



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

*Novice?
Newbie?
National
Champion!*

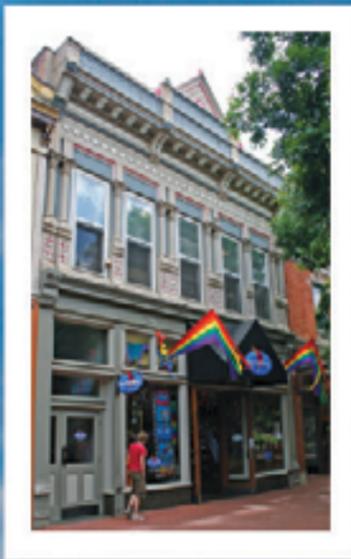


*Simon Crafts' Extensivity
Fires Up Wildwood*

*plus...
Altitude Record Attempt
Brazil Buggy Blast
Antelope Island
Portsmouth*



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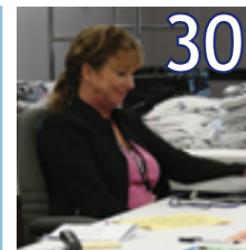


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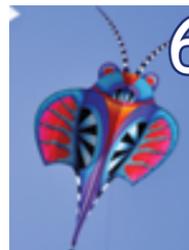
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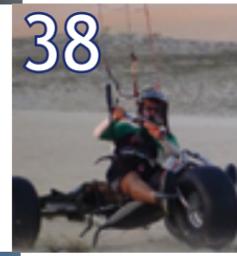
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This logo means you'll find additional content at www.aka.kite.org/Kiting+

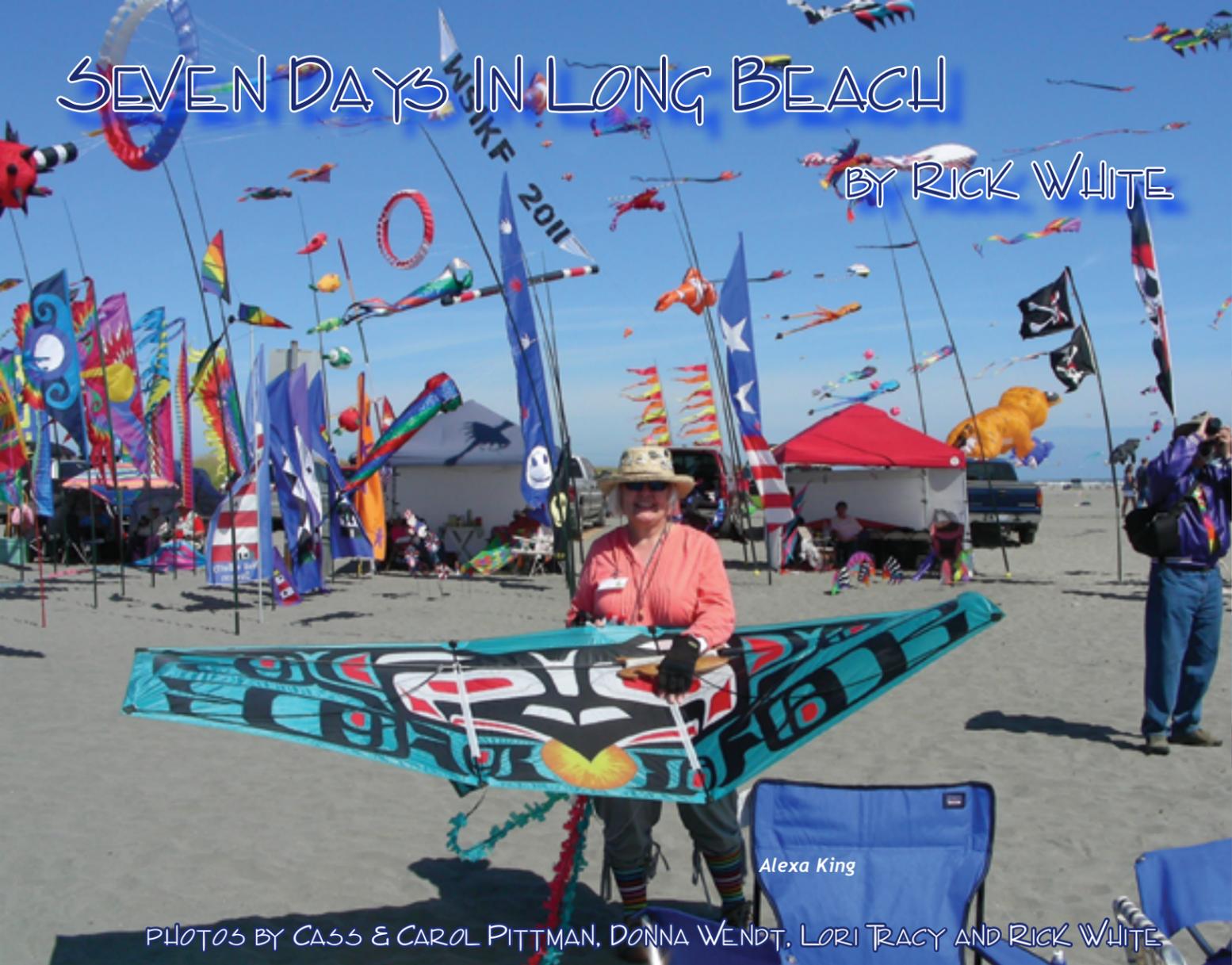


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SEVEN DAYS IN LONG BEACH

BY RICK WHITE



Alexa King

PHOTOS BY CASS & CAROL PITTMAN, DONNA WENDT, LORI TRACY AND RICK WHITE

This was our 23rd year attending the Washington State International Kite Festival, missing only 1991 and yes, it was definitely my best. Hmmm, every year seems to be the best. But this year it had the distinction of being the best for wind and weather as well. I can't remember a year that had all seven days with no rain during the whole festival. One night it rained a little while we slept, but it was dry the whole day. It was also sunny blue sky every day except Friday. Then Saturday back to blue skies, sun and wind.

Monday was Trains & Arches day. They were everywhere, and beautiful as usual. Monday is my favorite day to unwind (pun intended) after a long drive, and relax with not too much to do except fly the 12-year-old train of owls I made at Fort Worden.

Tuesday is the fun day with the Terrific Territories, clubs and camps competing to get the most points, prizes and ribbons. (All bribes to judges expected, and accepted!)

The kids at WSIKF are very special. For the entire week, there is something for the kids to do. But on Wednesday it's kids' day all day. Glenda Kleppin runs the events for the kids, and with the help of a lot of people, including most of the WKA members, the kids have all the fun their fun meters can stand. Many people give so much to the kids' day program, like kites and grandparent adoptions, but this year Ann Huston stood out head and shoulders above the rest. She made and donated 100 delta kites to the kids, with bags! Unbelievable! A real big thanks to Ann for that. The past several years have been great for donations for kids day. It's times like this that you can really tell where everyone's heart is. And you can see the kids really enjoy themselves, so pat your selves on the back!

Thursday was the Hand Crafted Competition. I didn't enter this year. I did more of that Monday stuff! But the kites were beautiful and different as they are every year. This is one of the biggest reasons I come to WSIKF: the



Dan Kurohashi



new kites and ideas people come up with are so cool! AKA convention is the same way to me. All the cool kites that get dreamed up are so awesome!

Thursday, there was also another event that seems to be taking place at all the festivals around here: the John Freeman fly. I don't know of any other man who has influenced more people in the AKA, including me. Photos do not do him justice. There are hundreds of different kites that he made and taught in so many classes, in so many places. It is staggering. I have several of his kites myself, made in his classes. He is, and will be, missed greatly for a long, long time. Marzlie, his wife, was a big help to him with those classes. Not enough is said about her contribution to the Freeman kites. She did a lot of the sewing. You go Marzlie!

The Dragon Fly was also Thursday. A really terrific idea that Kay Buesing, the World Kite Museum curator, had for getting folks together to fly kites. All kinds of dragon kites were

brought out of the bags that day!

Friday at WSIKF the sport kites took over the fields. The North American Fighter Kite Association held their annual competition. There were fewer attending this year, but those guys and gals can sure put on a show! All the two line and quad-liners were there in force. They were all having fun competing. The Pin Heads also had their pin challenge Friday. Vic Eshpeter is doing a great job on this. I think I got at least 50 more pins. Oops! Did I just call myself a Pin Head?

Bas Vreeswijk



Island Quad sets up



Scott Davis



Saturday is the big day for the crowds of people to enjoy the color in the sky. It seems like it is always the

big day. The last push to get everything else into the festival. The parade of colors, the Cody Fly and two mass ascensions! It is always the most popular day. Probably because more lookers come to see what we are doing on the weekend.

Steve deRooy's dragons



Bas Vreeswijk's geese



All in all, you can't beat the Washington State International Kite Festival for a great seven day vacation. Great food, great fun and great friends all week! See you all next year! K

A Bas Vreeswijk creation



20TH PORTSMOUTH INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL
 PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND
 AUGUST 27 - 29, 2011

PHOTOS BY NO VAN OLZEN
 AND BERNHARD DINGWERTH

Roy Broadley's Durante of Toucans

Two German kitemakers challenged each other to make asymmetrical kites. Christian Harms won with this bit of flying chaos.



ANTELOPE AIR TIME BY NICOLETTE O'NEILL



Ron Bohart sends up the clowns.

PHOTOS BY JOHN CHILSE

On Labor Day weekend I found myself driving across a thin sliver of land bridging the Great Salt Lake. The smell of brine wafted up from hazy sun-gilded water and thousands of delicate white birds flocked across my path. My destination: the sunflower-covered island out in the middle, for the sixth annual Antelope Island Stampede and Balloon Festival. The year before I had heard word about the goings-on north of Salt Lake City, this year I was coming as an invited flier. Rumor had it that there was an event that

combined hot air balloons, kites, crazy stunts, sky divers, a guy that sings like Neil Diamond, Utah's finest dutch oven cooked meals, and an audience of over 20,000. How was it that this festival had remained a secret for so long?

Unlike other kite festivals, this isn't a kite festival. This is a festival with kites. Hot air balloonists come from around the country, as do unique local vendors, BMX riders and local bands. No one group is bigger or better than other, and while there are camp locations on

the field, the boundaries are blurred and you never know if the person standing next to you is a balloon enthusiast, or the guy riding with you in the basket is the top rated biker in North America. This creates a wide appeal to the public, who not only want to and gladly interact with the supposed stars of the show, but bring their family back for every

day of the three day event. Plus, you never know when you might see a herd of antelope or buffalo in the tall grass on the hill.

Kite builder and enthusiast Kevin Bayless sees it as a free-for-all gathering designed to encourage and enlighten. Fliers are not restricted to fields or schedules, and every flier is advised of the basic rules before they launch a kite. One: have fun. Two, engage the public. This begins the week before when the kites are brought to several schools around the area to give demonstrations.



Scott Hampton's base camp



Kevin Bayless



Penny Lingenfelter

Nothing makes someone feel proud to be a kiteflier like a room of giggling children. They don't care that you make a mistake, or when you fall. They don't



Steve deRooy



The Wolfman cometh: Ron Gibian in action.

care if it was a long drive or a late flight. They remind you of exactly why we all fly kites: it's fun, free, and makes everyone of us smile because we feel like children once again.

Out on the field iQuad dazzled the crowd with their routines, Ron Bohart and Kevin Reynolds launched their attention-demanding sky pieces, while Scott Hampton and others filled the ground with a veritable garden of rip-



A Mystique



Launching Kevin Bayless' foil

stop Eden. Other kites took their kites and themselves into the middle of the audience. Penny Lingenfelter grabbed kids for a Peter Pan adventure while Ron Gibian, Steve de Rooy, Kevin Bayless, and Barry Poulter danced their roks over the crowd. They would alight upon the stage amongst the band only to rocket back skyward to paint the sky in brilliant colors. While the 50/50 BMX crew threw trick after trick on their ramps, John Barresi and Spencer Watson played about



Rokkaku by Kevin Bayless, Gizmo by Simon Crafts.

on short-lined Revs. John convinced one of the riders to throw a backflip over the kite as he passed it in a perfectly timed slide underneath.

Yes, inevitably there were many kite crashes, some line tangles, and at times a frustrating wind, but regardless everyone had a smile on their face. The kite camp was willingly populated early in the morning, filled with food throughout the day, and it was nearly impossible to leave the field for bed after the fireworks. Those of us that returned to hotels envied the folks that had chosen to camp

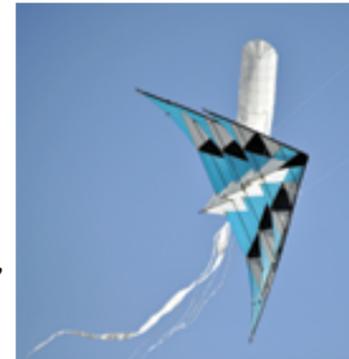


It's a Gibian, of course.



on the site. We simply didn't want to leave, and tried to figure out how we could cram eight of us in a two person trailer.

As the event wrapped up the collective feeling from everyone was that this was the best event all year. The camaraderie, the new friends, the jokes, the laughter, the bison, the food, and the overwhelming feeling of love really made this the event that we all agreed to return to next year. I know I will be there. k



Scott Hampton



Spencer Watson engages the public.

REGIONAL REPORTS

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



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End of term: 2013

Region One had a very busy kiting season this fall. NYKE and others from upstate New York and Vermont held many events in the region. They also joined with our friends from Canada for several flies. Some of these events were a challenge to travel to with all the rain and flooding we had this year. Fort Ontario in Oswego, NY, was one of these events.



Flying at Fort Ontario

ConnectiKites, Nor'easter Kites and KONE also held many events, like the Capriccio Kite Festival in Maine, Harkness Day in Connecticut and Crooked Mountain in New Hampshire. October 8-10 was a very active weekend in the region, with the East Meets West Kite Festival in Massachusetts, and One Sky One World flies held in every state in the region. There were just too many to list. Please make sure to list your kite event on the

Kitemakers at Robert Brasington's workshop.



AKA calendar for all to enjoy.

The first workshop of the Fall season was organized by Rob Banks of Wind-swept Kites in Beverly, MA. The presenter was Robert Brasington from Tasmania. Eighteen people from Region One and Canada and Region Two made one of four different Concentrix kites on Saturday, and thirteen made the Wind Tulip spinner on Sunday.

At this workshop we had several first place winners of the Kitemakers' Competition. We have lots of great kitemakers in this region. The Northeast took several firsts and seconds in the Sport Kite and Fighter Kite competitions too. Look for how Doug Coates, Karl Berg, Jesse Kapsten, Jackie Maciel and Gary Engvall placed. For more on the convention check this blog: <http://kitespeak.blogspot.com/2011/09/aka-convention-2011-wildwood.html>

Contact any of the Board members, or the President or Treasurer with your concerns. See you at a workshop or on the field.



John Hosford

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



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End of term: 2013

the Cape was held in Cape May, NJ. Phil Broder and the Cabanas Beach Bar & Grill helped decorate the sky on that blustery morning. There were several folks down from convention that morning including Barbara Meyer, and SJKF's own Barbara Hall. Kites were flying for a couple of hours until a cold rain fell. Thanks to Phil and Cabanas for a great breakfast."



SJKF's dapper Ian Willoughby is the king of Novice sport kites.

From the Pocono Kite Symphony and Andy Gelinas: "We were again invited to Big Pocono for a Meet 'N Greet showing our colors with limited kite flying. We also had seven members at Sunfest and a few at the AKA Convention the following week. We are looking forward to our kiting "kick off" dinner the

first week of January after the holidays." Todd Little says, "The Keystone Kites all enjoyed the festivities at the convention at Wildwood! We hosted a new challenge this year - the Snack Wrapper Kite Challenge. Entries included sleds, boxes, rollers, trains and bowed kites. Mike Dallmer Jr. won with an exquisite Cody made of Reeses Peanut Butter Cup wrappers, which was sold in the auc-

tion. All entrants received a Keystone Kites pin. And our efforts in this and other areas were not overlooked, as we were honored with the AKA Club of the



Cat Gabrel and Carl Anderson with their Snack Wrapper Challenge entries.

Year award! Members also won various individual awards, the most outstanding of which was Cliff Quinn, who was presented the Robert Ingraham award! Coming this winter, we will be having a special guest at our one day winter retreat. General Abu Ismail will be teaching us techniques for making traditional Asian kites with bamboo and paper. This will be a great retreat, a one of a kind in the USA!"

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



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End of term: 2013

Over Labor Day weekend members of RAF and WOW went to the Mile High Kite Festival at Beech Mountain, NC, and for the first time had to call the event due to rain on Sunday. Saturday there were almost a dozen kites to be judged and several were brought in by local artists. This event is in Region Four but it is worth the drive through the mountains of

Scott Weider and Paul LaMasters soak up the beautiful Ocean City weather at Sunfest.



