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The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

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CONTENTS



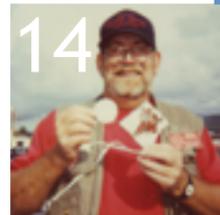
3
Convention Preview
Get ready for
a XXX time in
Ocean Shores

8
Step On It!
Is the Audi A5
ready for Mas-
ters Individual
Ballet?



9
Skydance Sakakawea
It's a party on
the prairie in
North Dakota

12
K-Files
Normand Girard
shows us how it's
done in Quebec



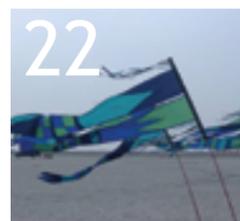
14
**Voices From
The Vault**
Great kites.
Delicious pizza.
It's the Dermers!

15
**Fighter Kite
Standings**
The final 2007
results are in



20
Fightin' Words
A little book
opens Tom
Brailey's eyes

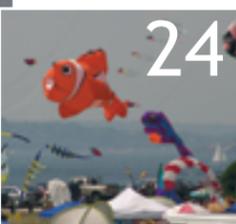
21
**Building Your
Show**
A master show-
man tells you
how to get bang
for your buck



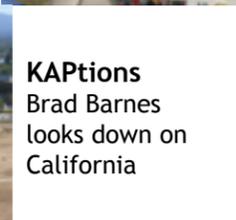
22
Kite Plan
Jon Burkhardt
does pennants



24
Newport
Rhode Island's
got big kites in a
small state



25
KAPtions
Brad Barnes
looks down on
California



26
Fanø
Eight kilometers
of Danish



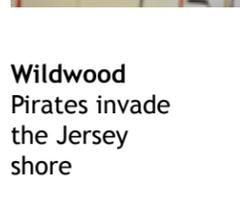
28
Kitegang
Bringing smiles
to the worst
places in the
world



30
Interview
Kitegang's Pat-
rick McGrann
and Kim Birks
tell all



31
Junction
Fancy sewing in
the Lone Star
State



32
Wildwood
Pirates invade
the Jersey
shore



34
**Berkeley
Hamamatsu**
by
the Bay



36
Flying Blind
Two Oregonians
have a real feel
for kites



37
Interview
*The Kite Run-
ner's* Khalid
Abdalla shares
Hollywood
secrets



38
**Sport Kite
Standings**
The year-end
competitive
rankings



- 2 AKA Directory
- 4 President's Page
- 6 The Sporting Life
- 7 Empty Spaces In The Sky
- 11 AKA News
- 16 Event Calendar
- 17 AI: Aerial Inquiry
- 17 FlySpots
- 18 Member Merchants
- 40 Regional Reports
- 52 People + Places + Things

On the cover: *At the Wild-
woods International Kite Fes-
tival, Ben Dantonio teaches a
new friend how to fly a quad-
line. Photo by Phil Broder.*

Next issue: got pictures of kite
holiday ornaments? Send them to
kitephil@gmail.com by October 15
for a special holiday photo feature!

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AKA DIRECTORY

american kitefliers association

Mel Hickman, Executive Director
Mailing: P.O. Box 1614, Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone/Fax: 800/252-2550
Web: www.aka.kite.org
E-mail: xd@aka.kite.org

officers and executive committee

Susan Skinner, President
2381 Nobili Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95051
408/554-8399 president@aka.kite.org

Barbara Meyer, First Vice President
10361 108th Place, Osseo, MN 55369
763/424-2571 vp1@aka.kite.org

Gayle Woodul, Second Vice President
106 Main Street, Marble Falls, TX 78654
830/598-2414 vp2@aka.kite.org

David Butler, Treasurer
14550 Chesterfield Lane, Tigard, OR 97224
503/524-3315 treasurer@aka.kite.org

Kathy Brinnehl, Secretary
60 W. Piers Drive, Westmont IL 60559
630/271-0765 secretary@aka.kite.org

Ronda Brewer, Director at Large
735 SE Jetty, P. O. Box 988, Lincoln City OR 97367
541/994-7556 dal4@aka.kite.org

Mike Dallmer, Director at Large
7204 Oakley Street, Philadelphia, PA 19111
215/722-4092 dal5@aka.kite.org

Russ Faulk, Director at Large
177 W. Vallette Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126
630/530-8690 dal6@aka.kite.org

convention management

Maggie Vohs, Convention Manager
Cameo Management Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 410, Otis, OR 97368
Phone: 541/994-4252
Fax: 541/994-3459
Web: www.cameomanagement.com
E-mail: convention@aka.kite.org

KITING magazine

Phil Broder, Publisher/Editor
Mailing: 904 Bayview Road, Rio Grande, NJ 08242
Phone: 609/465-6575
E-mail: kiting.ed@aka.kite.org

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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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education & public service

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promotion & membership

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annual meeting

Convention Barbara Meyer 763/424-2571
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Winter issue deadline: October 15
Spring issue deadline: January 15
Summer issue deadline: April 15
Autumn issue deadline: July 15

Send address changes to
UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org

CONVENTION PREVIEW

by Maggie Vohs



By the time this issue reaches you, it will be very close to convention time! If you haven't made your plans to attend the convention in Ocean Shores, WA, it's not too late! If you don't register by the close date of September 23, you may still register at the door in Ocean Shores. Think about it; are you willing to miss the largest gathering of kite enthusiasts in the nation? Receptions, workshops, field events, raffles, the kite gallery, the auction and a Fly Market filled with kite vendors!

If you have already registered, you are in for a fabulous week. We will have lodging, workshops and the bag raffle at the Shilo Inn Suites, right on the beach and next to the flying fields. The rest of our convention activities will be at the Ocean Shores Convention Center, across the street from the Shilo!

At 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 1, Dreamworks Pictures invites convention participants to Ocean Shores Cinema to fill the theater for an advanced screening of *The Kite Runner*. Based on the best-selling novel, the film takes an emotional journey through Afghanistan's culture, from fighter kite flying through to the Taliban occupation. Several AKA members were involved with the filming. The film opens to the public in November, so this is a special opportunity for AKA members to see it a month early. Tick-

ets are first-come, first-serve at the theater (a short walk from the convention center).

Don't miss the Kite Art Gallery, featuring the extraordinary and timeless work of Japanese kitemaster Teizo Hashimoto.

Friday afternoon, fly any kite you've built at a workshop — any workshop, anywhere, not just the AKA convention — at the MAKR Challenge. Special pins will be given out, courtesy of the Midwest Area Kitemakers Retreat.

All of the above plus all the kite friends you haven't seen for over a year! Add to that two banquets, over thirty workshops and more fun events than you could ever pack into a week and you will see why Ocean Shores is a must attend event. Don't miss out!

Convention Workshops

Guatemala
Jose Sainz and Scott Skinner

Fun, Fact and Follies: About Launching and Keeping a Museum in the Air
Kay Buesing

Make and Take Cascade Bridle
Barry Poulter

Basic Classroom Kite: Sled Building 101
Instructor TBA

Make a Miniature Kite
Charlie Sotich

Fighter Kite Symposium
AKA National
Fighter Kite Committee

Fly with iQuad: Team flying with Revs
John Barresi

Kite Aerial Photography
Brooks Leffler

Team Flying
Jim Barber

What's all the buzz: Traction Kiting
Blake Pelton and Dean Jordan

Mini AKA Table Banner
Scott E. Spencer

How to fly big kites without killing yourself and others
David & Susan Gomberg, Al Spurling

A First Timers Info Forum (How to get the most fun out of your first AKA convention)
Scott E. Spencer

How many sticks does a Parafoil have?
Rick Kinnaird

Introduction to Fighter Kite Flying
Sharon Champie

Don't Make Anything You Don't Like
Jose Sainz, Scott Skinner, Cliff Quinn, Ron Gibian, Deb Lenzen

Make and Take Fighter Kite
Steve Bateman

Introduction to Fighter Competition.....Winning Tips and Strategies
Steve Bateman

Judging Handmade Kites: Before the Competition

Judging Handmade Kites: After the Competition
Steve Ferrel, Barbara Meyer & Jon Burkhardt

Sport Kite Symposium
Jim Barber

Tell Me How: National Kite Month
Rick Hawkins

Kitemaking Comprehensives: What do the Judges Look For?
Cliff Quinn, Debbie VonBokern



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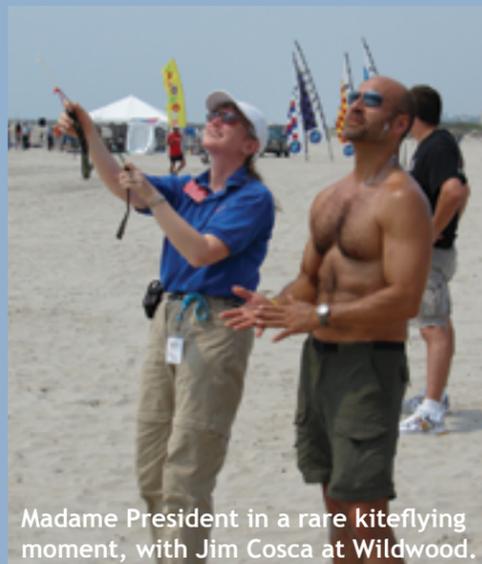
See it first in
Ocean Shores!
Special October 1st
advance
screening!

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

30 years ago history was made in the kiting world and set in motion events that changed kiting for generations to come, events that have brought all of us together, events that were directly responsible for you receiving this magazine today. In September 1978 the first Annual Meeting of the American Kitefliers Association was held in Ocean City, Maryland.

The American Kitefliers Association was founded in 1964 by Robert "Bob" Ingraham. It started simply as a mailing list distributing information to kite fliers via *Kite Tales*, the quarterly journal of the American Kitefliers Association. For 12 years Bob was the chief cook and bottle washer of the American Kitefliers Association. In 1977 Valerie Govig took over the AKA from Bob and started printing *KiteLines*, a full-featured magazine complete with a color glossy cover. Valerie saw the potential for the "association" and in the maiden issue of *KiteLines* printed the following:

"Many members didn't realize that Bob did it all; he was the Association. Since most people are satisfied not to be involved, it was possible, though increasingly difficult, for Bob and Hazel to hold the fragile craft steady in all winds. Through 12 years we have survived as a group, a nucleus, a community that can now become responsible for assuring its own future. I believe Bob entrusted me to take over the quarterly because he knew I would care about the organization as much as about the magazine itself, and that I would have the general welfare of all kites - manufacturers, sellers, fliers and enthusiasts alike at heart. I sincerely hope to live up to that faith. Bob was also aware that the organization's chance to flourish could be greatest based in Baltimore, site of AKA's largest chapter, the Maryland Kite Society. I recognize that I've taken on not only a magazine but all the unsolved problems of the American Kitefliers Association. With help from everyone, we can, I believe, get it together - incorporate AKA, elect a Board of Directors, shape our goals." *KiteLines* SPRING 1977 (Vol. 1 No. 1)



Madame President in a rare kiteflying moment, with Jim Cosca at Wildwood.

to Valerie giving the association a copy of the *KiteLines* mailing list. As the first elected leader of the American Kitefliers Association, President Red Braswell reported that the "purpose of the AKA, as stated in the interim bylaws, is to advance kiting, its joys and its values, in all nations by: sharing avenues of communications among kites; promoting kiting as a rewarding form of art, sport, utility and scientific study for all ages; facilitating coordination and planning of kiting activities; providing an international educational resource for the development of kiting; maintaining historic records of kite studies, activities and achievements; and seeking interchange with kite associations worldwide." The wording of our mission statement has changed only slightly in 30 years. The essence has never changed - to share the joy of kiting, in all its aspects, with the world.

Bob, Valerie and all the members of the AKA who showed up in Ocean City Maryland in 1978 left us a wonderful legacy. To date 190 individuals have served on the AKA board of directors in the last 30 years, including:

Al Hargus	9 years	David Gomberg	11 years
Chuck Sigal	9 years	Suzanne Edison	11 years
Tom McAlister	9 years	Kevin Shannon	12 years
Betty Hirschmann	10 years	Alan Sparling	13 years
Jon Burkhardt	10 years	Richard Dermer	15 years

If you add Bob Ingraham's original 12 years plus his three years on the AKA Board of Directors, Bob also has 15 years of active service to the association.

Many of the 191 individuals (including Valerie), who have helped shape and guide the association, are still actively involved in the AKA and kiting today. In addition there are thousands of members out there who take a part in shaping kiting in their local towns and cities. It is all of these people who have and do make up the AKA.

We have a legacy to continue, joy to share with coming generations. The next annual meeting of the American Kitefliers Association is shaping up in to a fantastic event that will kick-off with a private preview of *The Kite Runner* movie as well as include all the activities that were started at the first Annual Meeting.

The AKA Convention is a special time for AKA members, the only event that is just for AKA, just for each of you. I look forward to seeing each of you at this year's convention in Ocean Shores, Washington.

Share the joy of kiting.

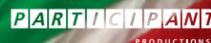
P.S. A very special thank you to KiteLife.com for making *KiteLines* available on the internet to everyone. I encourage all of you to make use of this invaluable resource that KiteLife.com has made freely available to everyone.



The Kite Runner

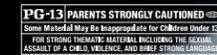
A MARC FORSTER FILM

DREAMWORKS PICTURES SIDNEY KIMMEL ENTERTAINMENT AND PARTICIPANT PRODUCTIONS PRESENT A SIDNEY KIMMEL ENTERTAINMENT AND PARKES/MACDONALD PRODUCTION
 A MARC FORSTER FILM "THE KITE RUNNER" KHALID ABDALLA HOMAYOUN ERSHADI SHAUN TOUB ATOSSA LEONI SAID TAGHMAOUI MUSIC BY ALBERTO IGLESIAS CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRUCE TULL
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COMING SOON

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THE SPORTING LIFE

Practice, Practice, Practice by Jim Barber

Hi, I'm Jim Barber from Team Cutting Edge, 2005 and 2006 World Champions. I've received lots of good responses and questions from folks around the country from the original article in the spring issue of *Kiting*, so let's continue on and break down how to have good quality team practices.

In our first year together, we tried to practice every weekend. In our second year, we took a couple of months off during the winter, and would occasionally skip weekends during the rest of the year. We also put together our ballet, so we had a new routine to learn. Our third year, we took several months off and mostly practiced every other weekend. We had our timing, we knew our routines (though we did fine-tune both routines for France), we just needed to stay sharp.

The first year was spent learning timing together, making sure everyone was using the same type of turn, how

to turn as one kite instead of three separate kites, and routines. Often in our first year, to make sure everyone had the same rhythm for turning, we would stand on the practice field and I would clap my hands at a steady rhythm. I would call "turn" on one clap, the next clap signified the actual turn. We'd do this for several minutes before we even launched a kite to make sure we all had the same rhythm in our heads. As time went by, our timing sped up more and more until we turned very quickly after the call. This may sound tedious, but it is much easier to do it on the ground, than it is to fight it with the kites in the air. The kites you are flying will generally decide what style of turn you use (with our Quantum Pros, we were 70%

push turn and 30% pull turn). We used compulsories to develop timing, spacing, and all turning at exactly the same time.

We started our practices at about 10:00 am, and we always started by just having fun, working on new tricks, playing hangman by trying something really hard and having each flier try to repeat it. This warmed us up, had us all laughing before we even started, and we knew nothing else was going to be as hard as some of the things we were just trying. Often something from this time would get incorporated into a routine, something that we started out just playing with, not thinking that we would actually be

able to really do it. Then we would start working on compulsories, paying special attention to our lines and our spacing. We would spend an hour at least just hammering on compulsories, then we'd start working on our freestyle routine. By this time, everyone was used to watching their spacing, lines, and turning together. As an added note, whenever we practiced a compulsory or the freestyle routine, we always used in and out calls so each team member was used to hearing them, and I was used to calling them. This cut down the chance that someone would "jump" on the in call and execute a turn before they were supposed to, or I would forget to make the in or out call.

Around 1:00 we'd break for lunch, come back and warm up again with compulsories. During a practice, we'd try to go through every compulsory in the book if we could. Then it was time to work on ballet. If we weren't close to a competition time, we'd use head phones for our music, but as we got closer to comp day, we'd put a speaker on the field and try to reproduce the actual competition setting. This helped everyone with competition day jitters, as we'd already practiced under the conditions we were about to face. Once we started ballet practice, Rick Wolcott took over the team. The ballet was his; we did not waste time

continued on page 10



EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

In the last issue we mistakenly changed Jim West's name to Jim King. KITING apologizes for the error.

Charlie M'Clary

Charlie.

No last name was usually needed, one just had to say "Charlie" and the kiting world pretty much knew it was the self-proclaimed KYTE BUM (as his license plate stated). Charlie was one of the founding members of the San Diego Kite Club back in 1990. He held the position of Archivist since the club's inception.

