

Spring 2013
Volume 35 Issue 1

AKA *Kiting*

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



Is Kiteflying
Green?

Food For Flight

KTAI Show

KAPping Niagara

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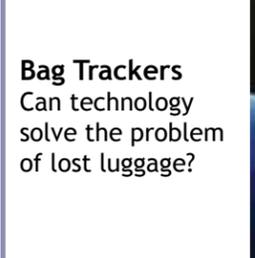
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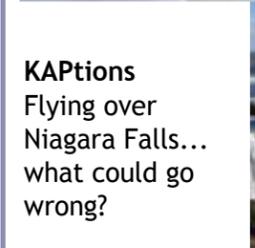
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On the cover: Either someone just scored a touchdown, or Steve DeRooy is excited about his rokkakus. Photo by Lori Robinson.

Coming in the SUMMER issue...
 > China: Weifang, Beijing and more!
 > National Kite Month wrap-up
 > Build Sam King's shield kite

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The AKA is everywhere. From kite workshops to kitemakers at home, competitors and recreational fliers, gathering as kite clubs or formation teams, members of the American Kitefliers Association represent kiting year-round across North America and all over the world, affirming the mission statement set forth by our founders nearly 50 years ago.

The overall purpose of the Association shall be to educate the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites; to advance kiting, its joys and its values, in all nations. To that end, the Association shall work to:

1. *Share information about kiting and provide avenues of communication among kites.*
2. *Promote kiting as a rewarding form of art, sport, utility and scientific study for all ages.*
3. *Facilitate coordination and planning of kiting activities.*
4. *Provide an international educational resource for the development of kiting.*
5. *Maintain historic records of kite studies, activities and achievements.*
6. *Seek interchange with kite associations worldwide*

With this completely in mind, our Board of Directors has put a significant amount of effort into creating a brand new AKA website "portal" that should take us to the next level by providing more education to the general public and making the various paths and activities within kiting more available. We're hoping to have the new site online and visible at www.kite.org by the time you read this letter.

Both the new and old websites will remain functional for the time being as there are some systems and resources that we cannot do without yet, but the transition is underway and we'll move everything to the new site once the remain-

ing technical challenges are overcome. In the long term, we hope to eventually develop a web app that will allow our members to access critical kiting tools directly on their smartphone while out in the field.

For the first time ever, open communication has been initiated between the AKA, the Kite Trade Association, One Sky One World, World Kite Museum and the Drachen Foundation. We're creating opportunities to share goals and visions from each of the organizations so that we can all reach across boundaries to help each other and the larger kiting community as a whole.

We're also very excited about the upcoming convention in Seaside, Oregon, marking the fifth time we have returned to this venue. The first convention I ever attended was in Seaside (1990), and this year promises to be one of the best ever with what should be a more balanced focus on structured events like competition and the good folks who just come to fly and have fun.

Our 36th Annual Convention will be held October 8-13, and we should have additional details about lodging and registration available to our members in the summer issue of *Kiting*.

We realize it takes a lot of planning to travel, and we encourage you to get a jump on it now. This will be a convention not to miss!

From one kiteflier to another I say thank you for being a part of this amazing organization. I look forward to seeing what develops for all of us in the coming year, and to seeing many of you out on the field.

Good winds,

John Barresi



THE FARKER IS DEAD! LONG LIVE THE FARKER!

BY SCOTT SKINNER

The original Star Farker



There is a single object that has raised money for the AKA for over twenty years. There is no doubt that it has raised more money for the organization than any other. That object is not a kite – it's never flown as far as we know – but it is a kite-like object unlike any other. You all know it: the Star Farker, a kite of mythic magnitude. It has been with the organization for as long as many of us have been members – longer for most. Its history is a mix of fact and fiction, some that I'll attempt to explain.

Star Farker was made by Mike Sim-

mons, an accomplished sport kite flier and maker, who was making fun of dean jordan's most recent sport kite model, the Star-Watcher. Made intentionally so it wouldn't fly, Star Farker showed up at an AKA auction, probably in 1991 or 1992. Many have bid and bought the rights to own Star Farker for one year. The challenge was quickly established; own the Star Farker for one year, modify it in any way, and bring it back to the auction the following year.

I've ended up with Farker at least three times (four or five at the most). Sometimes I bid for the privilege, other times "friends" allowed me to carry the kite home. My most memorable moment with the Farker was the year after Bill Bigge had owned it, and had, indeed, modified it with a beautiful canard wing so that it performed perfectly as an indoor glider (maybe the only real air-time the kite has ever seen). Almost immediately, it was clear the Farker wouldn't fit into my kite bag without my "modification." So *snap* went the beautiful canard

and into the bag it went.

Having purchased the privilege in 2010 to have the Farker reside over the bed of Dave and Susie Gomberg, I had a sick feeling that it would, indeed, come back to me last year. It did, lovingly adorned with my face on the sail! Needless to say, this was the kiss of death for Farker.

At the Antelope Island kite festival over Labor Day weekend, I decided that my "modification" for the year would be to allow all the attendees to help me finally destroy Star Farker. It was done with great gusto by all in attendance – even John Barresi. Well, also in attendance was none other than dean jordan, indelibly linked to the Farker whether he likes it or not. He quickly took stock of the situation and promised a new Star Farker for the annual Convention, just four short weeks away. Remarkably, "red-headed step-child of Star Farker" arrived just hours before the Convention auction. When a break in the action presented itself, I pounced!

I asked the assembled AKA members, "What is missing here?" They quickly and accurately responded, "The Star Farker!" Indeed, there was no Farker in the auction. When I announced my unprecedented action of destroying Farker, gasps, groans, and grimaces greeted me. Valerie Govig almost fell off her chair!

Enter... Son of Star Farker! Dean had provided a rokkaku-shaped sail with plenty of room for creative modification! As bidding began on the new Farker, what could have been more appropriate than to have John Barresi stuck with the first "mod." John and his wife TK have just purchased a sewing machine and both vow to learn to use it. Will they make Son of Farker into a high-flying rokkaku? Will he do what he knows best and somehow transform it into a Revolution? Might he add wings to make Son of Farker into a twisted clone of Star Farker? Stay tuned to John and the AKA, and come to the 2013 Convention in Seaside, OR, to follow the story. ☒



Co-conspirators attack the Farker.



GOING CAMPING BY CLIFF QUINN

Most come into the kiting hobby not knowing how vast and diverse kiting actually is. Over time you learn and migrate to what fits your fancy. Sometimes it becomes frustrating because you want to do it all and quickly learn you can't.

I was no different than the millions of people who have traveled this road before me. I've settled in on kitemaking, flying single line kites, and teaching kitemaking with children and adults. Currently what I enjoy the most is doing workshops with children, and at the top of that list are children with serious health issues.

A couple years ago I left a business card on the bulletin board of an art supply store. A few months later I was contacted by a lady organizing a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald Charities in Philadelphia. That's how my involvement started. The lady was quite a sales person and soon after the fundraiser I became a full-fledged RMC volunteer, including being a counselor at summer camp.

Imagine, I'm a father and a grandfather, but attending summer camps as a volunteer in any capacity is a fantastic experience that can be enjoyed at any age.

My first year at camp was as an Activity Specialist. I attended three days and taught kitemaking workshops each day. Today I'm a regular counselor, staying in a cabin with 12 kids and hanging out with them morning 'til night.

Children are 7 to 17 years old, divided into groups called juniors and seniors, and my workshops are geared towards their ages. Sled kites and diamonds primarily for juniors, for the seniors I give a rokkaku project.

Juniors make kites with materials I provide: pre-cut sticks and sails, a fly line like we have in the AKA General Store and a pre-cut tail. I also supply markers for art work.

At the beginning of the workshop I talk about kites, the history, science, physics, etc. One thing you learn quickly is how limited their at-

tention span is, so once you see them getting fidgety you start the project.

Seniors aren't much different, but they like the hands-on part better. The rok project is a three footer with a pre-cut sail, sticks, and bridle lines, and they do graphics with markers. It's amazing the number of kids who can't tie knots or place tape effectively. They leave the workshops learning life skills and improving their dexterity.

During the workshop there's lots of discussion about kites in general, kite stories, culture of kites in other countries, just interesting stuff about kites. We fly the kites later on during the day. Workshops are about 1½ hours. At the conclusion of the sessions I give them the dos and don'ts about flying, including safety.

I also give workshops for the senior kids that involve assembling a mystery kite. I break the group into two teams, and give them kite bags with "Crossdeck" kites. Their challenge is to remove them from the bags, lay out the parts, gather their thoughts and put them together without any written directions. It's fun to watch the interaction, but if they're your kites you cringe when they stretch the heck out of the sails. We flew those kites and they were thrilled to fly "professional" kites.

I've talked about kitemaking workshops and kids having fun but haven't mentioned the serious stuff. There are many camps like Ronald McDonald's that host children with cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses in a place where they can forget about health issues, a place where they let it all hang out.

I find it difficult to put into words how gratifying it is to be able to make a difference in the difficult lives of these children, many whose activities are curtailed with medical treatments, overprotective parents and physical limitations. Kids come to camp with simple rules, no cell phones, and no parents. They go home having had the best time of their lives.

Counselors go home with the satisfaction of knowing they've made a difference. We watch the buses leaving camp loaded with kids waving goodbye, already looking towards next year. Sadly two of my kite students became Kite Angels last year.

You bond, you smile on the outside, you cry on the inside, you become emotional and you shed tears. I reminisce driving home thinking about the kids running around camp flying their kite creations, the crazy pictures they drew on the sails, and the smiles from ear to ear. I also think about where I can go next.

This summer I'm traveling cross-country to attend WSIKF in Long Beach, WA. Knowing that, I searched where I could do children's kite workshops and came across a place: the Children's Hospital in Seattle. Through research I found the contact I needed to put a project together; it's now confirmed for the last week in August. I'm thrilled!

Think about how you can make a difference, getting involved, and passing on your kite passion. Trust me, the experience is overwhelming. ☒



ARABIAN SKIES

BY LISA WILLOUGHBY

Sand dunes, desert and crystal blue water greet my eyes when I wake from my rest after a 30 hour trip to Qatar. Doha is a new city on the edge of sand and water and becoming a jewel in the desert. It is modern but still full of old customs. Pigeons fly free in the city and are given protection and food so if needed they will keep the people from starvation. Water is taken from the sea and purified to be used to drink and make the desert green. Its people shop for their necessities or the extravagant in an open air market filled with the smell of spice and hookah. It was a beautiful and exotic setting for the Doha Film Festival held in November.

Kiteman Productions was given the task of transforming the festival site into a wonderland of color and kites. Banners of all colors brightly waved in the warm desert sun. Stacks of kites flew from boats in the sea to the delight of the spectators on the beach and walkway. Flowing silk kites flew high above the arena creating liquid movement and color that mimicked

the movement of the water and the sand. Brightly colored kites flew in formations around hundreds of moving people in the walkway along the beach. Kites grew out of trees, bushes and flowers to create a playground of kites in a kite garden. Children built kites and brought them to fly near the street kites and on the beaches to be part of the magic of flight. As the sun went down and the desert cooled, the kites were illuminated and the magic continued late into the night.

The crew of Bruce Flora's Kiteman Productions worked hard for hours, days, weeks and months to share the joy of kiting with people across our globe. Women covered completely in black, men dressed in white robes, children from many cultures, countries, and religions expressed excitement, wonder and joy when they asked about our kites. What a magnificent way to share ourselves with others. There are no barriers when you are holding a kite. ☒



KITEMAN BLOWS UP IN KUWAIT

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KITEMAN PRODUCTIONS

Before visiting Qatar, the Kiteman Productions crew stopped off in Kuwait to help celebrate that nation's 50th Constitution Day with Sheik Abdurahman Al-Farsi and the Al-Farsi Kite Team. The festivities included the world's largest-ever fireworks display, with the kites flying straight through the pyrotechnic "war zone." To experience it for yourself, simply search *Kiteman Kuwait* on YouTube, and watch any of several videos of the show.

Dress rehearsal in front of the giant video screen.



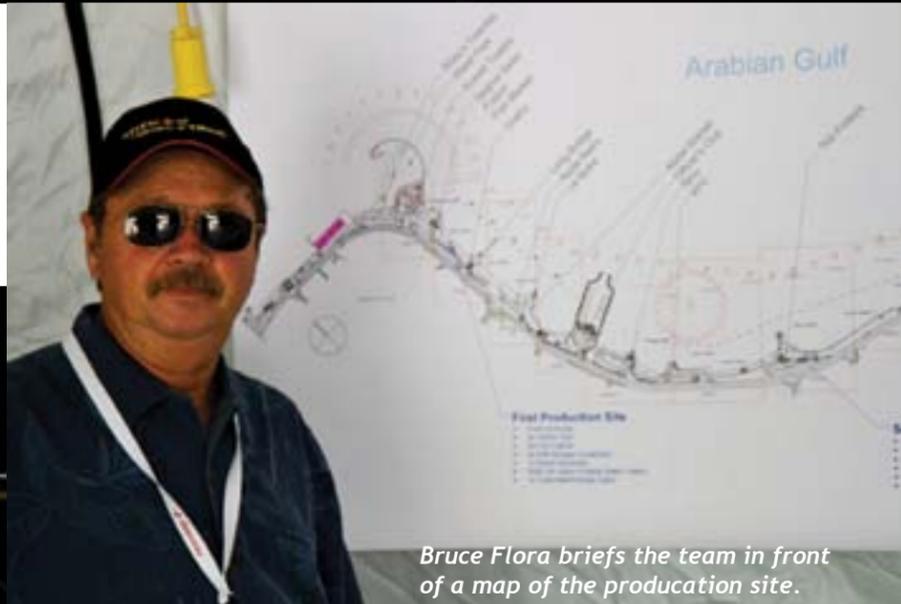
Pre-show kite transportation



Unwrapping tails

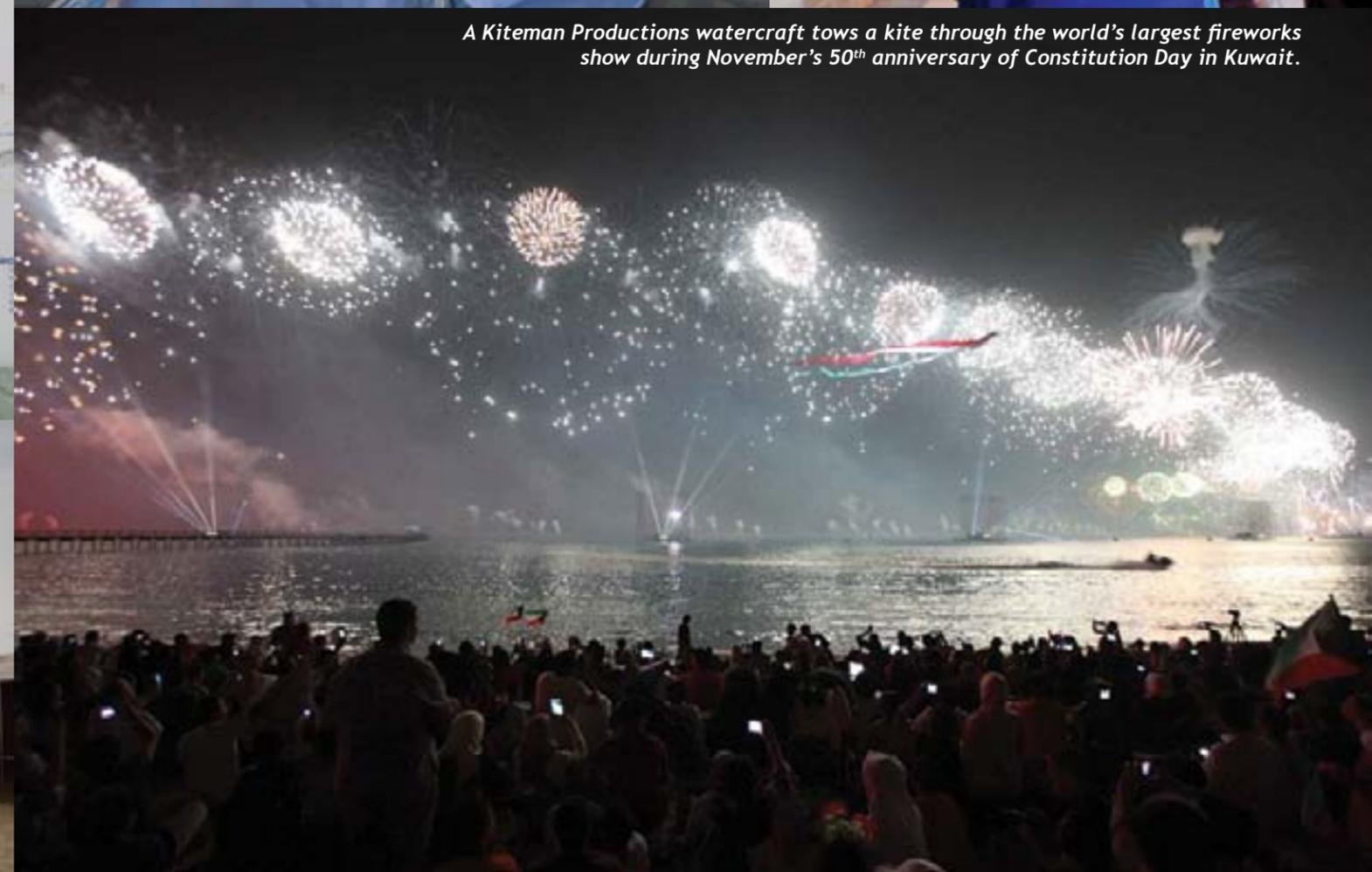


Curtiss Mitchell assembles a diamond kite.



Bruce Flora briefs the team in front of a map of the production site.

A Kiteman Productions watercraft tows a kite through the world's largest fireworks show during November's 50th anniversary of Constitution Day in Kuwait.



Rigging lights and pyro to a kite.





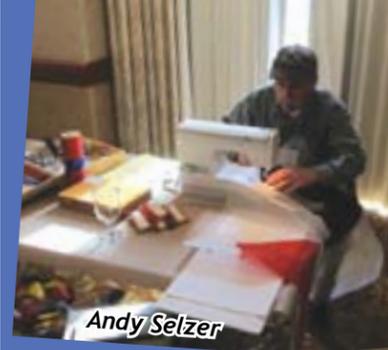
Barbara Meyer and her Nishi sled.



Kelly Bruland



Holm Struck



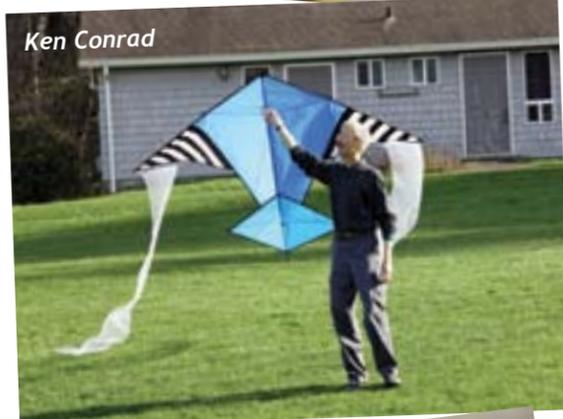
Andy Selzer



Ben Huggett



Sam Colbert and his Koma Dako.