NC, VA and even TN. September stayed busy with the Richmond Washington Regional SKC. Laura Stonestreet and Marc Conklin did a great job of organizing everything except the weather. Friday the fields were so wet the lawn mower sank in and could not finish mowing. Fortunately our area was already finished. Sunday there were a few new faces, and several returning friends who started here and have since gone on to become regular competitors at many other events. It is small, intimate, and very friendly to the novices. Next up was Sunfest at Ocean City and many people took the ferry across to Cape May to go immediately to the Convention at Wildwood. The region was well represented. Ray Bojarski recently moved to Delaware and rejoined AKA. He attended Convention and reported having a great time. Welcome back, Ray.

The weekend after Convention saw the return of the Outer Banks SKC and many Region Three members attended, including Doug Hood and his family. Doug paired up with Laura Stonestreet as Wingnuts and took a first place trophy. The same weekend there was a festival on the Eastern Shore of Maryland called Sailwinds. Many of you drive past this place on the way to Ocean City. It is on the south end of a bridge as you enter Cambridge and there is a large sail over a part of the park. The weekend of October 15 saw a large contingent of WOW members assisting at a Girl Scout event at Prince William County Park.

Now that winter is here it is time to pull out all of your kites and do those repairs you were too busy to get to in the good weather. Maybe find a kitemaking workshop such as the Maryland Kite Society Retreat in February. Check the AKA Calendar for dates and details.

March will bring the first few festivals and National Kite Month will follow shortly. It is not too early to begin planning a display, presentation, or workshop, and our first competition will once again be held at Ocean City so check the calendar for MIKE/MASK. Richmond, Washington, Win(d)chester, Nelson County, Bel Air, Salem-Roanoke all have festivals so watch for them too.

I would encourage you to talk about kite flying to the people you meet, or already know. Show them what you do and invite them to your events and informal flies. Maybe they will want to become AKA members too and you could be the top recruiter for 2012.



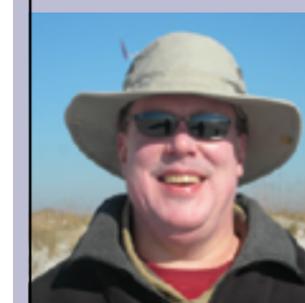
Ray Bojarski and his swan...

Hello Region Four! Time for another issue of *Kiting*, our premier magazine! Since the last update we've seen our share of weather in the region, emphasized by the landfall of Hurricane Irene at Atlantic Beach, NC. It was odd to see the reporters on every channel standing in the same area where just a few months ago you and your friends were flying kites. Then to hear of the damage to the main hotel where you've stayed. All of this just proves what we kitefliers already know, Mother Nature always wins, but it can be very sobering to see the devastation.

From the coast of North Carolina, Karen Mault notes, "There was some excitement in getting ready for the 24th Carolina Kite Festival this year. Everything was on schedule for the festival to be held at the Sheraton Resort in Atlantic Beach. Then came Hurricane Irene. The Sheraton received enough damage from the hurricane that it has had to shut down until the first of the year. But that hasn't stopped the festival. Don and Jeri Dixon of Kites Unlimited went to work to find a new locale and make new arrangements for lodging for the attendees. It wasn't easy but everything is coming together.

Well, despite Mother Nature, kites must be flown. One of the festivals we hit every year is the Mile High Kite Festival in Beech Mountain, NC. The festival

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End of Term: 2013



Karen Mault's winning Eagle Painless Parafoil.

is held every Labor Day weekend, and is set on top of Beech Mountain. The area is beautiful, great views and lots of local attractions for those visiting the area. We went up early this year to get in some early flying and enjoy some of the mountain attractions, absolutely gorgeous weather. The festival started as normal with the RAF making the trek from nearby Region Three and the WACK-OS coming in from the south and coastal Carolina. Karen Mault says, "On Saturday there was a kite builder's competition. I bit the bullet and entered some of the kites I had built this year. After the flying phase was done and the judges examined the kites up close, I'm happy to say I won a second place in Flat & Bowed kites and a first place in Soft & Flexible kites." Congratulations Karen on the first place. She won first even though her able assistant (husband John) was hold-

ing the kite upside down and not understanding why it wouldn't launch. Kids and spectators started to arrive with the first group getting their free kites and lofting them into the air. Then the wind died. We'd all seen this before, around mid-day the wind was known to die off for a while but would pick up. This was not to be the case, thanks to Tropical Storm Lee. There was the mad scramble for kites when the rains started. Then the rain got heavier, and the downpour occurred. Canopies were soaked, some showed design flaws, some got all the sand and dirt washed off of them for the first time ever. Everyone was in good spirits just waiting for the rain to end, when the first bolt of lightning was seen. That's when the festival came to a close. Mad dashes to fill the vehicles with wet fabric during a lull, and later seeing the banners and fabric spread out all over the 4-Seasons Resort, and eating pizza in the game room talking stories of flying kites. Can't wait until next year!

Thank you to all the AKA members that send in stories, articles, and pictures for inclusion in the Region Four updates. Without your input, we wouldn't know what, where, and who was flying and what was happening throughout the Region. As a note, if you have a festival, kite fly, local outing, etc., get it on the AKA Regional Calendar (sanctioning is highly recommended). I send out e-mails to remind the rest of the region

skills, share the fun, and talk about kites and kiting. I'd like to thank Dave Bush for everything he (and Mary) has done for Region Five over the years. I hope not being regional director anymore allows him to have more fun flying and we look forward to attending their events every year.

I would like to welcome our new and returning novices in the Midwest Conference: Joe Vernengo, Cheryl Sikkema, and



Florida's Pete Ross judging in Wildwood.

of upcoming events and pull most of my reminders from those that have shared through the website. Sometimes long-standing events may be overlooked if they aren't there.

By the time you get this the Carolina Kite Fest and Cape Fear Kite Festival will be completed and the holidays are just around the corner. To all kitefliers I wish a wonderful holiday season, may you get lots of kites as presents. Keep the wind at your back.

Bud Gibson. It's a pleasure to see new faces, share the fun, and tell old stories again.

The next big event I know of will be Air Waves (a.k.a. Otto M Budig Kite Festival) held at the old Voice of America broadcast facilities outside Cincinnati. This event is usually held towards the end of April. Watch the AKA event calendar for details as the time approaches.

Jon Trennepohl is considering another

er workshop sometime this winter. Last time we all made Geo Pointers. Watch the Kites and Fun Things web site (www.kitesandfunthings.com) for details.

Simon Crafts has been asked to present his Fusion kite (took 1st place in Bowed) to the OSEK group in Cleveland in February. Watch www.osekcleveland.org for details. Simon went from not knowing how to sew to AKA Grand Champion Kitemaker in three years!



Ohio's Cheryl Kear bears down in a banner-making workshop in Wildwood.

I hope to send a monthly Region Five newsletter via e-mail. If you want to receive these, you need to subscribe at the AKA website. If you have anything you'd like me to include, please let me know. If you plan on hosting an event, workshop, fun fly, festival, anything you'd like others to know about, please post it on the AKA Event Calendar.

Hello from Region Six. Brad Klages tells us, "Minnesota Kite Society's 24th Annual Flying Colors Kite Festival drew large crowds thanks to the publicity efforts of MKS Vice President Dean Murray. Guest fliers attending this year's festival included Larry Day and Mark Brandt of Iowa and Ed Grys. Dave Herzig administered his ever-popular kids kitemaking workshop. It was very busy early in the day with a long line of families waiting to make a kite. But the workshop proved so popular that it ran out of materials halfway through the festival to the angst of some people waiting in line. Several people descended on the registration booth where Brad Klages

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End of term: 2014

was helping people hoping to buy a kite. Brad had a bag full of kites for this very occasion and sold every one of them. Ken Wilkowski administered our kids Grand Prix and High Fly kite flying competitions and Ed Grys provided materials and assisted with the Glider Drop. MKS thanks all members and friends who volunteered to make this year's festival a rousing success! Photos from this year's event can be seen on the MKS website at www.mnkites.org.

In late August the Wisconsin Kites club was invited to fly at the 38th annual Lincoln Balloon Fest in Lincoln, IL. It was a near perfect weekend for both kiting and ballooning. The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce estimated the crowds to be at about 6000. Saturday night was capped off with a balloon glow and some kites got up early Sunday morning for a balloon ride. Thanks go to Mike Wagner, president of the Wisconsin Kites kite club, for arranging a fantastic weekend.

One of Wisconsin's premier events has become Kites Over Lake Michigan. This two-day event happening on Labor Day weekend each year for the last six years has become a destination event for many Wisconsin weekenders. Winds were a bit on the light side but the sport kite entertainment was a real crowd pleaser with Ann Vondriska announcing and fliers like Kathy Brinnehl and Paul Koepke, Josh and Elizabeth Gordon, 180GO, Mike Delfar and many others.

Brad Klages says, "Chrystal Dunker's 9th Annual Prairie Winds Kite Festival in Jackson, MN, enjoyed warm weather for the September 10th event. But the wind wasn't as great. Dean Murray, Pam Hodges and Ken Wilkowski said the day was marked by thermals. When-

ever the wind came up, everyone ran to put something up, then the wind died down and everything fell to the ground. Next year's festival will be the 10th annual. Chrystal says she's hoping to do some extra fun things."

Charlie Sotich organized an impromptu miniature kitemaking workshop in Wildwood.



The weekend of September 11th was made for kite events. The 33rd Annual Don Jacobs Toyota Frank Mots International Kite Festival in Veterans Park on Milwaukee's Lakefront was again well attended. The 7th annual DeKalb fly on September 11 drew an estimated 5000 people and kites such as Al Sparling, Team Chicago Kite, Sis and Dick Vogel, Darryl Waters, Dennis and LeAnn Lauer and many more. Also on September 11 was the Burnsville Fire Muster. MKS members Ken Wilkowski, Glorious Wright, and Dave McKeen accompanied

Region 5 ~ Great Lakes MI-OH



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End of term: 2014

Hi! I'm Steve Rothwell, your new Region Five Director. I have been flying kites for over 20 years. I have been flying dual line stunt kites competitively for around 10 years. I currently fly as an individual in the Experienced class, with Spencer Schubbe as Blues Brothers in pairs, and on Team 7/8/9. You can find me every Wednesday night flying with the 4 Seasons Kite Club at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, MI. Our club includes single line, dual line, fighters, and occasionally KAP and big kites. We love to help people learn to fly, improve their

Region Five rocks Wildwood: Ann Vondriska, Elizabeth Gordon, Bob Hegman, Vickie and Dean Proudfoot, Tom Deck, Spencer Schubbe, Steve Rothwell, Bill Schumacher, Carl Anderson, Bruce Jarvie, and Kathe Deck.



At the DeKalb fly, another mom falls victim to a day of kids kitemaking.



Brad Klages to this celebration. Since September 11 was the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the Fire Muster board planned a tribute to honor victims of the attacks. The tribute included a 21-gun salute while Brad flew a patriotic colored kite high overhead with a U.S. flag attached.

The Quad Cities Family Fun & Kite Festival was held on September 24-25. It is the bringing together of show kites, stunt kites, free kids kite building with local youth and family organizations for the best family fun event in the Quad City Metro Area. This years fliers included Ryan, Randy and Linda Larkey, Dave Zavell and Mike Holl.

One Sky One World was celebrated on October 9th in many locations. MKS members enjoyed unseasonably warm weather in Brooklyn Park, MN. Ken Wilkowski, Tom Cross and Brad Klages set up a gazebo with a club banner and displayed information and photos about the history of OSOW. They handed out brochures with resources for where to buy kites in the Twin Cities, club information and a schedule of upcoming events. Jerry Houk also came out with a small flowform to do some kite aerial photography. Photos of the event can be seen on www.mnkites.org.

The other OSOW event I can report on is the one held in Madison. The winds were up and down but it was a beautiful day and there was a good public turnout. Ray Blum and Paul Fieber organized the event and Ray made up kite kits for kids to make kites. Gerry Blum, Sue Fieber, Julie Morris and Gloria Grys helped with the kids kitemaking. Kitefliers included Pam and Dale Bowden, Mark and Connie Ledvina, LeAnn and Dennis Lauer, Bob and Many Beth Klopke, Doug Thomson, Kathy Brinnehl and Paul Koepke, Vern Morris, Jory Van Pietersom and Mike and Barb Wagner.

It's time to look forward to the upcoming winter events. Start with the U-MAKE workshop, January 13-15 in Des Moines. Information may be found at www.u-make.org. On February 4, Kites over the Bay in Fish Creek, WI, and on February 18th, Color the Wind in Clear Lake, IA. Put on your long underwear and enjoy our winter winds!

Keep looking up and hang on tight!

Thanks to all who encouraged me to become your Region Seven Director. In honor of Bob Ingraham, I will help us achieve a better AKA, our AKA! I thank Don Murphy for two decades of being our Regional Director! Thanks also to Kevin

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



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End of term: 2014

Bayless for being Regional Director these past nine months.

The annual Callaway Kite Flight in Nebraska brought the regulars back. A few kites only see us once a year at this event. Howard Bashant, Joe Becker, and Paul Glasspoole got to spend Labor Day for the first time at Callaway. Wind was strong one day, and above 20 mph the next. Some were enjoying being dragged around in the dirt by stacks of quads. One evening there was a perfect breeze for a night fly.

Also on Labor Day weekend, the Antelope Island Stampede brought in many well-known kites from everywhere. Primarily a balloon festival, kites have become a major part of this party on this large island in the middle of Utah's Great Salt Lake. Thanks again to Kevin Bayless for making Antelope Isle possible.

Berna Smith says, "We flew the third weekend in September here in Beulah, ND, with great wind, and Rollie, from Minot, Mike Shaw and Deb Lenzen from Bismarck, Mike Gee of Jamestown, Rena Rustad from Roseglen, and Darwin and I from here in Beulah. We put on a good show of large kites for people that have never seen large ones in the air, let alone 30 of them. The plans for next year include all the above cities and Shiver Fest in Devils Lake in February."

One Sky One World in Denver had

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



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End of term: 2014

Greetings members of Region Eight. As your new Regional Director I look forward to assisting you with all of your kiting needs. We have a very diverse

the best weather and winds I've seen for this event in seven years. This was the 26th year for OSOW, and the fourth year we flew at Stapleton Central Park. Once the site of the Denver Airport, the redevelopment of the property includes the park we fly at on the first Sunday monthly. The local Mile Hi Kites are growing in numbers. Approximately 20 kitefliers attended our gathering which spread across the park. OSOW founders set up kids workshop and kite booth, but most of the kites opted to fly in the roomy soccer field further away.



Nicolette O'Neill, Antelope Island's landboarding queen.

John Chilese

Donna Houchins sends, "The OSOW event in Missouri was held at Cosmo-Bethel Park, in Columbia, and is an annual get-together for all of the Missouri kite clubs. Kites were in attendance from the St. Louis area, Kansas City, Jefferson City, Columbia, and we even had a couple in town from Wisconsin! The weather was beautiful with lots of wind."

Please feel free to contact me with anything kite related, especially news about any clubs or kitefliers in our region.

group with varying interests in the kite world. My number one goal is to increase communication among ourselves and to let the rest of the world know how active we really are.

The AKA Convention was held in Wildwood this year with several Region Eight members in attendance. Doctor Gayle Woodul led the way with Richard and Marti Dermer, Cat Gabrel, Don Cupit, Ralph and Jean Gore, Kathy Nixie and I representing our region. Don and I managed to arrive in the area early for Sunfest in Ocean City. The weather was far from perfect but the crowds came out for the traditional last trip to the beach and the weather added interest

to the kites as they ducked in and out of the fog. Our arrival in Wildwood found puddles on a huge beach with plenty of room to fly kites. Next year's Convention site is Enid, OK, in the center of the state. I look forward to seeing more of you there with its location in our region.

Closer to home the Coastal Bend Sky Pirates, South Padre Island Kite Enthusiasts and South Houston Area Recreational Kites have braved heat and gathered for numerous fun flies and cookouts during the long summer months. The Sky Pirates invited others to join them for Audry's Day at the beach in Rockport, TX. This has become an annual event with area clubs taking part to brighten the skies at the Down Syndrome Picnic. Members from S.P.I.K.E. and S.H.A.R.K. have made this a must attend event for several years.

S.H.A.R.K. also found a way to relax inside doing a bol workshop at a local restaurant while enjoying a great meal. They are putting them to use doing bol races during the annual Children's Day at the Cynthia Woods Pavilion.

