

Autumn 2012
Volume 34 Issue 3

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The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

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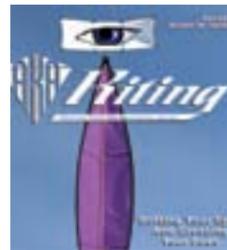
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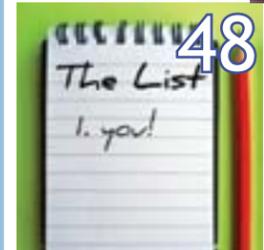
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Send address changes to
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Founded in 1964 by Robert M. Ingraham, the American Kitefliers Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public in the art, history, technology, and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

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This is my twelfth and last message to you as president. The last three years have been a pretty intense roller coaster ride. Once again this year, the AKA will end the year with more money in the bank than we began the year with. Our reserves are slowly building up to a more comfortable level. Kudos to Cliff Quinn, our treasurer, and Mel Hickman, our executive director, for keeping a daily watch on each expenditure, no matter how small, and on our accounts receivable to be sure we collect all that is owed us. After the first, and only, audit of the books two years ago, the membership has more confidence in the security of our systems.

Our editor, Phil Broder, continues to do a masterful job with our premier product, *Kiting*. What I hear is that every issue is better than the last, don't you agree? He also found a new printer that specializes in niche publications such as ours. Just this year, that simple change saved us over \$2000 and brought full color to every page. Each quarter sees additional information made available online as *Kiting+*. Back issues of *Kiting* over five years old are now open online for the general public to enjoy.

Every day, especially now with the details of convention needing to be finalized, we miss our previous convention management team, Cameo Management led by Maggie Vohs. The savings and reduction in convention registration fee have been delightful, but the work load generated has not been. Your next administration will have some big decisions to make. Do we continue with volunteers filling in? Do we again have a full-time convention manager? Do we have a blend of the two?

Two years ago we introduced an updated website. Through the work of John Gillespie and Susan Skinner, we are able to bring even more information to our members and the general public. Their work has also automated many chores that previously were done manually. Membership renewals, notices of expiring memberships, and convention registration are just a few of the items. Search engines find our site and bring new visitors daily.

Even though insurance is costing us close to \$25,000 a year, sanctioning fees were reduced to \$100 or less for every event. This is truly a membership benefit that needs to be easily available and affordable to all events.

Last year we listened to the membership through surveys and other feedback to reinvigorate the convention. The most often expressed comments were: 1) too expensive 2) too much competition 3) not enough time or space to just fly and 4) no

involvement of the public. This year in Enid, you will experience many changes. Your old favorites are still there, but modified. One session of workshops each day, not two. Grab something for lunch, head to the field. Put up your kites and enjoy. Acres of room for you to drive out and park on the fields. Beautiful wide open spaces just calling for some color in the skies.

Competition will be held Tuesday through Thursday. Friday and Saturday are festival days. On Friday, John Barresi and Ben Dantonio will do learn to fly lessons in the morning, and then hang out for the afternoon as the group decides what to do. Will it be a mega-fly, team training, demos, or what? Come out and held put on the show!

On Saturday, Troy Gunn and Team TKO step up. Dual-line learn to fly and then mystery ballet in the afternoon for your participation and enjoyment. Everyone is welcome to enter, not just qualified competitors.

After the mass ascensions, there will be themed flies, just for fun. Check the schedule elsewhere, and pull out some kites you haven't flown in a while.

Every year we do rokkaku battles, single and team. This year we have added mini-rok battles for the kids of Enid. At the same time, there will be bol races for the public to experience the power that kites can exert.

All in all, too much fun to squeeze into one week!

At the same time, I'd be lying if there was no mention of the challenges that continue to face the AKA. Just as we were recovering from the decade following 9/11, the stock market and the housing market crashed in 2009. Both of these had a huge impact on our membership. Many members who were previously financially secure, now had a major change in employment and income. Although you can go a long time without a new kite, justifying a membership is harder without a steady paycheck.

How do we reach out to a younger demographic that is used to accessing information digitally, not via print? At the same time, people in their twenties are emerging from college with massive debt, and bleak job outlook. Can the AKA hang on until they have time and money to come back?

The AKA depends on volunteers. Who will step up to take on additional responsibilities? Who will bring new passions, energies, and vision to take us forward? It is easy to criticize, but to formulate solutions is much harder.

There are still geographic divisions. When can the perceived slights and hurts of the past be buried? Each new administration deserves your wholehearted support and a chance to stand on their own record.

Many people help run this association. Thanks to each and every one who has volunteered in any way, especially the Board of Directors. The directors devote time and resources to keeping the AKA on track.

It has been (mostly) a pleasure and always an honor to serve as your president. I am looking forward to building more kites; flying more kites; traveling to festivals; attending (and teaching) kite retreats; weeding my garden; maybe even cleaning the house; and NOT spending hours every day on the computer.

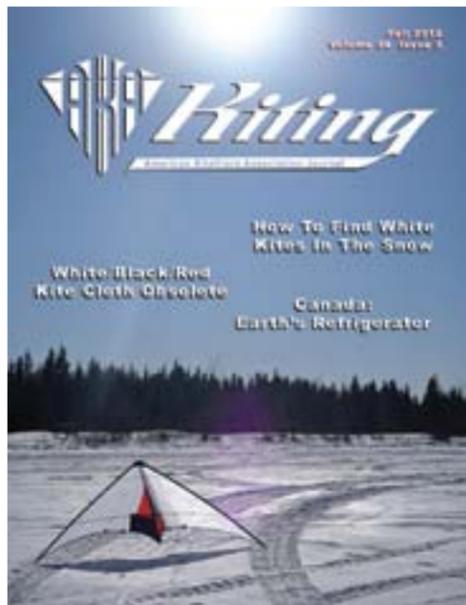
Your support has been much appreciated. Until I see you on a field somewhere, good-bye for now.



At the Route 66 Kite Festival, Barbara Meyer introduces kiteflying to Cindy Reptogle of Modern Litho, Kiting's printer.

Time to fly!

Barbara Meyer



Adam Dawe



Doug Isherwood



John Chilese



Jim Fielder



John King

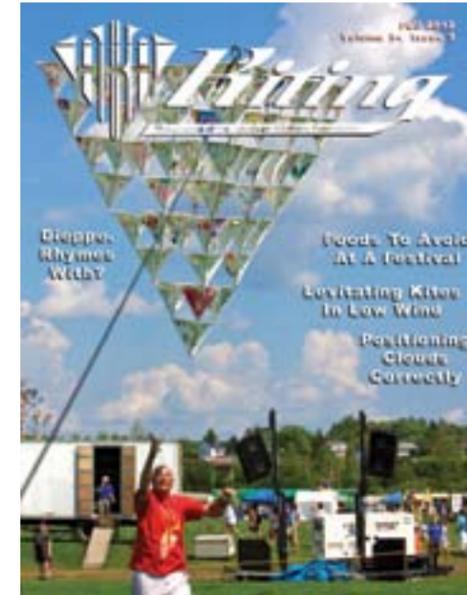


Anthony Eichele

UNDER COVER

There are plenty of great kite photos out there, and only four issues of *Kiting* each year, which can make choosing a cover photo tough. But if you can't get your picture on the cover, you can still submit it to the GWTW Forum contest organized by John Chilese. He's taken these photos, added the *Kiting* masthead and some humorous text, and voilà, eighteen alternate covers.

- What's it take to get a photo on the cover? Follow these tips to improve your kite photography...
- Set your camera for the highest possible image size, at least 11"x13". Those cell phone pix and 4"x6" snapshots just aren't big enough to use on the cover.
 - Take a picture of something, not everything. Wide shots that try to take in the whole festival just end up looking like lots of dots on a blue background.
 - Look for unique kites. The cover should feature something we haven't seen before, or something familiar done in a new way.
 - Add people. Getting the flyer and the kite in the shot together can be tricky (it helps to get down on the ground!), but it's more visually interesting to have something in the shot besides just the kite surrounded by sky.
 - Leave some space. There has to be room around every side of the picture for it to "bleed" off the page, which is then trimmed off by the printer. If the subject of your photo fills the frame, some of it is going to get chopped off.
 - Leave some more space. It's helpful to have some empty space to put text into.
 - Think tic-tac-toe. Imagine a tic-tac-toe board in your viewfinder. The best photos will have the subject centered on the intersections of the lines, not in the center square.
 - Take several shots of the same thing. The chances of getting a great photo with one click are slim, so take a bunch of the same thing. Move around a little to get some different angles. Then, choose the best one and delete the rest.
 - Get past the clutter. How many times have you taken a great shot, only to find the back of someone's head in the foreground? Move forward, and get out of the crowd.
 - Have confidence. It doesn't matter if you're a professional or not, anyone can take a great picture. If think you can't, then you probably won't. ☒



Doug Isherwood

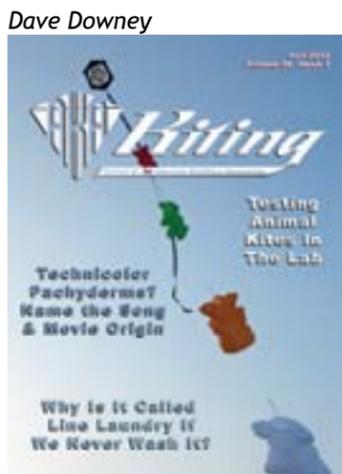


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Francisco Navarro

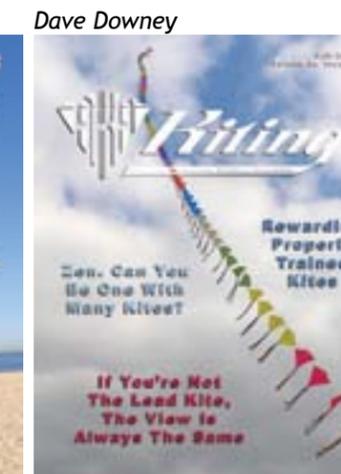
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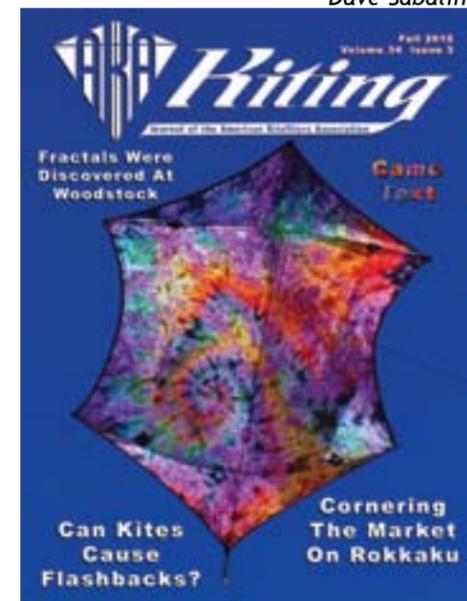
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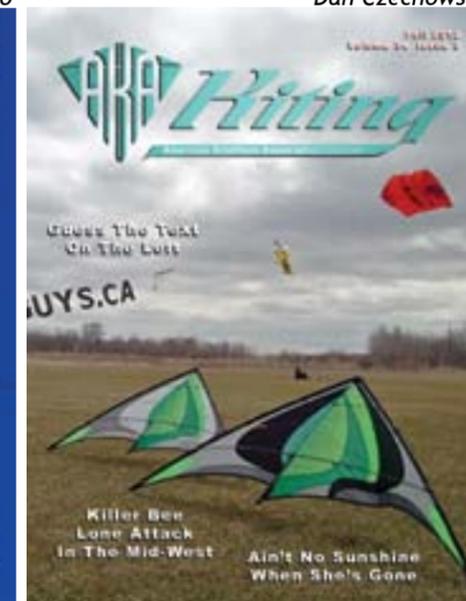
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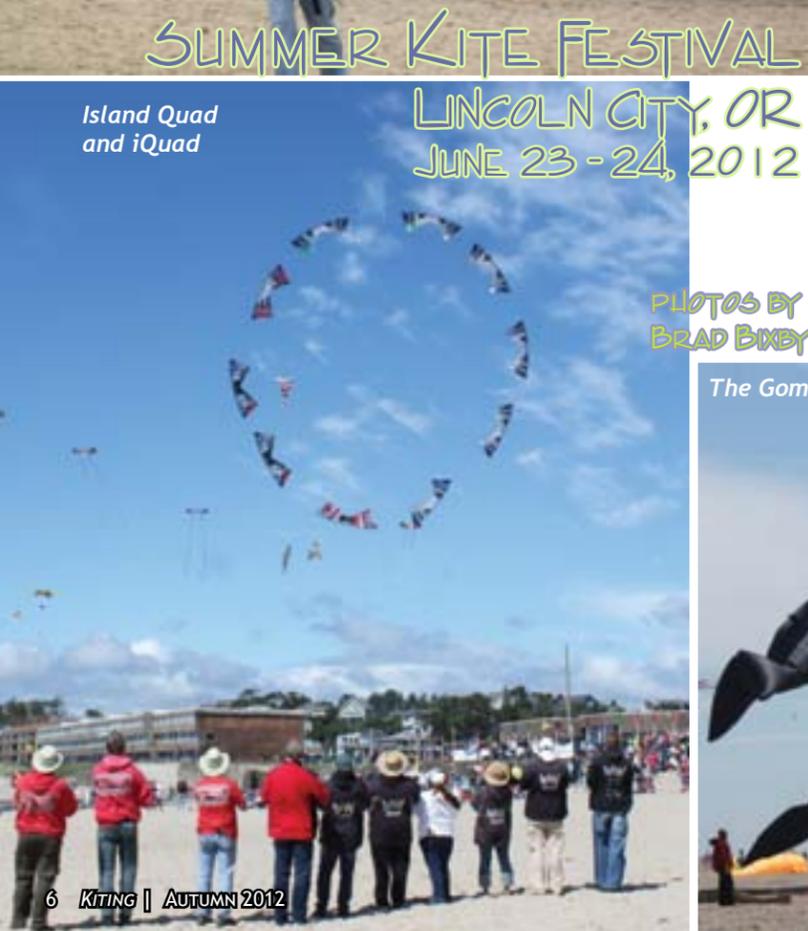
Connor Doran



Ron Gibian



Island Quad: Terry Wiggle, Brad Bixby, Mike Tracy, and Mario diLucca



SUMMER KITE FESTIVAL

LINCOLN CITY, OR
JUNE 23 - 24, 2012

Island Quad and iQuad

PHOTOS BY
BRAD BIXBY



The Gomberg whales with a Martin Blais bol.

THE KITE EXPERIENCE

By CHASE REPLOQUE

Third grade. It's hard to remember back that far but I think that was the last time I flew a kite. It was a dollar store Star Wars kite. Cheap plastic with some flimsy poles, it was fairly obvious that it was designed to look good in the package, not in the sky. Honestly, that kite is about the extent of my experience with kites. I have never really been short on hobbies though. I love fly fishing, home remodeling, and I have a big obsession with trying every bottle of root beer I can get my hands on. Flying kites has never made it on the list. In fact, I had never really even considered it as a hobby. People fly kites?

My mom works for Modern Litho, a printing company that prints *Kiting* magazine for the AKA. She specializes in helping people print and deliver newsletters and magazines around the world. Usually they are full of interesting and unique hobbies. From steam-powered backyard train sets to insulator collectors, the world is in no short supply of hobbies to try or things to collect. When my mom invited me to tag along on a trip to Joplin, Missouri, for the weekend, I was more than willing. Any kid, even adult ones, enjoys free meals.

The itinerary for the weekend was designed around the event, Kites Over Route 66. Because my mom's company prints *Kiting* and the Joplin event was close by, it gave her a chance to meet some of the association's officers. I was simply along for the ride.

As we pulled into the gravel parking lot for the event, it was impossible to miss the kites. These were not the dollar store versions of my childhood. Kites the size of cars rotated, spun, and glided through the air trailing colorful tails. Other smaller kites twisted and twirled like acrobats just over the ground. What I had expected to be a short walk through to say hello, turned into much more. Everyone we passed was more than willing to visit, explaining the various kites, how they had been constructed, and sharing their love for the hobby. I could try and explain all the kites we observed that day, but if you're reading this magazine, you undoubtedly already know the kind of event I'm describing. You have seen the kites, sewn the fabric, and caught the wind. You probably have a pretty good idea of what I experienced that afternoon.



Park Fleming's new 11' delta, made of bubble wrap.

While I can't say I ran home and built my first kite, the event left a big impression. But even more than the kites were the people. Friendly and passionate about their hobby, they were great evangelists for kite lovers everywhere.

I have a lot of hobbies and though none of mine involve kites, in many ways they are all the same. Hobbies are about so much more than the collections on the shelf or the latest new gear. Their real value is the experience. It's the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, to make new friends, and to pass on our interests to others. Hobbies provide an opportunity to escape the grind of life and experience something new. They are all an adventure, the pursuit of new experiences. That's the real collection. In that way, as diverse as our hobbies can be, they really are all the same.

I hear there is a big kite event coming up in October in Oklahoma. It's not too far from my home and I think my parents and I may make the drive over to see it. It will be an experience, another one to add to the shelf. If nothing else, I know I can count on meeting a lot of interesting people, passionate about their kites.

Until then, I'll continue to enjoy my root beer; you keep flying kites. At some point I'm sure our paths will cross again. Thanks for the experience. ☒

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RUNWAY SHOW

By CARLOS SIMOES

This Saint-Honore, Quebec, festival is a world class kiting event! This was the 14th annual edition, set at the Chicotimi-Saint-Honore Aerodrome Airport. Flying kites at an active airport is a very unique feeling. Each year the festival features vintage, modern and military aircraft, a carnival with interactive activities for the public, and of course, major kite flying demonstrations. One runway is left open for aircraft to take off and land while the rest is divided up into demonstration fields for us to fly our kites. A large group of traction people take over one of the closed runways and buggy all day long.

It is truly amazing to see and hear a Canadian Air Force F-18 jet performing fly-bys while you are flying kites just a couple of hundred yards away. The canary yellow WWII Harvard trainer has very distinctive sounding twin props and was also a big crowd pleaser!

This annual event extols the warmth of the Quebec people. The men greet each other with handshakes and will add a hug for good friends new and old. You also exchange double kisses with all the ladies. It's all very European! The community volunteers are the backbone of this massive event. They really go out of their way to ensure we all feel at home. Heck, by the end of the event we were hugging all of volunteers and cooking staff!

Saint-Honore is two hours north of

Quebec City. It's a terrific scenic drive through one of Canada's best preserved national forests. Several of the international fliers stopped along the route for their "Kodak moment" in the wild. Many get a kick out of the "Beware of Moose Crossing" signs along the highway. I have seen several photos on Facebook with these fun images.

This event features some of the best flyers from around the world. This of course includes some great homegrown Canadian and American talent too! Team Think Big and Team Chaoskiter are from Germany. From Spain there was Los Hermanos Gonzalez. Finally, Italy was represented by Claudio Capelli.

