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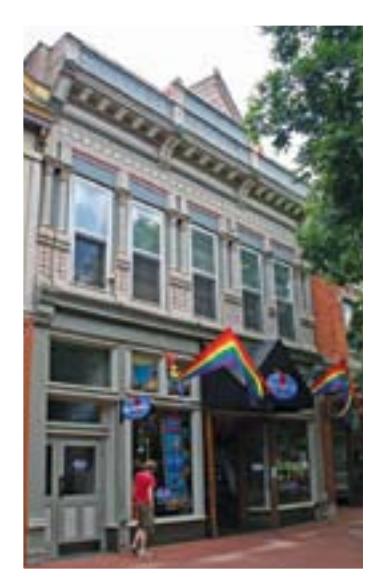
The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association



THE black & white ISSUE
Monochrome Photography
How To Pick Colors
Nightflying Kites
Snow Kiting

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CONTENTS

2

Frozen Lines
These aren't reindeer games. It's snow kiting above the Arctic Circle!

5

Monochrome
Black & white photography will color your opinion.

6

How Color Works
Understanding how to pick parts of the spectrum.

8

Hybrid KAP
Taking some of the color out of aerial photos.

9

Jakarta
If the weather outside is frightful, go to Indonesia

10

Oregon Kitemakers Retreat
Sewing up a storm at Rockaway Beach.

28

Kite Plan
The last two Grand Champs team up on a light wind design.

42

Subcontinental
An ex-President spent January lost in India.

32

KAPtions
An homage to one of the greatest reels to ever take up line.

34

Debatable
Does your anchor need a babysitter?

35

Windless
No breeze? Who cares?

36

Trade News
The Kite Trade Association wants you to hear about what happened in Vegas.

38

B & W
Some of the coolest kites have it made in two shades.

40

Kiting After Dark
Light up the night with kite flight!

48

Treasure Island
White sand beats white snow for winter fun.

50

Indonesia
A Jersey girl finds that kiting is an international language.

52

Transatlantic
Kiteboarders team up to cross an ocean.

10 Regional Reports
20 President's Page
22 Merchant Members
24 AKA Directory
25 Empty Spaces In The Sky
26 Voices From The Vault
30 Fighting Words
31 Sporting Life
56 People Places & Things
On the cover: A little bit of electronic manipulation, by Lori Robinson.

Coming in the SUMMER issue...

- > World Sport Kite Championship
- > Estate Planning 101
- > Dyeing For a Color

The best deal in advertising!

Let 3000 kiters know about your upcoming event for just \$100. Any AKA-sanctioned event is eligible for a 3"x3" black and white ad in **Kiting**. Let everyone know what your festival or workshop is all about. If you're tired of slipping attendance while you use the "same old advertising," it's time for an AKA Event Ad. Contact kiting.ed@aka.kite.org.

FLYING INTO THE WHITE

THE black & white ISSUE

SIX HUNDRED KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE ARCTIC CIRCLE IS THE TOUGHEST KITEFLYING RACE ON EARTH: ON SNOW, THROUGH CANYONS AND HILLS, OVER LAKES AND RIVERS.



On April 8, as spring flowers are blooming and baseball season is gaining momentum, 80 kitefliers will ski up to the starting line in Berlevåg, Norway. Four days later, 200 kilometers away, they'll land their kites in Vardø, on the other side of the Varanger Peninsula. In between, they're completely on their own.

This is the Varanger Arctic Kite Enduro, a six-year-old race for kiteskiers from 11 nations. Not just anyone can join VAKE. Organizers tell you, "To be accepted it is necessary to have broad experience in snow kiting and be able to kite with sled in varied and rough terrain and wind. Participants must be able to stay out in the cold, have experience and knowledge of winter touring equipment and know how to pitch a tent in bad weather. Knowledge of map-, compass- and GPS navigation is also required." Despite this, there are more teams applying for entry than there are open spaces.

Varanger juts into the Barents Sea, in the farthest northeastern reaches of Norway, and is considerably closer to Murmansk, Russia, than Oslo. Once the race begins, teams navigate freely from checkpoint to checkpoint. Flown in a straight line, it's a 200 kilometer race. But that distance is easily doubled as kiteskiers tack back and forth, and work around the unforgiving Arctic terrain. Since the teams must also be fully self-contained, they're also pulling sleds stocked with food, water, tents, and winter survival gear.

The last part of the race goes through Varanger Peninsula National Park. Due to the rare and fragile population of polar foxes that lives here, only 25 teams are allowed to enter. The first 25 teams to reach the Bergebyvann checkpoint continue on; everyone else is eliminated.

Despite its icy winter, Varanger promotes itself as a tourist destination. In its warmer months, it's become a birdwatching hotspot, with a thriving ecotourism economy. And once the aurora borealis begins to twinkle in the dark winter skies, the Varanger Kite Club bills the area as "the Hawaii of snow kiting."

Want to follow the race without risking frostbite? Each team carries a tracking device, linked in real time to www.vake.no. Tune in to see which nation becomes the new champion of snow kiting. **K**

Ingrid Jordal





THE NEW OLD SCHOOL

FOR ALL THE TIME KITEMAKERS SPEND FINDING JUST THE RIGHT COLOR, [LORI ROBINSON'S](#) PICTURES SHOW THATS GETTING RID OF COLOR LETS YOU SEE THINGS ANEW.

Black and white images are making something of a comeback of late as digital camera owners rediscover the beauty of mono images. Why?

Versatility. It's a format that suits almost any type of photography: portraits, landscapes, urban landscapes, architecture. Not only that, it's a medium that adapts really well to all lighting situations. Whereas color photography often works best on sunny days or in brightly lit studios, low light just makes a black and white image moody.

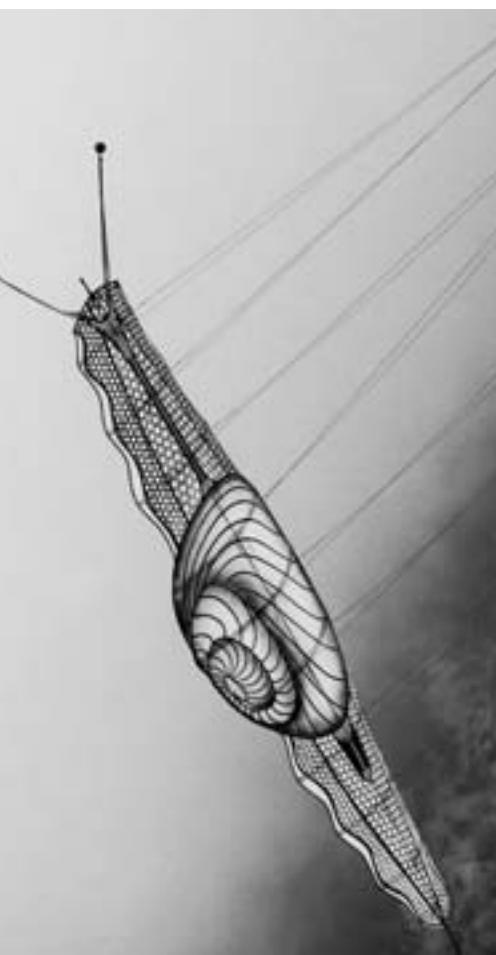
No distractions. Colors can be terribly distracting in some images and can take the focus away from your subject. Taking the color out of an image lets the subjects speak for themselves. It's raw, it's stripped back, it's honest and it allows you to show the true person.

Subtlety of tones. In a world that often boasts about how many millions of colors a TV is able to produce, it's great that in mono there is such a variety of what can be achieved in a photo. Black and white sounds so boring, but the fact is that there are so many shades in between.

Variety. The creative process with black and white images is so... artistic. It's like molding clay: you can shape it into a myriad of shapes. Black and white images can be strong, high contrast and powerful, or they can be so soft, gentle and subtle.

You don't even have to mess with your camera to get black and white images. Modern photo manipulation software makes it easy to convert color photos to monochrome. In Photoshop, it's called "mode." Your digital photos are in RGB (red/green/blue) mode. With a single click on the Mode menu, convert it to Grayscale. In Lightroom, look for the "treatment" option, and switch between Color or Black & White. Don't like the results? Switch back to the original color version.

Lori Robinson takes things a few steps farther. First, she shoots using the RAW format, instead of the JPEG format that most people use. RAW gives you the most control to manipulate the image afterwards. After uploading her images to Lightroom 5, she makes adjustments to the saturation and contrast. Then she uses Google's Nik Collection Silver Efex Pro 2 for black and white editing. The same software has a tool for selective color, letting her highlight an area of the photo to remain in color, with the remainder of the shot converting to monochrome. Then it's back to Lightroom to check for contrast, shadow, black, and white adjustments, and reduce noise if needed. Finally, she exports the image to Photoshop Elements for a final polish to get rid of lint and other noise. The results are what you see here. ☺



KITES AND COLOUR

BLACK AND WHITE CAN WORK WITH COLOR, OR AGAINST IT. WELSH KITEMAKER MICHAEL GODDARD EXPLAINS SOME GUIDELINES FOR FINDING YOUR PLACE ON THE SPECTRUM.



Form balance and colour are fundamental to the success of a kite design. A useful starting point to creating a harmonious scheme is the twelve part colour circle. It establishes the development of colours from the primaries — red, yellow, blue — and the secondary colours — violet, green, orange.



In the example at right colour harmony has been achieved by using analogous colours — those which lie next to each other on the colour circle.

Of real significance is the effect of colour interac-

tion. This is the way in which a hue will appear to change when surrounded by different coloured backgrounds. To understand this, place



a small area of red on a green background, then observe the same red on a white. You will notice that the red appears to have been modified. This effect is known as simultaneous contrast — the increase or



decrease in intensity and hue of colours when they are perceived in adjacent positions.

Colour combinations which include black and/or white achieve dramatic graphic impact. Black can give a kite a strong visual presence in the sky.

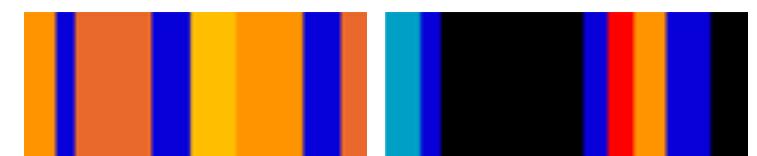


An achromatic colour scheme, one consisting only of black and white, can have particularly striking qualities, either by using negative and positive shapes or by creating visual rhythms and graphic illusion.



By introducing a strongly contrasting colour from the opposite side of the colour circle, such as blue, the overall effect becomes far more lively. Complementary colours exert the greatest changes in appearance and intensity on each other.

The proportional use of colour — that is, the amount of any single colour included within a scheme in comparison to other colours — plays a large part in determining the final appearance.



Subtle hues can be used side by side to create depth, in much the same way as looking at a distant landscape reveals paler hues in contrast to more strongly defined areas nearby. For the kitemaker layers of ripstop nylon can be overlapped to create subtle changes. Layering can also result in colours with greater saturation and opacity.



Certain colours can create a greater sense of space and depth. For example the changing colours of mountains as they merge into the sky demonstrates the distancing effects of blue, grey and violet. By contrast colours such as red, orange and yellow can appear to advance towards the eye. Generally bright colours foreshorten whilst pale colours give depth.



Working with colour schemes is very subjective, and ultimately taste is a matter of personal preference. When designing kites I have drawn inspiration for colour from the work of many artists, including Josef Albers, Victor Vasarely, Patrick Heron and Bridget Riley. ▲





KAPTURING HYBRIDS

IF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ISN'T CHALLENGING ENOUGH, [JIM POWERS](#) SHOWS HOW TWEAKING THE IMAGES WITH POST-PROCESSING SOFTWARE YIELDS MIXED RESULTS.

Post-processing kite aerial photography images always brings smiles as you see what your kite has KAPtured. Tools of the trade include a mix of software applications including Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, Apple Aperture, less known tools like Gimp, and many more. Creative expressions are endless.

Modern post-processing tools can rapidly transform color images into black and white. With a few twists and turns, a splash of color can be added to selected regions. The most common approach is to use layers or masks within Photoshop and define processing rules for each layer. Combining color layers with black and white layers yields inter-

esting and eye catching outputs.

Gradients or pixel feathering are used for soft transitions between color and black and white regions. Special tools in Photoshop like lasso can be used to select specific parts of an image. The "Select Color" function can also be used to select areas of the image with the exact same color. Modify the rest of the image using Hue/Saturation adjustments to pull all remaining color out, yielding a hybrid KAP image.

Acknowledgements are due to the KAP Discussion Forum for their contributed images of black and white post-processing. ☺

Erich Chew



Jim Powers



Dave Mitchell



Jim Powers, edited by Dave Bowman



Simon Harbor



Tom Benedict



Mike LeDuc



REGIONAL REPORTS

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



Greg Lamoureux
Hull, MA
781/ 925-3277
region1@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2016

A sample of upcoming events (please check with your local kite club and/or on the AKA Event page for dates and details): in upstate NY, Sullivan County Family Fun Fly, Loch Sheldrake, NY. In Connecticut, the Hammonasset Kite Festival. The Nor'easters of Maine host the Bug Light Kite Festival as well as the Capriccio Festival of Kites, Ogunquit Beach, ME. There is also the Newport Kite Festival in Rhode Island. Several kite festivals in Massachusetts are planned for Revere, Neponset, and Brookline. The Great Lakes Kitefliers Society of Western New York holds monthly events in Gratwick Park, on the Niagara River in North Tonawanda.



New Year's Day on
Compo Beach in
Westport, CT.

To view the affiliated kite clubs' websites for regional information, event dates and details, visit the contact information on the Regional Resources page of the AKA website. Remember to put your event into the AKA calendar. Mark your calendar with the correct 2014 AKA National Convention dates of September 29 – October 5. Advertise your National Kite Month activities, events, kites for kids, and fun flies in the NKM calendar.

I hope everyone has kept warm since the last report. Here on the East Coast it has certainly been snowy, cold and windy. Maybe not the type of wind you want to be in, but windy all the same. It is making us all think about what is coming when the weather breaks. Spring! When we can get outside and start flying. It is always welcomed. If you are stuck inside, I hope your winter project is going very well or is very close to completion.

As spring approaches, sights will be set on the big festival that opens the summer around here. The Wildwoods International Kite Festival happens over Memorial Day weekend from May 23-26. Make your plans now. Some good things are in store this year. SJKF will again be sponsoring the Scott Spencer Memorial Kitemaking Competition. Winners in the Judges' and Participants' Choice competitions will be awarded a \$100 cash prize. The prize for Novices is a one year membership to SJKF and the AKA.

New Year's Day at
Bug Light in Maine.



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



Thom McAdams
Horsham, PA
215/913-7215
region2@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2016

Some other upcoming events for SJKF will be the 2nd Annual Voorhees Environmental Park Kite Fly on April 27, and on May 10 the always fun Philadelphia Kite Fly and Food Truck Fair.

Up in North Jersey, Kurtis Jones and the "Overpeck Tribe" are looking to have a July 19-20 fly at a new location in Bergen County. They are very enthusiastic about having this take place so save the date and plan on attending. More information will follow.

Keystone Kiters had a kitebuilding workshop January 25-26 where Kevin Shannon taught a class on a delta kite in the shape of a devil ray.

**Nancy and Larry Krablin
with their devil ray deltas.**



Pocono Kite Symphony is continuing their meetings and workshops through the winter. They had their Volunteer Kickoff Buffet dinner. They do this for members that helped at various events the Club put on such as their kids kitebuilding sessions. Everything is moving forward for the 24th Annual Kite Day in the Park at Louise Moore Park in Easton, PA, on May 3. This is always a real good festival with a lot of fun for everyone in a beautiful park setting.