Charlie was a slight man who packed a gravelly yet thunderous voice. He was quite the character of kiting in Southern California. He always had an opinion about anything

kite related. One of my first memories of Charlie was at the 1990 California Open Sport Kite Competition. It was my very first competition and I was so nervous and intimidated by the collection of world class fliers that I was shaking like a leaf. I remember Charlie putting his hand on my shoulder and building my confidence by stating "... now you and I both know that 'so-and so' is going to beat you, right...?" I guess he wanted me to not have any false hopes about competing against the big guys in my debut. Yes, he always had an opinion, sometimes he just needed to work on his delivery. That's Charlie.

Just about everything in his life revolved around kites. He had designed a number of sport kites and fighter kites. Charlie saw himself as a kiting expert and made several attempts to market his own kite. If he ever saw a newbie struggling with a new kite he would walk over and offer to help. Anytime a new kite was on the kite field, Charlie would offer his opinion,

Karen Gustavson



and ways he would improve it.

In our kiting world there's simply only one "Charlie."

— Ron Despojado

George Ham

George Ham, the "Mayor of the Marina Green" departed this earth in June after an extended illness.

I was flying a Jalbert in the early 1970's when he approached and asked if he could "make a kite like that." I showed it to him and he borrowed it. He owned three commercial sewing machines and was very good at sewing.

The result was not very good! I suggested he contact Domina Jalbert, which he did, and Domina allowed him to make many different kites with the understanding that he could not sell his work. Some were very large!

I spent many an hour in San Francisco at the Marina Green with George and his late wife, Marion, who were always supplying strawberries for passersby and flying his many kites.

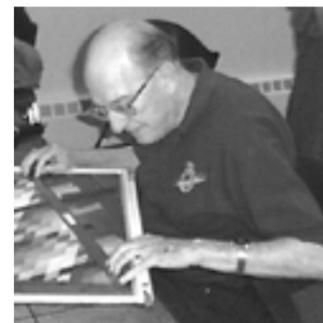
— Martin P. Dowling



Jim Bossong

It is with heavy heart that I tell you that Jim Bossong, age 83, a South Jersey Kite Flyers member for twelve years, passed away in July. Jim and wife Dot were major supporters of SJKF and helped whenever they could.

Jim liked flying sport kites mostly but gave all types of kites a try. He was very instrumental in making sure that SJKF meetings



were held to Robert's Rule of Order, took care of contacting the press for us and created a budget for SJKF the past six years. Jim even tried his hand at sewing at workshops. He also helped out with many kids kitemaking workshops.

Jim will be greatly missed as he was one of those forces behind the scenes that made SJKF what it is now.

— Mike Dallmer

Henry Clark

Henry Clark was a kiter for all kites. He loved making kites, going to kite events and helping others. I first met Henry in 1989. He expressed an interest in kites to me one day at work and that got me back into kiting. I wanted to impress him with my skills and showed up with a Peter Powell stunt kite. He pulled out his Hawaiian Spin Off kite and showed me how a real stunt kite flew. He handed me the control lines and said to have a go at it. A friendship grew from there. Henry was always helping others.

During his last illness, I needed 150 sled kite kits. Sick and weak as he was, he still cut out the kite skins for me. Henry, unknown to me, had also made more kite skins for a recent event in San Antonio. While I was helping children build sled kites from Henry's last effort, Henry was getting closer and closer to death. I now know a little bit more about how much effort he put into the many kite workshops he did each year. He helped young and old to make over two thousand kites each year. Henry has touched a lot of people in his 76 years. I know I will miss him and will not be able to even come close to filling his shoes. I just hope I can help a few new kites get started in kiting.

— Donald Nichols



Don't Call "Out," Just Honk The Horn

Clearly, a standard size competition field is going to present problems for the engineers at Audi. The Audi A5 was recently showcased in "Kite," a TV ad in which two sports cars steer a stunt kite in the Namibian desert. "This is not a trick, all the images are real," says Jagoda Becic, Head of Advertising at Audi. "Authenticity," she says, "was the essential requirement. If it hadn't been possible to navigate the kite by car in reality, then we wouldn't have implemented the idea."

Audi and Berlin ad agency Heimat came up with the idea of the kite stunt in autumn 2006. Initial tests were carried out with two Audi models towing a stunt kite on an airfield in Bavaria. "That's when we realized that we could not just start driving and expect the kite to fly straight away," says Audi film manager Gerhard Kiefer.

The production team needed to consider and test speed, wind conditions, the size and material of the stunt kite, the length and thickness of the control ropes, and find a professional pilot. That was German champion Marcel Mehler, whose kite-crazy parents drove the cars during the filming.

The team familiarized themselves with local climate conditions by practicing for three days on an airfield in Namibia prior to the shoot. They discovered that what had worked well in Germany did not work at all in the Afri-



Hit the brakes, then gun it, and maybe it'll axle!



can desert. "No matter what we did, the kite crashed immediately – but we didn't know why," stated Kiefer. Nerves were building because the day of the shoot was drawing closer and closer. The mystery was solved on the evening before filming began. "It was the final attempt before darkness fell," he recalls. Wind conditions in the desert were completely different to what they had been during testing in Germany. The wind was very strong and

blew from all possible directions, which made it difficult to control the kite. In the end, the problem was resolved by using a stronger tow rope and a heightened speed. The stunt kite stabilized at 70 kilometers per hour. The two Audi A5s got the stunt kite in the air and pulled it behind them for two kilometers. Had it not been for the director shouting "cut", the kite would have flown further.

The Thor's Hammer kite, which has a wing-span of four meters, was manufactured by Olaf Frank. It was attached to a specially-constructed tubular support using two 100-meter ropes. The support was then attached to the two A5 coupés.

For a video look at how Audi filmed the commercial go to www.youtube.com and search for "making audi kite video."



15th Skydance Sakakawea Festival

May 26-28, 2007 Garrison, ND
photos by Chris Dodson and Deb Lenzen



Rollie Mentz plays with Don Murphy's trilobite.



Don Murphy (in black) bridles Mike Gee's cody as Gee walks out the flying line.



Mike Shaw's double butterfly.



Mike Shaw's bird kite is over the moon.



Rene Rustad of Prairie Winds Kite Company gives organizer Deb Lenzen a cake celebrating the festival's 15th year.

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

AKA

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THE SPORTING LIFE continued from page 6

arguing with him over where we were supposed to be, or how something was supposed to work; he drew up the ballet, it was in his head, it was his call, as the precision was mine. Also, the setting of the kites was Jerry Cannon's department; he made all the adjustments, we flew. No arguing. In our ballet, we flew to the music, there are no calls. Actually, over the years I've done both, flown ballet to calls and to music. Flying to the music is much easier and looks better. When someone is calling, everyone is trying to predict when the call is going to be made, whereas with the music, it is exactly the same every time. After many times through it, everyone knows when the beat is coming and it makes it even easier for all kites to turn at the same time.

We always ended practice around 4:00 pm, and we'd end it by playing for awhile. Usually chasing each others kites around, trying to see who could drive who into the ground, trying to avoid one kite, and catch another one. Just fun stuff,



ending a day of work with a lot of fun and laughs (and occasional broken parts).

If the weather was particularly nasty, or we needed to work on a section of the routine and make changes or we were still learning some parts, then we'd stay indoors. We would go through the routines with stick kites. We practiced with the sticks as close to possible at the same speed that we figured the kites actually flew, always working on our timing and visualization. Even with stick practice, we worked on maintaining our spacing, lines, and speed just like we had kites in the air. If we were learning a section of the routine, we videotaped the stick practice so when we went home we could all practice. We did not use practice time on the field learning the routines; that was done on our own time.

Now, there's lots of things we can talk about from here. How to choose kites? Flying staggered or the same length lines, and how long should they be? How to decide who flies in what position, and who calls? There are many more areas that we can talk about in future articles. One of the things that I'd like

to do is have you, the readers, send any questions you may have, and we can cover them as a large group so more people may benefit from the discussion. E-mail your questions to sportkite@aka.kite.org.



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AKA NEWS

Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

Moving? Changed your address? New e-mail? Updating details on an event? Now you can send all your updates and changes to one address: UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org.

A Cool Christmas Present

For an unforgettable holiday gift, or a great end-of-the-year club award, how about a custom *Kiting* cover? All you need is a digital photo at least 9" x 12" and \$30, and the AKA can create a one-of-a-kind framed color magazine cover for you. It will feature the *Kiting* masthead over your photo, as well as any text you choose. Isn't there a kiter in your life who you think is a covergirl (or boy)? Contact Mel Hickman at xd@aka.kite.org or 800/252-2550 to place your order today.

Shuffle Board

In July, director-at-large Mike Shaw resigned from the Board of Directors for personal reasons.

Going Clubbing

Due to limited space, this issue doesn't feature the full list of AKA affiliated kite clubs. If you're looking for info about clubs, you'll find it on the REGIONAL RESOURCES page of www.aka.kite.org.



Roger Chewning stars in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Wildwood Nights"



Membership Application

New Member Register me as a Member Merchant

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Charge (Visa/MasterCard) # _____ Exp. Date _____

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My primary interest is: all kinds of kites single-line kites multi-line kites

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For me, kites are more than just kites, they are animated wind sculptures. I am a contemplative person, a little lunatic. I observe forms

that surround us and stick in my subconscious. When I draw, I let loose with my instinct. This permits me not to think of what I have to draw. The results give interesting forms. Will it fly? This question is answered by the creative process of the work and flying studies. The process is full of surprises. The experience and the manipulation of the passionate kite flyer intervene to finish and adjust the work of art.



Today I have a small collection of one line kites that I love to fly and expose in the sky when I participate in festivals.



Clockwise from top left: "Alien," "Lodo," "Assymetrique," "Voltage," untitled Ohashi, "Octo."

I discovered kites in 1995 while I was on vacation in North Carolina. I bought my first kite, a stunt kite. This discovery transformed it self into a passion, so in 1996, I decided to start up a little kite business in Montreal, Vent D'Équinox. At the same moment I started the fabrication of my first stunt kite model, the Kino.

In 1997, I participated to my first festival, Rendez-vous Mondial du cerfs-volants in Verdun, Québec, Canada. There I discovered the single line kites with the works of Pierre Fabre, Robert Trépanier, Ron and Sandy Gibian and



Mark Ricketts. I was charmed by their works and a passion started and grew within me for creation and innovation of single line kites.

I have studied architecture so I adore forms. When I create kites, it's always the form that comes first. I try to express calm, serenity and peace while using harmony in the minimalist forms that are peaceful to look at. As you may notice the color white is very present on my creations.



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Richard and Marti Dermer by Patti Gibbons photos courtesy of the Dermers

Some combinations are simply perfect together. Take beer and pizza. How can that get any better? I suppose if you're on the AKA's mailing list you might improve the combo by tossing a kite into the mix. If that trio is your idea of heaven, plan a trip to Oklahoma to visit Richard and Marti Dermer at their pizzeria to admire their kite display over a beer and a slice of their Paradise Pie.

Before celebrating 50 years in the pizza business, high school sweethearts turned college newlyweds Richard and Marti Dermer started out in the red. Broke but hungry for success, the Stillwater natives ventured into the restaurant business in their early twenties, financing a dream that pizza would become king on the Oklahoma State University campus. Persistent visionaries, the hustling couple eked through the early lean years and three years later managed a small profit in a cheeseburger and milkshake kind of world. Ultimately their persistence paid off, and the Hideaway pizza restaurant flourished, feeding generations of college students. Their once small 12-seat restaurant grew into a chain crowned by a 300-seat anchor restaurant touting nation-wide express delivery service. The business is a campus institution.

The hardworking Dermers grew their business over the years but didn't spend all their time in the kitchen. Kite strings eventually untied the apron strings and pulled them into the world of organized kiting. Child-

hood kite dabblers, Richard and Marti collectively had a buck's worth of dime store kite experience, getting more air time on recreational week-end sailing trips, until 1984 when kites courted the Dermers. On a brisk day a friend nabbed Richard and passed him the lines of a new Skynasaur dual-line kite. Richard vividly recalls the power he experienced as he grass surfed across the field that day. "We couldn't hold on to it in that kind of wind. IT WAS INCREDIBLE!" Richard was hooked and had his own stunt kite by nightfall. About four months later he and three others from Stillwater entered a radio station's kite flying competition and the Skynasaur-packing team finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th. They were thrilled and called the Skynasaur Company to rave about their product and broadcast their sweeping victory. The company suits were impressed and invited them to represent their firm at the AKA's upcoming national convention in Nashville. Headquarters picked up the tab, the group just needed to get themselves to Tennessee for the festivities.



The Dermers at the Tokyo Kite Museum, flanked by Maasaki Modegi, Teresa Hill, and Craig Dermer.

At the time, the Dermers had "...no idea that there was such a thing as the American Kitefliers Association and national conventions." Marti confesses, "We showed up in Nashville very naïve." The wind was light on competition day and Richard recalls, "We didn't do worth beans." In these early days, stunt competition rules were still in their infancy, but the heavy Skynasaur wasn't as agile as lighter kites that racked up the points that day. Empty-handed in the trophy department, the Dermers certainly don't look back on that trip with long faces. Marti revels in those memories, "We were wowed by all the kites, especially the one of a kind kites that made us realize kiting is a hobby sport." Richard recalls, "We were just wandering around wide-eyed the whole time. We didn't know anybody." Not knowing anyone didn't stop the two from mingling. That trip they met late Seattle architect Dave Checkley and learned that he was organizing a kite excursion to China. Richard, on the lookout for a memorable 25th anniversary gift, asked Marti if she'd be interested in celebrating their silver jubilee flying kites at a festival in China and Marti jumped at the opportunity.

The two traveled to the Orient and Richard awed the crowds flying his American stunt kites. "Of course (the Chinese) invented the kite thousands of years ago but I had a stack of 24 Skynasaur with 60-foot tails on each kite that made a glorious sight in the

sky and we wowed them." A hundred thousand spectators cheered and Marti boasts that after that trip Richard "...knows what a rock star feels like." The smashing trip fuelled their interest in kites and, "gave us instant credibility." They became "overnight experts" and a year later, in 1986, the Dermers officially joined the AKA and headed to Rhode Island for their second convention. On their returning flight, they met the AKA's then southwestern regional director. Richard was amused at the hot potato nature of leadership in the early AKA, especially after Al Hargus cajoled him into running for that same regional director's job. Richard accepted and participated in the gradual organization of the club's administration. Later assuming the top post, Richard and Marti crusade for their organization and are forever known to twist an arm or two to grow its membership roster.



The Dermer's grew to love kites but it's the people they've met kiting that they adore. Marti likes looking "...other adults in the eyes and saying 'yeah I flew kites this weekend, it was fun'" and having them nod back in agreement. Similarly, Richard has found that, "The real beauty of kite flying as a hobby is the people involved because any adult who freely admits to doing something as essentially frivolous as flying a kite tends to be a pretty well adjusted, happy goodtime individual. You get a whole bunch of us together and it's a party—every weekend."