Christian Laskowski and Alex Ruger



Carlos Simoes' Celtic Dogs

of Team Think Big had some fun inflatables. There were huge bugs known as Zum Zums, Bob the Builder and some funky sharks too! Walter and Stefan Bloem of Team Chaoskiter had superhero bears and several inflatable French Asterix characters. Pedro and Esteban Gonzalez of Los Hermanos brought some Red Devils and Chinese Opera Mask kites. Claudio Capelli is a master painter. He flies amazing art work on framed kites. In the sky his kites look like floating art.

Canada has its own well-known kites artists such as Robert Trepanier and Jacques Letourneau. The images range from traditional Quebec art to haunting human forms to whimsical historical themes. Christine McGee and Daniel Remillard are also kite artists but it's



Claudio Capelli

their night flight set of banners that I will remember best. Also featured were traditional appliqued kites by Michele Berube, Normand Girard, Carl Bigras, Andre Bernard, Dave Robinson and Rene Campeau. They featured unique framed kites that look like sea life, funky aliens, mad cows and serpents! Some pretty incredible pieces! Of course my buddy Gary Mark and I were there with our large show kites and some homemade ones too. Quebec has a large group of quad- and dual-line flyers. Jean Lamoureux is the sole Canadian member of the Windjammers and performed several demonstrations for the crowd with his Canadian themed stack of kites. Jean Lemire is one of the few people that can fly three stunt kites together. He is the perfect example of great Quebec talent! Over on the traction kites' runway one particular homemade buggy had seating for four people. It was awesome to see the group travelling together up and down the runway! Sometimes you just have to sit back for a bit and take it all in.

The USA was also well represented with John Barresi and Steve DeRooy of iQuad. I know they had a great time fly-

John Barresi and Steve DeRooy



A Jacques Letourneau kite

ing with the huge group of Quebec quad fliers. Some of the Quebec flyers include Veronique Regimbald, Jean-Pierre St-Denis, Sylvain Gagnon, Dominic Guimond and Jessica LaMarche. I flew beside kite historian Meg Albers and was impressed with her varied kite collection. She has beautiful kites large and small and even one or two prototypes from people like Martin Lester and Peter Lynn. Thom Shanken is also a well-known kite historian. He was there flying his own kites with 2011 AKA award winner Kevin Reynolds. Kevin has some fantastic huge colorful foils. Don Tuff and Kim Linehan just picked up a new Martin Blais foil and basket. Martin's kites are covered with clownfish and sharks and were the jewel of the show kites.

This year's night fly was second to none. The music, lights and choreography were put together by Normand Girard. Helping him was expert Rev flyer Patrice Perron. Patrice is the only kite-flier at the event who actually lives in Saint-Honore. It's a huge job to organize all those lights, music, and fliers. The night flight started simply with some funky music. Then, the spotlights were turned on to reveal a deep sea wind



Walter Bloem

garden. The banners and ground display fluttered in the fresh night winds. The scene quickly took to life as a troupe of mermaid dancers emerged from the wind garden. What a terrific performance! Kites were added a few at a time until the sky was filled with kites of every type. Everyone involved enjoyed it immensely! I have seen several large scale night flies before, including Verdun and Dieppe, but this stands out as the best I have ever participated in.

You can't forget the fine hosts of this kite event. Special kiter's liaison, Henri Bouchard, drove around in his little white golf cart all weekend. He told a few jokes here and there, but more importantly made sure all was well with everyone. I will always remember



A pair of Robert Trepanier qdlines.

Marc Ahern. He is the air traffic controller at the airport and our personal kiting weather guy for the weekend! Marc would give us weather reports each morning and advise on what was landing and taking off on the open runway. He would also wander the fields a few times each day to give us current wind forecasts and warn of any changing weather conditions. I recall in 2008 that Mark walked out to the flying field to tell us all to take our kites down immediately. He said we had 15 minutes until a major rain and lightning front would cover the



A delta by Eric Curtis and Anne Sloboda

field. He was 100% correct with his 15 minute prediction. It rained so much that day that Mark took us on a personal tour of the control tower! Brigitte Bussieres and Lucien Villeneuve are the husband and wife team who organize this fine event. Three days of flying and a perfect night fly, what more could you ask for? 2013 will mark year fifteen. Brigitte and Lucien are promising that it will be the biggest event yet! Thanks to all of the festival organizers and festival volunteers. It was my third trip to Saint-Honore and it was the best one yet! ☒



More photos!



It takes a village to move an anchor.

Claudio Capelli





Once again, a beautiful woman (in this case, Miss America) pays no attention to Pete Dolphin.



A Tony Reiser cellular



27th WILDWOODS INT'L KITE FESTIVAL WILDWOOD NJ MAY 25 - 28, 2012



Beatrix Pelton and Harlem Globetrotter Blenda Rodriguez prove that you can spin a basketball on anything.



London Calling: Alden Miller won Judges' Choice and \$100 with this quadline creation.



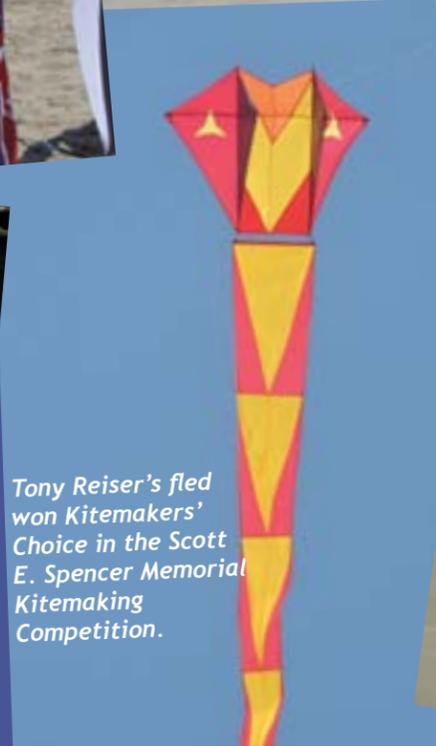
Mike Mosman



Paul Koenig



Paul Dugard



Tony Reiser's fled won Kitemakers' Choice in the Scott E. Spencer Memorial Kitemaking Competition.



Ian Willoughby



Torrey Lindemann



Phil Broder's Mad At The Shore



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EVERY JUNE 17TH...

BY TILL KRAPP

Some years ago there was a group of enthusiastic young kite-flier friends in Germany, who founded the German Kite Flier Association. They spoke about the possibilities of flying kites during the day and night. Where is such a place with steady wind? Wolfgang Schimmelpfenning reported that on the island of Fanø, Denmark, where his parents have spent their holidays for years, there is fantastic weather conditions and space, space, space!

So a group of 38 people, including wives and children, went in 1985 to Fanø to see if this is right. At that time June 17 was an official holiday in Germany. It was helpful to choose a holiday weekend for more time in Fanø. This is more or less the foundation of the kite fliers meeting at Fanø.

In the following years, always on the weekend nearest June 17, the kitefliers come together to fly their kites, just for fun. No commercial background! No championships!

Today for many participants one weekend is not enough time. They spend their whole vacation on this marvelous island. That is the reason that you can see the kite spectacle many days before and after June 17.

Over the time the enthusiasm swapped over to all our kite friends worldwide and today it is really an International Kite Fliers Meeting. And a tourist spectacle! ☺

The bol of many umbrellas.



A pair of Michele Gressier kites.



A Brasington fan



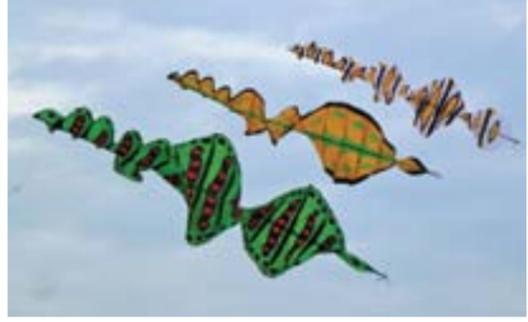
Robert Brasington



PHOTOS BY CAT GABREL, JIM DAY, AND BOB & CHARMAYNE LIMBOWERS



A trio of Peter Schmidt kites.



More from Michele Gressier



A vintage kite, made by Peter Van Erkel's mother in 1965.



This bol has 5700 pieces of fabric!

Cat Gabrel soaks up the Danish sun.



Getting ready for some serious wind.



A Michele Gressier arch



Erhard Kunzelmann's Leonardo

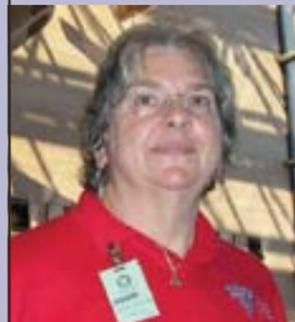


Matthias Grimm, Wolfgang Bieck, Jim Day and Ralf Beutnagel



REGIONAL REPORTS

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



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End of term: 2013

In May Steve Santos held a no-sew banner making workshop led by Dick Maciel. The seven Revolution fliers attending made Bargello style Rev banners and learned many techniques that can be applied to future projects. This workshop filled up as soon as it was announced, so we may see another one in the near future. Steve cannot say enough about Dick's skills in leading this very interesting clinic.

Mother's Day was the date of the Hammonasset Kite Festival. This year people all over the region attended this fun fly. ConnectiKites had their monthly fly at the event and several large kites were put up.

I heard from Don McCasland that Kites Over New England (KONE) worked with Blue Hill Observatory to continue the 127 year history of kites with over 30 kitemaking workshops in May and June. Over 600 students aged 4 to 74 learned how to build their own kite and fly them at the oldest weather station still operating in the USA. Blue Hill Observatory also participated in the Boston Kite Festival and Circle the City at Franklin Park; Lex Fly A Kite in conjunction with KONE Mother's Day in Lexington, MA; and had a red, white and blue fly on Memorial Day at Great Blue Hill.

At the Rev banner workshop



This is from the Nor'Easters Kite Club: "We held the 3rd annual Bug Light Kite Festival in South Portland on May 19. With the South Portland Historical Society, KONE and the Nor'Easters Kite Club we had a great day of kites, food and music. Featured were Hank Manseau with a Mega Ray and Jan Helbers who managed several candy drops. Between the candy drops and the bol racing, hundreds of kids were entertained."

The June monthly ConnectiKITEs fly was a fantastic event for one 94-year-old visitor. She had on her bucket list to fly a kite before she died. As a child she was never allowed to fly a kite. She was told "Girls did not fly kites." She had a kite put in her hands and sat and flew it for some time. To complete her experience we had her make her own kite to fly and take home to keep.



The ConnectiKites helped check kiteflying off this woman's bucket list.

The traction kites from Nahant Beach put on a show for the people coming to see the July 4th fireworks display. It was a nice day for the kites and the public.

From Archie Stewart: "June 30 was the kick-off of the Marblehead Festival of Arts, and once again members of Kites Over New England and I added to the many other holiday events by watching kids of all ages make and fly their own kites on a beautiful and windy summer day. This festival has been in existence since 1962. It is held town wide in one of New England's oldest sailing ports. Kites Over New England is relatively new partner to the event, as it was originally hosted by John Ruggiero in 1998, who made kites for town residents the first few years. After a few years of assisting John, I took over the festival, enlisting KONE to get out there and show

the many visitors to the beach all the aspects of kiting. With the help of John Ruggiero, Dan and Michelle Delpapa, John DiMatteo, Glenn Davison, Gary Quinton and Judy McGinnes, we made in excess of 150 kite kits."

New York Kite Enthusiasts attended the 5th Keene Valley Kite Fest and Farmer's Market on Father's Day. This was our fourth year of participation and it gets better each year. The event is sponsored by the East Branch Friends of the Arts and members of EBFA provide housing for fliers and a Welcome Dinner the night before the event. This year's theme was poetry in the haiku form. A booklet was published with a selection of haiku, including poems by NYKE members.

The Newport Kite Festival put on by Ron Kitt of Kitt Kites had lots of kites in the air on two days with nice wind. On the main field many demos of dual-line, quad-line, fighter kites and roks were flown. Gary Engvall, helped by a group of spectators, launched a couple of large show kites.

Region One had a busy summer on the calendar. I wish to thank everyone who contributed to this report. I am looking forward to seeing you on the flying field.

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



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End of term: 2013

This is what's been happening in our Region Two area....

Andy Gelinis sends, "Pocono Kite Symphony was at the Mt. Laurel Festival at Big Pocono Mountain. Nothing like being on top of the mountain with beautiful scenery trying to figure out which way the wind will swirl next, taking your kite in yet another direction. Fun! PKS has been busy doing Kids Kitebuilds at schools and summer camps. We have also been doing workshops making repairs and new flags. Trying to keep kiting alive in eastern Pennsylvania!"



Between indoor performances in China in June, Lisa Willoughby makes a furry new friend.

Todd Little writes, "The Keystone Kites held their annual summer kite-making retreat, making the "Magic" Delta. Cliff Quinn once again provided marvelous instruction. The club also plans to host the Mystery Kite Mass Ascension at the AKA Convention."

Andy Selzer reports, "SJKE fun flies are going great this summer. After a one day rain delay the Brigantine fighter kite festival was moved up to Long Beach Island so that Lisa Willoughby could get in on the action. Bob Hegman also attended all the way from Michigan." FYI, Andy won, Lisa was 2nd, Bob 3rd. After the AKA Convention, SJKE will have its 18th Anniversary Bash in North Wildwood on October 14. The club is also planning another meeting at the Gramkowski's home in Haddonfield, NJ, as Fran and Mary continue to clean out their basement and sell off all sorts of vintage kites, buggies, fabric, magazines, and other kite detritus at bargain prices.

Hello kitefliers. As I write this it has "cooled down" to 88", even here in the

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



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End of term: 2013

Shenandoah Valley. Since the end of National Kite Month things have slowed somewhat but there was still kiting to be found in May, June and July. Atlantic Coast Kite Festival at Virginia Beach and Portsmouth closed out NKM with a wonderful two day event. Despite low winds there were demonstrations all day. During part of the event a large American Flag was unfurled with the help of passersby. A squad of cheerleaders from their national competition stopped to help out. AKA members from NC, VA, MD and DC showed up to help, along with a few from farther away.

The 19th of May brought the 7th annual Quetzal Kite Festival in Fluvanna County, VA, at Pleasant Grove Park. About a dozen fliers from RAF and WOW performed all day and the kids enjoyed racing with bols. Thanks to Lawrence Levine for organizing the day.

Old Dominion Sport Kite Championships returned for the 20th year at Dorey Park outside Richmond on June 16. I had the opportunity to serve as head judge for this event and oversaw everything from first time Novice fliers to the superb performances of Masters. Fliers came from all over the East Coast for this competition and with 28 competitors this was the biggest event of the year. The competition was held mostly in one day, and the evening closed with a wonderful meal at the home of Janis Worth and Terry Murray. Everyone is looking forward to next year, and Marc Conklin, organizer, said he will once again have a two day schedule so it will be more relaxed.

Traditionally, the Canaan Valley Resort invites a few fliers to put on kite flying demonstrations over the 4th of July, but this year they moved it to the weekend after. Saturday and Sunday there were single line, dual-line, and quad-line demonstrations and plenty of help for the spectators who wanted to fly their own kites. The kids got into the act by making sled kites at the nature center under the guidance of WOW members. The same weekend brought back the New Era Kite Festival near Ripley, WV, organized by Max Barker and the New Era Kite Club. Max is one of the most prolific organizers in our Region with four or more events each year.

The rest of July and August were quiet and hot in our area but Labor Day brought an opportunity for fliers to go just south of our border to the Mile High festival in Beech Mountain, NC.

September 15-16 is the super Novice friendly event known as RWRSKC



Rich Mervine at Wildwood

(Richmond-Washington Regional Sport Kite Competition) in Taylor Park, near Ashland, VA. This event posts the three figures for the novices so they know what to practice. On the day of the event the novices are paired with an experienced flier who helps them go through the figures again, and shows them other things about flying. At the briefing, everything possible is done to help these new fliers understand what will happen, and make them as comfortable as possible. The Open classes uses some of the same figures so the Novices get to see them again, then the Novices fly.

One week after the AKA convention will be the competition in the Outer Banks at Kill Devil Hills, NC, where the Wright Brothers had their first powered flight. This is also the last outdoor competition most of us get to until the spring. Please let me know of your plans for winter events, building workshops, etc. and I will gladly announce them for you. I hope to see you on a kite field somewhere.

Hello Region Four! The weather in the region has been hot, hot, hot! Also, humid! Hopefully some of you have braved the weather and found wind and gotten out to fly.

One of the great parts of being the Regional Director is that you get to see all aspects of kiting, from demonstrations at local schools, all the way to the AKA National Convention. During National Kite Month my lovely wife Laura put on an event at one of the local preschools, taking a bunch of prebuilt kites and a few of our regular kites as examples, along with a slide show and video of kites flying. I received a call,

"There's no wind?!", to which I replied, "You have over 20 little wind generators!" Bol races and running with their kites, the children all loved it, and the teachers were intrigued. Another success.

We also get to see the formation of new clubs, the joining of new members, and new member merchants. In our region we've had two new clubs form recently and a new kite store in the Atlanta area, Piedmont Kites. If you are in the Atlanta area check them out.

John McEntire in North Carolina writes, "We had good flying for several days around July 4 here in Holden Beach and attracted really big crowds. We actually stopped traffic again on the main drag. Someone unknown posted on YouTube this video about the "awesome windsocks". www.youtube.com/watch?v=anJRKYPCNIY

At the end of flying on the 4th I had a ton of "help." I was showing people how to help handle the octopus and of the eight who had hold of tentacles, only one followed instructions. It took at least twice as long to bag Ursula than usual and it'll be days getting her untangled and ready to fly. However all the helpers enjoyed doing it and at least there were another 15 people helping



A pair of Floridians, Curtiss Mitchell and Heather Henson, were joined by Lisa Willoughby and Heather Morrow for a series of indoor performances in China in May and June.

lug all the junk over the dunes to the road at the end of the day.

As always keep your eye on the Region Four Event Calendar. That is the resource for all events in the region. If you have an event, post it there so that everyone will know. At the end of your event, send me a quick couple of lines and some pictures so that I can include your event highlights in the Region Four updates.

As you have probably seen by now, the AKA is doing good financially. Our President, Barbara Meyer, held her last online Board of Directors meeting before convention which will then be her last meeting. Many thanks to Barb for all of her hard work as our President.

Go out and fly something. Keep the wind at your back!

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



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Region 5 ~ Great Lakes MI-OH



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End of term: 2014

Hello again from Region Five. We had a very busy spring, a slower summer and only have a couple of events left this season.

St John's Splash Park Kite Festival was a fun first time festival held at Uncle John's Cider Mill in St. Johns, MI. We flew singles and pairs ballet. Terry McPherson MC'd a fighter kite battle, and provided a fascinating history and explanation of fighter kites. The Blues Brothers had two rok battles on light lines so it wouldn't take too long. Each won one battle. We did two candy drops. The Mint Queen and her court presided over the second drop. We gave learn-to-fly lessons. The weather didn't cooperate. It cleared up in St Johns, but thunder and lightning in nearby Lansing

kept the crowds at bay, and even some of the kites turned back. Despite the low turnout, they plan to try again in 2013. We are looking forward to it. I'll post it on the AKA events calendar as soon as we know the date.