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



Jack Wilson
Stafford, VA
703/307-2080
RD3@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2016

marking your dates! Coming up in March and April we have festivals, festivals, and festivals! March 22 is the annual Indoor Fly at the National Air and Space Museum followed by the Blossom Kite Festival, March 29 on the National Mall. More information can be found on the official National Cherry Blossom Festival website at www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org. Although these are not WOW-sponsored events, WOW and the Maryland Kite Society do an excellent job supporting and participating in these wonderful events. If you have the time, put it on the calendar. The clubs can always use volunteers.

Max Barker and the New Era Kite Club will be busy hosting the New Era Kite Festival, March 22-23 in Mineral Wells, WV, and the following month at the West Virginia Kite Festival in Wellsburg's Brooke Hills Park on April 26. They have many more activities planned throughout the spring and summer so head on over to their facebook page to get updates. The club is also providing displays for several libraries in West Virginia and Ohio for National Kite Month.

Kicking it off on New Year's Day, my wife and I joined a small Richmond Air Force turnout for the ITDCTFAK (It's Too Darn Cold To Fly A Kite Kite Fly). Wings Over Washington held their annual Funny Hat Fly which saw a good number of folks show up and fly for what turned out to be a very nice day for January 1.

The following Saturday, RAF held the annual Chili and Chinese Gift Exchange at the home of Corbin and Stephen Ensign. We had good friends, good food and some pretty interesting gift exchanges. It was great fun and a wonderful time for all.

WOW also held their annual Picnic in January and again, as with most kite-related gatherings, lots of fun and friendship. I don't know about you but I find kite people to be the most interesting and fun bunch of people to hang with. Who needs bowling anymore?

Many Region Three folks headed south to Tampa to participate in the Treasure Island Kite Competition. Technically it's a Region Four event but in mid-January any kite event that entails sun, sand and a warm breeze is extremely hard to pass up.

February was a quiet month and a good time to clean out the kite bags and get those repairs done in preparation for a busy spring. Once again the Maryland Kite Society held the annual Maryland Kitemakers Retreat at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. There were beautiful winged box kites designed by Bobby Stanfield and a really cool cellular kite by Drake Smith. For information on next year's retreat check out www.mdkites.org.

We're looking at an exciting spring with many events filling the calendars so start

WOW, those are funny hats.



In Virginia, the Frederick County Kite Festival in Winchester will be held on April 5, Bel Air Kite Festival on April 12, followed by the Rockfish Kite Festival near Nellysford the next day, and the Blue Ridge Kite Festival is set for April 19 at Green Hills Park in Salem.

There's also the Annual Kite Day at the Calvert Marine Museum on Solomon's Island, MD, (the date will be posted on the WOW calendar once confirmed), the Great Delaware Kite Fest in Cape Henlopen State Park on Good Friday, and if that isn't enough the end of April will close with the MIKE/MASKC event in Ocean City.

National Kite Month will officially end on the weekend of May 2. The Atlantic Coast Kite Festival is usually this same weekend held in Virginia Beach and Portsmouth. There's also the Quetzal Festival in Fluvanna County. Check the RAF calendar for updates, www.richmondairforce.com.

Although it's quite a ways out, for those that haven't heard, this year the National Convention will be held on the Outer Banks! I expect to see many Region Three people at

tending! Stay tuned for more details in upcoming newsletters and regional reports.

Remember to keep an eye on your club calendars, the Eastern League calendar as well as the AKA calendar. Please don't forget to post your club events to the AKA calendar for newcomers and out-of-region travelers looking for some local action.

Breathe deep, look up and let out some line, it's therapeutic. I look forward to seeing you at one event or another.

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



John Lutter
Titusville, FL
321/412-1368
RD4@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2016

As I'm sitting down to write my Regional Report, I'm overwhelmed by all the great events that have happened since the last time I wrote. What a great winter we've had, and its shaping up to be a wonderful spring!

Following a successful kite festival last June in New Smyrna Beach, the Central Florida Kite Club, Kite Stop, and Kiting Tampa Bay were invited back to New Smyrna Beach for a fall addition of the festival in November. While the winds were a bit challenging, Kiting Tampa Bay was able to put on a great show that could be seen from miles away!

Thanksgiving on the Outer Banks, sponsored by the Corolla Island Airheads and Flying Smiles, has become a tradition in Corolla, NC. Kitefliers from all over converge on the Outer Banks to enjoy good food, good friends, and kites! This year was a bit chilly and didn't have the best winds, but everyone made the best of it! This is definitely an event I'm marking on my calendar for next year!

The Emerald Coast Kite Club (ECKC) hosted John Barresi for a quad- and dual-line clinic in Destin, FL, the first week of December, and our esteemed President did not disappoint. Jason Wheeler of the ECKC said, "I have flown with some of the finest people in kiting these last two weeks, and most of them live right here locally. All in all this was the best time ever and I'm glad I got to spend it with fine people I'm proud to call my friends." That's what it's all about!

The ECKC was also asked to fly and display banners at Pensacola Naval Air Station during the Jubilee Run Walk or Drag with Color Run over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend. This is the third run the ECKC was asked to participate in, and while the winds didn't cooperate, they were able to put up a nice banner display for the runners.

Windworks, the Eastern League, and clubs from around the country converged for the 17th Annual Treasure Island Kite Festival and Competition. This is the largest festival in Florida, and possibly our Region. There were some challenges to setting up the festival this year, but Joe Fala at Windworks and Jared Hayworth from the Eastern League did a spectacular job in making it a pleasurable experience for everyone. I personally had a blast wandering the festival beach and getting to know as many people as I could. On a much sadder note, missing from TI was Claire Deuel. Claire passed away recently. She was Pat Beckman's right hand girl when it came to feeding the kiters for the weekend. Claire never flew a kite but touched each flier's heart with her helpfulness and humor. We'll never forget the night at TI 2011 when she brought the house down with her tribute to John Barresi. She will be sorely missed.

Kiting Tampa Bay put on another amazing event called Kite Mania! This was inspired by their trip to Antelope Island last year, when kitefliers from around the country (and Canada) started talking about their upcoming trips to Florida. As a group, they all decided to coordinate their travel schedule around one date and met on Treasure Island to just fly kites.

In mid-February, Skyward Kites in Miami hosted their 21st Annual Kite Day Festival at Haulover Park. They had paper kitemaking and demonstrations throughout the day and really represented kiting in South Florida.

Great job guys!

Another event that has been happening in South Carolina from January 1 to May 31 is Spartanburg Soaring! It's "a community-wide initiative to build civic pride, enhanced with activities and events that engage cultural curiosity and promote active play using kites and

Spartanburg Soaring! as a common theme. All activities and events are designed to promote inspired playfulness across generations while encouraging collaboration and building civic pride."

One of the highlights will be the Spartanburg Soaring! International Kite Festival on the last Saturday in March, bringing the entire city together at Barnet Park. Winners of the previous community-based competitions will advance to this vibrant and thrilling day of looking toward the skies with others.

It's not too soon to start thinking about attending the AKA National Convention! This is going to be held in Region Four this year (Outer Banks, NC) on September 29 - October 4, so let's really turn out and show everyone that we support the AKA in a big way!

The following festivals are a bit more tentative. We really hope they can continue.

St John's Splash Park fundraiser and kite festival, St. John's, MI, usually one of the first two weekends in May.

Metro Beach/Lake St. Clair Metro Park. This is a great physical venue. Right on the beach, so good wind and nice views. The food pavilion is adjacent to the flying field with shaded tables. The flying field is grass, but two sides of the field have paved sidewalks so there's stable footing for seniors. And lots of other things to do in the park.

Kites Over Branch County. The Tri-State Wind Riders took a well-deserved break last year. We hope they're tanned, rested, and ready this season. This is traditionally held on the last weekend in July.

Michigan Kite Festival, Richland Township. Dave Bush and Mary Hoffman (of back2thewind kite club) have hosted this event for many years, traditionally the second weekend in June. This was the only competition in Region Five last year. We're hoping they'll do it again this year.



David Zavell and Chow Chong

Steve Nicol

a fuzzy tail. All kites and the tail, except for the cutting of the tail, were completed! A future workshop is being planned.

The frozen tundra has lived up to its name this year. The cold has put a damper on some of the early winter events. There was a New Year's fly or two in the region but they were not well attended.

Several events will happen after this report is written. They include the U-MAKE kite retreat, Green Bay Winter Fest, the new Long Lake Winter Kite Festival near Spooner, WI, and the well-established Color the Wind festival in Clear Lake, IA. There is also another new event called Sky Circus on Ice on February 14 on Lake Delavan, WI. Look for some reporting of these events in the next issue of *Kiting*.

In Minnesota upcoming events include a St. Patrick's Day fly on March 16 and an April Fool's fly on April 5.

I have also received information on the upcoming Shipshewana Kite Komotion festival on April 26 in Shipshewana, IN. This is a great event, full of color and diversity. Check the event calendar for details.

Sis Vogel reports, "On May 3, in Johnston, IA, Mayor Paula Dierenfeld, John Schmitz (Parks Director), Nancy Buryanek (Community Education Director), and I (Public Services Librarian) will be debuting a kite festival. This will involve a kiteflying contest of both homemade kites and store-bought kites, then some demonstrations from professional kitefliers as well as wine and music at the end of the festival. Leading up to our festival, we are going to hold classes on kite building on March 8, April 5, and April 26. We are hoping to involve the metro schools, Scouts, 4-H, and other organizations as well. After each kitebuilding session, we are going to host a kiteflying practice session out behind the library in the large green space."

Sis and Dick Vogel added that Cliff and Joyce Quinn will be joining them in Iowa the week of May 12-16. They will be visiting schools in Grinnell, Brooklyn and Waterloo for education, kitemaking and flying with the kids. Cliff is trying to line up something with the hospital in Iowa City as well.

Angie Chau of the Hoosier Kitefliers Society is sending out word that another new event this summer is the two-day Curiosity Fair on June 14-15, sponsored by Conner Prairie, a living history museum in Fishers, IN. The fair helps both children and adults answer the questions of "How does that

work?" and "What's that?" Angie reports, "Fortunately, we will be allowed to use modern materials for our displays and demonstrations. The first time the museum invited the club to conduct a kitemaking workshop, we were restricted to using materials specific to the time period of the mid-1800's (a fiasco). We're welcoming this year's exception and looking forward to showing more people a bit of today's kiting world."

Looking even farther ahead,

Crystal Dunker of the Prairie Ecology Center alerted us that the 12th Annual Prairie Winds Kite Fly will be September 6 at the Jackson Municipal airport, in Jackson, MN. This is another great family event.

Be sure the check out the event calendars for the AKA and your local clubs for festivals in your area and be sure to send me a report so it can be highlighted here.

Keep looking up and hold on tight!

Region 7 ~ Great Plains

CO-KS-MO-ND-NE-SD-UT-WY



Robin Allen McCracken
Denver, CO
RD7@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2014

The new year started in Boulder with the return of the First Fly — a tradition for over 30 years for kites to fly regardless of weather conditions — hosted by George Peters and Melanie Walker of Airworks Studio. The location of the impromptu gathering has moved around Boulder over the years, including a mountaintop overlooking the city, in a blizzard. George recalls, "Flew at the top of Bald

Not far from Idaho, a new kite festival is in the works. In Pinedale, WY, AKA member and owner of Jackson Hole Toy Store, Corey Cook and I are tentatively setting this for August 23 and/or 24. This is the weekend before Labor Day, Kitestock on Antelope Island, Callaway Kite Flight in Nebraska, and Kites Over Lake Michigan so consider stopping by if you're driving to those festivals, or from WSIKF.

This will be a very busy kite season! You may have to pick and choose which kite events you can participate in, many festivals overlap on the same day!

I am now Chairman of National Kite Month so please feel free to call or e-mail anytime for assistance. Please visit <http://kite.org/activities/events/event-calendar/> to find most of the numerous kite events in your area. If you would like to add an event to it, you can do so. Events posted within March 29 – May 4 will be entered into one or more NKM contests.

George Peters' banners



Robin McCracken

Region 5 ~ Great Lakes

MI-OH



Steve Rothwell
Ann Arbor, MI
734/995-3680
End of term: 2014

www.mackite.com/glskc.htm

This is the oldest and largest festival in Michigan. Beautiful beach venue. Two full days of kite demos, indoor kites Friday evening, night fly on Saturday, big kites, and a huge kite store on the beach.

May 31 — Breeze on the Bay, East Tawas, MI. This festival has been going on for years. It looks like there won't be any scheduling conflicts this year!

July 19 — Lyon Township Kite Festival. The date of this event changed so it could be incorporated into a larger three-day event. This is a lovely festival now in its fifth year. There are lots of things for kids to do. Plenty of space to fly your own kites.

September 12-13 — Cleveland International Kite Festival. The dates are a guess based on "second weekend in September". Watch www.osiekleveland.org/Club_Schedule/club_schedule.html for details.

Region 6 ~ Midwest

IA-IL-IN-MN-WI



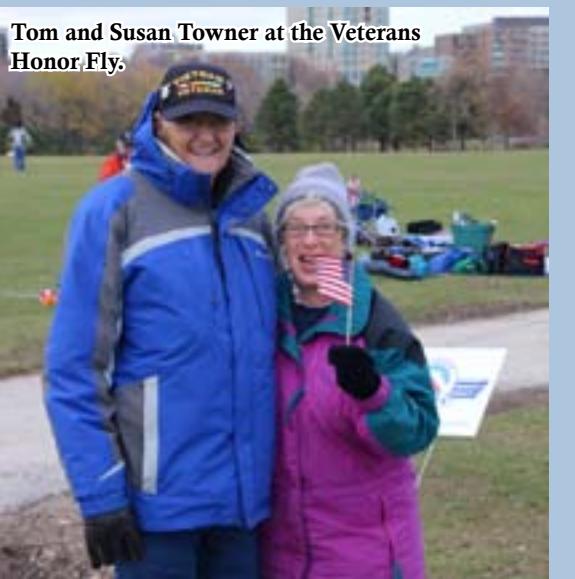
Ed Grys
Shawano, WI
715/529-9399
End of term: 2014

large crowds, a long parade and a sky full of kites near the end of the parade route. It is a fitting and colorful tribute from the kiteflying community toward those who are serving and have served our country through military service.

The Wisconsin Kiters had their annual Halloween fly in November followed in January with the holiday party with attendance reaching just over 70. A good time was had by all, with a free meal and free raffle tickets for members and guests with an abundance of donated prizes available.

Pam Hodges reported that the Minnesota Kite Society members gathered in mid-January to make a pocket sled kite, using the Team Larkey Notch Sled pattern. The kite includes

Tom and Susan Towner at the Veterans Honor Fly.



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

Welcome to spring in Region Eight. The kiteflying season has started. Beginning in March there are festivals every weekend and on many weekends there will be more than one. You should be able to find a festival without any trouble. Merely check the AKA Calendar or give me a call or note. Here on South Padre Island, SPIKE has been going strong on the first Saturday of every month. Local fliers are out on all good days.

The Great Texas Kite Club Fun Fly, on December 7, in conjunction with the Rockport Christmas Celebration was a success despite Mother Nature. SHARK, SPIKE and the Sky Pirates were well-represented there. The temperature stayed at 34° all day long, but the wind was steady at 14MPH and the kites stayed in the air with little attention. We had about a half mile of kites down the beach. The next morning, a group of us participated in a Martin Blais workshop, building dolphins, a whale and orcas. Some people even learned how to set the tension of their machines.

New Year's Day on South Padre Island saw about 700 participants in the SPI Polar Bear Dip. SPIKE flew a pod of Martin Blais dolphins and a killer whale. Unfortunately, I learned that they really don't like the salt water. I spent a day cleaning and re-sewing one that went swimming.