2007 Fighter Kite Final Standings

West Coast		Mid-States		East Coast	
Novice Skills		Novice Line Touch		Novice Line Touch	
1 Elsie Alves	9	1 Rod Wickenheiser	15	1 Jim Davis	15
Experienced Line Touch		2 John Hall	13	2 Joe Wells	7
1 Felix Durairaj	119	2 Lynn Berry	13	2 Carol Minegram	7
2 Darrin Skinner	94	4 John M Arnold	12	4 Charles Stewart	2
3 Sharon Champie	82	Novice Skills		Experienced Line touch	
4 Aaron Champie	63	1 John Hall	11	1 Andy Selzer	44
5 Francisco Navarro	40	2 Lynn Berry	8	2 Woody Woods	30
6 Ken Theilan	20	3 Jeremy Terpening	5	3 Rick Minegram	29
7 Paul Duncan	15	3 John M Arnold	5	4 Lisa Willoughby	24
7 Johnny Hsuing	15	Experienced Line Touch		5 Manny Alves	18
9 Steve Bateman	14	1 Tom Van Bruggen	41	6 Jeremiah Alves	10
10 John Gillespie	10	2 Carl Anderson	38	7 Terry McPherson	5
11 Bob Bellchambers	9	3 Ken Blain	36	7 John Rose	5
11 Woody Woods	9	4 Bill Schumacher	31	7 Jim Davis	5
13 Andy Selzer	5	5 Terry McPherson	19	7 John Smith	5
13 Brian Johnsen	5	6 Jan Winkel	15	Experienced Skills	
13 Manny Alves	5	7 Nelson Borelli	5	1 Woody Woods	15
13 Arnold Stellema	5	7 Jeremy Terpening	5	2 Rick Minegram	14
Experienced Skills		7 Doug Isherwood	5	3 Terry McPherson	12
1 Felix Durairaj	45	Experienced Skills		4 Andy Selzer	5
2 Sharon Champie	33	1 Jan Winkel	29	4 Lisa Willoughby	5
3 Jay Bell	28	2 Terry McPherson	27	4 Manny Alves	5
3 Francisco Navarro	28	3 Carl Anderson	18	4 Jeremiah Alves	5
5 Aaron Champie	22	4 Bill Schumacher	17	4 Jim Davis	5
6 Darrin Skinner	19	5 Nelson Borelli	14		
7 Ken Theilan	5	6 Ken Blain	9		



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EVENT CALENDAR

September 8-9
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Beatrix Pelton
732/822-4884

Lewis & Clark Exposition
Seaside, OR
Keli & Dave Colbert
360/635-5629

September 15
Portland Family Kite Fest
Blue Lake Park
Fairview, OR
Mike Hale
503/282-1214

KITEfest
Tulsa, OK
Larry Stiles
918/630-9334

September 16
DeKalb Kite Festival
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb Area CVB
877/DeKalb1

Seal Beach Kite Festival
Seal Beach, CA
Kim Love
562/596-7661

September 20-23
SunFest
Ocean City, MD
Jay Knerr
410/289-7855
www.kiteloft.com

September 22
Santa Cruz Kite Festival
Santa Cruz, CA
Tracy Erzini
925-228-1983
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September 22-23
Whidbey Island Kite Fest
Coupeville, WA
Marjorie Taylor
360/678-9358

September 27-30
Niagara Int'l Kite Festival
Niagara Falls, NY
Meg Albers
716/881-4436

Sept. 29 - October 2
Israel Int'l Kite Festival
Herzliya, Israel
Ralph Resnik
info@israelkitefestival.com
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October 1-6
30th AKA Convention
Ocean Shores, WA
Maggie Vohs
541/994 4252

October 5-6
Idaho State Kite Festival
ISU Bartz Field
Pocatello, ID
Micki Kawakami
208/234-1654

October 13-14
29th Fall Kite Festival
D River Wayside
Lincoln City, OR
Maggie Conrad
541/996-1274

October 13-24
Jeddah Int'l Kite Festival
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Fawaz Shahid Ali
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October 20-21
Cape Town Int'l Kite Festival
Cape Town, South Africa
Shameemah Wallace
shameemah@cmhs.co.za
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October 27-28
Sunset Flyers Fall Festival
Sand Key Park
Clearwater, FL
Sherri Pigeon
727/319-3431
http://Sunsetflyers.com

AKA sanctioned events
are listed in **BOLD**



November 1-20
Darfur Kite Festival
Darfur, Chad
www.kitegang.org/darfur

November 16-18
Camas Indoor Kite Festival
www.nwskl.org



Aerial Inquiry

What kite is
ALWAYS in your
bag?

E-mail your answer (25 words or less, please) to kiting.ed@aka.kite.org, or post it to the KiteTalk Forum, by November 1. We'll feature your answers in the next issue, and ask a new question.

Next issue's question is, "What's on your holiday wish list?"

For me it's a rokkaku. Whether when winds are so light nothing else goes up, or so strong you dare put nothing else up, a rok can be quickly tuned to fly.

Randy Fox

It has to be a fighter kite for me! I have several and can fly them in 1-10 mph winds. Too many times I have been to kite events where there is little of no wind, and I am able to still fly!!! Always pack a fighter in my suitcase too on trips!

George Weber

I also always have my Rok. Flies in a wide variety of winds and well behaved.

Vaino Raun

I can't make up my mind so I take a Rok and a Flow Form.

Jerry Houk

For me, it's the double parasled. It may be the 5' version for high winds, or the 6' version to lift line laundry, or the 9' version to really put on a show, but I don't leave home without one or more shoved in the bags.

Barbara Meyer

I always have my half-size PL Pilot kite in the trunk. Except when it is in the air.

Dave Ellis

FLY SPOTS Delta Park, Portland, OR

by John Barresi

For the past 25 years, one place has stood out for inland flying in Oregon... West Delta Park in Portland.

Long used by team Cyborg and Portland residents, this field offers lots of room, all grass, and parking right up next to the field. On some days, the gates are left open and you can actually drive out onto the field itself. Or, if you're visiting and don't have a car with you, the local and inexpensive light rail system (MAX) takes you right to the Delta Park stop, a whopping 400 feet or so from where you'd unroll your lines and fly. The best wind direction is generally coming from the south or northeast.

Just this year, the Northwest Sport Kite Championships (www.nwskc.net) moved to this field, securing their names in the history books as the first major festival ever to be held there. Winds do vary quite a bit, but there is enough to fly on most days, and it's as good as you'll find anywhere in inland Oregon.

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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 club events for which the Chair and activities remain constant. A standard certificate of coverage is available upon request.

Sanctioning is automatically nullified by an illegal action by 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. Find additional information at www.aka.kite.org/sanction.shtml or by calling 800/AKA-2550.

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by Tom Brailey

Those of us who have been around for years have always taken the time to introduce fighter kites to the new and curious, but have we forgotten the true roots of the sport? I was reminded of that myself when I found a little gem of a book at a local garage sale. Like most people in kiting, I feel a need to snap up any book that relates to kiting in general. While this book, *A Golden Handbook Guide to Kites*, was written in 1971, it gives you an honest definition of fighter kites that still rings true today.

Author Wyatt Bummit uses basic language in his description of all types of kites. This could be the best way of explaining what many think of as a very complex subject:

Do not be fooled by the fighter kites of Malaya or India. It is not as simple as it appears. Actually, it is a sophisticated combination of lines, stresses, and subtle variations. Really good fighter kites are made by professionals who build into them clever refinements that are not obvious. The true fighter kite is superficially a flat kite, but it flies without a tail, which would be an impediment. The fighter kite depends on its own exquisite balance and the skill of its flier to keep it in the air and under control. Structurally, the fighter kite is a two-sticker, with a sturdy keel and a delicately flexed spar.

Fighter kites are generally 14 to 18 inches on a side. If made larger they tend to lose some of their swift, darting quality. It's an interesting fact; for all sorts of technical reasons, some kite designs (such as the India fighter) resist enlargement.

Does this sound a little bit technical and stuffy? Really you just need to read between the lines. The article then goes into the building techniques of the Seventies. We now have the more advanced materials: ripstop, carbon fiber, pre-formed bamboo, two-sided tape and such to help us in our construction. For those of you that have an interest in getting into this little corner of kiting, I'll pass on one word of advice. Do not be afraid to ask that guy or gal out there flying in the park or on the beach a few of the questions that are swirling around in your mind. The one great thing about fighter kite people is their willingness to lend a hand to the newbies. We were all new at one time or another, and we can identify with you and the frustrations of why I can't get this darn thing to fly.

While most have access to the Internet nowadays, many still need a source to begin their search for knowledge. I'd like to tell you that places like Fighter Kite Central, Cyber Fighter and others will give you links to fighter kite websites that will keep you busy for months. Each



Felix Durairaj cements his insurmountable lead in the BASKL fighter standings.

of you will find something that will fill your own special needs and skill levels. Kite plans for the beginner and first time kite builder, with a list of needed supplies, can be found on several sites. Some of these sites will also have a place where some of the big name fliers will sell some of their wares, if you're not into making your own kites quite yet.

For those of us that have been around for awhile, this article is for you too. It was written to refresh your memory and bring into focus that the past is really today, just the verbiage has changed. We all tend to feel that if we make a change in a design and it flies just a bit better, then we've re-invented the fighter kite. Well, later we just smile that sheepish smile as we find our nemesis on the competition field has recently re-invented it too. Remember all the questions you had in the beginning? Your willingness to share that knowledge and some of your secrets will only help the sport continue to grow. See you on the field somewhere.



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**Kite Supplies...
from the ground up.**

by David Gomberg

The secret to a great kite show is really no secret at all. But it does require a bit of advanced planning. Here are a few ideas to keep in mind as you build your kite arsenal and develop your own kite identity.

Think Long Term

Occasionally I get e-mails from people concerned that they can't afford to build a first class kite show. My answer is that the key to creating a show is not spending a lot of money, but rather, not wasting a lot of money. Some kites have a limited life span. Some are faddish. Some are useful only in very limited flying conditions. And some, quite candidly, aren't made well enough to last long. If you are building a show, build it with pieces that will last and that you enjoy flying.



Coordinate

You can fly kites, or you can fly a show. The difference is that in a show, the pieces all fit together into a harmonized program. Perhaps the kites have a common color. Perhaps they have similar shapes. Or maybe they have a cohesive theme: fish, animals, patriotic, movement

or multiples of the same piece. If the pieces you buy fit together in the sky, you can more easily maximize your investment. And a coordinated show looks bigger than several independent pieces.

Invest in Dependable Lifters

Almost any good show will need sky anchors. They support larger show kites or carry laundry. So make sure you have a kite you can depend on. Get the largest you are comfortable flying (and paying for). And when you are ready, add another. Make it a similar color but a different size. That way, you are staying flexible.

Stay Flexible

The wind doesn't blow the same



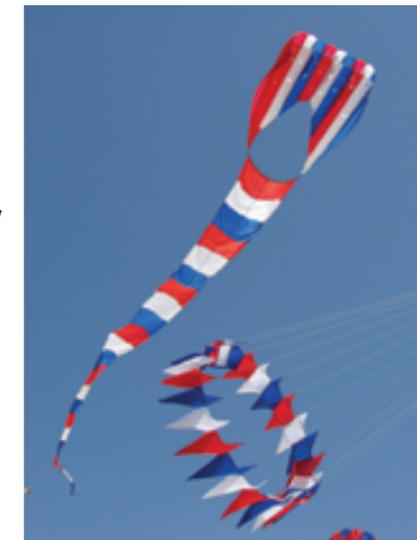
each day. And you don't always fly on the same field. So when you start building a program, design it to work in a variety of conditions. If you stick with a common color theme, you can easily mix, match, or substitute pieces as conditions change. Add laundry to the line when the wind comes up, or anchor several lifters with different pieces in lighter breezes. Build a line art program with a variety of complimentary shapes and sizes. Make some rotate while other fly static. The point is to fly a show that you can vary. Start with one or two

fun pieces and add to the collection.

Also be prepared for different fields. A Sutton 252 with a 100' streamer looks great on a big beach. But on a smaller field bordered with trees or fences, that tail is an accident looking to happen. So pack a drogue as well. That way you can still put your kite in the air when there isn't room for longer tubes and streamers.

Don't Forget the Ground Show

A fully integrated show includes lifters up high, "liftees" lower on the line, laundry, and an integrated ground program. Your ground show can include any of the "Three B's": bols, bouncers, or banners. Even when the wind is light, a banner show still delights. And socks or streamers on a pole are just as much fun as those hanging from a kite. Some kites focus on banners and pole-supported décor. Just remember to coordinate colors and sizes, and you can keep adding to the collection little-by-little until one day you discover you have an enormous show.



Fly With Friends

The biggest and best shows evolve when friends get together to combine resources. You don't need to spend a huge amount to be a part of a great performance. So rather than trying to out-do the local kites, think about working together. Developing a coordinated theme with your kite pals helps. You'll have more fun, learn from each other, and have help packing up at the end of the day.





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Customer sent us this picture and wrote:

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Sapphire skies and steady breezes were the order of the day for the Newport Kite Festival. Kyle Lemieux of Jamestown Kites, along with the help of Forrest Cary of Kite Faire Productions, had something for everyone at the July weekend festival at beautiful Brenton Point State Park in Newport, RI.

Joe "Photo" Perron started the day with his three kite routine choreographed to the National Anthem, followed by a mass ascension of red, white and blue kites. The crowds were "blown away" by dual-line sport kite ballet routines performed by Patty Tinkham, Shawn Tinkham, and Ron Graziano. Art St. Pierre and Beth Bowen flew a quad line pairs ballet, and also formed Team Quad Squad with Steve Santos and Dave Simpson.

Fighter kite demonstrations were ably performed by our own Region One Director Bob "Woody" Woods along with Manny Alves, his son Jeremiah, and Steve Letourneau.



Our three area clubs – ConnectiKITERS, KONE and NYKE – were well represented on the field. Rok battles and Running of the Bols were organized by Glenn Davison of KONE, and were loads of fun for everyone. Ray Gruzas of the ConnectiKITERS had center field to launch his giant Manta Ray to the amazement of the crowd. More mass ascensions of box kites and hand made kites finished off the day.

A special thanks to Jon and Karen Burkhardt for coming to fly and support us, and to Calvin Pilgrim from Antigua for flying his diver all day long!

Sunday morning brought more sunshine and even steadier breezes. Kites filled the skies and the crowds filled the parking lot. Kites were everywhere! The day was highlighted by a beautiful quad ballet routine flown by Archie Stewart of Boston with his TC Ultra to "I Believe I Can Fly." Another surprise was the dual line ballet routine performed by local flyers Maureen and Charlie Stimpson (formerly of Team Image) who have been on hiatus for the past 10 years to raise their family. It was also great to see Scott Weider relaxing on the field after suffering a major car accident on the way to the Wildwoods International Kite Festival. Welcome back Scotty! Paulie Berard broke out the play sail for some power flying, as well as power kite demonstrations by Paul Lawrence on his buggy and mountain board. The crowd loved it!

Mark your calendars for Newport 2008. It'll be bigger, better and a festival you won't want to miss!



KAPTIONS

Brad Barnes

Photography and kiting have long been hobbies of mine, in fact since about the age of six or seven. As part of some Cub Scout projects, I built my own box kites and diamond kites using wooden dowels and newspaper and that infamous cotton kite line that always broke sooner rather than later.

A few years ago, a friend and I attended the annual Berkeley Kite Festival. This re-ignited my interest in kiting. We had no idea about the variety of kites until we attended the festival. A while later I read an article in *Smithsonian* about kite aerial photography. This article was inspirational to me because it offered a way to merge a life-long love of photography with that of a newly rekindled interesting in kiting.



Pacific Shores Center, Redwood City, CA

My Web search lead me to an online discussion forum about KAP and the timing was perfect for me to attend KAPiCA-06 in Pacific Grove, California, organized by Brooks Lefler and Peter Bults. KAPiCA/06 was my first exposure to many of the key highly-talented and dedicated individuals who engage not only in KAP, but also in the design, engineering, workmanship, and implementation of using the tools and techniques they employed to create KAP gear. This included the design of electronics to control KAP sessions automatically, the use of an airborne

KAP Web server that transmitted KAP images through the Web, and the highly technical designs of rigs and kites for special purposes. Also particularly noteworthy were the skills and workmanship involved in building and modifying kites.



Salt pond, Redwood City, CA



Santa Cruz cliffs

Being a total newcomer to KAP, I had little to contribute during KAPiCA/06, but it inspired me to address a need to help other newcomers like myself to learn about KAP by starting a Jargon List on Wicherd Knetemann's KAPwiki site. KAP heavily borrows terminology from sailing, aeronautics, and meteorology. The KAPwiki Jargon List provides a basis of standardizing, defining, and clarifying KAP jargon. Since the start of the Jargon List, many of the key experts of KAP have also contributed to the List. The KAPwiki Jargon List can be found at www.vogelblik.nl/index.php?title=Category:Jargon.



Berkeley Kite Festival



Salt pond, Menlo Park, CA



FANØ: Kites and Danish

by Don Baggett

My wife Di and I were asked by Arthur Dibble (Chairman of the White Horse Kite Flyers) last year if we wanted to go with him to the Fanø Kite Meeting in Denmark. When I asked Di, her reply was that if I took her to Fort Worden this year then we could both go to Fanø with Arthur, so we went to Fort Worden back in February and had a really fantastic time. But that's another story... back to Fanø.

Arthur had organised the ferry from Harwich to Esberg, Denmark. It was overnight and took a total of 18 hours at sea, so no good for anyone who doesn't have sea legs. From Esberg a smaller ferry takes you over to the Island of Fanø. When you first arrive on the beach the

view of all the kites is just AWESOME, no pictures can do it justice, you have to be there to see it.

This June was the 23rd Fanø Kite Meeting, which I believe was originally started as a birthday party set up by Rainer Kregovski and Wolfgang Schimmelpfenig with about 12 people attending. It has now grown to the extent that you can stand on one end of the beach and look down the eight kilometer long strand and not see where the kiteflying ends.

The official event starts off with a welcoming speech by Rainer on Thursday evening in a horse riding school arena. On Saturday evening there is an auction, run by Berlin's Alfons Karsten. Alfons is not what I would call a youngster but he is all dressed in leather and it sounds like he makes a lot of jokes. Everything is conducted in German even though you are in Denmark; even the kite traders only take Euros and not the Danish Krone. It starts with small items that only the children are allowed to bid on, and then it goes on to the rest of the items. All the money that is raised goes to the poor and needy children in Colombia.

The rest of the time was spent on the beach flying kites and missing the different types of weather that we encountered – thunder and lightning and heavy rain storms along with glorious sunshine – and meeting up with lots of old friends and making new friends. There were people from all over the world: America, Tasmania, New Zealand, Wales, Germany, Holland, Denmark, England and more.