John and Laura Shamrock assisted Barry and Karen Ogletree with the show kite display at the Richmond State School. The staff and mentally challenged residents enjoyed the show and invited them back next year to make it a recurring event. This time every year the Whatakite gang opens the doors to the kite workshop as a treat to numerous school children as a fun end of the year field trip sending them home with a kite and safe flying instructions.

I would also like to get to know each



Kathy Nixie talks up her fighter kite to judges Mearl Balmer and Cliff Quinn.

and every Region Eight member so that I can better understand your needs. Feel free to drop me a note about the types of kites you fly and where your interests are in the kiting world. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the kite field.

Region Nine has had a great

Region 9 ~ Intermountain
ID-MT-OR



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End of Term: 2012

season! New events such as the Yachats Kite Festival have added another great event to our region, as well as lots of new faces and energy. I want to thank the members that have worked so hard to share kiting with someone new. It takes time and energy but it truly is the thing that makes a difference in someone's life. It can mean a small gesture like helping a new flier with a relaunch, or giving them an encouraging word. It takes a moment, and leaves a lifelong impression.

With the winter months setting in, I know many of you are looking forward to one of the best kitemaking events of the year. It's about to happen! The 19th Annual Oregon Kitemakers Retreat takes place January 12-15, 2012. Kitemakers and instructors from all over the US and the world attend this annual event. This event is open to all so bring a friend that has an interest and let's generate some new kitemakers and artists! Classes include a Mike Button edo, Ken Conrad's digitally printed train, Kathy Goodwind's gypsy dragon, Barbara Meyer's boxed genki, and Didier Ferment's butterfly taught by Nigel Spaxman. Plus, Gerry Pennell will teach basic kitemaking skills. For more information check out www.kitemakersretreat.com.

There is still talk going on about a Lincoln City indoor event with a new promoter. We hope to hear some news on this soon and I will be keeping you updated. Your support of keeping this event going is important so please feel free



John Pollock goes pointless in a fighter workshop in Wildwood.

to send your e-mails to me and I will see they get to the appropriate people. I am keeping my hopes up. I want to give a special thank you to the work that Maggie Conrad and the Lincoln City VCB has done to develop and promote the Indoor Festival. The tentative date is the week-end of March 31.

The 3rd Annual Rockaway Kite Festival will be coming up May 12-13. We are looking forward to seeing you there. This event is not one to miss. Quad teams, show kite teams, kitemakers and sport kites will be there to meet and talk to anyone interested in learning about kiting. For more information go to www.rockawaybeach.net.

June 23-24 brings us to the Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival. The theme for 2012 is Stars and Stripes! Ron Gibian will be a featured guest and will be doing a show at the Cultural Center. The inaugural Kite Art Auction will take place on Saturday night. Kite-related art donations are being taking for this event and



Pacific Northwest regional tensions finally boil over: Washington's Paul deBakker puts a good-natured beat-down on Oregon's John Barresi.

will be juried to enter. Artwork will be auctioned with 50% of the proceeds going to the cultural center and the other 50% going to the artist! Here is your chance to be discovered!

I wish you all a great year to come. Be kind to each other and take a moment to share what we love.

Region 10 ~ Northwest AK - WA



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End of Term: 2012

Greetings Region Ten! Fall is here and by the time you receive this issue it will be December and winter will be upon us. Don't despair! There are plenty of indoor kiting opportunities in the Pacific Northwest to hone your skills! Watch for my Region Ten Newsletter updates for current notices. A new flyer I



Island Quad cheats a little on their light wind formation flying at Whidbey Island.

Mario diLucca

met at the Whidbey Island Indoor, Elliott Brogren, has been working to put together a regular indoor flying space at the Bellevue Crossroads Community Center. Please contact me for more information. The first Saturday in December is the annual PCKA Indoor Fly and Potluck. Lots of fun and a good opportunity to visit, catch up, fly, eat, share and a great bag raffle to boot! In January we all head to Long Beach for Windless, January 13-15. A great way to start the New Year!

There is still time to sign up for Fort Worden. March 16-18 is the 30th anniversary! Please go to www.kitemakers.org and check out the wonderful list of invited teachers.

Remember to visit the AKA website often! Check out the Forum posts and the event calendar. Click on the Clubhouse tab and see all the newsletters from every Region. What's happening, in real time, is just a click away!

Have fun flying!

Event Calendar for details.

For the coming year, the Bay Area Sport Kite League (BASKL) has decided to change their emphasis from hosting kite competitions to public outreach. They will still gather at least once a month this spring and summer to fly, but the current board of directors has committed to contacting parks and recreation departments, school districts and youth organizations. BASKL offers to introduce kiting activities, provide sport kite instruction, demonstrations and information, and help individuals organize small local kiting events. If you have a desire to share your love of kiting with your local community, have skills in public communications, or contacts with organizations in your local community, please let me know or contact the BASKL Club President (president@baskl.org).

and less sunburn. It seems we never had a proper summer in the Bay Area, which means not as much fog and mild temperatures.

At the recent AKA Grand National Sport Kite competition, Aaron Champie, Mark Quirnbach, Steve Lewis, Darrin Skinner, and I all took home awards for individual, pairs, and team flying. Team AirZone has been invited to compete in the World Sport Kite Championships in France next spring, and will be the sole representative of the AKA to this competition that attracts kite teams from across the planet.

The Northern California Kite Club holds an annual Winter Party at the Round Table Pizza in Dublin each December. They hold an auction to raise funds for the club. Here's your chance to get a good deal on kite-related items, or to empty out the closet of those items that don't see enough sky. Check the AKA

As summer ended, I was at both Portsmouth and Bristol in England, and they both were great and I even got a bit of street flying in London. It never ceases to amaze me how every time I go to England I feel more and more at home, and you add the likes of the Decorators and the Flying Squad I can't help but have a great time. I would like to thank

Felix for just helping get me around and putting up with all my kite madness, thanks my friend. Unfortunately, Bristol is a no go for 2012.

Then it was off to Ocean City as a guest of the Kite Loft, which is always about having fun and getting folks off the boardwalk to get a kite in their hands. This year was tough with some

really wet weather but the fliers stuck it out. The Rev Riders, Lee Sedgwick, Paul LaMasters and the entire W.O.W. crowd work really hard to share kiting with the entire world. A highlight for me was Lee making monster bubbles that you could fit a car in, and then teaching others how to do it. As always thanks to Jay Knerr and the staff of the Kite Loft.

Region 12 ~ Southwest Southern CA-AZ-HI



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End of Term: 2012

From there I joined Cath Shook, owner of Flying Smiles kite shop, for my first ferry ride over to Wildwood. Maggie Vohs runs a tight ship as far as events go and she gets it done. I think AKA is still the best game in town, and we all care about the future of kiting. There were two folks that really impressed me, both relatively new at kitemaking: Will Sturdy and Simon Crafts. Both of these men understand kites and what works and I can't wait till I have a kite from each of them to add to my kite room at home. For me convention is about old friends and new, and a certain black dog that lives with our editor Phil, plus a lot of fun. The highlight for me was the Rev games that Paul LaMasters put together where we awarded money and a new kite. Oh yeah, I lost.

A quick stop at home, then off to Lincoln City. This year, as in years past, there was just loads of fun even with a wet morning and a river that cut the flying field in half. Team Suspended Animation took care of the single line field and Island Quad and iQuad just put on one heck of a show. Then on the second day we had high tide and it was really a good show of how fast kites can run from waves, and how wet they are willing to get for the show. Island Quad took the prize cause these guys were almost swimming.

On a side note, iQuad just got back from their birthday party in Malaysia, celebrating 100 events and five years as a team. It's been a wonderful adventure and a great five years as a member of the team. I'd have been lost without all your help and hard work.

Ron Despojado adds, "October 9 in Seal Beach marked the 15th Annual Japan-American Kite Festival in collaboration with the Up, Up & Away Kite Club. Master of Ceremonies Glen Rothstein kept the activities going which included a wide variety of kite interests. Scott Bogue representing NAFKA and Dave Corning from the San Diego Kite Club demonstrated fighter kites in the early morning breeze. Big show kites were courtesy of Brian Champie, Jim Strealay, and Lyle Walters. The Goat Hill Kite Club sponsored and worked the candy drop with major props going to Rod and Marti Milburn and Ottmar and Carolyn Herzog. Sport kite demonstrations included three of Chicago Fire's team – Dan Brinnehl, Russ Faulk, and Zach Gordon – who also did numerous solo ballets. Local kite star Alex Herzog had an endless supply of energy as he flew both dual and quadline ballets. Team O2 from Wisconsin – Mike Delfar and Dan Newman – were featured several times with the dual-line ballets. Team Too Much Fun flew in all their configurations with Ron Despojado flying solo, Mark and Jeanette flying pairs, and all three forming the full team. Young Ben Lummas flew a demo and showed the sport kite gene was active in his young frame. The KiteKids with Jim and Lyn Foster, and Team In Synch with Cass and Carol Pittman flew as two separate pairs teams and the one four person team, Kids At Heart. The day was as perfect as could be with constant wind, sunshine, and moderate temperatures. Many thanks to Janis Sabic from Up Up & Away Kite Club who

held a tribute to local kite personality Monte Weston, Japanese kite maker Mikio Toki, the Taiko Drummers, and the corporate sponsors for a fantastic event."



The Seal Beach sky

Region 13 ~ International



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End of Term: 2012

In Region Thirteen, there's no right or wrong way for kites. If they fly, and give pleasure, they're right.

CANADA – Barbara and Jeremy Perceval enjoyed Whidbey Island Kite Festival in September, organised annually by Washington Kitefliers Association and Whidbey Island Kitefliers. From Team Island Quad's report (thanks Mario di Lucca), Whidbey offered no wind at all. Necessity being the mother of invention, "Kite Sherpas" were born. Cathy Tung, Erin Wiggill, Katrina Null and Lori Tracey "sherpa'd" the kites in routine formation. Left, right, starburst...?

SWITZERLAND – Olivier Reymond wowed the crowd at Convention. Not just with prize-winning banner designs and kite-making workshops, but his lovely accent and dancing talents! Prior to Wildwood, Olivier had attended Cap Chat and Dieppe festivals in Canada, but sadly, no dancing.

AUSTRALIA – Robert Brasington and I displayed at October's Wildwood



Switzerland's Olivier Reymond



Robert Valkenburgh's Sword of Damocles

Convention. Banquet attendees joined me in a rousing rendition of "Waltzing Matilda", followed by an explanation of why this was NOT the National Anthem! News via Sydney's Festival of the Winds: Dianne delli Paoli's health is improving. She worked as MC at their September event with renewed vigour. Just received this web link showing 2011 Festival of the Winds: www.knackstudios.com.au/archives/580.

NETHERLANDS – Robert Valkenburgh and his Sword of Damocles kite visited festivals in Portsmouth and Bristol, a festival in Belgium, and Cap Chat and Dieppe festivals in Canada.



The BaToCo kite flies over Argentina.

MALAYSIA – The 7th Borneo International Kite Festival in Bintulu attracted many Region Thirteen flyers, including iQuad (mostly Region Thirteen members), Kevin Sanders (Australia), Ron and Baew Spaulding (Thailand), Tan Xinbo (China), Karl and Sara Longbottom (UK), Gary Mark (Canada), and James Kekenusa



A Dennis Trott creation.

(Philippines). And not just a kite festival, but also a lavish wedding with all kites invited. The 2012 festival promises to be even bigger.

TAHITI – Pierre Lesage always travels with his KAP rig, and on September 11 he discovered the perfect shot of the Colosseum in Rome (see page 50).

MEXICO – News alert! Isla Blanca kite festival is being planned for February 2012. Contact person is Charles Stewart, carlosst_11369@yahoo.com. Ask him: sunshine! Beaches! Kites!

NEW ZEALAND – Anne and Peter Whitehead donated two sets of special edition 2010 Matariki Manu tukutuku kite stamps for the loud auction at Convention. These items were hotly contested. For philately buffs, here's the story: <http://philatelynews.com/2010/new-zealand/matariki-2010-manu-tukutuku/> BERMUDA – Dennis Trott took time to attend his first AKA Convention. He had a great time, made many new friends and learned so much, he said.

GERMANY – Stefan Reilmann (first-time contributor, ich danke!) shared the link to a stunning Willi Koch display in Detmold. Holm Struck described his summer as ugly – too cold, wet, and windy – but finishing off with Ottendorf kite festival, which was finally summery! He suggested AKA readers might be jealous of so many uniquely interesting kite festivals?

ARGENTINA – Gustavo Di Si and Claris Scokzdopole participated in the Rosario Kite Festival. Gustavo's 12-year-old son, Nicolas, is in training for multiple kite flying. Ray Bethell, watch out! Gustavo Sonzogni listed BaToCo Barriletes' many kite activities, including Festival Cervantino in Azul City (celebrating Don Quixote's heritage). BaToCo members have now made their own insignia kite celebrating 200 years of Argentina's independence.

CHINA – Jerry King's kites were out for China's National Day Kite Festival, held in Xinxin (near Chengdu) where smiles were obligatory! Other festivals Jerry attended included Taipei City and Pingshun, where promoting tourism was a keen focus.

JAPAN – Masaaki and Sashiko Modegi took two new Japanese koi kites to Wildwood, hopefully avoiding the encroaching tide.

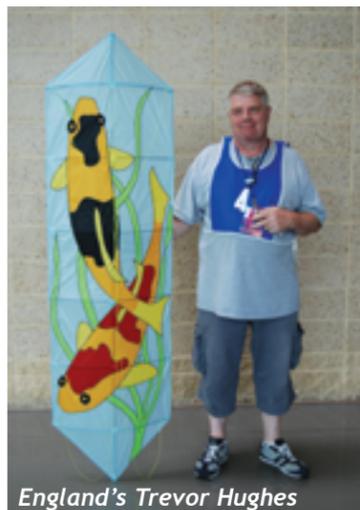
UK – Godfrey and Karen Gamble (formerly Australia) wrote about Egardon Kite Festival which has no invited guest fliers, no PA and no large, inflatable kites! They did boast of a beer tent though, something sadly lacking at other



Jerry King and a friend in Xinxin.

festivals. Egardon festival raised £3500 (USD \$5500) for charity, even in strong wind and occasional rain. Stiff upper lip, those Brits! News from Arthur Dibble, White Horse Kite Flyers, about the last Swindon Kite Festival.

Sadly rising costs mean no more birthdays in the festival's beer tent. Instead, WHKF propose a fun fly each September, and they really mean an F-U-N F-L-Y! Trevor and Hilary Hughes witnessed AKA fun first-hand in Wildwood, entering seven kites in competitions. The pennant trophies were much easier to carry home this year. Until next time, less talk... more fly!



England's Trevor Hughes

New Zealand's Simon and Lyndall Chisnall stand for the All Blacks in Wildwood.



25th BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL BRISTOL, ENGLAND

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Rick Agar

Rick Agar



"Don't tase me, bro!": Ben Dantonio makes new friends in Greenwich.



What may soon be the world's largest kite struggles skyward.



Straddling the Prime Meridian in Greenwich.

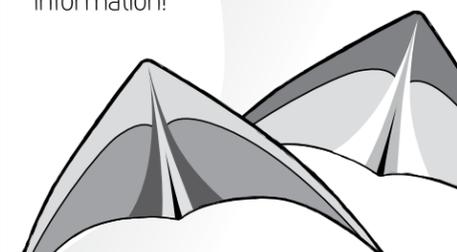
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Summer issue deadline: April 15
Autumn issue deadline: July 15
Winter issue deadline: October 15

Send address changes to
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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

It is always an honor and privilege to serve as your president. Thanks to all who voted and supported our programs over the last two years and into next year. This is my third year as your president, and it will be my last. By next October, it will be time for new energies and new ideas to lead our association further into the future. If you are interested in serving as the president of this great association, please contact me and you will be included in all the decision-making processes of this year. There is nothing worse than beginning a job and not knowing what all it entails! This offer is to all who are serious about the position, whether you support our decisions or not.

Our fiscal year closed on August 31, and once again, the year finishes with a slight profit thanks to the daily monitoring of our income and expenses by Cliff Quinn, treasurer, and Mel Hickman, executive director. Our budget challenges have not gone away. This year we will be focusing on growing membership, soliciting donations, selling corporate sponsorships, and continuing to minimize expenses.

For 2012, there are some changes to your Board of Directors. Mike Mosman has accepted the challenge of National Kite Month; see details about the poster contest elsewhere in this issue. Greg Lamoureux returns to the board as our first corporate liaison. His goal is to contact every corporation that uses kites in their advertising and convince them of the value in partnering with the AKA. Greg is also working with Richard Dermer to secure sponsorships for the 2012 convention in Enid, OK. Bob Kelly has added the organization of the Enid convention to his responsibilities in convention innovation. Watch for some new fun activities and restructuring of the schedule for next year. Glenn Davison and the Education Committee will be adding more information and plans to the website to help teachers and group leaders more easily do projects with groups.

