." The exhibit explores the use of handmade Japanese washi paper as a medium for the art of kitemaking. The kitemakers involved included America's Scott Skinner, Canada's Robert Trépanier, Hungarians István Bodóczy and son Anthony, Italian Alessia Marrocu, Japan's Nobuhiko Yoshizumi, and Austria's Eveline Bischof, Anna Rubin, and Daniella Zitzmann. Also adding

to the exhibit were acclaimed artists Lesley Dill and Byron Kim. The centerpiece of the exhibit was Dill's "Divide Light (Healing Man)", a 10-foot tall washi paper on bamboo frame collaboration with Skinner, Gail Deery (chair of MICA's printmaking department), and 21 MICA students. The exhibit and related symposia were sponsored by MICA, Hand Papermaking Inc., the Drachen Foundation, and Hiromi Paper International.



Above and right: untitled kites by Robert Trépanier and Scott Skinner.

Left: Divide Light (Healing Man) by Lesley Dill

photos by International Photo: Dan Meyers



# Niagara International Kite Festival

October 6-9, 2006

Under the Mega Moon you'll find Dean Jordan, Jose Sainz, Mrs. Sakuraba, Blake Pelton, Mrs. Nakamura, Masaaki Modegi, Mr. Nakamura, and Yoshizo Sakuraba.



Canada's Jean Poisson gets formal.

Great Britain's Martin Lester flies his Spirit Man.

photos by Doug Isherwood



A cathedral window dopero by Tasmania's Rob Brasington.

# SunFest



Hank Kleint reads his multi-flare.



Paul LaMasters gives a Rev lesson on the beach.



Phil Broder's Seaside Thai goes for a swim.



The crowd gathers next to What the Duck, ready for the candy drop.

Ocean City, MD  
September 21-24, 2006

photos by Phil Broder

How do yours "stack" up?

Alpha +  
Graduate  
Beetle 2100  
Stuntmaster

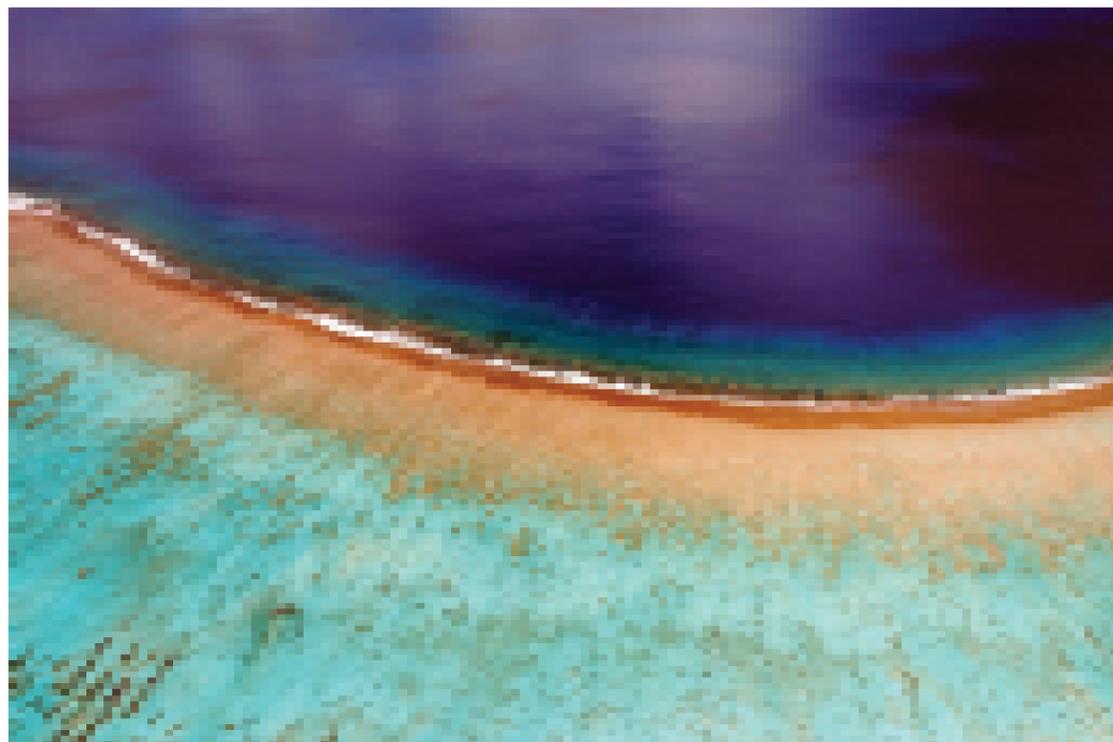
**Dyna-Kite Corp**  
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# KAPTIONS

The Best Kite Aerial Photograph competition at this year's Convention attracted a diverse group of kite aerial photographers. Nine AKA members representing four countries submitted twenty-four photographs, with banquet attendees voting for their favorite. A big thanks goes to Brooks Leffler and Craig Wilson for handling the setup and voting at the banquet.

**First Place - "Bora Bora - Coral reef and lagoon" by Pierre Lesage, French Polynesia**

This stunning photo was taken with a Canon IXY Digital 600. The camera was lifted by a Sutton Flowform 30 towed by a boat. The only post processing done on the image was to boost the blacks and contrast.



**Runner Up- "Broch of Gurness, Orkney,**



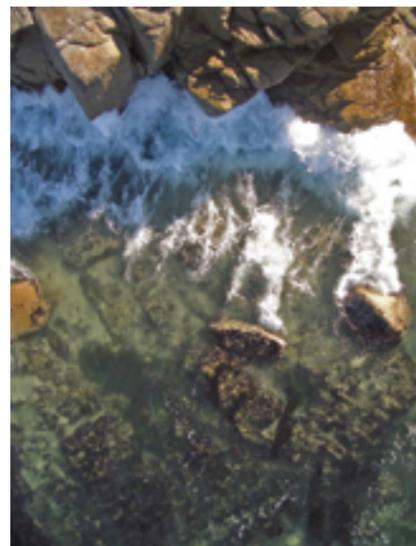
**Second Runner Up- "What's Up!" by Dan Brinnehl, Illinois**

Dan says, "This image was taken at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at a sport kite demonstration with the Chicago Fire Kite Team. Between performances Craig Wilson and I both noticed this group of kids which Craig helped corral for this photograph. Curiosity, wonderment and surprise all show in the eyes of these kids as they looked at 'What's Up!'"