The Great Lakes Kite Festival was great fun and well attended as usual. The weather was great. This is currently the biggest kite festival in Michigan. If you've never been to a kite festival, this is a great one.

South Lyon Township was bigger than ever this year and continues to get better. We struggled with too much wind, with gusts exceeding 50MPH proving sufficient to tear two of the big kites free of their mooring. [See page 56.] They proceeded to wrap around some nearby power lines which proved exciting for a time. The only long term damage was the loss of the large inflatable penguin. Darryl Waters wanted me to thank everyone who assisted with recovering his kites.

Michigan KiteFest was held in Milwaukee this year. We welcomed Georgia Bean as a new novice, and met Donn Boring and Siddha Pinabella for the first time.

The only event I know of after you receive this issue is the 34th Annual Frank Mots Kite Festival, at Veteran's Park,

in Milwaukee on September 8-9. This is always a great festival and very well attended when the weather cooperates. This is the largest gathering of world class fliers in the Midwest.



Sam Ritter does some relaxed quad-lining on the beach at Grand Haven.

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



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End of term: 2014

Hello from Region Six. Warm gentle breezes and dry kites have been the trend for the summer thus far. Several events have been limited by calm winds and the sport kite fliers have been working hard to put on their demonstrations.

From the Minnesota Kite Society's Brad Klages, we hear that the 5th Annual Wishes for the Sky Earth Day celebration drew 1100 people to Harriet Island park in St. Paul. Participants wrote wishes on rice paper and bamboo Chinese swallow kites and flew them. This free public art event celebrates the arrival of spring and mixes environmental themes with art, kite flying, music and food.



Dairy air: spectators watch Ed Grys set up in Wisconsin.

Bill Miller

In May, Bloomington Sister City's Kite Day was rained out less than an hour into the event. The annual Kiwanis Kite Fly was canceled due to rain. The Kiwanis Fly has been rescheduled to September 15.

Eight MKS members traveled to the Burnett County Airport in Siren, WI, to put on a kids' kite making workshop and kite fly during the city's Lilac Fest. About 35 kids made kites inside a hangar while winds of 20-30MPH challenged kitefliers on an otherwise nice day. Everyone had a good time though!

For the second year in a row, MKS members have been invited out to a Benson, MN, school to provide awareness and kiteflying experiences to three classes of eighth grade social study students of Barb Schwarz. Last year Dave Herzig and Ron Pegg provided the exposure. They did such a fantastic job, MKS was asked to return, and Tom Cross and Pam Hodges went this year.

Angie Chau reports that the first Michigan City, IN, Kite Festival, held June

30-July 1, got off to a hot start, literally. There were clear skies both days, which meant the temperature, soared into the 90s by mid-morning. The wind was up and down (mostly down) during the weekend, which made for some tough demo flying by 180GO! and the Windjammers. Everyone gave it his or her best in spite of the conditions. Mike Kory bravely ran a 360 in the sand in the middle of a lengthy five-minute routine, after which he (semi-mockingly) collapsed! Kudos to Joel and Patricia Majot for organizing what will become a fun annual event!

In May the Hang Up Gallery in Appleton, WI, featured the aerial photography of Craig Wilson and kids kitemaking. Craig made a personal appearance and signed his book *Hanging by a Thread*.

The Shawano Kite & Balloon Festival on June 23 had low winds but a high turnout with 264 kids showing up to make kites. The new airport venue was a great improvement. Adding to the interest this year was 180GO! and the balloon night glow.

The Wausau Balloon Rally and Glow once again invited the Wisconsin Kites to fly during the day while the balloon took the field in the early morning and late afternoon. The winds were perfect for the kites and just about anything in the bag could be flown. Saturday evening the wind died, the balloons glowed and once safely stowed, the fireworks lit up the sky.

We want to remind everyone that the Upper Midwest Area Kitemaking Event (U-MAKE) will be expanding and changing locations for 2013. U-MAKE will hold classes at the Lorado Taft Campus near Oregon, IL on March 1-3, 2013. Please check www.u-make.org for updates.

The World Kite Museum will have a guest collector displaying part of his collection during this year's Washington State International Kites Festival. Tom Cross, a member of the Minnesota Kite Society, re-entered the kiting world while attending WSIKF in 1998 with his son who was living in Portland. Tom also enjoys scrapbooking and started collecting post cards and pictures of kites and people flying from around the world. In the process he also found other items such as parts of a child's Staffordshire tea set, circa 1835. He has obtained a handker-



Mike Kory keeps the kids entertained at the Shawano Kite & Balloon Festival.

chief from the Civil War era with a kite. And for the comic book collectors, all the great heroes from Porky Pig to Richy Rich flew a kite on the cover. Tom will display pottery and dishes, all with a kite theme. All the items bring either a nostalgic or educational experience.

Hope to see you in Enid. Keep looking up and hold on tight!

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



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End of term: 2014

The kiting paradise of Wyoming has to be the windiest state in the US yet has the least amount of kite-related anything. We hope to change that. On June 9, kites from Colorado and Utah traveled to Laramie for Butch Cassidy Days at the Wyoming Territorial Prison museum. Debra Amend and the staff from this state historical site decided to include kites this year among the other kids events with mainly a wild west theme. The trimmed field where we flew was successfully divided by a row of banners and Utah kiter Rachel Wentz's various small kites and line laundry on poles, and far away from the kids fly area enough to safely fly the larger kites, sport kite stacks, and power kites. The winds there were phenomenal! SLKs could be anchored and flew unattended all day, except during the higher gusts. Todd Copeland, also from Utah, flew his giant foils, which could be seen for several miles from nearby Interstate 80. Howard Bashant from Denver flew a vented sport kite with an almost 200'

Bob Klopke

The pastoral skies at the Butch Cassidy Festival in Wyoming.



Liana Winter

tail. Paul Glasspoole ended up exhausted but unharmed after an entire day getting dragged all over by sport kite stacks, power kites, and a vintage Top of the Line Spinoff. The most stable kites had to be the Power Sleds which stayed airborne through the highest gusts. Jim Lundberg of Colorado flew a crab and angel fish with the lifter kites, Todd had a dog (kite, not a real dog) lifted with his power sled. The event allowed us to camp onsite overnight on Friday. Some opted for that, others motels, or just came up for the day.

This came in from Bob Homan in Kansas: "The 20th Twisted Lines Kite Festival, from June 1-3, has stayed small but it sure brings some great friends together. In these days of high gas prices, along with motels and cost of food, we somehow pull out a good to great festival every year. This year we were blessed with several notables: the Dermers, the Kramers, Donna Houchins, the Larkeys, Steve Batliner, Doug Hoffman, 'The Kite Man' David Ellis, Sean Beaver and more. We introduced Scott Reinecke to Twisted Lines this year. He and his wife Susan own Studio 54 in Greensburg, KS, and brought their kite store to our festival. The Topeka Kite Fliers would like to thank everyone for their donations and their friendship in making Twisted Lines what it is."

From Berna Smith in North Dakota: "Deb Lenzen's 20th Skydance was great. All kinds of weather were enjoyed and put up with, any day on the bluffs overlooking Lake Sakakawea is enjoyable, the kites in the air are the bonus. Next year this Memorial Day fly will be known as Fort Stephenson Kite Festival.

"Jamestown, June 9-10, was awesome, Team 180GO! entertained all

Kitemakers and marine mammals surround Martin Blais at the KCKC workshop.



Dick Vogel

weekend, the big kites came out, as well as the lightweight ones and ground art. Others flying with us included Barb Meyer as well as kitefliers from neighboring states and Canada. Great food, great friends, great skies.

"September 15-16, Beulah will host our 3rd Coal Country Kite Fly, come on up and see our skyline of all sized kites, with our energy and ag-related economy in the background."

Linda Larkey sends, "The Kansas City Kite Club had its first Kitemaking Workshop in a big way with Martin Blais presenting Dolphins and Sharks. If you ever get the opportunity to take a class from Martin, please take advantage of it. Martin is an exceptional teacher with an international outlook on kiting and years of production experience. His Power-Point presentation alone is worth the class! Martin gave the enrollees choices between making a 6' dolphin or shark. Participants also had the opportunity to buy kits for a 12' dolphin to sew at home, or additional dolphins or sharks. Nine people attended, including two new to kiting, Terri Stamper, and Jennifer Tanquary. We all went home with a great completed project and wonderful memories. Donna Houchins presented Martin with a miniature kite she made for him."

Linda Larkey also informed me of two upcoming kite flies, Columbia, MO, and Lincoln, NE, on Sunday, October 14.

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



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End of term: 2012

It's been a busy year for kite activities in Region Eight, with the best yet to come! This year's AKA Convention will be held in Enid, OK and is shaping up to be a good one! It's rare that the Convention is held in our region, so let's all make a strong showing and attend. Even if you can't make it the entire week, Friday and Saturday are scheduled for fun flying, workshops, demos, games, lessons, mass ascensions, FlyMart, auction, awards banquet, and socializing! I highly recommend that you make the trip to Enid, as you won't be disappointed!

In Albuquerque Douglas and Di-

anne Bailey have conducted two kite workshops during the past two months. Bookworks, an independent local bookseller, hosted the first one at their store. That workshop focused on kitemaking. Connie, the Bookworks children's book coordinator, opened the event with a kite-themed story reading as part of their Saturday morning children's programming. A neighborhood association produced the second which was a community kite flying workshop. It was a blast, since the wind speeds in Albuquerque that weekend were almost too high for recreational kite flying weather. However, we had a great time introducing and assisting kite fliers of all ages with flying and building kites, and kite safety. We were supported that weekend by Carveth and Luella Kramer who came down from Taos and put up a great display of banners and other wind toys. Do-it-yourself kits used during these workshops came from www.KitesintheSky.net operated by Catherine Gabrel.

The Alamo Kitefliers Outfit held two kite workshops in the spring. The first one was a two day event at the Folkfest in New Braunfels where we helped children build about 200 kites. The second event was a workshop at the Parman library in San Antonio for 50 children. We had the children build 15" sled kites; they all flew and the children had fun.

Sir Kevin Wolfe reports, "I've been making kites this spring and summer. In fact, my wife Janet and her students painted a giant kite tail for a sled head that I made. The students flew it for about 45 minutes and my knot in the rope came loose and the wind blew the kite into the river. I swam out to retrieve it and got covered in the paint it was painted with. I looked like a blue/green monster when I got out of the river!"

Donna Houchins



Marti Dermer at Twisted Lines in Kansas.

Kite graffiti under the bridge at the Trinity River Wind Festival.



This year's Trinity River Wind Festival, held near Dallas is turning into one of the premier kiting events in the region. The City of Dallas hosted this event, and used its many resources to make this event special. Of course there were lots of kites of various shapes and sizes, being flown by members of the DAKO kite club, Whatakite, and TKO Sport Kite Team. Kite vendors Big Mike's Kites and Rainbows 4 Sail were on hand to keep spectators supplied with kites to fly. The Dallas Wind Symphony Orchestra performed a great show. A graffiti artist came in and painted beautiful kite-related graffiti on the pillars of the adjacent bridge. This festival was well attended by Dallas area spectators. Judy Schmidt of the City of Dallas was the driving force and festival coordinator. Judy did an excellent job with this second annual Wind Fest!

The DFW Dragonboat, Kite, and Lantern Festival was a huge success, with activities to please everyone. The festival is sponsored and coordinated by the Marco Polo Foundation. It's focus is dragon boat races, Asian dance and martial arts performances, Asian food, kite flying, and Chinese lanterns. This year's festival was the best attended yet in its six year history, with thousands of spectators. Gloria Harmon's Rainbows 4 Sail kites had a retail tent set up and sold kites, did face painting, hair painting, and a wheel of fortune game where people could spin the wheel and win prizes. My daughter Kinsey helped Gloria work her tent the entire day. At first Kinsey was a bit shy talking to customers, but then she got into her groove, and was acting like a carnival barker, yelling out, "Buy a kite, paint your face and hair here. Spin and win a prize"! Myself and

John Clonts of TKO were joined by Kyle Wilson of Mineral Wells, TX. Kyle was getting his first taste at sport kite team flying with more than two people. He caught on quick, and people never suspected that he was new to team flying.

The 22nd Annual LibertyFest Kite Festival took place in June 30-July 1 in Edmond, OK. Terry Officer does an excellent job hosting this event. This year was the first time in about ten years that the kite festival had to move its field location, but it turned out to be a great move! The Tulsa Wind Riders, Oklahoma Kites, and TKO Sport Kite Team flew various styles of kites. Walt Mitchell drove up from Lubbock and sold and flew kites. Richard and Marti Dermer set up their tent and conducted a kids sled kite workshop all weekend, and passed out AKA membership info. They also had two 10' deltas that they loaned out to spectators to fly all weekend. It was great to see the smile on all their faces as they flew the biggest kite in their lives! Catherine Gabrel, Larry Stiles, Dave Young, and Josh and Terry Officer kept the sky filled with large pyrodeltas, large foils with spinsocks, buggy kites, and fighter kites. Steve and Pam Thomason and daughter Michelle made a surprise visit and rejoined the AKA. This event was also a sanctioned sport kite festival, but sadly, only a handful of competitors chose to compete. LibertyFest has become popular with the spectators for its night kite show. Often, more spectators come out for the night fly show than come out during the day. TKO Sport Kite Team flew with LEDs attached to their HQ Tramontana kites, and flew in team formations for almost two hours straight.

Hope to see many of you at the AKA Convention in Enid. Fly high, fly safe, have fun!

I would like to put out a challenge to each and every one of you. I challenge you to share kiting, kitemaking, a festival or fun fly with a person that has never experienced it before. Send me your stories, and I will share them with the rest of the kite community. Many of you already do this regularly and some get into what they are doing and forget that most of us got introduced to kiting by someone who loves it. So take the challenge,

Region 9 ~ Intermountain ID-MT-OR



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End of Term: 2012

share it with someone new, and send in pictures and your story. Remember that sometimes all you need is one picture that says it all. Donna Wendt caught the great moment shown below at the Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival. Look closely, I believe the child that is leaping for joy is one of the most touching things I have seen. Remember the first kite that made you feel that joy? It's time to spread the joy. Take the challenge.

The Rockaway Kite Festival turned heads all the way to the East Coast this year. Oregon's gem on the coast really put the definition of a first class festival right out there for the entire world. With sunny skies, the winds were cooperative, and pulled quite a crowd this year. Video artist Cody Cha covered both days of the festival, and put together an outstanding video. Cody may be one of the finest videographers in the Northwest and we are happy to be able to share his videos with you.



Can we do it twice in a row? Yes, we sure can! The Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival was supposed to be shrouded with rain and clouds. A looming 90% chance of rain

Donna Wendt



was the forecast right up until the day before the festival. Saturday morning started out looking pretty grim, but soon the sun began peeking out and the winds did their magic. We are very thankful that they did as many people had done a lot to welcome NBC *Rock Center* film crews to cover the festival this year. NBC reporter Dustin Stephens was in contact with many of the flyers for weeks before the festival. Interviews and information

about the kites were shared by large show kite flyers, sport kites, as well as kitemakers and festival coordinators. The actual coverage was shortened due to breaking news, but we are truly happy that kites made the national news and are very proud of all the kites, coordinators and volunteers that worked so hard to create a great display all weekend. Great job everyone! Here is the segment that appeared on *Rock Center*

with Brian Williams on June 28. www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/48007076#48007076
 October 13-14 brings us to the Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival! With the summer festival hitting the news, crowds should be big this year and we hope you will all join us. For more information see www.oregoncoast.org/fall-kite-festival/
 Share your joy, and share your story.

Region 10 - Northwest
 AK - WA



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 End of Term: 2012

World Kite Museum website. Next, we were off to Grayland, WA, for the Westport Windriders Festival. This year's invited guest was Scott Hampton and his beautiful display of handcrafted creations. Thank you Westport Windriders for a great event!

The NWSKL had a large field of fliers, with competitions, demos and just a great good time. It was wonderful to see some of our old friends competing and doing demos. There were fliers from out of state who came to participate and do some demos for all to enjoy.

On the last Saturday in July the Pierce County Parks and Recreation hosted the first Chambers Bay Kite Festi-



Dave Shattuck launched this double hexagon at Westport.

val with vendors, kids kitemaking, sport kite demos by members of PCKA, NWSKL and WKA, and free lessons. Let's hope this becomes an annual event!

You will notice Convention information in this issue. Next year we will be in Seaside, OR! Until next time, have fun flying!

At Westport, some quad-line action from Jim and Lynn Foster, Carol Pittman, Brad Bixby, Mike Tracy, and Cass Pittman.



Lori Tracy

Region 11 - N. California
 Northern CA-NV



John Gillespie
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 End of Term: 2012

While the rest of the nation has suffered through some hot weather this summer, the Northern California region has had relatively cool temperatures. I hope you have all got a chance to take advantage of the pleasant kite flying weather these last few months.

The San Ramon Art and Wind Festival was held over Memorial Day weekend. Members of the Bay Area Sport Kite League joined our friends from the south, Team Too Much Fun (Mark and

Jeanette Lummas, Ron Despojado), from the north (Toby Arndt, Penny Lingenfelter) and from the east (George Halpin, Jim Strealy, Jim and Lynn Foster) with the silver-throated Arnold Stellema keeping the crowd informed and entertained throughout the two day festival.

The Fun Run and Kite Festival in Mountain House was held again this year in early June. This small local festival brings out a sizable crowd for the live music, vendors and, of course, kite flying. The Berkeley Kite Wranglers put up some big kites, and Team AirZone kept busy all day long with dual-line feats of daring.

BASKL held a Fun Fly in Martinez in mid-June. For the past several years, this event has coincided with a county barbecue competition. It's a most pleasant problem to have to lick the barbecue sauce off of your fingers before launching your kite.

Upcoming events for the rest of 2012 include the the Golden Gate Challenge

(BASKL and Northern California Kite Club) at San Francisco's Ocean Beach on September 8, and the Family Day Kite Festival at Marina Green on September 22-23. This is the first time in recent memory that the FDKF has been held over two days. The Marina Green features a world-class view of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island and the San Francisco skyline. Check out www.fdkf.org for more information.

Mark Quirnbach has joined Team AirZone as their "Quadinator." Although the four person sport kite team has been flying dual-line Furies for the past nine years, their quad-line Revolution kites have been gathering dust. Enter Mark, a Masters-level quad-line national champion, who is providing choreographic prowess and technical mentoring to the team. Look for their five-person routines appearing at a festival near you in the coming months.

Region 12 - Southwest
 Southern CA-AZ-HI



Ben Dantonio
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 End of Term: 2012

Another few months have passed me by and I have a few moments to reflect. This April found me once again in China for the Weifang Kite Festival where I get to see first hand one of the biggest problems in the kiting industry:

Then came one of my favorites, Lincoln City, and this year was just outstanding. The weather was just perfect for a kite festival and as always the city rolled out the red carpet for the fliers and the crowds. If you don't know this sleepy little town turns into kite headquarters two times a year. This year was really special cause with the help of David Gomberg and John Barresi kites were once again on television. I must also mention Amy and Connor Doran who did more than their share of work for the cameras.