Cat Gabrel reminded me about Art With Altitude, on March 23 in Eureka Springs, AR. Linda and Steven Rogers, owners of Kaleidok-

ites, founded the event, which attracts a variety of kite enthusiasts, artists and collectors each year for one of the best kiteing events in the area. There's even a big cat sanctuary nearby, so you can sometimes hear lions roaring while you fly.

Linda and Steve Rogers



Don't miss the tenth anniversary of Kite Fest Louisiane, at the West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex on April 5-6. Last year the event drew 20,000 spectators, and almost 3000 students came out on Friday for kids day. West Baton Rouge has been declared the Kite Capital of Louisiana, and besides all the kiting activities you'd expect at a great festival, there'll also be plenty of good Cajun food available.

I am always open to questions and concerns. If you have anything that you want to know about the world of kiting and Region Eight, please contact me. If I don't know the answer, I can find the right person. If you are having 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.

Check the AKA raffle frequently. What a fantastic way to get a great deal on kiting goods and help support the AKA at the same time. Renew your membership and support the AKA. Social media has lots of interesting topics at www.facebook.com/akasocial.

Martin Blais (center) and his marine mammal makers.



Region 9 ~ Intermountain

ID-MT-OR



Brett Morris
Medford, OR
541/944-5588
RD9@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2015

I have wonderful memories of 2013. Always eager to meet new friends, fly with so many of you, and laugh even more at so many events. Made my first two kites at the AKA Convention. Good times all around. As I plan my 2014 calendar, I am excited to see where flying kites will next take my wife and me.



Eli Russell, under the freeway in Medford.

This winter was tough for so many. It seems everyone at one time or another had below normal cold weather and snowfall. During all of this icy weather one of our Windchaser Club members, Eli Russell, stood out. After work, no matter the temperature, weather or wind condition he would be flying his Rev. You can almost always find him flying his kite day or night in the tennis courts or under the Medford freeway overpass, which typically has no wind at all. Way to go Eli, you keep me thinking about flying at all times. The Portland area kitefliers had their annual indoor Black Friday fly after Thanksgiving. Wayne Dowler is good about getting regular access to an indoor soccer arena. The weather didn't stop the Portland fliers from also meeting at Delta Park for their annual New Year's Day Fly. The Windchasers meet the first full weekend of every month for our club Fun Fly and January 4-5 was no exception. While the inland valleys were below freezing with dense fog, the coast at Crescent City, CA, was in the high 60°s. At our club beach, the banners were flying

and kites were in the air as we all enjoyed the sunshine and good friends.

Many fliers continue flying, but go indoors to keep their kites in the air. I have tried indoor flying several times. I even made an indoor kite out of a garbage bag at the AKA convention in Alexa King's class. It is with earnest endeavor I fly those kites inside. The problem I have found is that I get motion sickness from all the turning. Amy Doran tells me I need to move a certain way and that it will get better. So far it hasn't. Now on those low wind days, I take out those indoor kites and have something to fly! I don't seem to get as dizzy outside. At indoor events, I will watch with considerable appreciation at those that have mastered the movements and make it look so easy.

The Oregon Kitemakers Retreat in Rockaway Beach continues to be an awe-inspiring success. They had a great turn out and most classes were full. I can't wait to see some of these new creations on the beaches and at the festivals this year. If you didn't go and you want to learn how to make kites, this is the retreat you need to attend. OKR had people from the East Coast attending and they brought in some top notch kitemakers to reveal their secrets to successful kitemaking.

April is National Kite Month. Be sure to share your love of kiteflying with someone new. You know the joy it can bring. AKA is 50 years old this year. Let's make sure to keep the love of kites going. This might even mean a tax deductible donation. The last few years have been very lean for AKA, and it could use a bit of a boost.

The Bengal Breeze Kite Festival continues this year on May 17 at Sandy Downs in Idaho Falls. The festival is put together by students and faculty of Idaho State University, as the Bengal Breeze Kite Club. After last year's overwhelming success they are back again and this should be bigger and better.

Rockaway Beach Kite Festival will take place Memorial Day weekend. This is a change of date from previous years. It is a small community with a great beach. Hope to see you there.

Lincoln City Summer Kite Festival is another must attend event, June 24-25. Fliers from all over come to demonstrate their skills. This year the theme is *Unleashed*.

Look for the Rogue Valley Windchasers on a beach near you.



Southern Oregon Kite Festival is in the unique Port of Brookings. It's always the third weekend of July and this year it is July 19-20. This is where the audience can get up close and personal with the fliers. It is a chance to share kiteflying with people who have never experienced kiteflying before. Get your reservations in soon, everything in town gets booked early.

Events happen because many volunteer make it happen. Have you helped out a festival, or just watched everyone else? If people helped a little more, we would all have more time to fly kites. I plan to be helping and flying even more this year. Look for me at a festival near you.

Region 10 ~ Northwest

AK - WA



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

Spring is one of the four best seasons of the year for kiteflying in the northwest! The Windless Kite Festival in Long Beach was a huge success. A great fundraiser for the World Kite Museum. There were plenty of new faces there this year. The newest member of Evidence, Nicholas Knight, competed for his first time ever. I was touched by his grasp of the basics with so little practice.. Maybe it is something in the water.

Coming up is an event that often gets passed over, the NWSKL Annual Meeting. On March 8, the Northwest Sport Kite League hosts seminars and has time to hang out and discuss sportkiting in the Northwest.

We will be talking about what the league is and where it's at. This will be at the South Hill Library. There is more information at www.nwskl.org.

It's already time to start preparing for the first outdoor event of the season, June 7-8, in Ocean Shores. Festival of Colors, put on by Ocean Shores Kites, is a guaranteed win.

We have had quite a few occasions in the history of the World Sport Kite Championships



A fraction of the Evidence.

where we have seen a team or teams from the Northwest participate. It's an honor just to be invited. Team Cutting Edge made a huge impact on the Championships by winning two years in a row. Team 6th Sense went a number of times. Now it's time for the new team in the Northwest, Team Evidence. A new kind of team, in a few ways. I'm the team leader and I'm very happy to see what this team has become. In a way you could say it's a co-op. We work together, raise funds, and maintain three or four sets of kites. The eight or so members have access to use of these kites. Many of the members wouldn't have the resources to have a set of these kites on their own. But it doesn't stop there. We also spend the time to teach each other. We write routines, we fly together with intent. On April 12-21 we will be in France, one of 15 teams competing to be the best in the world. Travis Reedy, Kristian Slater, and I will be the three members of Evidence going this time. I know the experience will help the team grow. We go representing the USA. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

We'll see you soon!

John Chilese

The best kite festival of the year, according to the Kite Trade Association International? It's that little August get-together in Long Beach.



Region 11 ~ N. California

Northern CA-NV



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

It has been a bit of a strange winter season in Region Eleven. While much of the rest of the country has been experiencing brutal winter weather, it seems that since Thanksgiving we have been living in the balmy temperatures of an eternal spring. [Editor's note: it's 1° here at the Kiting office today. Stay smug, Region Eleven.] Usually by now the hills surrounding San Francisco Bay would be lush with tall green grass, but this year the hillsides are stubbornly clinging to the dry golden brown tones of fall. You would think that the nice weather would give us ample kiteflying time, but this year our winds seemed to have disappeared along with our rains. Though we have been getting a bit of wind here and there, I can't recall a winter season with this many windless days. The good news is that the new generation of low-wind, easy-to-fly gliding kites gives us plenty of toys to play with on those still days.

The Bay Area Sport Kite League's answer to our winter season was to host an

Joanna Chen

Paul and Jessica make their point.

If you want to build a simple kite this winter and don't know where to start, how about a basic sled, which is one of the easiest kites to make? Though there are many plans out there for sled kites, I have plans for one that is good to go. Simply print the plan on a piece of letter-sized copy paper and you'll be flying in minutes! Here is the link: High-lineKites.com/PDF/BKF/2011/Kite-Plan.pdf If you have any questions about the plan or want to share success stories, please contact me.

If you are interested in some hands-on kitemaking instruction, there should still be time to register for the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference, which is scheduled for March 13-16. This year marks an important milestone in the 30-year history of this wonderful conference. It turns out that 2014 will be the

indoor fly and competition just before the end of the year. While holiday distractions seemed to have kept attendance at the Larkspur Middle School gym a little lower than normal, people who attended had a great time and were able to get free indoor flying lessons.

Winter is also a great time to build kites. I was reminded of this last weekend when I met Paul and Jessica in Berkeley. These two recent transplants from the East Coast were out sharing their homebuilt rokkakus. They had constructed a set of twelve 4' roks with bold arrows as the graphic, each kite's arrow pointing in a different direction. Though there was not enough wind for the kites to become airborne, I imagined that the arrows all pointed to a desired future with a little more wind and perhaps some rain as well. As long as I am the one doing the wishing, can we please have the wind on the weekends and the rain during the week?



not have a multi-line kite, BASKL will provide one for your practice time and pleasure. For more information visit www.baskl.org.

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope to see everyone flying soon.

Greetings Region Twelve! Spring is in the air, so go fly a kite if you dare.

Rolling back to our chilly (76°) [Editor's note: Hey, Region Twelve! Please refer to my earlier temperature-related comment in the Region Eleven report.] New Year's Eve, Kevin Heredia once again took first place in the San Diego Kite Club's Fighter Kite Challenge. I spoke to his father Vic several days later, who thought he might be able to defeat Kevin and is very proud that he lost, due to his son's dedication to the craft Vic has passed on. Of course, the

last year this event will be held on the historic Fort Worden site. I expect there will be some sadness on the final days of this year's event, but I also know how amazing and talented the Fort Worden family is. I am confident that their continued optimism and hard work will ensure that the future of the event will be as bright as its past. To all the terrific crew at the Fort, please accept my congratulations on 30 years of success. I know the next 30 are going to be even more amazing! Don't miss your last chance to attend the Fort Worden Conference at its original and historic location. To register visit www.kitemakers.org/.

Lastly, if multi-line kites are what you want to learn more about this year, there is no better place to start than at BASKL's Multi-line Learn to Fly Workshop in Berkeley on March 8. It is their first event of the new year and it is a great chance to reconnect with fliers you may not have seen since the fall. If you do

Region 12 ~ Southwest

Southern CA-AZ-HI



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

New Year's Day Fly went off without a hitch and textbook winds kept the fabric in the air all day.

As of this writing, there are many events slated for you to travel to in March and April. March 1 has the SDKC and yours truly assisting at the 66th Annual Ocean Beach Kiwanis Kite Festival where Dr. Jim Nickel (who has been to all 65 prior) and his family will be continuing the traditions of kids kitemaking and a full scope of new events to delight all visitors, flying or not.

The next weekend is a double whammy, starting off with Kite Party 12 in Huntington Beach beginning on March 8 along with more fun on Sunday. Fliers from all over the world show up for this one and every year, it seems to get better and better. Also on March 9, is the 40th Annual Festival of the Kite. Tom and Ani Fine of Sunshine Kite Company on the Redondo Beach Pier always host a great event where the added music and other entertainment make it a great day to hang out with your kite in the South Bay.

The SDKC has another event brewing in late March. Expect an update on that via my e-mail blasts. (Speaking of which, if you're not receiving them now and would like to, drop me a line and we'll get your e-mail address added to our list.) Dave Corning, Tom Kluczynski and company are in the process of finding an indoor venue for us as well. Do you have access to a gym or auditorium suitable for an indoor fly? Let me know!

As National Kite Month approaches, there's still time to visit "Kites, Wings and Other Flying Things" at the Pasadena Museum of History, featuring centipedes and mini kites from Tyrus Wong along with Doreen Imbach's award-winning Peacock and Tut. Tying in with the rest of the aviation portion

SDKC's Dave Corning presents the dragon trophy to Kevin Heredia.



of the exhibit is a section devoted to Revolution, highlighting their quadline patent and Joe Hadzicki's seminar at the Goddard Space Flight Center in April of 1990. More info at www.pasadenahistory.org/things-tosee/KitesWingsFlyingThings.html.

Other NKM events already on calendar include the 29th Annual Santa Barbara Kite Festival on April 13, courtesy of Dave Hefferman and Rakesh Bahadur at the Santa Barbara City College West Campus. That same day, just up the road in Santa Maria, you'll be able to enjoy the 5th Annual Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum Family Kite Festival. More info on both of these coming through e-mail blasts as well.

There's still time to register events at www.nationalkitemonth.org. If you would like assistance in putting an event together or just need to get the word out, let me know and I'd be happy to help.

In my quest to return sport kite competitions to our Region and fully knowing we must crawl before we can walk or fly, I've been in contact with a few folks who gave me some good ideas. Currently, I'm in the planning stages of a kite day with dual- and quad-line lessons as part of the schedule. If you'd like to help in any way, kindly call or e-mail me so we can turn this into an even greater experience. This is not limited to the "hotbed" of Southern California either. I would enjoy hearing from those of you in

Arizona, Hawaii and Guam if you have any events planned or want to share other insight.

Enjoy the spring. Summer will be here before you know it. Best wishes and winds.



Tyrus Wong at the Pasadena Museum of History.

org.uk Contact Arthur Dibble to add yourself to the list. arthur@whkf.org.uk As we go to print, they're preparing for their Jan van Leeuwen workshop to make the five-sided twisted box.

David Johnson, congratulations on your persistence. "Computer says no" does not

Region 13 ~ International



Linda Sanders
P. O. Box 758
Willunga SA 5172 AUSTRALIA
+618 8556 2681
RD13@aka.kite.org
End of Term: 2015



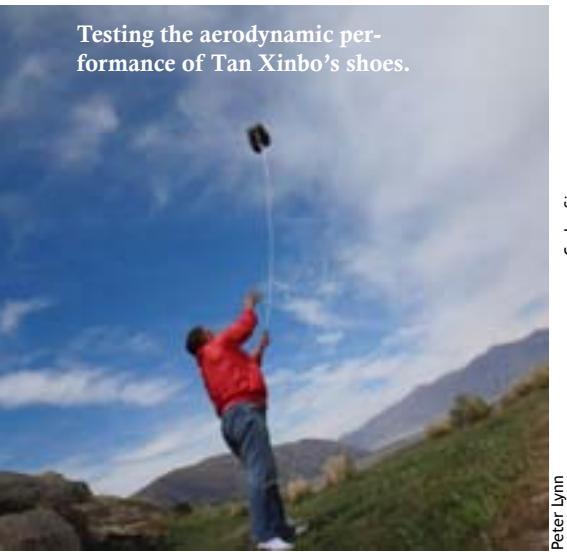
Carlos Simoes and the Lamson Aerocurve.

apply! Thanks to Karl Longbottom for the October AKA Raffle donation (won by an Australian member).

INDIA – A wonderful collection of photos from the Kite Festival in January are here via this link www.weather.com/travel/amazing-photos-indias-international-kite-festival-20140116

GERMANY – Thanks go to Ralf Maser-ski for his August AKA Raffle donation.

NEW ZEALAND/CHINA – Peter Lynn recently hosted Tan Xinbo on a windy hilltop where the new sport originated called, the flying of the shoes.



Anne and Peter Whitehead also went head-to-head with the membership renewal computer, but persistence paid off. The Whiteheads could possibly be AKA's most distant members?

Or, could it be Jim Nicholls in Christchurch? Jim has generously been making and uploading video clips as his own kite resource for new or interested kitefliers. Paying it forward to others, so they can benefit. Thanks Jim. www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Jim%27s+kites+nz&sm=3

AUSTRALIA – AKA's October 2013 Raffle won by Noel Shaw in New South Wales. Only one problem, the spars were too long for the postal service. Never fear, Ron and Marla Miller negotiated, and the kite travelled "soft", to be re-sparroned on its arrival.



Don Brownridge

Australia Day, 26 January, presented this TV ad suited perfectly to our culture. Cop an earful of this, give it a butcher's. www.youtube.com/watch?v=nILh3lFJiWU&feature=player_embedded (Cop means grab, butcher's is rhyming slang for look – butcher's hook.)