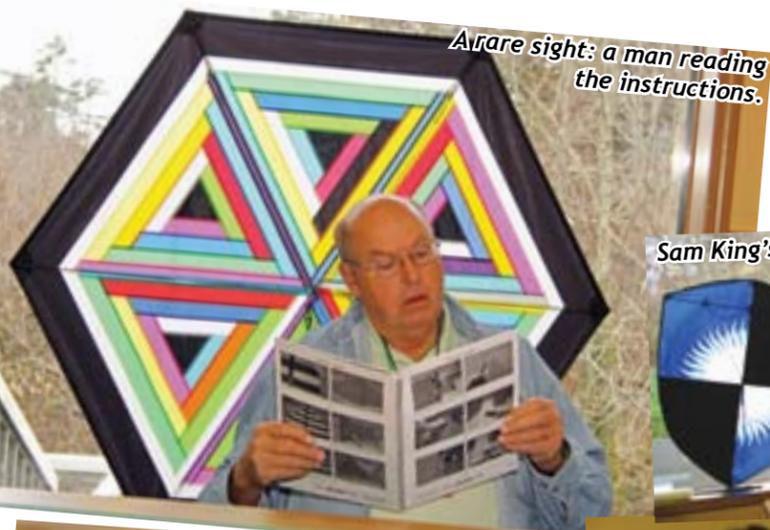


Ken Conrad

20TH OREGON KITEMAKERS RETREAT ROCKAWAY, OR JANUARY 10 - 13, 2013 PHOTOS BY JUDY BROWN AND HOLM STRUCK



Holm Struck's Scalar delta class



A rare sight: a man reading the instructions.



Sam King's shield kites.



David Ellis



Cliff Pennell teaches Barbara Meyer how to build a scrap heap hexagon.



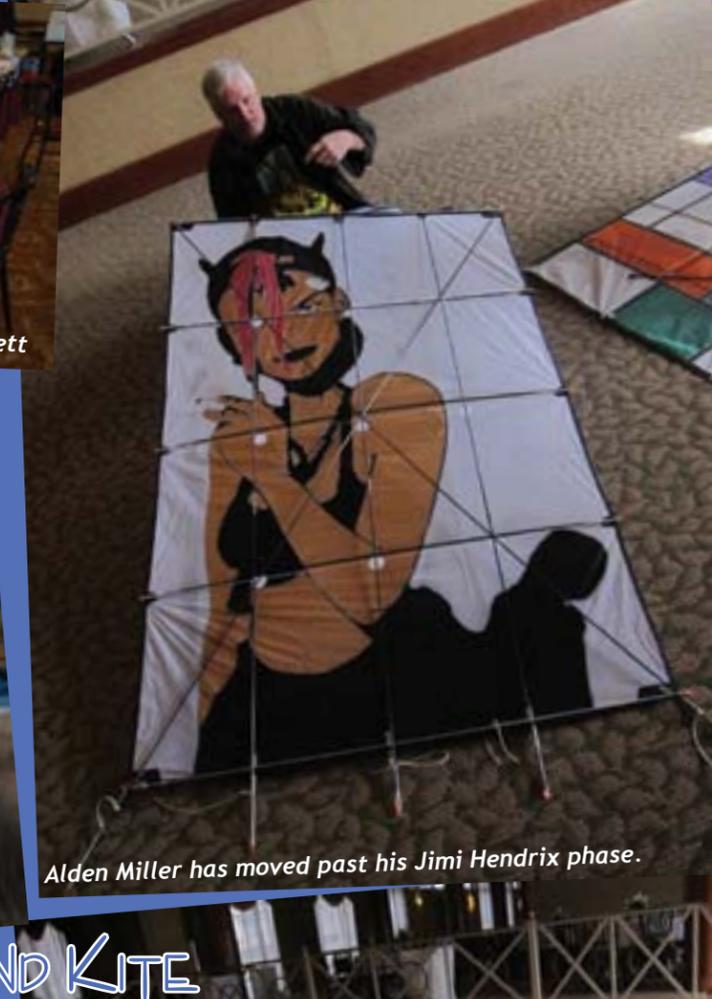
Donna Wendt



MARYLAND KITE SOCIETY RETREAT



Karl Longbottom teaches the Mad Hata.



Alden Miller has moved past his Jimi Hendrix phase.

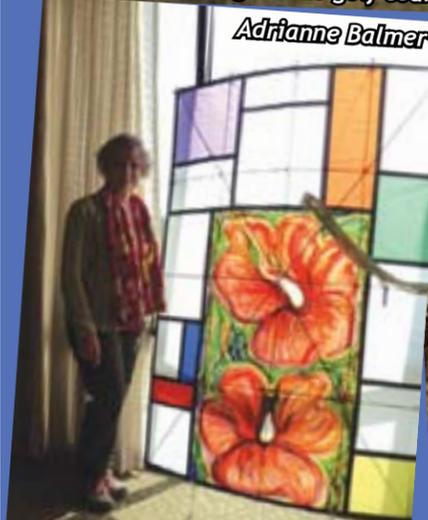


Flight testing on the golf course.

ELLICOTT CITY, MD FEBRUARY 8 - 10, 2013 PHOTOS BY BEN HUGGETT AND TERRY LEE



Alden Miller and Mearl Balmer



Adrienne Balmer



Drake Smith



Adrienne Balmer's Mad Hata

FLYING GREEN KITES



CAN KITES AND THE ENVIRONMENT GET ALONG?

Green kites don't fly. Nobody knows for sure how this mythical kitemaking axiom got started, but there it is. But if we're to believe it, then kites of every other color – kites that actually do fly – must therefore not be green.

"Kiteflying is eco-friendly" is a great t-shirt slogan, but is it true? Is kiting good for the environment? Or is it a watermelon: green on the outside, but a different color underneath? There's no easy answer, of course. There are fifty shades of green.

Let's start with the wind. It's free and requires no man-made energy to create it. In that regard, kiteflying is on a par with skiing, which only requires cheap green gravity for power, and several steps ahead of gas-fueled motorsports. Still, it's easy to take clean air for granted. The USA has strict air quality laws and monitoring. China, on the other hand, has recently suffered through air that's practically chewy. Beijing's smog reached off-the-scale levels, so dirty that American health officials warned travelers against even going outside.

Next comes the string. Bravo to you if you're using a natural string made from cotton, although cotton production still

requires the use of a host of fertilizers and pesticides. And the glass-covered cotton manjha line in Asia has been well-documented to kill or injure thousands of birds annually. Dacron line traces its roots to the dinosaurs, because it's a petroleum-based polyethylene fiber. Sport kites using Spectra/Dyneema lines have a few more syllables to learn, since that line is a polyparaphenyleneterephthalamide. In simpler terms, it's part of the nylon family, which also traces its lineage back to oil. Do we need to tell you about the environmental and geopolitical problems that oil presents?

Now we're up to the kite, which has both a sail and a frame (pipe down, soft kite aficionados. Your kites use enough bridle lines to make up for what I'm about to say about framing materials.), both of which have environmental issues. If you're looking for maximum sustainability in a kite, you want to look towards Japan. The kites of Mikio Toki, for example, are made with washi paper stuck with rice glue to a bamboo frame. It's all completely organic, and about as sustainably grown as a kiteflier is likely to get. The other side of the coin is uglier. Ripstop nylon, plastic or vinyl fittings, and carbon fiber or fiberglass rods are as chemically dependant as Lance Armstrong.

Nylon was the first of the synthetic fibers made by man, and is considered one of the most important chemical discoveries because of its toughness, strength, elasticity, and resistance to oil and grease. In the late 1920s and the early 1930s, chemists at the DuPont Company first produced nylon by combining chemicals they extracted from coal, water, air, petroleum, natural gas, and agricultural by-products.

The thousands of nylon products on the market today all begin essentially the same. Factories combine the chemicals that produce nylon, heating them first to remove the water. The small molecules from each chemical combine during this heating to form very large molecules in a process called poly-



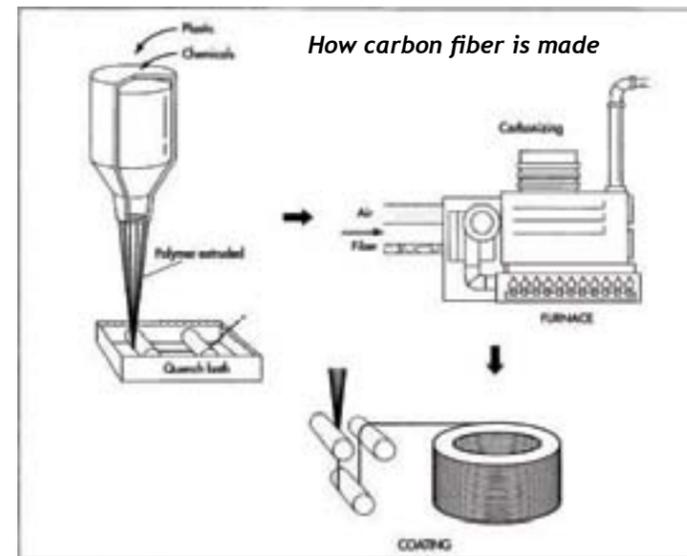
fan base among other enthusiasts.

On average, one kite takes about two days of cutting, pasting and stringing to create, and many feature wildlife, sports stars and even Beijing Opera figures.

"Plastic bags have bright colors and a good texture. Thicker bags are good for making kites for strong winds, while thinner ones are better for light winds," Han said. He owns more than 600 kites and said he wants to have something new every week to entertain his fans.

"I think this is a really good idea not only for our country but also for the world. To use trash for something else is good for the environment," said Yan Juning, who often helps Han launch kites after her morning jog.

According to the state-owned Xinhua news agency, China throws away 300 tonnes of plastic bags a day, and the government has banned the use of the super-thin plastic bags which cause the most damage when buried in the soil.



merization. The nylon then comes out of this heating machine in a flat ribbon. As this ribbon cools, it hardens. Then it is cut into pieces, which are sent to factories where they are melted and used to make thousands of different products, including parachutes, stockings, tires, carpets, gears, machine parts, bearings, furniture, and hair brushes.

Nylon threads, used for fabrics, fishing lines, and surgical threads, are made when the melted nylon is forced through the tiny holes of a machine. These threads harden when they hit the air.

Those threads can then be woven into handy fabrics like ripstop nylon. And those fabrics may be given an additional coating to help reduce water absorption and porosity and minimize damage by ultraviolet rays. Manufacturers won't discuss exactly what goes into that coating, but it's safe to say that it's probably not chicken soup.

And then we affix that colorful chemical stew to a carbon fiber frame. Carbon fiber filaments are produced from a precursor polymer, commonly rayon, polyacrylonitrile (PAN) or petroleum pitch. The precursor is first spun into filaments, using chemical and mechanical processes to initially align the polymer atoms in a way that enhances the final physical properties of the completed carbon fiber. After drawing or spinning, the polymer fibers are then heated to drive off non-carbon atoms (carbonization), producing the final carbon fibers, which are wound onto bobbins. Wound bobbins are then used to supply machines that produce carbon fiber threads or yarn. To make rods, carbon fiber is pushed through holes (pultrusion). For tubes, carbon fiber fabric is wound around a mandrel and treated with a resin. Once again, the exact composition of the polymers and resins involved is a trade secret, but there's more petroleum involved than at a JiffyLube.

The kitemaking process can also use a wide array of other less-than-green products. We use cyano-acrylate glues (SuperGlue), carcinogenic solvents (Bestine), and paints (Design-Master) with scary health warnings written right on the can. We hold it all together with polyester thread and connectors molded from nylon, polyvinylchloride, or other plastics. It's a wonder we haven't sought sponsorship deals with DuPont and OPEC.

By now you may be ready to just set fire to your kites (don't! The fumes would be toxic.) and switch to a hobby like organic gardening. So let's be realistic. In the grand scheme of our petroleum and chemical use, kites are the tiniest of pitances. Kitemaking's contribution to global climate change is a

CAN KITES GENERATE GREEN ENERGY?

Trials have begun in Germany to test whether kites can be used to generate renewable energy to power homes and businesses. Kites could in the future compete with wind turbines as a form of renewable energy, according to a Germany company developing the aerial technology. The trials follow simulations that show a system using multiple kites could harness enough energy to power tens of thousands of homes.

The benefit of using kites over wind turbines is that they can harness the power of winds at altitudes of up to 500 metres, where wind speeds exceed 20 meters a second. Such systems can also cost considerably less to build than wind turbines, which require towers each weighing hundreds of tons.

"The energy yield of a kite far exceeds that of a wind turbine, whose rotor tips turn at a maximum height of 200 metres. Doubling the wind speed results in eight times the energy," commented Joachim Montnacher, an engineer at Germany's Fraunhofer Institute. "Depending on wind conditions, eight kites with a combined surface area of up to 300 square meters can equate to 20 conventional one-megawatt wind turbines."



The technology works by using a kite's aerial movements to drive a generator, which in turn converts the kinetic energy into electricity.

"The kites fly at a height of 300 to 500 meters, perfectly positioned to be caught by strong winds. Cables, about 700 metres in length, tether the kites to vehicles and pull them around a circuit on rails. A generator then converts the kinetic energy of the vehicles into electricity," explained Montnacher. Computers will eventually be used to achieve fully automatic control of the kites. According to the simulations carried out, a total of 24 kites can generate 120GWh of electricity a year, which could eventually replace 30 two-megawatt wind turbines and power around 30,000 urban homes.

minuscule fraction compared to things like energy production, transportation, and even cow flatulence. If you try to live a little more eco-consciously – drive a little less, walk or ride a bike more, turn off the lights when you leave the room, avoid excess packaging, don't use plastic shopping bags, recycle – you'll more than make up for what goes into your kites. ☒

KITES FROM TRASH BY KITTY BU AND MAXIME DUNCAN FOR REUTERS

Plastic bags, the scourge of the environment, are flying high in Beijing, thanks to a retired engineer who is turning the waste into colorful kites.

Kites are believed to have been invented in China more than 2,000 years ago, where they were traditionally made from readily available materials such as rice paper, silk and plant fibres. The modern version also uses a ubiquitous material which 71-year-old Han Fushan said was the easiest, and cheapest, thing he could find to make kites.

"Kites are my one and only treasure," Han, who spent most of his life creating architectural drawings before retiring. "It's through kites that I have got to know so many people and make so many friends."

Han's plastic kites have made him into something of a local celebrity, and he is very proud of his cheap and environmentally friendly creations, which cost less than 15¢ to make. After years of showing up at the same park at the same time each day to fly kites, Han has developed a solid

REGIONAL REPORTS

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



Maggie Engvall
Cranston, RI
401/942-3606
region1@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2013

Many clubs started off the year with New Year's Day flies. The Maine group flew at Bug Light in Portland. Others spent the day flying in RI, CT, NY and MA.

We had several clubs involved with kitemaking workshops this winter. NYKE was the first, making the Urban Ninja kite. Jeremy Johannesen writes, "On January 19 the New York Kite Enthusiasts hosted a workshop just outside of Albany. The project was the ultralight Urban Ninja, and the builders were artfully led by Dave Tuttle. Thanks to the yeoman's work that Dave put into assembling kits in advance all the participants completed their kite, and a bag, with time to spare. Participants came from all over the Northeast, traveling in from Boston, Vermont and even Canada. It was truly a social event with nearly as many non-building attendees and builders. Special congratulations to first time kite builder Todd Brown, who impressed everyone with his quick study. NYKE looks



Misao Davidson, Ralph Reed and Tony Heeschen heat up the New Year.

Glenn Davison

forward to participating in the Lake George Winter Carnival in February and its Annual Meeting in March. Details on kiting in New York are always available at www.nyke.org."

ConnectiKITERS held two sewing workshops this year. They made the SquareFlake facet kite in February and 6' rokkakus in March. The KONE group held a workshop too, and in February the Maine group got together to build an arch.

Upcoming events are the Hammonasset Kite Festival, May 18-19 in Madison, CT, and the Newport Kite Festival, at Brenton Point, RI, July 13-14. I will be looking forward to seeing you out on the flying field.

one, please join us in our workshop this summer!"

After a three year break, Mike Dallmer is enjoying his retirement by coming back as the president of the South Jersey Kite Flyers. Andy Selzer steps down to the vice presidency. SJKF

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



Brad Weiner
Williamstown, NJ
856/229-3745
region2@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2013

Park is a go again this year, on the first Saturday in May. We are also awaiting the scheduling of our kite builds with elementary schools in the Bethlehem Area School District. I think they are waiting for warmer weather. Also, the LVKS website address has changed. It is www.lehighvalleykitesociety.com (was .org); we use this website for archives and www.pocnokitesymphony.com for our everyday use."

Todd Little tells us, "The Keystone Kites held their winter workshop on January 20. Greg Rothermel helped us make some nice flare kites, which you will see in the sky this spring and summer! We also have confirmed the presenter for our August retreat. Ken McNeill will be presenting his Muse sport kite. This kite is not available in stores, so if you want

is planning some new events, like the Penn Treaty Park Food Truck & Kite Fly in Philadelphia on May 4. This event has a size limit on kites, so check with the club before you bring your giant kites.

A fly where you don't have to worry about the size of your kite will be the Brigantine Beach Festivals of the Winds on June 15. Fran and Mary Gramkowski are spearheading this event in a town hit hard by Superstorm Sandy.

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



Will Smoot
Waynesboro VA
540/471-4949
RD3@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2013

Hello Region Three. Jim Cosca is looking forward to once again being involved with Wings Over Washington, a club that he was the founding president of over 20 years ago! He reports, "The Foolish Hat Fly took place on January 1 at Sandy Point State Park with a nice turnout of members, though the wind did not show up till late in the day. We posted a fun picture on the club's facebook page. The First Sunday fly we enjoyed on the Washington Monument grounds."

The Richmond Air Force held the an-

Which is more foolish: the hat, or the WOW kiteflier wearing it?

Jim Cosca

nual New Year's Day It's Too Darn Cold To Fly A Kite Kite Fly. The following Saturday they met at the home of Corbin and Stephen Ensign for the annual Chili and Chinese Gift Exchange. There was lots of good food to go with the chili, and spirited gift "exchanges," reports Shirley Husz.

The Maryland Kite Society's annual retreat happened at the Turf City Resort outside of Baltimore on President's Day weekend. This year's presenters were Karl Longbottom from Herefordshire, England, creator of wonderful birds, bees and bats. Dave Ashworth was the other presenter with a single line indoor kite.

Max Barker from the New Era Kite club announced eight events to be held near Mineral Wells, Parkersburg, Williamstown and Vienna, WV. Some are weekend events and at least one is a month-long display. It's very nice to see so much activity, and even more so by one group.

Other events coming up in our Region are the two festivals at the Smithsonian: Indoors on the weekend of March 23, and the Blossom Kite Festival on the weekend of March 30.

April events come rushing in so please check the events calendar on the website or send me an e-mail. It is not too late to schedule something for National Kite Month, such as a visit to a scout troop, display, or teaching (sharing and playing) in a school. And don't forget to visit the NKM website to get inspiration and find events. NKM ends on the

first weekend of May and Virginia Beach/Portsmouth put on a weekend of kiting. For more information contact Christopher Stankus of Jackite.

In June you will find many sport kite fliers in Richmond for the Old Dominion Sport Kite Championships. The organization team has already started working to bring you another wonderful weekend. This year there are expectations of either fighter kites, a kitemaking competition, or both, so keep checking www.richmondairforce.com.

This year marks the sixth year I have served as your Regional Director. I have decided that two terms is enough and request each of you to consider becoming Regional Director. In July the nominating committee will be seeking names for all of the regional directors along the east coast, and a President. You get to meet many people, you get to encourage new events, and new members, and you are tasked with making decisions about how the Association should be run. Please step forward and help move the AKA along as the premier kiteflying association in the world.

I hope to meet you on a field somewhere, or at least hear from you.

Hello Region Four! Another edition of *Kiting*, the first of 2013. Wait, wasn't the world supposed to end in December?

The winter months are usually pretty slow for kiting in the Carolinas, but the occasional fly or kitefliers gathering does continue to happen. Just before Christmas the WACKOS gathered for their annual Christmas party/dinner/get together.