Fly a kite, it's good for the soul.

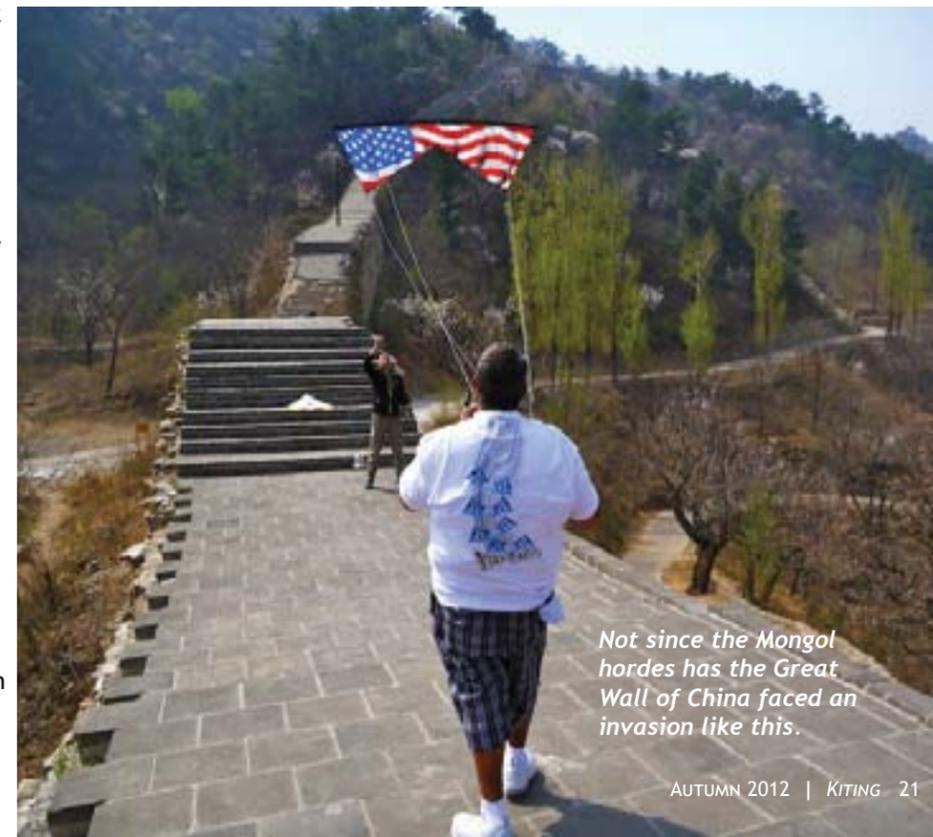
copy cat companies. This is a family magazine, so I won't go into my thoughts on the subject, but I will say to the kiting community, do the right thing and support those who support the sport.

Weifang is a mix of some very talented fliers. Even more important, it's home to some very good people, and I'd like to give a shout out to my friend Mingming who took me flying off the Great Wall. What a great adventure.

Next I found myself on the beaches of Grand Haven, MI, with my friend Steve Negen of Mackinaw Kites, where one of the stellar events of kiting happens each year. Steve and his staff go above and beyond to pull off a great event where some of the very best of the world seem to show up and just show off. You have the likes of iQuad, Chicago Fire, Sam Ritter, and Lee Sedgwick, all flying sport kites, then add some of the Gomberg big kite crew and some beautiful weather and you have just a really good kite festival. What really makes this good for me is that I do lessons from about 8 AM till the end of the day, just doing lesson after lesson. For me one of my greatest joys is sharing my passion with others.

copy cat

compa-



Not since the Mongol hordes has the Great Wall of China faced an invasion like this.

Elliot Brogren

Look for indoor flying sessions at the Bellevue Community Center.



Region 13 ~ International



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End of Term: 2012

showed their art and sport talent with everything from artistic kites and sport kiting to complex inflatables. They're sure the event will attract still more flyers and visitors in 2013. Across

the border, Team Island Quad joined with iQuad to entertain at the Lincoln City Kite Festival. Over to the east, Carlos Simoes and Vaino Raun attended the 2012 Wind Climber Kite Club Pilot Foil workshop in Cambridge, Ontario, along with southern Ontario participants plus visitors from over the border. Some fine kitemaking was done, and many a smile shared. Finally, in Nova Scotia at the Bell Museum in Baddeck, home of Alexander Graham Bell, the Kites to Flight historical presentations were attended by a receptive audience, including members of the Bell family, reports Carlos Simoes.

SWITZERLAND — Olivier Reymond collaborated with Baew and Ron Spaulding of Thailand following the Satun Kite Festival to prepare kite articles for a European kite journal. United Nations at its best!

TAHITI — Pierre Lesage will visit Australia in time for the annual Festival of the Winds on Bondi Beach where he hopes to attempt some local KAP. Enjoy the gorgeous weather and views! Pierre shared news of his Haida Gwaii, BC, trip with 45° weather and the chance of KAPing a black bear. He travelled to the former Queen Charlotte Island,

Pierre Lesage made no attempt to sign up this spectator as a new AKA member.



Region Thirteen: so diverse and interesting! My contact is region13@aka.kite.org in case you'd like to comment, ask, or say hi!

35th AKA Convention — As I write, our Region has its first confirmed attendee from Ontario, Canada! Adrian Conn, we hope you have a smashing time. Adrian wrote about his bad day: cutting too short, trimming too much, dirty floor used as storage, wrong tension, inverted panels. "Don't get old, your mind does not work properly," he chuckled.

Something historic from Frits Sauvé.



NETHERLANDS — Frits Sauvé makes historical kites, and Fanø Kite Meeting is a must, he says. For 25 years Denmark's west coast has seen kite lovers gather for two weeks of no organisation, no regulations, no commercial sales and no music. Just kites and friends. "Have you ever seen 10,000 kites in the sky and all having enough space to be beautiful above us?" Frits asks. He's invited us to join everyone in 2013 to enjoy some classic designs, but start first with *Les Cerfs-volants* by Joseph Lecornu.

CANADA — Shann Gowan's news: the 8th annual Windscape Kite Festival in Swift Current, Saskatchewan was held July 23-24. Largest crowd ever of 8000 visitors made good use of the prolific native winds. A diverse group of celebrity kite flyers (including Canada's David Tuttle and two impressive German Teams, Chaoskiter and Think Big)



The Wind Climbers Kite Club workshop

close to Alaska, via a 1904 schooner, and set up his KAP from the beach. "Suddenly, I am sharing this deserted beach with a black bear!" His dilemma? Should he tie the kite and camera to a rock and run, or pull it all down fast and hope the bear doesn't see him? Luckily, the bear loped away leaving behind a fantastic collection of KAP images as souvenirs. www.flickr.com/photos/tahitipix/7458124990/in/set-72157630324640520

THAILAND — Ron Spaulding of the Thai Kite Heritage Group was rewarded in June by the Tourism Authority of Thailand for his 30 years of "Innovative Thai Tourism Promotions," receiving the prestigious Award of Outstanding Performance. Thailand, with Ron's help, featured as the Country of Honour and Festival Highlight at the 2011 Dieppe International Kite Festival, France. World peace next, Ron?

New project: would love to create a list of "Best Kite Festivals of the World", but need your help. E-mail the where and why of your favourite event(s) to region13@aka.kite.org. [Ed. note: beat you to it, Linda! See page 50.]

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

Carlos Simoes

Pierre Lesage

SASKATCHEWAN SKIES



BY SHANN GOWAN

The eighth Windscape Kite Festival took flight July 23 and 24 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Over 8,000 visitors from across the province and Canada and the northern tier of the United States descended on Windscape Field to make and fly their own kites and to watch celebrity kitefliers and aerial-themed on-and off-field entertainment celebrating the start of Summer.

Each year, Windscape grows bigger and attracts flying acts from farther away, and this year was no exception. This year festival-goers watched some of the most experienced and talented celebrity kites, flying artists and competition teams in the world, coming from across Canada and from Germany and the U.S.

One of the biggest highlights in terms of size was the array of large inflatable kites welcoming visitors. Team Chaoskiter and Team Think Big, both from Germany, brought kites ranging from flying clotheslines to dragons, chopstick kites to superheroes, a swarm of zum-zums and even a pair

of eyeballs. Both teams say they aim to impress, and that they did! The sound of the wind passing through these kites and the color in the skies set the atmosphere for visitors as they made their way past the single-line field on the way to the big tops.

For the first time ever to Windscape Field was world-record holder Ray Bethell. Ray is a guaranteed crowd pleaser. His awe-inspiring feats with multiple multi-line kites makes him the most sought-after face on the children's festival passports. Ray doesn't stop; even in the hurricane-force winds that rattled the field all day Sunday he was shirtless and smiling as he put kites in the air purely for the joy of seeing the crowds smile.

The local flyers who donate their time to the festival each year are the backbone of Windscape. This year we were again pleased to highlight Dr Raj Hathiramani and David Tuttle, both of Swift Current, who provided the crowds entertainment with stunt kites and flying artwork. When they weren't flying, they manned the kite hospital, repairing kites for children and giving little on-the-spot flying lessons for patrons so they could get their kites in the air with the professionals! Ray Gowan and his daughter Alix flew their stacked dual-line kites as part of a special choreographed show with original music and interpretive dance to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Regina Tornado, and Kim Houghtaling, curator at the Art Gallery of Swift Current, provided sport kite lessons to guests. His lessons could be fostering future celebrity flyers. Finally, Tom White of Winnipeg again brought his hand-built kites out in the wind to entertain crowds and inspire flyers. Tom flies all year long, even in the harsh winters Canada can dish out, so the high winds of the Windscape Field didn't scare him away!

Ray Bethell



Windscape Kite Festival continues to grow bigger and better each year, thanks to the flyers who bring their best kites and their amazing skills to the southwest hill of Swift Current. Festival feedback continues to express nearly 100 percent satisfaction with their experience and gratitude to the flyers, volunteers and staff who provide a family-friendly summer kick-off event that encourages every patron to be a part of the activities. From juggling and kite-making to sport kite lessons and public flying, this event is a hit that is achieving an ever-wider audience and growing in popularity. Be a part of the energy, see you next year! ☺



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VOICES FROM THE VAULT

JOHN POLLOCK

BY PATTI GIBBONS

Growing up in Big Sky country, John Pollock was primed to love the sky even if his youthful Montana springs carried only the occasional kite. John, like others, bought his annual paper diamond kite from the local hardware store but the

kiting bug didn't bite until his children left home for college. Said partly in jest, "I didn't have anyone to play with anymore so I started making kites." Filling his empty nest with fun, John developed an interest in kitemaking and approached his new hobby as a serious art form.

Inherently creative and visual to the core, John spent his career as a professor of art at Montana State University from 1974 until 2010. Early on, before John had even heard of the AKA, he created a few eye-catching kites and hung them, unflown, in his art studio. As a playful nod to things to come, they decorated his walls for about ten years until his kitemaking interests grew.

Pinpointing the shift that brought kites to the forefront, John recalls a trip when he was in Boulder, CO, exhibiting his artwork, and during his downtime he wandered into a kite store. "I thought it was pretty ridiculous to

spend \$50 on a kite," but he did. He purchased a stunt kite, "that got me hooked." From there John discovered the AKA, combed through Kite Builders International's plan files, turned

the pages of *Kite Lines*, and "was fortunate to meet very giving people like Ron Gibian, Jon Burkhardt, and Scott Skinner" who encouraged John's early kiting exploration and taught him practical flying tips that kept him aloft.

As an artist, ever on the lookout for new modes of expression, kiting opened creative doors for John. Enjoying the engineering aspect of building nimble fliers, creating a stable flying canvas became a



new challenge that added to John's artistic process. Trained and experienced in watercolor painting and lithography, John translated the lessons of his art career to kitemaking and tinkered with colors and techniques until he found combinations that popped more than framed art on an easel. Curious about fabrics, John spent his sabbatical year researching kitemaking materials. His experiments blossomed and in 2004 he won his first AKA Grand Champion award for his silkscreen on nylon design. Attracted to the play between color and light, John enjoys using translucent colors that take on new light in sunny skies. Many appreciate his kite art and over the years John's creations continue to win awards and enthusiastic praise from passersby.

Creative beyond the brush and canvas, John writes short stories and some inspire his kitemaking. His story "The Legend of



the Raven and the Day Lily" is a yin yang fable of how the Raven desires the Lily's stability while the Lily envies the Raven's mobility. John translated the written story through his kitemaking, letting his artwork narrate. No stranger to interpretive storytelling, exhibition organizers selected John to participate in a Lewis and Clark group show at the Logan International Airport in Billings. Artists told the explorers' story through kites and John, demonstrating his exceptional representational art abilities, captured Clark's harried return trip through the Yellowstone Valley on his kite panel. Whether with words or kite graphics, John weaves captivating tales.

Kiting opens hearts and extends friendly handshakes, and John and his wife revel in the friendships they've built around the world and in their own backyard. Lucky to have

traveled extensively with his kites, John enjoys meeting kitefliers and the folks who push their crafts to the limits. In admiration of outstanding kites, John reflects, "It came to me that anybody that does something special – no matter what it is – approaches it with a kind of insanity that somebody else isn't going to put that effort into it.... It's that kind of insanity allows them to do something special." Enamored by the magic that creative folks make, John applauds their persistence and sometimes madness, noting that moxie and talent combine spectacularly.

With a hopeful eye squinting to glimpse organized kiting's future, John hopes we retain the joy of "flying kites and the aspect that kites are something beyond what we have to do." For John kiting is similar to catch and release fly-fishing. Like meal-less fishing, "kiting doesn't necessarily have much of a practical purpose, but it has value." For John Pollock, "Value comes from what we are as a person, and what we share with people in different cultures," rather than what we take out of kiting. ☒

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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“And so in these economic times, we need to be looking forward to what America needs, and I think Miss America needs to represent all.”

— Laura Kaeppler
Miss America 2012



Name: Laura Kaeppler
Hometown: Kenosha, WI
Titles: Miss Wisconsin 2011
Miss America 2012
Turn-ons: Green Bay Packers, helping the children of incarcerated parents, quad-line kites
Turn-offs: tangled lines, Wildwood traffic, Chinese knock-offs



At the Wildwoods International Kite Festival in May, Laurel Koenig spent a morning indoors, perfecting the timing of her leaps. Three days earlier, Miss America had a little fun with quad-line flier Jeff Burka on the beach.



EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Joe McCaughey 1932 - 2012



Joseph T. McCaughey died in July at the age of 80. His favorite pastimes were teasing, fishing, golf, and flying kites, but his greatest joy came from spending time with his family. He was a loyal and active member of the Wisconsin Kite Club. For several years Joe hosted the Club's 4th of July fly in Appleton, with the emphasis on red, white and blue. In his later years, Joe would show up to events with his golf cart in tow and set up his kites and visit the other fliers using his cart. The skies of north-eastern Wisconsin have an empty spot and we will miss his friendship, his kites and his humor.

Ed Gry

Brian Morris

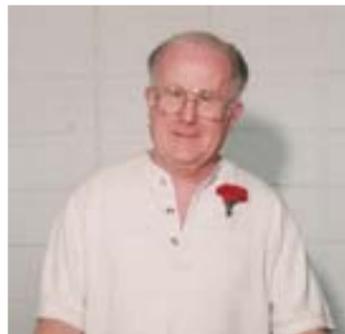


Brian Morris, member of South Houston Area Recreational Kite Club, passed away in July after a long battle with cancer. He was known for his small home made sled character kites and

his entertaining videos on youtube, particularly "The Old Man and His Kite" series. For S.H.A.R.K.'s annual make-and-take in August, the project will be Brian's "Running Man" sled, in memory of a good friend and fellow kite enthusiast.

Harley Ryan 1935-2012

Harley E. Ryan passed away in late July of a combination of Alzheimers and Parkinson's diseases. As a long time kiteflier from the Northwest, Harley left behind a bunch of heartsick friends who will miss his subtle humor and laughter on the flying field. He was not a flier out to make his mark in the kite community but he did so none the less. Harley quietly stood on the sidelines, flying his 454s, 252s and other large kites he had collected over the years. We will miss his laughter and his smile on the flying field as well as his large display of kites.



Jim Strealay 1944-2012

In late June Jim Strealay was doing what he loved most: flying his kites at Lake Yosemite Park when something went terribly wrong and we lost a kind and gentle friend. He loved that lake, in fact, I heard him say once after a day at a festival, "If I leave right now I can get in a couple hours at the lake."

Jim was a staple at kite festivals up and down the California coast since he relocated from Miami in 1998. Many of us helped or watched him put smiles on thousands of kids' faces with his candy drops. Jim was the Candy Man for as many as five events a season. He never said, "I can't go," or "I can't help." He was always on hand when it came time to pack away the big kites or run after one that was misbehaving. Also, no one ever went thirsty as he always generously had a cold one to offer. Organizers know how Jim supported their events; he bought something in every auction he got close to!

Jim, Rob Bapti and Vince McMillan put together the Merced Kite Festival. He also helped organize the kites for the Paso Robles event. In addition, he was one of the Northern California Kite Club's managers.

Jim was thoroughly enjoying his second year of retirement. Every day was kite day! He loved his two kids and was about to become a first-time grandpa. Jim is missed by all who knew him. Save me a good spot on that field, Jimmy; I'll be there soon enough.

Brian Champie

[Brian Champie and George Halpin have started a plan to install a memorial bench with a brass plaque honoring Jim at the spot where he loved to fly his kites and died flying. Contact gehalpin@gmail.com to make a donation.]

Pavitrans Vittal

I am truly saddened by the passing of Pavitrans Vittal, coordinator of international kitefliers for the Gujarat International Kite Festival in India. Pavitrans was more than just a friend; he was an amazing person. He was always so kind and considerate to us that we always welcomed seeing him at every opportunity. His passing will not only leave a void in our lives, but in the hearts of everyone who knew him. Pavitrans' memory will always remain deep within my heart.

Paavan Solanki



Ralph Stockbridge

Sergeant Major Ralph Stockbridge, US Army, retired, was a great friend to all of us in the Pierce County Kitefliers Association. His good humor and positive outlook on life will be missed along with his smiles and stories. Ralph got into kiting about 20 years ago as a member of the Westport Windriders as well as the PCKA. He was mostly a kiteflier but also made a number of kites. He was most proud of his Toucan and Goble Star kites which were prize winners in the local kitemaking competitions. He was a regular in our Kitemaking-4-Kids activities and was determined to be as active as possible despite his cancer. Ralph was deeply devoted to his family and bride, Harriet, his five children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Ralph was a true American hero as a soldier, father, family man and friend. He will be missed.

Bob Wendt



John Thomas

The Pierce County Kitefliers Association lost another great friend in July when Lt. Colonel John Thomas, US Army, retired, passed away. John, along with his wife Heather, was a member of the Westport Windriders and an original member of the Pierce County Kitefliers Association. They got started in kiting at the 1986 WSIKF after returning from deployment in Germany. Like many of us he started with sport kites and soon branched out into all aspects of kiting. He was a kitemaker, festival participant and regular at the PCKA Kitemaking-4-Kids events. John loved the creative and design aspects of kiting. He also played with pin designs and logos. He attended the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference three times. At festivals he loved the mass ascensions and talking with all the people. John and Heather along with Ralph and Harriet Stockbridge attended many AKA conventions. Several years ago he attended the kite festival in Dieppe, France and helped man the AKA booth. He was generous with his time, money and creative skills. He and Heather always had donations for the various raffles and auctions. John was a friend to all. He too will be missed.