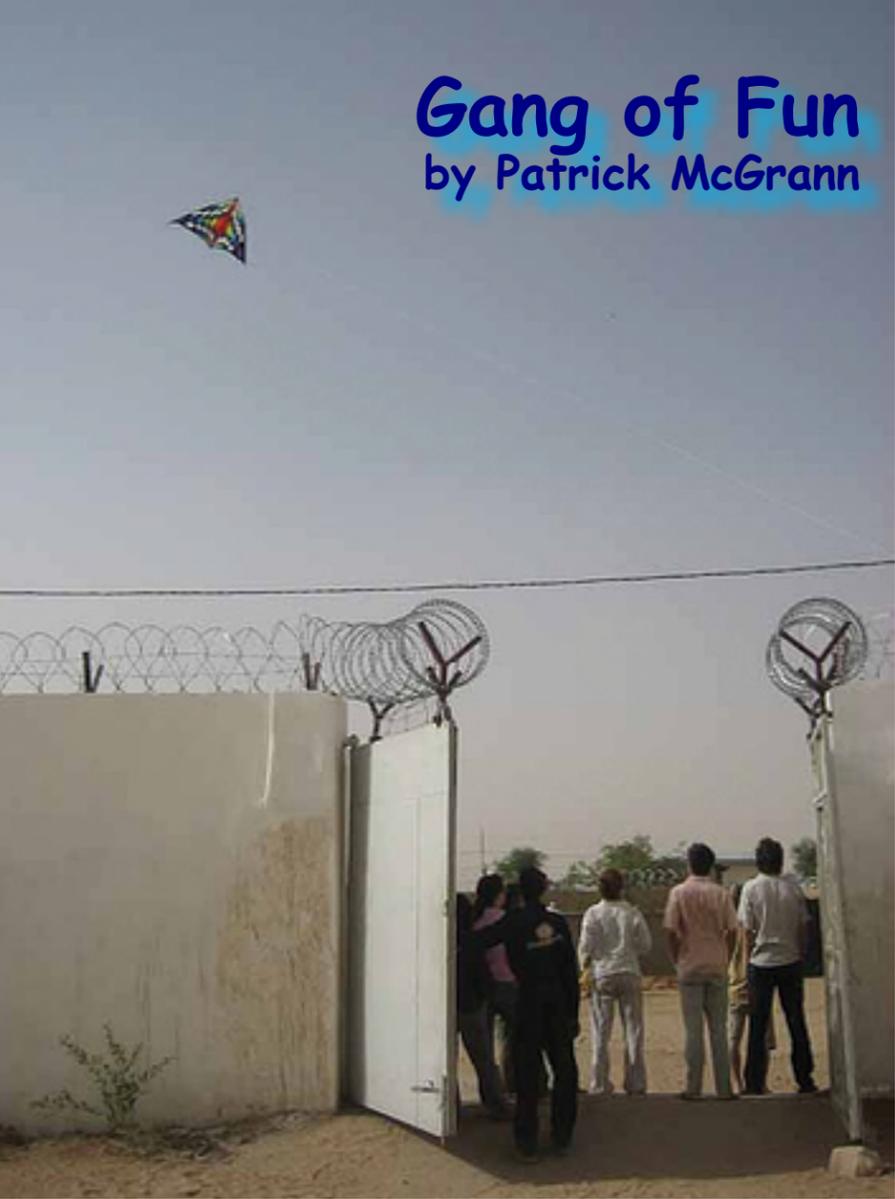
If you haven't done Fanø yet I suggest that you try to put it down on your calendar some-time, because it is well worth it.



photos courtesy of Fanø Online, Charmayne and Bob Umbowers, and Don Baggett

Gang of Fun

by Patrick McGrann



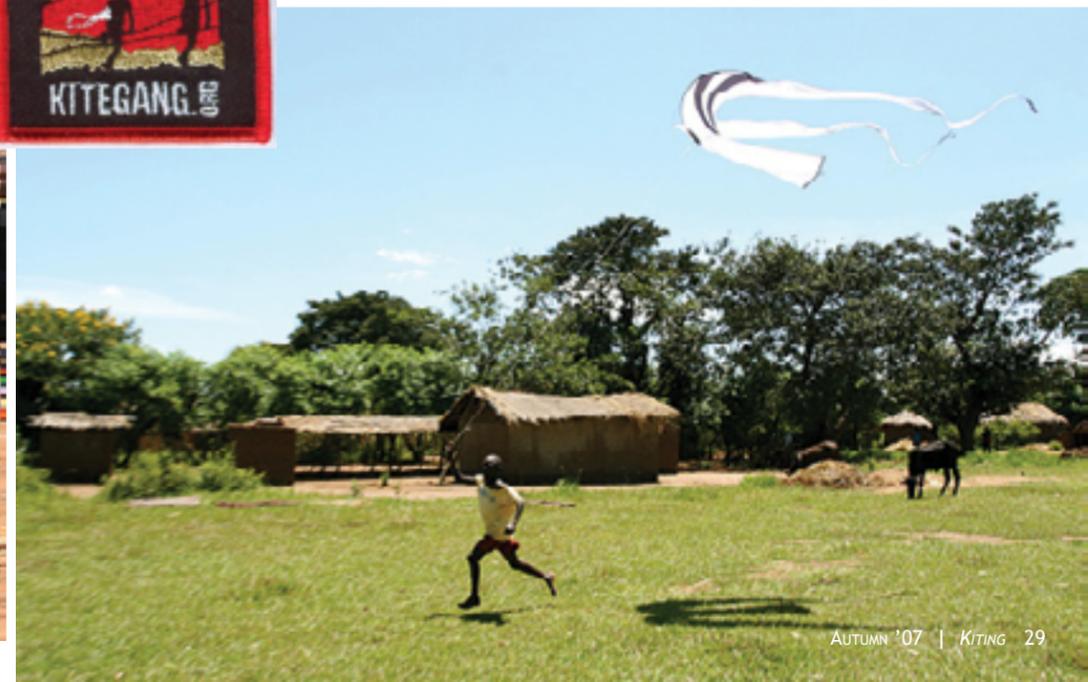
Kitegang is, on the surface, a non-profit kite company, which focuses primarily on giving away as much inventory as it can get its hands on, to those children overseas who can least afford such diversions. Yet in essence, it's also more of a larger experiment, trying to confront the traditional status quo in regions of conflict and poverty, and inspire the next generation of their leaders to dream beyond what they've historically been led to expect. Or in other words, Kitegang is setting out to help children think differently about the consistently traumatized regions they live in, where hardship and conflict seem such grounded concepts, and raise their thinking to a higher, more hopeful level. So be it solely through flying large and colorful kites, or at times along with other like-minded educational and inspirational tools, the organization wants to help catalyze new thinking and problem solving skills with the simple introduction of dramatic, fun, and educational approaches, typically unseen in regions of conflict. Be it with making and flying large and diverse kites in refugee camps in Darfur, HIV orphanages in southern Africa, or over borders not crossable on land, the group is trying to help inspire those idle children to begin to invent a new future that the current generation has failed to consider. Essentially, Kitegang wants to help motivate the next generation of leaders to rise above local convention and "fly in the face of adversity," by questioning what is inherently possible.

To this end, Kitegang has over the first six months of operation distributed kites to more than 3,000 children, in some of the most marginalized areas around the world. Its volunteers have spent time from Raising Malawi, a group of orphanages in southern Africa sheltering a generation hard-hit by HIV and AIDS, to the United Nations in Darfur, where idle time among refugees is a chronic problem.

Likewise, the Boona Baana Center for Children's Rights in Tanzania, the Tseregeda school in Ethiopia, and Light of Hope orphanage in Kenya have all partnered with and played host to Kitegang, as we've brought kites and kite-making activities to children in increasingly new and different ways. At the same time, Kitegang has also been training adolescents in urban slums to make commercial-grade kites, that hopefully will expand beyond the dozen working on the project now, and eventually bring a sustainable flow of income into a highly depressed area for many people, as well as encouraging whole new communities to experiment with kites on their own, free of Kitegang involvement. (And it should be mentioned that Kitegang's first commercial kite made by the adolescents of Kibera slum was sold — and tested successfully — to a 78-year-old South African mountain climber, who flew it while summiting Mount Everest in May.)



For information on Kitegang, the Darfur Kite Festival, and donating kites, please visit www.kitegang.org.



Most recently, Kitegang has been expanding its partnerships beyond Africa, reaching out to orphanages in Haiti, as well as developing an environmental education program for rural children living within protected areas in Guatemala, with Defensores, a local and highly-respected NGO. Yet the biggest developments for Kitegang this fall revolve around organizing the Darfur Kite Festival for this November. Partnering with Right To Play and SOS Children's Villages, Kitegang is having children's groups from around the world send in kites to Darfur, where, in concert with kites made by children locally in kite-making clinics, they will be flown as a global demonstration of hope and defiance in ten refugee camps straddling Chad and Sudan. With luck, and a diverse array of supporters, Kitegang is optimistic it can increasingly bring hope and inspiration to children, not just in Darfur, but wherever kids could benefit from looking up.



Interview: Kitegang's Patrick McGrann and Kim Birks

How much kiteflying had you done before starting Kitegang?

Between the two of us, we had only a small collection of fond memories from our childhoods. It was Kim's grandfather who supplied the inspiration, as an accomplished kite enthusiast in Canada. Instead of personal experiences for the two of us, it was more seeing the interaction children had with kites that encouraged us to do what we could to share the experience with a greater number of people.

on the prowl. What does kite safety mean to you?

Ha! That's simple. Kite safety to me means never flying kites on the Prophet Muhammad's birthday! (That lesson courtesy a rock thrown against the back of my head in the Sahara this past spring.) But more seriously, a medic with Doctors Without Borders in Darfur proclaimed that Kitegang spending time in the refugee camps without larger help or sponsorship was "Madness, brilliant madness." So yes, we take some risks, but when you see the courage and strength of the children living in the orphanages and refugee camps, it seems like the least we can do.

What are your plans after the Darfur Kite Festival? What next?

Kitegang will still focus on teaching communities to manufacture their own kites in East Africa throughout the fall, and do smaller regional outreach with orphanages and schools. But if things go well in Darfur, and we could find some

outside support, I would love to get Kitegang involved in the Basant kite festival in Pakistan this winter. Adding another dimension to the impression poor Pakistanis have of Westerners, especially with something they are so passionate about, would be a wonderful chance to begin to bridge a very serious divide.

What sort of "day job" do you have that allows you to do something like Kitegang?

I spend most of my time in international development, so I'm able to devote a fair bit of my time to Kitegang without traveling too far out of my way. Kim is an internet commerce consultant, which allows her to work from various locations. But more than either of our careers, I think it's simply our desire to bridge divides that allows us to try and make the most of our free time.

Usually, kite safety means not flying near power-lines. Kitegang flies in places surrounded by barbed wire, with gun-toting militias



Kim Birks in Myanmar

Mark Twain said, "I don't have enough friends to talk about religion or politics." You're working in areas fraught with both. Do you try to stay neutral, or do you have to get involved?

As a rule, Kitegang stays neutral when it comes to religion, trying to focus more on the things that unite humanity, rather than those that divide us. But when you're trying to help children in some of the places where we've been, it's difficult to completely avoid getting involved in the politics. I'd better leave it at that.

I want to attend the Darfur Kite Festival. How do I do it?

Call Air France and get a ticket into N'Djamena. I'll pick you up at the airport.



Junction Kite Makers' Retreat

May 25-28, 2007
Junction, TX

The finished product of Mary Gabby's group arch project



Kevin Wolfe's tyvek foil

photos by George Weber and Bob Josjor



Bob Josjor

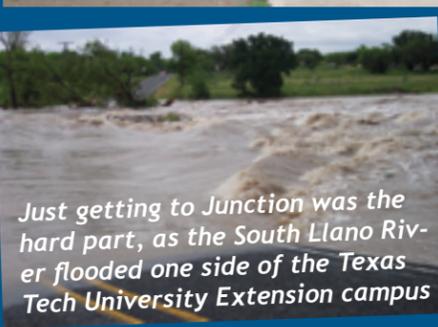


Jean Gore teaches woodblock printing

The Junction Gang



Jon West, Jean Gore, and instructor Janet Wolfe working on carp windsocks



Just getting to Junction was the hard part, as the South Llano River flooded one side of the Texas Tech University Extension campus

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Pura Vida

Wildwoods International Kite Festival East Coast Sport Kite Championships

May 25-28, 2007

photos by Phil Broder and Lindsey Johnson

Watch the tram car." That ubiquitous boardwalk warning took on new meaning after the 22nd Wildwoods International Kite Festival, as 20 kites from three nations piled onto the tram car for an end-to-end boardwalk tour. The Jersey Shore may never be the same.

Flyers from across America and Canada, as well as Malaysia, the Netherlands, Belgium, and England hit the wide sands for another year of aerial mayhem. The iQuad boys teased children on the boardwalk with their not-quite-in-reach Revs, while the manufacturer's learn to fly field did a brisk business. The competition field was dominated by Ron Graziano, sweeping the Master's dual-line events. On the festival field, Roger Tan and Normand Girard kept launching kites that were just a little different from anything anyone had seen before, while a solid wall of giant inflatable octopods, ducks, bears, trilobites, flowforms, and crown bols filled the lower altitudes.

As always, there was plenty going on inside too. Ronda Brewer and Lindsey Johnson had beach-goers making tyvek rokkakus and trains of stars. Wally Dalmolen and Glenn Davison also led workshops. Monday's indoor flying included a surprise appearances by Tory Lindemann, although it was Paul Berard's air guitar/kiting routine that brought the house down.

Revolution unveiled a new series of custom Revs, with graphics in patterns made famous by master kitemakers like Ron Gibian, Jose Sainz, and Scott Skinner. The Skinner kite was auctioned for \$600.

And finally, it all wrapped up with a banquet... pirate style. Parrots rode shoulders, swords were waved, and a few comely wenches — led by Sky Festivals' Beatrix Pelton — nearly stole the show.

For a video view at Wildwood and iQuad, look for Kurtis Jones' Alive Archive movies at www.youtube.com.



John Barresi and Ron Gibian with the Gibian custom Rev



Archie Stewart and Lisa Willoughby



Patti Tinkham flying indoors



This is what happens when Scott Skinner skips a meal



Another José Sainz beauty



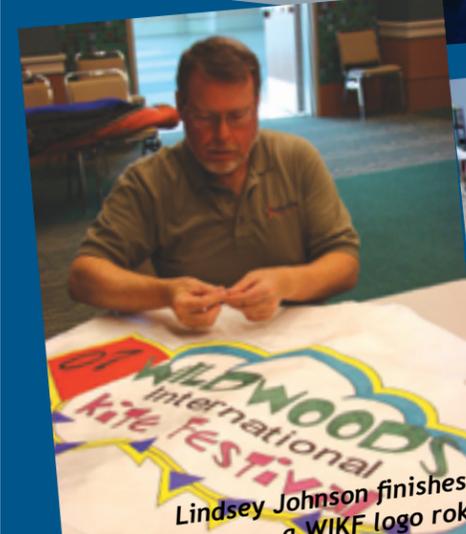
Charles Stewart launches a train made by NYC kids



The pirate crew prepares to pillage



Monica Orso competes in quadline



Lindsey Johnson finishes a WIKF logo rok



José Sainz and Scott Skinner worked several long, hard minutes on this ground display



iQuad's John Baressi and Todd Rudolph



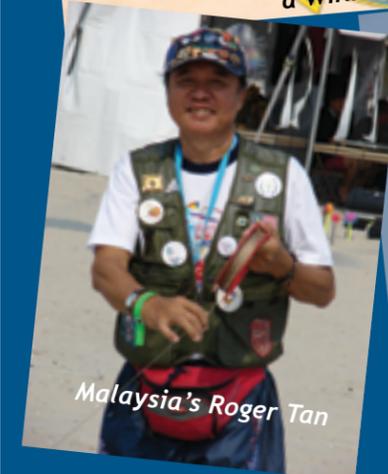
A young participant in Ronda Brewer's and Lindsey Johnson's workshop



José Sainz with an exquisitely fragile creation



Roger Tan's delta



Malaysia's Roger Tan



Only Normand Girard knows if this is a cow



Patrick Callahan multitasking



Steve Santos and Sue Moscovitz



Bayside Berserkeley

22nd Berkeley Kite Festival

West Coast Sport Kite Championships

July 28-29, 2007

The wind always blows in the Republic of Berkeley. It comes over the hill from San Francisco Bay, sweeping down across Cesar Chavez Park toward the freeway. At the Berkeley Kite Festival, the first to take advantage of it are the Berkeley Kite Wranglers, lining up a dozen octopus kites so that everything else happens in the shadow of 96 tentacles.

Next to them flies a team from Hamamatsu, joined by dozens of local Japanese-Americans. The kite masters supervise the set-up and launch of several bamboo and washi paper works of art, with buglers drummers, and crowds chanting "Washoi! Washoi!" providing a cacophonous soundtrack. Flowforms, geckos, lobsters, and caterpillars brought by Brian Champie and the Gombergs anchor the end of the field.