Dan finished in a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with David Wheeler, who's work will be featured in the Spring '07 issue of *Kiting*.

**Scotland" by James Gentles, Scotland, UK**

Broch of Gurness is a pre-historic gem on the Island of Orkney, dating from around 1000 B.C. The final image is a composite of two images. The camera was a Pentax 550 Digital lifted by a Pilot modified for KAP use.



Top left: "Asilomar Shoreline" by Brooks Leffler, California  
 Top center: "White Knight and Spaceship One with DC-3" by Craig Wilson, Wisconsin  
 Top right: "Water Jet Ski in Ravenna" by Andrea Casalboni, Italy  
 Right: "Nothing but Net" by David Hunt, Tennessee

## The AKA Store

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or when you don't get what YOU really want for the holidays!**



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# REGIONAL REPORTS



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 End of term: 2007

is endless. Meg and Bill Albers ran a world class international kite festival that started with a historic kite contest over the falls. Masaaki Modegi brought the Mega Moon, the world's largest kite, to this festival. It was a crowd pleaser and the spectators were thrilled. There were other monster kites from "The Berkeley Kite Wranglers" and a whole bunch of other cowboys from around the planet. Kite-making workshops for the public were offered and fugu wrestling for the kids with a giant inflatable blow fish.

I don't want to overshadow the



AKA Convention, and as usual Region One members did very well in Des Moines. Taking home plenty of wood were the Tinkhams, Doug Coates and Karl Berg. New-comers Dick and Jackie Maciel took home many honors in kite making. Way to go you two. The corn on the cob kite was perfect in many ways. Congratulations.

Around the region there has been plenty to do and plenty of places to fly. Local events are popping up all over our region. Between the AKA, KONE and ConnectiKites websites every event should be



listed. With old man winter creeping up on us you may want to see if you have any indoor flying space in your city or town available. I'm pretty sure if you can find a gym or hall with enough overhead clearance and flying space you could find plenty of folks to come down and fly with you this winter. Contact your local kite club and get the word out. I'm sure Gary Quinton and KONE will have many events going again this year in Lynn.



Hello everyone. I'm rushing to put this report together now that *Kiting* has a new editor at the helm. Let's hope things run as smooth as silk for Phil and for *Kiting*. The AKA is full of new officers and they are trying to keep the AKA alive and well. Let's all do what we can to support them. We need more events in Region One like the Narragansett event that Forrest Carey ran. What a sweet spot to fly kites. Nice job Forrest and everyone who made it happen. I'm looking forward to next year already.

I'm also looking forward to going back to Niagara Falls. What a great festival. It was just amazing to see some of the world's best kitemakers and fliers from around the world gather for a kite fly in Niagara Falls, NY. I would name names but the list



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 End of term: 2007

I know that all of you who were fortunate enough to attend the convention had an excellent time, and some Region Two members brought home some excellent memories along with their trophies.

If you see Mike and Cecilia Dallmer, high-five 'em for winning the Steve Edeiken Memorial Kiteflier of the Year award this year! This award has been spending a lot of time here in Region Two in the last five years or so, and the Dallmers certainly exemplify the spirit of this award for their excellence in kite making and kite flying, and for their generosity and kindness with all kite fliers. The award was presented by Pete Dolphin along with a new addition to the region, Erin Edeiken.

Going hand-in-hand with this, the South Jersey Kite Flyers won the Club of the Year award! No slacking off now, gang. Keep up the great work. Some of their recent events have been the "Olan and Bernice Turner International Invitational Open Peanut Butter Cookie Kite Fly and Bake Off" in late October, two weekends at Longwood Gardens building more than 200 kites in September, and their third Annual "Flying at Fort Mott" with a BBQ, kite flying and friend making. Two long-time SJKF board members, Pat and Russ Mozier, are moving to Florida around Christmas. Pat is the Treasurer of the club

and Russ held all kinds of positions since they joined SJKF in 1996. While they will be missed, I'm sure they'll be a great addition to Region Four.

Region Two kitemakers fared well in Des Moines. Andy Selzer, Pete Dolphin, and Scott Spencer all won categories, and Phil Broder added another pair of trophies in his first-ever competition.

I also am aware of some Region Two members who volunteered their



their ground display and kites; and helped open "Mumfest" at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. And LVKS already has events booked for '07!

The Keystone Kites are planning their annual one-day winter retreat on the Sunday of the "Big Game" in February. Look for more in one of my Region Two e-mails.

time in Des Moines. I've seen evidence of Steve Ferrel, Cliff Quinn, Joyce Quinn, Cinda Shannon, Kevin Shannon, Tanna Haynes and Glen Haynes working at the convention. If you were there and enjoyed yourself, you have folks like these to thank.

Lehigh Valley Kite Society has continued to do kite building for kids. It seems that their reputation still exists for these events. Their display also is appreciated because it causes such a splash of color and excitement. By this time, LVKS has participated in Sciencefest at Marvine School in Bethlehem, PA; the Cancer Walk in Mt. Lakes, NJ, where they donate time, kites and services every year; an event at the Merion Cricket Club in Haverford, PA, with



Lindsey Johnson



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End of term: 2007

kite competitions, our folks helped setup and tear down several venues at the convention. Here is an impressive statistic: Jon Burkhardt has attended 28 of the 29 AKA conventions, plus he built and donated a kite or kite-related item to the convention 25 years running. He did pretty well in the bidding department this year too. [Editor's note: Don't I know it! I bought his kite.] Jon, thanks for the support and dedication to the AKA.

Before we get started on events, here is something for you kitebuilders. Flyers around Region Three festivals have been fortunate to encounter Randy Shenk and see some of his great kites. He has been painting and experimenting with dyeing kite fabric. Go to these links and you can get an idea of what he has been working on: [www.kitebuilder.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=3813](http://www.kitebuilder.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=3813) and also [www.kitebuilder.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=3855](http://www.kitebuilder.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=3855).