As I complete this region update, I'm looking forward to spring weather with steady winds and open fields, and hearing in the background of named winter storms (When did they start naming winter storms? Isn't that for tropical weather?) [Ed. note: anything to help the Weather Channel scare you into watching!] and possible snow and sleet and thinking to myself, man, I won't be able to fly my new kite this weekend, how depressing. Luckily, I can live though our neighbors to the south in the Sunshine State. Jay Nunes shared this: "Kiting Tampa Bay was busy in its first year. We hosted 25 events in 2012. It has been a joy to see kiting grow so much here in Florida. New Year's Day was a very special day for us. Eight-year-old Nick Wolf from the Children's Cancer Center joined us to fly kites a few days before undergoing major surgery. He was given a kite made by Don Teeter with his name



Hello Region One! You will be reading this in the spring and will be preparing to attend our spring and summer events. At this time we have snow on the ground and the temps are 0° to 30°. We have had several of our members going down south to Treasure Island for the warmer weather and the kite festivals.

Dave Tuttle



NYKE's Urban Ninjas

Hello Region Two. The weather outside has been cold and winter is almost gone. Time to think about what events you will be attending this year. Check in at the new AKA website, renew your membership and get out and fly a kite.

Joyce Quinn says, "LVKS/PKS managed to have a very nice January Kick Off Dinner at the Stroudsmoor Inn in the Poconos. Our annual Kite Day in the

Greg Rothermel



Adrienne and Mearl Balmer came up from Virginia for the Keystone Kites flare workshop.

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

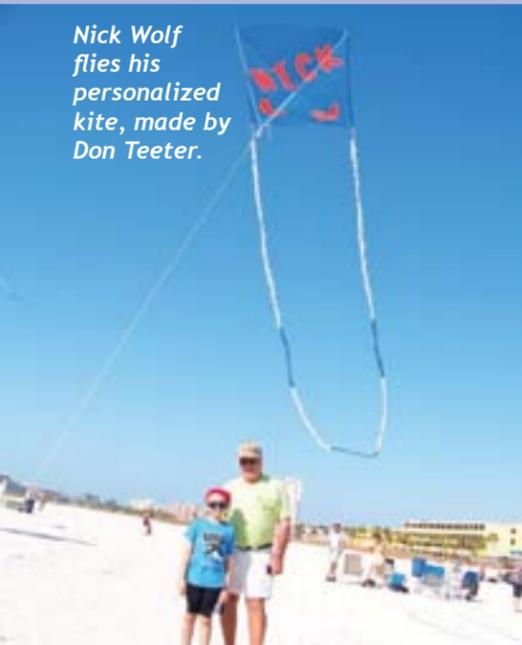


Jim Podlasek
Fort Mill, SC
803/548-2698
RD4@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2013

on it and Joe Fala donated two kites for him and his brother. He also got to help us launch and fly some large show kites. His smile was as big as our Manta Ray. We're planning another busy year for 2013, with a National Kite Month fly with the Children's Cancer Center, a Memorial Day fly, a July 4th Stars and Stripes fly, an August indoor fly, and the second KiteOberFest. We launched our new website, www.KitingTampaBay.com. Please stop by and have a look." And visit the *KITING+* page on the AKA website for a look at last October's KiteOberFest.

As we start the 2013 kiteflying season, let us all make additional resolutions to make sure all of our events are shared with the other members of the region and the rest of the AKA by posting them on the calendar and sending updates in to me. By looking into sanctioning for all your local events and club flies. By helping the new flier, and encouraging their membership in this great family of kitefliers we call the AKA. We may be a volunteer association, made up of people from all walks of life, with different personal views on just

Nick Wolf flies his personalized kite, made by Don Teeter.



about everything, but we all have one major thing in common: our unwavering love of kiting!

Make sure to get out and fly, share your stories, and as always, keep the wind at your back.

Jay Nunes and Nick Wolf



Hello Region Five. It was -1° in Ann Arbor this morning. I'm hibernating and putting in extra hours at work so I can take time off when the weather warms up.

Congratulations to the Windjammers! They are celebrating their 30th year as a kite team. See their story elsewhere in this issue.

Only a couple of events currently appear on the AKA events calendar so far. The firm dates I know of at this point are:

May 5: the 2nd Annual Go Fly a Kite Day at Uncle John's Cider Mill, St. Johns, MI. We're trying to make this a tradition. Last year was lots of fun and over 100 spectators attended, despite thunder and lightning early in the day. We expect a lot more people this year! We will have big kites, individual, pairs and team kite ballet, fighter kites, the Windjammers, Fire and Ice, the Blues Brothers, Thor's Hammer, learn to fly lessons, and lots of other activities for kids. This is also a fundraiser for a splash park in St. Johns.

May 17-19: Great Lakes Kite Festival in Grand Haven, MI. This will be the 25th year for this event. This is the biggest and oldest festival in Michigan. It's held right on the beach so we normally get nice steady winds off Lake Michigan.

June 1: Breeze on Tawas at East Ta-

was Harbor Park in East Tawas, MI. This will be the seventh year for this great festival, organized by Jack and Donna Quinn of Kiteman Jack.

June 1: 5th Annual Lyon Township Kite Festival at James Atchison Park, New Hudson, MI. Jon and Marieanne Trennepohl of Kites and Fun Things run the kite show. There's lots of other entertainment for everyone.

June 15: Metro Beach Kite Festival at Lake St. Clair Metropark, Harrison Township, MI. This is a first time festival. Some of my club have been flying here and love it. The park is excited about trying this. We hope it becomes an annual tradition. We're not positive of the date, and don't know yet whether it might be a two day event. The Trennepohls are working hard on this one too.

July 27: Port Sanilac Kite Festival, Port Sanilac, MI. The Windjammers reported having a lot of fun and good attendance at this festival last year. We're hoping this becomes an annual tradition too.

July 27 (unconfirmed): Kites Over Branch County, Coldwater, MI. This was one of the two competitions held in Region Five last season. The competition format will be different this year. The intent is to complete the parts that are less interesting for spectators more quickly so we'll have more time for fun and to entertain spectators.

September 7 (unconfirmed): 27th Annual Cleveland Kite Festival, OH. This is a huge gathering of international fliers that enjoy the great winds off Lake Erie and each other's company. Watch www.osekcleveland.org for up-to-date information.

As always, the third weekend in July is the Black Swamp Air Force fun fly at Ohio's Maumee Bay State Park, right on the beach.

Again, please keep me informed of upcoming events so I can share the info via the Region Five Newsletter.

Region 5 ~ Great Lakes
MI-OH



Steve Rothwell
Ann Arbor, MI
734/995-3680
RD5@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2014

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



Ed Gryns
Shawano, WI
715/526-9399
RD6@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2014

Hello Region Six. Winter flying in Region Six seems to start on New Year's Day and ramps up on the frozen lakes. This year there was some concern with the lack of ice on the lakes but the late January cold spell improved conditions considerably.

The year started out with the Cool Fool Kite Festival on New Year's Day at Veterans Park on Milwaukee's lakefront.

The Wisconsin Kites Club held their annual holiday party on January 6 in Oshkosh. Over 70 club members attended on a beautiful winter day. The lunch was good, the raffle was exciting and the fellowship was delightful.

On January 12, a kite building workshop was held in my basement. A workshop kite based on Kevin Sanders' design and a baby penguin banner, of Sandy Maguire's design, were the offered classes. Most of the 14 kitemakers who attended were able to complete one or



Veterans Day Honor Fly in Milwaukee.

Greetings to all of you kitefliers as we approach springtime. This is the most important time to reach out to those who take an interest in what we do and get them involved. Let them feel the pull of our single line, or hand them the straps and let them take control of what they have seen you fly from several blocks away. Remember, that park with the trees and choppy ground wind near your house might draw more spectators, and new interest to kiteflying, than the regional club's main flying field which is over an hour's drive away.

Very soon many of our favorite flying

the other of the projects that day.

Brad Klages reports that MKS members and other area kite fliers participated in the 12th Annual Lake Harriet Winter Kite Festival in Minneapolis. The festival was held on 12-15" of solid ice on the north side of Lake Harriet near

the band shell. Due to a few days of unseasonably warm weather that the Twin Cities experienced before the festival, there wasn't much snow left on the lake. Larry Day and Mark Brandt came up from Iowa, each with a couple of Sutton 252s. Their kites flew well during the first half of the event. Barb and Alex Meyer were there, too, and flew one of her large sled kites with long matching tails. The wind increased and became gustier during the second half of the festival, which was called to an end early due to the cold front coming through. The strong, gusty wind became too dangerous to continue flying in. A large tent that festival organizers were using to shelter an activity on the lake got loose from its anchors and slid downwind on the ice. Craig Christensen alerted everyone by announcing over the PA for people to get out of its way and not to try to stop it. The wind blew it about a half mile downwind into brush on the east shore of the lake where it came apart.

MKS flew kites at the annual city festival, Hudson Hot Air Affair, on February 2 in Hudson, WI. On February 16, many MKS members as well as kites from all over the Midwest met at Clear Lake, IA, for the 12th Annual Color The Wind Kite Festival.

As spring comes around, we look

fields will be reserved by sports teams and off limits to kiting. We should all reach out to parks departments and city officials and find those who are "kite friendly" and are receptive to us decorating the skies and helping kids fly kites, in exchange for access to open space that is not covered with sporting events. I will help you talk to them if need be.

With the longer days and warmer evenings, I would like for all of you to consider flying kites every Friday evening at a location of your choice anywhere in the world for Friday Night Flights, a weekly event we have created in Denver



Sadah Colette Pincebella, Milwaukee's Kite Whisperess, gives a sport kite lesson.

forward to the annual Bloomington Sister City Organization's Kite Day festival on May 4. Kite Day is a well-attended spring festival held in Bloomington, MN, celebrating Children's Day in Japan.

Pam Hodges reports that MKS is planning a couple sewing events for club members. In March, they will have a workshop to make bols. They have a good start on replacing their well-used club banners as they are close to finalizing the design and colors.

April 27 is the date for the Kite Komotion Kite Clinic and Festival in Shipshewana, IN. There will be children's activities including a kid's kite building workshop sponsored by the Hoosier Kitefliers Society. There will be single-line kites of all sizes on display as well as sport kite demonstrations.

Congrats to Dave Herzig on the great story in the Star Tribune in January. "Dave Herzig still has the page from a 1979 craft magazine that changed his life. It offered a simple way to build a better kite. A third of a century later, the guy known as "The Kite Man" is turning out about 2,000 kites a year." Read more at www.startribune.com/local/185730392.html.

Thanks for your help in keeping the Region Six report interesting. Keep looking up and hold on tight!

at Stapleton Central Park. Just show up at the same field and advertise it among your local kite club and on social media.

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



Robin Allen McCracken
Denver, CO
720/ 237-2727
RD7@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2014

Facebook link for our FNF group is www.facebook.com/groups/4424919191221.

From Greg Begey, "The weekend of June 8-9, Joplin, MO, will have its 5th Annual Kites Over Route 66, on the former 66 Speedway grass parking lot, directly behind the Carousel Park. Kiting enthusiasts will be coming to Joplin to fly and we should have at least six states represented. This should be another large turnout as the attendance has been growing over the years. On site will be Richard and Marti Dermer with the kite-making tent for the young flyers. This is always a busy site with young and old all waiting their turn to make a kite. Steve and Linda Rogers of Kaleidokites will be selling kites and wind art. Contact Virgil McCoy at 417/781-2387, or Greg Begey at 417/291-2387 or gbegey@hotmail.com."

From Rena Rustad: "Skyfest over Ft. Stevenson, formally known as Skydance Sakakawea, will be on Memorial Day weekend. This family friendly festival features guest flyers from ND and surrounding states. For more information contact me at 701/898-4500."

In Colorado, April 13 is the 11th Annual Arvada Kite Festival. It's the only major public kiting event in the Denver metropolitan area so far, kids fly with lots of vendors. Everyone from the kite community is also invited to volunteer to fly kites and do demos. Contact me or see the AKA Calendar for more info.

Northern Colorado's major kite festival is on Sunday, April 28, 45 miles north of Denver. John Farrell says, "Last year, Fort Collins Kites In The Park drew 5000 plus people. We had a fun day flying kites, watching kite demonstrations, and just enjoying a community day in the park. Free kite decorating for kids, contests with lots of prizes, cultural displays, kite ballet, large show kites, famous kiters such as Mix McGraw and his fabulous stacks of stunt kites, power kite demos, rokkaku kite fights, and many more fun activities. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer send an e-mail to kiteer.john@gmail.com."

Region 9 ~ Intermountain ID-MT-OR



Brett Morris
Medford, OR
541/944-5588
RD9@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2013

Welcome to spring in Region Eight. This is typically the busy time for kiting. Somewhere in the region, a kite festival is happening almost every weekend and quite often there is more than one. If you are traveling, pack a kite and check for a festival in the area. Lots of great flying and friends to see again or to make new ones. Check the AKA website and Troy Gunn's Region Eight calendar, <http://tkogunn1.tripod.com/kitecalendar.htm>.

The Great Texas Kite Club Fly was in Rockport, December 1. There was 3/4 of a mile of kites as you entered the park. The kites could be seen all over Rockport and certainly off Highway 35 going through town. We even had a kite birthday for John Shamrock from SHARK. Remember, April is National Kite Month. Anyone can add an event to the calendar. Take this opportunity to add to your fun and bring someone else to the wonderful world of kiting. Go to your local school or library, quite often they like kiting as another activity to introduce to the children.

Please take time to write a report and take pictures. Send them to me and I will try to get them in this column. I cannot attend all of the events, but I will try to cover them. I am always open to questions and concerns. If you have anything that you want to know about the world of kiting, please contact me. If you have

Greetings kite family! My name is Brett Morris. I live in Medford, OR, and am a lover of all things kite-related. Region Nine has been graced with the creativity, enthusiasm and leadership of Amy Doran over the past several years. Amy has now moved to Washington State and can no longer be our Region Nine Director. I feel honored to be following her as your new Regional Director. We will continue to see Amy and Connor at many Northwest kite festivals and wish them well with kites in the air. We will probably see that pesky Charlie character that follows them everywhere. Thanks again Amy for all you have done for Re-



Larry Stiles two-wheels it during Thanksgiving in Galveston.

Cat Gabrel

an event, workshop, fun fly or kite fest, please put it on the AKA calendar. This is one of the best ways to get it out to the kitefliers. Renew your membership and support the AKA. The AKA store is a great place for gifts for your friends.

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



Guy Blatnick
South Padre Island, TX
956/299-0731
RD8@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2015

gion Nine and AKA. I have flown kites for as long as I can remember, but it was through kite festivals that I began to fly stunt kites by myself and with a team. I attended my first kite festival in Lincoln City six years ago and watched Lam Hoac and iQuad perform their magic, loved every moment, and haven't looked back since. My wife and I have gone to as many events as work would allow. We are members of Rogue Valley Windchasers, visit us on Facebook to see where you can join us to fly. I am excited for warmer weather so that I can meet everyone out on the beach or field. This year is stacking up to

be a great year for kiting activities. The always anticipated Oregon Kitemakers Retreat was held at Rockaway Beach in January. It was again a huge success. This is a kitemaker's dream retreat. If you didn't get your sewing machine warmed up this year, make sure you get signed up for next year. Thanks again to Deb Cooley, Ken Tumminia and Diane Weber for all their hard work. Because of this event there are going to be many new, beautiful kites gracing the skies this year.

A new indoor event this year is the Troutdale Indoor Kite Showdown, April 13-14. This will have two indoor ballet competitions with an Open Single Line competition as well. This event is sponsored by Jack Brownlee, who was instrumental to the growth of the Rockaway Kite Festival these past three years. It will be held at his new indoor soccer facility in Troutdale. For more information e-mail troutdaleindoorkitefest@gmail.com.

The Bengal Breeze Kite Club Festival will be April 27-28 in Idaho Falls, ID. For more information contact Bengal Breeze Kite Club on Facebook, or Bill Hayes at hayewill@isu.edu.

Rockaway Beach Kite Festival is May 17-19. This is a great family event. Come to Rockaway Beach and look for flying kites and colorful flags that will be anchored in the sand. Friday is unofficial, but Saturday and Sunday are full blown festival days. Updated details can be

Judy Brown

found on the Rockaway Chamber of Commerce site, <http://rockawaybeach.net>.

The Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival is June 22-23. It is held on the beach, in the center of Lincoln City, at the D-River Wayside. This is one of my favorite festivals. There are always kitefliers from California to Canada that grace the beach at the D-River. For more specific information go to www.oregoncoast.org/festivals-events.

The Southern Oregon Kite Festival (SOKF) has been one of the premier kite festivals in the United States since 1993. It will be held July 20-21. This festival brings well known kitefliers and kitemakers to perform and display their creations for locals and tourists alike. This year is the 21st time this community has come together to put on a spectacular event. Fliers from all over can't wait to be invited to fly in front of the huge crowds that surround the field at the Port of Brookings. Come see your own Region Nine Director (what were they thinking?) do a team fly. This is a must-attend festival; for more information check www.southernoregonkitefestival.com.

Looking ahead to the AKA convention on September 8-13. The AKA Annual Convention and Grand Nationals is in Seaside at the Seaside Convention Center. Make your plans now.

Great news for David Gomberg! Northwest Winds Kite Stores and Gomberg Kite Productions have been named one of the top three family businesses in Oregon by the Austin Family Business Foundation at Oregon State University. Earlier this year, they were named Business of the Year in Lincoln City. NWW now has stores in Lincoln City and Seaside. You can take a video tour of the shops at <http://gombergkites.com/stores.html>. He was also elected to the Oregon House of Representatives. Congratulations to David Gomberg for a job well done.

I hope your kite bag is ready for a busy year of kiting. I look forward to seeing you all on the beach or at the field!

Region 10 ~ Northwest AK - WA



Scott Davis
Puyallup, WA
253/732-5743
region10@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2015

Sitting here, waiting for the Long Beach Elementary School to open at 8AM, I realize how much I love kiting. This is Windless Kite Festival in its 12th year. It's all about the people with a passion for the sport. So instead of listing all of the upcoming events, I'm going to share some passion with you.

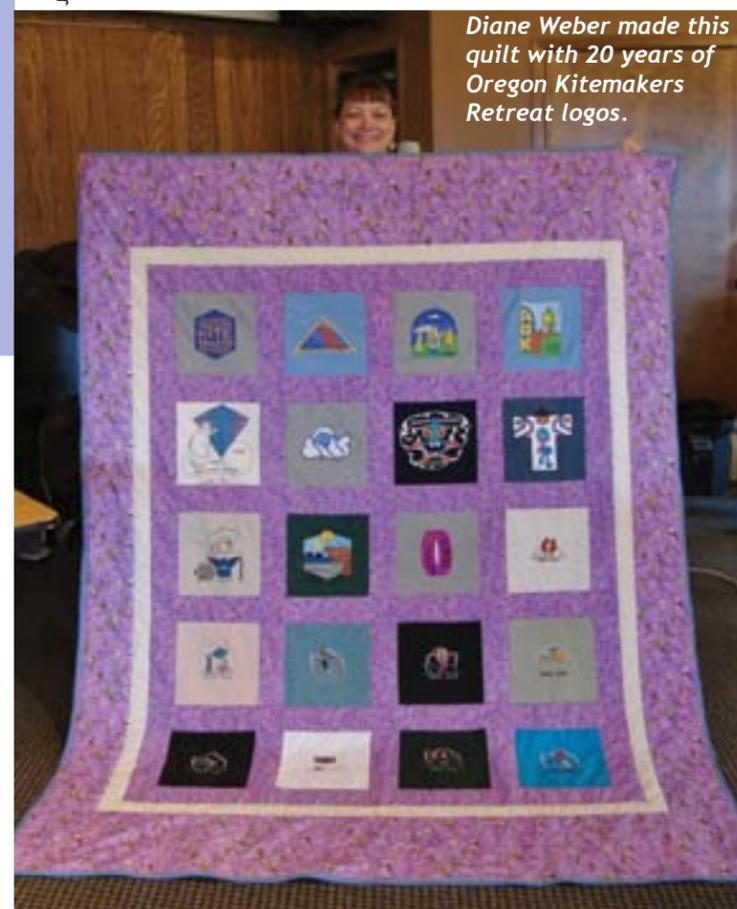


Travis Reedy at Windless.