Below them, the sport kite field is active. Aaron Champie sweeps the individual Masters dual-line events, John Barresi does the same in quad-line, and the six-man iQuad team keeps the large crowd entertained. At the end of the weekend, iQuad is joined by Team Too Much Fun for a nine Rev megafly.

Prism and Rev factory flyers give lessons to the south, kids leave the kitemaking tables with their new kites, and the Highline Kites truck keeps everyone well stocked with new toys. BASKL's fighter kite competition secures the bottom of the hill, at water's edge, and Ray Bethell flies near the park's entrance.

When it's all over, Tom McAlister welcomes everyone aboard a cruise ship for a sail past Alcatraz, San Francisco, and the Golden Gate Bridge. The wind is still blowing when the boat returns to the shores of the Republic of Berkeley.

Which has more legs, iQuad or the Berkeley Kite Wranglers' octopile?



The Hamamatsu team makes a battlefield repair.



The Berkeley Kite Wranglers bring one down.



The roks are ready.

Rokkin' The Bay

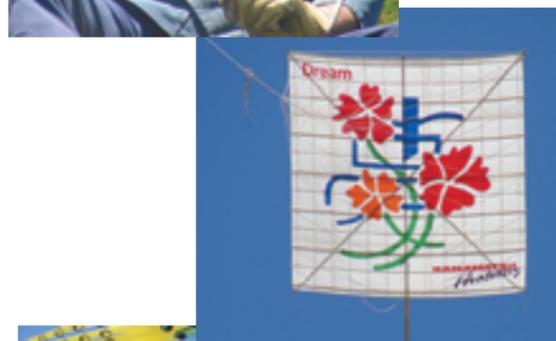
Arnold Stellema is a rock star. And a rok star. In Berkeley, hordes of adoring fans clamor to be near him. At the BKF, Arnold and partner Nathan Sendan unpacked a do-it-yourself rokkaku battle, and the masses responded joyfully.

After hauling more than 30 roks across the bumpy ground of Cesar Chavez Park ("More and more, I think that [mini kite specialist] Charlie Sotich is the most intelligent man alive," a winded Arnold opined), Stellema assembles the kites, stakes them down, and attaches small spools of line. When he posts a sign-up list for the day's three battles, people literally run to get their name on it. Arnold escorts flyers to their kites, has them test the kites on a few feet of line, and gives a short, shouted lesson in battle tactics. And then it's "game on!"

Flyers race across the field, weave around one another, and saw their lines madly. Kites smash into each other, knots form and then vanish, kites dive at the ground only to loop upward at the last instant, and flyers chase downwind as their cut-loose kites sail away. The crowd, as in Roman days, roars approval. Stellema bounces around the field, yelling instructions and rescuing kites.

Finally a winner emerges. A middle-aged father high-fives everyone in sight, strips off his gloves, then doubles over as he realizes just how close to a heart attack he's come. Dejected — but laughing — flyers walk their kites back to the sidelines, sharing battle stories. Stellema examines broken spars and cut lines he'll have to repair.

In this show, it's only an hour until the second act. And the next set of flyers is already lined up, ready to rok.



The rok battle rages on.



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Flying Blind

by Mike Hale

Steve Cook and Bruce Parker are just two buddies flying kites together. They started flying about one year ago with big 9' single line deltas, a 30' long Pyro Fish, and bright yellow kites. After a few months they took up dual-line stunt kites. Again, bright yellows and high contrast. Seems pretty normal. Just two guys flying kites. One might suppose that they wanted big bright kites so they could see them in the sky. But these two fellows wanted big kites to find them on the ground. These guys are blind!

Steve says, "I fished every lake and river in Oregon, till I lost my eye sight." Bruce adds, "We used to sit around in the house. Now we have a new hobby." Between them, they own two dozen kites. They buy a kite a month, and assemble their kites at home to practice assembling them out of the wind. They hang their kites on the walls and ceiling to show them off to visitors and keep them out from under foot.

On the field, you would not know that these guys are



Steve Cook and Bruce Parker

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legally blind, except for Steve's white cane or Bruce searching the field for a dropped winder or top spreader. So how did they learn to fly dual-line kites? They depend upon feel and sound, vibrations, and angle of the lines and kite pull. Steve says, "I can't see it, but I can feel it." They replace a few more lost and broken parts than the rest of us. But to fly next to them is humbling.

In Corey Jensen's column in the summer issue of *Kiting*, he asks us to learn not to depend entirely on our eyes, and to learn to experience kiteflying with all of our other senses. One day on the kite field while flying with Steve and Bruce I began to close my eyes. I could better sense the vibrations, the line twists, and subtle nuances that had escaped me before. I packed up as it got late. Steve and Bruce just kept flying. For them, there is no urgency to leave before nightfall.

Steve likes to fly sitting in a portable chair, his white cane lying by his side. Bruce stands in one place. He keeps the line in his hand when following it to a downed kite. Their level of proficiency is very good, and they seldom crash a kite. This comes from many hours of practice and intense concentration. They ride Portland's Light Rail Train to the edge of the West Delta Park Kite field and spend the whole day there. They fly with passion! Steve and Bruce are true masters of the sky. Even if that sky, for them, is always dark.



Bruce sets up a stack of stunters.



Steve is ready to launch.

Interview: Khalid Abdalla

In Marc Forster's film *The Kite Runner*, Khalid Abdalla plays the adult Amir – the older version of the story's main character. This is only his second American film, after appearing in *United 93*. We asked him a few questions about kiteflying, Asian culture, and the film's director.

The Kite Runner



Phil Bray © 2007 DREAMWORKS PICTURES. All Rights Reserved

Khalid Abdalla (left) stars as "Amir" and Ali Danish Bakhtyari (right) stars as "Sohrab" in Marc Forster's *The Kite Runner*.

In Pakistan, the courts have banned kite flying because there have been so many fatal accidents. In Afghanistan, of course, kite flying is allowed again after the Taliban had outlawed it. Any comment?

There are very few things that I think should be banned, and kite flying isn't one of them. There's a very justifiable anger felt towards Basant flyers who use metal strings that result in people dying and power outages. But I will never forget the sight in Afghanistan around four or five in the afternoon, just as the weather was cooling, when the Kabul sky would suddenly become filled with kites. No one should be deprived of that. It's as criminal as censorship or denying people music, art, or storytelling.

Alexander Graham Bell flew kites and invented the telephone. Ben Franklin flew kites and "discovered" electricity. Guglielmo Marconi flew kites and invented radio. Who's your favorite kite flier?

This little kid I saw come out of his house holding a kite he had made himself out of plastic bags. He can't have been more than seven and he'd obviously just woken up because his eyes were still puffy. It was about seven in the morning and he was the first one out, immediately trying to get his kite in the air with no wind. His friends started joining him having been woken up by the sound of his kite rising. He was cool. I think the big three you mentioned would have liked him.

Can director Marc Forster fly a kite?
He keeps it a mystery.

*The Asian subcontinent has a rich kite flying tradition. Prior to your work on *The Kite Runner*, what did you know about kites?*

Nothing, I missed out. Though I grew up in London mainly, I have memories of trying to fly kites as a child on the beach outside Alexandria in Egypt. They were cheap kites that you held by a plastic grip that me and my cousins would play with. Whenever the kite was in my hands it would drive inevitably into the ground. It took me quite a few kites while I was learning in Afghanistan [during the movie's filming] to break that habit. The kids there found it ridiculous that an adult couldn't fly a kite. For them it was as normal as throwing a ball. I can proudly say that I learned my lesson the hard way, with a few little scars on my fingers to prove it.

The book – and presumably the film – has opened people's eyes to Afghan culture, and to kite flying culture, which most people knew very little about. This isn't just another cop movie or romantic comedy or big explosions blockbuster. So as an actor, how do you deal with a subject area that the audience has no preconceptions of?
Sadly I think there are very strong preconceptions about Afghanistan which are often negative and misrepresentative. The Taliban's work has been so awful that still we associate Afghanistan with them before we even hear about the millions they and others oppressed, normal people who have suffered thirty years of war, and at one point the biggest refugee population in the world. The book tells a beautiful human story before it tells a violent one and I'm proud to be part of something that continues on the book's tracks. This country is brimming with stories that need to be told, not least because they're so good. That's help enough for an actor.

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2007 Sport Kite Conference

Final Standings

Central

Experienced Individual Ballet

1 Houchins, Donna	9
2 Blatnik, Guy	6
3 Oliver, Dallas	4

Experienced Individual Precision

1 Houchins, Donna	9
2 Blatnik, Guy	6
3 Oliver, Dallas	4

Experienced Multiline Ballet

1 Seward, William C.	6
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Experienced Multiline Precision

1 Seward, William C.	6
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Experienced Pairs Ballet

1 Boswell Boys	3
1 Windchasers	3

Experienced Pairs Precision

1 The Boswell Boys	3
1 Windchasers	3

Masters Individual Ballet

1 McCown, Jeff	4
2 McCown, Donna	3

Masters Individual Precision

1 McCown, Jeff	4
2 McCown, Donna	3

Masters Pairs Ballet

1 Wind Junkies	3
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Masters Pairs Precision

1 Wind Junkies	3
----------------	---

Masters Team Ballet

1 Austin End Of The Line	6
2 Team SPI	4

Masters Team Precision

1 Austin End Of The Line	6
2 Team SPI	4

Novice Individual Ballet

1 Seward, William C.	7
2 Gray, Ben	6
3 Boswell, Deontae	5
4 Gray, Katie	4
5 Kitchens, Henry	3

Novice Individual Precision

1 Gray, Ben	7
1 Seward, William C.	7
3 Gray, Katie	3
3 Kitchens, Henry	3

Open Ind. Outdoor Unlimited

1 McCown, Donna	5
2 McCown, Jeff	4
3 Horne, Roger	3

Midwest

Experienced Individual Ballet

1 Koepke, Paul	14
2 Bush, David	12
3 Rothwell, Steve	9
4 Arnold, John E.	7

Experienced Individual Precision

1 Koepke, Paul	16
2 Bush, David	11
3 Rothwell, Steve	9
4 Arnold, John E.	6

Experienced Multiline Ballet

1 Newman, Alison	11
2 Rizzuto, Chris	4
3 Babb, Christopher	3

Experienced Multiline Precision

1 Newman, Alison	9
------------------	---

Experienced Pairs Ballet

1 Expletive Deleted	9
2 Blues Brothers	8
3 Sky Jesters	7
4 Flying Egos	4

Experienced Pairs Precision

1 Blues Brothers	9
2 Sky Jesters	6
3 Expletive Deleted	4
3 Flying Egos	4

Experienced Team Ballet

1 Team Showdown	3
-----------------	---

Masters Individual Ballet

1 Gordon, Zachary	20
2 Gordon, Joshua	14
3 Newman, Dan	14
4 Schubbe, Spencer	12
5 Faulk, Russ	7
6 Alleshouse, Bruce	5
7 Trennepohl, Jon	4

Masters Individual Precision

1 Gordon, Zachary	20
2 Gordon, Joshua	14
3 Newman, Dan	13
4 Schubbe, Spencer	11
5 Faulk, Russ	8
6 Alleshouse, Bruce	5
6 Brinnehl, Kathy	5

Masters Multiline Ballet

1 Gordon, Zachary	9
-------------------	---

Masters Multiline Precision

1 Gordon, Zachary	3 6 0 9
-------------------	---------

Masters Pairs Ballet

1 EOS	14
2 O2	10
3 Fire And Ice	9
4 Pyro	4

Masters Pairs Precision

1 EOS	17
2 O2	14
3 Fire And Ice	10
4 Pyro	7

Masters Team Ballet

1 Chicago Fire	9
----------------	---

Masters Team Precision

1 Chicago Fire	9
----------------	---

Novice Individual Ballet

1 Deck, Tom	15
2 Gordon, Elizabeth	14
3 Garner, Jason D.	6
4 Arnold, John M.	6
5 Santiago, Edwin	3

Novice Individual Precision

1 Gordon, Elizabeth	17
2 Deck, Tom	13
3 Arnold, John M.	8
4 Garner, Jason D.	4
5 Santiago, Edwin	3

Open Ind. Indoor Unlimited

1 Borelli, Nelson	14
2 Trennepohl, Jon	5
3 Koepke, Paul	4
4 Arnold, Jace	3
5 Becker, Andy	1

Open Team Train

1 O2	3
------	---

Northeast

Experienced Individual Ballet

1 Coates, Douglas	26
-------------------	----

Experienced Individual Precision

1 Coates, Douglas	29
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Experienced Multiline Ballet

1 St. Pierre, Arthur F.	4
2 Quinton, Gary	3

Experienced Multiline Precision

1 Odyssey	7
2 A Nice Pear	4

Masters Individual Ballet

1 Tinkham, Shawn	40
2 Tinkham, Patty	30
3 Graziano, Ron	28
4 Contzius, Ari	15
4 Willoughby, Lisa	15
6 Moore, Michael	11
7 Santos, Steve	3
7 Smith, David	3
9 Rosanova, Rosanna	2
9 Smith, Dennis R.	2

Masters Individual Precision

1 Tinkham, Shawn	35
2 Graziano, Ron	33
3 Tinkham, Patty	30
4 Contzius, Ari	16
5 Willoughby, Lisa	12
6 Moore, Michael	10
7 Smith, David	3

Masters Multiline Ballet

1 Tinkham, Shawn	28
2 Coates, Douglas	19
3 Berg, Karl	13
4 Orso, Monica	7
5 Santos, Steve	3
6 Smith, Dennis R.	2

Masters Multiline Precision

1 Tinkham, Shawn	28
2 Coates, Douglas	19
3 Berg, Karl	13
4 Orso, Monica	7
5 Santos, Steve	3
6 Smith, Dennis R.	2

Experienced Multiline Ballet

1 Landers, Jim	37
2 Flanagan, Adrian	32
3 Redington, Justin Patrick	28
4 Brown, Jennifer	27
5 Doran, Amy	25
6 Di Lucca, Mario	24
7 Fabich, J. D.	22
7 Underwood, Tristan	22
9 Lommel, Doug	17
10 Rudolph, Todd	12
11 Underwood, Ray	12
12 Cunningham, Alan	8

Experienced Multiline Precision

1 Flanagan, Adrian	27
2 Landers, Jim	26
3 Redington, Justin Patrick	20
4 Brown, Jennifer	19
5 Fabich, J. D.	18
5 Lommel, Doug	18
7 Di Lucca, Mario	17
8 Doran, Amy	8
9 Rudolph, Todd	7
10 Cunningham, Alan	6

Experienced Pairs Ballet

1 Double Trouble	18
2 MJB	16
3 Dos Amigos	3

Experienced Pairs Precision

1 MJB	9
2 Dos Amigos	3

Open Team Train

1 That's My Line	13
2 Heaven Help Us	10

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

1 Tinkham, Shawn	8
2 Moore, Michael	7
3 Tinkham, Patty	6
4 Coates, Douglas	5
5 Berard, Pauly	3
6 Weider, Scott A.	9

Northwest

Experienced Individual Ballet

1 Hendrickson, William	48
2 Brown, Jennifer	47
3 Landers, Jim	43
4 Underwood, Ray	41
5 Fry, Gordon	39
6 Fabich, J. D.	32
7 Lommel, Doug	32
8 Redington, Justin Patrick	31
9 Di Lucca, Mario	23
10 Perceval, Jeremy	21
11 Hayes, Linda	12
12 Taylor, Marjorie	10
13 Hilliard, Robert	8
14 Cunningham, Alan	5
14 Ralston, Scott	5

Experienced Individual Precision

1 Brown, Jennifer	51
2 Underwood, Ray	48
3 Hendrickson, William	44
3 Lommel, Doug	44
5 Landers, Jim	35
6 Redington, Justin Patrick	31
7 Fabich, J. D.	27
8 Fry, Gordon	25
9 Taylor, Marjorie	17
10 Di Lucca, Mario	16
11 Ralston, Scott	9
12 Hilliard, Robert	7
13 Perceval, Jeremy	6
14 Cunningham, Alan	3

Experienced Multiline Ballet

1 Barresi, John	32
2 Hathaway, David	29
3 Yuen, Cal	24
4 Davis, Egan	21
4 Turner, Wayne	21
6 Hoac, Lam	12
7 Rudolph, Todd	1

Experienced Multiline Precision

1 Barresi, John	32
2 Hathaway, David	29
3 Yuen, Cal	24
4 Davis, Egan	21
4 Turner, Wayne	21
6 Hoac, Lam	12
7 Rudolph, Todd	1

Masters Individual Ballet

1 Haigh, Daniel	52
2 Davis, Egan	39
3 Barresi, John	34
4 Turner, Wayne	32
5 Root, Lisa	30
6 Cannon, Jerry	24
7 Yuen, Cal	22
8 Hoac, Lam	16
9 Thompson, James L.	16
10 Davis, Scott J.	10
11 Cimburek, Andrew	10
12 Hayes, Bud	7
13 Ostey, Donald	4