The Board has listened to concerns about the difficulty of affording sanctioning for new and small events. Right now, sanctioning for events is \$150. For new (less than three years old) and/or small events (total budget less than \$500), the sanctioning fee will be only \$75. The one requirement is that the event includes a significant educational program. This could be a learn-to-fly field, learn-to-compete field, how to judge, how to field direct, kite making workshop, etc. For complete details and how to apply for the special rate, please consult the website or contact the AKA office at xd@aka.kite.org.

Richard and Marti Dermer work the boardwalk in Wildwood.



New membership brochures are being printed. These will be in full color and incorporate both the membership form and the "10 reasons to be an AKA member"

into one document. If you need a supply, let us know!

At convention, a few people mentioned that they had not been receiving e-mail messages. You should be receiving regular messages from me, from the executive director, and from your regional director. To ensure that all messages come through, be sure to add @aka.kite.org to your approved senders list. If you are not receiving, please contact webmaster@aka.kite.org.

Our website has so much information, back issues of *Kiting*, regional newsletters, the Forum, kite plans, and competition standings that you really need to make it a regular stop while surfing the Net. Much more information is available to members than the general public. Trouble logging in? Contact me or the webmaster for assistance. Did you know that each member can add photos to their personal profile section? Each member can add articles to be published on the website? Look under Club House for details. We hope you take advantage of all our new website offers and help us to add even more information.

The convention at Wildwood was wonderful, you really missed a great time. Next year looks to be even better. Registration fees will be lower. Hotel rates will be lower. Our field is huge, with no trees, wide open and no concerns about high tide or snow!

As I write this, there is a threat from Oregon to restrict activities in state parks. The AKA will be doing all we can to protest these rules, and to provide accurate information to the authorities. This is the real role of the AKA, to help keep kite fields open to all and to disseminate information to all our members. The directors of Regions Nine and Ten, Amy Doran and Theresa Norelius, are active in encouraging members to write messages to the Parks Department protesting these actions. Please join in these efforts. Restricting access is not an idea we want to spread across the country.

Whichever holidays you celebrate as the year ends, I wish you the best, and that 2012 bring happiness and many new kites to you and your loved ones. Again, thanks for your support and membership. We're all in this together.

Time to fly!



Treasurer Cliff Quinn thinks about the budget.

Rick Agar

Barbara Meyer

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EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Kenji Ueda



I met Kenji at a sport kite competition. As you know, I thought sport kites and Japanese kites were totally different back then. Kenji came to our traditional Japanese Kite Festival and I got to know him very well. He made Japanese kites using non-traditional new materials. He loved to sing. We had a lot in common. He taught me many useful kitemaking tricks, which I took with me to festivals all over the world. He loved socializing, and we became friends over drinks and food. Whenever there was a kite festival abroad, especially in the States, we would travel together. I really miss him. I hope there is a kite party for the many kite spirits up in the sky and that they might be enjoying flying kites together and Kenji might be teaching the other deceased about the kites with non-traditional new materials. Rest in peace, Kenji.

Masaaki Modegi

Robert Klein

In 1985, Robert Klein and Jim Ogland organized several kitefliers and formed the Minnesota Kite Society. We lost Bob Klein at age 90 recently, and he will be missed in the kite flying world. He was proud of the Minnesota Kite Society.

Bob was an engineer who loved kites, kiting, the outdoors, people and travel. He planned kite flies all over Minnesota and taught kids how to fly. He was generous in providing kites to kids who wanted to learn, endlessly patient with twisted lines, kites in trees and other fliers. His offer of help was genuine.

May the wind always be good.

Craig Christensen

Elizabeth Checkley Manfredini

She was the daughter of Dave Checkley, one of the founding fathers of WKA and a great original promoter of AKA. Liz always was a wonderful supporter of all kitefliers. She passed away October 2 after a long illness. Anyone who met Liz loved her eyes and one line zingers.

Kathy Goodwind

Charles Jackson 1967-2011



Charles, known in the kite world as AJ, was an accomplished kiter who loved the wind and the beach. Born in Houston, AJ had a passion for playing in the wind regardless of the speed. High winds found AJ enjoying kite buggying and kite boarding, often both in the same day. In lower winds he brought out his Rev or fighter kite. In fact, when he was injured buggying, he learned to fly fighter kites because it was something he could do from his crutches.

AJ lived life with gusto, and he most certainly lived life on his own terms. Peter Lynn was AJ's mentor, and the time AJ spent playing in the wind with Peter in Italy, the Mojave Desert and staying with him in New Zealand were among his most cherished.

AJ, short for Action Jackson due to his passion for adrenaline inducing sports, not only played fervently with the wind, he lived it. When I met him he was living on a 32' sailboat, halfway between Houston and Galveston. He explained to me that he worked in Houston, but he played in Galveston! Travel

was one of the few things that could pull AJ away from challenging the wind. He was always ready, willing, and able to explore any section of the globe, and was keen to set out on new adventures.

A tragic kite surfing accident in the Outer Banks of North Carolina took AJ, my "Agua Cowboy," from us on 18 September 2011. He was far too young to leave us, and we will miss him terribly.

Meg Albers

Bernice Williams 1935 - 2011

Bernice and her husband Eli moved to Tacoma in 1976. They had a property at Ocean Shores and became involved in kiting around 1987. They were members of North Coast Sky Painters. Later they became members of the Westport Windriders and were very active members, always at the beach and always helping with the festival. She and Eli served us some wonderful meals for the festival banquet. She also helped in the information booth at the festivals, and handed out kids kites at our festival.

Not only was she a gorgeous woman, a great friend and a fun lady to be around, she was generous with her time and helped at every kiting event she attended. Bernice is just not an empty space in the sky, she is an empty space in the Westport Windriders Club and in all of our hearts who knew her.

Marla and Ron Miller



Joan Sparling 1925-2011

Joan Sparling, 85, of Batavia, IL, passed away in late October from complications relating to Alzheimer's. Many of you will remember her from when she accompanied me to local events and multiple AKA conventions. You will also remember the cookies she always brought with her that always disappeared quickly. I think that the best way to remember her is to share that recipe.

Al Sparling



Joan Sparling's Chocolate Gooies

One hot summer day in the Sixties, Joan decided that it was too hot to make individual cookies, so she made the first batch of Chocolate Gooies. She refined the recipe over the years to the delight it is today. Later we found that cookies like these are called Blondies.

2 sticks (1 cup) margarine
1 cup dark brown sugar
1 cup white sugar
2 eggs
1 Tsp vanilla
1 Tsp water

Combine margarine and sugars. Beat until smooth. Add eggs, water, vanilla. Beat until smooth.

2 cups flour (UNSIFTED!)
1 Tsp baking soda
1 Tsp baking powder
1 Tsp salt

12 oz. semi sweet chocolate chips
Combine dry ingredients other than chocolate chips. Combine with liquid ingredients. Beat until smooth. Add chocolate chips. Bake 35 minutes at 350° or until done in 9" x 13" metal (not glass!) rectangular pan. Do not overcook! They will appear underdone, but they will solidify as they cool. Cool 10 minutes and score.

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BALLOONACY

BY AMY DORAN

Roger Lander came to make balloon art at the Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival. What Roger didn't come to do was to make a bit of history. But when you get a group of creative people together, it is often exactly what happens. Roger created the Smile Balloon Kite along with supporters Julie Terry, Sue McCammon and Pennie Smith. All are members of Big Foot Clown Alley, driving over 250 miles to be there.

KITING: How long have you been designing balloon art?
Roger: About seven years.

KITING: What got you interested in it?
Roger: After watching the Shriners Clowns at the Puyallup Fair I got a book at the library and a bag of balloons and practiced, a lot. I twisted my first balloon just a few months before going professional and that was about six and a half years ago.

KITING: What made you decide to try building a kite?
Roger: Took a weekend off to spend time with my wife and some friends at Ocean Shores and went to a local kite shop, bought a kite and flew it on the beach. It seemed like the thing to do and I had not flown a kite since I was a kid. Then we went for a drive, my wife drove leaving me with time to think, which is always dangerous but fortunately doesn't happen very often. And I thought, I wonder if I could make a kite made out of only balloons? On the way back to our room we stopped back at the kite shop and my wife got out her book and waited in the car with her "here he goes again" look. The guys at the shop were very generous with their time and knowledge, and humored my strange question.

KITING: When did you first build a kite? What were the results?
Roger: At Ocean Shores we went straight back to our room, got my balloons and walked out to the beach and I started my first balloon kite. But as I worked on the kite the wind got less and less. The weather report said the wind would be gone for the rest of the weekend so I stopped right where I was in the kite and tried to fly it but I had spent all my time talking about kite shapes at the kite shop and not about how the string should be attached, and had never heard of a bridle. So I spent the last of the wind messing with different string configurations. So not knowing if it would really work if there was wind I had to leave the beach and return home until I could find a way to try again.



Ronda and Lindsey add the bridle.

KITING: How many balloons did you use for the kite?
Roger: The Lincoln city kite was made with a little over 200 balloons.

KITING: Was it helpful to have Ronda Brewer and Lindsey Johnson there to do the bridling and help set the kite up to fly?
Roger: Helpful does not even start to explain Ronda and Lindsey's part in achieving flight. After all the time I spent trying to get the strings right on the first kite in a very low wind environment, and the way the wind started out that morning in Lincoln City, I knew that left to my own devices it was pretty bleak. But Lindsey jumped at the opportunity and dragged an unsuspecting Ronda into the middle of it. I have to admit that I missed most of the kite flying but seeing Ronda and Lindsey tackle the best way to get these balloons to be a kite was a wondrous show in itself. Everything was done once with no overers or changes. Ronda is a natural trainer evident in the way she was able to explain the how, what and why, as she stayed on task. Ben Dantonio helped in the final adjustments and the kite flew on the very first try without any additional adjustments. It was a very impressive, spur of the moment example of teamwork.

KITING: Were there any other materials used in the balloon kite? What was the tail constructed of?
Roger: Balloons and regular air are the only things used to construct the kite. The tail was uninflated balloons tied end to end with little round balloons attached to the end.

KITING: Do you foresee more balloon kites being built in the future?
Roger: Well it would be cool to make a big kite. This kite was made mostly of 350q's, which is a 3" wide balloon that is 50" long made by Qualatex. I would like to try using 646q's, 6" inches wide and 46" long. 646q's are much harder to twist but it would be a big kite with new challenges. I am going to have to be very careful because I find both the kites and the people flying them very addictive. K



Roger building the kite, atop a buffer of white balloons.



Ben Dantonio adds a bowtie.



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KITES OF THE YEAR:
 2007 - "Cody" by John Whibley
 2009 - "Andromeda" by Simon Crafts
 2008 - "Nightfall" by Peter Ross

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 email: steve@kitebuilder.com

K-FILES



KEVIN REYNOLDS

started to grow. On a trip to the Oregon coast I saw someone on the beach with an early stunt kite. I found my way to Catch the Wind in Lincoln City and was quickly back on the beach with their Spider Wing delta stunt kite. Uh-oh, a whole new category of kites to purchase.

It wasn't until the late 1980s or early '90s that I discovered that there are other kite fliers around my hometown of Rochester, NY. I was driving past the community college one day and spotted a couple of large flowforms high above. Stopping in to see what was up, I found an enthusiastic group of kite nuts. I asked if they were a club and got a lot of laughter in response. They were very proud of their "un-club" of people that just show up every weekend to fly. No dues, no officers, no politics, just lots of fun! I dropped in to fly with them whenever I could.

On one of my days there, I saw Dave Watson flying a stack of little delta stunters. Sharing his love of kiting, he handed me the lines to give it a try. When I asked about where he got them, he said "I made them." I thought, Whoa, you can make these high tech kites yourself! The seed had been planted but it would still be at least another ten years before I was ready to try.



In the meantime, I kept buying more kites and flying anything I could get my hands on. I spotted something about the AKA and joined up. Then in 2001 the Keystone Kites assembled a large Martin Lester Top Half for the AKA raffle and I bought the winning ticket. With a large inflatable in my collection I started looking for events where I could share it with the public. I was working two jobs and volunteering as the treasurer of a national nonprofit, so I didn't get out to fly very often but I would always pack a kite (or several) when I traveled.

Eventually I switched gears and cut back to just one job and only volunteering for one local organization. I had more time for flying again and soon I found the New York Kite Enthusiasts (NYKE) and started traveling to their events. When I heard that NYKE was planning a workshop to make some smaller bols for racing on higher wind days, I knew it was time to try sewing some ripstop. I needed fabric and supplies to go with my old Singer Fashion Mate 237. (I knew the basics of sewing and how to use the machine because as a kid my Mother had wisely told me that if I wanted new uniforms for my GI Joe, I would have to make them myself. My GI Joe was



probably the only one in the world with corduroy pants.) I started searching the web for ideas for what color pattern to use on my bols and soon found myself at kitebuilder.com.

There was everything I needed! The fabric, thread, swivels, line, pictures of ideas and even a forum of kitemakers to give advice. I ordered what I needed for the NYKE workshop and some extra fabric to make some spinning bols I saw in the plans pages. By the time I got to the workshop, I had already cut fabric for six bols. Learning from the others at the workshop and from reading the forum, I was off and running.

Since those first bols in the summer of 2008, I have been feeding my addiction with big soft kites and workshop kites of all types. I upgraded to a Pfaff 2044 and gave

the Singer back to my Mom for her quilting.

I was never much of an artist in school (can't draw, can't paint) and generally stuck to geometric shapes. I have been trying to expand out of my comfort zone with some curves (and I have some ideas for appliquéd images) but you will see mostly straight lines in my kites. I do like a challenging project though so even on my first kite, a 75 ft² Bulldog foil, I cut the long straight skin panels on a diagonal to rearrange the colors. I still can't believe I got those cuts right on the first try... and with a double french seam too!

When I was given the opportunity to make a 200 ft² Jordan Airform, I started by studying several borrowed quilt books for ideas. I decided it would be a Bargello pattern and started making scale drawings of the kite skin with the colors rearranged in a variety of patterns. After a few months of playing with new ideas and staring at the results, drawing number 57 was the keeper for my Four Corners Eclipse. The two months of sewing nights and weekends was the easy part.



I like to make one big kite project each winter but I don't know yet what will be next. It is about time to get serious and start putting some ideas on paper so I will have something ready to sew when the snow flies. Remember, when it comes to how many kites you need, it is always, "Just one more!" K



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People often ask "When did you start flying kites?" I respond, "I never stopped." Like many kite fliers, I love anything that flies. I had dime store kites as a child, and made paper airplanes, and model rockets, and rubber band powered planes and control line planes too. And, of course, I played with soap bubbles. As I grew up, the toys became more elaborate and the bubbles got bigger.



Sometime in my teens I was given a French Military winged box kite by White Bird Kites, my first nylon fabric kite. It flew great in a wide range of wind (compared to the toy kites I had before) and my interest in kites expanded. After a lot of use, it decided one day to part ways with my reel and drifted off into the distance. I never saw that kite again but I like to think that maybe someone found it and put it to good use.

I soon replaced that French Military with an identical kite, and from there my collection of single line kites

VOICES FROM THE VAULT

MAGGIE VOHS

BY PATTI GIBBONS

The winds of fate put strings in the right hands, and in 1984 Maggie Vohs grabbed an opportunity that brought kites into her life and shaped her professional career. She was visiting the Oregon coast, looking to move to Lincoln City, and while driving down Highway 101 she looked up in amazement. "I'll never forget seeing a 90' spin sock in the air over this hotel, and I thought, What is that?" Spellbound and curious, Maggie found herself inside the Catch the Wind kite store looking for answers, and left with a job that changed everything. "I actually went to work that day," and from April 1st 1984 through 1996, Maggie grew from assistant bookkeeper to general manager and helped shape Catch the Wind's impressive period of growth.

Business-minded Maggie looked around the bustling Catch the Wind store, jumped in and got to work. First tackling low hanging fruit, she straightened out the invoices and got their books up to speed, before helping the company's team grow into a bona fide kiting empire. Catch the Wind's "growth was huge and quick" and in the 1980s, what started as a lone retail store budded into three corporations. In its heyday, Catch the Wind's retail arm had ten kite stores open for business. Catch the Wind Inc. tended to the whole-

salizing business, supplying kite shops across the country with a variety of quality kite gear, while Catch the Wind's manufacturing division developed new kite products and cranked out kites and accessories at a breakneck pace. Maggie's talents laid in management and finance, and she was promoted to general manager of the whole-

salizing and manufacturing divisions. At its height the company employed seventy people and the tight-knit group felt like a family to Maggie. Although Catch the Wind offered a range of kite products, its bread and butter was the Spin Sock. Owner Steve Lamb's patent blocked others from importing and selling knockoffs and the company's foothold in the market guaranteed quality workmanship. The dependable and playful spinner even appealed to buyers outside of the kite world and Maggie helped broker sales with a diverse audience of people, some interested in developing decorative lawn products and other folks who sought out the innovative spinners as novel places to market corporate logos. Overall sales were phenomenal and the popular spinner that came in about fifteen standard sizes, ranging from ornamental 12" spinners up to monster pullers that took up 150' of air space, appealed to many. Steve's patent expired in 2004 and Maggie recognizes a loss of quality with the second-generation imitations that now crowd the shelves.