Wings Over Washington worked with the Festival Committee (Arts Council) since February to make the First Middletown (MD) Kite Festival a huge success. There were music, banners, great wind, kites for sale, bol races, kite building, a band, food vendors, and LOTS OF PEOPLE (the estimate was between 800 and 900 attendees). WOW had a great turnout of kites who thoroughly enjoyed the day. Based on past experience with kite building at first time festivals, they expected to build about 50 kites and ended up building 116 — all they brought — and could have built more. They are meeting with the Committee soon to plan next years' event, so it sounds like they enjoyed the event.

The RAF invaded WACKOS turf over Labor Day weekend for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mile High Kite Festival. Beech Mountain, NC, is the highest incorporated city in the Eastern United States and if you fly a kite 100' high, it is a mile up, earning you a certificate from the city. In addition to the weekend kite festival, there was a great street dance Saturday night and a cookout dinner on Sunday after the festival.



For the first time in the 26 year history of the Edinburg (VA) Ole Time Festival, they had kites! WOW and Richmond Air Force descended on this small town of 900 in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and put on a show. The library had a kite display all month, and the clubs sent the town kites to display in store fronts. Conditions weren't the greatest, but, as always, they did a fantastic job of introducing festival goers to the world of kiting. There were four venues to cover. The flying field offered challenging winds, but they pulled it off. There were lots of colorful banners, and a kite corral was set up at the flying field which the crowds found very interesting. Also at the flying field, they held bol races and judged kit kites. Two kite building sites were available, and there was a booth on Main Street. Plus, as a bonus, the clubs got to march in the parade! The word is that they would like to have them back next year. A highlight of the weekend was the bed race on Sunday. Get a bed frame, fit it with wheels, a steering mechanism, and a driver, and compete in heats against other bed racers. After three heats, the winning bed clocked in at 23 mph — that was a hoot! Maybe the kites should enter next year!!

September 21-24 was Sunfest in Ocean City, MD. Because of the windy conditions, there wasn't much in the way of ground displays. But, there were kites in the air. As usual, the Kite Loft auction was fun. WOWsters Dennis Hawley and Paul LaMasters each got one of the three new Jordan Air Forms being auctioned.



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End of Term: 2007

It's been a great summer; the "big winds" avoided us and we've been to many festivals. As I write this, I am planning the inaugural Cape Fear Kite Festival to be held the first weekend in November at Wrightsville Beach. I attended the AKA and was glad to meet so many representatives from Region Four.

This comes from Rick Miessau in West Palm Beach, FL: "In July 2006, my family made a trip to the Philippines for our first reunion in 30 years. We also had an opportunity to tour the northern mountain provinces of the main island, Luzon. The highlight of our exploration was viewing the 2000 year old rice terraces in Banaue. Banaue is perched on the edge of these ancient rice terraces at an elevation above 3000 feet and are the highest terraces in the world. After checking with the local tribesmen, I attempted to fly my new Revolution Power Blast, which the kind folks at Revolution Kites rushed to me just before leaving for our trip. I had hopes of flying my new kite from the most recognized terrace in Banaue which is depicted on the back of the 1000 peso note. With almost dead calm air I

managed to launch the 10 foot kite for a moment to the delight of two elder tribeswomen looking on with amazement. Later that same morning, my youngest son, Eric, and I stopped by Paitlong Elementary School to speak with the principal, offering to return at lunchtime to give a kite demonstration. My eldest son, Troy, and I quickly went in search of locally available material to demonstrate for the children how to assemble homemade kites. To the delight of about 75 children, my son and I made diamond kites from potato chip bags, bamboo taken from a traditional broom, and thread. We tried our best using drawings, their surprisingly good understanding of English, our limited understanding of Tagalog, and charades to convey the importance of symmetry, proportion, scale and weight. We succeeded in flying a train of the miniature diamonds from the end of a bamboo stick to the cheers of the entire school. With very limited space to launch, I managed to climb on the tin roof of the school, stretch my 30 meter lines down the driveway and, with a gust, my Blast was airborne. I flew the 4-line wonder for several passes while the children and teachers looked on in disbelief. Against an amazing backdrop of the terraces, our adventure ended with no broken limbs or spars. After only one hour we felt we had inspired a new group of future kite flyers. We hope to revisit Banaue in 2008 and see the sky full of kites."



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End of term: 2008

Hello Region Five kites. We just returned from the AKA Convention. It was a great week. The workshops were a cut above what I have experienced at other conventions. And the weather more than cooperated....the mid 80s in October in Des Moines. Many attendees commented that the number of spectators at this convention far exceeded those who came to observe at



previous convention locations. Thanks go out to the local media for coming out to cover the convention activities. Region Five was well represented by folks from all parts of Michigan and Ohio, too many names to mention. Most of the kite clubs in the region were represented. I recall chatting



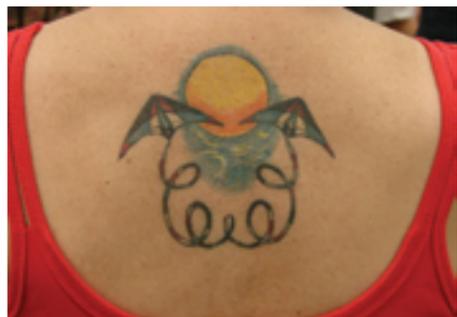
able two days in Cleveland.

There are two events which have published dates for 2007. A new kite festival is being planned in Tawas City, Michigan for June 2-3. Initial plans indicate that this will be a fun festival on the shores of Lake Huron with show kites, team demos, etc. The Bay City Times and the local Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring this event. And, the Third Annual Airwaves Kite Fest in Cincinnati has announced that it is expanding to two days in 2007. The dates for Airwaves 2007 are April 14

**Region 5, continued**

with folks from O.S.E.K., P.I.G.S. Aloft, Tri-State Windriders, Mid-Michigan String Stretchers and Black Swamp Air Force. And, of course, the Bandanna Gang was well represented. My apologies if I did not get a chance to visit with you at the convention or failed to recognize that you were from a club that I did not mention. Check out the competition results elsewhere in this issue. Many awards went to competitors from Region Five. Congratulations to all. Sandi and I really enjoyed the week and, as usual, came home with a couple of new kites that we "purchased" at the Great Kite Auction.