Masters Individual Precision

1 Haigh, Daniel	49
2 Turner, Wayne	33
3 Barresi, John	29
4 Yuen, Cal	27
5 Davis, Egan	24
6 Cannon, Jerry M	16
7 Thompson, James L.	15
8 Hayes, Bud	9
8 Hoac, Lam	9
8 Cimburek, Andrew	9
11 Davis, Scott J.	8

Masters Multiline Ballet

1 Barresi, John	32
2 Hathaway, David	29
3 Yuen, Cal	24
4 Davis, Egan	21
4 Turner, Wayne	21
6 Hoac, Lam	12
7 Rudolph, Todd	1

Masters Multiline Precision

1 Barresi, John	32
2 Hathaway, David	29
3 Yuen, Cal	24
4 Davis, Egan	21
4 Turner, Wayne	21
6 Hoac, Lam	12
7 Rudolph, Todd	1

Novice Individual Ballet

1 Underwood, Tristan	45
2 Underwood, Shannon	35
3 Doran, Amy	33
4 Brown, Mike	26
5 Bachel, Steve	26
6 Flanagan, Adrian	13
7 Dirk, Michael	10
8 Farrell, John	9
9 Rudolph, Todd	8
10 Wolters, Rick	5
11 Cooper, Delia M.	3

Novice Individual Precision

1 Underwood, Tristan	45
2 Underwood, Shannon	35
3 Doran, Amy	33
4 Brown, Mike	26
5 Bachel, Steve	26
6 Flanagan, Adrian	13
7 Dirk, Michael	10
8 Farrell, John	9
9 Rudolph, Todd	8
10 Wolters, Rick	5
11 Cooper, Delia M.	3

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

1 Underwood, Tristan	70
2 Turner, Wayne	69
3 Barresi, John	66
3 Hayes, Bud	66
5 Hoac, Lam	65
6 Cunningham, Alan	61
7 Cannon, Jerry M.	58
8 Davis, Scott J.	56
9 Hathaway, David	52
10 Davis, Egan	45
11 Underwood, Ray	41
12 Doran, Amy	35
13 Brown, Jennifer	29
14 Rudolph, Todd	24
15 Di Lucca, Mario	11
16 Redington, Justin Patrick	6
17 Arndt, Toby	3

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

1 Doran, Amy	16
2 Brown, Jennifer	10
3 Di Lucca, Mario	9
4 Hoac, Lam	4
5 Cloinger, Kevin	1

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited

1 Burnham, Dan	14
1 Champie, Aaron	14
3 Navarro, Francisco	9
4 Carter, Allen	8
5 Quirnbach, Mark	7
6 Gillespie, John	5
7 Erzlin, Jeffrey	4
8 Jones, Stacey	3

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

1 Burnham, Dan	14
1 Champie, Aaron	14
3 Navarro, Francisco	9
4 Carter, Allen	8
5 Quirnbach, Mark	7
6 Gillespie, John	5
7 Erzlin, Jeffrey	4
8 Jones, Stacey	3

Experienced Individual Ballet

1 Boerth, Robbie	40
2 Mervine, Richard	31
3 Conklin, Marc A.	30
4 Charleville, Norman "Doug"	25
5 Meeks, Spencer	18
6 Cornell, Terry D.	7
7 Smoot, William S	6
8 Burchfield, Andy	5
9 Stonestreet, Laura	4
10 Backus, Chris	3

Experienced Individual Precision

1 Boerth, Robbie	40
2 Mervine, Richard	31
3 Conklin, Marc A.	30
4 Charleville, Norman "Doug"	25
5 Meeks, Spencer	18
6 Cornell, Terry D.	7
7 Smoot, William S	6
8 Burchfield, Andy	5
9 Stonestreet, Laura	4
10 Backus, Chris	3

Experienced Multiline Ballet

1 Champie, Aaron	26
1 Quirnbach, Mark	26
3 Navarro, Francisco	17
4 Carl, Anthony E.	8
5 Burnham, Dan	6
6 Gillespie, John	4
7 Erzlin, Jeffrey	3

Experienced Multiline Precision

1 Champie, Aaron	22
2 Quirnbach, Mark	13
3 Navarro, Francisco	12
4 Carl, Anthony E.	8
5 Burnham, Dan	5

Experienced Pairs Ballet

1 Dos Furias	9
2 Meeks, Spencer	16
3 Shook, Cath	11
3 Stonestreet, Charles	11
5 Ashworth, David M.	6
6 Mosman, Michael J.	5
6 Meeks, David	5

Experienced Pairs Precision

1 Dos Furias	9
2 SOHR	3

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

1 Charleville, Norman "Doug"	20
2 Meeks, Spencer	16
3 Shook, Cath	11
4 Charleville, Norman "Doug"	7
5 Cseplo, Steve	4
6 Mosman, Michael J.	4
6 Rossbach, Evelyn	1

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

1 Boerth, Robbie	21
2 Stonestreet, Charles	20
3 LaMasters, Paul R.	8
4 Charleville, Norman "Doug"	7
5 Cseplo, Steve	4
6 Mosman, Michael J.	4
6 Rossbach, Evelyn	1

Open Team Train

1 Trained Monkeys	2
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Masters Individual Ballet

1 Haigh, Daniel	52
2 Davis, Egan	39
3 Barresi, John	34
4 Turner, Wayne	32
5 Root, Lisa	30
6 Cannon, Jerry	24
7 Yuen, Cal	22
8 Hoac, Lam	16
9 Thompson, James L.	16
10 Davis, Scott J.	10
11 Cimburek, Andrew	10
12 Hayes, Bud	7
13 Ostey, Donald	4

Masters Individual Precision

1 Haigh, Daniel	49
2 Turner, Wayne	33
3 Barresi, John	29
4 Yuen, Cal	27
5 Davis, Egan	24
6 Cannon, Jerry M	16
7 Thompson, James L.	15
8 Hayes, Bud	9</

REGIONAL REPORTS



Region 1 ~ New England
 CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY
Robert "Woody" Woods
 P.O. Box 525
 North Dighton, MA 02764
 508/669-4114
region1@aka.kite.org
 End of term: 2007

event and everyone who helped out, chipped in and kept things running smoothly. I want to thank every kite club in Region One for doing what you do year after year and day after day. Thanks to those who put on workshops and National Kite Month events. Thanks for spreading the word that kites are cool and so are the people who fly them. Thanks to our member merchants for keeping us well supplied and giving us a place to spend our money.

So far this has been a great summer weather-wise. Lots of kite flying going on all over New England. Our hats are off to our friends in Portland, Maine, for painting the sky with color just about every weekend. Seaside Kites put on a great event at Millennium Park with demos all day for the public to see and a great show of single line kites on display. I had a great time at this event and everyone I talked to did too. As I write this I'm recovering from the Newport Kite Festival. The weather was awesome and I have a sunburn to prove it.

That's about it for this report. I would like to wish the next Region One Director the best of luck. It's not an easy job being a good RD, and be forewarned I might run again someday, but for now I've had my share of fun. Hope to see you on a flying field soon.

Greetings and salutations, kites! Here's what's new in Region Two:

Charles Stewart thanks everyone who came out and helped make the kite festival at Jacob Riis Park a great success: Air Therapy, Skywalkers, Dennis Smith, Kurtis Jones, Rosanna Rosanova, Mike Nevins, Ron Jakubowicz, Dave Turner, Carmela Pallotta and a special surprise appearance by Steve K. from Brooklyn. Steve flew a Sea Devil by Lam Hoac. Kurtis Jones brought the Batman kite out of retirement for one more ballet. Bill and Barbara Coons from NYKE also came



Region 2 ~ Northeast
 NJ-PA-(lower) NY
Todd Little
 832 Meadow Lane
 Camp Hill, PA 17011
 717/975-2852
region2@aka.kite.org
 End of term: 2007

down to join the fun. Bill helped run the bol races, which were very popular with kids and parents alike. There was kitemaking for the kids and Verizon gave away free kites as well. Two 150 section dragon kites were flown. Dennis Smith's work on a microphone is well known and he lived up to his billing as one of the best sound people around. There was wind most of the day and the air was full of kites of all sizes and descriptions. There were free drawings for kites and airlines tickets. Volunteers and fliers were treated to a Chinese food buffet. And as a bonus, the contestants for the Miss Chinatown pageant were on hand. The sixteen ladies were competing for the chance to go to Hong Kong and compete for the Miss Asia title.

By the time of this printing, the 2007 Keystone Kites August kite building retreat project will be complete. A 30 ft² parafoil, taught by Kevin Shannon, who is well known for award-winning examples of this type of kite, was the subject of this year's class. I hope to have some photos in the next edition as beautiful kites are a given result of this annual class. The Keystone Kites are now planning something special for the winter retreat. It may have a connection to the 2008 AKA

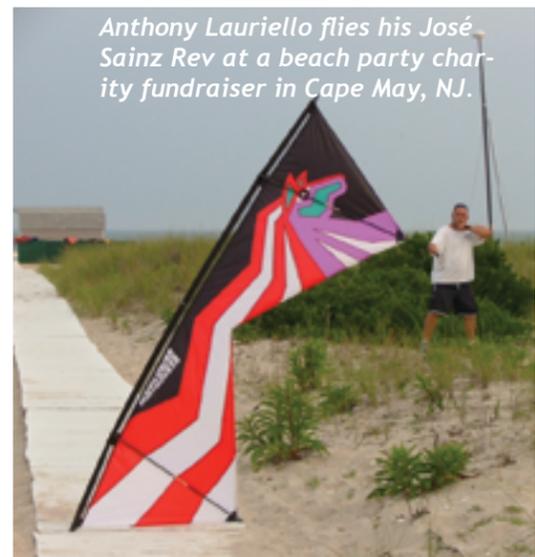


Some of the Brigantine fighter flyers.

Convention, which will be held in Gettysburg, PA. Stay tuned!

SJKF has been real busy. They hosted the Friday Night Social at the Wildwoods International Kite Festival and nobody left hungry. As a matter of fact, there were a few people asking how they did it, charging only \$3. The answer is donations from the generous SJKF members! Their 13th Annual Anniversary Bash is coming up soon. This is always a good time with plenty of food and great kites in their auction. Look forward to a date for the OABTI-IOPBCKFABO sometime in October. This event is always fun with a light-hearted attitude.

The first Brigantine Fighter Kite festival took place this June 25-27 in Brigantine, NJ. The South Jersey Kite Flyers and Region Two were well represented by the likes of Lisa Willoughby, Jim Davis, John Rose, Rick Mingeram, Mike Petty, Don Pignolet, and Andy



Anthony Lauriello flies his José Sainz Rev at a beach party charity fundraiser in Cape May, NJ.

to attend, assist and fly kites at the Wildwoods International Kite Festival, Asbury Park Kite Festival, NJSKC and the New York Kite Festival. Several members will be attending Sunfest at the end of September. LVKS also held numerous kids kite building workshops in July and August throughout the community. This club is well known for their kids workshops and LVKS members get almost as much enjoyment from helping the kids build the kites as the kids do flying them! As the weather turns cooler, LVKS members are making plans to attend the AKA Convention, the Ultra Sonic Super Fantastic Kids Day Weekend, Science Fest and Longwood Gardens in October.

Cliff Quinn decided to respond to an inquiry about a TV kitemaking search. It was a film production company in Philadelphia, whose client is the Comcast Network. They responded and asked for a three to five minute video of a kids kitemaking project. Cliff said that he was in the kitemaking business and not in the filming business, but if they wanted him to go to their studio, that he would do a clip. They agreed! The next step was to prepare nine kids kite projects. No sewing, just tape, glue, dowels, bamboo, plastic bags, Tyvek and ripstop nylon. The kites, for kids 5 to 12 years old, are a Sled, a mini Rokkaku, a Korean fighter, a Della Porta, a Bermuda, and a few more easy designs. The production company suggested that the final filming be at Cliff's studio. His work area is only 15'x25', taken

Selzer. With the implementation of a new format and new judging rules, the event ran very smoothly. They also got good press coverage, with articles in the *Atlantic City Press* and a spot on NBC news. This event is planned to take place again next year.

Members of LVKS have taken the summer months

up by a 4'x8' light table, shelving, file cabinets and tables. The day came and 12 people showed up for the filming! Shooting started at 8:30 a.m. and finished at 9:00 at night. Comcast cable subscribers have a button on their TV remotes for "On Demand" programs. There is a Children's Activity Menu. One of the selections will be kid's kite making. There will be nine segments to click on. The child can watch, fast forward, reverse or freeze the program. If the child wants to work along, they can also go on the net to a site called activitytv.com. There they can download construction plans and a material list. Hopefully the program will be released this fall.

It has been a fun five years as your Regional Director, and I've decided to stay on. As you all know, kites are great people. It's always a blast getting out and meeting kite flyers, whether at our Annual Convention, Wildwood, my local park, or anywhere in between. I have gotten to know many of you quite well and still look forward to meeting those whom I have not yet had the chance to meet! So, the next time you see me out there flying, stop by and say "Hi!"

Summer is passing quickly. The Middletown Kite Festival, MD, and a special fun fly at Snowshoe Resort, WV, will be over before you read this. Hopefully, you are checking the club calendars and getting out to these great events. Looking forward, WOW fliers expect to attend the the Edinburg, VA, Ole Time Festival, September 15-16; a fun fly at Harford County Community College on September 15; and another big one—the 30th Annual Sunfest Kite Festival in Ocean City, MD, September 20-23. RAF has upcoming events over Labor Day in Beech Mountain, NC, and a Regional sport kite competition September 15. Don't forget the AKA convention!

From Wings Over Washington (Jeff King):

We've been out and about this spring/summer with members at many East Coast and local events. The club participated in the Montpelier Wine/Kite Fest in Orange, VA, and the Tarara Winery Winds and Wine Festival in Leesburg, VA. Looking ahead, the club is on tap to visit another winery: The White Fences Winery Annual Grape

Rebecca Alves



Jeremiah Alves clowning at Newport

Rhonda Jackson



Region 3 ~ Mid-Atlantic
DC-DE-MD-VA-WV
Norman "Doug" Charleville
1607 Longdale Drive
Norfolk, VA 23518
757/852-3522
region3@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2007

Stomp in Irvington, VA. Wine aside, they are all great local festivals. Now if we could just find an Oktoberfest kite festival somewhere....

WOW members travel all around the mid-Atlantic. Wildwood is always a huge draw for kites from around the world. Along with the international fliers, WOW was there flying kites of all sizes and competing (and doing well) in the ECSKC. A group made it to the 25th Rogallo Kite Festival at Jockey's Ridge State Park, NC. Hot days, squirrely winds, hang gliders, and those killer dunes made this one of the most challenging festivals of the year.

First-time competitor Laura Marnette shows off her ODSKC prize.



Regardless, the fliers got big kites into the air, performed sport kites demos and gave lessons to the public. Some WOWsters journeyed to the gorgeous mountains of West Virginia for Canaan Valley Resort's 6th Annual Windfest on July 7-8. Despite light winds and some crazy wind shifts, the fliers put on great sport kite demonstrations and provided Frustrationless Flyers kitemaking for the public. It's always great to see kids taking delight in making and flying their kites!

Closer to home, the First Sunday Fly at the Washington Monument on July 1 was a good one. We had some good winds and the usual cohort of WOW regulars performed for the passers-by, and gave frequent lessons. The following Saturday, WOW participated in Frederick, Maryland's First Saturday Gallery Walk; a monthly event offering guest artists, live entertainment, exhibits, and downtown shopping. The event featured kit kites decorated by local groups on display in the shops of participating merchants, and WOW was there performing to the public's delight with kites on short lines at the Carroll Creek Linear Park and on the sidewalks of downtown Frederick. Serving as kiting ambassadors is part of what it's all about, and it's always gratifying when someone shows interest or gets a lesson and then gets the kiting bug.

From the Old Dominion Sport Kite Championship (Marc Conklin):

There's a running criticism of the ODSKC about the lack of wind and simultaneous abundance of heat and humidity. That never stops folks from coming and the 15th annual ODSKC, June 24-25, was no exception, recording the highest number of competitors on the East Coast for the second year. We were graced with competitors from up and down the eastern seaboard, as well as a visitor from Washington State. The reason: biscotti. Fliers were greeted Saturday and Sunday morning by Adrienne and Mearl Balmer, who manned the event's hospitality tent, handing out home-made biscotti



Craig Young and Jim Cosca wrestle the big stuff

in a variety of flavors, cold bottled water, lunches, ice pops, and cold moist towelettes throughout the weekend. Coolers of ice-cold water were placed strategically around the competition fields to keep competitors hydrated. Harold and Elizabeth Ames made ice cream on the field, available to everyone at the event. Beginning to see a pattern here? It's very simple: keep competitors happy, fed, and hydrated, and they keep coming back!

Saturday was very busy as event coordinator Marc Conklin and Chief Judge Maggie Engvall organized to run all of the IRBC/AKA competitions in one day. The first step was requiring all competitors to pre-register no later than one week before the event – a great help in putting together judging panels and event schedules based on each discipline's number of competitors. All but one discipline were completed, leaving only Open Unlimited for Sunday with plenty of time left for the scheduled Tricks Party USA event.