There is a grass roots movement to do a banner tribute for Ray Bethell. People are working on designs for their banners, sewing machines are warming up, and this will be big. We are going to put this banner farm up at WSIKF on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We have talked with Ray about it, he knows it's coming, and says he's honored. This isn't a contest, it's about giving this amazing man the recognition he deserves. Everyone is welcome to join in. If you can't be there, we can make sure your banner is put up. For this man's contributions, we are indebted.

Tonight Kay Beusing receives a grand honor from the AKA. President John Barresi will present her with a lifetime membership award for all she has done for the AKA and our sport. She has been instrumental as the World Kite Museum's Executive Director in building the museum into a national treasure. Her enthusiasm is contagious. She recently retired and passed the reigns to Chelsea Libby. Last night Chelsea was flying indoor with us for the first time. Cheers to the Museum's

Matt Cyphert



Diane Weber made this quilt with 20 years of Oregon Kitemakers Retreat logos.

new crazy fun Executive Director.

The doors of the gym are opening. This day starts full of good feeling. I get to be here, enjoying a part of kiting that grabs the heart: the passion carried by these people.

Region 11 ~ N. California Northern CA-NV



Tom McAlister
Richmond View, CA
510/235-5483
region11@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2015

Though we are hard at work around here preparing for the 2013 kiting season, it is good to take some time to reflect upon nearly three decades of being an AKA member in Region Eleven. Specifically, let's take a minute to talk about kite shops, past and present.

While it is difficult to believe, in the '80s there were six kite shops just in the city of San Francisco alone! Add in the East Bay and the rest of Northern California and we had 13 AKA Member Merchant stores stretching from Monterey to Sacramento. Some of the shops that existed then were Renegade Kites in Fremont, KiteMakers of San Francisco, Windborne Kites in Monterey, and Rome Enterprises in San Ramon. While now long gone, each of these shops was at the forefront of promoting modern kiting as a healthy sport for all ages.

Proving that you can fly in Berkeley even in January, Tom McAlister tries out his new train.



Mike McFadden of KiteMakers created the old Father's Day Kite Festival, which evolved into the first West Coast Kite Championships. Many old time kitefliers got their introduction to team kite ballet at this event. Teams including the Bay Area Sundowners, Top of The Line, Chicago Fire and more amazed us with the excitement of the capabilities of modern kites. Through this event our eyes were opened to a wide, vibrant world of kiting that we could never have imagined. In fact, Mike's event was the inspiration for what would become our own Berkeley Kite Festival.

Today there are nine kite shops in Region Eleven. Some have been around for 30 years or more and some are relative newcomers. But regardless of how many kite shops we have in our region and how long they have been around, I want to recognize the important role they play as educators and promoters of our favorite pastime.

As kiting advocates, kite shops represent the front line where new enthusiasts often begin their kiting journey. Whether it is through actively promoting kite festivals and other events, or simply through their day-in, day-out education of their customers, they are creating a new generation of kitefliers and our AKA members of the future.

With our new world of online shops just a mouse click away, I would like to remind everyone to support your local shops that do and have done so much to enrich the world of kiting. When you engage your local shop, ask owners if you can help with their promotional events. You'll make friends and be richer for it.

You'll find a complete list of the shops in our region on page 26. Give them a call and get involved. I guarantee you'll have some fun and make some new friends in the process.

Greetings Region Twelve! We have a lot to think about, now that the New Year is upon us. First, some reflection. Per usual, the San Diego Kite Club had their annual New Year's Eve Fighter Kite Challenge at Tecolote Shores. Kevin Heredia followed in his father's footsteps and won the coveted Paper Dragon Trophy. His weapon of choice was, of course, a Vic fighter know as a Fireball. The next day, the usual band of merry men and women gathered at Mariner's Point for the always enjoyable New Year's Day Club Fly. Southern California weather held up, and temperatures were in the 60's with smooth winds. Tom King and family graciously offered up

Region 12 ~ Southwest Southern CA-AZ-HI



Glen Rothstein
San Pedro, CA
213/407-3515
region12@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2015

their motor home to add a little comfort to the day. On hand were good people, good pot luck, a nice auction and more Rev handles than Lolly Hadzicki keeps in stock for a 45 day supply.

As we approach Spring, we have many events to look forward to in addition to the monthly club flies. March 3 will have us in San Diego for the 65th Annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival. Put on each year by the local Kiwanis chapter, this year they're turning it up a notch with the help of the SDKC and others. www.oceanbeachkiwanis.org

March 9-10 is when Huntington Beach becomes the apex of kite flying as Dave Shenkman unleashes Kite Party 11. This non-structured event is just what it claims to be... a party. Don't miss it. www.kiteconnection.com

Due to the continuing tireless efforts of Tom and Ani Fine, the 39th Annual Festival of the Kite will take place on March 10. This is one of the most intimate, feel good festivals around. Go for the kites and the kids, stay for the food. www.pierkites.com

National Kite Month will be back in force from March 30 - May 5. It's almost time to hit www.nationalkitemonth.org and load up your events. You are having events, aren't you? If you need help planning one, let me know. You can never have too many kite-related events. All it takes is a little planning.

On Sunday, April 14, we stroll up to Santa Barbara City College for the 28th Annual Santa Barbara Kite Festival. Dave and Rakesh continue their tradition of putting smiles on kids' faces. www.sbkitefest.com

Seven days later, April 21, brings us to the 4th Annual Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum's Family Kite Festival. What started as tail chases and face painting has turned into one of the Central Coast's largest events of the year with sport kite demos, candy drops and bol runs. Oh yeah, let's not forget about the barbecue either. www.smvdiscoverymuseum.org



SDKC Fighter Kite Challenge winner Kevin Heredia holds the trophy, surrounded by his competition.

April 27-28 is when the rock at Morro Bay is shadowed by ripstop and polyester. Expect more news on this great event as we get closer to the day.

As you work on your travel plans for Fall, be sure to keep in mind our Annual Convention will be in Seaside this year, October 8-13. You'll have just enough time to get home and prepare for Seal Beach right after.

That's it for now. Grab your calendars, grab your family and friends, ready your flight plans and share what we do. Best wishes and winds!

Region 13 ~ International



Linda Sanders
P. O. Box 758
Willunga SA 5172 AUSTRALIA
(+61) 885-562696
RD13@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2015

Warm greetings to international kite fliers in Region Thirteen. Sources say that Region Thirteen kites live in 93.5% of the world; such a huge family! Don't forget, e-mail me anytime, write letters if you like, send photos. Everything is stored.

Who collects kite paraphernalia? See in the AKA General Store, the Mass Ascension Pin Set of the 23rd Annual National Convention from Treasure Island, Florida, selling at \$10. Link here, then scroll down: www.aka.kite.org/resources/stores/gstore. Also check the AKA Sling Pack; Santa was very kind and brought us one each. The ideal size for taking to the kite field.

A reminder that AKA Sanctioning, with Kite Event Insurance, does cover Canadian kite festivals; submit your application when listing your event on the AKA Event Calendar.

Shula Shavit has discovered all the colors of the rainbow.



NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA IN INDIA – Simon Chisnall (NZ) and Kevin Sanders (Australia) both travelled to India for Uttarayan's sacred celebrations. Traditionally, on the January day when the sun's path heads northward signalling the end of winter, everyone is in party mode. Pilgrims bathe in Prayag, some burn waste bric-a-brac heaped outside their houses, rice is cooked in milk and allowed to overflow... and it's the one day for kite flying. Thousands of kites in the sky fly from rooftops, fighter kites dart with precision, manjha snaps, kite and line disappear, then new kites are tied. Families entertain guests in their homes with delicious feasts, and as night falls, thousands of lanterns are lit and let loose to float gently away into the night sky. Definitely must-not-miss.

ISRAEL – Shula Shavit shared her news from One Sky One World, October with this link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUH_WUTOHA. Their newest kites have a distinctly rainbow colour theme. Shula works with quilting and patchwork patterns saying they're ideal for such recognisable kite designs.

NEW ZEALAND – New member, Peter Clark, is from East Tamaki, Auckland. For anyone looking to welcome him, check

the AKA Clubhouse and send him a warm message!



Actor William McInnes (rear) presents the award to the Redcliffe Kitefest crew.

AUSTRALIA – Redcliffe Kitefest 2012 won the Moreton Bay Regional Council Australia Day Award for the Best Community Event. Great effort by David White and the crew.

FRANCE – Here's a final report on the collaborative project from Dieppe in 2012, with thanks to Bernard Fournière for his diligence. <http://dieppe2012.free.fr/en/Welcome.html> This project is gaining momentum, with the Windjammers' Gary Maynard already promising to participate in the 2014 challenge.

The Cerf-Volant Club de France is organizing the International Convention of kite aerial photography "KAPiFrance





The air is thin in Vercorin, Switzerland, but it will support a kite.

125th in October 2013. The event will celebrate the 125th anniversary of KAP's invention by Arthur Batut. It takes place in southern France near the birthplace of aerial photography, Labruguière. KAPi-France will take place over four days between October 20-27, with exact dates still to be confirmed. Check <http://cvcf.info> for updates.

CANADA – Thanks to Facebook, Ray Bethell scores daily hits on www.youtube.com/watch?v=nr9KrQn_lIg and often from total strangers who send the link to their kite friends thinking we don't know who Ray is! He's certainly touched a lot of hearts, so in a fitting tribute, there's to be a mass array of feather banners in Ray's honour during the Washington State International Kite Festival. This is not a competition, and everyone is welcome to design, craft and add their banner to this tribute. No rules, can be big or small, simply create your banner and take it to WSIKF in August. Not going to USA but still want to participate? When yours is ready, e-mail Terry Wiggill at islandquad@gmail.com and he'll advise. Ray even has his own Facebook Event Page, www.facebook.com/events/401670139915993/.

From Toronto Kite Fliers, Carlos

Team Mangalore readies Feisty Birds for flight in Delhi.



Simoes sent his delicious tale of the 17th Annual TKF Chilifest and kite workshop held November 27. Gary Mark, Brendan Burge, Doug Isherwood, Donna and Fred Taylor and Anne Sloboda worked on finishing an old workshop project and eating chili among friends, but, no recipes to share.



Fred Taylor holds an original Graham Bell tetra cell at TKF's Chilifest.



A historic kite from Frits Sauve.

made in the workshop. And from across the border in France, Bernard Fournière reports that the Vercorin kite festival (on a Swiss mountain at 2300m, possibly the highest festival in Europe) is reinstated for August 3-4 after a three year break.

ENGLAND – Peter Hulcoop, David Johnson and Sara Lyth have been keeping

The Dieppe Kite Festival returns to New Brunswick, August 14-18. The theme for the kite-making competition is *solar system* and for the banner competition it's *social media*.

ANTARCTICA – Not legally one single nationality, but many "outposts", so Region Thirteen claimed Mitch Cordova as an honorary member during his work stint at Palmer Station. We salute you, Mitch, for flying your kite near the southernmost point on the globe!



Mitch Cordova has resurrected Kites On Ice in Antarctica.

INDIA – Last year Team Mangalore gifted Phil Broder one of their team jerseys. It took Phil a while, but he finally returned the favour, sending a kite to India. It arrived just in time for the team to fly it during Delhi's International Kite Festival in December.

For a look at this year's Gujarat International Kite Festival, go to www.tomrobinson-photography.com/uttarayan-kite-festival-gujarat-india/.

SWITZERLAND – Announcing the Historical Kite Workshop, April 26-28, in Beinwil. www.drachen.org/event/historical-kite-workshop-hkw-2013 features the three-winged Brogden kite to be

up regular correspondence via social media. Their country was either snowed in or awash with rain as I wrote this article. Hoping for the thaw, soon.

DENMARK – The Medal for Patience goes to Finn Andersen. It seems his Post Office won't deliver his *Kiting* magazines! We hope this issue arrives safely.

NETHERLANDS – From Frits and Inge Sauve, their warm wishes for a happy New Year, and a photo of their historic kite. Thanks from all of us too!

SWEDEN – Christopher Chambers says, "The AKA is my only club now." Sobering to think that every one of us will know someone else from another country, yet when we meet on a kite field, nobody thinks of country. The only concern is "where's your kite?"

BRAZIL – Max Cardoso travelled to India in January and enjoyed the Ahmedabad festivities with many thousands of kite lovers. Kite heaven, Max?

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



18TH CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

MUIZENBERG, SOUTH AFRICA
NOVEMBER 3 - 4, 2012

Watch the Cape Town kids kite workshop.



PHOTOS BY HALIT CEBICI



That New Website Smell

Quick, while it's still shiny and has that new website smell, head over to the AKA's new online home, www.kite.org, and take a look around. It's the first proactive step of many toward being a visual, effective resource for the entire kiting community. Some functions still run from the old website, but everything is gradually being shifted over to the new address.



Marla Miller, Kay Buesing, Scott Davis and John Barresi

Fifth Time In Seaside

You know that the AKA is headed to Seaside, OR, for our 36th annual convention this fall, right? It'll be our fifth time on that beach. But two things you may not know. . . First, this convention will run Tuesday through Sunday, not the Monday-Saturday format that we've used for many years. Second, this year's convention logo was designed by Joanna Chen. Look for all the convention details in the summer issue of *Kiting*.

Retirees Get Lifetime Memberships

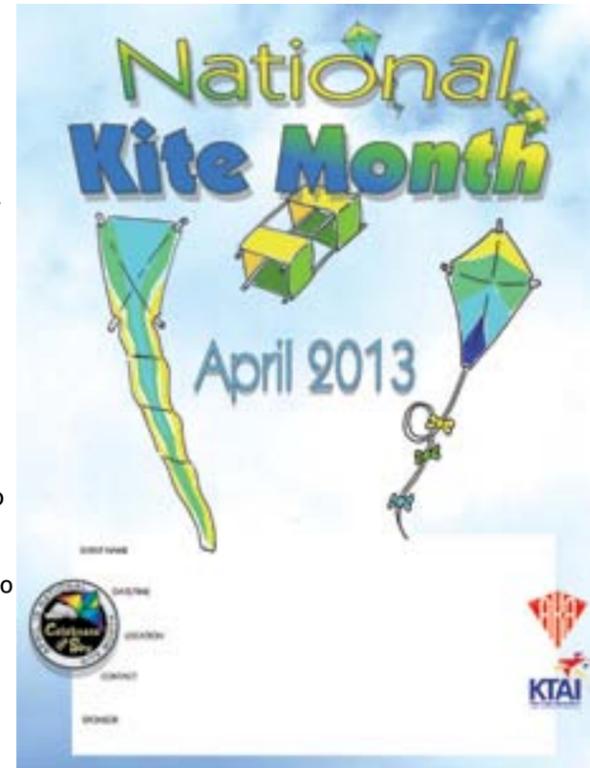
A seminal figure in the world of kite aerial photography, Brooks Leffler, recently retired. You'll still be able to buy quality KAP gear — Brooks sold his business to Ken Conrad of Great Winds Kite Company — but Brooks will be enjoying his free time as the AKA's newest lifetime member.

Another retiree will be enjoying the same privileges as Brooks. Kay Buesing stepped down last autumn as director of the World Kite Museum. She was also awarded a lifetime membership at the January board meeting.



affiliated clubs, merchants or a member of the general public at large worldwide. Events need only involve kiting in some way to qualify for registration, and can be a festival, competition, workshop, classroom event, or any activity that brings kites and people together.

To help incentivize individuals and groups to register their events, we're offering cash prizes. There will be a drawing from the names of all individuals/groups that register an event within each week of NKM. "Weeks" will go from Monday through Sunday, except for the first week which will be from March 30 to April 7. So anyone who registers their event on the NKM website will have a chance at collecting that week's cash, and those who register multiple events within any week will get multiple entries. Also,



It's spring, and that means it's time to break out the kites and go flying. Why not do a little more this year and organize a kiting event? Better yet, how about letting us know about it here at National Kite Month HQ? There could be cash in it for you!

National Kite Month — a joint effort of the American Kitefliers Association and the Kite Trade Association International — promotes the introduction of the public to the joy of kiting and helps kick off the kiting season each year. Since education works best when it's also fun, we hope that public kiting events during National Kite Month are first and foremost enjoyable and exciting for organizers and participants alike.

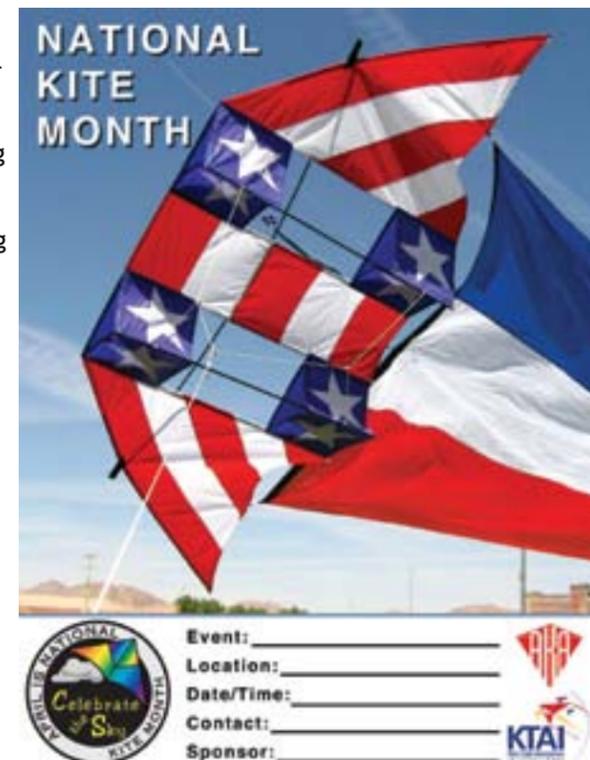
It's been traditional to start the month with the Smithsonian Kite Festival (which is now the Blossom Festival) and extend for five full weeks and six full weekends, and that tradition will continue. For 2013 that goes from March 30 through May 5. Certainly, during that period we wish to maximize kiting events, and to record them by having organizers register their events at www.NationalKiteMonth.org. Registration is open now, and registrants may be AKA members,

an event that extends over more than one week will be put in the drawing for each week it appears on the calendar. There will also be a cash award of \$200 to the organizer (individual or group) who registered the most events over

the entire NKM period. Please keep in mind that in order to collect a prize or award the event registration must include a contact name and mailing address, along with a phone number and/or e-mail address.

The top three entries of the NKM poster contest are shown here and posted on the NKM website. Check them out and download one to use to announce or advertise your event. Also, look in the KiteTalk Forum for news and updates. The NKM website is a great source for all kinds of ideas and help about putting on a kite event. Even though organizing a kiting event takes some effort and dedication, we also hope that it's fun and fulfilling, and that National Kite Month provides some of the recognition due an event organizer (and perhaps a bit of cash in hand as well). Thanks in advance to all event organizers for bringing the world of kiting to the public and sharing what you love about kites.

Contact NKM Chairman Mike Mosman at admin@nationalkite-month.org.