Getting to news and happenings in the region, I had a great time at the Cleveland Kite Festival on September 9-10. The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites does a bang-up job with this annual event on the shores of Lake Erie. There was nice weather and good winds both days. And there were quite a number of spectators enjoying the show each day. Folks flew kites they had purchased from the kite vendors that were on the grounds. Demos, show kites, and the many neat single line kites that were flown kept everyone entertained. Yes, it was an enjoy-



& 15. Mark these on your 2007 calendar. Both promise to be great fun, and opportunities to share your love of kiting with the non-kiting community.

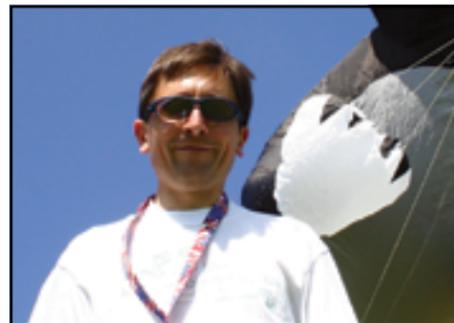
With winter approaching focus seems to be changing to building kites



and planning for next season. But do not forget that most of the Region Five kite clubs continue their monthly flys throughout the winter or schedule special winter activities. If you are not a member of an AKA affiliated kite club, check out the list of clubs in this issue, and phone or e-mail the contact person. They would love to have you participate in their activities.

If you hold an event please send me a short report and some picture so I can share them in *Kiting*.

Remember...its all about putting smiles on faces.



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 End of term: 2008

Greetings from Region Six. Since my last report the region has had its share of events including playing host to this year's annual convention. Attendees included members from throughout the region, some of whom came for the fun of it and some who came to compete in both the kitemaking and sport kite events. You can find the names of all the winners elsewhere in this issue.

Major announcements from the Chicago Fire. With the help of several other sport kites and some subterfuge orchestrated by David Gomberg, the team welcomed its newest member, Zach Gordon. And at the end of the week in Des Moines, Paul Koepke popped the question to Kathy Brinnehl. Congratulations to all! Also, the winner (loser?) of the Fire's annual spar-busting contest was Russ Faulk.

The Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois held the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Frank Mots International Kite Festival at Veterans' Park on the shores of Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, WI, on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> with cloudy cool weather and great winds. The event featured



performances by Chicago Fire, Team

Pegasus, Jim Wirt, Mike Delfar, Dan Newman, Alison Newman, Paul Koepke, the Gordon brothers, and Paula Schenk. KSWI club members made Charlie Sotich kites for the kids during and the event was attended by members of several clubs in the region.

The Kite Society starts off its 2007 season with the Cool Fool Kite Fly on January 1<sup>st</sup> at Veterans' Park. Scott Fisher will have the Gift of Wings store at the park open for a spot to warm up if you're brave enough to venture out into the cold and join me.

The Wisconsin Kites took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual United Way kick off event in Marinette, WI, on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The attendance at this event was good but the winds were too generous, limiting the size of the sky show. The childrens' kite workshop usually held outdoors was moved inside to keep materials from blowing away.

The Wisconsin Kites start out their 2007 season on January 1<sup>st</sup> at Deland



Park in Sheboygan where their kites will accompany the Polar Bear Plunge.

The Minnesota Kite Society starts off the year with Lake Harriet Winterfest on a Saturday in mid-January at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis, MN. Please check their website for more details if you're interested in attending. They also have the Frosty Fingers Kite Fly scheduled on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Como Park in St. Paul, MN.

MKS held the annual Flying Colors Kite Festival in Maple Grove, MN, last August and for the first time in several

years I was able to join them. The day started out gray then cleared and the winds varied in both direction and intensity as the day went along, but the kites in attendance kept the sky filled with a variety of ripstop creations making for some smiles on the faces of the spectators in attendance.

In addition to club events, there are some kite festivals that are definitely worth checking out. On February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Kites Over the Bay takes place in Fish Creek, WI. Last year this gathering not only featured kites flown from the ice on the bay, but a neat display of kites in the local town hall as well. On February 17<sup>th</sup>, the annual Color The Wind kite festival takes place in Clear Lake, Iowa. Each year Larry and Kay Day bring in a fun group of kites who put on a great show and have a good time despite the cold.

When I think of good times, I'm reminded that MAKR, the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat takes place on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at the Loreda Taft Campus of Northern Illinois University in Oregon, IL. The talent of some of the folks who have taught and attended these classes was clearly displayed at the convention.

I'd like to thank Scott Fisher for his contribution to this report. I'd also like to thank the members of the clubs in our region who through their input make the job of your regional director easier. If you have an event you'd like me to attend or spread the word about please let me know. Have a happy and safe holiday season and keep looking up!



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 End of term: 2008

Well, we've come to the end of the kite flying season once again. We have had some great flies and some rainouts. But after the wonderful weather at the Convention in Des Moines, it has ended well. Since our



last issue we spent Labor Day weekend in Callaway, NE. As usual, it was a wonderful festival. The weather was great, good winds and great times. We were short a few of our regular flyers, however we did bring in some new attendees.

Convention was a great experience for us and many from our region. We were so glad to see such a good



build something new for next year. Come and join us at Clear Lake, Iowa on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. It's cold but really fun!

Linda Larkey of the Kansas City Kite Club had this to share about her first experience at Callaway...

"Randy and I decided a few days before the long Labor Day weekend to attend Callaway. We have heard

about it for years, but the distance, and scheduling had put us off.

We planned to leave as soon as we could make it home Friday. We made Callaway about 1:00 Saturday to find a field FILLED with kites. This festival is held in a pasture, but not a pasture that I have seen before. I was expecting tall grass, and lots of chiggers. Instead there was short grasses, small cactus groups, and rolling hills. The rancher who donates the use of his land moves his cattle out a couple of weeks before the event, so there are no fresh cow pies on the land. No stubble, either, like many fields kites find themselves in. And KITES. Big kites, that looked pretty small in the wide open spaces. Small kites at the end of kids hands. All types of kites. And different kites on different days. Kites from a wide area. And few that we had met before.