Saturday evening, a large group of very tired kitefliers met at the Murray home for an outdoor cookout hosted by Terry Murray and Janis Worth. The food was fantastic, the drinks were flowing, and all had a good time. The cookout included awards for the day's events and an auction featuring unique kites from award-winning kitemak-

ers Cliff Quinn, Scott Spencer, Harold Ames, Adrienne Balmer, Gary Engvall, Andy Burchfield, and a lesser known kitemaker from Harrisonburg, VA, Randy Shenk. His '3 Actors' hand-painted rokkaku was the hit of the evening. Watch out if Randy starts competing!

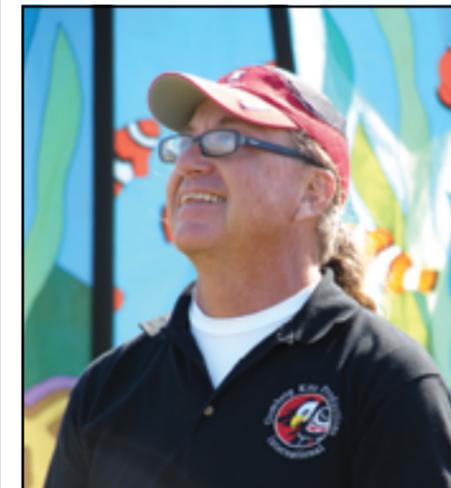
Sunday was a slower, more relaxed day of competition. After Open Unlimited, Gary Engvall and Karl Berg pulled the magic trick of changing a rectangular field to a circular one for the Tricks Party USA events to be held in the afternoon. If you've never seen a Tricks Party event, you should definitely make your way to the next one you can. It's an interesting, fast-paced, entertaining event, and it's a great chance to see some of the best fliers in the country do what they like to do best.

A special thanks goes out to the following for a successful ODSKC: Bonnie Marvin at Hang 'em High Fabrics; Theresa at The Kite Shoppe; Chris Schultz and New Tech Kites; the Engvalls; Mearl and Adrienne Balmer; Terry Murray and Janis Worth; Will and Heidi Smoot; Doug Charleville; Dennis Smith; the above-mentioned kite auction contributors; and the RAF and WOW kite clubs, without whose teamwork and volunteerism it would be impossible to hold this great event

In closing, I have made the decision to not run again, so your next update will be from your new RD following the AKA convention. It has been a pleasure and honor to get to know you and be your partner in kiting. Thanks to all of you for your help and support to me and your enthusiastic support of kiting in the region. You are the ones that make it a fun and growing hobby/sport. See you around the flying fields!

Three years have rolled away quickly! I would like to thank all the AKA Region Four members for their encouragement and input into the articles. Although I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve the organization, it's time to let someone else have the chance to enjoy the role of regional director. While this is my last AKA article, it certainly won't be my last AKA event and I look forward to good winds, good friends and lots more good times. Thanks again!

Gary Resnick writes, "Memorial Day had the Sunset Flyers joining up



Region 4 ~ Southeast
AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN
Mike Agner
4801 Deer Glade Court
Wilmington, NC 28409
910/790-5979
region4@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2007

with the Treasure Island Sport Kite Club for the annual Sun Sand and Symphony at Treasure Island. A potluck lunch and a chance to spend a day flying kites with friends is hard to beat. The last day of June was spent at the Sunset Flyers' First Summer Kite Festival at Sand Key, FL. It takes a little nerve to put "first annual" on an event that has a history of only one day, but with a day like this past Saturday I can guarantee repeats in the years to come. There are larger, flashier, and maybe even more organized kite festivals out there but for the pure joy of flying I don't care how large they get, it would be hard to beat this one. The winds were perfect for flying kites and the people were more than happy to fly them. Two and four line stunt kite lessons, kid's kite building, candy drops, a buried treasure hunt, ballet and tricks demos, plus a constant sky full of kites kept the flyers busy and the public thoroughly impressed. We were joined by our kite friends from all over the state which made a great day all the better. Oh yeah! There was more food than you could ask for. The Sunset Flyers sure know how to put on an event. Great winds, great friends, great food and we even let the public join in. I can't wait for the next one, which I hear will be in October.

Dennis Kucmerowski says that he

flew in the Ft. Lauderdale Air and Sea show May 7. "The winds were really light and the beach was short from all of the erosion the year before, but I managed to fly a red, white and blue wing with stars for awhile. For the finale, I launched a six stack of red, yellow and gold diamonds with matching tails. The winds being so light I ended up waist deep in the ocean, just trying to keep the kites from falling out of the sky."

Thomas Self writes: "There was a Tricks Party event held in Huntsville, AL, by Keith Galeano, Randy Greenway and Allan Crow. This regional event allows for Novice through Masters class flyers to get their feet wet locally before traveling to the larger events held across the country. The whole purpose of the regional is to get people who would not normally be able to travel to the large events an opportunity to fly competitively and learn what the kite community has to offer. There's no pressure, just a lot of fun by people getting together and sharing their common interest in flying sport kites. This past event allowed our local group of flyers from Field of Strings Kite Club to get a chance to help out with an event. The score keepers and line judges learned a lot about what is involved in putting on a event. The sound guy came in from Florida! A big thank you, for the Tricks Party South organizers, and the event judges and staff. The competitors that came in



Jay Nunes at Sand Key.

from Florida, were Rob Autrey, Robbie Boerth and Spencer Meeks. Randy Greenway and Brian Sumpter came from Georgia and from the Huntsville area were Keith Galeano and Allan Crow. This is a chance for the readers to see what they missed and to mark their calendars early, because next year's event will be around the middle of March. "



Region 5 ~ Great Lakes
MI-OH
Jerry McGuire
5031 Mallet Hill Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45244
513/ 831-8379
region5@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2008

As I am writing this, I am reflecting back on the mid-spring and early-summer events I attended. It seems as if the past four or five P.I.G.S. Aloft events have been hot with almost no wind. The spectators and participants said that they enjoyed themselves. But it would have been much more enjoyable if the wind would have cooperated.....it would have been a better show. But that is why experienced kites use banners, fan-inflatable "sky-dancers" and other ground displays. If you can't fly, give the spectators something else to rave about. Of course, kids flying kites is not dependent upon good wind. Young legs seem to easily compensate for no wind.

Let's see, where have we been since my last report? I

think we hit most of the larger events, and they were all in Michigan.

On May 18-20 we were in Grand Haven, MI, at the Great Lakes Kite Festival, where the kites took advantage of the cool steady winds generated by Lake Michigan. At this event many of the top stunt kite teams, performance fliers and show kite aficionados from across the country gather each year to hang out and entertain the crowd. This year was no exception. The sky was filled both days with kites of all sizes, styles and designs. And the spectators lined the performance field to see a continuing display of talented dual and quad line performers, and fighter kite competitions. If you have never been to this event, be sure to get it on your calendar in 2008. Thanks to the great folks at Mackinaw Kites for the hard work and sponsorship.

Next was Breeze on the Bay. The Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce and the Bay City News sponsored an AKA sanctioned event on June 2-3 in East Tawas, MI, on the shores of Lake Huron. On Saturday the weather was great. The wind arrived a little late, about noon, and stayed steady until late afternoon. So, the Bandana Gang was able to entertain those in attendance with fighter kite, dual-line and quad-line demos all afternoon. And a few big kites shared the flying field. At night fall, the wind came back and the kite lights came out. The result was one of the best night flies that I can recall. On Sunday the wind did not cooperate in the morning and bad weather arrived shortly after lunch, making it necessary for the sponsors to cut the



The Michigan Kite Fest crew.

The Bandana Gang



event short. The folks representing the chamber of commerce indicated that they were pleased with this first time event and they look forward to doing it again in 2008.

During festivities on Saturday I was honored, and surprised, to be inducted as a member of the famed Bandana Gang. Thanks fellows. I shall wear that red hanky with great pride. Oh, by the way, when am I allowed to take it off?

My thanks to the Bay City News, the Tawas Chamber of Commerce, and "Kiteman Jack" Quinn for inviting me, and the Bandana Gang, to take part in the area's first kiting event.

Dave Bush, Mary Hoffman, Back 2 the Wind kite club and their many helpers put on a very nice competition event, the Michigan Kitefest, in Richland, MI on June 10-11. Although the winds were light and variable most of both days, the sport kite and fighter kite competitions seemed to go off without a hitch. This event has been held the last two years on a newly-mowed, very large grassy park. The kites in attendance really like this place. It is not often that a flying area of this size and quality is available for a sanctioned kiting event.

Now it is on to the North Coast Stunt Kite Games at Maumee Bay State Park on Lake Erie, and Kites Over Branch County in Coldwater, MI. This will wrap up the AKA sanctioned events in Region Five. Check the schedule at www.aka.kite.org for more details on Region Five events.

I hope to see you at one of these festivals. Please look me up. If the wind is up, I will likely be fighting with a big inflatable or two, and I may need your assistance. Oh yes, remember... it's all about putting smiles on faces.



Region 6 ~ Midwest
IA-IL-IN-MN-WI
Robert Rymaszewski
3266 S. 44th Street
Greenfield, WI 53219
414/329 9825
region6@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2008

Greetings from Region Six! Things have been busy here as the summer winds down and fall approaches.

Members of the Illinois Kite Enthusiasts were in good attendance at the Frontier Kite Festival in Naperville, IL, on June 2-3. Despite some threatening clouds and rain on Sunday, kites of all sizes and shapes entertained the folks who had come out to see what it was all about. The rescheduled Perry Farm Kite Festival took place over Father's Day weekend. Skies were clear though the light and variable winds proved to be a challenge. Regulars at Perry Farm have seen everything from high winds to snow over the last few years. IKE's own quad kite team will be participating in the Pontiac Kite Festival at the Pontiac Recreational Complex in Pontiac, Illinois on August 25-26 and the DeKalb Kite Festival on September 16.

By the time this goes to press the Kite Society of Wisconsin and Illinois will have taken part at the Chicago Botanic Garden Kite Festival held on August 11-12. The KSWI will once again host one of the Midwest's



Guildworks built a logo kite for Target.

longest running kite festivals, the 29th Frank Mots International Kite Festival on September 8-9 at Veteran's Park in Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin Kites held their "Paint Me Patriotic" fun fly at the USA Youth Sports Complex in Appleton, WI, which is one of the proposed locations for the 2009 AKA Convention. Winds were light throughout the day, but those in attendance still had a good time. The Kites also will have held their relocated Dodge County Kite Roundup in Beaver Dam, WI, at the Dodge County Fairgrounds. Upcoming events for the Wisconsin Kites include Kites Over Lake Michigan on September 1-2 at Nashotah Beach in Two Rivers, WI.

The Minnesota Kite Society and members of the Guildworks kite team participated in the Flint Hills International Children's Festival in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota. The festival was themed around kites and featured kite flying and kite making. The MKS also has their Flying Colors Kite Festival at Harvest Park in Maplewood on August 18th and the Halloween Fun Fly on October 28th at Washburn Elementary School in Bloomington, MN.

The Hoosier Kite Society will host the Indiana Trick Clinic and Fly on September 1-2 at the Muncie AMA grounds, and the annual Merritt Beck Kite Reunion there on September 29.

Challenged by the Ordway Theater in St Paul to replicate a traditional Maori-style kite to honor the musical group Wai from New Zealand, kite-maker Barbara Meyer chose to use modern materials instead of bamboo and reeds. The graphics were developed during the collaboration of Wai; a Native American dance troupe; an East Indian classical troupe; a West African festival troupe; and the builder. Each component has a meaning, such as the river that runs across and unites all peoples, the four-color native circle that represents all peoples of the world, and the hands reaching out in friendship. The face and feather ring around the neck echo the traditional dress of the Maori people. Shown flying at the Wings on Strings festival in



Barbara Meyer's Maori kite.

Jamestown, ND, it's final home will be a Maori museum in New Zealand.

Until next time, take care and keep your eyes to the sky.

Here in the middle of the country, we had a record wet spring and high winds at every fly we attended this spring. Now it's the middle of summer, and we wish we had some of that moisture and wind. By the time Callaway gets here it should be perfect weather and wind. Hope to see a large group there again this year.

On May 5, we attended Kites over Grinnell in Iowa. It was a cool day, but it warmed up as the day progressed. We were excited to see all the kitefliers there this year. We want to thank all of the wonderful people of Grinnell



Region 7 ~ Great Plains
CO-KS-MO-ND-NE-SD-UT-WY
Donald Murphy
9104 Charles Street
Omaha, NE 68114
402/391-8503
region7@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2008

for all of their hospitality and great organization of events. There was some excellent flying both indoors and out.

Memorial Weekend took us to Garrison, ND, for Skydance. We had lots of sunshine and beautiful weather. Tons of thanks to our wonderful hostess, Deb Lenzen. As usual, she held a great event and a great party for all those who attended.

Twisted Lines Kite Festival was held June 8-10 at a new location in Topeka. This event is put on by Bob Homan every year, and it's about the only competition held in Region Seven. Bob holds an auction every year to help raise funds for the American Diabetes Association.



That's hospitality: at Jamestown, Mike Gee repairs Al Sparling's barrel.

On June 9-10, we attended Kite Fest in Jamestown, ND. We have watched this festival grow each year. Thanks to our hosts, Mike Gee and Chris Dodson and all of their hard work.

We hope that many of you are all planning to attend Callaway this year on Labor Day Weekend. We wait all year for this fun event. It is a great weekend of flying, food and fun.

Enjoy the sky!

Weather has, once again, been a challenge this kiting season! (Do I sound like a broken record?). Record rainfall in many locations has turned a few dedicated kite fields into swamps! Regardless, we just pull on our Wellingtons and slog on! When lightning begins, we just transfer the activity from outdoor kiting to indoor kitemaking (or maybe an emergency trip to the Dairy Queen)!

Unfortunately, we saw some of our "mainstay" festivals cancelled this year. As much as we hated to see that, we also had a myriad of new local festivals pop up, so I suppose it evened



Region 8 ~ South Central
AR-LA-NM-OK-TX
Gayle Woodul
106 Main Street
Marble Falls, TX 78654
830/598-2414
region8@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2008

out. The DeFors put on back-to-back weekend festivals in Ruidoso, NM. Ben Gray organized a few new events with Austin Parks & Rec throughout the spring. George Weber and the Dallas Area Kitefliers Organization (DAKO) were out there cordoning off fields for festivals more times than they'd like to remember. And thanks to the diligence and dedication of the kiter/organizers, many reliable local events continue to thrive! Although attention generally goes to the highly publicized large festivals with hundreds of spectators, the grass roots efforts and smaller local events continue to introduce children and new people to kiting. Deep appreciation to the Regional "Eyes On The Ground" who act as the kiting liaison for these smaller, yet critical, festivals! Although it's sometimes an invisible and thankless job, the wheels wouldn't even BEGIN to turn without their dedication! When you run into any of these



The Kite Fest Louisiana krewe.

"silent heroes," be sure to give them an extra round of applause for their unselfish attention to sharing the joys of kiting to a new generation. Without them, where would we all go to gossip and compare notes? Plus, I thank you ALL for attending the festivals, assisting the organizers, supporting the AKA, and for your continued love and support of kiting!

Compared to some of the more structured kitemaking workshops throughout the country, the Junction Kitemakers Retreat on Memorial Day weekend may seem pretty weird and unstructured. But we're in Texas, and we like things a little more relaxed and "laid back." At Junction, you can wander into one classroom to get an overview and start a project, then cruise over to another class and see what's happening there. As always, Junction was a wealth of information and a load of fun! A HUGE thanks to Judy Kingery and Bob Josjor for the intricate coordination involved in making Junction a reality, and to all of the instructors and attendees who bring their expertise and their sense of adventure and fun to Junction.

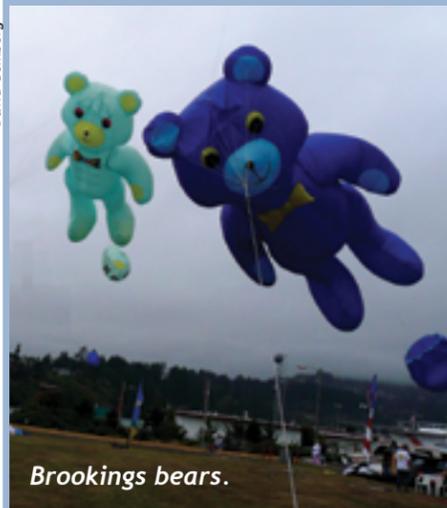
The AKA convention's right around the corner and I hope to see some of you there! As anyone who's caught a glimpse of me at conventions knows, I've got my afterburners in high gear, so don't feel bad if you have to tackle me to get a word in edgewise! Region Eight will be represented in many competitive venues at Ocean Shores this year including Fighters, Sport Kites, and Kite Makers, so be sure to give those folks an extra pat on the back and wish them luck. Of course, the only bad thing about any AKA convention is that you just can't be everywhere at once! Plan your schedule carefully to make sure that you get the maximum benefit out of the wealth of knowledge and entertainment available, but also don't overlook the opportunity to just hang out and meet new folks. As overwhelming as convention can be, remember that it's the people of the AKA that make it so special.

