

Letter from the President

VOL. 1/NO. 2

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Fellow Members of the New AKA,

I am writing on behalf of the Executive Committee. You know, getting this association off the drawing board is a lot like launching a new kite; shorten a line here, lengthen there, tighten, adjust, readjust, fly a little and then adjust some more! Well, we may not be ready for the big show, but we're off the ground. The response to our first mailing was heartening and the memberships are coming in every day. It was interesting to trace the arrival of the letter in each state by the return of memberships. It took three weeks for the letter to reach California and we had already received several foreign entries by then. On our biggest day we received thirty-two applications for membership!

Separating the AKA from Kite Lines has been an unravelling of twisted lines that took a skilled hand. That hand has been provided by the addition of Dr. Ed Weaver to our voluntary staff. Dr. Weaver is a business attorney, member of the Va. Bar Assoc., and Bar of the Supreme Court of the U.S., with all his training and experience right where we need it. His expertise made the first mailing a reality and we are grateful.

Because the mailing list belongs to Kite Lines (Verve Enterprises, Inc.) this our second mailing, will go out only to those who registered and sent dues since the first mailing and to the Life Members. You can help build the membership by sharing this letter and the extra registration blank with a kite friend. Feel free to make copies of the membership registration blank for private use or retail store handouts.

Judging from the mail received, we did not make ourselves clear on the new AKA-Kite Lines division, so here's a second try. Up until September 1978, AKA existed in name only as a part of Verve Enterprises. There was no Board of Directors, no annual meeting, no membership cards, no voter representation, and no by-laws. Any dues collected or promises made to AKA members prior to that time

were and are the responsibility of Verve Enterprises. No monies were or are being brought forward from the old AKA-Kite Lines subscriptions-memberships.

In September, the Board of Directors of AKA was formed officially and for the first time functioned as an association. This new AKA has no control or responsibility for Kite Lines magazine or the old AKA membership with one exception, we intend to send mailing to Life Members. We know that some of you will end up paying membership dues more than once for the first year or so: all of the members of the Board suffered the same experience, including some who are Life Members and voluntarily have paid new dues. We cannot make any statements concerning monies paid to Kite Lines for magazine subscriptions; however, the Board of Directors of the new AKA has the best wishes for the Kite Lines future.

In Ocean City during the first annual meeting, interim by-laws were adopted by the membership. These by-laws state that membership includes a subscription to Kite Lines magazine. At the time the by-laws were written, Kite Lines was being published, at present it is not. Until such time as the magazine is again meeting its obligation and publishing regularly, the new AKA board cannot include it as a part of membership or collect monies for it. If the situation is not corrected prior to the second annual meeting of the new AKA, amendment of the by-laws may be discussed to delete mention of Kite Lines magazine.

In the past, membership-subscription forms (called "puffs"), promised membership in the old AKA with subscription to Kite Lines. Some of these puffs are still available in kite stores, libraries and old issues of Kite Lines. The new AKA can not service the "membership" that is mentioned in them, as the new AKA does not receive any money from such membership-subscriptions. All new AKA dues should be sent to the Manassas, Virginia address.

Now, in case you still have questions, if it is about an old AKA membership or

subscription to Kite Lines magazine, write to Kite Lines, Baltimore, Maryland. If the question is about the new AKA membership, write to AKA in Manassas, Virginia.

Included in the mail we received this month were letters containing many good suggestions. One came from H.B. ALEXANDER, of Charleston, South Carolina. Lt. Col. Alexander would like to see "more about what's going on in terms of design and structural technique." Since we do not have staff writers or reporters, we are dependent on each other for this type of information. Come on, kite flyers, get it in writing and send it to us for publication.

FRANK ARMBRUSTER of California called to say he is sending us a Delta kite design that has proven successful for children's kite workshops. We're all looking forward to it, Frank!