NKM Poster Contest winners

- 1st Susan Rubio (top left)
- 2nd John Chilese (bottom center)
- 3rd Paul Barrow (top right)



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Mel Hickman, Executive Director
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 Phone/Fax: 609/755-KITE (5483)
 Web: www.kite.org
 E-mail: xd@aka.kite.org

officers and executive committee

John Barresi, President
 Portland, OR
 503/890-0280 president@aka.kite.org

Gayle Woodul, First Vice President
 Marble Falls, TX
 830/598-2414 vp1@aka.kite.org

Linda Sanders, Second Vice President
 Willunga, SA Australia
 (+61) 885-562696 vp2@aka.kite.org

Rod Beamguard, Treasurer
 Vancouver, WA
 360/574-8050 treasurer@aka.kite.org

Alexa King, Secretary
 Tacoma, WA
 253/531-4924 secretary@aka.kite.org

Simon Crafts, Director at Large
 Vanlue, OH
 419/721-4888 dal3@aka.kite.org

Mike Mosman, Director at Large
 Columbia, MD
 410/290-8085 dal4@aka.kite.org

Bob Kelly, Director at Large
 Reston, VA
 703/437-7312 dal5@aka.kite.org

Glenn Davison, Director at Large
 Boston, MA
 781/359-3421 dal6@aka.kite.org

KITING magazine

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

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

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

Send address changes to
UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org

AN END TO LOST KITE BAGS?

In the past few years, there's been a serious problem with kite bags wandering away from their owners. Cliff and Gerry Pennell's kite container was stolen from the airport and has never been recovered. David Gombert's rental car was broken into outside a South Africa B&B; the bag of inflatable kites that was stolen was eventually returned. Amy Doran's bag was taken from her car at night, and eventually found by police. And a Peter Lynn bag was flown to a different destination than Peter, and never seen again. What can we do to keep our kites where they should be? If you put your bag down on the beach, can you make sure it stays there? If your bag is lost or stolen, can you recover it? A trio of gizmos unveiled at January's Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas might offer the solution.

Trakdot gives the constant flyer a little more of a sense of security. Trakdot is a palm-sized device you put in your bags, tracking it with your smartphone if it gets lost, anywhere in the world. It'll update you with an app, SMS, e-mail or the Trakdot website. It goes to sleep when your luggage is in the air and then sends you a text when your bags and the plane they're in have landed. This way you'll know if your bag winds up in a different city than the one you're in. Trakdot will also ping your phone when your bag is 30' from you. That means you can do something else (read, watch a video, get a rental car, etc) while waiting for your luggage to arrive, instead of just staring at a conveyor belt for 10 minutes. One limitation: Trakdot will only tell you what city your bag is in; it can't give a precise location. Rather than rely on battery draining GPS, the Trakdot uses a quad-band GSM chip and triangulation, which allows it to last up to two weeks on a fresh pair of AA batteries. Available in May, the Trakdot will be \$49.95, though a one time activation fee of \$8.99 and an annual service fee of \$12.99 will be required to keep it functional.



Stick-N-Find stickers offer you the ability to find any object using a smartphone and a Bluetooth connection. Attach a Stick-N-Find Bluetooth sticker to any object, then check distance from the object using a smartphone app. In addition, you can trigger an audible buzzer to hear the sticker as well as turn on a blinking red light housed within the sticker to see the object in the dark. Approximately the same size as a quarter, the Stick-N-Find sticker has a range of approximately 100' and the battery lasts about a year. When the battery is running low on power, the Stick-N-Find app alerts you. In order to find an object using distance, the app provides a radar screen to give the user an estimation of approximate distance. However, the radar screen does not show direction and requires the user to walk in various direc-



tions in order to target the location of the device. The radar screen will show up to twenty active stickers that are connected to the smartphone over Bluetooth. If a sticker moves out of the 100' range from the phone, then the user can turn on the "Find It" feature within the app. Once the sticker comes in range of the phone again, the application will alert the user immediately, such as for a piece of luggage arriving on the airport carousel. The app also allows users to trigger an alert if a sticker moves out of a specified range. Called the "Virtual Leash" feature, users can set a distance range for each sticker as well as assign names to the stickers.

i'm Here is a GPS tracker equipped with a SIM card. It can be used by wayward kite buggers concerned with safety – it'll let you make an emergency call at the push of a button – or help you locate a lost bag or child. Linked to your phone by an always-ready app, this device slides into backpacks, pockets, or other crevices, allowing you to track family members, vehicles, or luggage. When you're ready to locate something just send the i'm Here GPS a message and your lost treasure's location is revealed in Google Maps. After the initial purchase, you can locate the device 200 times for free. But after this, each additional search will cost 5¢. The device can be used worldwide for the same price. Look for it to be available sometime in May for \$169. ☒



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EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Mary Lou Clouser

Mary Lou joined the South Jersey Kite Fliers in 2004 and instantly volunteered to help any way she could. She may not have flown kites often but she was behind the scenes with food prep, serving and donating baked items. Her favorite events were the Wildwood International Kite Festival, SJKF's Anniversary Bash and the Holiday Party which she attended with her daughter and grandchildren. South Jersey Kite Flyers will truly miss her, may she rest in peace.

Mike Dallmer

Ron Young

Ron enjoyed building and flying kites for the last 30 years. He was a founding member and a club president of the Kapitool Air Korp, an officer of Wings Over Washington and a life-time member of the Maryland Kite Society. Flying quadline kites was Ron's passion and his favorite locations were Fort McHenry and Ocean City. At Sunfest he would entertain boardwalkers with his kite skills and worked operations for the Kite Loft. He passed away in January at age 71.

The Young Family



Nobuhiko Yoshizumi

He was credited in the Art Kites (*Kunstdrachen*) catalog over a dozen times; he was the holder of the Guinness World Record for the world's smallest kite; he, along with Harm Van Veen and Charlie Sotich, was one of the founders of the Friends of Small Kites; and he was a mentor and friend to a worldwide following of kitemakers and artists. Nobuhiko Yoshizumi passed away peacefully in his sleep in January at age 73.

I quickly learned that he only made miniature kites (he told me years later, "easier to carry!") but those miniatures were unlike any I had ever seen. Yoshizumi-san was unafraid, even in the stiff beach winds, to launch and fly any of his creations, always successfully. The skill required and the knowledge of the kites' proper materials at this scale continued to amaze me through our 20+ years of friendship. Yoshizumi-san was a great advocate of Japanese kites as well. He developed a number of kite kits that the Drachen Foundation has used for over ten years.

In numerous workshop situations, he would quietly observe and then offer exactly the right comment or technique to dispel any misunderstanding. He was a wonderful source of information because he was versed in so many traditional Japanese kite designs as well as the art that became a part of them. As we participated in more and more workshops and exhibitions together, it was exciting to see Yoshizumi-san stretch the boundaries of "traditional Japanese" kitemaking. His recent work included cantilevered structure, forward and backward bridling, and frontside and backside sparring, along with his superb craftsmanship and keen aesthetic eye.

Japan Kite Association President Masaaki Modegi has passed this on: "The following message is a favor to ask you from his family. Please let him sleep peacefully. If you want to think about him, you don't need to send us word of condolences, instead please send him your message in your heart. That is what he would have hoped."

We've lost a giant; one who quietly masqueraded among us flying his tiny wonders of paper and bamboo.

Scott Skinner

Gene Lewandowski

1932 - 2013

Gene was a member of the Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites and was known as "the bubble man" by many children and their parents. With his wife, he spent countless hours sharing the love of kites with others. Dorothy and Gene were regular fixtures at the Airwaves Kitefest over the years and their soccer player was always a big hit on the soccer fields.

Rick Agar



André Cassagnes

In late January, we received sad news from France: André Cassagne passed away. André was known for his circular Ring kites and various other innovations. We met him several times in Dieppe and we think that he was one of the greatest of France's kitefliers and a very nice person. He was the inventor of the Etch-A-Sketch in 1950. For constructing his circular kites, André invented and manufactured special sets of expensive plastic connectors to hold the frame together in place. Some years ago, we built a kite just like his Ring kite, but not having access to his special connectors, we came up with an idea of using Eddy kite center connectors combined with tensioning strings to hold the frame together. It was very simple and cheap and it worked very efficiently. We showed it to André when we met him the following year. Rather than being angry with us, he praised it and said, "That's what's so good about kite festivals. Friends can meet, exchange ideas and learn from each other." We wish him a good flight!

Eli and Shula Shavit

Jilly Pelham

Producer of Vertical Visuals Kites, an innovative cottage industry of designers, produced throughout the 1980s, Jilly reproduced many of the designs found in David Pelham's *Kites*. Her kites were distinguished by striking graphics, beautiful craftsmanship, and sure-flying stability.

Drachen Foundation



George Peters



Charlie Mazzulla



Mark and Connie Ledvina



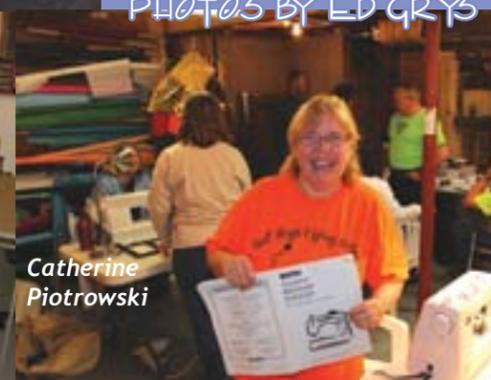
Ray Blum

ED GRYS' BASEMENT
KITEMAKING WORKSHOP

SHAWANO, WI
JANUARY 12, 2013
PHOTOS BY ED GRYS



Becca Hiller



Catherine
Piotrowski



Paul Koepke and Kathy Brinnehl

SPORTING LIFE

THREE LEAGUES OF THEIR OWN

There are currently three active leagues in America: the Bay Area Sport Kite League, the Eastern League, and the Northwest Sport Kite League. We asked BASKL President Tracy Erzin, Eastern League Commissioner Jared Haworth, and NWSKL President Scott Davis to outline their upcoming events.

Bay Area Sport Kite League

BASKL is a no-frills competitive sport kite league. Costs are kept down so entry fees are low. The idea is to provide regularly scheduled events in a local area. The purpose of the Bay Area Sport Kite League is to provide a forum in which sport kites fliers of all skill levels can gather and learn from one another. While each league event will have competition at its core, the true focus of the league is to create a fun and exciting environment, encourage the free exchange of ideas which will make all of us better kites fliers, and educate the public in the art and joy of competitive sport kiting.

BASKL started the season off with a workshop on how to make a good routine. It consisted of video and critiquing. It was well attended and everyone seemed to walk away with ideas for their routines this season. Through the efforts of teaching clinics we have done very well this year picking up new fliers and returning veterans. Our numbers are steadily growing.

Our league has been having trouble this year booking some of its fields in San Francisco due to the America's Cup yacht race. Some changes have been made to our schedule; be sure to check www.baskl.org for dates and locations.

We are also facing challenges finding indoor flying locations that are affordable. If anyone knows of a facility that is reasonable in the San Francisco Bay area please contact us. At this point we are unable to have indoor events due to high costs.

Our season will start up again March 16 with our first event at the Berkeley Marina and end with awards and BBQ on September 21. We are looking forward to this season and hope anyone that is in the area will come fly with us.

Eastern League

The Eastern League Sport Kite Association offers a support system for competitors and event organizers, providing information, encouraging the education of field staff, and granting end-of-season awards to competing members who finish in the top three places in their disciplines. All events are AKA sanctioned, and the rules and competition year are the same as the AKA's. Competitors earn points towards the coveted Eastern League award jackets.

The 2013 season is already well underway. We began the season in October with the Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition and followed it up in January with the Treasure Island Sport Kite Championships. Both competitions featured a full slate of AKA and Eastern League disciplines (including the new Program Precision format) and attracted a large crowd of spectators. We were also fortunate to have first-time novice competitors at both events.

Coming up in 2013, the Eastern League will be sanctioning the Mid-Atlantic Sport Kite Championships in Ocean City, MD, and the Old Dominion Sport Kite Championships in Richmond,

VA (while all our events are novice-friendly, this competition is perhaps the best choice for a first time competitor to join the Eastern League circuit, offering detailed novice pre-flight briefing and discipline debriefing in a competitor-friendly, low pressure environment). We are also hoping to sanction two competitions in New Jersey this season, pending location availability after last year's hurricane. Finally, we will be returning to the Outer Banks in October for our first event of the 2014 season. Exact dates and registration details can be found on <http://easternleague.net> as they become available.

Northwest Sport Kite League

Providing a public forum for competitive sport kiting throughout the Pacific Northwest, the NWSKL provides opportunity for competitions, training for judges, field help and scorekeepers, assists flyers in developing their skills, and has equipment available to set up competition events. NWSKL is changing. Last year we took a moment and redefined ourselves, going back to our root focus: to be an organization that helps the event have the sport kite competition without creating a lot of extra work for ourselves. Revenue has been down for the NWSKL so this streamlining needed to be done as well. We redesigned our sound system, got rid of the old stuff and the storage unit. We reworked our fee schedule to one that let us share the burden of low attendance. With a new attitude we are offering a complete, to-the-point package, with better acceptance from the organizers and better morale. Our attendance is rising! We are excited!

For the upcoming season, things are looking good. The foundation has been shored up. We will have our annual NWSKL meeting March 2 at the Summit library. One of the things we do there is have informational seminars. This time we will have a seminar on flying format precision. We are also in the process of adding an outdoor festival/competition to the calendar. Seaside is a promising venue, and that will give us six rock solid events this coming summer. We have also coordinated with BASKL to create an event swap. The Westport – Berkeley exchange this summer will be fun. We'll be attending each other's events and sharing in this new excitement.

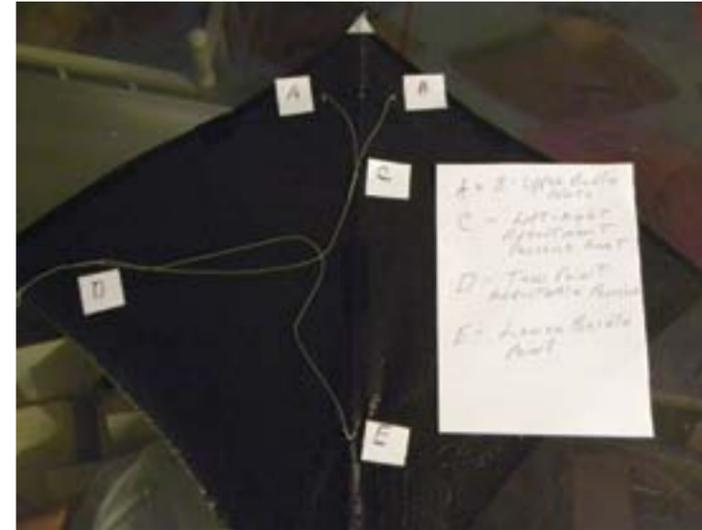
We still have more to do. Our field equipment needs reworking. We are getting there and we know it's working. Our schedule and so much more is at www.nwskl.org. We are looking forward to an amazing summer! ☒



FIGHTIN' WORDS

BETTER BRIDLES BY ANDY SELZER

The last component put on any kite, but definitely not the least important, is the bridle. Along with the skin, spine and bow it is the final integral part of any kite that makes it fly. Here we will discuss the two and three point bridles of a fighter kite.



What are those bridle points he is talking about? A bridle point is any point where the bridle line attaches through the skin and onto the spine or bow or both. Traditional fighters use a two point system. The top point attaches around the spine and bow at their intersection, while the lower bridle attaches near the bottom of the spine. If you check most traditional Indian style fighter kites the lower point will be around 4" up from the

bottom of the kite. This lower point is determined by the builder to give the kite its proper balance and spin rate. If you hold the kite by the bridle so that it forms a triangle, you will notice a loop in the middle of this triangle; this is the tow loop/point. Traditional Indian fighters adjusted the up or down with extra line on the main bridle line. To achieve balance in flight two things can be tried. First you can slide the attachment points of the bridle at the spine to the left or right to vary the amount of pressure on the sail. Balance in flight can also be achieved by putting teeth marks in the bamboo bow on either side of the spine. I suggest using some sandpaper to the offending side. It is quicker and easier. How do I determine the offending side? If a kite is making loops to the left then the right side has more power and is forcing the kite to the left. So in this case the right side would need to be weakened. The converse is true for the right side looping kite.

The three point bridle differs in that it attaches at two points on the bow of the kite on either side of the spine. Usually the points are anywhere from 1" to 1 1/4" from the spine. The resulting Y gives you an additional adjustment point for balance at the top of your kite. At the center of the Y there is usually a Prussick knot (double larkshead) that is easily loosened and adjusted. As described above you can now simply slide your center point left or right and achieve the balance you need.

In most of the North American style fighter kites the tow point is also adjustable by use of the same Prussick knot. Again if you lay the kite flat on a table and hold the bridle by the tow point you will want to adjust the knot so that it is above the center point of said triangle. This will generally give you a good starting point for flying most fighters (this does not include the Buka fighter, which is totally different). This adjustment point is probably your low wind flying point. Higher winds will have you sliding that knot up towards the nose of the kite. This takes pressure off the sail and makes the kite easier to handle.

Got that pesky two point bridle on a fighter that doesn't want to balance out? You could try converting it to a three point bridle. In redoing the bridle after making the upper Y you will want to move the lower bridle point up about 1/2" for starters. The three point bridle adds more stability to the kite and you will need the extra weight in the tail to induce the proper rate of spin.

So get your fighter kites out into those fresh spring breezes and try not to wipe that smile off your face. ☒

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KITE PLAN

THE POINTY END BY CHARM LINDNER

Sewing needles are the versatile equipment which can help you to carry out the tricky tasks. Time-honored sewing spines were manufactured with wood and bone. These sewing devices have a long, slender and sharp point which can help you to carry out your work. They are furnished with an eye where you can put a thread and carry on with your stitching works. How about that for basics?

When you become the owner of a sewing machine, you often sit down and read through the manual, to familiarize yourself with which stitch to use for which fabrics and how to clean it, thread it and all the other general aspects of running a machine. What you don't do, however, is familiarize yourself with which sewing machine needle to use.

The parts of the sewing machine needle

- The eye: The eye of the needle is where the top thread passes through in order to complete the top of the stitch.
- The shank: At the opposite end of the point of the needle you have the shank.
- The shaft: The shaft of the needle – also called the blade – is the part between the base of the shank and the point of the needle.
- The groove: The groove of the needle is located on the side of the shaft or blade of the needle and starts right at the base of the shank and runs to the eye of the needle. The thread sits along this indentation.
- The scarf: On the opposite side of the groove is the scarf of the needle.