Bob Wendt



He attended the kite festival in Dieppe, France and helped man the AKA booth. He was generous with his time, money and creative skills. He and Heather always had donations for the various raffles and auctions. John was a friend to all. He too will be missed.

Bob Wendt

Charlie Watson

Longtime New Zealand kiteflier and power kiter Charlie Watson succumbed to cancer this summer. Fighting to the end, Charlie had started a facebook group, Power Kites with Cancer, where, as he said, fighters could "brag, and moan and stuff. No commercial side or hidden agenda." A kiteflier for over 45 years, Charlie was the son of another noted Kiwi kiteflier, Logan Fow. Charlie worked to preserve the kites collected by his father throughout Southeast Asia over forty years ago. He was in the process of donating many of these kites to the Drachen Foundation upon his untimely passing.

Drachen Foundation



Jørgen Moller Hansen

His kites you may well know; the apparently simple, almost minimalist graphics based on white, black or grey with the inclusion of a single colour, the pattern chopped and rearranged to create balance and tension. Some designs could be gently decorative; others could be bold and almost aggressive, the diagonal lines slashing boldly from left to right, cut and rearranged like collage in a Russian constructivist composition. They were undoubtedly some of the most ambitious attempts at a pure, fine-art approach to kite design; the kite was Jørgen's canvas, the sky his gallery wall. Jørgen's kites had the same attention to manufacturing excellence as the sails he saw in the sail lofts. Close up you'd see the reinforcements and strengthening strips; the kites were made to last and could seem almost heavy on the ground, but up in the air they seemed fragile and delicate and flew superbly, a combination of great craftsmanship and sharp design.

Jørgen lived in Aarhus, a port town on Denmark's east coast, famous for its sailmaking industry and deeply affected by its relationship with the sea. When reminded of his Viking ancestors, he'd usually respond with a cry of "Rape and plunder!," typical of his robust sense of humour.

Drachen Foundation



Pictures tell the story. In this issue we present some of the best KAP images of the first half of the year, with narration by the photographers. You'll find more posted at www.flickr.com/groups/kiteaerialphotography/.

Blue Marlin, by Hans Elbers, Netherlands

I'm addicted to kite flying and KAP for a bit more than two years now. I KAP about twice a week on average. Mostly large buildings, cranes and ships, and some windmills of course. I post my best KAP images on Flickr.com (as hanselpedia) and on my own website (www.fotovlieger.nl).



This image shows the end of a very special transport: a ship carrying ships. I was tipped about it's arrival by a friend at work. This huge transport vessel is called Blue Marlin. It arrived in Rotterdam on March 20 with a cargo of 18 riverboats and a few large pontoons. This transport took 58 days to travel from Shanghai to Rotterdam (all the way around Africa, it is too wide for the Suez Canal)! I took this image at one of my favorite KAP spots near Rotterdam: a spacious accessible green strip in Europort. A lot of interesting ships can be seen here: gigantic crane vessels, pipe layers and other impressive offshore equipment. I monitor this location closely via the internet. This particular image was taken with a Sony Nex5 +16mm lens. The camera was oriented using a home-built radio controlled camera rig. The wind was light but steady, the sunlight was soft and the air was clear: optimal conditions for KAP. The camera was lifted on the line of my big rokkaku (2.5m, specially built for me by a fellow KAPer). Technically this was an easy and relaxing KAP session: holding the line with two fingers while my best camera was hanging motionless in the sky aimed at a spectacular subject. Pure happiness! A map showing the location and the rest of this series is on www.fotovlieger.nl/project/201203_blue_marlin.

Vesting Bourtange, by Erick Kieboom, Netherlands

Bourtange is a star fort and village in the northeast Netherlands, next to the German border. The fortifications were initially built during the Eighty Years' War (c. 1568-1648) when William I of Orange wanted to control the only road between



Germany and the city of Groningen, which was controlled by the Spaniards. I put Bourtange on my list of KAP subjects because of an upcoming book. My publisher thought it was a good idea, so on a cold January morning, I drove the 50 miles to the village to see what I could shoot. By the time I got there, the clouds were thick and the good light had gone. The wind seemed weak, so I first tried my Gomberg Triton. It turned out the wind higher up was way too strong for the Triton. It also showed me that the upper wind direction was different from the ground wind, so I moved position and launched my ITW Levitation. That went up quite well and took up a steady position over the fort.

I then tied my rig to the line, tied my brand new GoPro Hero2 HD to the rig, set both the Panasonic LX3 and GoPro cameras and let the kite take up the rig. Apart from the dreary weather, things looked good. The GoPro was shooting away by itself at one image per second and I took more pictures myself with the LX3. At the end of about forty minutes of flying, I had some 1,500 images to choose from. As I expected, the technical quality of the images was mediocre. I had to really push



the contrast and saturation of the best GoPro image to make it look acceptable. To my surprise, it became instantly popular on Flickr.com, with many positive comments and views.

I considered the January session only a scouting expedition to see if KAP at the Bourtange fort was feasible. I concluded it was and had a chance to return in the second half of May. The weather was much better in late May, but wind left much to be desired. It blew completely opposite to the January wind, which wasn't a problem, but was weak and variable, and that was a problem. I had decided to launch my trusty Fled MkIII kite from one of the embankments, which meant I didn't have much space to move around. There were kite-grabbing trees in front of me and a steep 20' drop right behind me. With some effort, I managed to launch the Fled and coax it to an altitude where it more or less stayed up by itself. I then tied my rig to the line, with the two cameras. Normally, I would not have flown the extra GoPro camera in such mediocre wind conditions, but given the subject, I decided I couldn't do without it. The fort really needs an ultra wide lens to cover it. The Fled didn't show much enthusiasm in pulling up my sub-600 gram rig. In a desperate effort to save my rig and cameras from dropping into the trees, I fell off the fort's embankment and rolled to the bottom. Luckily, it was all soft grass and I managed to hang on to my kite reel, but I lost my hat and pride. The effective airtime of the rig was less than 15 minutes and I came away with only about 500 images. But the usable shots were much better than any of the ones I took in January. I even managed to shoot a three-image horizontal panorama with the GoPro, which gives a great overview of the central part of the fort. At least three of the May pictures will end up in the book, the panorama in large format.

Waterland - Uitdam, by Ramon Pallares, Netherlands



Uitdam is a small village about eight miles to the northeast of Amsterdam. It was founded in the 13th century after a dam was created to connect two tongues of land. The setting was perfect, one hour before sunset. I was surrounded by singing birds and the soft whisper of reed on the shores of the Uitdammer Die, a stretched lake, visible in the foreground. Every now and then birds of prey circled over the Levitation Light delta to check out the unknown flying object that was occupying their habitat so suddenly. Before I started walking, the car door was still open and the Dutch classical radio station played the first movement of Beethoven's 6th Symphony, the *Pastoral*. How appropriate! Passersby were asking about the what, why and how. The weather, just like the setting, was perfect: a

typical Dutch spring evening with mild winds blowing from the southwest, easily capable of lifting the delta and the rig to the right. The almost setting sun was casting its beautiful soft light on the houses of Uidtam. Spot on!

That evening I wasn't sure what kite could be used when I left home, so I brought two ITW kites: the Triton and my favorite, the 9' Levitation Light delta. Launching the Levi Light was dead easy; it went straight up and stayed at 100', pinned to the sky. After changing the rig's batteries and attaching the camera – my trusty Panasonic LX5, partner in crime since September 2010 – I attached it to the kite line to let it out for a while.

I was really surprised to see that this photo made it to flickr's Explore on May 17. So many comments were related to that. Funny that so many people explore Explore to find remarkable stuff. And apparently this one was remarkable enough to make it to #118. Totally by coincidence I sold a copy of this very picture and some more from this series the day I submitted this article!

Beach Girls, by Brad Slaney, Hawai'i



It's a cloudy morning in traditionally sunny Honolulu; my last few KAP outings have been marked by high wind speeds and turbulent air. I am painfully aware almost two weeks have passed without a successful KAP session. I check the weather in Kailua: cloudy, 50% chance of rain, 20-25MPH winds. I trudge to the bus stop anyways with my GoPro HD Hero, Ricoh gx100 (chosen for their built-in continuous shooting timers), Brooxes HoBeak auto rig, and two kites, a Flowform 8 and a Levitation Delta with a shortened spreader. As I exit the bus in Kailua I'm already lost. My plan was to get off on the ocean side of town and walk towards Lanikai Beach, only I'm still a mile away from the ocean and there's no main road heading in that direction. I see a tall ridge on my right and walk towards it hoping for a clearer view. Fast-forward to the top of that ridge and it's pouring diagonally, the smooth breeze is now a choppy gust. My GoPro is on the line of my sinking Flowform kite as I scurry to pull in line. Not a smooth start to the day.

In the two weeks of unsuccessful KAP sessions I had gotten rusty, or lazy, or stupid. I had forgotten to check the batteries for the auto-rotating Brooxes rig. They're dead. In addition, I also forgot to empty my nearly full SD card for the Ricoh, and the GoPro had just filled its card. After an hour of trek-

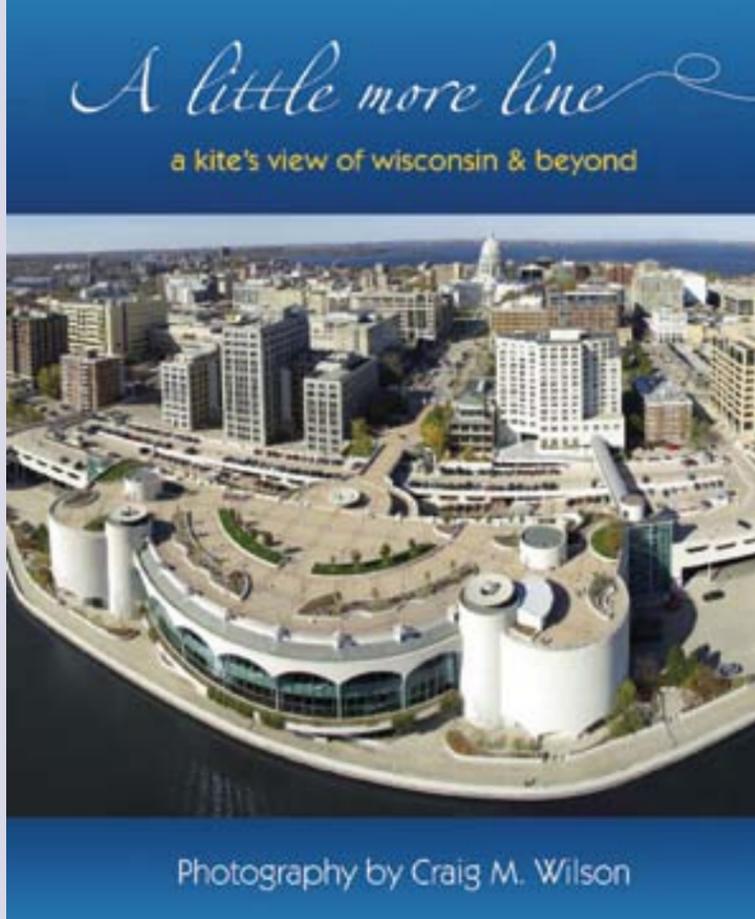
king through heavy rain I arrived at beautiful Lanikai Beach! The Ricoh's SD card had room for 15 new photos at best, so I changed the intervalometer from jpeg+raw shooting every five seconds to jpeg only and every 15 seconds. The rain has stopped but it's just as cloudy as ever, the heavy wind is picking up grains of sand and smashing them against my legs like little needles. The Flowform 8 is the only kite I own that can handle Oahu's rare offshore Kona winds.

I took a photo for two Japanese girls posing with the Moku-lua Islands behind them. As I put the kite in the air the girls began walking along the beach just downwind of my location. I hastily set my camera at a downward angle, crossed my fingers, and sent it up! This image has received more flickr comments than any other I have ever taken. The general consensus seems to be that people like it for its simplicity and abstractness. Also, who doesn't want to be at the beach?

The Chill Before It Heats Up, by Craig Wilson, Wisconsin

In the spring of 2011, the political climate heated up to a boiling point, which centered on the State Capitol building here in Madison. The building became the gathering place of many peaceful protestors opposed to the actions of the Governor and Senate, as well as people concerned for the direction our nation's democracy seemed to be headed. For nine months, daily protests continued. November brought cooler temperatures and a start of the period signatures could be collected for a recall effort. That collection of nearly one million signatures took those protestors from the capitol and out into the neighborhoods all around Wisconsin leaving the Capitol relatively quiet.

The winter days are short, leaving no time after the workday for kite flying and KAP. Several weeks can go by between flying sessions and a hankering to fly can quickly grow into an itch requiring an urgent scratching. It was mid-January before a proper winter with snow cover finally came to southern Wisconsin. On Sunday morning January 15, I flew my kite and camera in downtown Madison to capture this aerial view of a quiet Capitol Square blanketed with fresh snow. I was taking advantage of the wind and weather conditions that allow for relatively safe access by kite to the Capitol grounds but I was



also there because of an itch that needed to be scratched. This quiet didn't last. In two days, many of those protestors returned with renewed enthusiasm and the required number of signatures on the recall petitions. The chill before it heats up. ☒



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FIGHTIN' WORDS

TEACHING NEWBIES

BY ANDY SELZER

A recent fighter kite contest here on the East Coast brought to light the differences in flying tactics when you encounter high wind conditions. I am going to classify high wind as 20 to 30MPH.

While most of us have an all-around kite that handles most of our everyday needs, there are times when a special kite for high or low wind is slightly better to use. What constitutes that high wind kite? This will be up to the flier, but it should be one that is more comfortable for you to use in that situation. My preference is for a kite that is slightly narrower and taller than most of the other kites I have. Some kite flyers prefer a stiffer bow, but with a narrower kite you can step down one size and still handle the speed from the high winds.

Setting up for the start of a line touch point is all important. In high wind conditions I like to use a short line length start of around 50'. Although too short for a crossover to score a top point, I find this distance easier to control for the important start. You'll find that the blasting breeze will pull your kite out quickly when you're ready to make your move. Another difference from low wind flying is the lack of fine control. What this leads to is quicker decisions to just go for that point. If it doesn't look like the kite is in the right position, turn back out and reset. For those bottom points try not to get that close to the ground. Unlike low wind flying you will find that most of your bottom points are scored at relatively high levels of over 10'.

Here's hoping you get some time in to practice with your fighter kite in these conditions. Experience in this type of flying is the best teacher. As they say, get out here and tug on your kite today. ☒



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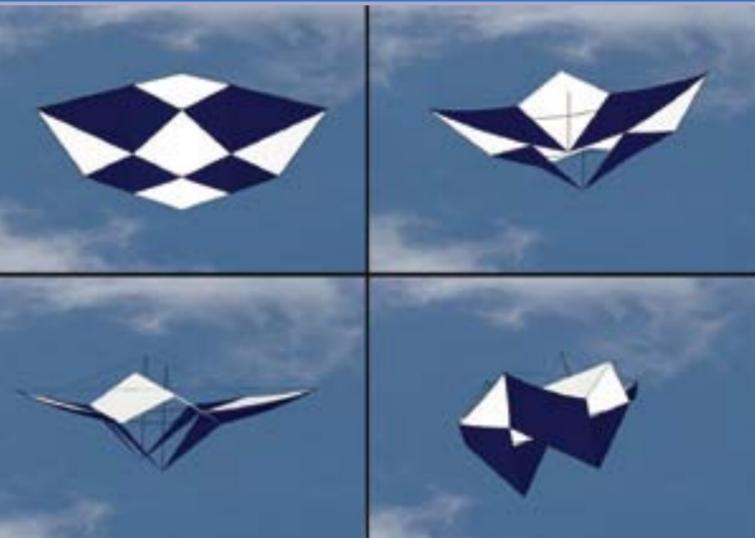
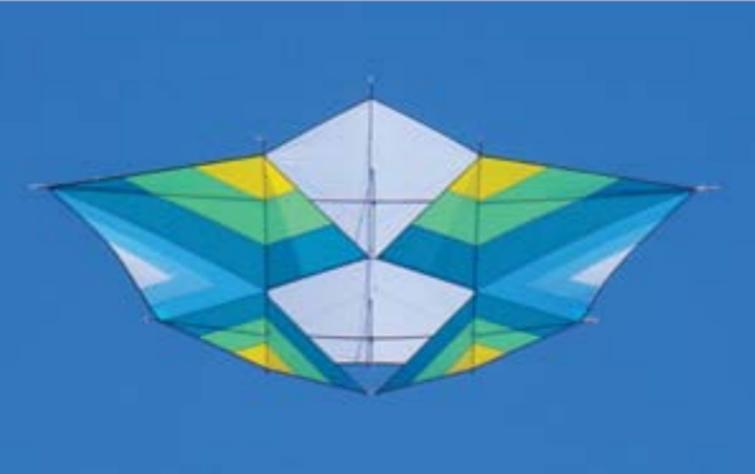
Lost amidst the accolades for his winning kites at the AKA convention in Wildwood was the kite Simon Crafts didn't compete with. Using Simon's design for the Gizmo, Cheryl Kear's red, white and blue kite finished 6th in the Cellular category. Since then, Simon has been teaching the Gizmo at various workshops, allowing him to develop very detailed plans for the winged box kite. You'll find the entire 23 page plan online at the *KITING+* webpage, but here's a taste of what you'll need to get started.

SIMON CRAFTS' GIZMO



Materials

- 9 wrapped spars, 32.5" long
- 2 wrapped spars 17" long - upper spreader
- 2 wrapped spars 4.25" long - shorter longerons
- 1 wrapped spar 14" long - longer spine
- 5 x 3" internal ferrules (.2400")
- 2 x 4" internal ferrules (.2400") - for center of spreaders
- 2 x "Beman" style center T's, pre-drilled
- 4 x 1/4" aluminum rings
- 3 x FSD "side slot" nocks
- 2 x custom MKS fittings
- 4 x C-Clip "do-hickey" stoppers
- 5 x 1 1/4" .2400" carbon tube for nock inserts
- 9 x push-in "arrow" nocks
- 8 x triangular shaped Dacron reinforcement patches
- 10 x rectangular shaped Dacron reinforcement strips
- 2 x 4" Dacron circles
- 6 x 1/4" grosgrain strips, 4" long
- 4 x 1/4" grosgrain strips, 4.5" long
- 8 x 1/4" grosgrain strips, 3.5" long
- Pre-folded (1/4" doubled) 0.75 oz RSN edge binding
- Fabric
- 2 upper keel panels
- 2 lower keel panels
- 2 large back panels
- 2 upper wing panels
- 2 center wing inserts
- 2 lower wing panels



BOOK REVIEW

DECORATION OF RIPSTOP KITES WITH APPLIQUE TECHNIQUE BY OLIVIER REYMOND



At his 2011 AKA Convention workshop, Swiss sewing master Olivier Reymond taught 16 people the secrets of his applique technique for making eye-catching works of aerial art. You weren't there? Not to worry, Reymond has compiled his workshop into a well-illustrated booklet to benefit all kitemakers. His technique, similar to that of Australia's William Farber, isn't for beginners, but once you've mastered simple applique you'll be ready to move on to Reymond's methods. He uses a good deal of tracing, and you'll need access to a photocopier, but the results speak for themselves. You can find a gallery of Reymond's kites at <http://membres.multimania.fr/acielouvert/olivier.htm>. And while you can send \$20 to Switzerland for a bound copy of the booklet, you can also download it for free from the Publications page at www.aka.kite.org.