As a way to give back to organized kiting, Maggie put in overtime and sought out the AKA's Treasurer's post in the mid-1990s. Remembering back to her tenure, "the AKA was a very vocal group of people" and when dues went up from \$20 to \$25, "I thought they were going to throw tomatoes at us!" To date, Maggie remembers the referendum as the most hotly contentious business meeting she ever attended, but the overall experience toughened Maggie and helped her learn to stay the course to affect organizational change.

In 1996 Maggie was a single mom and she was interested in bringing her office home so she could be closer to her then seven-year-old son. With an insider's perspective and deep knowledge of the kiting industry, Maggie developed a bold idea that would galvanize both her professional and private lives. She believed that if she could become the President of the Kite Trade Association, she could gain the ear of the board and point out the shortcomings of their current management company, and convince them to turn the reigns over to her. Up until then, the KTA was the smallest client in its management's portfolio and Maggie felt that they underrepresented the KTA and weren't the group's best advocate. As a smaller organization with particular business needs, Maggie wanted more personal atten-



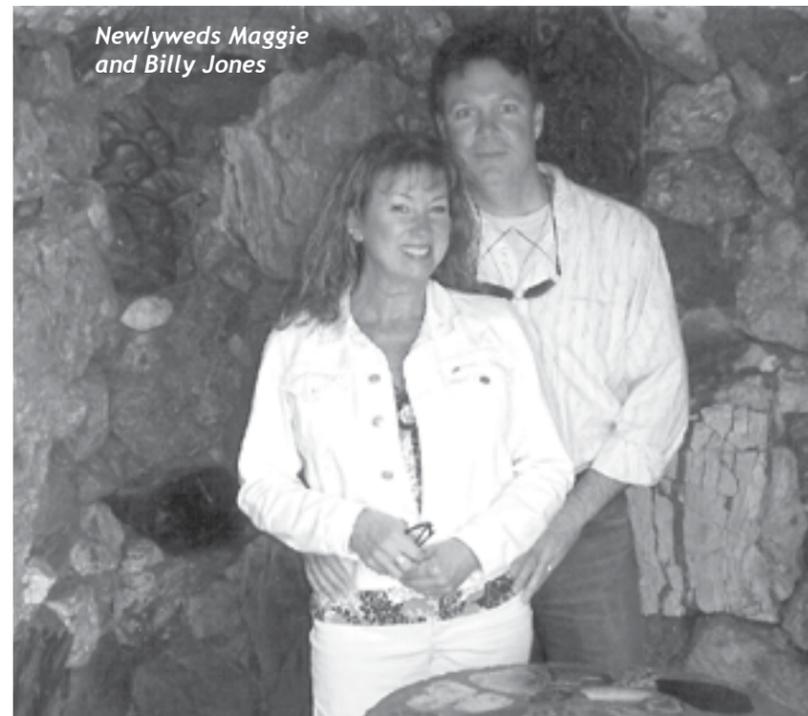
Maggie and Rakesh Bahadur



tion from a management company and better overall advocacy. Corporate USA wasn't cutting it and in 1996, as the newly elected President of the KTA, Maggie rallied board support and fired the management company. In act two, she resigned from the KTA and took over the association's management as an independent contractor.

With undivided attention, Maggie managed the KTA as her sole client for about five years. Building slowly, Maggie reached out and took on a second client, the AKA, and began overseeing the management of the annual convention. With close attention to her clients' needs, Maggie continues to grow her business and manages a tight roster of clients. Reflecting back, Maggie finds the key to success and longevity in the kite business is having "a love for the industry and the people." With her deep connections, Maggie protects the best interests of the kiting community as a businesswoman and longtime kite supporter. K

Several chatty kitefliers let the tape spin and recorded their memories and thoughts about kites, kitefliers, and the great big sky for the World Kite Museum's oral history archive project. Interested in telling your stories? Would you like to hear what other fliers say? Got time to interview special people in your local clubs or friends in far away places? Feel free to contact the Museum if you'd like to learn more about the oral history tapes. Contact us at info@worldkitemuseum.com.



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THE SPORTING LIFE

REFLECTIONS OF WILDWOOD

BY MARKO SILADIN AND JACKIE MACIEL

Here we are wrapping up another AKAGN Convention and Competition. Our week in Wildwood went by quickly as we ran 21 disciplines with 50 flyers (representing ¼ of the total convention registrants) over a three day period. I'd like to thank all of the sport kite competitors at Nationals for their fabulous attitudes and cooperation as we kept the events moving along in a (mostly!) timely fashion; your volunteerism was just remarkable. Gayle Woodul did a great job coordinating the Indoor Competition and Kathe Deck was our marvelous scorekeeper.

I asked two of the competitors to reflect on their week. Marko Siladin of Richmond, VA, has been flying for just two years. He is a first time convention attendee and competed as a Novice dual-line flier. Jackie Maciel of Franklin, MA, is a sport kite flier and kitemaker who competed as an Experienced dual-line flyer as well as in Comprehensive Kitemaking.

— Ann Vondriska

First Time Around The Convention

Wildwood welcomed me with streets filled with dense fog and devoid of people. After a six hour drive from Richmond I was hoping for a more inviting first impression, but still, I was excited about the upcoming competition. Receiving the invitation to compete in the AKA finals was a great honor, and even though I had not had the chance to practice enough I was looking forward to competing. Even more important to me was the opportunity to meet some of my kiting friends from around the US and hopefully meeting new ones.

I checked into the hotel and as I was unlocking my door I ran into a man in an outdoor hallway. We quickly realized that we were both here for the AKA convention and he invited me to join him in his room. Fifteen minutes later I was surrounded by the current and former presidents of the AKA, and the members of AirZone Flight team. It turns out that I ran into Darrin Skinner and that this lucky encounter made this gloomy, foggy night much more pleasant.

The next morning I got my registration package and sticker

Caught in mid-flail: Will Sturdy, another competitor in both Sport Kite and Kitemakers' competitions.



that clearly identified me as a newbie, so that — as Darrin put it — people would not feel bad when they didn't recognize my name. Joking aside, the sticker was very useful as everyone was very helpful during the upcoming days, helping me find my way around the conference. I found out that the pilots meeting was at noon and that my event was not until 2:45PM. This gave me some time to practice, or so I thought. The competition fields were a short walk from the

convention center. However, once I reached the beach I discovered that what once was sand had turned into a field of mud, puddles and little lakes. The rain and humid conditions from the last couple of weeks were to blame. Fighting the sticky sand I practiced my ballet routine after I had edited the night before. Obviously, I was not prepared enough. After the pilots meeting time flew quickly. Between watching the other events (to learn from the Experienced and Master fliers), talking to friends, looking for crew, preparing for my event, competing, and judging it was hard to find time to grab a snack.

Ian Willoughby and I finished our turn pretty quickly, but I had little time to reflect on my performance since I had to get ready to judge the Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited event. This turned out to be a great learning opportunity since I had only judged local events before.

The next day I only had time to compete in my second event and then had to rush back to Richmond to work. Having missed two days of the convention I returned on Saturday with my wife. We arrived just in time for John Barresi's Rev 101 workshop and spent the rest of the day mingling with kite-builders and fliers. We finished the day watching indoor kiting demos and attending the final banquet and award presentation.

Looking back, the convention was a great experience.

— Marko Siladin



Dick and Jackie Maciel with Stars and Stripes.

Bridging the Worlds of Sport Kiting and Kitemaking

It was last August when I heard that Wildwood was the 2011 Convention site. I rushed to the phone to reserve our favorite room for the week. Yes, we were flying at an ocean site with a very large beach. As someone who enjoys making kites and who also loves flying her stunt kite to music, I knew I was in for a very busy week.

This was our fifth Convention, and my third as a sport kite competitor and my first as an Experienced flier. I had only competed six times in Experienced, so I had set my goals realistically. Middle of the pack in Ballet, not finishing last in

Precision, and doing well in OIOU (Freestyle) were my goals. The bad thing about leaving the Novice Class behind is you have to fly in higher winds and you get more work assignments at the Nationals. It is the latter that makes it more difficult to compete in both Sport Kite and Kitemaking. But thanks to the understanding and help of Chief Judges Ann Vondriska and Steve Ferrel, Wednesday was a great day.

In Kitemaking, I had worked with my husband Dick on a cooperative kite, a circoflex we called *Stars and Stripes*. We designed it together and divided the work to highlight our talents. He appliquéd the stars on the 5' wide blue field and did the bridling. I joined and sewed the 14 red and white stripes together, forming a 12' by 20' rectangle. Then the blue section with stars was joined to the strips. Finally the now rectangle was sewn into a 17' long tube. The kite was a soft kite and had to be judged with the other soft kites. We had great hopes of doing well with our new kite.

So on Wednesday, after flying my best Experienced Ballet ever, I packed up my kites and dashed over to the convention center to participate in the judging of our kite for structural design and craftsmanship. After all, I sew my kites and Dick tapes his. Our kite had both techniques and we both needed to explain our parts to the judges. Fortunately, the kite judging was running a little late, so I had time to catch my breath and look over my notes for the judges. But I also needed to get back to the sport kite field by 4:15PM to judge. When I told Steve of my problem, he guided the two teams of judges so our kite was done early in the group, and I was off to the sport kite field (or should I say mud flats) again.

Thursday, was a much calmer and grayer day, but still had lots of excitement. The damp skies became gray, and the sun even came out. But this was only a tease. I flew the train of pink stars I had made for the auction in the Trains category. Then with the help of Larry and Nancy Krablin, friends we had met in Gettysburg in 2008, we launched the huge circoflex and into sky above the competition field. The wind was picking up, but she flew steady and bright in the dull sky. I could see the wind gusts pulse down the cloth of the barrel. A regular circoflex could not have coped with those winds as well. It was a great fly, now the fate of *Stars and Stripes* was in the hands of the judges.

Friday was sunny, less muddy on the kite fields and a busy day of judging and competing in Experienced Individual Precision. I was not too excited about flying in this event, because I felt my skills and flying experience were way below those of my competitors. I was right; I think I flew one of the worst precision programs ever. The scores for the sport kite events for Tuesday and Wednesday were published. OIOU was disappointing, but I met my goal in Ballet, so that was good. I got a chance to talk with some of the judges for that discipline and asked them for some advice on how to improve my scores and performance. Lots of great advice that will keep me busy for the next few seasons. Like a true Red Sox fan I will wait till next year.

Saturday was a fun single line event day. Flying the giant circoflex was a challenge for us in the gusty west winds. After about 45 minutes we packed that kite up. It was time for the Snack Bag Kite Challenge. Unfortunately, there was no opportunity to fly sport kite demos. But the lack of that opportunity did make my life simpler. Wanting to fly single line kites you make and flying sport kites to music does pull you in two directions. It is a difficult dilemma when you want to do both. I have great friends who build kites and also great friends that

compete on the sport kite field. There are the Kitebulder Forum members you meet, and then there are those people that you just meet at various kite festivals and conventions that you want to visit with. So many things to do and so little time.

The Sport Kite Competition always posts the results with the award winners listed as TBA. No surprises there for me. This Convention was fun time and a learning experience for this new Experienced flyer with lots to do and learn. But, since the Kitemaking results are top secret there was a lot of anticipation and hope for the evening. During the evening there were many trips up to the stage to receive kitemaking awards. We had met our kitemaking goals. A 1st in Flat Kites for Dick, and a 1st in Cooperative for us.

One of the highlights of the night was when Ann asked everyone who helped out and competed on the Sport Kite fields to stand. We were an impressive number of registrants. It would have been nice to see those that assisted with and competed in the Kitemakers' Competition to also stand with the Sport Kite fliers. Now that would be a lot of people.

The most memorable was the selection of the Grand Champion in Kitemaking, where all the 1st place winners stand. Everyone at our table that made a kite was standing. When Steve got to five kites left, Dick sat down, but got to stand again for OUR kite. Then there were four left, three left, now there were two left. Now it was Simon Crafts and Dick and myself standing. Wow, we could hardly believe it. We knew *Stars and Stripes* was a great kite we had built together, but to be left standing with the Grand Champion was quite a thrill.

The Wildwood Convention was quite a week. Kitemaking was more successful than I dreamed about. In Sport Kiting I came away with some new advice and ideas about my stunt kite flying, some great memories of flying with some great kitefliers, and crewing for AirZone as they performed their Team Ballet Program. Seeing my friends from the Eastern League get awards and especially watching Elizabeth Gordon become a double National Champion was great. Quite an accomplishment for this young lady. Yes, girls can share in the fun of sport kite flying and be competitive, and it is fun and that is why we do it. That is why we do kites. It does not care about age or gender. Anyone who has the heart and spirit can try it. As for those on the side lines, I invite you to try some competition. You will meet some great people, make some new friends and who knows, if you try it, you might like it!

— Jackie Maciel



Jackie shows off her pink stars to the judges.

The Quad Cities Family Fun & Kite Festival was held on September 24-25 at Centennial Park in Davenport, IA. This festival was started three years ago by Quad Cities Kite Club founder James Patten. It's become a well attended event, and a great way to cap off the festival season in the Midwest. Held on the shores of the Mississippi River on a cool fall weekend, there was plenty to see and do for the families that came out.

This was a destination event for members of the Illinois Kite Enthusiasts club, and the familiar red IKE shirts were out in force. Saturday was pleasantly cool, with a rather light and variable wind. In the show kite field, Al Sparling, Tony Killip, and Tom Clark had their kites up and down all day.

To make the Quad Cities truly live up to their name, quad-line team 180GO! was on hand and flew in the demo field most of the day. At one point, the wind picked up and shifted, lifting the giant octopus kite behind the team, and it proceeded to try and wrap up the fliers and lines in its tentacles. It took a quick evasive move by the fliers to get out of the way and keep flying.



The Illinois Kite Enthusiasts

There were several candy drops that used a decidedly low-tech release method: a cardboard box with a velcro-sealed trap door released by the pull of a string from the ground. After quickly using up ten pounds of candy in the first round of drops, someone had to make a run to the store for a bigger supply!

James Patten



Rok battles were a big hit. One battle featured two local sports mascots in full costume as a raccoon and a hockey playing duck. In the end, Mo the Mallard flying the Daffy Duck



rok prevailed, and then proceeded to wrap himself up in the kite line in celebration! Meanwhile, another rok nearly caught a slow trip to New Orleans after having its line cut and finding a suddenly strong breeze pushing it toward the Mississippi. A tall tree near the banks of the river saved it to fight another day.

During the lulls in the winds, Colleen "Jynx" Baker played with the children on the side of the demo field by launching enormous bubbles using a special formula and bubble maker she learned from Lee Sedgwick.

After a few more performances, 180GO! invited spectators out onto the demo field for one-on-one lessons. It's a good thing the rest of the IKE crew was on hand as ground crew, because there were a few minor accidents to untangle. But after a little while, some of the students actually showed some promise, even though the light wind was a bit challenging for beginners.

Some of the kites returned to the park after dark to launch Sky Lanterns. These paper hot air balloons have become a popular attraction at the Kites Over Lake Michigan festival in Two Rivers, WI.

Sunday got off to a wet start. Around the time the festival was to begin, the rain started coming down. The kites huddled under the tents drinking coffee and hot chocolate and tracking the storm on their smartphones. Once it looked like it was close to passing, 180GO! took advantage of the storm-induced winds to lift their rain-soaked kites.

Day two also featured bol races, one of the more popular crowd participation events, and of course, more candy drops. To cap off the day, 180GO! led a twelve-kite megafly, serpentine the sky to the delight of everyone.

The Quad Cities Family Fun & Kite Festival was great fun, and a wonderful family-friendly event. A big thanks to James for all his hard work organizing this fest. Our calendars are already marked for the fourth weekend of September next year! k



DYNA KITE, LLC

Notice of Ownership:

November 1, 2011

In the past few months Dyna Kite has identified more than a dozen people misusing and infringing on our name Dyna Kite; some are knocking off our kites and selling them under our name. There is even a video on YouTube that states who made the knockoffs in the video.