Rod Steere from Geelong has released his results of first-time sewing... it's LEGO man.

Welcome back renewed member Rodney Gray. Humans beat computer, again! Thanks to OzFeathers for the July AKA Raffle donation (won by Alexa King) and Rob Brasington for his January 2014 raffle donation.

CANADA – Preparing to travel to WSIKF 2014 are Antje and Auke Vanderkooi of Calgary, following their recent trip to Maui and Hawaii's unpredictable winds. We're sure the beach certainly made up for that.

News from Carlos Simoes, on the Toronto Kite Flyers 2013 Ceewan Midi Pointer Kite workshop. Twenty six kites were made in total, followed by the chili potluck and fun-raising raffle. Proud participant, Don Brownridge, included maple leaves for his stunning design.



Shula Shavit is a veteran of Kites On Ice, so this is really nothing new.

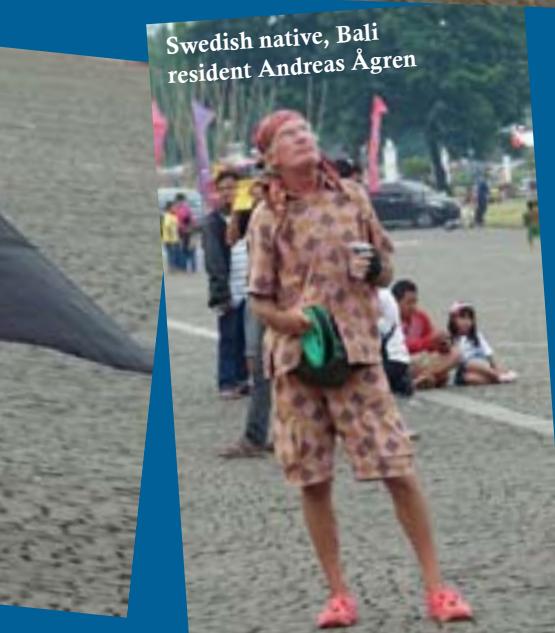
We received 40 – 60cm of snow for more than four days in December 2013 with very low temperatures of 1°C outside," said Eli and Shula Shavit, who then decided to add colour to the pure white surroundings.

ARGENTINA – A new challenge, poses Gustavo Di Si, for indoor kiteflying and figure skating? His 7-year-old daughter, Edna, is competent in both, while Gustavo performs a duet with older daughter, Leila, in the Phantom of the Opera routine. www.elalmadelpiloto.com.ar/indoor/index.html

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



Rod Steere's LEGO Man.



JAKARTA, INDONESIA
NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 1, 2013



South Africa's Keith Mould



THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Hello fellow kitefliers. This issue marks my favorite time of year, when enthusiasts around North America are ramping up to defrost and venture back out for casual gatherings and spring kite events. Some of you have spent the coldest months polishing your indoor technique, building new kites or braving the elements anyway in search of a quick fix. I'm right there with you, looking forward to another great year of kiting ahead.

I won't bore you with nitty gritty details, but the volunteers who comprise the AKA leadership have also been busy. The Association is still having a tough time adapting in the current environment, figuring out the AKA's place and the services we can offer to members in the years to come. It's an ongoing challenge, as we're down to roughly 2,000 members (the lowest it's been in many years) and still relying on creative fundraising to make ends meet.

While the core of what the AKA does (communication, magazine, facilitation and supporting services like insurance) continues, active volunteers and contributing members have been sharing some very difficult discussions regarding what should be done with the Association as we move forward. Suggestions have gone all over the map from lowering our overhead by dropping some services (like insurance), to focus on *Kiting* magazine, the website and regional resources, to a wide range of expansive efforts such as outreach to parallel associations, revamping our Regional Director communications, etc.

I think what I'm seeing from my particular vantage point is that folks are simply less eager to dedicate time and labor to volunteer, so the amazing infrastructure created by my predecessors is woefully undermotivated or staffed. I certainly own this as the person elected to be responsible for rallying interest and participation, but we're also facing an interesting transition between our dwindling older membership and new generations who are hesitant to become involved with such a large association in favor of simply flying kites. This is apparent in volunteerism, technology and huge differences in their vision for the future.

Whether the AKA has ten members or ten thousand, it will continue. The question is, where do YOU see it going in the future? Internal political strife is totally gone from the Board of Directors (all good folks) and we're trying to ask both members and nonmembers some very honest questions, totally open to the "hard to hear" answers that may have been dismissed in the past, all in an attempt to remake this association in the image of those who would be a part of it. A lot has changed in the past decade, and I truly believe the AKA must go through a major structural evolution but without building membership from the bottom up with new, younger members and volunteers. It's difficult to actually gain a consensus and implement changes that will both serve the community and keep the association stable moving forward.



Having sat on many sides of organized kiting over the past ten years (President, Regional Director, KTAI director, etc.), I can't help but feel in my gut that we're all working so hard to maintain the AKA infrastructure with only half the members we had when most of our current programs and committees were created, keeping it all alive. It's difficult to focus on growth. And sadly, any effort to streamline the Association into something easier to manage would also mean eliminating one or more services that cannot help but impact various sectors of organized kiting (clubs, festivals, etc.).

Matt Cyphert

So in good faith, I must ask you, the members who actually represent the Association's core mission, what you envision for the future, and how we might best go about reaching that ideal for you.

Honesty isn't always popular, and I have no doubt this letter will prompt some passionate responses (welcomed directly via president@aka.kite.org) but I think it's more important than ever that we think and act as a group with shared passion(s). The time for executive changes or presumptions from "on high" is past, and we need all hands on deck if we're going to make something out of this for our members and future kitefliers alike.

In the meantime, remember that the real work is done out there in the field by regular folks. Spreading the joy and benefits of kiting, extending it to those who might need it, and remembering that without a healthy AKA we would lose a lot of festivals, the last full-color kite magazine in North America, and a central nexus for kite enthusiasts to discuss, support and implement ideas that can only be maintained with the structure and repository of an association behind it.

End of the day, we fly. That is the heart of what we do, so where do you want to go from there?

Always flying (in my mind),

John Barresi



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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

John Lutter, Second Vice President
Titusville, FL
321/412-1368 vp2@aka.kite.org

Cel Dallmer, Treasurer
Philadelphia, PA
215/722-4092 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

Gayle Woodul, Director at Large
Marble Falls, TX
830/598-2414 dal4@aka.kite.org

Will Smoot, Director at Large
Reston, VA
540/471-4949 dal5@aka.kite.org

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

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Phil Broder, Editor
904 Bayview Road, Rio Grande, NJ 08242
609/602-0130
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.

EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Sally Kinash

1944-2013

Sally embraced the kiting community not long after moving to Astoria, OR, in 2000. Attending that year's Washington State International Kite Festival she met several kitefliers and quickly became an integral part of the Northwest's kiting community. She joined the World Kite Museum and began more than a decade of volunteer/staff service. She was active with several area clubs, and was one of the Lady Kite Flyers. She participated in many of the festivals and workshops up and down the coast, demonstrating skills with sewing, painting and innovation.

Sally loved and cared for all things, from her beloved pets Cosmos and Jasper, to her work in mental health care and counseling, to her friends and family. She was an amazing photographer, avid reader and was active with the local poetry club. Sally was a remarkable woman. She found kites as a great release for expressing herself. She had a lot of plans that were never finished. She died way too young.

Catherine Gabriel



Kelvin Woods

England's Kelvin Woods passed away in December at age 48. Kitefliers all over the world have seen his vast collection of beautiful butterflies flying together in the sky. His large Edos with legendary characters such as Clint Eastwood, Debbi Harry and Johnny Cash are simply fantastic flying portraits. Kelvin was not in the kiting scene all that long. He entered and asked a lot of questions and quickly learned many techniques from experienced kite builders. It did not take Kelvin long to expand on this and create his own artistic visions. Kelvin was always more than happy to pass on all that he had learned. He held several workshops to teach others his techniques. I recall Kelvin sharing many of his butterfly techniques with me at a festival in Niagara Falls. He inspired so many with his passion for kites. I also enjoyed our chats about family life. Kelvin spoke of his family often. It was obvious how much he adored his family. Kelvin, you left too soon and are missed by so many.

Carlos Simoes



Voices From The Vault

Barbara Meyer

by Patti Gibbons



Growing up in a land nearly picture-perfect for kiteflying, the Kansas wheat fields of Barbara Meyer's youth can be remembered with fuzzy edges and regarded with warmth. A particularly bucolic memory Barbara carries is of running through a wheat field flying a



paper diamond kite with her dad. "I don't even remember if it flew, I just remember that sense of exhilaration of running and playing with the wind." Childhood kites may have lost wind and stalled in those fields, but the joy of that outing is remembered affectionately and replayed often later in her life.

Fast forward a bit to the late 1970s and Barbara's future husband Alex surprised her with a bright orange French military kite. The couple quickly embraced the kite, and "we really had a good time" experimenting. Interested and poking around in search of more kite fun, they happened upon a kite in a Land's End catalog. The now clothing-focused company once peddled 6' deltas, and "we ordered several of those." During their salad days, the young couple lived in Indianapolis and would duck out to the rooftop of their apartment building to fly kites year-round. Expanding their kiting reach beyond the chimneys, they hit the road with a kite in tow when Alex traveled for work. Before gassing up, they sought out kite events and earmarked time for flying. Business met pleasure and the couple made friends and nursed their growing interest in kiting. Soon, the hold kites had on their lives gained primacy, and Barbara recalls telling coworkers, "I really need a winter coat, but we bought a kite instead." With that purchase, perhaps came the proud realization that kiting officially had earned an honored and protected place in their lives.

With kite fevers rising, Barbara grew curious about different types of kites and sought out patterns. "Since I was little I have always sewn, but for some reason I thought kites were too difficult," and Barbara asked her mother-in-law to sew a parafoil. Without experience, no one knew that the heavy material they selected would require stronger winds than they could reasonably count upon. Trial and error is full of lessons and the challenge invited Barbara to explore kitemaking herself. She and Alex spotted kite patterns in *Popular Mechanics* and soon learned about *Kite Lines* and the AKA. Dabbling with plans, these new AKA members went from bedsheets Edos to colorful ripstop kites. Over time Barbara confidently tackled more elaborate kites and picked up better materials. While perfecting her blue ribbon handiwork, she developed a genuine flair for kitemaking and somewhere in the 1980s she found her signature style. "Having been a math teacher, I like geometrics," and Barbara pairs shapes with bursts of strong color. For her, the secret to kite design is to drop inhibitions. She advises students in her kitemaking classes to "go ahead, be adventurous...because what is going to look good in the sky" is not the same color or pattern combinations you would wear. She urges, "if you are going to do all that work, make people notice it."



Barbara's kitemaking took a quantum leap around 1986-87, "when we adopted our son and I decided to stay home." Shortly after, in 1991 her daughter rounded out the brood, and Barbara fondly recalls carving out space and time for family fun alongside household chores. "My kite room is my laundry room" and multitasking Barbara would toss in a load, set a kid on her lap, and they would sew together. "That was our time" and everyone was happy.

Around the time Barbara took up kite making, the young family set down roots in Minnesota and was invited to become members of the newly-forming Minnesota Kite Society. Meeting kitefliers in her backyard was surprising. Thinking, "Where have you been?" yet thrilled to meet kite neighbors, Barbara got involved with the fledgling club to strengthen ties and expand the organization. Putting her new Apple II computer to use, she first volunteered to make mailing labels for the club newsletter. Having fun helping the group, she kept volunteering and worked her way through every office from Treasurer to President. As her kite résumé lengthened, she gathered experience with her local club that uniquely qualified her for leadership roles in the AKA. In

2001 she was appointed to the AKA's Annual Meeting and Kitemaking Committees. From there she joined the Board of Directors before taking up office as a Regional Director. In 2010 she took on the AKA's top leadership role and began her three-year tenure as President. Looking back, Barbara recalls it was a "great journey" where she met "lots of interesting people along the way." Combining fun with a little elbow grease, Barbara marvels at the amount of work that gets accomplished behind the scenes and says, "We owe a debt of gratitude to our Regional Directors" and club representatives throughout the ranks. With their dedication and service, fliers can tend to the sky and fly. "I think at heart people still love that feeling when the kite takes to the air. They are still kids. It is that joy and wonder...that never gets old" that Barbara enjoys sharing with fellow kitefliers. ☑

These articles are based on interviews recorded for the World Kite Museum's Oral History Project. The Museum's growing interview archive captures kite memories, experiences, and thoughts from kite enthusiasts and notable fliers. As a former intern Patti Gibbons helped launch the oral history program and remains involved as author of these articles. If you would like to be an interviewer or get involved in any other way, please contact the World Kite Museum at info@worldkitemuseum.com.

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KITE PLAN

Crafts/Conn Genki

by Simon Crafts

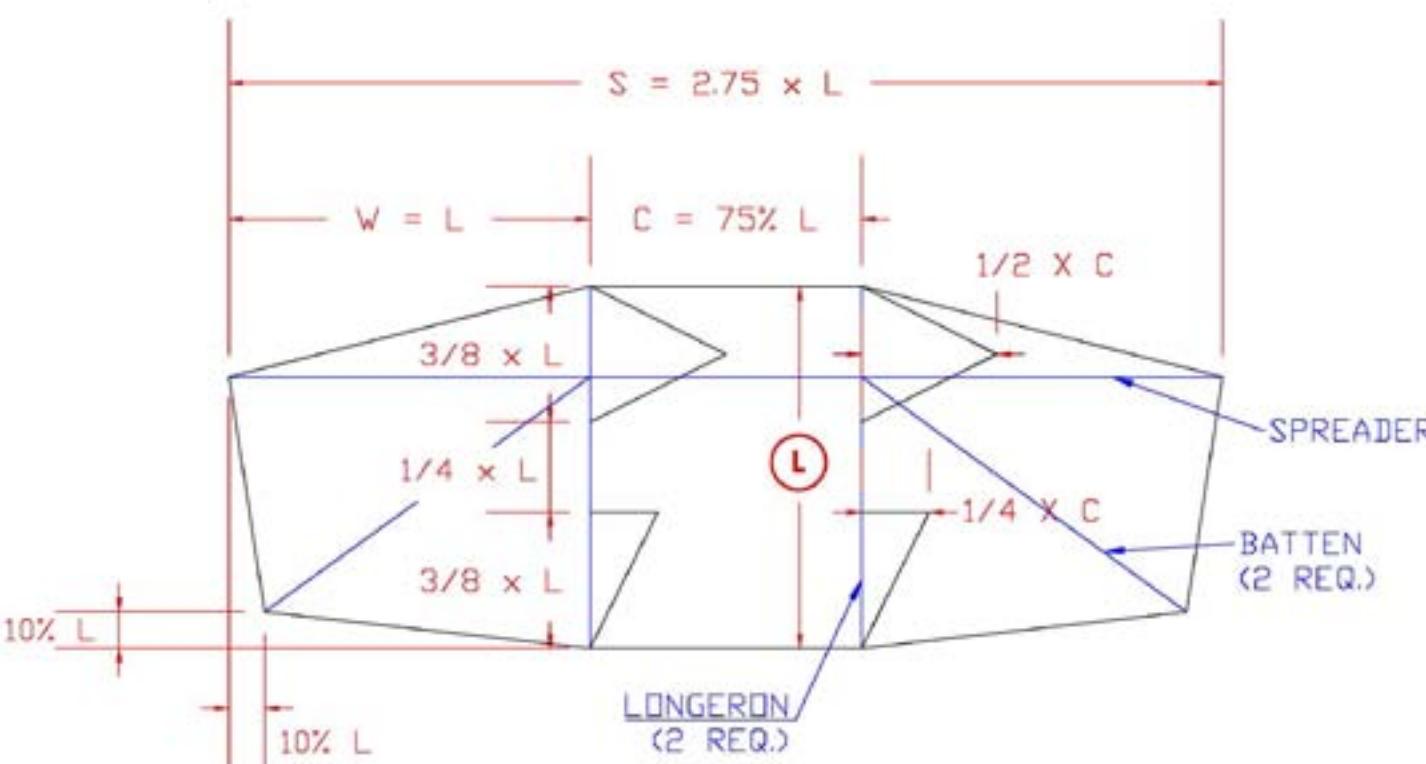
This is a superb flying kite. It will handle a wide range of winds, is very stable and efficient, and – if built with lightweight materials – is often the only kite in the sky during those lulls at the festival. Adrian Conn and I put our heads together, and actually each developed this “improved” genki plan at the same time and separate from each other, yet we ended up with the same thing. Funny how that works sometimes!