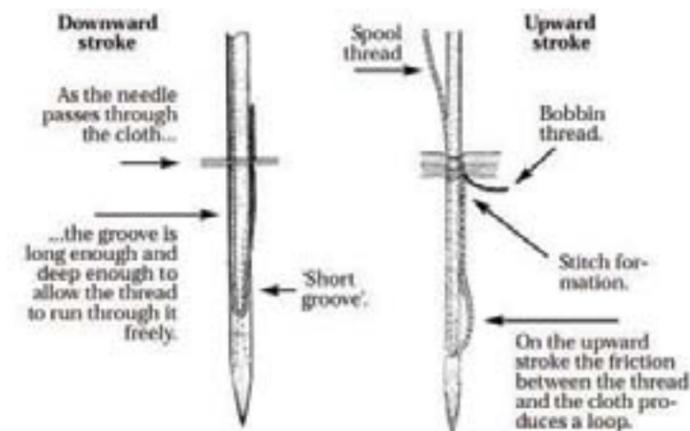
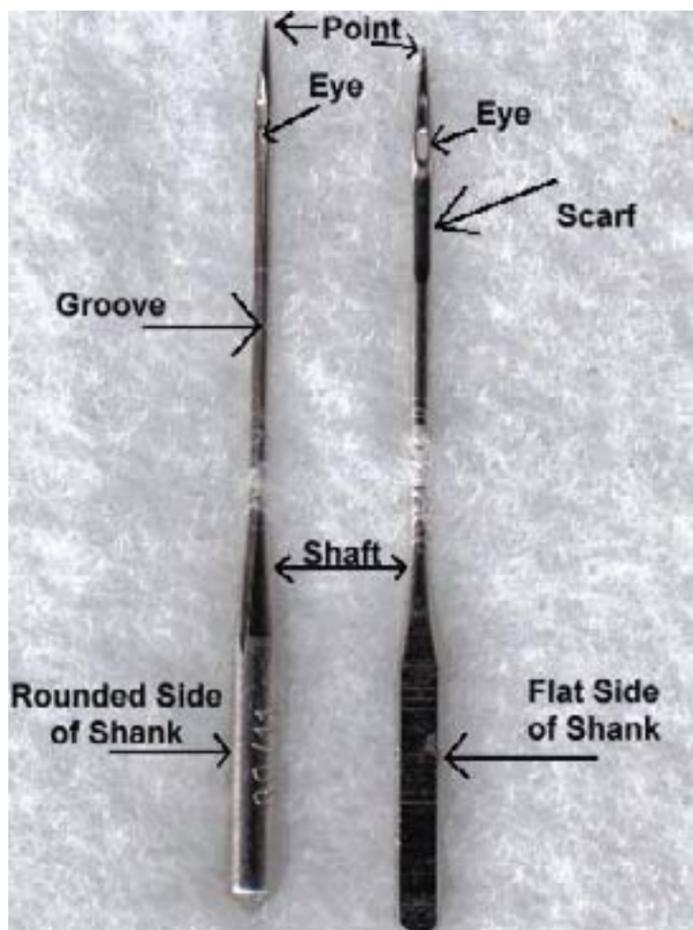
The right needle

Remember that the sewing needle must be the weight and size needed for the material you are working with. Make sure that the needle you have chosen will not impart any adverse affect on the fabric.

How important can it really be to know what needle to use in the sewing machine? Aren't they all basically the same? No!

The proper needle can make an enormous difference in both the quality of your finished sewing project and also in the quality of your time spent sewing. There is nothing more frustrating than having to re-thread your machine continually because the needle cuts, frays or shears the thread, breaks on stitch impact, or damages the cloth being sewn. All of these can be avoided by using the right type and size needle in the sewing machine.

If you are like me, you tend to stick to the universal needles (often size 10-14) that comes with the machine. But don't be afraid to experiment. Needles are cheap compared to the frustration of things not going right. When in doubt, change it. I



Replace the needle

Remember to replace the needle:

- when it becomes dull (hitting a pin can dull the point)
- when it becomes even slightly bent (hitting too many layers of fabric with the wrong size needle can bend it)
- when the tip or point of the needle gets a nick or a snag (again easy to do if the needle was not the right size for the fabric being sewn)
- it is recommended to change your needle after eight hours of sewing

Worn or damaged needles result in broken or shredded threads, skipped or uneven stitches, puckered or damaged fabrics, and popping sound made by the needle as it penetrates the material.

Needle types

Sharps or Universal needles have a very sharp point so that they can penetrate the fiber of the cloth being sewn. These are most commonly available and used for regular sewing on most fabrics. (On ripstop, I use #12 needle, sharp. Others might disagree with size, but they work for me.)

Ballpoint needles have a rounded point or tip. These are made so that rather than pierce the fibers of the fabric, they easily slip in between the threads of the cloth being sewn. These needles are used on more expensive coarse cloth.

Micro Point needles are a newer addition to the sewing machine needle family and have come to be with the invention of microfiber fabrics. These are built with sharper points and more slender shafts. Perfect to use with the even weave of Tergal, Ultra-suede and other such synthetic microfibers. They'll create nice even stitches on any fine but densely woven fabric.

The difference between Schmetz Universal needles and cheaper needles is in the way they are manufactured and in the quality control during manufacturing. Expensive needles are polished and sanded so that there are no abrasive areas to cause problems. Cheap needles are usually made of inferior material. They also tend to have burrs that cut your thread and damage your material. Is it worth the problem? It pays to buy quality needles. ☒

BANGPAE STYLE

Korea's Peter Nam has created a definitive guide – in English – for building his nation's traditional bangpae (shield) fighter kite. His online guide includes detailed instructions, plenty of photos and diagrams, directions for tuning the kite, information on Korean reels, and even a source for the traditional materials used to build the kites. Get started building a bangpae at <http://koreankite.tistory>.



buy needles in bulk packs of 100 and I don't hesitate to throw one away. Wondering why the tension suddenly seems wrong, or you're suddenly dropping stitches? The needle could be the problem.

What the numbers mean

Needle manufacturers use the two number measuring system. For example, take an 80/12 needle. The first number "80" relates to the metric system. It defines the needle shaft diameter just above the scarf, measured to the hundredth of a millimeter. The second number "12" relates to the U.S. numbering system and again gives the thickness or diameter of the needle down to the fraction of accuracy. In other words the 80 is European/Canadian sizing and the 12 is American. The smaller the number, the skinnier the needle.

Do different machines require different needles? Yes! Use the needle recommended by the company that made the machine.

Do different fabrics require different needles? Yes! Choose the correct type of needle for the right sewing project. You must match the needle to the type and weight of fabric.

- 70/10 universal for light or sheer fabric.
- 80/12 universal for light to medium linen, wool or polyester.
- 90/14 medium to heavier cotton, linen wool or polyester and a lightweight denim.



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

VOICES FROM THE VAULT

THE SONNTAG FAMILY

BY PATTI GIBBONS

In 1973, Indiana educators Bill and Marylu Sonntag and their school-aged son Bob spent their family summer vacation in England, where they took up kiteflying and beer can collecting because, "Both were simple, and the beer cans were free." On Sundays while Marylu and her mother went to church, Bill and Bob slipped off to Kensington Park where a group of men flew kites. Charmed to see how relaxed the gentlemen were and amazed that they weren't running around, the Sonntag men approached them for flying lessons. Curious and intrigued, their church-dodging outings sparked an interest in kites that blossomed into a lifelong family hobby that the Sonntags have enjoyed together for many decades.

Bringing back a piece of summertime fun to the States, Bob later made a kite-themed school project that got mentioned in their local Evansville newspaper. Early AKA member Jerry Harris read the story and reached out to the Sonntags. Jerry and Bill became friends and Jerry introduced the Sonntags to the national club. In the early 1980s the family attended the first of many annual AKA conventions, and doors opened as they discovered an irresistible group of fun-loving folks who they looked forward to catching up with each year. Marylu comments, "We loved conventions because there were so many people that were just great fun and they were original." Charmed by the kooky flying antics such as musical night flying, the Sonntags became convention mainstays and honed their kiteflying skills over the years.



Making the most of the long summer breaks in the school year, the Sonntags kept up a tradition of traveling and always found room in their suitcases for kites. Having flown on all continents, including Antarctica, the Sonntags keep a paper travel map and pinpoint the corners of the globe where they've flown, including ocean flies off ship decks and airborne flies accomplished when Bill paced the aisle of an airplane with his kite. Marylu notes, "Bill usually has a kite with him at all times" and while traveling with a tour group, he pops kites up on rest breaks "while other people are having coffee." Recall-

ing back to a trip to the Russian tundra, Marylu delights in remembering a polar bear that was spellbound by Bill's kite. The bear "stood in awe watching Bill fly his little red kite." The Sonntag family photo album is packed with cherished moments punctuated by kites.

Always ready for fun at any speed, Bill packs kites with different tail lengths. "I look around to see what the trees are doing, how floppy the leaves are, then I pick one of three kites to fly. They are all alike except the tail." Generous and eager to share, Bill totes extra kites and gives small handmade sleds to tour guides, drivers, and other people they meet to both show gratitude and to leave people with an inspiring souvenir. Something of a global kite ambassador, Bill brings fun to the hands of people the Sonntags meet on the road.

Taking after his father, Bill tends to his lifelong woodworking hobby and somewhere in the 1970s incorporated it with kit-



ing. Knowing his way around a woodshop, Bill began making kite reels because he "wanted to make them prettier." Refining his techniques over the years, Bill developed an assembly production system and makes beautiful wooden reels in different stock sizes, including a smaller size for the ladies. Starting with instructions he found in David Pelham's kite book, Bill began prototyping and is still tinkering but he estimates he's made and sold just over 1,600 reels over the years. Unique to Bill's design is a bicycle axle flange. Bill got the idea to use the bike part after he disassembled a reel and had a vision. Keeping kites close to home, Bill converted his garage into a workshop and hangs jigs and pattern parts from the rafters. Keeping quality high, Bill makes reels in batches. Starting with a sheet of plywood, Bill rips the board down into eight inch squares and turns the pieces into parts. Even in retirement, Bill keeps filling orders and keeps his skills sharp making reels that are a cut above stock equipment.

Over the years kiting in Evansville has been "sporadic, nothing organized" and mainly dominated by dime store kites in the springtime, but the Sonntags never tired of flying just for fun and used kites to invite conversations with passersby. Bob recalls, "Most people are surprised when a kite appears" in Evansville or elsewhere. "Kites make people happy," Marylu observes, "because they always remember a happy experience that each person has as a child." Loving that kites get people active and outdoors, they are great for shy people because they attract people to you. Bob notes, "It's hard not to smile and have a good time" when a kite is in your hand. ☒

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@worldkite-museum.com.



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ARE GIANT INFLATABLES GOOD OR BAD FOR KITING?

BY DAVID GOMBERG

Go to any kite festival, anywhere in the world. What's the first thing you see? Huge creative inflatables.

You can see them from a distance. They generate excitement and interest. They stimulate imagination. And they produce a giddy sense of amazement and delight.

I've often described the best kite festivals as a "three ring circus." The first ring is the large kites that draw people in. The second ring is the sport and art kite fields with motion, music, and creative beauty. The third ring is the kid's fields with a chance to participate and fun for everyone.

All three rings support and enhance the others. None is more important or less important. A smooth wind lifts all kites.

Large kites can certainly be challenging. They demand a level of experience and expertise. They require attention to safety. And they work best when the fliers coordinate and cooperate. Nothing wrong with any of that!

Danger? All kites are dangerous when flown recklessly.

You can hurt people with sport kites, art kites, fighter kites, or large inflatable kites. Arguably you can hurt more people with a large inflatable. But there are few actual examples of that happening. Still, it is incumbent on all of us to fly responsibly and to help our friends understand the risks and recommended responses.

Large kites are relatively expensive. I say "relatively" because you can get into a sixty square foot lifter with a fifty foot streamer tail for less than the cost of a Revolution. And large kites have a shelf life. They are not rendered obsolete by annual changes in trends and technology. So you can spend \$3000 on one of the biggest showpieces. You can fly it and be the big dog on your home field. Or you can join together with other big dogs at larger festivals and create a combined show that will awe even the most experienced kite observer.

The fact is that prices are coming down. You can buy original imports for a lower cost — although patronize a counterfeiter or copy kite and you'll hurt the sport as well as your own standing or reputation in it. Still, Chinese originals are getting better in quality. And even the venerable Peter Lynn Ltd. is dropping prices in response to currency fluctuations, global economies, manufacturing options, and competition.

I remember the first



time I flew a really large kite. Susan and I were in Thailand. It was hot and almost windless. Tom Castleman and I had worn ourselves out trying to launch a large pink octopus. He went off for a beer in the shade. Susan came out to join me. And when

that kite finally filled and lofted to the applause of onlookers, our lives had changed. We've seen large kites change other lives as well and the joy of those who fly them.

Flying the biggies has gotten much easier when assisted by lifter technology. And the variety of large kites is delightfully unlimited. We continued to be amazed at what people envision, sew and fly.

So if you ask whether large kites are good for kiteflying, my answer is that all kites are good for kiteflying, and that large kites, flown well, are definitely no exception. Just remember to let go if your feet leave the ground!

BY PHIL BRODER

If size mattered, the elephant would be king of the jungle, right? Except in the kiteflying world, where the rush to get bigger is in danger of leaving those who fly smaller kites behind.

Don't get me wrong, I admire a nice octopus or teddy bear. I also like ice cream and pizza, but I know that eating ice cream and pizza at every meal isn't healthy. So at every festival, when I see

a half dozen kites launching identical octopuses, I don't think it's healthy. "Moderation in all things," said Petronius. And therein lies the problem with giant inflatable kites: they've taken over the sky, at the expense of other kitefliers with smaller kites.

I love the giant kites I see at European festivals: dinosaurs, bears, cartoon characters, monster trucks. They're original and creative, they're attention-grabbing, and most importantly, they're unique. Twenty monster truck kites lined up in a row would be fun to see once, but week after week? The "octopile" concept is cool once a year at Berkeley or Lincoln City, but when it's tried at nearly every event it loses something.

Inflatables are also smothering creativity. At festivals, I frequently ask spectators which kite in the sky is their favorite. Their answers consistently favor size; they like the scuba diver, or the blue whale, or the manta ray. Nobody ever says that the beautiful artistic kite is the one they like. And if the wind is low, spectators often ask when the giant kites will start flying. They read about them in the newspaper, and that's what they want to see. If that's the attitude of the spectators, then kitemakers are really only making artistic kites to please themselves. That can't be sustainable.

And what happens when that spectator asks about buying a kite? I've seen too many people find out that a gecko costs more than \$6000, shake their head, and walk away. Hopefully they're walking over to the kite shop to pick up a \$20 delta instead, but my fear is that the uninitiated think that kiteflying is simply too expensive for them to participate in. I hope that David Gomberg and Peter Lynn sell a \$5000 octopus at every festival they attend, but I hope even more that the local kite shop sells a hundred smaller kites at \$50 apiece.

Finally, if you've ever tried to get invited to a festival, you know that the organizer wants to know what you can bring to the show. My impression is that those who fly big kites have an easier time snagging an invitation than someone with a bunch of smaller kites. The exception that proves the rule is Robert Brasington, because he gets numerous invitations to events where he flies a half dozen trains simultaneously. Festivals are looking for sheer volume of nylon up in the sky, so some of the best builders of smaller kites aren't raking in the invitations.

We need to end the domination of giant kites. I like David's

three ring circus analogy. But let's be careful that the circus doesn't become one very large center ring full of inflated creatures, with a couple of smaller rings pushed off to the side, out of the spotlight. ☒



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OVER THE FALLS BY JIM POWERS

Last minute trips sometimes pan out. A short trip with two kites, two dogs and my wife brought us to the wonderful New York landscape where water falls off the face of the earth and rises up into a column of mist bursting forth with rainbows all around: Niagara Falls.

Floating above the falls like a carefree bird, the kite and KAP rig burst forth with a bundle of dreamy images composed on a digital canvas. The falls pour through the Niagara Gorge and drops over 50 meters in a tumultuous thundering roar of power. The falls are a truly impressive presence and rewarding KAP adventure.

The preceding weeks were filled with work in the Rocky Mountains that including brief KAP flights in the evenings. Tired and in need of a break (from work, not KAP) I was looking forward to returning to the falls after an absence of many years, but this time with kites, an autoKAP rig, two dogs and my understanding wife. Anticipation is a good word; I was anticipating a special time.

The road trip was a focused seven hour drive straight to the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. Rain was forecasted to move in within 24 hours of our planned arrival and every minute of good flying weather was precious. The car was parked near the Skylon Tower and our merry band of one KAPer, an understanding wife and two excited dogs embarked directly for the rim of the Falls. My wife took a stroll with our dogs along the walkway that parallels the Niagara River while I hunted for a good launch point and a KAP safety box.

Niagara Falls poses many challenges to KAPing and detailed planning is a must for rewarding and safe outcomes. The first constraint is picking a suitable location downstream of the Horseshoe Falls to safely launch the kite. The open areas downstream of the falls along the river are limited, tight and narrow. The geography includes a tall ridge on the Canadian side. The observation walk way is several hundred feet below this high ground. Think of flying a kite at the bottom of a deep gorge and you get the idea. It's very hard to get clean wind (or any wind) to lift the kite let alone a KAP rig when the wind is blowing out of the northwest. To get good pictures of the face of the falls you need to position the KAP rig downstream of the falls. Add in wind direction and sun angles and you end up with very tight constraints.

A small open area between the Skylon Tower and the Niagara River was my launch area of choice. The wind was running 15 MPH out of the northwest but I needed to get the kite 200' up to reach the air. A long line launch technique was used with my Levitation Light Delta kite. Three attempts were required to get the kite airborne. Ten minutes of flying time followed by five minutes with my dual camera KAP rig confirmed I need a bigger kite. The KAP rig would sag during short lulls – not a good thing with your cameras dangling over the Falls. Next was a quick recovery of the KAP rig and kite with the WW Stratospool in preparation for switching to a bigger kite. The 8' rokkaku was next up. Again a long line launch was tried; the ground level wind was swirling and upon launch the kite climbed 30' and did a hard right turn into an electrical sign about 20' off the ground. I had to scale the sign to untangle the bridle and free the kite. Not fun. Two more long line attempts were required to get the big kite finally into clean air at 200'. The dual auto KAP rig with the Canon S100 shooting my WW CHDK / SDM KAP scripts and the GoPro HD Hero2 cameras quickly followed the kite into the sky above Niagara Falls. A brief but tricky walk from the launch area to the main walkway along the falls completed the initial phase of this KAP adventure. The mighty Niagara Falls and Niagara



River provided an excellent safety box for the KAP event. Turns out my several months of KAP training in the Rocky Mountains came in handy!

The second constraint is water. Water is everywhere in Niagara Falls and is the moving soul and spirit that makes this a special place. Respect the water always. Besides the obvious risks of dumping your kite and expensive cameras into the roaring water you need to consider the water in the air. Think of continuous rain and fog on a massive scale driving mist hundreds of feet into the air above both the Canadian and American falls. As the pictures and videos illustrate the mist driven by the powerful falls floats in the air everywhere. The wind mixes and spreads the mist all over the place and poses a host of challenges and opportunities. Think rainbows! You can place your kite and KAP rig directly above the falls, but your camera and lens will be immediately drenched and rendered unusable. A waterproof housing will help, but the lens will still be fogged up. Picture the "Maid of the Mist" tour boat and the people all decked out in rain gear and you will get the idea. After a bit of Google Earth pre-work and direct observation of the airborne mist I decided to place my kite and KAP rig well clear of the mist machines midway between the American and Horseshoe Falls.



A third KAP constraint in the Niagara Falls area is controlled airspace. The sound of helicopters greeted me as soon as I stepped out of my parked car, and stayed with me for the next 48 hours during our stay at Niagara Falls. I had anticipated helicopters as a potential problem. A bit of research and study of the flight patterns of the multiple helicopters above my head turned my initial despair into hope. At any one time there are one or two helicopters in the skies above Niagara Falls. They fly two distinct clockwise race track orbits in the sky. Race track 1 enters from the American Falls direction, turns above the falls and returns. Race track 2 enters from the Canadian Horseshoe Falls, turns and returns. The race track patterns are fixed, repeatable and precise with no deviation. Second and most importantly the race track patterns are high in the sky. Turns out the skies above Niagara Falls are tightly controlled by 14 C.F.R. Part 93 Subpart E – Flight Restrictions in the Vicinity of Niagara Falls, New York. The specific restriction is, "No flight is authorized below 3,500 feet MSL." The controlled airspace and high minimum altitude restrictions combined to provide a KAP window. I kept my kite and KAP rig well below the helicopters! A chance conversation with a Canadian private pilot confirmed the above information during the KAP flight.



The GPS data from the Canon S100 logged over 1000 data points. The altitude at the launch point is approximately 500' above sea level. The KAP rig reached an altitude of 860' with the kite 200' above the KAP rig. Quite high for KAP but well below the helicopters at 3,500'.