This was the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Kite Flight in Callaway, organized by Connie May. Callaway averages over 125 families that participates and flies, and has approximately 3500 spectators who enjoy the show. Participants pay \$20 per family to fly and receive a T-shirt, and a bag of goodies from local merchants.

We were amazed at how many spectators came. And these were die-hard spectators. They set up tents, chairs, and blankets. Some came in RV's. Kids flew kites outside the roped off area, blew bubbles, or played games. Adults stayed for hours, and days.

Callaway is a small town with a small town's charm and enthusiasm. It is also a small town with limited accommodations. Callaway boasts four

motel rooms. Other rooms are 40-60 miles away. However, Callaway does offer free camping in their park, and many townspeople donate their personal RV campers to kites who come in from far away. I was amazed at the number of people camping. Tents



were everywhere as well as RV's. We figured if we were actually going to go and experience Callaway, we ought to camp. The park is really nice. Large park, two full blocks with flush toilets. Randy and I figured we could camp one night IF we bought a big air mattress. It inflated well on the test run at home. But when we inflated it at the critical time — Camp Callaway at 9 p.m. — no way, Jose. A leak, that accelerated as the night progressed. The second time we aired up the



bed (Did we get the cap locked down right?) it lasted 20 minutes inflated. The next time was even less. So Randy and I, neither fans of camping, laid on the cold flat mattress with a warm blanket for the TOP of us. That cold flat mattress was laying on our cold tent floor, which in turn was on the chilly Nebraska ground in the low 40's. It was not a comfortable night, but it was a long one.

In the morning Don and Betty Murphy cooked breakfast for some of the kites on the sidewalk in front of the Motel 4 on two electric skillets and a toaster. The combination of all appliances on one extension cord tended to blow breakers. As one breaker would go, Don would hunt up another outlet in another room. I think they had two breakers to spare when breakfast was finished. Don fixed pancakes in the shape of flexi-foils. What a great example of a regional director!

Even with the camping experience, Randy and I had a good time, and have been talking about returning next year. We saw only four people that we knew from other events but we met LOTS of kites from all over the region. And we got to see lots of really neat kites. We even flew a couple, as well as put out our ground display."

Enjoy the sky!

As the year changes, I can't help but look back over 2006. We had a full schedule of events in Region Eight; from the classics to inaugural festivals; from local community get-togethers to events which brought in kites from all over the Region with thousands of spectators! We've had it all! We've made new friends and expanded our kiting families, but we also had to say a final goodbye to some dear, longtime friends.

It's a new year, so get your kiting events on the AKA calendar now! Kites and spectators, make plans now to attend events in your neck of the woods. Heck, go crazy! Besides your usual events, commit to adding at least one new and different event to your kiting schedule! There's no telling who you'll meet, what new technique you'll see, or which new idea you'll bring back with you to share with your



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End of term: 2008

core group! I challenge you all... okay, I challenge myself, too! It might mean a little more driving and a little more gas, so just skip a fast food meal and designate those funds to your gas tank! If it's a distance, maybe you could attend just one day of a two day festival; don't let distance stop you! Reach out, wander on over! Think about it... what's your favorite kite festival (yeah - I love that one, too!)? Now, do you remember the first time that you went to that event? You may not have known anyone there, or where to stay, or where to eat, or exactly how to get there. I'll bet you even passed the exit getting there the first time.

I've seen you doing a U-turn as you passed the kite field — I was in the van behind you! Well, in a word, GETOVER-IT! Share your unique point of view, technique, or talent with a whole new event and group of kites. Plus, see what they have to offer for you to take home and share!

As expected, the AKA convention was incredible and folks from Region Eight stepped up to the plate to make sure that everything ran smoothly! Rob Cembalest tackled the massive job of coordinating the incoming auction items. The Dermers, along with Cat Gabrel, ran a tent with AKA information, miniatures display, and kite making. In addition, Richard Dermer was in charge of field set-up for the convention and Marti Dermer coordinated and set up the Kite Art exhibit. Dyana Ploof volunteered to assist in the Auction receiving room, while Steven

Ploof helped with judging on the Sport Kite competitions. Every time I turned around, I saw Rick Hawkins helping someone, from workshop presentations to the bag raffle! Plus, it was wonderful to see the Charlevilles from Arkansas at the convention, even though Doug kept them pretty busy! Even the Weather Spirits were good to us all week; although the Wind Goddess truly has a sense of humor.

The only bad thing about an AKA convention is that there's SO much to do that I always feel guilty when I return home because I didn't spend as much time as I wanted with the dear friends from other areas and the new friends that I've just met! If I blew you a kiss on the run when I really should have stopped and spent more time with you, please forgive me! I can't offer enough applause to Maggie Vohs, our Convention Manager, for pulling it all together! Maggie does a tremendous job of tackling not only the enormous task of venue logistics, but also of keeping an eye on the small things in order to cut costs whenever possible. Bravo Maggie! Get ready for Ocean Shores, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> of 2007.

So, gets the vans packed, dust off the kite bags, make sure your events are on the calendar, and get ready for the 2007 kiting season! I'll see ya out there!

Keep looking up!





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 End of term: 2009

tionals in Iowa, bringing home awards in several categories. Our Northwest family garnered a total of 23 top three awards, more than any other region in the country.

As I write this report, we're gearing up for the Lincoln City Fall Festival on October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>... Featuring top sport kite pilots and kitemakers as part of the show, the Fall Festival is always a great time. Plus, they'll be welcoming the two-time WSIKF People's Choice recipient, iQuad... With 8 skilled Rev pilots, iQuad puts on one heck of a show and can be seen at events up and down the coast throughout the year.

I would also like to recognize the continued efforts of our affiliated Region Nine kite clubs: Rogue Valley Windchasers, Associated Oregon Kites, and the Lady Kitefliers.

On the non-affiliated front, the Magic Winds Kite Club in Idaho has been getting into the news periodically, helping to promote kiting in their area. Come on guys, join us! For only \$75, you've got sanctioning and insurance for your club events!