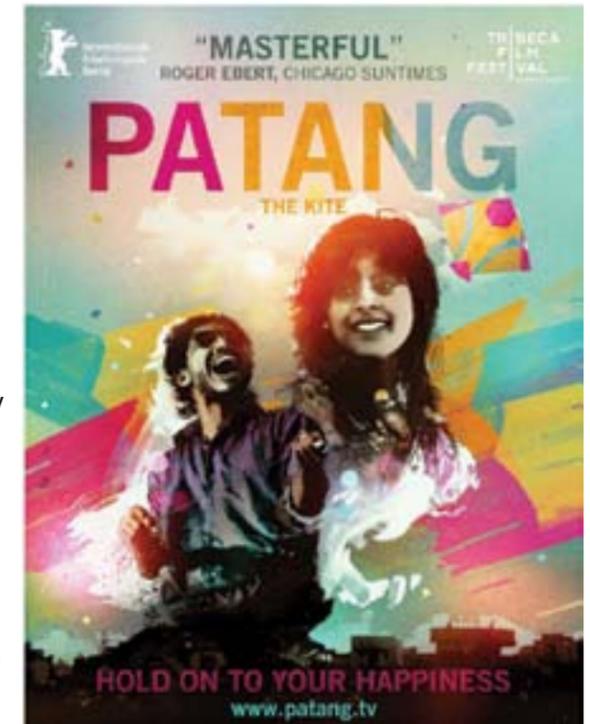
MOVIE REVIEW

Kites lucky enough to have celebrated January's Uttarayan holiday on the rooftops of Ahmedabad's old city know that India's kiting festival is a swirl of colorful fighters, bright manjha, aromatic food, and the competing din of car horns, traditional music, and blaring hip hop. And above all, the holiday is about family and friends, moving house to house, terrace to terrace, catching up with gossip and news, eating, and always flying kites. It can be difficult to describe to someone who hasn't been there, but it's clearly a scene like nowhere else in the world. Six years in the making, director Prashant Bhargava's first feature film uses Ahmedabad as a backdrop for a tale of multigenerational family dysfunction that resonates in any culture.

"The seeds for *Patang* were based on the memories of my uncles' dueling kites," says Bhargava. "In India kite flying transcends boundaries. Rich or poor, Hindu or Muslim, young or old — together they look towards the sky with wonder, thoughts and doubts forgotten. Kite flying is meditation in its simplest form. In 2005, I visited Ahmedabad to experience their annual kite festival, the largest in India. When I first witnessed the entire city on their rooftops, staring up at the sky, their kites dueling ferociously, dancing without inhibition, I knew I had to make this film in Ahmedabad. Inspired by the spiritual energy of the festival, I returned the next three years, slowly immersing myself in the ways of the old city. I became acquainted with its unwritten codes of conduct, its rhythms and secrets. I would sit on a street corner for hours at a stretch and just observe. Over time, I connected with shopkeepers and street kids, gangsters and grandmothers. This process formed the foundation for my characters, story and my approach to shooting the film. I found myself discovering stories within Ahmedabad's old city that intrigued me. Fractured relationships, property disputes, the meaning of home and the spirit of celebration were recurring themes that surfaced."

Patang was shot using a combination of actors and locals, with handheld cameras that pick up the jittery energy of the bustling city. *The Hollywood Reporter* noted, "Bhargava knows when to stop and catch the right, fleeting expressions and gestures. There's a gentleness in this snapshot of a family and all its baggage that seems almost effortless."

The film (in Hindi, with English subtitles) will be available on Amazon and iTunes in mid-October, and is currently playing in limited release at American theaters. But you don't need to wait to see it: come to the AKA Convention's special showing of *Patang* on October 1 in Enid, OK.



kitebuilder.com
A website for kite builders

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

Steve Ferrel
phone: 360-RIPSTOP | 610-395-3560
email: steve@kitebuilder.com

Howdy! Thinking about coming to Enid for the convention? We would love to have you. While Marti and I are not Enid natives, we are both lifelong residents of Stillwater, 62 miles away, and can give you some local information.

Enid is excited about hosting our convention! A pleasant city of 50,000, it's the largest city in the northwest quarter of Oklahoma, home to Northern Oklahoma College, Vance Air Force Base, and the largest complex of grain elevators in the Midwest. It's wheat country, flat as a pancake for miles around, and almost always windy. (They are building a huge new wind farm a few miles north of town.) Friendly, friendly people!

I can vouch for the flying fields, a huge expanse of mowed grass. We supervised mass ascensions of 2,600 and 2,500 sled kites there a few years ago, and had room to spare. The Cherokee Strip Conference Center is a great convention venue on the downtown square, with lots of restaurants and bars within a few blocks.

While Enid is not a tourist destination, it has several local attractions like the Cherokee Strip Heritage Center, a museum devoted to the land run and overnight founding of the city, and the Great Salt Plains a few miles to the west (off limits to buggies, though).

If you are driving through or flying into Oklahoma City or Tulsa, opportunities abound. Oklahoma is home to 39 different Native American tribes (and 80 tribal casinos), who do not live on reservations but are intermingled with the entire population. Then there's the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial and the Western Heritage Center and Cowboy Hall of Fame in OKC, Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman, Philbrook and Gilcrease art museums in Tulsa, and Ponca City's opulent mansion built by oil baron and governor E.W. Marland.

Enid's going to be a weeklong kite party! See you there!

Richard Dermer

Mass Ascensions

Each day at 1:00PM, we'll fill the sky with one kind of kite. Be ready with a rokkaku on Tuesday, cellular on Wednesday, soft kite on Thursday, sport kite on Friday, and wrap things up with a delta on Saturday.

Mini-Rok Challenge

On Saturday, Phil Broder is inviting local kids to join us for a mini-rok battle. We'll pair each child with an AKA mentor, give them a quick lesson in rok flying and battle strategy, and then begin the fight. We need your help to coach a child!

Mystery Ballet Challenge

Troy Gunn wants to know who's the best improvisational sport kiter. Bring mystery music for someone else, and come prepared on Saturday afternoon to fly to something new.

Mystery Mass Ascension

The Keystone Kite challenge you to be prepared for their mystery mass ascension on Friday afternoon. Bring a round kite, brown kite, diamond kite, a non-box cellular, and a clothing kite. . . one of them will be needed!

Theme Flies

Every afternoon the mass ascensions will be followed by more mass ascensions, of kites fitting a theme. Bring the right kites and join in!

Thursday: kites that make noise, kites that fit in your pocket, kites and/or tails with moving parts, and your favorite kite

Friday: Art kite fly and kites older than 30 years

Saturday: animal kites and line laundry, red/white/blue kites and laundry, previous convention award winning kites, and arches and trains.

KAP of the Year

Members will once again be voting for their favorite kite aerial photograph. To submit an entry, see the KiteTalk Forum for rules and submission guidelines.

Workshops

A new schedule this year gives you a single workshop timeslot each day, so you'll be able to spend more time on the field. You can take home several new kites if you attend make-and-take workshops to build fighter kites, rokkakus, prairie bird gliders, mini-hearts, and a hishi. Learn

to fly roks, fighters, dual-lines, quad-lines, power kites and big kites. Journey to India, learn kitemaking philosophy from Simon Crafts and Robert Brasington, let Meg Albers explain how to teach with kites, and explore the Drachen Foundation with Scott Skinner. Plus lots more!

And Of Course...

Competition for kitemakers, fighter kites, and sport kites. The indoor fly. Pin Challenge. Miniature Kite Challenge. The new Patch Challenge. The bag raffle. The auction. Members' Choice. Awards of all sorts. The FlyMarket. Kitemakers' Show & Tell. The annual meeting. A special showing of the new film *Patang*. New friends and old. Oklahoma's going to be OK!



Once a year, Port Colborne, ON, goes all out to embrace its maritime heritage. The lakeside city has the Welland Ship Canal flowing right through the middle of it, and most of the events of this four day celebration are in sight of it. With a perfect view of Lake Erie from the kite field at HH Knoll Park, you can watch large and small ships leave or enter the canal. The Niagara Windriders Kiteflyers Association use this field to stage a great display with winds drifting in from the lake. Clubs and fliers from Canada and the USA come to Canal Days to be a part of a city-wide heritage celebration.

Once again the spectators were treated to a dazzling night fly on Saturday evening. Slightly before dusk a fair breeze blew in and a few kites went up. As is usual the wind died with the setting sun. Gary Maynard of the Windjammers treated the folks to a remote control Premier canard kite demonstration, a first for Port Colborne. As if on cue, as he finished the doldrums became a nice steady wind and the kites climbed into the dark sky. A steady crowd drifted down from the other events to catch the display.

Sunday experienced a large change in weather. A stiff wind greeted us that morning. Officially the festival kicked off at

1PM but the early crowd got to see a Windjammers display and a few warm up demos. The park that day is shared with 550 vintage cars. Both groups were ready to kick off with opening ceremonies when a nasty rainstorm swept through the region. It closed down the car show but the kites hunkered down to wait it out. All our



KITES OVER THE CANAL

BY FRED TAYLOR



The Tulsa Wind Riders made these 24" mini-roks for the convention. Are you ready to get small?



amateur weather forecasters using smart phones with weather maps were confidently predicting it to clear. The Mayor of Port Colborne came down at 2PM and was happy to hear we had stayed and were getting ready to fly again. Then the sky cleared at 2:30 and up went the kites, and our demo field came alive once more.

After a challenging day of kiteflying under difficult conditions the kitefliers end the day with a BBQ. After supper a beautiful steady breeze had some of our fliers back on the field. Also there were families coming out to fly kites with them. Bubble master Kevin Reynolds broke out his gear and had kids leaping around chasing his creations. At 10PM there were amazing fireworks. Many kites watched and relaxed before calling it a day. ☒





and conservationists, and the ire of those wanting unrestricted access to the sand.

On Stone Harbor Point, fully half the sand is roped off, out of bounds to all but the birds. But federal plover recovery guidelines also mandate keeping threats to plovers – kites and dogs among them, but not pedestrians or vehicles – an extra 500’ away, and that effectively makes the entire Point off limits. Although fishermen are still allowed to drive trucks along the sand, and shell collectors, joggers, and walkers still trod the beach, dog walkers and kitefliers have had to move on.

How did this happen? What turns a popular kiteflying spot into empty sand and sky overnight? “History is made by those who show up,” said British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. And kitefliers simply aren’t showing up when it counts.

In early August, the city of Wildwood – strapped for cash and looking for new sources of revenue – opened a portion of its wide beach to recreational vehicles. A campground with more than 80 RV spaces sprouted from the sand, filled with waist-high posts to delineate each space. Kitefliers will recognize the spot as the sport kite competition field for the Wildwoods International Kite Festival, or part of the area where the MegaFlag was laid out at last year’s AKA Convention. Local citizens, enraged by the plan, held last-minute protests, carrying picket signs along the boardwalk in a fruitless attempt to thwart the plan.

Once again, nobody was there to protest the plan when it was first proposed in a City Council meeting. Admittedly, the city kept it quiet and didn’t expressly invite public comment early in the process. But if they had, would kites have shown up in droves? I represent 50% of the AKA members in the Wildwood area, and I doubt I’d have attended any council meetings. Earlier kite-unfriendly plans, like building a wind-blocking hi-rise on the site of the former Rio Motel directly across from the beach, also went unopposed by kitefliers.



In other areas, kites have been more successful. An attempt to ban kite buggies from Nahant Beach, near Boston, was met with quick opposition from kites. They were able to work with the managing agency to explain buggying, set up guidelines for doing it safely, and keep the beach mostly open.

At the Washington Monument, the Wings Over Washington club famously acted to keep the monument grounds open to kiting. The National Park Service banned kiting there, in a kneejerk response to problems created by Asian immigrants using fighter kites with manjha line. The club was able to educate the NPS, showing them the difference between safe

and unsafe practices. They’ve also continued to educate NPS rangers, explaining the kiteflying rules to officers who over-zealously tried to enforce a now-nonexistent kiting ban.

The Chicagoland Skyliners once shared their flying field at suburban Busse Woods with a rugby league. Kites using the park befriended the park rangers, followed park rules, and acted politely toward other park users. For their Sky Circus festival, the club made sure to reserve the field and picnic shelter. When the rugby players tried to claim that they had the right to use the field that day, the Skyliners were quickly able to bring the problem to the attention of a ranger, who upheld the club’s reservation of the field and kicked the rugby match out for the day.

There’s a lot to be said for making friends with the folks in charge. I’ve worked in the parks and recreation profession for more than twenty years, half of that with various government agencies, and I know for a fact that my coworkers and I played favorites. We were always more likely to act favorably towards people we knew in a positive way. A club that helped clean up litter in the park, or made an annual donation to the Friends of the Park, or assisted us with purchasing a piece of equipment, was always going to get preferential treatment when it came to reserving a picnic shelter, getting a bonfire permit, or having a ranger block off parking spaces for their cars. Does your kite club help maintain the place where you fly? Or are you just another bunch of taxpaying citizens complaining that the lawn isn’t mowed and the bathrooms need cleaning?

Earlier this year, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department took steps to institute new rules which would have been detrimental to kiting. The rules would have potentially banned anchoring kites, required permits and fees for group get-togethers, and even banned kites from some popular beaches. Kites immediately protested, inundating the state agency and lawmakers with calls, letters, and e-mails. In a series of public meetings, David Gomberg, Amy Doran and others were able to explain their position to rulemakers. Ultimately, the new rules were altered in favor of kitefliers, but that doesn’t mean the battle is over. Government agencies in search of revenues will continue to look at ways to charge park users new user fees, and insurance agencies with no understanding of kiteflying will continue to insist that agencies enact “safety” rules or risk losing their coverage.

But what about the plovers? Should we really be arguing in favor of something that harms a cuddly critter that’s nearing extinction? As a kiteflier and a conservationist, I struggle with that question, and have decided that my answer is, “No, but...” Management decisions like opening or closing public lands should be based on science. In the case of plovers, the science is wrapped up in an unpublished 1993 master’s thesis written by Edwin Mark Hoopes, entitled *The Relationship Between Human Recreation and Piping Plover Foraging Ecology and Chick Survival*. My research shows that this lone document is cited over and over by wildlife managers, and provides the basis for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management plan for several beach nesting birds. But I also found that few biologists have ever read it, although they consider it the gospel. It took me more than three months to obtain a copy from the University of Massachusetts library, and even then they wouldn’t loan it to me, but only to a college professor friend of mine. (As a public service, a PDF of the 118-page document is now available on the KITING+ page of the AKA website.)

Hoopes studied six beaches in Massachusetts where plovers nested, with varying amounts of access by pedestrians, dogs, kitefliers, and off-road vehicles (ORVs). He found that plovers



were most tolerant of disturbances by pedestrians, and least tolerant of dogs, kites, and ORVs. Disturbed plovers may leave their nests unprotected, or be prevented from feeding. Plovers reacted to kites at a greater distance than other disturbances – they may perceive kites to be birds of prey or some other aerial predator – and kites seems to cause plovers to move the greatest distance. At first read, kites seem to be a problem.

But look at the data closer. Hoopes found that less than 7% of plover chick deaths could be attributed to human disturbance; most deaths were probably from natural causes like exposure and predators. Hoopes singles out ORVs as a serious problem, including one instance where an ORV ran over a plover nest.

That raises the question of why a beach would be closed to kites but not ORVs. The answer, I think, is not scientific, but political. The ORVs are often driven by fishermen, who are well organized politically. Hold a public meeting where a city council proposes to limit fishermen’s access to fishing, and the room will likely be filled with angry citizens who arrived in trucks with I FISH AND I VOTE stickers on the bumpers. Can kitefliers say the same? The political consequences of closing a beach to joggers and fishermen are huge; the consequences of limiting access to kiteflying simply don’t exist. Decisions go in favor of those who show up. ☒





Team AirZone



Too Much Fun and AirZone



John Gillespie



Jeanette and Marc Lummas



Arnold Stella



Jeanette Lummas

BERKELEY KITE FESTIVAL BERKELEY, CA

JULY 28 - 29, 2012

PHOTOS BY LORI S. ROBINSON





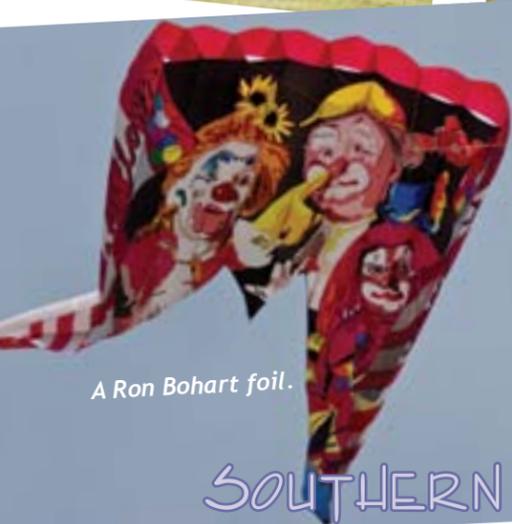
Aaron Washington



Kevin Bayless



Ron Gibian



A Ron Bohart foil.



A Ron Bohart foil.

SOUTHERN OREGON KITE FESTIVAL

BROOKINGS, OR
JULY 21 - 22, 2012

PHOTOS BY LORI S. ROBINSON



Alexa, Kari, and Sam King



Connor Doran



Ron Gibian



Team Too Much Fun



The Bay Area Sundowners: Barry Nash, Kenny Osterlund, John Quitugua, and Gordon Osterlund



Penny Lingenfelter



More incredible appliqué by Ron Bohart.