Floating in the air above Niagara Falls with a big 8' rokkaku and dual camera autoKAP rig taking pictures and HD video was pure enjoyment and a well-deserved time to relax after a long drive and multiple stressful launch attempts. The rokkaku was well positioned to avoid the mist from both falls and the helicopters above. The sun angle provided rainbows over the American Falls and a bit of glare looking into the sun above the Horseshoe Falls.

The highlight of the day was the last hour of just holding and sharing the kite line with the general public who were streaming by. We all were fellow admirers of the falls. The smile on the faces of adults and children as they held the kite line said it all. My two dogs and my wife enjoyed a relaxing moment at the end of a long day as the sun was setting above the Horseshoe Falls. A good day!

Day two above the American side of Niagara Falls started with quirky wind and a fair bit more clouds in the sky. The weather forecast was for rain moving in by noon. A brief drive along the Niagara River to the Falls from where we were staying in Buffalo brought us back to the Falls for a second fun day in the skies. The plan for the day included a morning KAP session. As we approached the Falls from the west the plume of mist was towering into the sky above the falls. We drove onto Goat Island, a chunk of land that plugs the gap between the Horseshoe Falls and the American Falls.



The wind had switched to the southwest overnight and was blowing 15-20 MPH. The twin towering mist plumes floating into the air provided a box in the sky. The day before on the Canadian side, the ground constraints dictated where the kite could be safely launched. The American side is more open with several good locations for putting a kite into the air. The wind out of the South also provided cleaner air spilling into the falls. The mist plumes proved to be the controlling constraint on kite launch locations from Goat Island. Too close to the mist plumes and your kite could get drenched, triple in weight and become a rock in the sky. The plume floated high into the sky (I estimate the maximum plume height to be more than 2000') thus it is hard to get the kite and KAP rig above the mist. The words "mist plume" do not convey an accurate picture; a better description would be a downpour, intense rain or monsoon! The Niagara monsoon can also be a big problem with your KAP rig. Might just as well throw your camera and KAP rig into the river!

Time was also a factor. Clouds were building quickly, and rain was on the way. The sun was intermittently peaking between the building clouds. Time for just one quick KAP session prior to the weather shutting everything down.

I selected the small point of land from Goat Island that protrudes out towards the Horseshoe Falls from the American side for my launch location. The towering plume tumbled and twisted both up and back down from the sky. The launch point was several hundred feet back from the edge of the falls. I selected the same kite as day one. The clean south winds blowing at 15-20 MPH quickly lifted the big kite into the air. Mylar helicopter-repellant ribbon quickly followed the kite up into the sky. Next up was my trusty auto KAP Brooks BBKK rig outfitted with both the Canon S100 (in the home position) and the Go Pro HD Hero2 hanging naked upside down off the bottom of the KAP rig. The Canon S100 was shooting CHDK/SDM WW KAP scripts shooting zoom stills and HD video. The Hero2 was configured to shoot simple five second intervalometer shots.

The mist plumes dictated where the kite could safely be placed in the sky. Think of it as two walls of water in the sky. I choose to place the kite and KAP rig just east of the Horseshoe Falls plume and upstream of the American Falls plume with an added horizontal safety factor to keep the kite and rig safely away from both walls of water.

As I raised the kite higher the storm clouds were quickly approaching. Equally important was the rapidly disappearing sunshine. The sun would pop out for a few short seconds with instant rainbows all around. Auto KAP brings a bit of a luck game with it. Will your camera be pointed in the correct direc-



tions when the sun pops out, or not? Prayer and autoKAP go very well together. I do a lot of both!

Winds shift. The plumes shift with them. The water above Horseshoe Falls was getting closer and closer as the winds began to back more out of the west with the storm front approached from the southwest. I retreated from the falls as the plume gradually approached, but I found myself on a limited sliver of land along the fast-flowing Niagara River. Back up any farther and I would be swept away by the fast rushing water and over Horseshoe Falls. Prayers were answered and the wind shifted back and I was able to escape to a more open area, where I had launched the kite. As the risk mounted I decided to reel in the kite and call it a day. Fifteen minutes later, everything was safely back on the ground, just as the first sprinkles of rain began to fall from the sky.

The photos provide a few glimpses of this wonderful KAP session. The rainbows, the avalanche of water falling off the face of the earth only to be lifted back high into the air

above you just make this place special. Add in the side shows of the observation towers, the boats rotating back and forth between the two falls and the surrounding fall foliage, and it was a special two days indeed. The day ended with a bit of walking in light drizzle, scouting future KAP locations, with a bit of unexpected low level helicopter flights just above the Falls. So much for the controlled airspace and "No flight is authorized below 3,500 feet MSL" restriction! ☒

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Like so many other kitefliers, I flew kites as a child. My earliest kite memory is flying a Gayla Baby Bat with my mother and sister in a park in South Tulsa. But I was really and truly influenced by my father's youngest brother. Every year during family vacations he brought out the newest and coolest toys, including lots of kites. I remember building and flying balsa wood and tissue Squadron kites with him. And he had the first stunt kite I ever saw, a stack of Steve Edeiken's Rainbow Stunters. Although I could not afford the stack, I saved my allowance and lawn mowing money for months until I could finally buy my own single Rainbow Stunt Kite — a green one that I still have to this day.

Fast forward to 2009 and I was taking my young children on a family vacation to the beach. I realized that I needed some kites and after discovering that there are not many brick and mortar kite stores anymore I ended up online ordering several from Cobra Kites. We flew them all through that vacation and

I was hooked all over again. In search for new kites I realized that there were more than I could ever afford to buy.

It was in the fall of 2010 that I discovered *Kitebuilder.com* and found that making your own kites from ripstop and carbon was possible. I spent the winter studying kite building and doing a few projects from Drachen Foundation kite kits on my own. I bought a Pfaff sewing machine and taught myself to sew (with a few pointers from a favorite aunt). Then in two back to back weekends I attended the Maryland Kite Society Retreat and the South Jersey Kite Flyers Malay workshop put on by Mike Dallmer. I was hooked completely. Mike was a great instructor and generously provided me with some extra fabric and mentorship.



BEN HUGGETT



I kept building through the spring and then entered the Scott E. Spencer Memorial Kitebuilding Competition at WIKF. I was ecstatic to win the Novice Kitebuilder title in my first outing, and with it a membership in SJKF. And later that fall of 2011, at my first AKA convention in Wildwood, the judges were gracious enough to award me 3rd place in the competitive Cellular division and 2nd place overall Novice (behind the inimitable Simon Crafts).

Although I met people on the beach who asked about my kites and wanted to talk about them, it has really been the online forums and the clubs that have introduced me to the people most deeply involved with kites. And those great people have broadened my horizons. I have learned about paper and bamboo and miniature kites and so much more. I have built and flown things I never would have dreamed possible.

Last year over Labor Day weekend I attended the Antelope Island Stampede and Festival in the middle of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. I had never before really traveled solely for the purpose of kiteflying. The experience was simply amazing. So many great luminaries of kiting were there flying, sharing ideas and stories, talking about what we can do to keep this great hobby going. Once again that process of gathering with others who have the same interests but come at it from different angles and with different skills really broadened my enjoyment of kiting.

When I talk to anyone about kites I tell them to just get out there and try things. Try building a kite in a workshop — it is not that hard and it is so rewarding. Try attending a kite festival — the array of kites and wonderful people will amaze you. I am certainly glad that I did. ☒



FLYING BUFFALO

BY TERRY ZEE LEE



PHOTOS BY FRAN NUNN

For the past decade, SkyWind-World, Inc. board members have been teaching kitebuilding to the Native American children in Montana as their community service project. Every year we go to at least a dozen reservation classrooms and give free kite kits and lessons, teaching how to make bird kites. This style really appeals to the kids because of their attachment and involvement with eagles and hawks. Eagle and hawk feathers are used in all their traditional dress so the bird kites resonate with them all.

Because of our efforts, the elders invited Drake Smith and I to attend the Crow Chief Plenty Coup Day of Honor last fall. We took along twenty more bird kites and should have taken fifty. A buffalo feast with blueberry soup finished off the day. We were honored to be a part of this special day when the waters were blessed and the sky was filled with kites.

We have also created the Flying Buffalo Project. Twelve of America's most honored Native American artists, including Kevin Red Star, Juane Quick to See Smith, Robert Orduno, Allen Knows His Gun, DG House, Monte Yellow Bird and others are painting buffalo-

themed canvases, and Drake Smith is making them into kites. They will be flown over at least four buffalo jumps every year, starting in the summer of 2013.

This effort will honor the buffalo that gave their lives, falling off the cliffs, so that the native tribes would have food and clothing to keep them alive through the harsh winter months.

The Flying Buffalo kites will be flown at the First Peoples Buffalo Jump near Great Falls, MT, on August 3-4, at the Head Smashed In Jump above Calgary on August 7-8, at the Vore near Devils Tower, WY, on September 1, and at the Madison Buffalo Jump on an undecided date in July. ☒

A kite by Allen Knows His Gun.



The Flying Buffalo Project contribution from Rabbit Knows Gun.



Art St. Pierre



Setting up Alden Miller's Jimi Hendrix Revs.

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STILL JAMMIN' AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

By GARY MAYNARD



In 1983 on a small island park in the center of the Detroit River three gentlemen formed... well, if you have seen us fly in some of those 30 years, you know this is one of the introductions to some of our performances.

My goodness, where has the time flown? It seems like just yesterday that we met on that small island park, Belle Isle, which has been our home base for all these years. In the beginning we were just a group of kitefliers getting together to fly kites. We would meet on the weekends, and for the most part we all flew Trlbys. Aaron Harris was the catalyst for the group. He had worked in the Skyline Kite Shop, a local kite shop in Detroit, where he met Nate Williams. Nate became interested in kites after reading about them in an article in *Popular Science*. I did not meet Aaron and Nate until the late summer of 1983. We were instant friends. We, along with a couple of other local kite fliers — Calvin, Melvin, Bob, Abe, and the 5/20 Kite Group — spent many a weekend flying kites.

In 1984, as part of a going away party for Denice, manager of the local kite shop, we decided to break the Trlby kite record, which stood at 54 kites, by flying 74 Trlbys. In the spring of 1984 we also did our first official demo performance for the Detroit Yacht Club.

One day Aaron, Nate and I heard about a kite team competition and figured that since we were basically doing that anyway, why not? Our first competition was Fly the Mitt in Traverse City, MI, in 1985. We also attended such great kite gatherings as Chicago Hook & Ladder (Flexifoils record), the first Stunt Kite Games in Maumee Bay, OH, along with demo performances for events around Michigan, Ohio and the Canadian area.

One day in 1989 we met James Kinsey and he joined the team instantly. It was as if he was part of the team from the beginning. In 1995 James had to move to upstate New York. He informed us that he would have to quit the team, and I told him to keep his kites. We are like the Mafia: once you're in, you can never leave! Besides, if you come back for special events, you will be ready, which he did and still does. With James not being able to make our competition team, we needed to add someone to the roster. Lo and behold, we met Mike Carlisle in the fall of 1995. He was out flying kites when we were doing one of our demo performances. He asked a couple of questions, and we invited him to join the team. It

was another instant friendship.

In 1996 we were competing in Chicago and we met George Wright. George approached us and asked if he could join the team. Our reply was, "Sure, no problem." Then he told us he lived in South Bend, IN. We thought that he would not want to make the trip up to Detroit for practices, but, boy, were we wrong. Sometimes George would be at Belle Isle before the rest of the team, even when it was raining. We finally convinced him to call if the weather forecast was iffy. The funny thing was that Aaron was also from South Bend, and they both had several of the same friends growing up, but never knew each other. George was another instant friend. We all became more like family.

James would make appearances at several events throughout the season, such as the Great Lakes Kite Fest and the Michigan Hot Air Balloon Challenge. This went on for several more years. Then Aaron was stricken with cancer in 2001 and lost a leg, but this did not keep him down. In 2002 he performed with us while in a wheelchair. It wound up being the last time that he would attend the Howell event. On that day he had a grin that I and the rest of the team will remember forever. When he found out the the disease was terminal, he decided to have a party. People came from all over, even from Ohio, Indiana and Ontario. Later the same year he would lose his battle with the disease. We still honor him by including his silhouette in our current logo with one of his custom kites.



The Windjammers and Bay Area Sundowners



The Windjammers and Chicago Fire

In the years that followed the loss of Aaron, we started to be invited to many international festivals. During one such festival we met Jean Lamoureux. He flew DynaKites, which we had changed over to by the mid-'90s. He had been a member of a kite team in Montreal, so after several festivals together, we asked if he wanted to become a Windjammer. He was also an instant family member and officially joined in 2007. The distance was not a factor with Jean. He only needs a little time on the field and it is like he has been flying with us since the beginning.

We have since performed at hundreds of events around the world and have made countless friends. We regularly attend events with Chicago Fire, who we met in the late '80s. Many teams have come and gone, but Chicago Fire and the Windjammers have been a mainstay of team flying in the Midwest for years. In 2008 we had the pleasure of sharing the skies with the Bay Area Sundowners in Dieppe, France. This was one of the most enjoyable events we have done to date. The Sundowners have been flying American flag stacks. We began flying our flag stacks after a discussion with Bruce Jarvie, past president of the 5/20 Kite Group in Detroit. Once we changed over to DynaKites, we changed the skins to the American flag. When we were invited to Dieppe, Canada, in 2003, we customized a skin for the Canadian flag with the maple leaf on it. We also customized a stack for our France trip. In addition, we have a couple stacks for other countries in case we get invited.

There so many memories from the thirty years that we performed. We performed for local Michigan movie star Jeff Daniels, as well as many politicians: Premier Lord Byron in New Brunswick, some Mayors of Detroit, and many others. I could never have imagined that we would have the opportunity to travel the way we do. One year we had to turn down several trips because we just could not



make all of the events. We have always had a core group of fans from the beginning. Many times during festivals we have had people come up to us and say that they brought someone to see us fly after seeing us last year. Once we had several members of a church group invite us to speak at the church the next day. We had to decline.

One thing we really enjoy is giving others a chance to fly our kites. The reactions of everyone is universal from Detroit to Europe. Kids are the best. They really enjoy the chance to fly. I believe all kitefliers enjoy the joy we bring to others.

So we look forward to the next 30 years and beyond. We are adding a new member to the team, Jon Penn. Jon flew with us a bit in 2012 using the new Vector RC kites. He is planning to fly with us, doing a couple standard kite routines. We also hope to make many new friends and travel to many new festivals.

We would like to say thanks to our families for their support over the years, as well as our sponsors, and to our many friends. You meet the nicest people at the end of the line. ☒





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John Trennepohl launches Premier's genki variant.



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Marianne Trennepohl readies a new Premier delta.



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Dodd Gross has the new Skydog Jammin'.

John Barresi



More banners from X Kites.



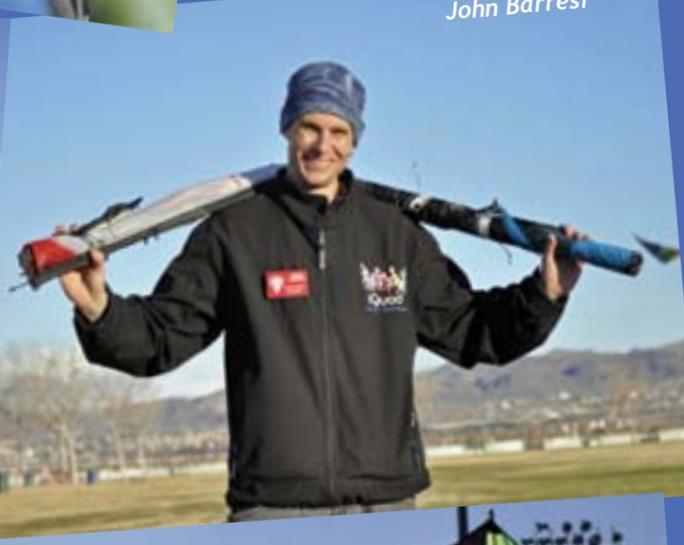
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Jim Cosca hangs onto a Skydog rokkaku.



New Tech's Rob Cembalest keeps things spinning.



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AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION



Eliot Shook tries out the Ron Bohart Masterpiece Rev.



The Prism display.

FOOD FOR FLIGHT

We all know that kiteflying is a social activity. And of course, the social hub of every home is the kitchen. It's no different with kiteflying: food is what fuels us. From big festivals to club flies, kitemaking retreats to holiday parties, it helps to have something delicious to punctuate a day of flying fun. We asked a few culinary kites to contribute their recipes so that you can bring haute cuisine to your next kiting session. And Phil Broder — a guy who knows a thing or two about eating — reminisces about a few of his favorite meals.

Grilled Corn on the Cob by Don Pignolet

To be good, corn has to be fresh. I've bought it at a roadside stand on the way to the event and prepared it there, but it was messy and difficult without running water. Some of the new corn varieties keep their sweetness longer, making it possible to do the day before. My suggestion is to do it at home the day before and keep it refrigerated. Of course, the amount can be increased.

- 12 ears freshest corn possible
- 2 sticks salted butter
- mixed fresh herbs, such as thyme, rosemary or basil
- optional fresh garlic, chopped or pressed
- kitchen twine

Mix softened butter with herbs and optional garlic. The salt in salted butter should be just enough. Carefully peel back the husks on the corn. Remove the silk and wash gently. Do not break the husks at the base.

Spread the softened butter over the exposed corn ear. Carefully fold up the husk and secure at the end with kitchen twine. An additional tie in the middle sometimes helps.

Moisten the husks and seal into a plastic bag. Refrigerate until time to go. Pack it into a cooler chest with lots of ice. If water gets on the corn so much the better. It has to be wet to grill.

Grill over medium coals, turning often. It wants to dry out and burn and requires careful attention. It always takes longer than expected, about 20 minutes. You can remove the husks or leave them on when serving.

Grilled Potato Salad by Don Pignolet

Grilling the potatoes rather than boiling them greatly improves the potato flavor in this salad.

- 3 lbs. Yukon Gold potatoes
- 3 hard boiled eggs
- 2 celery stalks
- 1 medium sweet onion

Dressing

- ½ cup Hellmans mayonnaise
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- 1 Tsp Dijon mustard
- 1-2 Tsp sweet pickle relish
- 2 Tsp rice vinegar
- ⅓ cup chopped fresh dill
- salt and pepper to taste

Grill the unpeeled potatoes over medium heat until fork tender. Cut larger ones in pieces and leave small ones whole. Turn often and be careful not to burn them. A charcoal grill is best. Remove when done and let cool enough to handle. Cut into pieces for the salad. Thick slices work better than cubes.

Finely chop the celery and onion. Coarsely chop the eggs. Mix the dress-

ing ingredients together and check for seasoning.

Combine salad ingredients with dressing and mix thoroughly. Let stand refrigerated overnight so the flavors can meld. Pack into waterproof containers for traveling.

Note: mayonnaise based salads spoil easily. Packing the waterproof containers into a cooler with lots of ice keeps them cold and fresh. Do not put them out until just before the food is served. Do not leave them out for more than two hours in the summer heat to avoid spoilage. If refilling bowls from the cooler, dump anything still in the bowl and wipe or wash if possible before refilling.

Ocean City's Shenanigans Pub is where the kilters gather, but for me the place to be is about twenty yards away. I wait every year for MIKE/MASKC or SunFest so that I can get a gyro at Boardwalk Joe's. I'll launch a kite, get it flying smoothly, anchor it, and then go see Joe at lunchtime. Sandy beaches and cucumber sauce don't mix, but once a year, who cares?