It is important to note the relationship of the width of the wings to the center panel, and that the aspect ratio of the kite has been slightly reduced from that of popular plans (2.75:1 vs 3:1). This, combined with the clipped wing corners, provides an extraordinarily stable and efficient kite.

Construction is simple, and the details can be copied or transferred from most other kites that are commonly built. Use light spar pockets at the bottom wing corners for the wing battens to land in. Sleeve the longerons and use your preferred tensioning method. For fastening the spreader to the wing tips, Adrian and I both prefer to use arrow nocks and a tension line with a knot tied fast to the sail and pulled over the nock. Don’t forget a bow line; a good rule-of-thumb is to set the depth of the bow (or the distance from the line to the back of the sail in the center when set) at 10% of the wingspan. So a 10’ kite would have 1’ of bow depth, for example.

A couple of important details for improved performance:

- If using lightweight spars for light wind capability, use a sleeve or put some loops on the backs of the wings for the spreader to pass



- Build light! Use appropriate reinforcements without building an armored vehicle. Choose ½ ounce poly sail cloth if available. Use wrapped carbon spars or carbon as the budget allows.

The sketch is a base drawing for the overall kite that can be scaled to whatever size the builder chooses, as the dimensions shown are relative to each other. For instance, if a base dimension (L) is chosen to be 52”, as I have done, the kite will be 143” wide, or right at 12’ wingspan. Of course, Adrian has to one-up me all the time, and his genkis are a little larger.



through. I have a tightly fitting sleeve going across the entire wing. This helps stabilize the spreader (and the kite!) under heavier wind loading.

- Do NOT – I repeat – do NOT use a pocket at the top end of the battens, nearest the longerons and the spreader! Use an APA leading edge fitting, like for the spreader on a delta kite. Attach the fitting to the spreader where it stays. Insert the batten in to this fitting and then into the pocket at the wing corner. Then, slide the fitting itself on the spreader as needed to tighten up the entire wing; sliding towards the wing tip will put the batten in compression and improve performance. Sliding towards the center of the kite will loosen the fit.

My 12’ genki is framed with wrapped carbon and sewn from ½ ounce poly. I used tapered SkyShark 7PT tubes on the wings (full length, each) with SkyShark 8P tubing in the center (about 50”). I used SkyShark P300 tubing in the longerons, and I used full-length tapered SkyShark 2PT for the wing battens. The battens needed about 2” of scrap tube on the upper end to make up the total length. ☺



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FIGHTING WORDS

The Evolution of Lines

by Andy Selzer

Fighter kiteflying over the last twenty years here in North America has generally evolved from the larger, slower kites to the smaller, more nimble fighters we know and use today. Many of us started flying with kites like Kevin Shannon's GA fighter or Joe Vaughn's Grandmaster. A popular line of the time was the very heavy Irish linen line. Not only was it thick in diameter, it was also heavily waxed. Also popular at this time was a regular 20# Dacron. The main positive point of these lines was that the fat diameter was easy to grab and not slip through your fingers. Another positive was that the lines were smoother and softer than most of the synthetic lines of today. In the right higher wind conditions these lines were fine, but drop that wind down lower and the negatives came into play. The overall line weight and drag caused by the diameter would cause the kites to barely fly, if at all. The linen line also had a very sticky beeswax coating that would pick up a lot of sand on the beach, making it a bear to fly with.

Shortly after using these lines for a couple of years, a lot of us were introduced to Stafford Wallace of Great Britain and his Indian style fighter kites. Beside his great mylar Indian fighter kites, Stafford introduced us to lighter Indian cotton line. This line was a lot thinner in diameter and lighter overall. It had about a 5# test breaking strength, but was still strong enough to fly most fighters as long as the wind wasn't howling. This line was a big step in the right direction because it got rid of a lot of the weight and drag issues of previous flying lines. On the not so good side, but correctable, was the fact that it was uncoated, limp, and tended to knot easily. Being the inventive sort, fliers from the Northwest soon put together their own waxing rigs using old crock pots and paraffin wax. These consisted of a couple of sets of eye screws and a piece of plastic tubing to act as a scraper to take off the excess wax. With a spare hour you could do up a couple of spools of line for the season. This paraffin wax was not sticky at all and taking off the excess kept the weight to a minimum. In the not-so-correctable department was the overall strength of the line. If during a line touch competition you got the line wrapped around your hand it usually resulted in a break and a loss of point. Also, being cotton-based, it would pick up a lot of moisture from the ground and air.

The next big movement in fighter kite line usage was the use of the synthetic line, better known as Spectra. The positives here are many: smaller diameter-to-strength ratio than any natural fiber line, generally low moisture absorption, virtually zero stretch, and with a coating stiff enough not to knot up easily. You can now use lines from 10# to 50# test and still be under the weight and diameter of most other lines. The lighter pound test uncoated lines still have a tendency to knot up and get tangled in your hand; you have to be more careful about dropping the line to the ground during a competition to avoid this. If you get a line that is coated it tends to be stiff enough to get rid of the problem. The smaller diameter also leads to problems gripping the line and cuts in the fingers. A lot of newer fliers are not comfortable using these lines. From a judging standpoint the lighter lines are also harder to see during a line touch competition. At times it is virtually impossible to see the point being scored.

Can you still use the older style lines? Yes, I like to use 20# Dacron line for teaching new fliers how to fly fighter kites. It is thicker, smoother, easier to grab, and doesn't cut your hands easily. Because it also has a tendency to slow a kite down a bit, it should be considered for precision events.

It is spring time, have you checked your flying line lately? Now is the time to get ready for a new season of flying, perhaps with some well thought out line choices. ☺



THE SPORTING LIFE

Indoor Single Line Ballet

by Scott Davis

- Chair: Ann Vondriska (IL) indoorchair@aka.kite.org
- Scott Davis (WA)
- Pauly Berard (RI)
- Jeff King (MD)
- John Farrell (CO)
- Francisco Navarro (CA)

We have a new competition in the kiting scene. The Indoor Single Line Ballet discipline has taken off like a rocket. Seeing fliers taking the single line to new heights has been a treat. This started a little over a year ago with discussion about how the single line performances didn't often score as well as the others in the unlimited class. It was hard to compare the two with the same criteria. So there were some indoor events that ran a single line competition just for fun, both to test overall response and to demonstrate interest from the fliers. The turnout and response has been great since day one with participation comparable to that of Indoor Unlimited. It went so well wherever the fledgling discipline was run that the AKA Sport Kite Committee took a big leap by voting to recognize the new Indoor Single Line Ballet discipline for points and a slot at Nationals.

Starting at the beginning of this season, on August 1, the single line indoor competitions earned AKA Conference points toward Grand Nationals like any other sanctioned discipline. There have been more than eight single line indoor competitions already this season with plenty of competitors.

While this was going on the Sport Kite Committee also voted to release indoor competition to a totally new, dedicated Indoor Kite Committee within the AKA, that better represents all disciplines of indoor flying, rather than being governed exclusively by sport kite fliers. This decision was voted on and approved by the AKA Board of Directors.

The current members of your Indoor Kite Committee are:

We on the Indoor Kite Committee will be working on score sheet improvements for both of the indoor disciplines, Open Indoor Unlimited and the new Open Indoor Single Line Ballet. One of the improvements would possibly be to develop and add some suggested criteria for each of the scoring categories, something to help the judging standards be nationally universal, particularly while indoor judges accustomed to judging sport kites increase their detailed observation of a totally new class. Any suggestions for this or any other project for the Indoor Kite Committee are welcome via the e-mail address above, or on the AKA KiteTalk Forum.

Seeing Indoor Single Line Ballet off to such a strong start, we know great things are coming. ☺



The Stratospool Story

by Jim Powers

Taking pictures from a kite requires many skills. One is pulling large kites out of the sky to get your camera and kite back safely on the ground. One of the best pieces of equipment to help with this important task is the Stratospool reel.



Russ Jolly using the original Stratospool.

The Early Days

Russell Jolly grew up as a young man working with his dad as a carpenter in New England. He picked up his inventive DNA and mechanical drawing skills during this time. Formal studies in civil engineering, a period in the Coast Guard, and hands-on experience in maintaining old farm equipment added to his skills and experience.

Kiteflying entered the picture for Russ in the early 1980s with friends in northern New Jersey. During one of these fun flying days with single line kites a friend asked Russ for help in pulling in a kite using a primitive H-style winder. After a few minutes of using the winder Russ felt there had to be a better way. This was the inspiration for the Stratospool.

Simple wooden reels were fabricated in Russ's wood shop and tested in a large flying field nearby. The prototype winders were good for letting out line but not so good in controlling the pace or speed.

Full size mechanical drawings came next. Enhancements included a simple off-set lever brake design inspired by an old piece of equipment on Russ's farm. Several iterations of drawings followed refining and working up the design on paper as a proof of concept (this was before Auto CAD!).

Construction of the first Stratospool with the off-set brake fol-

lowed in 1988. The reel worked as intended and represents the basic design in all reels that followed.

Commercialization

Russ built five or six additional Stratospools, tweaking the design, fit and finish with each one. Next he expanded the design to two different sizes to cover different kites and line strengths. The small Stratospool was designated "8" and was designed for smaller kites with line strengths of 50-75#. The medium Stratospool was designated "16" and covered kite line in the 150# range. A larger "24" version came later, for lines in the 200-250# range. Russ considered submitting a US patent for the Stratospool design, but after consulting a few legal experts he decided against this path and just copyrighted the design without a patent.

Baltic Birch plywood was the main ingredient for the reels. The 8 and 16 reels were built with $\frac{3}{8}$ " Baltic Birch and the 24 was built with $\frac{1}{2}$ " Baltic Birch. The Stratospools were composed of seven individual elements. Special jigs held the working pieces in place. Batch processing was used to make a run of the same component when supplies ran low. This semi-mass production let Russ build a single Stratospool in about four hours.

In early 1988, Russ sent a letter to a small kite retailer (Into The Wind) to see if they would be interested in selling them. To his surprise

An original Stratospool (bottom), with production model Stratospool 8, 16 and 24 (bottom to top).



Russ Jolly with a Stratospool 16.

he received a phone call a few days later requesting a reel to try out. Soon he was guaranteeing them a one year supply of Stratospools. Orders followed with 10 to 25 Stratospools per month flowing through Russ's wood shop. Peak production averaged about 200 Stratospools per year.

The Stratospools showed up faithfully each year in the Into The Wind catalog. Very little advertising beyond the catalog took place. Safety warnings were added to instruct users to be aware of the spinning knobs when the line was going out fast.

Russ stopped making Stratospools in 1995. There was lack of profit compared to the labor and material costs. Russ explored increasing the selling price with Into The Wind, but they declined. A lack of interest combined with a new focus on more profitable cabinet making brought the decision to stop Stratospool production to a head. After seven years of production the last Stratospool order was completed in 1995. Over 1000 Stratospool reels were produced during this period.

A User's Perspective

One word sums up my experiences in using the Stratospool: dream. The ease of rapidly bringing in a kite from high in the sky in just a few minutes simply puts a smile on my face. Late in 1988 I purchased a Stratospool 8 from Into The Wind. A year later I purchased a Stratospool 16. They immediately became my favorite pieces of kite equipment. The reels were high quality, had smooth operation, strong and durable under most circumstances. The 16 seemed to be the best fit for the medium to large kites that I was flying with 150# line. A few years passed and I purchased a second Stratospool 16.

One of the main attractions of the Stratospool is the capability to wind in a kite while under tension. This is both a strength and a potential weakness. Technically there is a lot going on with the stress placed on the reel components while winding under tension. The cumulative force or stress from each turn of the crank adds significant stress to the reel. On a windy day a kite may be pulling hard at close to 10# of line force. Each turn of the crank adds

10# of force. Turn the crank 100 times and the force on the reel climbs quickly to over 1000#. Stratospools need to be built strong to support these pressures. A short story illustrates this point. A few years back I was working in Rome. I was KAPing over the Colosseum and had to wind in a fair bit of line in a light rain with a moderate line force. Back in my hotel room I kept hearing a mysterious cracking noise. After a bit of inspection I isolated the source of the cracking noise to one of my early "hoop reel Stratospools" that I was flying with over Rome. The cumulative line stress on the reel from winding was slowly crushing the reel with large fractures showing up in the components. I needed a stronger reel.

KAP and the Stratospool

KAP requires special kiteflying skills combined with photography skills. Maintaining steady line tension while in flight with a KAP rig and camera hanging on the kite line is critical. The Stratospool permits rapid winding during lulls, keeping the rig and camera up in the air. During gusts the Stratospool can quickly play out line to avoid the kite being overpowered.

Situational control of the kite in tight flying spaces is also impor-

tant. KAPers sometimes fly in very tight spaces in order to capture a selected photographic subject. A large open flying field where one could run backwards against the wind during a lull may not always be available. A good example of this is a narrow boat dock or bridge. Lateral movement may be restricted. Under these conditions line control needs to be carefully monitored. The Stratospool can rapidly pull in line (equivalent to running backwards against the wind) or let line out quickly at a controlled pace that will keep the KAP rig in the air.

A third factor is speed. It takes time to launch a kite, let out line and finally retrieve the kite from the air. The Stratospool helps with all phases of kite flight. Many of my KAP sessions are after a long day of work with the sun setting, leaving just minutes to get the kite in the air, take a few pictures and pull everything down and pack up as it gets dark. The Stratospool speeds the process at each step with the biggest gains being the rapid winding in of the kite under tension at the end of the flight.

The Future

Late in 2013 Russ Jolly on a whim googled "Stratospool" and was stunned to find a number of people using and building Stratospools. Russ quickly narrowed his search down to the KAP Discussion Forum and reached out to the KAP community, which seems to be the center of gravity for the continued evolution of the Stratospool.

Good news: Russ is planning to resume production of the original Stratospool (and hopefully a few enhancements) in 2014. Russ and I discussed potential avenues for the future. A few of the subjects included:

- Metal reels from Asia
- Advance designs and materials discussed on the KAP forum including the use of carbon fiber
- Online distribution
- Russ's initial focus will be on his wood Stratospools.



A Stratospool made by Jim Powers.



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Anchors: Love 'Em Or Leave 'Em?

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I've done it, you've done it, we've all done it. With a dogstake or a sandbag or a piece of rebar, we anchor a kite to the ground, make sure it's flying well, and then wander away to do something else. Maybe we're launching other kites, grabbing a snack, going to the bathroom, or just socializing. But nobody is watching the kite, and sometimes things go wrong. Stakes pull out of the ground because of a sudden gust. A sandbag wasn't buried deep enough, and it starts to drag across the beach. Or a child wanders by and starts to fiddle with things they shouldn't. We never mean for the kite to get away, but they do.