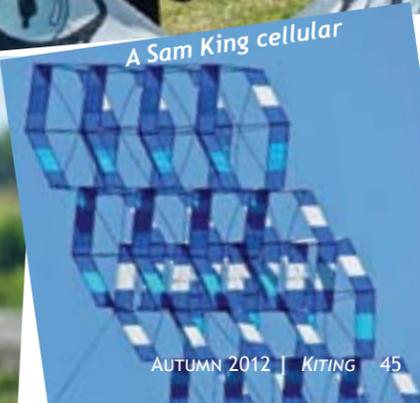
Amy Doran



Ben Lummas



John and Takako Barresi



A Sam King cellular



ROSOLINA INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

ROSOLINA, ITALY
MAY 5-6, 2012
PHOTOS BY PATRIZIO MARIANI



Patrizio Mariani

29TH RIMINI KITE FESTIVAL



RIMINI, ITALY
APRIL 14-15, 2012
PHOTOS BY PATRIZIO MARIANI

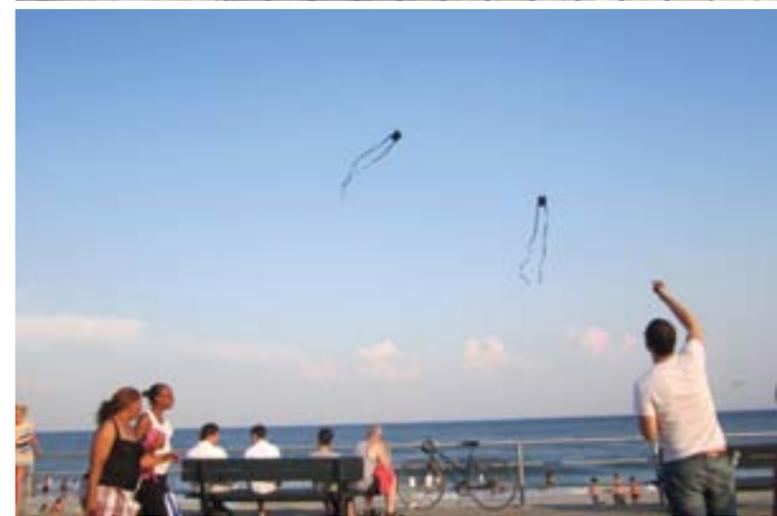


WELCOME TO THE MACHINE

You can get almost anything from a vending machine. Candy bars and condoms. Hot drinks and cold drinks. Cigarettes and sandwiches. Whitney Richardson and Lee Dares think that in a city where the hours just fly by, vending machines can promote the benefits of looking up. The Brooklyn-based kitemakers launched a traveling exhibition called "The Kite Machine," using an antique vending machine to dispense handmade miniature kites made of repurposed materials.

The Kite Machine debuted at Rockaway Beach early in the summer, and has since dispensed more than 500 kites. There were 7" miniature Bermudas, as well as della portas and sleds made in collaboration with local artists. Kites were made from recycled windbreakers donated by Patagonia, bringing new life to old materials to promote sustainability. Kites sold for a 50¢ donation, making the project self-funded by the public.

Richardson and Dares formed Kites For Rights "to empower people through education at the local level with the belief that development of individual physical powers is necessary to move forward with global sustainability through economic, social and environmental change." They work with students using kitemaking workshops to explore human interaction and physical theory in a collaborative setting. The Kite Machine aimed to get New Yorkers thinking about machines and technology in a new way. The artists note, "People go to the beach to relax and refocus the mind and kiteflying is a way to make the experience interactive and hands-on. It allows us the opportunity to reconnect with nature in a way that is sustainable, transient, and magical. The machine will also be a landmark for kite-making workshops, which will bring people together in the joy of kitemaking, a craft that has been lost in our generation." ☒



The Kite Collective presents...

THE KITE MACHINE

Open weekends in July
Rockaway Beach Club Concessions
Beach 96 St. and Shorefront Pkwy

Schedule and Updates, visit:
www.thekitemachine.blogspot.com

The Kite Collective presents an itinerant display of handmade "micro-kites," crafted with love in New York City. We would like to connect people with nature in a way that is sustainable, transient and full of **MAGIC!**

All kite sails are made from **RECYCLED** windbreakers kindly donated by... Patagonia UWS and Saho stores.

ENJOY YOUR FLIGHT!

Are you on The List?

We make everything into lists. Pick out anything in the world, and you can find a way to rank it against something else. Would The Book of Lists be so popular if we weren't obsessed with finding out who or what is the best? Would David Letterman be a cultural icon if not for his Top Ten? Does anything engender more arguments on ESPN than the coach's polls in football and basketball? Could we have put a man on the moon without counting backwards from ten first? So we asked some of the most expert kites in the world to settle all debates once and for all by ranking everything. And of course, their opinion is the last word, leaving no room for argument... until the next time two kitefliers get together at the end of string somewhere. Join the debate on the KiteTalk Forum.

Best Places to Fly by Pete Dolphin

1. Cooper River Park, Camden County, NJ, a.k.a. Goose Island due to the inhabitants and what they leave behind. Birth place of the South Jersey Kite Flyers, where my former wife purchased my first kite (Flexifoil) from Fran Gramkowski. Where I met Scott Spencer and Betty Hirschmann, John Smith, John Gabby and Ted Dougherty.
2. Argentina. This place is all about the people, both kitefliers and the general public. They made me feel so welcome, I would return in a heart beat.
3. Cornwall and Weymouth, England. I sense a spiritual connection to Cornwall and find it very peaceful. Having flown kites at the Weymouth Kite Festival numerous times, I have many friends and wonderful memories.



Weymouth, England

4. Jacob Riis Park, Rockaway NY. A very peaceful seaside park with the New York skyline as a back drop. Oh yes, the hospitality was great, right down to the hourly motel rate where the kitefliers stayed. Roger Chewing did a great job.
5. Long Beach, WA. Been there once when I was President. The folks there made me feel really special. The beach was great with all the room you needed to fly.



The real reason Pete Dolphin is eager to return to Argentina.

TEN PEOPLE I'D LIKE TO FLY WITH BY ELIZABETH GORDON

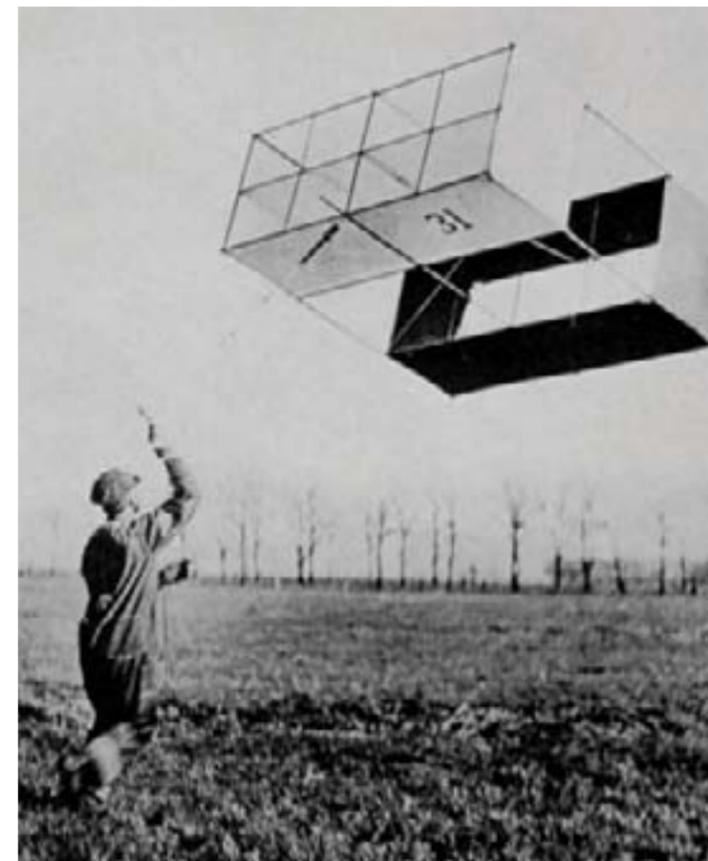
1. David Bui: David was involved in kiting in the 90's. He was a kitemaker, a fantastic judge, and an amazing flier. He won many National Championships. He was tragically killed in a car accident in 1999. I never met him, nor did I see him fly in person, but I have watched videos of his amazing abilities. I hope to be as good a flyer as he was.
2. Raw Power: Rick and Reid Wolcott won multiple National Championships. I've watched videos of their routines and they are so precise and technically remarkable.
3. Susan Shampo: Susan competed nationally for a number of years and in a sport somewhat dominated by men, helped pave the way for me and other girl fliers.
4. Scott Davis: Scott is one of the nicest guys, a really good kiteflier, and judge.
5. Eos: I may be a little biased, but I think my brothers, Josh and Zach Gordon, are two of the best fliers ever. Their precision skills and their choreography really set them apart. I would like to spend more time flying with them.
6. Mikio Toki: I would really like to fly a beautiful single-line Japanese kite with Mikio. He is such a talented kite maker.
7. Mike Delfar: Mike is an awesome pairs and individual flier; his precision skills are really fantastic. He is also one of the best field crews out there!
8. The Chicago Fire Kite Team: it might seem silly to have the team on my top ten list seeing as I am related to $\frac{2}{3}$ of them! But they are such an outstanding team and I think it would be fun to fly with them. I consider myself lucky to know them.
9. Leonardo daVinci: This genius loved aviation and invented the ornithopter. I can only imagine how it would be to fly kites with someone whose designs were inspired by birds.
10. Benjamin Franklin: He used a kite in a scientific experiment and discovered electricity.



Elizabeth Gordon's family only made it to #8 on her list.

Ten Most Influential Kites of All Time in no particular order by David Gombert

- Indonesian Fishing Kite or first Chinese Kite: which came first? Who knows. But the first kite flown was something really special!
- Indian Fighter: there are magical smaller fighter kites flown from Afghanistan to Korea. But the Indian "pa-tang" seems most prevalent and influential. It was brought first to Nagasaki where the Hata evolved, and later around the world to the carbon and poly kites we fly today.
- Edo: each region of Japan has their own special kites. The Edo of Tokyo is remarkable for its highly refined artistry and construction.
- Hargraves Box: The first cellular kite came from Oz where the designer was so famous they put his image on the \$20 bill. And as we all know, cellular kites then led to powered flight.
- Garber Target Kite: Lieutenant Garber designed a kite with two lines that you could steer. They were used for target practice during World War II. What fun could come from that idea?
- Glite: In 1964, Charles Cleaveland of Bend, OR, brought the first dual-line kite to the commercial market. It was soon followed by the Peter Powell, and the Rainbow Stunt Kite.



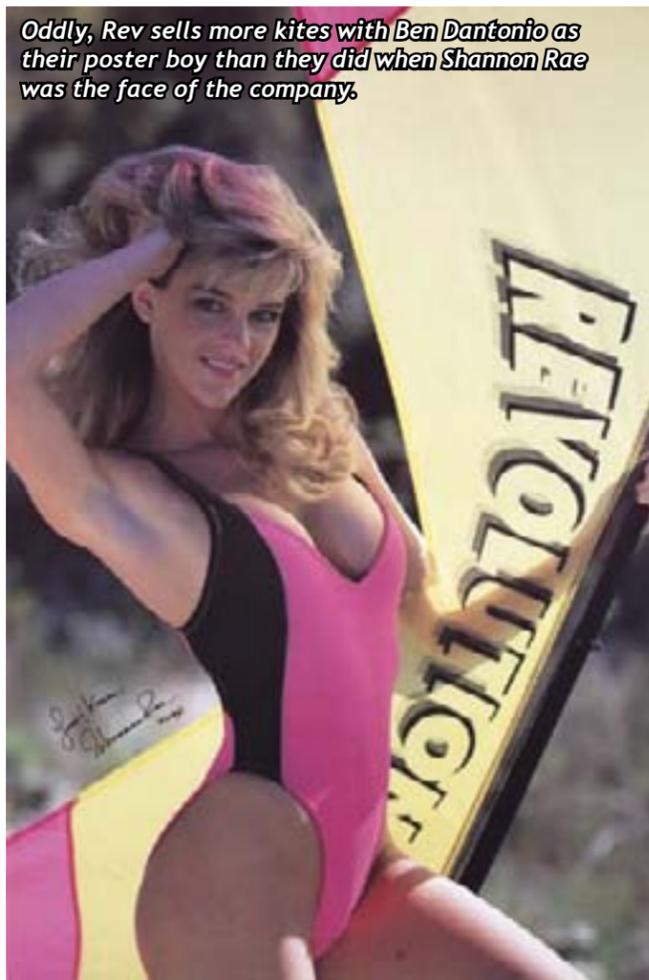
- Rogallo Wing: Francis Rogallo developed a flexible triangular kite. NASA never really used the idea. But the rest of the world got delta kites, sport kites, and hang gliding.
- Jalbert Parafoil: Domina Jalbert made a dimensional kite that had no sticks! That's right, no sticks! It soon evolved into the ParaFoil, ParaSled, and ParaGlider. Now even parachutes look like kites.
- Hawaiian Team Kite: in the early days of stunt kiting, several designs competed to capture the exploding maneuverable kite market. Don Tabor's *Hawaiian* quickly took center stage, supported by one of the best performance teams to ever grace a competition field: Reich, Tabor, Streed, and Kirk. Wow!
- PL Octopus: Peter Lynn of New Zealand took the soft kite and twisted it into delightful new flying shapes. Enormous "show kites" now dominate the skyline at virtually every festival in the world.
- Revolution: They haven't really changed in 20 years. But every place you go, you see more and more of them! If there is a surge these days in kiting, it is coming from those ultra-maneuverable four-line creations from the Hadzicki Brothers.

The seminal Hawai'ian Team Kite



Yeah, I know that was eleven. What are you gonna do? Make me be president again?

Oddly, Rev sells more kites with Ben Dantonio as their poster boy than they did when Shannon Rae was the face of the company.



Top 10 Kite Festivals

by Scott Skinner



Fanø

- Fanø, Denmark: the Kitefliers Meeting, mid-June every year. Over 20 km of hard-sand beach and the steadiest of wind make for a wall of color that includes some of the most amazing contemporary kites in the world.
- Bali, Indonesia: August every year. The three amazing traditional kites of Bali – the Janggan, Bebean, and Pechukan – along with amazing creative kites, makes this a place every kiteflier should visit.
- Hamamatsu, Japan: May every year. In this chaotic blend of sights, sounds, smells and taste, kites are launched, flown and retrieved; neighborhoods celebrate new births; and kite teams demonstrate their friendship and unity.
- Shirone, Japan: June of every year. This aerial kite ballet – and battle – between the towns of Ajikata and Shirone ends with frantic tug-of-wars between teams from either side of the river.
- NABX, Primm, NV: April every year. The North American Buggy Expo, held on the Ivanpah dry lake bed, brings together kite buggy enthusiasts from around the world.
- Cervia, Italy: late April every year. Cervia Volante, featuring spectacular kites from all over Europe, also brings together the finest art kites and their creators to fly in the beautiful winds and weather of Italy.
- Washington State International Kite Festival, Long Beach, WA: third full week of August every year. Still one of the nicest beaches for kite flying, the small-town atmosphere, the World Kite Museum, and Kitefliers' Hall of Fame bring people back year after year.
- Wildwoods International Kite Festival, Wildwood, NJ: Memorial Day weekend every year. The funky town, great seafood almost everywhere, the Boardwalk, and of course the wide beach and great wind, make a trip to the Wildwoods unique.
- Callaway, NE: Labor Day weekend every year. This town of fewer than 1000 people plays host to the largest kite festival in the middle of the US. It's a great assortment of families, kitefliers, and spectators in a completely out-of-the-way place.
- Bay of Fires, Tasmania. Scheduled event or unscheduled, just go! Right up the highway from Rob Brasington's house is one of the great beaches on the planet. Go there and fly kites!



José Sainz and Scott Skinner on the beach at Wildwood.

Five Things That Are Always In My Kite Bag

by Gayle Woodul

1. Shower curtain rings. Yep, a buck a dozen at the Dollar Store. My crew is always amazed at their uses. Initially, they were to hang windsocks off of my canopy supports but we've found plenty of other uses for those cheap solid plastic loops that snap shut.
2. Tweezers. I'll be honest, they do



come in handy for fiberglass splinters from banner poles, but I've discovered their greatest use is in snagging those really tight knots in kite line tangles.



3. Electric and/or duct tape. Okay, I know that we all have duct tape in our vehicles, but the difference

with mine is that I carry a variety of colored tapes for quick emergency repairs of banners.



4. Twine. I'm surprised at the number of times I've had a need to secure "part A" to "segment B" and was grateful that I had some inexpensive twine on hand.
5. Bose iPod speaker system and extra battery pack. No explanation needed. Tied at #5 is, of course, Zombie Repellent.

by Ron Lindner

1. Kite lines, all sizes and all lengths, so when I give a kite away I can just hand the line over.
2. Water. I don't care where I am, my water seems to be somewhere else, so I always stash a bottle.
3. Jack-Back: a strapped cushion for sitting on, or unstrapping and laying on, which is great for reflecting on your kite or just getting a nap.
4. Anchors to hold those kites while you are contemplating the insides of your eyelids.
5. Sand to remind me of the steady winds of the coast when I am home in the Midwest.



by Richard Dermer

1. Sunblock. (I'm a skin cancer survivor.)
2. Folding scissors, or a sharp pocketknife.
3. AKA signage, the bigger the better. ADVERTISE US! My favorite is a 3'x8' vinyl sign with "American Kitefliers Association" in big block letters. "AKA" is fine for those of us who belong, but we need to spell it out for the public.
4. Sample copy of *Kiting* to show off.
5. AKA application blank.

by Mike Dallmer

5. Repair tape
4. Knife
3. Ground stakes or sand anchor
2. Carabiners
1. Something to give to someone else to get them interested in kiting.

Five Things I'd Save If (Heaven Forbid) The World Kite Museum Were On Fire

by Kay Buesing

1. The original Conyne
2. An antique Dutch tile decorated with a kid flying a kite
3. A Wayne Hosking calendar box full of kite plans (the last two in an ephemera exhibit)
- 4 & 5. At least two exhibit files. I'd hope to get kite trains and indoor flying.

And I'm out the door!