Also, they are misleading the public by stating these kites are Dyna Kite brand kites. Some are using our name Dyna Kite as keywords on Youtube and using keywords embedded on their websites to guide customers to their sites to sell their knockoff Dyna Kites. Some of these buyers are identifying these knockoff kites as Dyna Kites, which is infringing on our trademark. (Let us clarify that Dyna Kite is a trademark owned by our company, a manufacturer and distributor of wholesale and retail kites, and it is not a substitute term for a kite). Dyna Kite is our trademark and has been owned exclusively by Dyna Kite for over 30 years. Our name (Dyna Kite) can only be used by authorized distributors and persons buying, using and selling kites that originate from Dyna Kite, LLC.

We respectfully ask, that anyone involved in any of the above activities to cease and desist immediately. We would like to solve this problem without legal actions and will work with anyone to do so. Anyone that continues to knockoff our kites, misuse our trademark, and that does not remove videos from YouTube that contain knockoff kites, keywords on these videos (Dyna Kite, Dyna Kites or its likeness), keywords and embedded keywords (Dyna Kite, Dyna Kites or its likeness from their websites may face legal actions. We at Dyna Kite, LLC, have invested much effort and money in building the reputation of our company name. We are obligated to protect our name to prevent dilution by unauthorized use and will do whatever is necessary to protect our company name and trademark.

Anyone that has any questions or information about this matter can contact me at:

Larry@dynamkite.com
Business Ph: 843-744-6410
Home Ph: 843-554-9633

Thanks to all the AKA members for your support for over 30 years!

Respectfully,
Larry and Mary Ann Owens

AKA News

NKM Poster Contest

The AKA and the Kite Trade Association International will once again hold a poster contest for use during National Kite Month 2012. The rules are:

- Poster must contain AKA, KTAI and NKM logos. (These can be copied from www.nationalkitemonth.org.)
- Poster must have a space at the bottom to allow event names, dates, locations, etc., to be added
- Poster elements should be appropriate for 8½"x11"
- Color is preferred
- Format should be .doc or .jpg
- Entries must be original art work/ photos of the entrant
- All submissions will become property of the AKA
- Entries must be submitted by January 8, 2012 to Admin@NationalKite-Month.org.

The prize for the winning poster will be \$100 in cash plus \$50 in credit at the AKA Store. For questions and more information go to the National Kite Month topic on the AKA Public Forum, www.aka.kite.org/kite-talk-forum/forum?id=18.

Election Results

The polls have closed, and the results are in. Barbara Meyer was re-elected for a third term as President, with 494 votes. Thirteen other candidates received write-in votes. In uncontested races for Regional Director, Steve Rothwell was elected in Region Five, Ed Gryns was re-elected in Region Six, and Rick Hawkins returns to the Board in a new position, as Regional Director for Region Eight. In Region Seven, Robin Allen McCracken won over Alisa Hegedus. Thanks to the Election Committee of Jerry McGuire, Tanna Haynes, and Jim Martin, assisted by Darrin Skinner, Glen Haynes, Betsie Agar, Rick Agar, Gayle Woodul, John Gillespie, Marla Miller, Charley Sotich and Sandi McGuire.

Holiday Gift Ideas

For the kiteflier on your shopping list, the AKA has two stores full of gift ideas. Just check the AKA website for the links to either the General Store or the Café Press Store. Don't see what you want? Ron Miller has a huge catalog full of items that can be personalized with the AKA logo. Just contact him at vp1@aka.kite.org for details.



Once more with feeling: Linda Sanders leads the convention crowd in a stirring rendition of "Waltzing Matilda," with an explanation of why the song isn't Australia's national anthem.

Classic Kiting Online

More than 50 back issues of *Kiting* are now online for your reading enjoyment. These issues cover the years from 1989 to 2002. Big thanks to Mike Kory for doing all the scanning. Find the complete collection at <http://aka.kite.org/resources/publications/kiting-magazine>.



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“THIS MAY SEEM MAD . . .”
BY NICOLETTE O’NEILL

This may seem mad, to only start kite bugging eight days before we leave for an epic trip. It’s almost like trying to swim the English Channel, only eight days after ever jumping in a pool.” — Charlie Thuillier

On July 28, brothers Harry and Charlie Thuillier, set out on a 1000km trek along the northeast coast of Brazil. While other expeditions of this nature had been attempted across Australia, the Gobi Desert, and the Sahara, this was set to be the longest kite buggy expedition without vehicle support.

The trip was born when the Britons were seeking out interesting locations with good windsurfing conditions. Both had been windsurfing for several years, so when they found a little place in Brazil called Jericoacoara that claimed to have 75% of days with force 4 winds and above, it was perfection. One small problem: Jericoacoara is way off the beaten path and can not be approached by any traditional means. But an off-road vehicle was to blase for these two, and after pondering some strange options they finally settled on kites and buggies. Another small problem: neither of them had any experience with kites.

Rather quickly they contacted Craig Hansen of the 2009 Mad Way South Expedition across the Sahara desert. They were crazy, Craig said, but he encouraged them to go for it.

Slogging through a mangrove swamp.

Expeditions of this nature breed a certain type of emotion and camaraderie; it only seemed right that he should help them meet the right people and get started down the right path. It was from there a

simple selection of kites and gear, and perhaps most importantly lessons on how to handle the 330 pounds of equipment. They had a fair share of crashes before the adventure even began.

From the start the brothers saw that this was not only an amazing opportunity, but also in the true spirit of all grand adventures, could be a way to help others. Teaming up with Centrepont Charity, a group that is focused on finding solutions for homeless young people, seemed a natural fit as they wanted to show the possibilities of youth.

Huge winds — nearly 40MPH — and delays at the start line held them up, but by this point the boys had learned the greatest lesson in powerkiting: live to fly another day. The next day they ran into steep

headlands that forced them to walk along a road for 30 miles lugging their gear behind them. Then the wet loose sand, bad wind, barbed wire fences, rain, and mangrove swamps were constant reminders that this wasn’t going to be easy. But what really makes this trip incredible, is that on average they only had five hours each day to race along the beach before the tide swallowed up the rideable space.

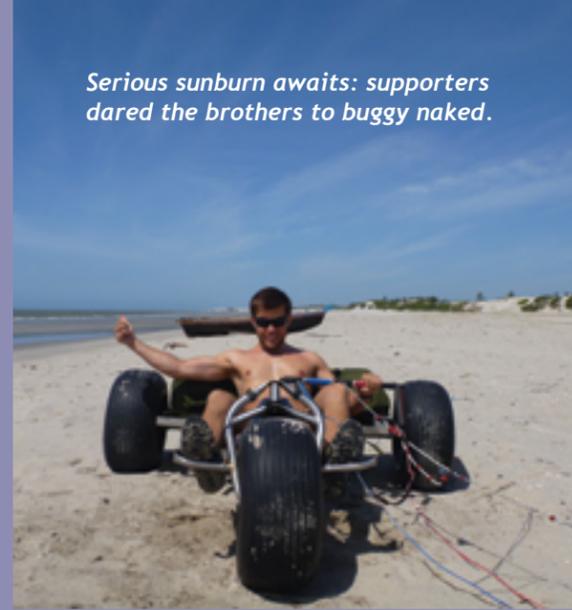
Along the way they passed through several blissfully tourist-free seaside towns and found themselves in Cumbuco. This is a major kiteboarding destination, and the rumors of two crazy guys in buggies blowing in from the south had blown in ahead of them. As they rounded a headland and came upon a sea choked with kites, the boys had no idea what they were rolling into. The other kites quickly flocked to them and challenged them to a long distance race against Louis Tapper, a kite surfer with intimate knowledge of the coastline. While Louis found ease maintaining a 40MPH speed across the water, the boys would clock in averages around 42MPH only to come upon large rocks, and rivers that the buggies had to be floated across behind a swimmer. The boys lost, but their reward was private lessons from Louis while the other kite boarders took the buggies to the nearby dunes.

On the final leg of their journey, a mere kilometer from Jericoacoara, tragedy struck. In order to make the approach to



The brothers accept a challenge to leapfrog the width of the beach.

serious sunburn awaits: supporters dared the brothers to buggy naked.



the city they had to direct their buggies down an awkward dirt track that they shared with dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles. Struggling to keep to the right side of the road as the wind buffeted and rolled, Charlie lost focus, and his kite came down on some powerlines. The lines snapped and one of the live wires cracked past Charlie in a blinding flash, thankfully coming to rest popping and sputtering in the nearby sand. The boys were terrified after this brush with death, and they were solemnly reminded that even 999km of buggy experience never prepares you for everything. Humbly, they limped into town under lesser fanfare than expected: they had killed the town’s power supply. K



Kitesurfer Louis Tapper borrows a buggy.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN AN ADVENTURE BY HARRY THUILLIER

We were trudging through the second mangrove swamp of the day. The mud was sucking at our shoes and layering up on the tyres of each buggy, making them look like Flintstones cartoon wheels. Crabs with single giant claws scuttled away from our tramping feet and the midday equatorial sun reflected off the murky swamp waters.

As we tried to work out a route to take along the coast and onto beaches where we could continue to kite, I realised that for an adventure to succeed there are a few questions you should ask yourself.

How experienced are you at your chosen mode of travel?

Do you know how much distance you can reasonably cover in a day? Have you been doing it long enough that you have dealt with a wide range of conditions and know how to deal with them? To maximise your chances of success (and ensure you get at least some enjoyment out of the expedition) you need to be confident and proficient at doing the sport you’ve chosen. A good level of fitness is important, although if the adventure is over many days or weeks then you will get more fit as you go — having good technique and being generally healthy is more important.

Do you know where you’re going?

Silly question? You might think so, but a vague idea isn’t enough, especially if the area you intend to cover is remote. I agree that the spirit of adventure is often to have only a rough idea of where you are going to go, and that documenting precisely where you’ll be and when can stifle the expedition and your experience of it, so your plan doesn’t usually need go into painstaking detail. However, knowledge of your chosen area is important, particularly if it is very remote or dangerous. Going somewhere without maps or a guide can mean finding yourself on unsuitable and unsafe terrain and even having to turn around and find another route. (As we had to do several times during the kite buggy adventure!)

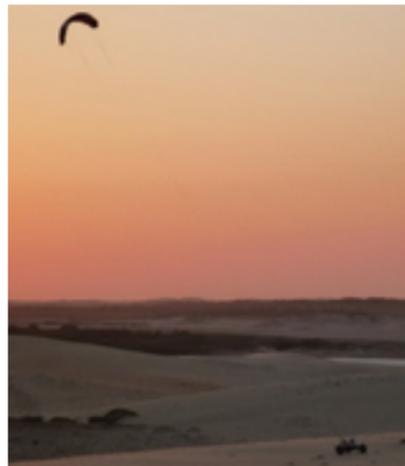
Can you get help from locals?

Calamities happen. The hazards we fell foul of included getting kites stuck up a tree or on powerlines, being trapped by the tide, or getting dragged thirty metres face first up a dune. Of course it could have been a lot worse. If the unintended happens, you either need some form of support (a vehicle or knowledgeable guide), or you need to be able to rely on locals to point you in the right direction. This involves speaking the language, or being confident that locals can speak your language (definitely not always the case especially in rural areas), or having very good miming skills!

What if you don’t have answers to any of these questions?

You can get away with having good answers to two of the above but have a good think if you can’t convincingly answer less than this. Looking back on it, before embarking on the kite buggy adventure we couldn’t answer a single one. Whilst we made it and had a lot of fun in the process, the journey didn’t go to plan and the challenges faced were probably greater than they needed to be. It all depends on how much risk you are prepared to take, and how much of a challenge you want. You will invariably develop and learn along the way, and in many ways that was the most satisfying aspect of our kite buggy adventure. The highs are very high, but there are plenty of lows too as you work out ways to overcome seemingly impassable challenges.

Read the Thuillier’s blog at www.kitebuggyadventure.com, or scan the QR code with your smartphone to find video of the trip, including the powerline disaster.





Ed Paulsen



Sixty stars
by Ray and
Donna Hertz



The Gomberg Kite Productions display



Dave Shattuck

LINCOLN CITY FALL KITE FESTIVAL LINCOLN CITY, OR OCTOBER 8-9, 2011

PHOTOS BY BEN DANTONIQ
AMY DORAN AND BRETT MORRIS



Connor Doran



SOUTH TO THE POLE BY ROBERT-JAN BARTUNEK

Two Belgian explorers will attempt to set a world record for the longest ever polar expedition without outside support or motorized aid, traveling over 3,700 miles in 100 days across Antarctica. Veteran adventurer Dixie Dansercoer, who crossed the southern continent in 1997, and 26-year-old Sam Deltour aim to take advantage of the specific wind patterns around the continent to cover large distances using kites to help sail their heavy sleds across the ice and snow. This will allow them to travel up to 300 km in a day and an average of 60 km, to break the current world record of Norwegian Rune Gjeldnes who trekked 4,800 km in 90 days five years ago.

"It would be impossible if we had to pull the sleds all by ourselves," Dansercoer, who started the expedition with an oft-delayed flight from Cape Town to Antarctica in early November.

Their route will take them in a loop from the Russian

Novolazarevskaya research station to the South Pole before returning across yet uncharted territory between the Vostok research station and the Shackleton ice shelf.

The pair will each have a sled initially weighing 420 pounds, which will contain food supplies, tents, kites and scientific equipment. During their trip they will measure wind patterns and supply information about the quality of the ice they encounter to scientists studying climate change back in Belgium. As they will have no new supplies from outside, the largest part of their luggage consists of frozen food rations to provide each of them with the crucial 5,000 calories needed each day to undertake such a physically challenging trip.



Follow the Antarctic ICE Expedition at www.antarcticice.be

For Deltour, being a polar explorer became his dream after he discovered a book about the first polar expeditions in his local library as a 12-year-old. He said he was aware that exploration was no easy task.

"The human species wasn't designed for Antarctica," Deltour said. "You have to trust your instincts."

Dansercoer and Deltour plan to reach the South Pole around December 14, 100 years to the day after Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first to set foot there. k

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34TH AKA CONVENTION HITS



You've probably already heard the buzz about the 34th Annual Convention in Wildwood, but if you weren't there you missed a great show! Our weather was crazy, just like the rest of the country! We had humidity, sunshine, rain, thunder and lightning — you name it! Fortunately Wildwood has enormous beaches and even though Mother Nature claimed her fair share of them, there was still plenty

to accomplish all the flying necessary for the week. Old friends and new acquaintances used the time to reconnect and share their passion for kiting.

Each morning the workshops would spill over with people excited and energized by the quality of presenters and programs. There were plenty of make and take seminars, two fabulous appliqué classes, and a cornucopia of topics and sessions to choose from.

A group of AKA members have been working with Heather Henson on an indoor flying production, and they were in the Exhibit Hall practicing all week. Fliers included Scott Weider, Curtis Mitchell, Lisa and Ian Willoughby, Wen Jeng, and Toby Arndt. On the final night of the convention, the group performed in front of over two hundred people. The performance was wonderful and everyone in attendance was appreciative of the group giving us a preview.

The Awards Banquet recognized and honored the best of the best in the week long flying events. The show was fun with another Linda Sanders sing-along, a moving speech by Maasaki Modegi on behalf of the recipients of kites sent for Japanese Tsunami Relief, and an impromptu victory dance by Grand Champion Simon Crafts.

By Sunday morning members were making their plans for departure and promising to be in Enid, OK, where the AKA will hold their 35th annual event, October 1-6, 2012.

—Maggie Vohs

Monday night the AKA opening reception was held at the Wildwoods Convention Center overlooking the beautiful Wildwood beaches. Our First Timers chairperson introduced all those who were at convention for the first time and made sure they were connected to a mentor or team of people to help them traverse the many opportunities for networking and fun in the coming week.

to accomplish all the flying necessary for the week.



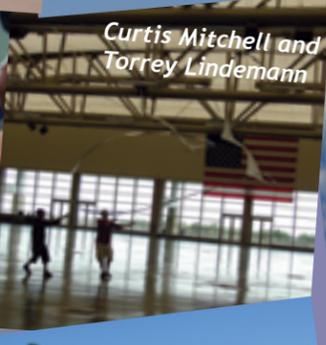
Todd Little's Oz kite



Heather Henson and Lisa Willoughby



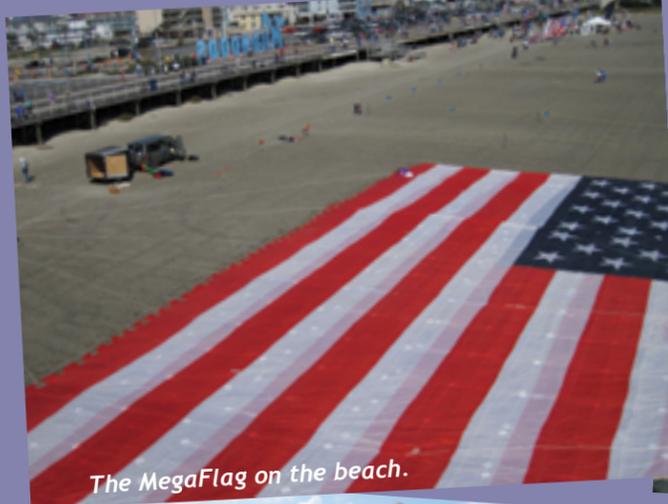
Curtis Mitchell and Torrey Lindemann



Pete Dolphin
Cath Shook and Laura Berg



Ben Huggett's CouCou takes flight over Lake Wildwood.
Sashiko and Masaaki Modegi flank Jim Day.