A special thanks to Terry Zee Lee, who has taken great steps to have a kite gallery set up

Wow, another amazing year of kiting nearly behind us... Next year's sport kite competition season has already kicked off however, with the Lewis & Clark Exposition held this last September in Seaside, OR. Yes folks, I'm happy to say that the sport kite scene is growing in the Northwest, thanks heavily in part to the Northwest Sport Kite League.

Competitors from Region Nine



went on to attend the AKA Grand Na-  
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in the Billings In-



Not only do kites fly, time has really flown by. I think when we last talked, summer was finally happening and now it's almost the holidays. We will be putting kites away for the winter and start longing for spring.

In August, it was off to Long Beach for WSIKF, traveling with our friends Phil Scarfe and Kevin Griffiths from the UK and the Kytkids, Mason and Vance. Great days! Great kite flying! Spent a wonderful evening socializing at the Kite Museum. If you have not been to the museum, it is a must. The team behind the scenes is amazing and yet we all go fly kites, visit and have fun. Wow, life is tough. I would really like to thank the "Workers" for their many hours they put in for such a successful kite festival.

Home for a week and off to England and Dieppe. Kay and Mike Woodring and myself flew to England. Spent the night at the Robinson's (David and Janet). We all left the next morning and headed for the Chunnel. David drove the car onto the train and 35 minutes later we were in France. We met up with Paul Fieber, the Gombergs, Charlie Sotich and the



Windjammers. This was the first time that AKA had a marquee and was officially recognized by the Dieppe Cerf-Volant organization. Miriam Schafler and Barbara Hall met us on Wednesday, and my husband Ron flew in Thursday. We spent our time acquainting people with the AKA and where we



all live and fly. It was fantastic to have that many AKA members present. You must ask Charlie about our hot time in Paris. We all flew miniature kites under the Eiffel Tower. When we got on the train to return to Dieppe, the temperature was 103. So when I say we had a hot time in Paris, I'm not joking.

Back in Dieppe my friends of the



White Horse Kite Flyers of England presented me with a new banner. It is a picture of Fort Worden raffle tickets, taken by David Robinson. David sent the

picture to Roy and Hayley Broadley of Kites Up. Roy printed the picture on balloon cloth and adding the words "The Ticket Chick/Marla". Hayley sewed it into a banner. Many thanks indeed to the White Horse group and to Kites Up/Roy and Hayley. I love my banner.

After Dieppe, it was home for a few days and off to the AKA. This was the best convention I have attended. The weather was great and everyone was having a great time. As for me, this convention was the winner. How can you go wrong with seeing good kite friends? Do you know that 2007 convention will be at Ocean Shores next year? We do have a raffle for registration (who would have thought?), if you're interested get in touch with me. Lets make it another great convention.

Home at last! Missed a couple of festivals while gone. "Up Your Wind" at Pacific Beach, has been reported as a great time, good wind and a great banquet. They really had a good turnout. Way to go!

Marjorie Taylor says the Whidbey Island Kite Festival was a great success. Sunny skies and good wind, the best in the seven years of this event. Featured flyers were Ellen Pardee and Bob Serack. Art Ross and Scott Slater added to the colors in the sky. Everyone works so hard to put on these festivals. I hope that we all support and work with them to maintain such great events in your region.

Well, what can I say? You're stuck with me for the next three years? Hopefully I will be able to keep up and help any of you with your questions and be your voice for AKA. We have our new president, Susan Skinner, and new board members in other regions. I thank you for your confidence and I will work hard for Region Ten.

Until next time, be safe and have fun during your holidays. Fly a kite when you can and hook someone else with this great sport.





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ings with all the workshops, meeting rooms, banquets and even an indoor flying space. There was even a café and bar, indoor pool, workout room and plenty of parking. The fields were huge for sure, but the winds there were challenging. The week was fun and full of new and different sights and sounds.

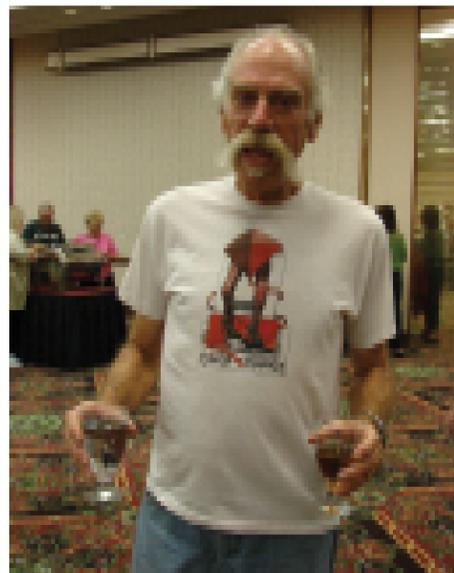
You have undoubtedly already heard the good news from Des Moines concerning the convention but other good news for Region Eleven is Darrin and Susan Skinner were awarded the Ingraham Award for service to the association, and Tracy Erzin was awarded Volunteer of the Year! Also my sister Sharon Champie was appointed chairperson of the fighter kite committee. (NO, Sharon is not my wife, she's my sister!) Congratulations to you all!

The same day I left for Iowa, I at-



tended a new event in San Francisco at the Marina Green, Family Kite Day, organized by Ron Young. Ron put together quite an event, with well-defined fields, a stage, sales tents, vendors and even bounce houses for kids! I had to leave early but I heard there were tons of prizes handed out to winners of different categories and a good time was had by all.

The Mix 96 Festival held every year in Elk Grove happened the same weekend. The kites part of the festival organized by Tom McAlister was moved to a new field closer to the action and seemed like a good change though the winds were even more challenging. Dave Hoggan and his tribe had all their big kites up at least once during the day with help from John Kahn and Mike North. Mike did the candy drops and nearly lost his drop kite to a tree when a free kite cut the bridles, sending it out of control into the top of a tall pine tree!