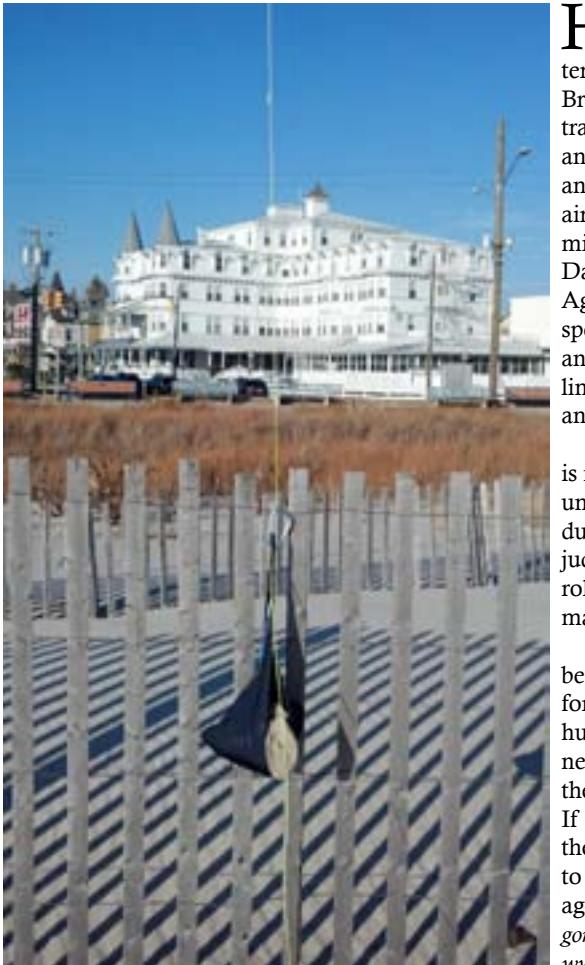
In the photo at right, the blue sandbag was holding a small rokkaku. The flier left it alone while he went to launch other kites. But then he noticed that the anchor had pulled loose, dragged across the beach, and become entangled in the dune fencing. Good thing, too, because if it had kept going it would have hit the power lines, gone across a busy road, and smacked into a historic hotel.

I've seen kiters launch a kite, leave for lunch, and return to find the kite gone. The line broke, and the kite flew out to sea. I've seen kites flying beautifully, but when the flier was away the kite suddenly nosedived directly into the bridles of a giant inflatable. These aren't hypotheticals, they're real world accidents.

We talk about safety in kiteflying a lot, but we need to pay it more than lip service.

Leaving an anchored kite unintended is a recipe for disaster. A dragging sandbag may be easy to catch, but what about a metal stake that is suddenly ripped from the ground? It could easily hit another kiter or a spectator.

The solution seems easy. Watch your anchors. If you need to go elsewhere, ask someone else to watch your anchors. If nobody else is available, bring the kites down for a bit. Go off and do whatever you need to do, and then relaunch them. ☐



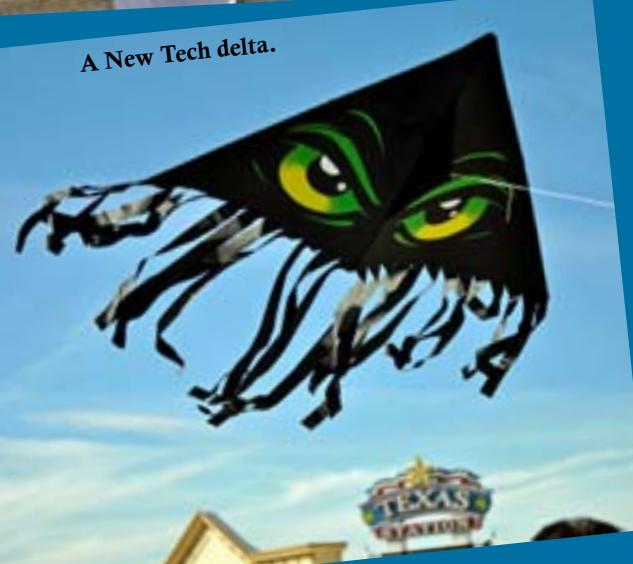
How would kite festivals change if every single anchor needed a babysitter? Well, say goodbye to fliers like Robert Brasington. He's known for launching a train of kites, anchoring it, then launching another... and another... and another... and another. Robert might have 50 kites in the air at once, but that goes away if he has to mind each anchor at all times. Goodbye to David Gomberg and Jim Martin and Mike Agner and their strings of inflatables. They spend a lot of time digging deep holes for anchors before tying three whales onto the line, then moving a few feet over to send up an octopus or trilobite.

The truth is that a well-placed anchor is nearly risk-free. Most kites can fly all day unintended, freeing the flier to help with other duties like announcing, running bol races, or judging. At most events, kiters have multiple roles; they're not just kitefliers, they're also making the event go.

The important thing is that the anchor be placed properly from the start. Holes for sandbags need to be dug deep, not just hurriedly scratched into the sand. Stakes need to be driven in at the proper angle so they can't be pulled loose just by the wind. If necessary, driving in two stakes might be the safe thing to do. If you're not sure how to properly set an anchor, there's no shortage of information online (check out www.gombergkites.com//F-ANCHOR.PDF and www.gombergkites.com/faq/faq-a.html), or just ask other expert kitefliers.

We can never completely remove risk from kiteflying, but we can take sensible precautions to minimize it. Requiring constant oversight of anchored kites is a burden so heavy that it could wreck many festivals. But using common sense, knowing how to handle the kites that you're flying, and asking for help from your fellow kiters should make it possible to keep lots of kites in the air without constantly watching each anchor. ☐



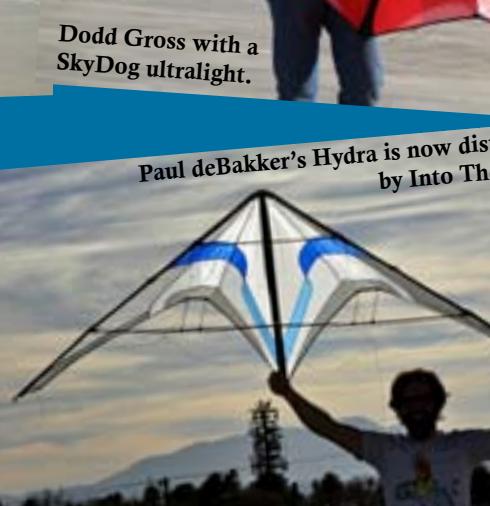
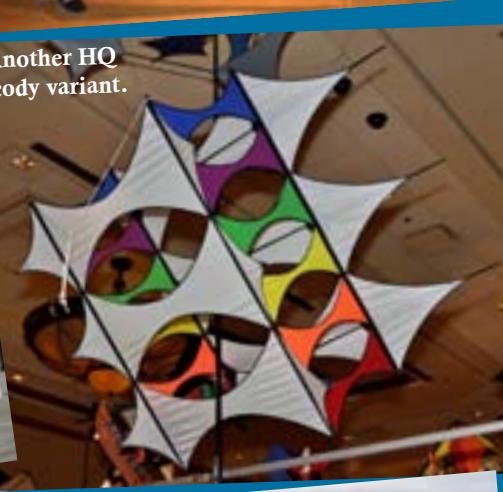
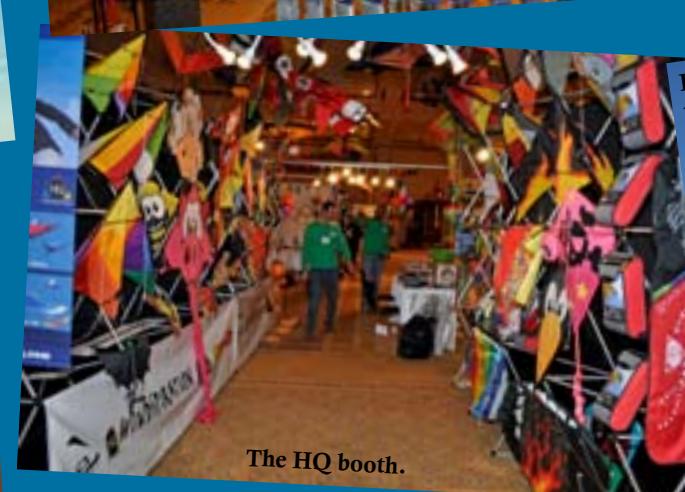


26th KITE TRADE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW & CONVENTION

LAS VEGAS, NV
JANUARY 27 - 30, 2014



PHOTOS BY JOHN CHILESE



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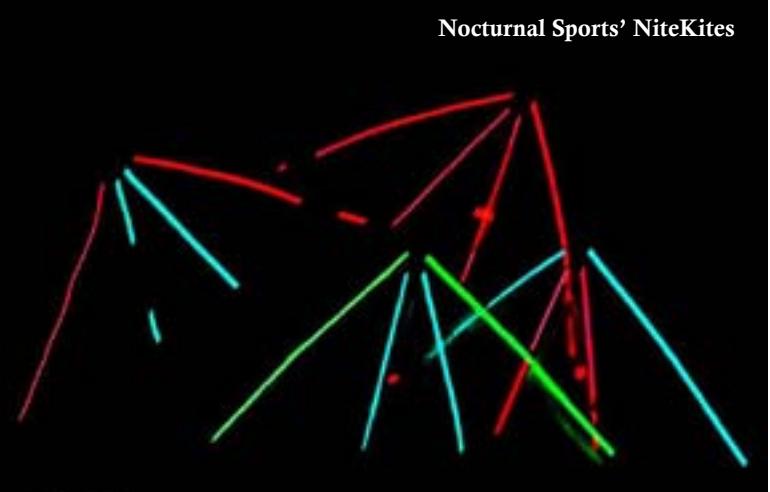
FLYING INTO THE BLACK

There's something about flying a kite at night that's so unwholesome," cartoon mom Marge Simpson once opined. But what does she know? The setting of the sun doesn't have to mean the kitemaking day is over. Any kite that flies during the day can continue to fly at night, of course, but kiters being kiters, there's no end to the advancements made specifically for flying at night.

The simplest way to set up a kite for night flying may be the basic chemical glow-stick or necklace. They're available at camping and party stores, bait shops, and big box retailers. Crack them, shake them, and affix them to your kite or line, and in seconds you've got a greenish glow in the sky.

The next step up are battery-powered lights, of which there are hundreds of varieties. Tiny flashing lights, powered by hearing aid batteries and affixed with magnets, are quick and easy. Larger strobes are available at some kite retailers. There are even lighted arrow nocks on the market, so you can build illumination right into your kite. But battery life will always be a problem. Small batteries rarely last beyond a single night fly, so you may need to carry backups in your kite bag.

Nocturnal Sports' NiteKites



There are already kites that have the lights built in. Nocturnal Sports makes the NiteKite, which won the prize in 2012 as the best new product at the Kite Trade Association's show. The delta kite incorporates illuminated strips directly into the sail.

But you just knew that computer technology would come to kite lighting. If you can rig up your house with a computer-controlled Christmas light show to dazzle your neighbors, why not adapt it for

flight? The experts in this field are clearly the Chinese, who have combined kites, small LEDs, and microchips to create flying billboards. At the Weifang International Kite Festival's night fly, you can see basic geometric patterns of flashing lights, but also intricate moving scenes of pedalling bicyclists, Olympic logos, and entire sentences scrolling from wingtip to wingtip. It's only a matter of time until this technology crosses the Pacific, giving American kiters the means to advertise their favorite kite club or beer.



Of course, lights may not be your style. You might just want to adorn your kite with sparkly or reflective materials, and spotlight it from the ground. It's not difficult to find an ultrabright handheld spotlight in retail stores, which is all you need for a basic night fly. Al Hargus had a belt-mounted light which shone upward,

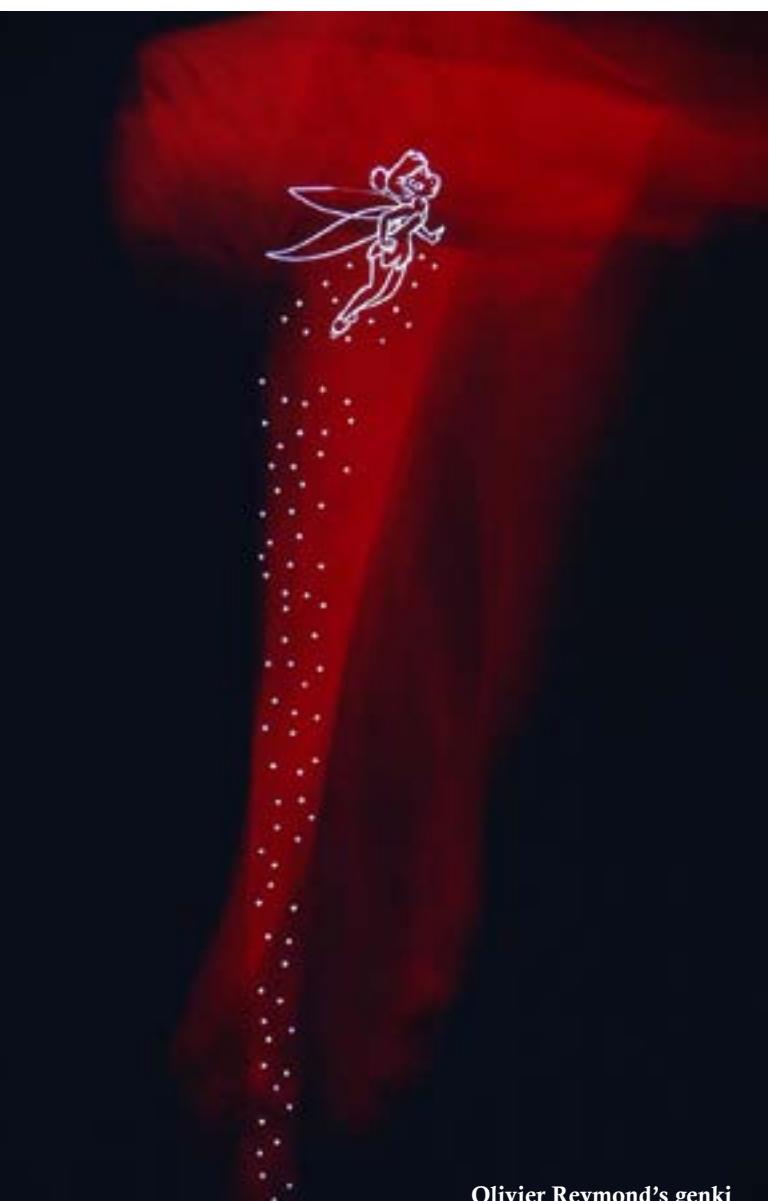


Nocturnal Sports' NiteKite

Kites by Les Cerf-Volant Stylistes using glass bead-coated reflective ripstop.

leaving his hands free to fly his *Acid Queen*, a long train of reflective diamonds.

Switzerland's Olivier Reymond has a red genki he uses for night flying. When first seen in the sky, it's nothing out of the ordinary, just a red kite in the black sky. But take a flash photo of it, and you're in for a surprise. Tinkerbell flies across the kite, sprinkling a trail of fairy dust! The graphic is invisible until illuminated.



Olivier Reymond's genki

The secret is reflective fabric, which comes in two varieties. Aluminized ripstop has a micro-coating of aluminum, making it very shiny. Reflective ripstop has a coating of silver glass beads applied to

one side. The same fabric is used in firefighting gear and safety apparel, so it gives off a blinding reflection under the glare of headlights or a camera flash. Seattle Fabrics carries both kinds. Obviously, reflective fabrics are heavier and more costly than plain ripstop nylon.

The latest example of a kite built for night flying was Ben Huggett's midi pointer, which he unveiled at the AKA Convention last autumn. The kite uses both aluminized and reflective ripstops in its lunar graphic.

Almost anything goes in nightflying. Thinking about mixing kites and fireworks? It's been done, by both Chinese sport kiters and Bruce Flora's Kiteman Productions shows. Want to add sound to the light show? Sure enough, there are already kites with speakers and iPods on them. So be creative. If your idea doesn't work, take comfort in the fact that in the dark, most people won't notice. Rick Agar



Ben Huggett's midi pointer in daylight.