Drive safely, fly friendly, keep looking up, and — as always — see ya on the kite fields!



Region 9 ~ Intermountain
ID-MT-OR
John Barresi
1236 N. Killingsworth Street, #3
Portland, OR 97217
503/890-0280
region9@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2009

As I write this, we've just finished the first day of a kite show for the Red Bull Air Races in Interlaken, Switzerland. Ten international kite fliers have been gathered together by Rock + Partner to create an exhibition during this race plane event, with other dates scheduled later in the year for London, San Diego and Perth. Pilots from the USA, Canada, France, UK and Japan have worked together to create a blend of single line displays combined with dual and quad line performances, as individuals, pairs and team! Look for more news from these events in some of your favorite kite publications very soon.



Brookings bears.

Lincoln City held another of their annual Summer Festival events on the beautiful Oregon coast, attracting flyers from as far away as San Diego and Canada, as well as the usual excellent array of performers and artists from all over Oregon and Washington. If you've never been to a Lincoln City event, I highly recommend it! The organizers are outstanding, the flying is generally quite good, and the coastline is always worth the trip anyway. For more information about Lincoln City events, be sure to visit their web site (www.lincolncity.org) for the scheduled dates of their three annual kite events. Speaking of Lincoln City, please take note of the Fall Festival, scheduled for October 13-14. Held on the same beach, it's another worthwhile trip.

This issue of *Kiting* will already be published by the time we're finished with the event, but the Southern Oregon Kite Festival which will be held on the third weekend of July in Brookings is always one of my favorite festivals of the year. Featuring an all-star list of performers and artists, the exhibitions are always top notch and their spectators are some of the most friendly and appreciative that I've encountered anywhere. Although there isn't space for non-invited flyers to put kites up, they certainly put on one heck of a show and it's an excellent opportunity to meet some truly great kites.

I know it's a poor excuse, but I've received little to no news from organizers or fliers from Region Nine about recent or upcoming events this time around. I heartily encourage each and every one of you to send information, photos and/or event reports to me for inclusion in the quarterly RD reports in *Kiting*. Besides the inherent benefits of sharing with other kite fliers, this is an excellent medium with which to let others know about your events and local happenings.

Have you ever had one of those fantastic weekends? The weekend of July 13-15 was one of those at Grayland, WA, spent with husband Ron and many kiteflying friends at the Westport Windriders Kite Festival. The weather was superb and the winds came off the ocean for perfect kite flying. The invited guest was Ellen Pardee and her wonderful array of kites. Bob Serack



Region 10 ~ Northwest
AK - WI
Marla Miller
5440 N. 49th Street
Tacoma, WA 98407
253/752-7051
region10@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2009

was there with all of his banners lining the edge of the field, along with Art Ross and Ron Button flying Art's big kites, and Scott and Kristian Slater flew their big "Harry Osbourne" kite. The sky was full of wonders in every color that you can imagine.

I know you have all seen this, but the best kite in the air was a new little white sled kite that the Windriders are now making for children (please note the big kid flying it). This is patterned



Susan Gomberg and Penny Lingenfelter at Brookings.

from the green sled kite belonging to the White Horse Kite Flyers of the UK. Their logo is printed on their green sled and Neil Harvey made modifications to it years ago to make it even a better flyer. Over several trips to the UK and making a few kites with them at different festivals, I fell in love with it. I do recall one weekend we made 1000 kites with kids. What a thrill; I just didn't think I would ever stand up straight again. It is a great little flyer. They have been making their "green frog" for at least 15 years, not only at kite festivals but schools and other venues. With the White Horse Kite Flyers' permission I started looking for a company that could get us the right plastic and be able to print the

idea and it went over very well. Only two complaints and a great deal of praise for helping our flyers have their space at festivals. Watch for the person handing out wristbands at the next festival.

What's for the future.... AKA CONVENTION, right here in our own state. That will be at Ocean Shores in case you haven't heard. By the time you read this, we will already have a winner of the raffle for free registration. There is still time to sign up and have a great time with your AKA family. Meet with old friends, make new friends and see what's new.

Check out who will be at Fort Worden in March, (www.kitemakers.org), and yes, there's a raffle. If you want a



The scene at Westport.

Windrider logo on it. Well, three years later, it is now flying here on the Pacific coast. The Windriders are looking forward to putting more of the little white sleds in the sky. Hopefully along the way we will hook some newcomers to this great sport and they will move on from the little white sled to bigger and better kites. Thank you to the White Horse club and the Windriders for all their work.

Something new here in Region Ten is the use of wristbands and a sign up sheet to list all flyers on the fields. This is a safe step forward to have a way of identifying kite flyers who belong on the fields and keep those stray souls out of the flying fields who want to just drift through and look at the kites in the sky. We can then ask them (politely) to move to the other side of the ropes and watch from a safe place. Westport was the first to try this new

ticket, get in touch with me.

Have you heard about the great little book just out offered by Drachen Foundation? Being a huge "Thank You Charlie" fan and friend, this is a must for your kite book collection. "The Cocktail-Napkin Kite" by Charlie Sotich. It is a limited edition, so act fast! Drachen also has a new address: 400 Roy Street, Suite A, Seattle, WA 98109.

Have fun flying and great times with your kite friends.

Wow, it's been crazy busy in California kitemland!

The Lee Toy memorial fly happened on April 22. It was a nice day as the family brought some of Lee's kites and everyone helped fly them.

The Paso Robles event moved to May 6 and had the best wind ever, still challenging but more and all day for



Region 11 ~ N. California
Northern CA-NV
Brian Champie
7510 Corrinne St.
San Ramon, CA 94583
925/829-0683
region11@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2009

a nice change! Again I managed to get the fire department and their pretty new ladder truck to come out and retrieve my 252 with 350' of tail off of one of their seemingly hundreds of huge lamps. The dang thing managed to tangle on a lamp upwind from its anchor. Like I said, goofy wind! The BBQ was as awesome as ever. Who is that cook anyway?!

There was a rare sighting of Dan Whitney at the Newark Family kite day on May 12. Dan, Bryan Blattel and I entertained the crowds with the big kites while Jim Streatly did the candy drops. It was a good day AND they pay us real money!

The San Ramon Wind fest went off nearly without a hitch. The stellar group of kites included Penny Lingenfelter, Susan Shampo, Ron Despojado,



Dave Hoggan's 1000 ft² flag at the San Ramon Memorial Day fly.



Russell Roby's 12-point double star took flight at Berkeley.

Alex Herzog, and Dave Sabolino. Dave's wife Claudia did her first demo in front of a crowd! Along with the local flyers this year, Lam Hoac attended. Lam said he had a blast and wants to return next year. The hitch I mentioned: Erik Froeming from Elko, NV, was flying his big sled lifter and the winds took his kite into a lamp as well! Right over a busy walkway, tugging on the kite pulled off the lamp lens and left it dangling precariously. After some time we were assured that it would never come down as it is attached with aircraft cable. NOT! Sunday afternoon that 20" thing came down and crashed



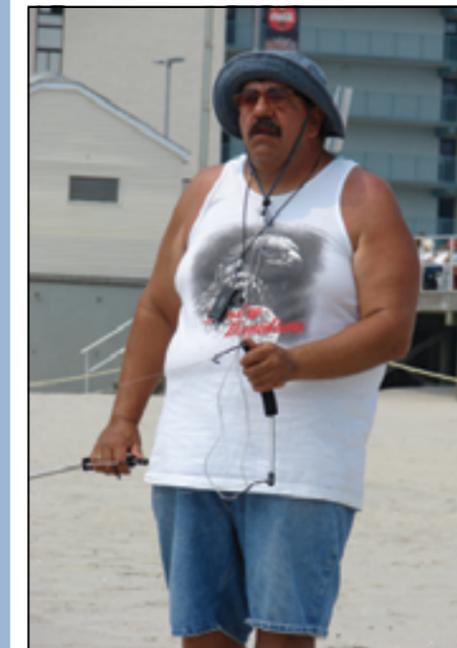
A rare Dan Whitney sighting.

onto the concrete below like a bomb! No harm though, no one was injured! The party at my place on Saturday night saw over 50 well-fed kites and family members.

The annual Marina Kite Festival near Monterey is one of my favorites. It's a small-town festival; we try to fly our kites, but for the most part the families and kids take over by mid-day and we have to get out of the way. It's great fun to watch, help and duck for cover! Dinner at the South Texas BBQ keeps me wanting to go back!

June 2 was a new date for the Calaveras event in California's Gold country. The weather was perfect and the winds were quite useable for mountain wind! The organizers wanted something new so came up with a kite battle. They gave each of us small plastic kites and had us stand in a large circle. The idea was to have a kite destruction derby, but the line that came with these kites was so poor it seemed to break just looking at it. Still we had fun running around in that circle, thinking that we actually had some kind of control till the last kite remained. Bryan Blattel was the victor, and he even got a nice engraved plaque. Next year I'm bringing good line!

The Bay Area Sport kites new Santa Cruz most-excellent-full-blown-kite festival on September 22 is shaping up to be quite a big deal. You can find all the information at www.erzin.net/KiteFest/. Those BASKL buddies keep on amazing.



Region 12 ~ Southwest
Southern CA-AZ-HI
Ben Dantonio
1320 Flamingo Place
El Cajon, CA 92021
619/750-8770
region12@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2007

Hello everyone. I hope all your days are as full of sun and wind as mine have been. As always, the San Diego kite club meets the second



After four days of giving Rev lessons at Wildwood, Ben Dantonio gives in to exhaustion.

Saturday of each month and has lots of fun. The club has gotten a new event off the ground in Los Angeles called Kites Over Silver Lake. It was very well attended by the local community. With the help of Team Too Much Fun (Ron Despojado, Mark and Jeanette Lummas) and many of the local flyers from the San Diego region, they battled terrible conditions to put on a great show. The city of Los Angeles has asked the club to put on a yearly event which may even be held on the beach next year, so keep your fingers crossed. I also had the chance to go to Sylmar, CA, and fly kites and talk with the local hang gliding community. I learned a lot and they had a great time flying both Revolution kites and stunt kites. Hopefully I will return in the future.

Time to catch up with world news. Canada first!

The Niagara festival is September 27-30, meaning Region Thirteen travelers get TWO festivals in TWO weeks – the AKA Convention starts October 1. That's value for your travel money. It's not too late: register NOW online. Kevin and I are definitely going and we look forward to meeting more Region Thirteeners.

Toronto held their Four Winds Kite Festival May 5-6, where Miss Ohio entertained. Why Four Winds? That's how many ways the wind can shift in a day! Upcoming event will be the Toronto Kitefest, September 15-16, in Milliken Park.

Ray Bethell entertained at the Cerchia festival in Italy for the twelfth year



Region 13 ~ International
Linda Sanders
 P. O. Box 758
 Willunga SA 5172 AUSTRALIA
 (+61) 885-562696
 region13@aka.kite.org
 End of Term: 2009

open on Pelee Island in spring of 2008.” Check www.thekitemuseum.com. This info from George Paisiovich, Ontario.

News from the U.S. Postal Service... mail categories have changed. There will no longer be slow-boat Surface mail to Region Thirteen. It's now all International First Class. This should mean FASTER delivery for KITEING issues.

Who'd have thought 927 kites in the air at the same time would be a World Record? Guinness judged it so for Rotary International, April 14 in Bournemouth, UK. But... how many THOUSANDS fly each year in Ahmedabad, India? And, from World Kite Museum, “The most kites flown in the sky at one time is 4,663 at Long Beach, WA.” Or, from Robyne Gardner, AKA Records Committee, “The record for the Most Kites Flown on a Single Line is 11,284 kites flown in Kagoshima, Japan, October 18, 1990 by a team lead by Sadao Harada.”

Wonder what Guinness uses as criteria? Now the Scout Association in South Australia wants to challenge Rotary's record on August 18 at Glenelg Beach, where the aim is 3,000 kites. I'll keep you updated!

Rod Gant, UK, tells, “Whilst the rest of the UK was being rained on enough to need an ark, I had mostly bright sunshine.” He was up on the Isles of Lewis and Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Idyllic.

Not so good for Swindon Kite Festival. David Robinson says May was rained out, and June was the wettest month on record. Eight wet

Sundays in a row! Not to be beaten by weather, the White Horse Kite Flyers ran their children's kite workshop at the Bedford Kite Festival, June 23-24, even with the cloudbursts. Miriam Schafler & Barbara Hall travelled from USA to enjoy some WHKF hospitality, AND some English rain it seems.

The Wedding of the Year? Andrew and Kathleen Beattie celebrated at the Wirral Kite Festival, along with an International guest list, co-ordinated by Malcolm & Jeanette Goodman. Ask Peter Lynn why his T-shirt boasted “the Goatherd?” Ask Andrew and Kathleen about their 11 toasters and one loaf of



Andrew and Kathleen Beattie like big balls.

bread! Andrew and Kathleen's latest creation is an eight meter football (that's way over 21 feet). A new challenge for Beckham, perhaps?

Samir Ariff, India, tells me how a great-great-great-great-grandfather, Haji Cassim Ariff, established the first “Silk Mill” in Bengal in 1881. From another ancestor, Samir now has some carefully-preserved record-making kites from 19th century. Collectables!

The Supreme Court in Pakistan has upheld the ban on kite flying, except in February, and any kite festival is now subject to prior approval, says Muhammad Amir, Karachi. “It has caused us to worry,” say kite businesses and flyers.

Finally, the 1st International Kite Festival and Exhibition is to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, October 14-23. All AKA fliers are welcome. E-mail fawaz@uniexpoevent.com for registration info.

Less talk - more fly. See you in October!

in a row. “They give me my own arena on the beach to give all-day multiple kite demos every day for ten days. The Europeans really support kite festivals. I have 15 International kite festivals up to the end of November and my kite season will finish in Perth, Australia.” That's a great way for enjoying life.

iQuad (half their members are Region Thirteen) sure have been REV busy, e.g. Windscape Kite Festival, Saskatchewan, June 23-24, but now David Hathaway and John Barresi are flying multiline pairs as “Furious George”!?? “Canada's first kite museum will



A pair of Dutch edos take shelter from the storm at the Bedford Kite Festival.



“We Will Conquer The Moon”: the Umbowers' peartop.

A donzella-style kite by Holland's Jan Kitt.

A classic Rolo plan.

Arno Haft bird replicas by the Umbowers and Toersten Neurath.

A closer look at the craftsmanship of Kitt's donzella

More from Fanø

photos by Bob and Charmayne Umbowers

A flat kite from German master Peter Schmidt.

This bol is built from more than 200 actual umbrellas.



Kiting
people+places+things

Blondie And The Man In Black

British kitemaker Kelvin Woods has a new creation: an edo featuring the iconic Debbie Harry of the band Blondie. Kelvin's last kite – named the 2006 Kite of the Year on the Kitebuilder's Forum – featured the Man in Black, Johnny Cash. The kite came to the attention of Johnny's brother, Tommy, who wanted the kite for the Cash family. A huge Johnny Cash fan, Kelvin built a scaled-down duplicate and shipped it off to Nashville. Word is the Cash clan loves the kite.

KAPping Amelia

This summer, researchers from The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) began using kite aerial photography as part of their search of Nikumaroro atoll in the South Pacific. The group believes it may be where Amelia Earhart crashed in 1937. KAP expert David Wheeler (featured in *Kiting* in the Spring '07 issue) consulted with members of the team on how to best use KAP for archaeology.



prism

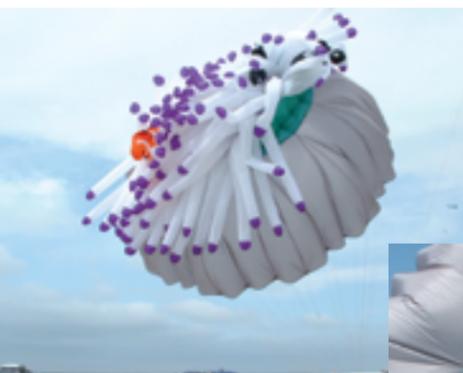
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Nemo Found In Fanø

New Zealand's Robert Van Weer unveiled a new twist on a familiar design at the Fanø Kite Festival in Denmark in June. His "Clown Bol" is a sea anemone on a rock, with four clownfish hiding amidst the 100 tentacles. His shoal of yellow tang also drew interest.



Disaster du Jour

Every sport kiter has done it. You hear a "pop," figure it's probably just a standoff settling back into place, and keep on flying. As Glen

Rothstein found out, though, sometimes the human drama of athletic competition rears its ugly head. At right is the top spreader of his Prism Eclipse. Glen was told he has "mad skills."



Karen Gustavson

DARFUR KITE FESTIVAL
NOVEMBER 2007

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