The MegaFlag on the beach.



Scott Skinner



Simon Chisnall, Lisa Willoughby and David Gomberg battle it out.



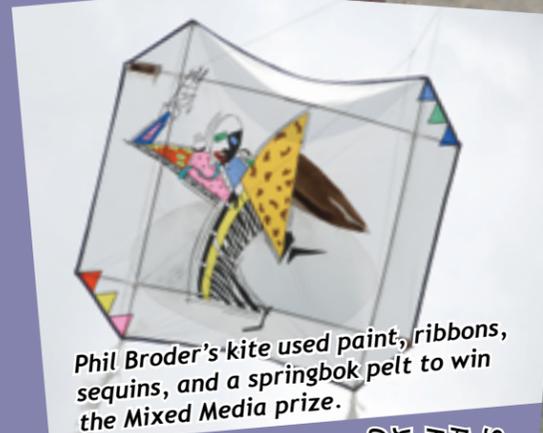
A convention first: Gayle Woodul flies a kite!



PHOTOS BY DAVID WHEELER, RICK AGAR, AND PHIL BRODER



Ray Bojarski



Phil Broder's kite used paint, ribbons, sequins, and a springbok pelt to win the Mixed Media prize.



Curtis Mitchell



Olivier Reymond teaches his appliqué technique.



See the entire indoor performance by Heather Henson and friends at www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2l1p0tq3z5w&feature=share

Wings Over Washington won the Ground Display Challenge.



Novice Fighter Line Touch

- 1 Bob Hegman
- 2 Vaino Raun
- 3 Catherine Gabrel

Novice Fighter Skills

- 1 Bob Hegman
- 2 Barry Cole
- 3 Vaino Raun

Experienced Fighter Line Touch

- 1 Lisa Willoughby
- 2 Andrew Selzer
- 3 Bruce Jarvie

Experienced Fighter Skills

- 1 Lisa Willoughby
- 2 Andrew Selzer
- 3 Bruce Jarvie

Individual Rokkaku

- 1 Mike Mosmann
- 2 David Gomberg
- 3 Simon Chrisnall

Team Rokkaku

- 1 Team Champion
(Jim Cosca, Lisa Willoughby, Will Sturdy)
- 2 Team Fat and Fifty
(David Gomberg, Jim Martin)
- 3 Team Hostile Takeover
(Harold Ames, Mike Mosman)



FIGHTER AND ROKKAKU COMPETITION RESULTS

MINIATURE KITE CHALLENGE

Most Beautiful

- 1 Donna Houchins
Butterfly
- 2 Donna Houchins
White Tiger
- 3 Susan Skinner
Heart Sled

Smallest Size

- 1 Susan Skinner
Heart Sled
- 2 Jim Martin
Half-Life
- 3 Harold Ames
Square Incher

Best Flight

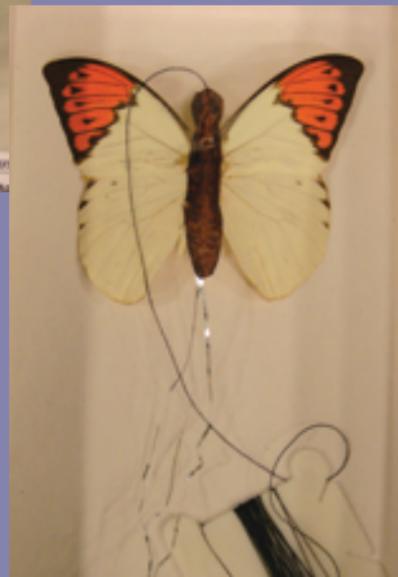
- 1 Donna Houchins
White Tiger
- 2 Donna Houchins
Butterfly
- 3 Susan Skinner
Heart Sled

Most Original

- 1 Donna Houchins
White Tiger
- 2 Donna Houchins
Butterfly
- 3 Jim Martin
Plants & Zombies



The 2011 Miniature Kite Grand Champion: Donna Houchins' White Tiger.



Petra Kanž teaches Simon Crafts the basics of kitesurfing.

CHAT WITH THE CHAMPION:

KITING: Nearly two years ago, Cliff Quinn (one of the kitemakers' judges) said, "I'd love to see a novice win the AKA Grand Champion award." Your response was, "Let's not get ahead of ourselves." Would you care to re-evaluate your kitemaking skills at this time?

SC: Yeah, I remember that. But rather than thinking of his statement as an evaluation of me or my kites (like I did in my response to it), I prefer to focus more on the spirit of the statement as I understand it now: how neat it is to see the passion and talent in some relatively new faces who aren't (yet) Convention and/or competition veterans. Ron Bohart and Trevor Reeves come to mind. Sure, I enjoyed some success in competition. But I caught a good draw with the conditions during flight time for the Cellular category, and the design of the kite matched the tastes of the group of judges who volunteered at Wildwood. True masters like Bobby Stanfield, Tanna Haynes, Adrian Conn, and John Pollack have enjoyed repeated success. I am truly honored to be considered a member of the same fraternity with them and all of the other Champions, but I'm not ready to anoint myself to that higher level. I learned a lot at Wildwood and hope to improve and continue to grow.

KITING: Given the rather short time you've been making kites — and we're talking about a period where most novices are building their first rokkaku, or trying appliqué for the first time — why did you decide to take on as big and original a project as *Extensivity*?

SC: My first reaction to that question is "Why not?" My first kite building experience was also a large and ambitious project, especially for a first timer. Yet, it was successful. I was seriously bitten by the bug of making my own designs, and that's where my creative eye wanders every time I'm brainstorming kite ideas. What can I make or draw up that's new? As far as the complexity or originality, I wanted to bring a kite that would impress the judges my first time in competition. So I read the rulebook, reviewed what I believed to be successful elements of former winning kites, and tried to incorporate them into something new. I believe that the reason more beginners are building basic kites than potential competition winners are simple matters of passion and confidence. With the resources and immediately reachable and unimaginably helpful and supportive group of kitemakers out there and active on the Web, I believe that more kitemakers of every experience level should reach out and stretch the possibilities. . . especially the novices. Imagine how free you could be in any endeavor if you

were taught from the beginning that there are no limits?

KITING: You've also built some kites to teach at workshops. There were a few Gizmos in Wildwood. Do you do anything differently for a competition kite versus a workshop kite?

SC: Yes and no. I am proud of the Gizmo kite and I am thankful that I had the opportunity to present it to the Keystone Kites. That was my first workshop experience, having never even attended one as a student or participant, and they were very gracious. That

said, had I not already been working on *Extensivity* with the intent of competing with it in the Cellular category, I think the Gizmo would have made a fine competition-worthy design for me (Cheryl Kear competed with her Gizmo and scored very well.)

However, with a workshop, there are constraints upon the time available for instruction and for the participants to work on their kites, as well as varying degrees of kitemaking experience within the group. It seems pretty universal that kites presented at workshops should be simple enough that at least some of the students are leaving the event with a completed project, so there needs to be a cap on the complexity of the project. I don't believe, however, that something relatively simple can't be unique, innovative, or capable of showing well in competition. Matter of fact, the bowed kite that I competed with (*Fusion*) took 1st place in its category, yet I would consider it to be a simple kite that flies very well.

KITING: So we've seen you excel at kitemaking, but you were also out on the beach learning to kitesurf. First time with a multiline kite, yes? Does this mean that we're going to see you in Novice Individual Ballet next year? Or should we look for some amazing quadline creation to spring forth from your workshop?

SC: Haha! Good times! Many thanks to Captain Petra Kanž and her seemingly infinite patience with that experience. Indeed, it was my first time at the controls of a multiline kite. Very cool! I think I'll leave the sport kite comps and multiline kites in the hands of the professionals, however. As amazed as I am by the skills and showmanship of people like John and TK Barresi, Steve DeRooy, David Hathaway, Bazz Poulter, and Willow Robin, or the death-defying exploits of the power kites like Nic O'Neill, or the grace and beauty of the indoor fliers like Scott Weider and Paul de Bakker. . . man, I just get jazzed watching those guys do their thing! I get plenty of enjoyment out of sharing in it from the sidelines. I'm sure the itch will come along soon enough.

KITING: Just so that the rest of the world can brace themselves, what are you planning next?

SC: I dunno. I've never built a delta or an eddy. Maybe I'll try one of those. Similarly, I've never tried particle physics, ballroom dancing, gigantic show kites, or goat herding. So who knows? Seriously, though, whatever I do, it will be about "spreading the love." I am passionate about the joys of kiting — all phases and aspects of it — and I express that through building and flying single line kites. Lately, I've been finding great joy in just trying to share that joy and passion with other people. If I can get a string, or a handful of strings, in the hands of someone out there and be a part of that silly grin, that's just awesome, powerful stuff. If I can get one fresh set of hands holding a kite and grinning wildly at the sky, if I can get one person to say "Yes I CAN!," and build a kite, I really think that I'll have done something great. One sky, one world. Live it.



SIMON CRAFTS



SPORT KITE COMPETITION RESULTS

Experienced Team Dual-line Precision

- 1 Crash N Burn 42.867
(J Sturdy/Charleville/W Sturdy)
- 2 Rusty Sabers 27.733
(Haworth/Kapsten/Mervine)

Masters Individual Dual-line Ballet

- 1 Paul de Bakker 82.533
- 2 Will Sturdy 80.533
- 3 Aaron Champie 72.00
- 4 Richard Mervine 69.600
- 5 Spencer Schubbe 68.267
- 6 Lisa Willoughby 67.867
- 7 John Gillespie 66.267
- 8 Doug Charleville 63.533
- 9 Donna Houchins 63.067
- 10 Kurtis Jones 58.467
- 11 Wen Jeng 57.133

Masters Individual Dual-line Precision

- 1 Aaron Champie 79.200
- 2 Paul de Bakker 78.167
- 3 John Gillespie 74.667
- 4 Will Sturdy 72.900
- 5 Richard Mervine 69.033
- 6 Lisa Willoughby 68.600
- 7 Doug Charleville 68.167
- 8 Donna Houchins 65.833
- 9 Spencer Schubbe 64.233
- 10 Doug Coates 62.900
- 11 Wen Jeng 62.167

Masters Individual Multi-line Ballet

- 1 Dennis Smith 84.533
- 2 Mark Quirnbach 78.933
- 3 Paul Lamasters 77.267
- 4 Wen Jeng 73.133
- 5 Doug Coates 69.000
- 6 Kurtis Jones 65.867
- 7 Karl Berg 64.933
- 8 David Ashworth 62.067

Masters Individual Multi-line Precision

- 1 Mark Quirnbach 82.333
- 2 Wen Jeng 76.367
- 3 Paul Lamasters 75.567
- 4 Doug Coates 66.233
- 5 David Ashworth 64.633
- 6 Karl Berg 64.400

Masters Pairs Dual-line Ballet

- 1 Blues Brothers 67.400
(Schubbe/Rothwell)
- 2 Sky Jesters 49.333
(D. Proudfoot/V. Proudfoot)

Masters Pairs Dual-line Precision

- 1 Blues Brothers 52.433
(Schubbe/Deck)
- 2 Sky Jesters 48.567
(D. Proudfoot/V. Proudfoot)

Masters Team Dual-line Ballet

- 1 AirZone Flight Team 75.933
(Champie/Skinner/Gillespie)

Masters Team Dual-line Precision

- 1 AirZone Flight Team 75.933
(Champie/Skinner/Gillespie)

Novice Individual Dual-line Ballet

- 1 Ian Willoughby 55.333
- 2 Marko Siladin 43.733

Novice Individual Dual-line Precision

- 1 Ian Willoughby 52.600
- 2 Marko Siladin 49.300

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited Ballet

- 1 Paul de Bakker 75.900
- 2 Toby Arndt 75.500
- 3 David Ashworth 68.700
- 4 Torrey Lindeman 67.967
- 5 Wen Jeng 67.583
- 6 Curtis Mitchell 66.883
- 7 Lisa Willoughby 65.950
- 8 Mike Mosman 63.817
- 9 Jeff King 62.833
- 10 Ian Willoughby 61.533
- 11 Donna Houchins 56.717
- 12 Jared Haworth 54.200

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

- 1 Phil Broder 84.478
- 2 Charles Stonestreet 74.656
- 3 Curtis Mitchell 71.056
- 4 Mark Quirnbach 69.522
- 5 Jackie Maciel 68.156
- 6 Steve Lewis DQ

Open Pairs Multiline Ballet

- 1 Parkway South 77.000
(Smith/L. Willoughby)
- 2 Damn Yankee Quad 64.867
(Coates/Berg)
- 3 Soul 48.533
(I. Willoughby/Jeng)
- 4 Quadfathers of WOW 48.467
(Ashworth/Lamasters)
- 5 Flying Burrito Brothers 47.067
(Quirnbach/Lewis)

Open Pairs Multiline Precision

- 1 Damn Yankees Quad 67.800
(Coates/Berg)
- 2 Flying Burrito Brothers 62.700
(Quirnbach/Lewis)
- 3 Quadfathers of WOW 52.200
(Ashworth/Lamasters)

Open Team Dual-line Train Ballet

- 1 Heaven Help Us 67.533
(Berg/Engvall)
- 2 Sky Jesters 63.733
(D. Proudfoot, V. Proudfoot)
- 3 Susies' Spouses 61.133
(Skinner/Gomberg)

Experienced Ind. Dual-line Ballet

- 1 Elizabeth Gordon 73.533
- 2 Toby Arndt 73.200
- 3 Jesse Kapsten 67.867
- 4 Jared Haworth 60.267
- 5 Jackie Maciel 55.733
- 6 James Sturdy 55.533
- 7 Laura Stonestreet 51.867

Experienced Ind. Dual-line Precision

- 1 Elizabeth Gordon 66.233
- 2 Jared Haworth 59.767
- 3 Jesse Kapsten 59.367
- 4 Toby Arndt 58.867
- 5 Phil Broder 58.200
- 6 James Sturdy 51.867
- 7 Jackie Maciel 41.200
- 8 Laura Stonestreet 40.000

Experienced Ind. Multi-line Ballet

- 1 Laura Berg 64.000
- 2 Ian Willoughby 60.667
- 3 Steve Lewis 52.800
- 4 Cath Shook 51.067

Experienced Ind. Multi-line Precision

- 1 Laura Berg 64.600
- 2 Steve Lewis 62.500
- 3 Cath Shook 51.100

Experienced Pairs Dual-line Ballet

- 1 Creptas Et Incendo 60.133
(Charleville/W. Sturdy)
- 2 A Saber's Edge 59.200
(Coates/Kapsten)
- 3 Dueling Sabers 48.267
(J. Sturdy/Haworth)

Experienced Pairs Dual-line Precision

- 1 Creptas Et Incendo 59.300
(Charleville/W. Sturdy)
- 2 A Saber's Edge 51.333
(Coates/Kapsten)
- 3 Dueling Sabers 39.900
(J. Sturdy/Haworth)

Experienced Team Dual-line Ballet

- 1 Crash N Burn 40.667
(J Sturdy/Charleville/W Sturdy)
- 2 Rusty Sabers 33.133
(Haworth/Kapsten/Mervine)



Ingraham Award: Cliff Quinn

"...Cliff has taught children's workshops and for the past two years has been involved with the Ronald McDonald's camp for children with cancer and other serious illnesses. This has become a passion for him and he is looking forward to next year's camp...."

Volunteers of the Year: John Gillespie and Susan Skinner



Edeiken Award: Meg Albers

"...For over 20 years, our nominee has taught in New York public schools and libraries where she developed and implement an assortment of kite programs. In addition to school settings, she has brought kiting to senior citizens, mentally and physically disabled people, hospital patients; and every segment of the community...."



Regional Director of the Year: Will Smoot



Club of the Year: Keystone Kites

Lee Toy Circle: Mikio Toki

"...This person is a craftsman. Whether he is adhering silk to paper, to make a better "skin," or hand working bamboo into perfect spars, or crafting his delicate bridling, the results are simply stunning...."