Huggett's kite used both aluminized and reflective ripstop nylon.



A KITER'S DARJEELING LIMITED

Barbara Meyer spent January touring India, traveling between kite festivals in Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Jodhpur, and Delhi. Over the next six pages, she offers her thoughts on those events. Photos by Barbara Meyer and Bob Cruikshanks.



Holland's Raymond deGraaf



The USA booth with security guard and helper.

Even the security guards had to try the kites.



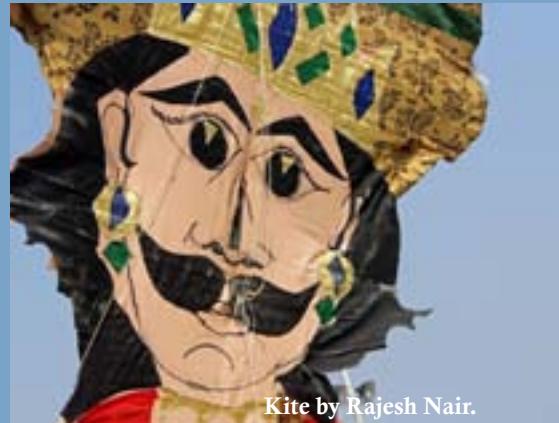
Bird on a wire by Barbara Meyer.

VOKATTA INT'L KITE FESTIVAL KOLKATTA, INDIA JANUARY 5, 2014

Only in its second year, and the first year with international participation, Vokatta was that magical combination of just enough wind, just big and open enough field, lots of volunteers, enthusiastic organizers, and hard-working fliers that all came together to fill a sky with kites all day long. Present were kiters from Belgium, France, Netherlands, UK, USA, Malaysia, Singapore and from many Indian states.

Imagined and organized by a property developer to give back to the community, the festival took place in what is known as New Kolkatta in the Eco Park. The park features a man-made lake, walking paths, garden, children's play area and more. The kite field was a paved parking lot. While the field was crowded with the public wanting to be right next to the flyers, about the time the crush became unbearable a volunteer would appear to help push back the crowd and generate space. After the festival, the organizer treated us to a river cruise in the Sundarbans (mangrove and tiger preserve) and two night stay at a resort. No tigers were spotted, but there were lots of birds, reptiles, and other animals. One morning we visited the local farming village with a trained guide who also lived there. The villagers found us as fascinating as we did them. No power lines, but solar panels and dish TV antennas graced many homes.

This is one festival I'd love to attend again. Since the field is so small, the danger is that it gets too big and loses its magic. Luckily, the organizer's goal is to be the best festival.



Sachin Badiani



Barbara Meyer's Ganesh rokkaku with an Estonian foil.



Kite by Shalish Meta.



Gufran Turner



Gantam Chauhan

GUJARAT INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL AHMEDABAD, INDIA JANUARY 11 - 14, 2014

Ahmedabad is the reason kitefliers go to India. The festival is a build up to January 14, the day to fly kites from the rooftop to celebrate Uttarayan, the coming of the wind after winter. Previously organized by Gujarat Tourism, this year it was contracted to an event organizer. Between some policy changes, and the infamous bus trip from Delhi or Mumbai to Ahmedabad, only seven international kitefliers joined the tour beginning on January 6. Nine of us, (six who'd gone to Vokatta, and three more from Malaysia) arrived in Ahmedabad on January 10 to fly on the riverfront and the rooftops. Last year, 56 international flyers attended

To bolster the ranks, the organizers drafted 300 exchange students from 50 countries. None owned a kite; few knew how to fly one. They were flown to Delhi or Mumbai to fill the field. And, fill the field they did. After the opening ceremonies with a parade of flags, they sat in the middle of the field. At one point, I was backing up to launch my kite and fell over a group of them. Others had their kite ripped when it landed and was pulled by too many hands. Several people lost kites or had them damaged by manja. The organizers did nothing to police the area, making it all in all very disappointing.

The venue is above the riverfront to catch whatever wind there was. The hotel was very nice, the food probably the best we had in the month. The organizers were not organized, or at least did not communicate with the fliers until the last minute. Because the group was smaller, both international and Indian, we had a chance to really get to know our fellow kiters; that's a plus and a big reason to attend.

The true highlight for me was being invited to dinner at the homes of local fliers. Bhavna Mehta hosted us one night. The next night several of us went to the home of Jeem Turner for dinner on the roof with his extended family, and then a visit to the night kite market.

Would I attend again? Maybe, if the organizers change, or if I'm in India already. Ahmedabad is one of those festivals that every kiteflier should attend at least once, not for the flying on the riverfront, but for the chance to experience the tradition of flying on the roof.



Kite by Sachin Badiani.



Vietnamese parafoil



Barbara Meyer's barndoor.



Bhavna Mehta



Russia's Stanislav Kolbintsey on a rooftop.



Looking down from the rooftop.



Kites for sale in Ahmedabad's market.



Ashraf Hamzah



Preparing a train.

JODHPUR INTERNATIONAL DESERT KITE FESTIVAL JODHPUR, INDIA JANUARY 18, 21 - 22, 2014

Once Ahmedabad was finished, six of us headed for Jodhpur via overnight sleeper bus. At some point in the future, India will have a network of highways that will make such a ride comfortable, but now the bumps launch you from the platform of your bunk to the roof with a great deal of regularity. There are also random stops where cargo, including auto body parts, is loaded onto the roof. And no heat during a 50° night.

The best part of our visit was the Sarvar hotel. Located close to the markets and downtown, the roof looked over the blue houses of the city and underneath the fort at the top of the hill. With water heated by wood boiler, and no sheets, towels, soap, or toilet paper until requested, it was clean, charmingly decorated, and run by three generations of a very nice family. It truly was a haven from the chaos of the streets.

After touring the fort, we headed for Jaisalmer, the Golden City, and the desert to view the sunset over the dunes. In two cars, the trip was five hours of sheer terror each way as we played chicken with other traffic and animals on the road. Arriving at the budget resort, an hour before sunset, some chose to ride a camel up into the dunes. Others of us followed in the car and climbed the dunes. With haze obscuring the sky, the sunset was not really impressive; the shadows over the dunes with camels and people to the horizon more than made up for it.

Back in Jodhpur, the festival was held in the cricket stadium for two days. Unfortunately, the walls of seats blocked most of the wind, but we gave it a good try with long line launches of light wind kites. Finishing on the 22nd, it was time to catch the overnight train to Delhi and the final festival.



Barbara Meyer

Having traveled on a third class train in China, I foolishly thought that a first class train in India would be no problem. Let's just say it was the better of the two classes of coach available on the train. The cough I acquired from the smoke and dust being blown through the heating system is almost gone now, two weeks later.

If you go from Jodhpur to Delhi, take a flight both ways. The train was only about \$20, the bus cheaper, but the airfare is less than \$100 for much less time and discomfort.



Lanterns in the Ahmedabad night sky.



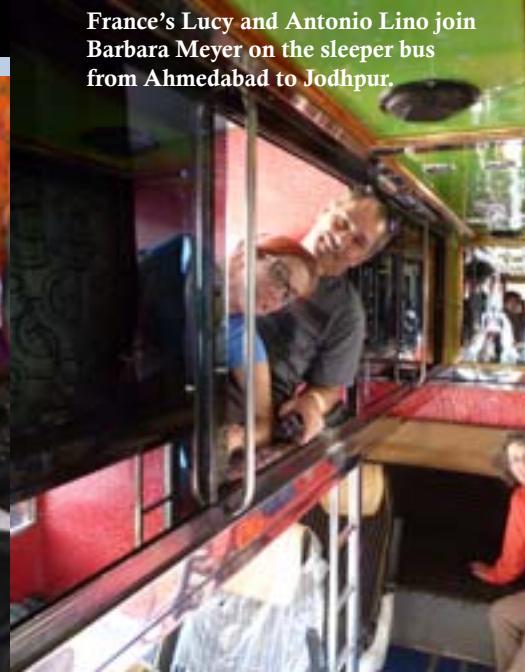
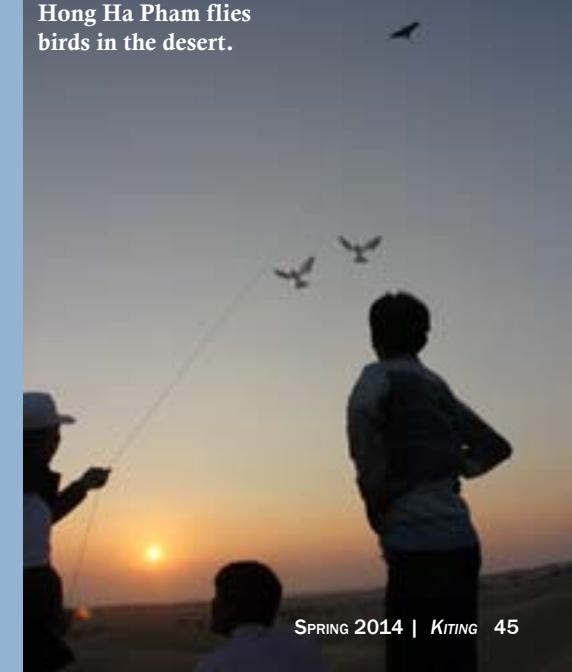
Bob Cruikshanks and Ashraf Hamzah

France's Lucy and Antonio Lino join Barbara Meyer on the sleeper bus from Ahmedabad to Jodhpur.

The Malaysians arrive at Jodhpur.



Hong Ha Pham flies birds in the desert.





Lebanon's Sami Sayegh



Bob Cruikshanks flies a pair of doves.



Yumna Turner checks the wind on the cricket pitch.



Team All India meets the press.



Indonesia's "Zulu"



Vietnam's Banh Van Nguyen flies a bird.



Inside the kiter rest area in Jodhpur.



Team Chandigarh fliers.



Birds by Indonesia's Tinton Prianggoro.

DELHI INTERNATIONAL KITE FLYING FESTIVAL DELHI, INDIA JANUARY 24 - 26, 2014

Delhi was the good, the bad, and the ugly. Under the good category was the wind, the field, the security at the field, and the Delhi Kite Club. The bad? The hour drive from the hotel, the long days of 9 AM to after 8 PM, inconsistent food, being stuck in an isolated area with nothing around. For ugly, we have the organizers not communicating with the flyers and treating them as the hired help, not honored guests.

Just as in Ahmedabad, the tourism bureau turned over the festival to a professional event organizer, to the detriment of the festival. With no information provided, each day the kiters would assemble in the hotel lobby and wait until the organizers finally arrived somewhere between 10:30 and 12:30. On the last day, upon arriving at the field, we were told that no kites could be flown until about 2 PM due to the security lockdown for Republic Day.

This festival has lots of potential, if some changes are made. If you go, be sure all the details are in writing before you commit.

India is a land of contrasts and challenges. It is always a guess what you are eating, and the air is some of the most polluted in the world. Although not an easy trip, it is memorable with the chance to connect with some of the nicest fliers in the world and to see some very interesting kites. K



Team Mangalore opposes global warming.



Kite by Jignesh Kanubha



Mylar kites by the Delhi Kite Club.



Rokkaku by Indonesia's Tinton Prianggoro and Sari Madjid.



SPRING 2014 | KITING 47

Xaysana
Songkharm



TREASURE ISLAND SPORT KITE CHAMPIONSHIP

TREASURE ISLAND FL
JANUARY 18-19, 2014



Eliot Shook

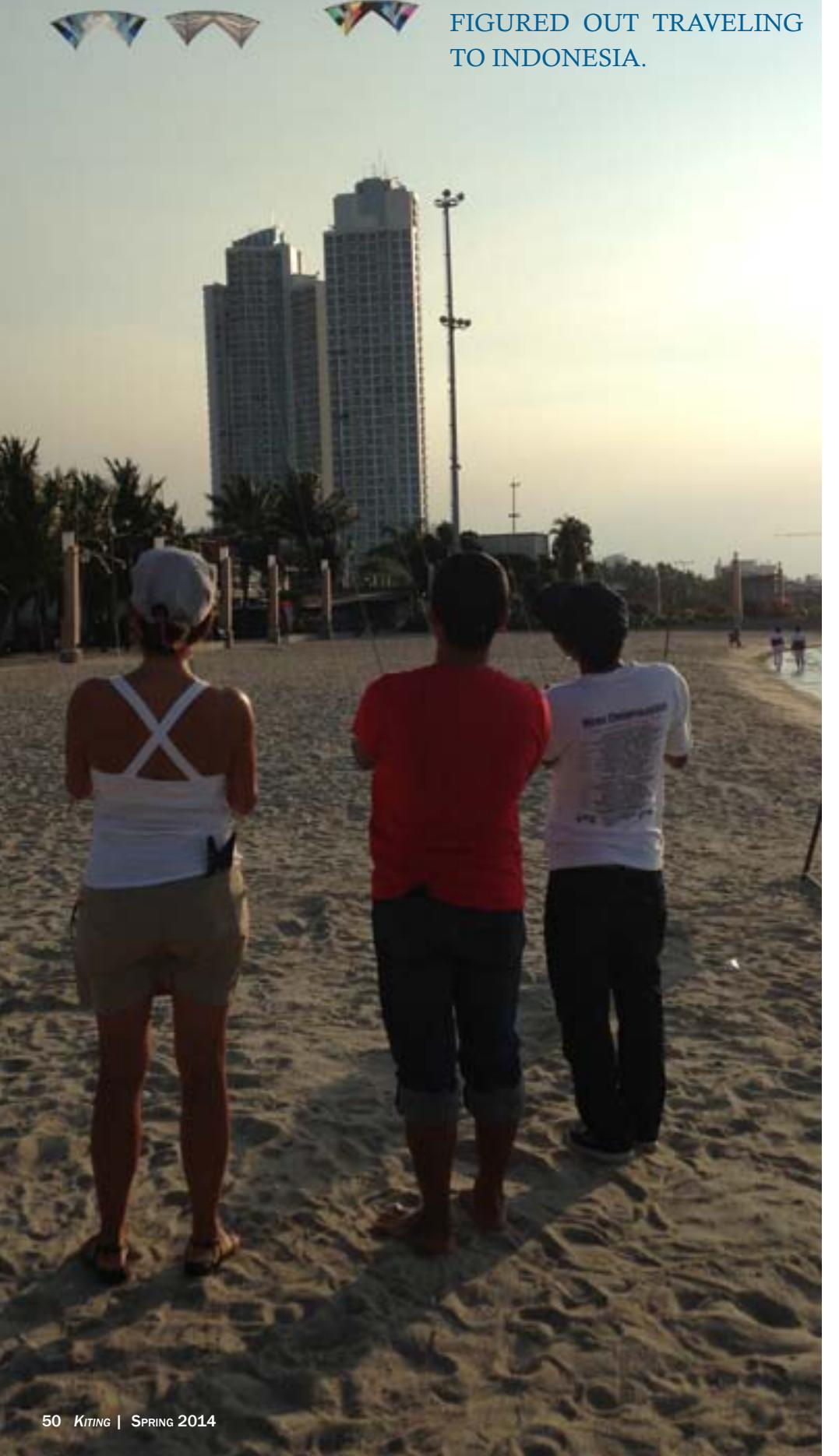
Mike Kory

PHOTOS
BY JARED
HAWORTH,
JOHN LUTTER,
MIKE MC EWEN,
LAURA BERG
AND PETER
BOYTON



FLY PLAY LOVE

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL, AS LISA WILLOUGHBY FIGURED OUT TRAVELING TO INDONESIA.



I traveled to Jakarta last fall as a performer for the World Puppetry Convention. My trip to Indonesia taught me again how beautiful and small our world of kiting can be.