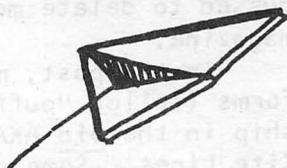
We made a video cassette tape (1/2" VHS format, for home use) at the AKA labeling (a big social event) of the last mailing. The tape also includes a message from the prez and parts of the Nag's Head, North Carolina, kite contest. It's available on loan to members on request for mailing costs. Right now it's on the West Coast; contact DAN PRENTICE, Shanti Kite Spools, San Francisco. Write now to AKA in Manassas, Virginia for first-come-first-serve distribution on its return.

As we write this, we are up to our hips in the biggest snowfall we've ever seen in this area. Spring seems so far away; we are really looking forward to the kite season. We hope to meet many of you during this year and welcome the opportunity to fly with you. 'Til then, happy flying. On behalf of your Executive Committee,

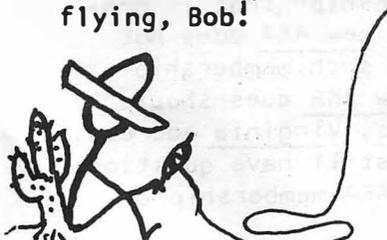
Your snowbound friend,

W.D. Red Braswell

Welca (Red) Braswell, Jr.



A very special hello to our founder Bob Ingraham whose foresight made this association possible. You started AKA flying, Bob!



COLLABORATING WITH LOCAL NEWSLETTERS ---

Gain international prestige for your chapter by sending news items to AKA for publication in this bi-monthly poop-sheet, which we continue to hope will come out with exact calendar regularity. Local newsletters are essential for local business and expanded individual coverage. This AKA letter provides additional results, when you want them, like: (1) Fantastic fame, fortune, and recognition; (2) Sharing, between chapters and affiliates, of methods and news; (3) timely announcements to "outsiders" of upcoming events. Send info for the next issue (to be mailed by May first) ASAP to AKA Secretary MARGO BROWN, 6636 Kirkley Ave., McLean, Va. 22101, in any format. Also black & white photos! We place high priority on timely announcements before the happenings.

FAMOUS AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER ADVISES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION ON KITES

This is an exact transcription of a recent letter by Francis Rogallo, whose patents provided the basis of modern hang gliding.

91 Osprey Lane
Kitty Hawk, N. C. 27949
Jan. 19, 1979

Ms. Sadye Dunn, Secty.
Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

Dear Ms. Dunn:

I have read your Dec. 19, 1978 "Briefing package on proposed regulation banning aluminized polyester film kites", and I agree with the commission that such kites may present a safety problem that should be considered. But I doubt that this problem is as serious as many safety and health problems in this country that are not being remedied.

I was probably the first person to make a kite of polyester film (in 1953 or early '54). It was uncoated, transparent film, the only type available from Du Pont. Our licensee, the Flexikite Co. decided to have the film metalized and sold thousands of these kites in the mid-1950s. A piece of their literature is enclosed. In the early 1970s another licensee, Creative Playthings, a division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc. made and

(continued on page 5)

Had a little note from Edward Garvey:

"Shame on you, Red Braswell, Prez.

I'll lay on you a fact,

Collectors never clip VOL 1, No 1,

They must be left intact!"

If you clipped your letter than that's
a pity

But you need not worry, just aid the
kitty.

Send 45¢ in stamps to me and another
letter you will see.

If you have a friend who would like
one, too,

Just let me know and I'll send you
two.

O.K?

The Prez

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

We have always wanted it, well--now
we've got it! The Smithsonian's marvelous
Air and Space museum has set up a KITE
EXHIBIT.

Kites have truly played an important
part in the history of aviation, and it is
thrilling to see them honored by such an
exhibit.

The display cases contain several
fascinating kites. The magnificent dragon
kite was a gift from the Chinese Imperial
Centennial Commission in 1876. It was the
Smithsonian's first aeronautical object
and actually started the kite collection.
Also included is a pear shaped kite built
by Mr. PAUL GARBER and painted by his wife
"BUTTONS." The design was taken from a
child's book illustration from 1837.