Labor Day weekend saw two events. The Golden Gate Challenge in San Francisco is an annual event put on by the Northern California Kite Club with competitions run by the Bay Area Sport Kite League. The winds co-operated nicely as did the weather. It was nice to see the new fliers that came out to play! After leaving the beach I headed to Monterey to check out the second year of a "non-event" started by Dave Sabilino, When Dan Whitney and I arrived it looked like a huge kite festival going on on the beach! There were dozens of kites and even more kites and colors in the sky! The wind and weather on that beach was truly the best of the entire year for this kiter. Yeah, Dave I'll be back next year!

And finally I'd like to thanks Susan Shampo for the awesome job she's done on our magazine for the last few years. YOU really brought the bar up



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End of Term: 2009

Greetings to Region Twelve and beyond. I'm honored to be elected your representative and will look forward to meeting you at a kiting event. I'm very new to 'organized kiting' and hope you'll share your thoughts with me toward bolstering kiting in our region. Please say hello and introduce yourselves. I'll be out and about introducing myself and look forward to meeting regional members.

As you all know by now the AKA has a new president this year. We are grateful to former president David Gomberg for his many years of service and dedication to the AKA. David reported in his transitional notes 'Susan Skinner will become our 15<sup>th</sup> President and the first woman to hold the position in twenty years. A new Executive Committee will join her. (The) AKA is in good hands.' Susan brings a great



deal of enthusiasm to the AKA reporting in her welcoming message the AKA has a 'really cool mission that can be summarized as, to bring the joy and value of kiting to the world.' To that end, I look forward to working with the AKA Board of Directors and regional members.

A little about me... I became involved in kiting three years ago after happening across a kite store while on a business trip to Florida. I purchased a two line sport kite and headed out to the beach in front of my hotel to give it a try. I caught on to the basics relatively quickly and found myself looking forward to the end of each work day to fly my new found friend. It was not long before one kite turned into two ... into three ... well, you know how this goes .... Before long I was packing a kite bag for my work week journeys. Or was that packing a work bag for my kite week journeys?

Following my initial introduction, I was fortunate to have opportunities to attend several kiting events across the USA. My kite collection and kiting experiences evolved rapidly along with my circle of friends in the kiting community. I thoroughly enjoyed and developed an appreciation for the many different aspects of the world of kiting as well as the members of the kiting community dedicated to their various areas of interest.

I primarily fly single line kites, banners and ground pieces. I'm fortunate to enjoy a fairly large collection of single line kites. I have recently begun trying my hand at making my own pieces ... how fun. Rarely do I fly one kite; I enjoy flying several kites at one time that have a common theme. I like to add a few banners or ground pieces and then enjoy the audiences' smiles.

We're fortunate to have a great climate and fantastic flying fields in our region. Please keep me informed of kiting events in our region. I'll help get the word out and together we can spread 'the joy and value of kiting' to others in our region.

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 End of Term: 2009

four hours in the sun, flying as pleasure for others, is definitely hard to beat. With the locals, though, it's hard for them to accept that a rock tied on the end of their kite tail will NOT make the kite fly better, but MIGHT just knock over their beer as it swings past!!



I must say a big thank you to Sharon Musto for suggesting I should try this role. Whilst I've previously had an editor's role in the Australian Kitefliers Society, my member-base was certainly much smaller both in numbers and in area! Do forgive me if I don't make it to any of your local events! But for goodness' sake, let me know how they went!

I agree, not very long for a first effort, but apart from the FUNTASTIC! week at my first AKA Convention (though not my first time meeting some of the fliers) and some topsyturvy sleep patterns on my return, that's about all there is to tell. As the southern hemisphere heads into summer, things can only look UP from here, right?

Aussie Aussie Aussie! Oi! Oi! Oi!  
 Sharon Musto sends this along...  
 PS - A 'post script' from your former



director: I miss this job already! So please indulge me one last time while I bring you a handful of stories and photos: some "good stuff" from Canada, Taiwan and Dieppe, China, Japan, UK, Oz'n Taz, and more. I'll try to keep my lines short but — you know me — it's so hard not to get carried away!

Everyone's favourite Canadian multiple kiteflier, Ray Bethell, had the surprise of his life recently at his home field, Vanier Park, Vancouver. As many of you know, there was a secret campaign to raise funds for a commemorative park bench that would face the spot where Ray flew regularly (unlike the other benches that point toward English Bay so that spectators had to crank their necks to watch him fly). The secret was finally revealed to Ray on October 8<sup>th</sup>. A huge "thank you" to all who supported the dream and helped it become a reality, especially Gary Mark & Michelle Welsford (Toronto Kitefliers), and the British Columbia Kite Association. Good stuff!

That same weekend, in southern Ontario (and across the thundering falls on the American side), the Niagara International Kite Festival saw kitefliers from all over the world gather to fly all sorts of kites including Mr. Modegi's Mega Moon, the BIGGEST kite in the world (one of three designed by Peter Lynn). It was also an opportunity for some fliers to make another attempt to maneuver a kite across the Niagara gorge, just as the ten-year-old boy named Homan Walsh did some 158 years ago. Several brave fliers tried last year and didn't quite make it. Better luck this year? The answer, my friend, is blowing somewhere within the next few paragraphs! Read

on....

At the same time, another group of international kitefliers was gathered at Des Moines, Iowa, for the Annual AKA Convention and Grand National Competitions. It's gotta be the climax of the year. Oh man, clone me, please!! And clone my travel budget too, pretty please!

Three weekends earlier, the Toronto Kite Fliers and Mandarin Club hosted the Industrial Alliance KiteFest 2006, billed as Canada's largest kite festival. The impressive list of fliers included a team from Weifang, China, which is considered by many to be the kite capital of the world. In one of the featured demonstrations, nine full-sized dragons competed to capture the coveted "dragon's pearl of wisdom" which would bring them long life and enlightenment. Imagine the spectacle!

Dieppe (Canada) is gearing up for an even bigger and better international kite festival in August, 2007. I've never seen nor experienced the east coast of Canada and I'll be off work at that time, so I'm definitely entertaining the idea of going to this stellar event in New Brunswick!

Dieppe (France) took place September 9-17, 2006. (Canada and France take turns, every other year.)