Soon after arriving in Jakarta, local kite-flier Lia Anggraini contacted me to organize time to fly with a group of local kiters. We only knew each other through social media. I traveled by cab to a beach town an hour outside of Jakarta, not really knowing where I was going or who I was meeting. My excitement to be in a beautiful country to meet people who share the same passion for flying was huge. The beach was a little strip of sand with more local fisherman than tourists. When I met Lia, she brought two other fliers. Rigaluh Tanresila and Muhammad Nasir fly quad pairs in many of the local festivals and competitions in the region. We were also joined by my travel partner, Heather Morrow. We spent hours team flying, translating maneuvers from English to Indonesian. As the sun was setting, we packed up hoping we will all have the chance to fly together again. It was one of the best experiences of my trip to Indonesia.

My second amazing experience was meeting a kiting legend and inspirational woman, Engang Layangan. She owns and runs the Indonesian Kite Museum. Her museum houses many traditional kites from the region as well as kites she has acquired during her travels to festivals around the world. Heather and I decided we wanted to visit the museum. I didn't know that the same woman I had been contacting about kiting in Indonesia was the curator of the museum. When we arrived at the museum and met Engang, it was like meeting an old friend. She gave us a tour of her museum and kites. She talked about the school groups for kitemaking and the educational projects her museum offers to the region. She invited us into her home at the museum and shared with us her vast and beautiful collection of traditional sarongs from every part of Indonesia. It was a personal history lesson of Indonesia I am grateful to have learned.

My experience in Indonesia showed me again how kites connect people from all over the world. I met school children in a Jakarta park flying kites as part of their school day. They invited me to join them to fly simple small paper and bamboo kites they had made. We laughed, shared kites and took pictures. Many wanted me to autograph their kites and practice English with them. They wanted to give me kites to take home to other children. These children showed me again the generous and happy spirit of the Indonesian people. Kiting continues to connect me to the good in the world. ☺



ALONG DOWNWINDER

SIX KITEFLIERS, 6000 KILOMETERS, AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA. KITEBOARDING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC ISN'T A DAY AT THE BEACH.

After almost two months away, Eric Little was looking forward to coming home. Just not yet. "It's 86° and I'm watching my friends out on the waves," Little, 30, said from Puerto Rico — 1,900 miles and 90° away from his icy Michigan home.

Little was the only American on a kitesurfing team that completed a first-of-its-kind Atlantic crossing in December. Called the HTC Kite Challenge for its sponsor, a smartphone manufacturer, the trip was put together by international adventurer Filippo van Hellenberg Huber. Little, who surfs under the name Eric Pequeño, was selected as the team's final member.

The team departed from the Canary Islands, off the north African coast, on November 20 and arrived December 17 in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Each member of the five-man, one-woman group kitesurfed for two hours each day and two hours at night. Using the catamaran *Double A* as their floating basecamp, the kiters would climb into a trailing dinghy to launch their kites.

Little recalled the beauty and tranquility of his journey, with dolphins swimming beside each kiteboarder as they put in their daily shift on the board. But, he said, "There were a number of close calls," like the time his lines got tangled, nearly keelhauling him beneath the dinghy. And they nearly ran out of provisions as the journey took longer than planned.

You can catch up on all the details of the expedition, including videos and daily blogs, at <http://enablepassion.com>. Some excerpts from the blog follow....

December 10

"All hands on deck!" Ike yells. "What happened?" No response. I quickly get dressed and ran up on top to find out Camilla was down in the water, separated from the kite, temporarily didn't have VHF communication, although it appeared to be working again. Nothing else had been determined yet. I could see two lights far in the distance, quite a ways away from each other. Not sure which one was Camilla, and which was the kite. Strong winds, and growing swell made the lights vanish and then reappear every few moments. So intense the situations we are all getting so used to waking up in on this journey. As Captain Erik perfectly maneuvered the *Double A* into position to pick up Camilla, she was able to grab the dinghy rope on the first pass and climb right into it. First priority accomplished, Camilla's back safe, now time for the kite. Although it was out of sight for a moment, we engined downwind,

and again picked up the lights on the horizon and went straight for it. Everyone got into position, and were able to grab it on the first pass, pull it onboard, and roll it and the lines up without any damage. "Well done everyone, very well done," Captain Erik shouted.

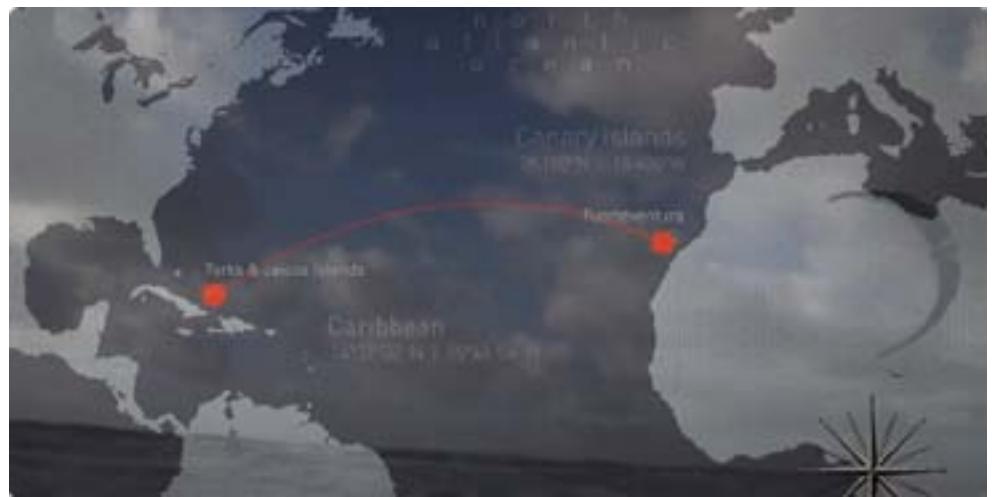
As the seas grew, and the wind howled pushing 30kts, we had a quick team meeting to discuss what happened. Turns out the VHF lost communication, so Max got in the dinghy, and went back to switch out her current unit. As he was trying to put it in here vest, a big wave hit them, causing slack in the lines and sending the kite falling to the water. She hopped out to relaunch it, but it had rolled, inverted, and was dragging her through the waves underwater, so after a few attempts to stabilize, she released it. Once sitting in the water with just her board, was able to pull out the VHF and see that it had turned to another channel, so thankfully could change it back and communicate again with the team.

December 11

"We need a medic", Ike yelled. Sophie our Medic/ Sailor looked to the back of the yacht to see Max was coming in, with blood all over his face. Our board change procedure consists of the current rider bringing their board with them in the dinghy, as the new rider grabs the kite and hops into the water, and someone on board throws out the new board, for the new rider to body drag to it. As Max exchanged the kite with Dennis, and was tossing and turning



photos courtesy of Enable Passion



in the dinghy on the way back to the *Double A* in the still huge swell, a combination of wind and waves picked up his surfboard, and slammed the nose directly in his face! Sophie grabbed her medical kit and immediately began to look Max over. Thankfully it appeared she could tape it together, rather than have to suture it.

Very thankful I didn't talk the team into a larger kite tonight, the 10m was perfect! I never would have thought coming into this challenge, that by the end of it we would be comfortable out at night, in the open water, riding storm cloud to storm cloud, just as long as they didn't show lightning. This realization became ever so apparent as the cloud passed, and the wind dropped, and I looked over my shoulder excited for the next one to come in and bring back more wind. The shapes and sights in the night sky are images I hope I can save in my mind for the rest of my life.



December 12

As we get closer and closer to the Turks and Caicos, it's a bittersweet feeling. The wind has come down a bit, making the attitude all a little more relaxed giving each of us the time to turn our energy a little more inwards for some reflection. We are all so proud to be coming close to achieving the goal, and the feelings of accomplishment are already starting to feel amazing. Yet I don't believe any of us are ready for this adventure to be over.

As my session was coming to a close, I had my first chance this trip to kite with some dolphins. Camilla now on watch, let me know they were all over the *Double A*, so I kited right back to it, and as I got close, I saw them jumping on all sides of it. When I made my jibe to ride next to the team, three dolphins swam directly underneath me to check me out before returning over to the front of the yacht with the rest of their pod. So many absolutely



beautiful experiences this crossing has gifted us with.

December 14-16

As we get further and further into the Caribbean, everyone is wearing their wetsuits less and less. The temperature is hot, in and out of the water, even at night. The final days between our distance goal, and the white sandy beaches of the Blue Haven [Resort], have continued to be testing ones. Considering we only planned provisions for being at sea for 21 days, and now are at day 27, our rations are depleting fast. We finished off the end of our milk and juice two days ago, and the last bottle of water yesterday. The only drinkable liquids left is the tap water supplied by the water maker. It doesn't taste the best, but we are making due. Our equipment is seeing the wear and tear as well. We had another kite explode due to having a GoPro attached to the leading edge. We also lost our favorite board of the trip as Ike did a backroll kiteloop, came down too hard, and broke it nearly in two. We are almost out of batteries, and have only enough to power the few lights we have left to continue riding at night. Our VHF's have been failing, leaving us just enough to keep operations going, and have lost function of all of our dog trackers, making watch much more intense not having a way to locate a rider if visual is lost.

We have all had to face fears and challenges out here in so many ways. For me a large one was being left sitting in the water, and it felt amazing to be able to have one more chance to test myself and being able to keep a calm mind. It is only by facing your fears, that you overcome them. At other times it has been wildlife, others going out into the darkness with lightning flashes and squalls around. For each of us the test has been different, yet as a team, we're facing them all together. As we all took one of our final night rides under-

neath the almost full moon, we soaked up every second of it. The moon stayed bright all through the night giving each of us the chance to appreciate mother nature in all of her might and beauty. Sometimes it looks like you are staring downhill in the moonlight as far as you can see, then again in an instant it appears you are looking uphill just as far. I had the gift of the moonset to sunrise session, as I entered the water with the bright round orange moon nearing the horizon, while at the same time the sun beginning to rise behind me.

December 17

By sunrise, land was visible in the distance on the horizon. What so many believed to be impossible, was now a reality!

Dennis first, myself second, Camilla third, then Filippo, Ike, and finally Max. As I tacked back and forth around the *Double A*, waiting for the rest of the team to join, I began



everything we could have imagined and more. Truly a night of celebration!

Over these last 27 days, we learned to work together as a team, and push the boundaries of not just adventure kiteboarding, but also overcoming obstacles and struggles against all odds. We learned from each other, shared our joys, as well as our fears as we conquered them together. We learned to trust one another, save one another, and challenge one another, proving if you never give up, anything is possible. We chased the sunsets for over 6000km's, into the dark of night, and back again to the beauty of the morning sun. We experienced the deep blue water, and the wildlife that gets to call it home. We got a feel for how small each of us are in this amazing world we live in, yet also felt how connected we all can be within it, working together for one purpose. We confirmed what we set out to do from the beginning, if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go as a team. ☺



to see kites on land raise into the air. One by one, they started to line the beach. The local riders were all coming out on the water to ride with us in for the final stretch! Timing worked out perfect that Max hit the water at the same moment the group of kites reached us, and we all set off in the direction of the island together. With the help of the local riders, we checked off the final leg of our trip.

As we pulled up to the Blue Haven Resort, music was blasting and lights were flashing, flares in hand, as everyone stood cheering us on at the dock. We signed a few necessary customs forms, and hoped off of the yacht and onto the long awaited dry land! A moment filled with so much joy, still difficult to step off

of our safe haven the *Double A*, we have all been so happy to come to know as home. With a brief moment to share some much needed hugs and tears with our friends and family that came to support us, we were escorted to the stage by the Governor and Premier of the Island!

The energy and excitement of the incredibly warm welcome was





WEDDING BOLS

After 38 years together, Mike Petty and Don Pignolet were finally able to get married on December 29. The South Jersey Kite Flyers tied the knot in front of the Christmas tree at a bed and breakfast in Cape May, NJ. Don says that their marriage license is now framed and hanging on the wall right next to the kitemaking trophy that Mike won at the AKA convention in Gettysburg in 2008.



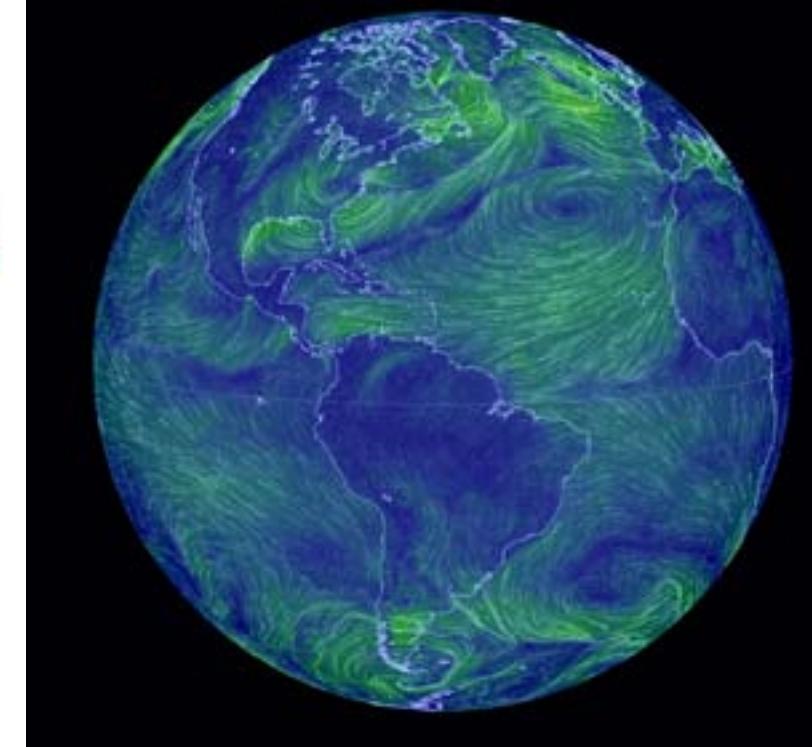
FORT WORDEN ON THE MOVE

A few years ago, the State of Washington turned over management of much of Fort Worden State Park to private contractors, and the headaches began for the Fort Worden Kitemakers Conference. Prices rose, services diminished, and the Conference's board began considering their options. They recently announced that in 2015, the Kitemakers Conference will move to the Warm Beach Camp and Conference Center in Stanwood, north of Seattle. That means that kitemakers won't get to watch the sun rise over the Cascades, but instead will be treated to views of the sun setting over Puget Sound.

FROM THE MAILBAG...

We get holiday cards here at *Kiting*, like these good wishes from France's Michel Gressier.

Mes meilleurs Vœux pour 2014
accompagnent cet instant qui
retrace et résume toutes les
complicités et partages que j'ai pu
mettre en place dans ma passion.



MAPPING THE WIND

Last year, designers Fernanda Viégas and Martin Wattenberg brought us the Wind Map (online at <http://hint.fm/wind/>), an artistic visualization of wind patterns across the United States. Now their map has inspired another Web developer, Cameron Beccario, to adapt the concept to a global scale. Beccario started with a wind map of Tokyo, where he lives. Then he took on the world. You can see his animated map at earth.nullschool.net.

Using data from the Global Forecast System, Beccario's map updates every three hours, showing near-current weather patterns worldwide. You can spin the map like a globe, zoom in on a particular region, or just soak in the oddly soothing sight of the neon lines steadily making their way across the globe.



WHAT DOES THE FOX FLY?

Steve Nicol found this inquisitive spectator in Milwaukee's Veterans Park, looking for learn-to-fly lessons.

10th Anniversary
Celebration

Saturday & Sunday
April 5-6, 2014
11a.m. - 6p.m.

West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex

Highway 415 @ Rosedale Rd.

Exit #151 Off I-10

For event information:

800-654-9701

www.westbatonrouge.net

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