KITEMAKERS' COMPETITION RESULTS

GRAND CHAMPION Simon Crafts (Cellular)

HIGHEST SCORE

Visual Appeal	Simon Crafts	8.87 (Cellular)
Flight	Will Sturdy	8.90 (Sport)
Craftsmanship	Simon Crafts	9.23 (Cellular)
Structural Design	Simon Crafts	8.67 (Cellular)

MOST INNOVATIVE

Mike Mosman

MIXED MEDIA

Phil Broder

TRADITIONAL MATERIALS

Todd Little

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Olivier Reymond

NOVICE

- 1 Simon Crafts
- 2 Ben Huggett
- 3 Kevin Reynolds

COOPERATIVE

- 1 Dick & Jackie Maciel (Soft)
- 2 Kathy Nixie & Bailey (Flat)

TRAINS

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 William Schumacher	7.87	7.73	7.17	6.93	29.70
2 Cheryl Kear	7.47	7.63	7.00	7.27	29.37
3 Jackie Maciel	6.97	7.43	7.07	7.77	29.23

SKY DISPLAY

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Kevin Reynolds	7.83	7.93	7.53	7.73	31.03
2 Todd Little	7.87	7.73	7.43	7.30	30.33

SPORT KITE

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Will Sturdy	8.90	7.33	7.90	8.10	32.23
2 Doug Charleville	7.97	7.73	7.37	7.43	30.50
3 Dave Ashworth	----	----	8.10	7.57	15.67
4 Trevor Hughes	----	----	7.17	7.53	14.70

ROKKAKU

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Cheryl Kear	7.50	7.63	7.77	7.87	30.77
2 Kevin Reynolds	8.20	7.73	7.13	7.23	30.30
3 Olivier Reymond	6.93	7.90	7.00	7.60	29.43
4 Greg Lamoureux	6.93	7.23	6.83	6.83	27.83
5 Mike Mosman	5.50	6.63	7.43	7.37	26.93
6 Dave Ashworth	----	----	7.63	7.57	15.20
7 Kathy Nixie	----	----	6.00	5.50	11.50

FIGURE

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Todd Little	7.67	7.53	7.00	7.30	29.50
2 Trevor Hughes	7.67	7.40	7.17	6.83	29.07
3 Ray Bojarski	7.47	7.17	6.63	6.97	28.23

DELTA

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Ray Bojarski	8.00	7.60	7.30	7.47	30.37
2 Trevor Hughes	8.13	7.20	7.30	7.00	29.63
3 Will Sturdy	6.33	6.77	8.10	8.20	29.40
4 Kathy Nixie	----	----	6.50	6.70	13.20

FLAT

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Dick Maciel	7.13	7.57	8.07	8.00	30.77
2 Paul Fieber	7.87	7.53	7.37	7.63	30.40
3 Cheryl Kear	7.77	7.40	7.23	7.93	30.33
4 Trevor Hughes	7.80	6.70	6.87	6.60	27.97
5 Todd Little	5.38	6.87	7.23	7.07	26.54
Kathy Nixie & Bailey	----	----	6.20	6.17	12.37

SOFT/FLEXIBLE

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
Dick & Jackie Maciel	8.10	8.07	7.67	8.47	32.30
1 Kevin Reynolds	8.13	8.27	7.30	8.17	31.87
2 Trevor Hughes	7.27	7.00	7.13	7.57	28.97
3 Todd Little	7.27	6.87	7.17	7.57	28.87
4 Kathy Nixie	6.77	6.73	6.70	6.73	26.93

BOWED

	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Simon Crafts	7.47	8.13	8.17	8.60	32.37
2 Mike Mosman	7.47	7.77	8.47	8.33	32.03
3 Dick Maciel	7.93	8.10	7.60	8.30	31.93
4 Olivier Reymond	6.80	8.43	7.23	8.83	31.30
5 Phil Broder	7.83	7.93	7.67	7.60	31.03
6 Will Sturdy	5.90	8.00	8.33	8.67	30.90
7 Cheryl Kear	7.67	8.17	7.00	7.57	30.40
8 Trevor Hughes	7.20	7.67	7.33	7.07	29.27
9 Todd Little	7.63	7.00	7.07	7.43	29.13

CELLULAR/DIMENSIONAL

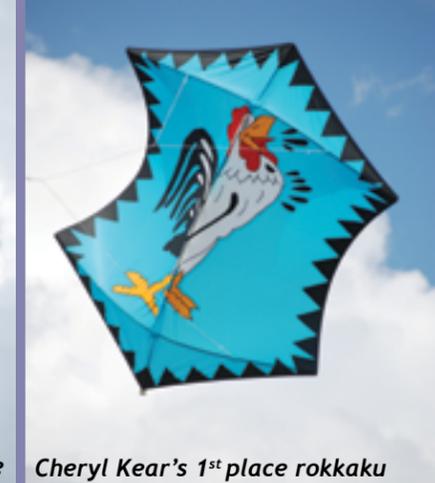
	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Simon Crafts	8.03	8.87	8.67	9.23	34.80
2 Ray Bojarski	8.33	8.10	8.23	8.20	32.87
3 Ben Huggett	8.03	8.70	7.80	7.40	31.93
4 Will Sturdy	7.53	7.50	7.90	8.27	31.20
5 Mike Mosman	7.70	7.07	8.40	8.00	31.17
6 Cheryl Kear	7.83	8.13	7.13	8.00	31.10
7 Trevor Hughes	7.97	7.40	7.90	7.70	30.97
8 Kevin Reynolds	7.47	7.77	7.03	7.07	29.33
9 Todd Little	7.17	7.57	7.33	7.10	29.17
10 Kathy Nixie	6.87	5.67	6.13	6.17	24.83

FIGHTER

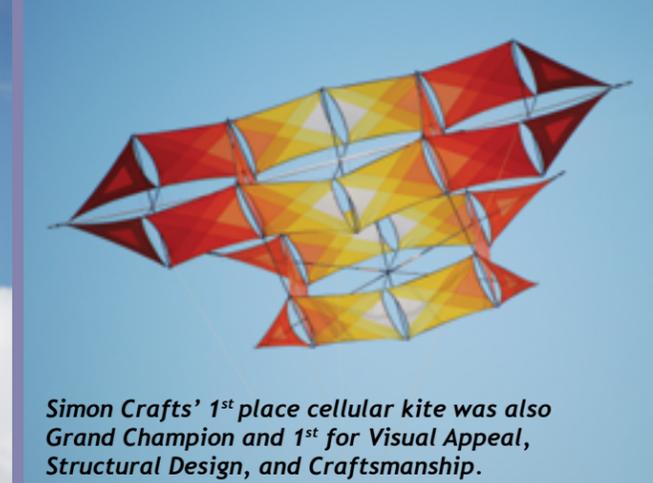
	FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM
1 Carl Anderson	8.17	7.50	7.27	7.83	30.77
2 James Gibson	7.70	7.60	7.37	7.87	30.53
3 William Schumacher	8.20	7.03	7.43	7.17	29.83
4 Phil Broder	7.37	7.73	7.20	7.43	29.73
5 Kathy Nixie	7.27	6.53	6.40	6.67	26.87



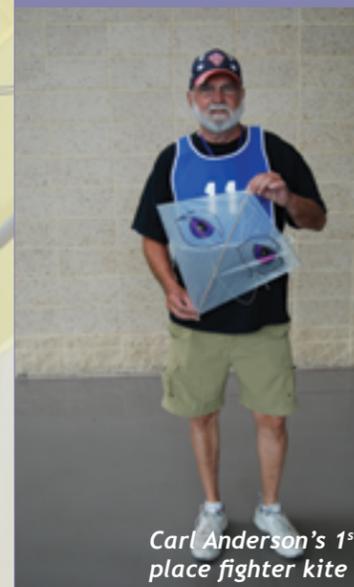
Simon Crafts' 1st place bowed kite



Cheryl Kear's 1st place rokkaku



Simon Crafts' 1st place cellular kite was also Grand Champion and 1st for Visual Appeal, Structural Design, and Craftsmanship.



Carl Anderson's 1st place fighter kite



Dick Maciel's 1st place flat kite



Will Sturdy's 1st place sport kite



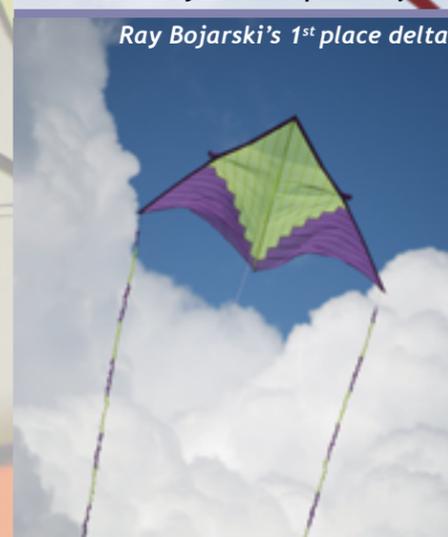
Todd Little's 1st place figure kite



Kevin Reynolds' 1st place soft kite



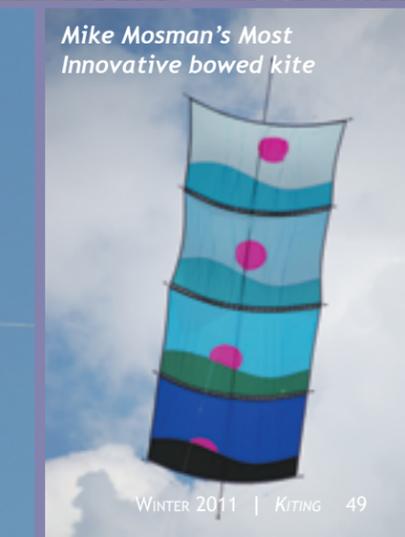
A portion of Kevin Reynolds' 1st place sky display



Ray Bojarski's 1st place delta



Bill Schumacher's 1st place train



Mike Mosman's Most Innovative bowed kite

BEST OF 2011 BY JIM POWERS



Canada-France-Hawaii
Telescope on Mauna Kea
by Pierre Lesage



Colosseum in Rome by Pierre Lesage



Kite Over Istanbul
by Jim Powers

The pictures (and the votes) are in for the 2011 AKA Members Choice KAP competition. A total of 161 votes were cast in this year's KAP competition with many fantastic photographs. The AKA members had a hard time picking out their favorite shot. Congratulations go to Darrin Skinner who won 1st place with his fantastic shot of *Bannerific Labyrinth*. Darrin gave this brief summary of the shot: "The photo was taken at Black Rock City, NV (a.k.a. Burning Man) on September 3, using an Olympus S790SW. The kite was a Dopero. The KAP rig is one of Brooks Leffler's Auto-KAP rigs. The wind was very light at around 4mph. This image was actually the third picture on the camera and was the best of the bunch." Well done! Also we had a tie for second place, so our honorable mentions go to Ivan Wolfson for *Crash* and myself for *Blue Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey*.

Finally, I would like to personally thank Dave Wheeler for running the KAP Members Choice event and all who contributed entries this year. The voting was very close. Behind our tie for second place were four other entries that were within five votes.

Enjoy the photos!



Crash by Ivan Wolfson



Intercontinental Resort, Tahiti by Heidy Baumgartner Lesage



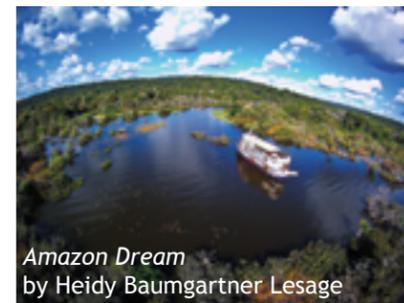
Flowers In The Sky by Darrin Skinner



Phoenix of Corolla by David Wheeler



Kites That Lift Cameras by Jim Powers



Amazon Dream
by Heidy Baumgartner Lesage



Ice Collage by Ivan Wolfson



Fafaite Outrigger Canoe in Tahiti
by Pierre Lesage

HIGH AS A KITE

BY ROBERT MOORE

We travelled again in September to Cable Downs, a 50,000 acre sheep station 40 kilometers northwest of Cobar in New South Wales, Australia. This was the sixth series of attempts on the world single kite altitude record. We had the same team for the third year in a row. AKS members Michael Richards, Mike Jenkins, Roger Martin and myself again combined their expertise to push the limits on the current world record and obliterated the Australian record to post an outstanding altitude of 14,121' above the launch point. This narrowly missed the world record of 14,509' claimed by a Canadian eleven years ago, and was 3,440' above last year's best of 10,681'.

Most of the week was characterised by very strong winds, heavy rain and cold. Four of the six days available on the seven day permit were cancelled due to adverse conditions. At least

there was plenty of wind, not the calm and marginal conditions of previous years. On Tuesday, September 27th, we launched at 9am after two hours of setup on the Cable Downs air strip. On board was a GPS telemetry unit transmitting posi-

tional and altitude data back to a ground receiver hooked to a laptop. We view the kite altitude and position live on laptop screen. Also onboard was a Garmin GPS unit that records all data for later download and a high intensity flashing LED. The kite rose rapidly to 4,000' courtesy of 8-20 knot winds, then a soft patch developed and the kite struggled to reach 5,000' on the back of 6-10 knot variable winds. After numerous release and retrieve winch operations, the kite finally rocketed up to 9,500' after three hours in the doldrums. Then a soft patch up to 11,000' delayed ascent for another 1½ hours. By this stage we were running out of time and our permit stipulated retrieval of the kite by last light at 7:30 pm. We broached 14,000' at 3:30 pm and it looked like we had the world record in the bag. However, the kite hovered between 14,000' and 14,100', touching 14,121'.

We ran out of time to work the line further, so it's disappointing not to have the record but gratifying that we genuinely achieved over 14,000' above ground level. Retrieval was surprisingly rapid with the kite coming down two hours and twenty minutes, the strobe light visible flashing brilliantly from 5,000' down. Just on last light we packed up and headed back for dinner and a few beers and red wines. That night the heavens opened up heralding two days of rain, storms and high winds. Two days wait then Friday's high drama.

On Friday, September 30th, we dared fly in winds at the very upper end of the kite's and equipment's limits. We were running out of days with our return to Sydney looming, so when you're going for records you have to push the limits and sometimes go over them.

We launched at 9:30 AM with a 8-10 knot ground wind. At 4,000' the radio aerial fell off the kite transmitter so we had



to reel back in and replace the aerial. I used the opportunity to walk up to the homestead to use the Internet, downloading wind data from the morning's balloon flight at the Cobar Weather Station. Back in the air at 11am with a new aerial and we reached 5,000' quickly. The wind data from 9:30am indicated a soft patch at 4,000' then an increase above 5,000', but not like we encountered at noon. Then the struggle against big winds started. We have a 12 km line set that consists of 6 km of 191# Dyneema spliced to 6km of 289# Dyneema. We reached 12,700' then the line broke. After examining the GPS telemetry data I saw that the kite was flying in 59 knot winds. We don't know if the line pull exceed line strength, if there was a flaw in the line or we inadvertently damaged the line a couple of hours earlier. Perhaps it was only a minor abrasion but enough for a line stretched to maximum tension to find a weak point. We will never know the cause of the break unless we have access to a materials scientist to examine the fibres with a microscope. The kite was tracked down to 550' and 19.2 km to the east before the signal was blocked below the tree line. We winched over 6 km of line in through trees and scrub and surprisingly it came in with little tension from friction. 2280 meters of line was still attached to the kite. The descent rate was more than expected with a 3/1 glide ratio and sometimes a vertical descent speed of 20 knots. Having tracked the kite to close to ground level it will be relatively easy to recover. Key S31.2668 E145.7457 into Google Earth and you will see the location. As it's within the prospecting precinct of Endeavour mine and only a few hundred meters from the mine railway, mine personnel will look for the kite.

We are very pleased with our altitude reached despite the drama and will be back next year with an even better strategy and equipment. DSM Dyneema, my major sponsor, is considering my request for 18,000 meters of various lines to replace lost or damaged line and also make up alternate line sets to better match conditions. Doug LaRock is building a running line hydraulic tensio-

meter. Some of the Kitebuilder's Forum members are thinking improvements to the kite such as an automatic angle of attack device. We feel it is inevitable that we break the record.



Kite Aerial Photograph of the Year: *Bannerific Labyrinth* by Darrin Skinner

Friday, March 30th - 9a.m. - 2p.m. (Student Day)
Saturday & Sunday, March 31st & April 1st - 11a.m. - 6p.m.
"Classic Sounds by Jude"

West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex
Highway 415 @ Rosedale Rd. Exit #151 off I-10
Special room rates available - Contact WBR CVB 225-344-2920



For event information, field trip bookings or to volunteer:
800-654-9701 www.westbatonrouge.net



Dick and Jackie Maciel's *Stars & Stripes* flies over the Wildwoods Convention Center

