

# Convention Workshops

*These workshops are current as of June 24, 2022. This is a partial list of the workshops being offered at this year's Convention. For a variety of reasons, workshops may be changed, canceled, or replaced without notice. Please check back for updates.*

## **Geoff Bland, MAKE AN AEROPOD**

The AKA Flight Technologies (FliTech) Committee, in partnership with NASA's AEROKATS and ROVER Education Network (AREN), will sponsor an Aeropod instrument platform workshop. Participants will assemble "MonoCams" and learn to prepare, fly, and retrieve images from these novel devices. Two sessions are planned: one early in the week for assembly, and one a few days later to share your collective aerial perspectives from a fun week of kiteflying!

## **Ronda Brewer, DEMYSTIFYING KNOTS**

Throughout the ages, people and animals have used knots and knotting techniques to give more form and function to their lives. Not only have they discovered the importance of the different applications of various knots, but what line or rope to use as well. In this class, we will discuss the different aspects of knot assembly—parts, names, techniques, and usages. We will then have a hands-on session with multiple projects to practice.

## **Jon Burkhardt, WHY WON'T MY #@\*%&! KITE FLY?**

Most of us have built kites that struggle or utterly fail to stay aloft. What's wrong with these beasts? Some of them might deserve just one more chance before they meet the trashcan, while others, well...? Fixes could range from simple tweaks to total redesign and reconstruction. Share your stories and share your solutions. Come to participate. Bring a kite that's frustrating you; we'll have time to talk about some of them. Show me yours and I'll show you mine. Let's have some fun.

## **Paul Dugard, BUBBLES, BUBBLES**

Learn how to make your own "Big and Large" Bubble Solution. Bubble machines, wands, and loops will be on display. All materials for this workshop will be provided including those needed to make a loop and wand to take with you. This will be a hands-on bubble workshop with minimum time spent on lecture. Safety and proper use of bubbles explained.



There will be group testing after class. No prior experience required.

## **Lindsey Johnson, ADVANCEMENTS IN 3D PRINTING**

At previous Conventions, Lindsey introduced the kiteworld to 3D printing and its many applications in kite building. This class will start with the basics of the technology then move into exploring the changes of the last few years. Printers are now cheaper to buy, and the materials and processes have advanced in exciting ways. There are more kite people than ever using 3D printers and the body of expanding knowledge will be explored. If you're into 3D printing or are curious, you won't want to miss this class.

## **Chuck Jones, MAKE AND TAKE FIGHTER KITE**

Chuck is well known for building kites with traditional materials. This year he will lead workshop participants in making fighter kites using all biodegradable materials. They fly great indoors, or in light wind outdoors.

## **Susie Jo Skinner, MAKING MINIATURE KITES**

Make a miniature kite, complete with carrying case and flying stick. Kites will be made with tissue paper sails and nylon spars. All supplies and tools will be provided. Beginners to advanced kitemakers are welcome.

## **Mike Mosman, WHAT'S IN YOUR KITE BAG/TOOLBOX?**

Mike will bring his kite bag and toolboxes to this workshop show those items he finds essential or handy, and then ask the participants to show or describe their favorite kite bits and gadgets. It should be very interactive and, possibly, you'll get a peek at some "trade secrets."

## **KITE COMPETITIONS**

There are lots of changes in this year's kite competitions for kitemakers and sport kite fliers. Workshops will be scheduled early in the week will discuss those changes and answer questions. A second workshop at the end of the week will be an opportunity to discuss how the week went and what we might do in the future.

## **FUN FLYING WORKSHOP**

Want to make something but not compete? Challenge yourself to make kite designs with fish, patchwork patterns, a flock of birds, three sticks of equal length, or a ground display (some samples shown). A new challenge involves making line climbers. See *Kiting*, winter 2020 or [www.kite.org](http://www.kite.org) for more details.



## Sewing Workshops: BRING YOUR OWN SEWING MACHINE

The last few years, the AKA Convention has held hands-on sewing workshops; they were a big success. This year we've expanded the offering of classes and time to sew. A dedicated room for sewing machines will be available in the mornings for classes and in the afternoons for individuals to work on their own. When not in use, the room will be locked for security.

In addition to their machines, attendees should plan to bring accessory tools such as scissors, straight-edge, thread, etc. Most sewing projects will require pre-purchase materials. To facilitate this, members must check the box on the Convention registration form indicating their desire to take one or more sewing classes. If you check this box, by mid-August you will receive an email with a list of materials and the costs (if any) related to each sewing class. Sewing classes are limited in size and registrants will have a reserved spot based on the order of the responses in August. If you

have questions regarding sewing classes, email us at [aka@aka.kite.org](mailto:aka@aka.kite.org). All members are welcome to attend these classes if they wish to audit the class without a sewing machine.

### Mike Dertien and Craig Rodgerson, AKA CONVENTION ARCH KITE

Let's build the 2022 AKA Convention arch and fly it on Saturday! Not a kite builder? No problem. Mike and Craig are teaching classes in kitemaking using the arch panel format so you can join in the fun! Four sessions will cover all you need to know to make a kite arch panel. This is also the very basic knowledge needed to sew a kite and a great time for beginners to see if kitemaking is for them. All kitemakers will be welcome to drop in and make custom panels for this community project. The finished arch will be sold in the auction on Friday night with the high bidder taking it home after Saturday's flight!

### Charlie Dunton, DUNTON-TAYLOR BOX DELTA

Do you have a kite in your bag that sets up in seconds, is fun to fly, can be flown by anyone, and flies in winds from 0 to 20+ mph? This workshop is your opportunity to build the Dunton-Taylor Box Delta. If you can sew straight and zigzag stitches, this 31-inch-tall ripstop nylon kite can be built in less than six



CHRISTIAN BADEN POWELL

hours at a cost of about \$75. Bring your sewing machine and let's fill the sky at Ocean City with a mass ascension of hand-made Dunton-Taylor kites.

**Would you like to sponsor Convention activities or events?**

Please email the AKA office at [aka@aka.kite.org](mailto:aka@aka.kite.org). ▼



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SCOTT SKINNER