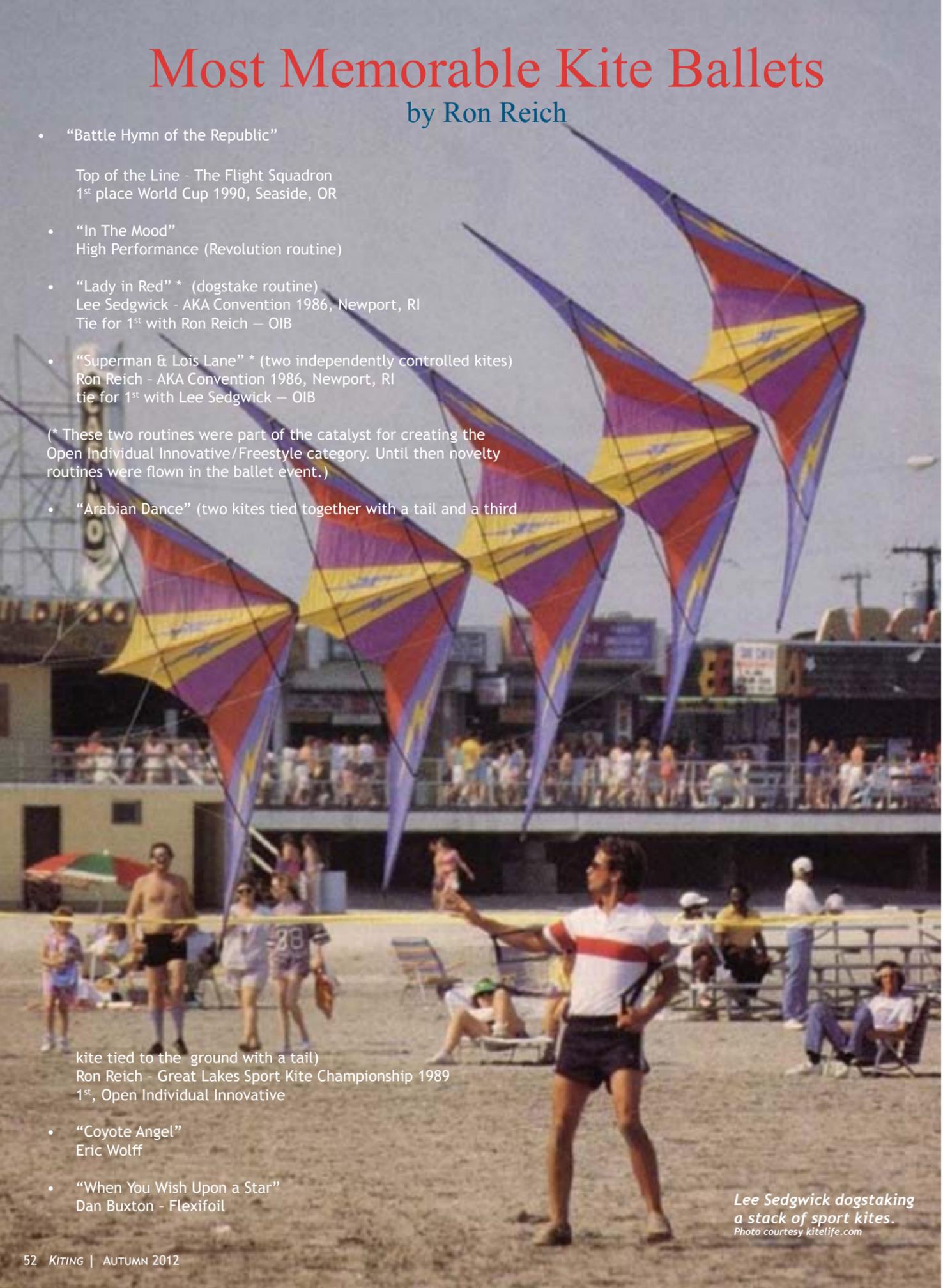
Most Memorable Kite Ballets

by Ron Reich

- “Battle Hymn of the Republic”
 - Top of the Line - The Flight Squadron
 - 1st place World Cup 1990, Seaside, OR
- “In The Mood”
 - High Performance (Revolution routine)
- “Lady in Red” * (dogstake routine)
 - Lee Sedgwick - AKA Convention 1986, Newport, RI
 - Tie for 1st with Ron Reich — OIB
- “Superman & Lois Lane” * (two independently controlled kites)
 - Ron Reich - AKA Convention 1986, Newport, RI
 - tie for 1st with Lee Sedgwick — OIB

(* These two routines were part of the catalyst for creating the Open Individual Innovative/Freestyle category. Until then novelty routines were flown in the ballet event.)

- “Arabian Dance” (two kites tied together with a tail and a third



kite tied to the ground with a tail
Ron Reich - Great Lakes Sport Kite Championship 1989
1st, Open Individual Innovative

- “Coyote Angel”
 - Eric Wolff
- “When You Wish Upon a Star”
 - Dan Buxton - Flexifoil

Lee Sedgwick dogstaking
a stack of sport kites.
Photo courtesy kitelife.com

Top Kite Artists

by Jon Burkhardt and John Pollock

Sam Eaton



• Tom Van Sant

Burkhardt's...

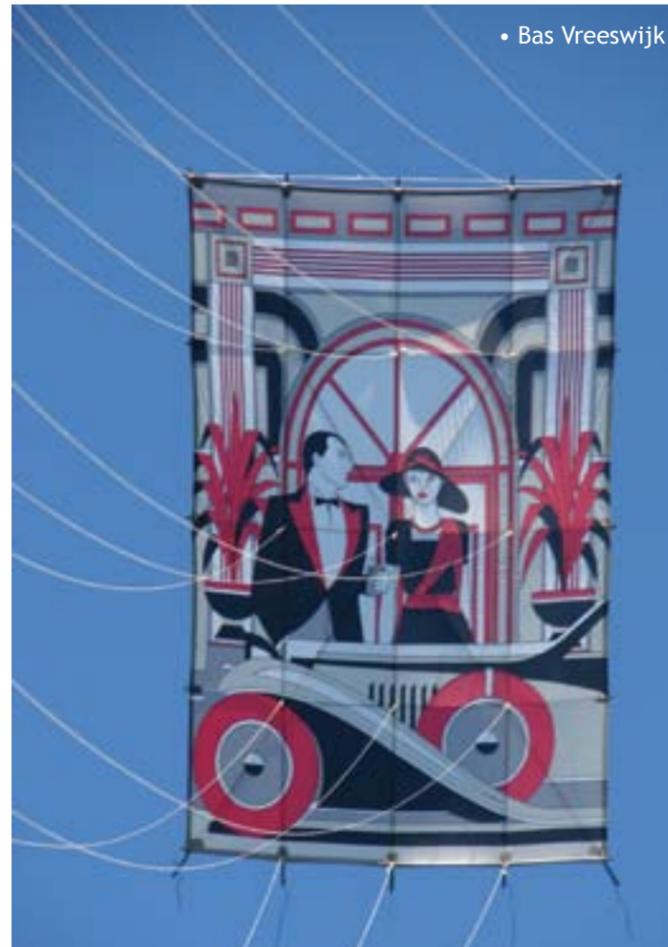
- Peter Malinski
- Martin Lester
- Ron Gibian
- Pierre Fabre
- Therese Uguen
- John Pollock
- Robert Trepanier
- Kathy Goodwind
- Bobby Stanfield
- Lam Hoac
- Reza Ragheb
- Randy Tom
- Michele Gressier
- plus those pictured

Pollock's...

- Steve Brockett
- Claudio Capelli
- Michael Goddard
- Robert Trepanier
- Ron Gibian
- Philippe Cotteceau



• George Peters



• Bas Vreeswijk



• Steve Brockett



• Claudio Capelli



• José Sainz



• Istvan Bodoczky

Top 5 Moments In Kite History

by Meg Albers

1282 Marco Polo's writings helped spread kites along the Silk Road, introducing kites to Europe and the rest of the world. Marco Polo wrote of seeing kites being used as aerial work-horses as they carried bricks and humans up a pagoda. According to Malcolm Goodman, "In the 13th century Marco Polo wrote about how the shipping merchants tied someone (usu-



ally a drunk) to a huge kite and launched the kite with the drunk attached before the ship set sail. If the kite went high and straight it meant a quick and prosperous voyage but if it crashed or didn't fly well it was a bad omen which meant no-one set sail."

1749 Alexander Wilson and Thomas Melville of Glasgow University performed the first recorded weather experiment using kites in 1749, spawning the weather forecasting field. The early 1900s saw dozens of weather kite stations across the U.S. and scientific and research campuses had kite buildings in places like Lindenberg, Germany. Weather kites went on to serve admirably for the next 150 years before retiring to the onslaught of technology.



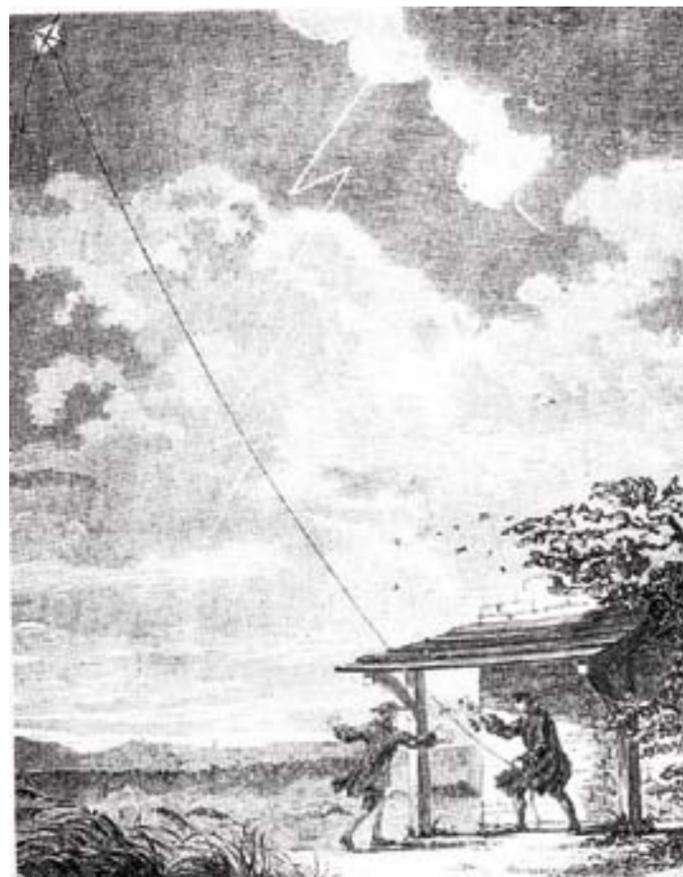
1752 The following words about Benjamin Franklin were published in *The North American Review* in 1856: "Few men, indeed, have lived, whose time, mind and resources were more wisely and conscientiously directed to the elevation of society, the enlightenment of the mass, and the improvement of human condition. He was indisputably one of the greatest

benefactors of mankind.

"The history of Franklin's electrical experiments and discoveries is one of the most attractive, beautiful, and pregnant episodes in modern science. The grand simplicity of his theory, the familiar apparatus by which it was tested, the accuracy of his foresight, and the unpretending spirit with which he received the fame incident to so great a result, form together one of those memorable instances of the conquest of mind over matter, of human intelligence over the secret facts of nature, which add the cognizance of new laws to the domain of knowledge, and brighter names to the catalogue of her immortal disciples.

"Franklin drew down the lightning and identified it with electricity, he forever allied his name to an element, whose every subsequent revelation is associated with the kite and key, the thunder and the conductor, the benign image and endeared name of the Boston printer, the Philadelphia sage, and the American patriot."

According to Isaac Asimov, in his 1961 book, *The Kite that Won the Revolution*, "In 1752 Benjamin Franklin had flown a kite while a thunderstorm gathered overhead. You may not think there is much to flying a kite, but when Franklin did so, he made himself world famous. He made himself one of the most admired and respected scientists in the world. He made himself the only American known by name to the cultivated men of Europe. You might say, then, that it was Franklin's kite that won the Revolution. It was Franklin's kite that allows us to live in an independent United States of America today."



1866 - 1901 History tell us that in 1901 radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi made the first successful transatlantic wireless (radio) tests by raising the antenna 400' by means of the Baden-Powell Levitor Kite. Marconi also experimented in shore-to-ship radio communication in 1901, possibly using these kites to raise the antenna.

History also tells us that in October 1866, Mahlon Loomis, an American dentist and amateur inventor, successfully demonstrated what he called "wireless telegraphy." Loomis was able to make a meter connected to one kite cause another one to move, marking the first known instance of wireless aerial communication. He accomplished this eight years before Marconi was born.

1948 The modern non-rigid kite started as a vision of Dr. Francis Rogallo, an aeronautical engineer of the National Aeronautics & Space Administration. Rogallo earned one of the first Aeronautical Engineering degrees issued by the United States educational system, from Stanford University, in 1935. Following WWII, Rogallo began research on a flexible wing. He had always been an avid kiteflyer and he believed he could develop a kite with the stability and shape of a parachute, but with the lift of an airplane wing. Prior to Dr. Rogallo's research, it was believed that cloth had to be braced or stiffened in order to serve as a basis for flight. However, no organization was willing to subsidize such experiments at that time. His early work was done privately in his own home with the invaluable assistance from his wife and lifelong partner, Gertrude.

Before the end of 1948, Rogallo had succeeded in producing the first fully successful flexible-wing kite called the Flexi-Kite. A patent was applied for in 1948 and granted in

1951. As an acknowledgement of his wife's enormous contribution to the project, Francis put the patent in his wife's name. This was not simply a tribute to Francis' love for his wife, but the acknowledgement that she was a significant partner in his research.

During the early Sixties papers written by Rogallo as well as government reports became available to the general public. The Rogallo wing was turned into an easily constructed, inexpensive, foot-launchable glider, which worked well. Word of its success got out and more were built. This presented the Rogallos with a dilemma, whether to defend their patent or not. In an incredibly generous gesture, the Rogallos chose to let manufacturers freely produce their invention. And to this day the people of the world continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

It can certainly be argued that Dr. Rogallo's most significant contribution was in the development of the famous delta wing. While this makes Rogallo the father of modern hang gliding as it is known today, for kitefliers the importance of the delta is profound. Dual-line sport kiting is what it is today because of the delta swept-wing design. It is also very possible that the ease and lack of frustration that accompanies the flying of a single-line delta kite has significantly increased the ranks of the AKA and kite clubs the world over.

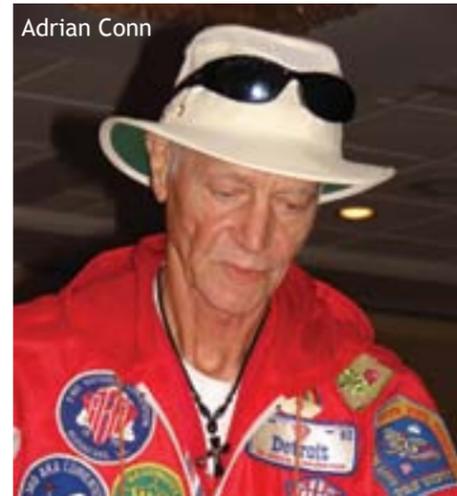


Zhao J. Chen

Top 10 Kitemakers

by Kevin Shannon

- George Peters
- Mikio Toki
- José Sainz
- Adrian Conn
- Martin Lester
- Zhao J. Chen
- Ron and Sandy Gibian
- Ramlal Tien
- Bobby Stanfield
- Peter Lynn



Adrian Conn



FUN AND OLYMPIC GAMES

Let's say you're Danny Boyle, Oscar-winning director of *Slumdog Millionaire* and the man in charge of the Opening Ceremonies for the London Olympics. And let's say you need to re-create the history of Great Britain. And let's say that as part of it you need a large steamship, which also needs to be man-portable, fit through the entrance of the stadium, and fold up to make room for the rest of the show. Who you gonna call? Karl and Sara Longbottom, of course, who built this collapsible lightweight steamliner — modeled after the real M/V Empire Windrush, a WWII era passenger liner and troopship — that was part of Boyle's July 27 extravaganza.



In other Olympic news, kiteboarding will make its Olympic debut at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro after the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) dropped windsurfing. ISAF President Göran Petersson said, "Kiteboarding has proven to us that it is ready to be included into the list of prestigious ISAF events and it is a fantastic addition to the sailing programme for the 2016 Olympic Games." And of course, *Kiting* will be there in Rio to cover this new event for the AKA. Although he has no idea how to get Olympic media credentials, editor Phil Broder will spend the next four years figuring it out. You can follow Phil's progress (as well as his editorial thoughts on the Olympics, like how an athlete with no feet can get a shoe contract) at www.gettingtorio.wordpress.com.

THERE'LL BE TEARS BEFORE BEDTIME...

This could have ended very badly for Darryl Waters. At a Michigan festival, a 55MPH gust hit, the anchor strap holding Darryl's lifter, full-size Peter Lynn octopus and penguin broke free of the car it was anchored to, and as Darryl puts it, "The penguin experienced traumatic decommissioning. The penguin wrapped itself up on some power lines and pole, the still-flying octopus saw to it that the penguin got pulled through all the sharp bits, and shredded the penguin. The pilot ended up firmly planted in the top of a tree. The penguin is now a really large stuff sack, the octopus looks OK, but I wouldn't be surprised if I find some minor damage on it. I've already decided to make a new pilot out of the fabric from the penguin. Seems appropriate. Fortunately, no one was hurt."

What happened? Simon Crafts witnessed it, and notes, "Darryl had his stack properly anchored under his front axle using the 'tire technique' described at www.gombergkites.com/update/492.html. Darryl expressed some concern that the see-sawing action of the kites moving left-to-right in the sky, coupled with the relatively narrow width of the strap, was making him nervous that it was pulling out from under his tire. He had 6"-8" between the straps when I saw it, which is a bit wider than the standard patch of rubber-on-road of a parked vehicle. It's likely that when the wind hit 50MPH, coupled with the earlier factors, the strap came out from under his tire.

Bottom line: check and doublecheck your anchors. Safety first, last, and always.



The AKA General Store

-Come see what's new-



www.aka.kite.org/gstore



See it in Enid on October 1!



Karl Longbottom
Mike King/NDP

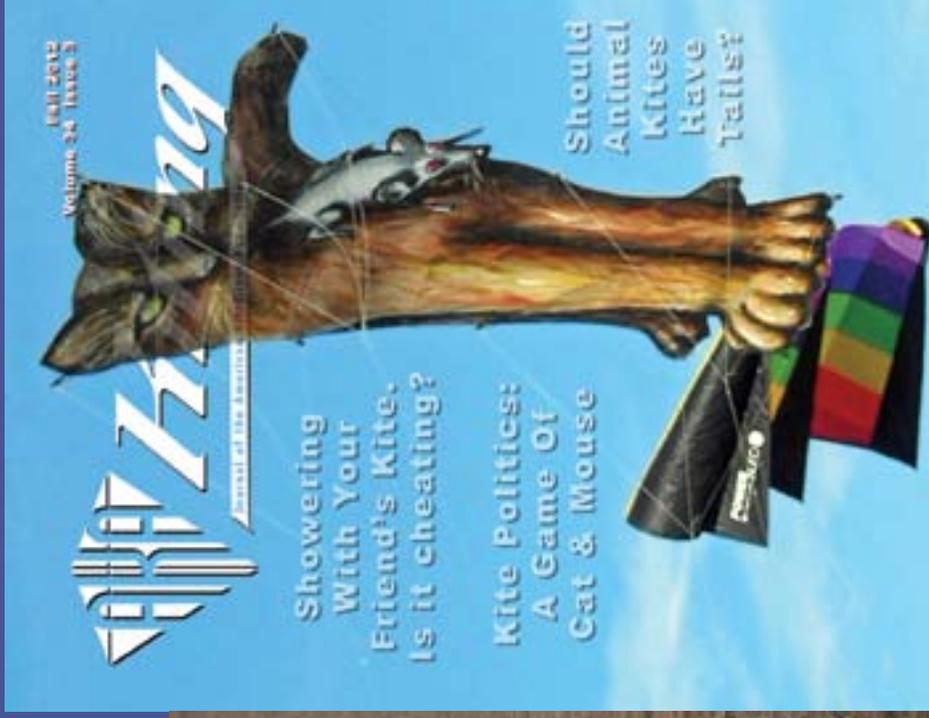
UNDER COVER

There's more than one way to begin a magazine, as these cover photos prove. They're from an online contest organized by John Chilese, who took this issue's real cover photo. Look inside for more potential covers.

by *Dave Sabalino*



by *Dan Czechowski*



by *Kurt Overbeck*