SAMUAL POTTER'S diamond cell box kite
is in the exhibit. It was constructed by
him and flown on Potter's farm - where the
Pentagon now resides!

Included in the display is a kite that
was crafted by one of our own! BEVAN BROWN'S
3-dimensional sculptured eagle kite is now
in the museum's permanent collection. It
won the Highest Overall Score in the Smith-
sonian contest in 1972.

We all remember the EDDY kite---well the
Smithsonian collection contains an original
EDDY kite which is mounted on one of the
exhibit walls. If you take a moment to
glance up, you will see a portion of
ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL'S famed Tetrahedron,
suspended in the air. Neighboring it is
PAUL GARBER'S dual controlled target kite
(used in WW II for sea gunnery practice) a
design which some of you may have seen in
several kite battles in contests.

Those of you who have not made the
pilgrimage to see this marvellous display
are urged to make the trip. It gives any
kite enthusiast a real "high!"
(used with permission of The Windy Notice)

KALENDAR OF KITE HAPPENINGS

GUNSTON HALL FESTIVAL- Sunday, March 18,
Gunston Hall Plantation, Lorton, VA. 9:30-
5:00. Children with kites-no admission
charge/adults \$2.00. Information contact
Louis Stockdate 550-9220

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY KITE FLY- Sunday,
March 18, Mariana Green in San Francisco
noon to ?. Lots and lots of awards for
homemade kites. Contact KITE FLYER 861
Clara Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94303 for
further information.

ALEXANDRIA RECREATION FLY- Saturday,
March 24, Workshops 10:00 to 3:00 for
children, different ages-different times.
Supplies provided. For other information
call Helen Judy at 750-6328.

4th ANNUAL BEN FRANKLIN KITE CONTEST- Sunday,
March 25, Tacoma Park. Competitive Fly
12p.m. to 5 p.m. Separate Categories for
different ages. Hand-made and store-
bought competition. For information call
270-4048. Rain Date April 1.

COME SOAR WITH US- Sunday, March 25,
Bull Run Park. Separate categories for
different ages and judging criteria.
Prizes and awards. Also hang-gliding, sky
diving, hot-air balloons. Information
call 278-8880 (N. VA Park Authority)

KITE FAIR 1979- Seattle, Washington
March 31 and April 1. Science Center
Exhibition. Contact Washington Kite
Flyers Assn. Pacific Science Center
200 2nd No., Seattle 98109. (The club
also flies every Sunday afternoon in
Gasworks Park)

SMITHSONIAN KITE CONTEST- Saturday
March 31 at the Washington Monument
Grounds in Washington, D.C. Register
between 10 and noon, west side of the
Monument. Trophies and Ribbons in
many a category.

SECOND ANNUAL FLY-IN- April 7
Sandy Point Park, Annapolis. 10 to
noon is a workshop featuring Phil
Cline of Kites, Kites, Kites.
Noon to 1 is registration and kite
demonstration, 1 to 3 Contests,
4 to 5 All Fly! Lots of prizes.

GREATER DELAWARE KITE FESTIVAL 10 Annual
April 13, Cape Henlopen State Park,
Competitions, Cash Prizes. For infor-
mation contact Lewes Del. Ch. of Commerce.

BACK TO THE HILLS KITE FLY- Cleveland,
Ohio, June. For further information
contact Jeri Rask 2687 East 128th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44120.

AKA MEMBER SHOP DIRECTORY

The following stores give a 10% discount from the regular price of kites and accessories purchased by members who present a valid AKA card and a 2nd ID. Look for the "Member Store" emblem on the door.