If you or I had been there, we would have met Wen-Fu Tsai, Taiwanese kite master who won third place in the kite contest. Congratulations! He and his team were also featured fliers at the Coolum Kite Festival in Australia the weekend of October 14<sup>th</sup>. Check out some of his beautiful creations online: [www.pixnet.net/thumbnails.php?album=1143018](http://www.pixnet.net/thumbnails.php?album=1143018) or <http://kite168.myweb.hinet.net>.

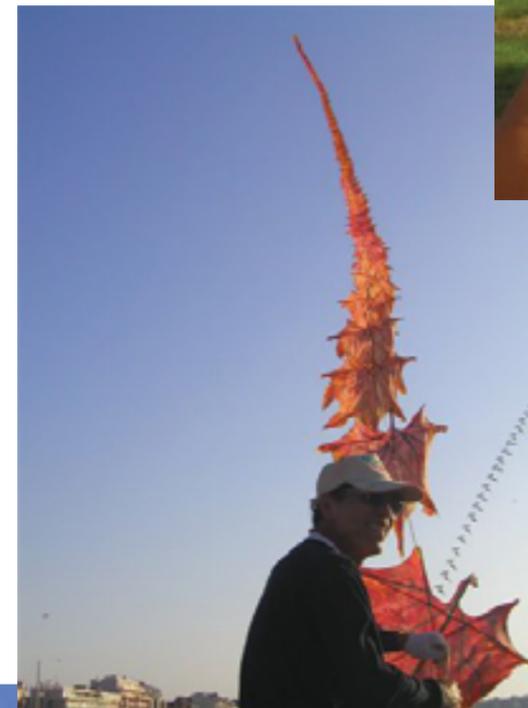
While you're at



it, take a jaw-dropping look at another AKA member's work: Taiwan's Buteo Huang and his incredible kites featured in the Spring 2005 issue of the *Drachen Journal*. Go to [www.drachen.org/toc18.html](http://www.drachen.org/toc18.html) and select the first name on the list: Buteo Huang. Genius beyond genius...WOW!!

Another genius kitemaker is Chen Zhou Ji, of Xi'an, China, who was recognised this year as AKA's GRAND NATIONAL CHAMPION, and deservedly so! Mr. Chen's mechanical and dynamic kites are amazing. To watch this quiet, unassuming man demonstrate his skills with bamboo is mesmerizing and astonishing, to say the least. For a look at some of his work, as well as a preview of a movie being made about Chinese kiteflying, please see [www.windabove.com](http://www.windabove.com).

Yep, kiting is alive and well, and we have oodles of talent in Region Thirteen! So what if no one fully succeeded in bridging the Niagara gorge again this year — it's no easy feat! But we love a challenge and we'll persevere, right, Vaino? And our leadership is in good hands, I'm sure. I trust that you'll send Linda lots of news and pictures ... and she won't even have to remind or coax you, right? Don't be shy now! To all my kite friends: love and best wishes for good health, smooth winds, much laughter, and few tangles in the year ahead!





# Kiting

people+places+things

## DoubleClick Your Quad

From the mind of Tim Elverston at WindFire Designs comes the ultimate quad-line kite for all you computer geeks, the Cursor. Check [www.windfiredesigns.com](http://www.windfiredesigns.com) for a look at some of Tim's other unusual projects.

## Kites On Film

Paul LaMasters reports, "Andy Burchfield, Barbara Birnman, Jim Cosca, Paul Dugard, Lisa and Ian Willoughby, the Knerr Family from the Kite Loft, and myself were in Baltimore on October 6<sup>th</sup> to film a scene for Mark Wahlberg's new movie, *The Shootist*. The film is about a government assassin trying to prevent terrorists from doing their evil deeds. The kites were to show that the conditions just weren't appropriate to shoot somebody in Baltimore that afternoon! Jim made the arrangements, even providing specific kites the director wanted to see. We flew foils, sport kites & roks and we were

fed a couple of times during the long day. The wind cooperated, but the location was extremely tight and restrictive and the weather was terrible. We were filmed from about noon until 6:30 PM with short breaks in between. There were three separate sessions of filming the kites on camera "A", using between 3 and 8 takes each time. The fliers were also filmed on camera "B" . . . but my guess is we'll wind up on the cutting room floor."

## Remember To Look Down Too!

A 30-year-old man from Gloucestershire, England, died after falling 50 feet down a cliff while flying a kite in Devon. The accident happened in the South Hams when the man accidentally stepped backwards over the cliff at Blackstone Point, said Noss Mayo of the Coastguards. Brixham Coastguard watch manager Sean Brooks said, "The man was flying his kite 200 yards from the coastal cliff path when the accident happened. We would always recommend that people stay away from cliff edges. They can be slippery when wet and are sometimes unstable. It can also be easy to misjudge distances, especially when you are engaged in other activities."

## Extreme KAP

David Gomberg and the Lincoln City Convention and Visitors Bureau invite you to point your browser to <http://maps.google.com/>, enter the coordinate 44.967136, -124.0184, click over to satellite, and zoom in.... Not to be outdone, Jim Martin suggests the same website, but the coordinates 44.25769N, 12.36271E, for a look at Cervia, Italy. As comedian Stephen Wright says, "Every now and then I stick my head out the window, look up, and smile for a satellite picture...."

ripped biceps naturally? Is Rick's golden tan from the sun only? No, we're told that they "...did not want to be the first team stripped of the title due to the illegal use of steroids." Once again, *Kiting* is first for action figure scandal!



## Over the Cutting Edge

It's official: two-time World Cup champs Cutting Edge have retired. Jim Barber, Rick Wolcott, and Jerry Cannon have hung up their kites and are resting on their laurels. Or is there more to the story? An informed source in Ocean Shores tells us to check out the muscular builds of the three fliers. Did Jerry get those



# Des Moines Was Da Place!

photos by Phil Broder, Mike Shaw, and Ronda Brewer



Launching Mr. Chen's dragon.



Another John Pollock beauty.



Dave Gomberg auction's Jerry Houk's Duke.



Pete Dolphin executes the difficult single-line "refueling" maneuver.



A Joann Weber creation.



Tanna Haynes looks for visual appeal.



After two days of judging, the kitemaker's judges finally lost it.



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