Cole Slaw by Don Pignolet

- 1 medium head of cabbage
- 2 carrots
- 1 large sweet (Vidalia type) onion
- 1 sweet red pepper

Dressing

- ½ cup Hellmans mayonnaise
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- 1-2 Tsp sweet pickle relish to taste
- 1 tsp celery seed
- 1 Tsp lemon juice
- salt and pepper to taste

Remove the outer leaves of cabbage and cut it into quarters. Remove the hard central core. Cut the cabbage into chunks and process until coarsely chopped. Place in large bowl. Repeat with the peeled carrots, onion and red pepper. Place in the bowl and mix well.

Combine all the dressing ingredients. Check for salt and pepper. Do not oversalt as this draws moisture out of the



SJKF's Wildwood spread

cabbage resulting in a watery dressing that doesn't cling. You can also add additional sugar, lemon or vinegar to taste.

Refrigerate both the cabbage mixture and the dressing separately, tightly closed. When leaving for the event, mix the dressing with the cabbage and combine thoroughly. By mixing the dressing with the cabbage at the last minute you keep the slaw from becoming watery. Pack into waterproof containers for traveling.

Texas Longhorn Chili by Rick White

OK, the truth is out. I am the secret chili chef of the Protest The Bowls Kite Fly in Washington's Golden Gardens Park. It came as a necessity about 15 years ago. I went to the PTBKF as a newcomer, and found malnourished people all over the grassy field. They were cold and starving. They didn't care though, they were kitefliers, tough skinned and willing to do anything to accomplish their annual instinctive goals, like lemmings. "I've got to fly my kite!" or like Richard Curran, "I've got to fly my kite into that tree!" I loved them though. I felt I had to help. So I became their President. Following that, I had to feed them, so I started bringing chili, hot dogs and hot

Eastern League flyers know that the food at Richmond's Old Dominion SKC is legendary. Alas, I've never been. My Eastern League memory is of the now-defunct event on Tybee Island, Georgia. Dinner was an oyster roast and clam bake. The fires were blazing, and we packed away a lot of shellfish. Now that was Southern hospitality!

chocolate. This seemed to help. They started breathing again. Soon after that, they all were hugging and shaking hands. It was a miracle! Thus, the chili feed was born! Others have started bringing other foods like fruit cake... OK, only once. We used that as a kite anchor. Everyone brings something, so they don't look like they are mooching, but that's why we do this, so everyone can mooch! We love it! The walkers, polar bears, and Christmas tree burners all stop buy and mooch too! All in all, there are usually over 500 people in this park on New Year's Day. It is an amazing sight for a cold winter day.

- 8 slices of bacon (cooked and crumbled)
- 3 lbs. of round steak (cubed and browned)
- 3 large onions (chopped and sautéed)
- 2 cloves of garlic (minced and sautéed)
- 2 4 oz. cans of green chilis (seeded, rinsed and chopped)
- 4 jalapenos (seeded, rinsed and chopped. Myself, I use habaneros. Kitefliers are wimps.)
- 3 Tsp of chili powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- 4½ cups of water
- 20 oz. tomato paste

Optional ingredients:

- 8 oz. Italian sausage links (sliced and lightly browned)
- Assorted fresh chili peppers (red, orange and green, etc.)
- Mushrooms (sliced and sautéed)
- Pepper sauce or hot sauce (to taste)

Mix everything together put in slow cooker for at least 4 hours. Makes five quarts.

When I went to the spring festival in Berck-sur-mer, France, they gave out meal tickets that could be used at certain restaurants around town. The American group (including David Gomberg, Pete Dolphin, Sam and Ann Ritter, Mike Shaw and Al Sparling) decided to take our tickets to Le Terminus, where we could get dinner and a show. Little did we know that it was a drag club! The food was good, but boy oh boy, did we get a show! We'll all remember our waiter named Pussycat, and the look of horror on Le Grande Sam's face when a drag queen wrapped a feather boa around his neck.

Sausage with Peppers by Mike and Cel Dallmer

- 3 to 3½ pounds of Italian sausage (sweet or hot, your choice)
- 3 peppers
- 3 sweet onions
- 2 15 oz. cans of diced tomatoes
- 1 large can of tomatoes sauce
- 18 good rolls, club rolls if possible
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1½ teaspoon of Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 2 teaspoons of granulated garlic or 4 chopped fresh cloves of garlic
- 1 teaspoon of sugar if sauce is bitter, more may be needed
- a splash of red wine

Brown sausage till done. Slice sausage to desired length. Slice onions and peppers into strips. Cook peppers and onions till soft in same pan as sausage was cooked. Use red wine to deglaze. Add spices. Put sausage and pepper and onions sauce into crock pot, and set on warm for serving.

The Washington Kitefliers Association gathers on New Years Day.





Ben Dantonio prepares for some fine dining at Wildwood.

Lasagna by Don Pignolet

For the times I have prepared food for kiting events, buffets both indoors and outdoors, BBQs, picnics at the park or beach, etc., I have noticed one thing: kites like to eat. Put out the spread and watch it disappear! Food at kiting events runs the gamut. While rarely gourmet, it can be truly awful. In my attempts to cook for kites, I have tried to change that, bringing a better quality of food to the events. Since cooking is one of my passions, it's been a welcome challenge. People have responded by eating it up!

Lasagna is always a crowd pleaser. It's easy to make, can be made ahead and frozen, and cooks without any attention, as long as you have an oven. The recipe can be doubled or tripled easily. Just make additional pans. This works well if you have a large crowd as one can be brought out after another as they run

out. It always helps to have a server for it as when people tear into it, it can fall apart quickly.

I call this the One Pound Lasagna. Doubled or tripled it's the Two Pound Lasagna or Three Pound Lasagna. The One Pound serves 15.

- olive oil as needed
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 quart good quality spaghetti sauce
- 1 pint stewed tomatoes
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 5 cloves garlic, finely chopped or run through press
- handful of parsley, finely chopped
- optional fresh oregano and/or basil
- 1 lb. lasagna noodles
- 1 lb. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 lb. ricotta cheese
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- disposable foil pans sized for the amount you're making

Cook the onion in olive oil until softened. Add the garlic and sauté for 30 seconds. Add the ground beef, breaking up the lumps until it is thoroughly cooked. Add the sauce and tomatoes and bring to a boil. Add the parsley, oregano and basil. Cook for 10 minutes. Check for salt and pepper and add accordingly. Let cool enough to handle.

Cook the lasagna noodles in boiling water (you'll need a large pot of salted

water) until just tender, about 7-8 minutes. Drain, rinse with cold water and coat with olive oil to keep them from sticking (really important).

Put a ladle of sauce in the bottom of the pan. Cover with a layer of noodles. Add ricotta and mozzarella, another ladle or two of sauce and ¼ cup of parmesan. Cover with another layer of noodles, repeat cheeses and sauce to make two layers. Save enough sauce to cover the top layer of noodles. Sprinkle with remaining parmesan. Take a knife and tuck the outer edges into the pan to keep them from burning.

At this point you can freeze it. Cover with heavy duty aluminum foil and freeze. When cooking, thaw completely.

Cook in 400° oven for 45 minutes. If it's really cold it may take an hour. You can check it with a meat thermometer. It should be at least 180°. The pans should be supported with cookie sheets as they can be difficult to handle when hot.

Let it stand for 15-20 minutes before cutting to firm up. If it's not firmed up it will all fall apart. Cut into serving size pieces, being careful not to cut through the pan. Serve and enjoy.

Note: no-boil lasagna noodles don't really work. They draw so much moisture from everything that it winds up as a sticky paste. And they don't really soften enough. I've tried them and they're just not satisfactory.

Mediterranean-flavored Chicken Skewers

by Don Pignolet

These can marinate right up until ready to cook. I don't mix meat with vegetables on skewers. They never cook for the same time and something is always over/undercooked. You can serve grilled veggie skewers with this but in my experience they are never taken. Be sure to soak the bamboo skewers in water for half an hour before assembly.

- 3 lbs. boneless chicken breasts
- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- grated zest of two lemons
- ½ cup white wine
- ½ cup chopped fresh herbs: rosemary, oregano, thyme, basil, etc.
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped or pressed
- 2 tablespoons hot pepper sauce (optional)
- 12" bamboo skewers

Mix all the marinade ingredients together. Cut the chicken in ¾" pieces. You have two choices here: thread the chicken onto the skewers and place in the marinade (easier) or put the chicken pieces in the bowl with the marinade and then thread on the skewers. Put the chicken almost to the end of the skewers so the ends won't burn. Either way you'll need a large container with a tight fitting lid to place the prepared skewers in for transport. Leave them in the marinade until ready to grill.

Grill over medium heat about 10-15 minutes until done. Make sure they're cooking evenly. All the chicken must be cooked on each skewer. Remove as done and put on serving platter.

Note: brushing the grill with olive oil (not the marinade!) will help keep them from sticking. You'll need long-handled tongs to turn and remove them.

The South Jersey Kite Flyers put out an incredible spread before the Wildwoods International Kite Fest every spring. Kites line up, then load up on everything from the Dallmer's sausage and peppers to fresh fruit to Lisa Willoughby's desserts. But I'll never forget 2011, when Dennis Smith filled his plate, then set it down while he went to the bar to get a drink. In the blink of an eye, a seagull swooped in, deftly removed Dennis' hot dog from its bun, and flew off, without Dennis even knowing he'd been robbed.



Meatloaf Club Sandwiches

- 10 slices of bacon, 2 slices chopped
- 2 garlic cloves
- 3 tsp dry bread crumbs
- 3 Tsp freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 Tsp milk
- 1 large egg
- ½ tsp thyme
- ¼ tsp finely chopped rosemary
- ½ tsp hot sauce
- Kosher salt and ground pepper
- ¾ pound lean ground sirloin
- 12 slices white or sourdough bread
- 2 tsp extra-virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1 chipotle chile in adobo sauce, stemmed and chopped
- 2 beefsteak tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 4 Bibb or romaine lettuce leaves

There are a lot of good restaurants in Cape Town. In 2008, our group ate at the Spier Vineyard, in a treehouse. We even got our faces painted while we ate. But the next night, when I was on my own, I found a waterfront restaurant that was clearly catering to tourists. My goal was to eat one of every animal, and this place had a kebab – skewered on a sword! – that featured kudu, eland, ostrich, springbok, impala, wildebeest, blesbok, crocodile, and warthog. Delicious! When I got home, I said to my nephews, "Remember Pumba in The Lion King? Well, I ate him!"



Do not EVER get between Phil Broder and a buffet line.

Which kite festival meal gives you the best view of Alcatraz? That can only be Berkeley, where dinner is served on a boat cruising the San Francisco Bay. The food's pretty tasty, but the scenery is spectacular.

Preheat the oven to 375°. Line a baking sheet with a wire rack. In a food processor, pulse the chopped bacon with the garlic cloves until minced. Add the bread crumbs, Parmesan, milk, egg, thyme, rosemary and hot sauce, season generously with salt and pepper and process to a paste. Transfer the paste to a medium bowl and knead in the ground sirloin.

Preheat a griddle or grill pan. Spread the meat mixture evenly on four slices of the white bread. Top with another four slices of bread and brush both sides of the sandwiches with olive oil. Brush the remaining four slices of white bread lightly with olive oil and set aside. Place the sandwiches on the griddle and top with a heavy skillet. Cook over moderate heat, turning the sandwiches once, until they are golden, about six minutes total. Transfer the sandwiches to the rack and bake until the meat is cooked through, about eight minutes longer.

Meanwhile, in a medium skillet, cook the remaining eight slices of bacon until crisp, about six minutes. Drain on paper towels. Toast the remaining four slices of white bread on the griddle until golden, about two minutes per side.

In a small bowl, blend the mayonnaise with the chopped chipotle chile. Spread the mayonnaise on the meatloaf sandwiches and top with the bacon, tomatoes, lettuce and toasted bread. Cut each sandwich in half. Secure each half with a toothpick and serve with cornichons and mustard.

Jewish Apple Cake by Cel and Mom Dallmer

- 4 cups of flour
- 2 cups of sugar
- 4 tsp of baking powder
- 1 tsp of salt
- 1 cup orange juice (or pineapple juice)
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup of oil
- apples
- cinnamon

Preheat oven to 325°. Mix dry ingredients together. Put well in center

and add wet ingredients. Mix well using mixer.

While that is mixing, peel, core and slice at least five apples (more if you want them). Add ¾ cup of sugar and 2 tsp of cinnamon to apples, mix by hand. Pour half cake batter into a greased Bundt pan, arrange apples on top of batter, pour second half of cake batter, arrange balance of apple on top, sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon left in bottom of the apple bowl.

Bake for at least one hour or until done (this could be up to two hours; use toothpick method to test).

Biscotti by Suzanne Sadow

- 6 eggs
- 1 scant cup oil (light, like safflower)
- 1¾ cups sugar
- 1 Tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 6 cups unbleached white flour (plus more for the board)
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- 2 (generous) Tsp anise seeds
- 1 cup almonds
- ½ tsp almond extract

As I get ready to go to China for the first time, my mind (and mouth) keep coming back to David Gomberg's visit there in 2006. On his final day there, at his last meal before heading to the airport, he was taken for a breakfast that served, among other things, plum dumplings. The soft dumpling was filled with soft plum that hid the hard plum pit. Dave bit down with a tooth-breaking crunch. Before getting onto the plane for his 15-hour flight home, Dave managed to call his wife and, with jaws clenched, explained why she should schedule an emergency dental appointment as soon as he touched down in Oregon.

Line two cookie sheets with baking paper. In a big bowl, stir together the flours, baking powder and salt. In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs well. Add oil and beat more. Add sugar and almond extract and beat till frothy on top. Stir in the anise seeds and almonds.

Add egg mixture to the dry ingredients and stir/fold/squeeze/press together until you have a smooth, stiff dough.

Arrange the racks in the oven to one and two thirds of the way up and preheat to 335°.

Divide the dough into six portions. On a lightly floured board, roll each portion into a log the length of your cookie sheet. (Handle lightly, with a little flour on your hands, and the dough shouldn't stick too much.) Lay three logs equally apart on each sheet. Bake for approximately 25 minutes, switching racks and sheet directions about halfway through, or until the logs start to tan. (It's okay if they crack.)

Remove sheets from oven, and reset the temperature to 200°. With a good-sized, sharp knife, on a clean, dry board, cut each log into ½" wide slices and stand them up, staggered somewhat checkerboard-style, on the cookie sheets. (The length of the log and the angle at which you cut will determine the yield, and the cookies will all fit back on the sheets with some breathing room.)

Return to the oven, and with a watchful eye, let the biscotti "dry out" for 15-30 minutes. They shouldn't really get much darker, but should lose the moisture in their centers. Remove from oven and cool completely on the sheets. Store in an airtight container.

Tangy Hibiscus Iced Tea

- 1 cup each of sugar and warm water
- zest of 4 limes, removed in strips
- 8 cups cold water
- ¾ cup dried hibiscus flowers
- ice cubes

In a small saucepan, bring the sugar, warm water and lime zest to a boil. Remove from the heat and let steep for 30 minutes. Strain into a measuring cup. In a large saucepan, bring the cold water and hibiscus flowers to a boil. Remove from the heat; let steep for 20 minutes. Refrigerate until chilled.

Strain the tea into a pitcher. Stir in ½ cup of the lime syrup, or more to taste. Serve the tea in tall glasses over ice.

Note: dried hibiscus is available at health food stores, Latin markets and tea shops. If you can't find hibiscus flowers, you can substitute dried rose hips or Celestial Seasonings Red Zinger tea (which contains hibiscus, rose hips and other herbs).

La Soupe Champenoise by Bernard Fournière

This was served for the first time in Dieppe, France, in 2008 when the American delegation invited AKA members present in Dieppe and some other guests to share a drink. It is now a tradition, and very appreciated. I won't name names, but let's just say it was a good thing the hotel was close to the AKA tent!

For 8 to 10 people, you need :

- 1 ladle of sugar
- 1 ladle of bottled lemon juice (French brand is Pulco)
- 1 ladle of Cointreau (French orange flavored liqueur)
- 1 bottle of Champagne (or good quality sparkling wine)

Prepare at least twelve hours in advance a mixture of the sugar, lemon juice, and Cointreau. Keep it in the fridge. (It can be kept for months; we sometimes prepare five doses of premix and store them individually until needed).

Just before consumption, place the premix in a jug and add the Champagne and a few pieces of ice. Serve immediately.



Linda Sanders enjoys a wee draught of the Dieppe magic potion.



Raise your glasses, Dieppe!

On my first visit to England, during the week between festivals in Weymouth and Swindon, Marla Miller insisted on taking our group to the legendary Sally Lunn's restaurant in the village of Bath. It was allegedly the oldest restaurant in England. All week, Marla raved about Sally Lunn's buns, originally made from a Huguenot recipe in 1680. We ordered lunch, and everyone else was served, but my chicken sandwich never came out. Finally we flagged down the waiter, and off he went to the kitchen. After a very long while — and long after everyone else had finished eating — my sandwich finally arrived. It was possible the oldest sandwich in England, served on a bun baked in 1680, and nearly inedible. Marla is great, but if she gives you a restaurant recommendation, make sure to bring a snack.



Kiting

people+places+things

University—Purdue University Indianapolis. I came to help begin an exciting new era with this wonderful topic. As we begin to assess the future of the World Kite Museum I am looking to help the museum define their audience and their educational goals. We will be looking at the mission, vision, and values of our organization over the next few months and recalibrating the organization to better suit your needs as our stakeholders, contributors, supporters, and friends. I encourage you to send any comments, questions, or thoughts you have about where we should go from here and what you would like to see us do to serve you better.”

MEET THE NEW BOSS

Kay Buesing stepped down as the director of the World Kite Museum in October, and Chelsea Libby stepped up to replace her. The new Museum director says, “It is my pleasure to join the World Kite Museum and Hall of Fame team. I hail from the Midwest and recently completed a Master of Arts degree at Indiana



CELLS SELL

Who would’ve thought that cellular kites could sell cars? The folks at Honda! A recent commercial features this giant cellular piece. England’s Matthew Higginbottom tells us, “*Little Shining Man* is a sculpture that has the potential for flight. The design of the structure is based around the tetra kites of Alexander Graham Bell, multiplied out into colliding cubes that take their form from the cubic formations of the mineral pyrite. A double wing module has been duplicated and arranged into a tight cellular structural arrangement that appears as a heavy, un-flyable mass. Utilising lightweight materials and the symmetry of the module and composition, it is able to fly freely and steadily. The kite flown in the image is one section of an arrangement of three, that come together to create the final piece of sculpture.” His design workshop, Queen + Crawford, used a 3D printer to create the connectors. The kite has more than 23,000 individual components and took 16 months to design, build, and assemble. The kite sculpture is now displayed on the island of Jersey.

KICKSTARTING KITE FILMS

A pair of filmmakers are using fundraising website Kickstarter to get their movies off the ground. In Hollywood, Pamela Tom is working on *Tyrus Wong: Brushstrokes In Hollywood*, telling the tale of the legendary Chinese-born artist and kitemaker. Working for Disney and Warner Brothers, Wong’s art appeared in films like *Bambi* and *Rebel Without A Cause*. Look for the film to be released this year, as Wong turns 103.

Flying Paper tells the uplifting story of resilient Palestinian youths in the Gaza Strip on a quest to shatter the Guinness World Record for the most kites ever flown. This feature-length documentary film is directed by Nitin Sawhney and Roger Hill and co-produced with a team of young filmmakers in Gaza. Go to www.flyingpaper.org for a look at the film’s trailer.



STANDING FOR OREGON’S 10TH DISTRICT...

David Gomberg won November’s election handily, and now represents a piece of the coast in Oregon’s House of Representatives. And as promised, when the Legislature went into session in February, David wore this tie.

2013



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