The Climbing Bear
312 North Presa
San Antonio, TX 78205

The Cloud Crowd
19 Bennington Drive
Dayton, OH 45405

Fish Creek Kite Co.
RR 1, Box 205
Fish Creek, Wis 54212

Fly a Kite
3850 S. Plaza Drive
Santa Ana, CA 90503
(714) 545-2849

Fly a Kite
19800 Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503
(213) 371-4442

Great Winds Kites Co.
166 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

The Kite Site
3101 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20007
(202) 965-4230

The Kite Site
353-Q N. Market Place
Fameuil Hall
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 523-KITE

Kites Aweigh
36 Market Space
Annapolis, MD 21401
(301) 268-6065

Kites & Crafts
600 Crain Highway S.W.
Glen Burnie, MD
21061
(301) 760-8585

Kites and Other Delights
99 W. 10 #111
Eugene, OR 97401
(503) 345-4856

The Kite Kompany, Inc.
33 W. Orange
Chagrin Falls, Oh 44022
247-4223

The Kite Store
973 Grand Ave.
Pacific Beach, CA 92109
(714) 270-2692

The Kitemakers of San Francisco
Space A13, Pier 39
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 421-62222

Postcard Palace
1220 N. State Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

Windfall, Inc.
Newmarket - 2nd and Pine Sts.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 923-5049



KITE CLUBS AND CONTESTS ELSEWHERE!
LET ME KNOW ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES AND CONTESTS. Get your information included on the AKA Kite Kalendar. Come on Northeast and Middle U.S. How about you-all on the West Coast? Those of you outside the continental U.S! Get in the NEW AKA NEWSLETTER. Send any information to: Margo Brown, 6636 Kirkley Ave., McLean, VA 22101.

AKA OFFICERS (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

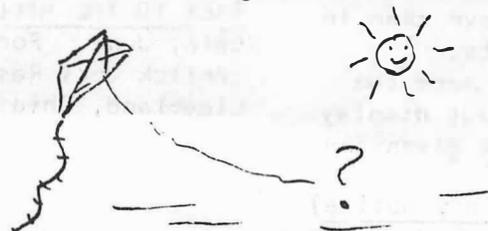
Welca D. (Red) Braswell	President
10,000 Lomond Dr., Manassas, VA 22110	
Theodore L. Manekin	1st Vice-President
8 Charles Plaza, No. 1807, Baltimore, MD 21201	
Daniel Prentice	2nd Vice-President
2021 Folsom St., San Francisco, CA 94110	
Judy Neuger	3rd Vice-President
4500 Chagrin River Rd., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022	
Margarette (Margo) Brown	Secretary
6636 Kirkley Ave., McLean, VA 22101	
Carla Sinz	Treasurer
1324 29th St., N.W., Georgetown, DC 20007	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William (Bill) Buckley (Alternate); David M. Checkley (Alternate); Philip Cline; George Craig; Edward C. Garvey; Aylene Goddard; Edwin L. Grauel; Robert M. Ingraham; Peter Lynn; Lynn O'Connor (Alternate); Peter Powell; Carol Rogallo (Alternate); Olan Turner; John F. Van Gilder; Pamela Bisker Vaughan (Alternate); Garry Woodcock.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

Your NEW AKA is looking for a name for our news letter. Have a breezy idea? Any and all suggestions are welcome. Come on AKA members. Help out your Board of Directors. Send those suggestions!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
(Send to RED/Margo-we need ideas!)



COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

BYLAWS: Theodore L. Manekin
CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT & STANDARDS: John F. Van Gilder, 1925 Walnut St., S.W., Seattle, WA 98116
NOMINATING: Olan Turner, 1628 S. Crescent Blvd., Yardley, PA 19067;
WAYS & MEANS: Carla Sinz
PROMOTION & MEMBERSHIP: Philip Cline, P. O. Box 845, Bowie, MD 20715
SAFETY & ETHICS: Aylene D. Goddard, Route 1, Box 135, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
FESTIVALS & COMPETITIONS: Bevan Brown, 6636 Kirkley Ave., McLean, VA 22101
KITE INDUSTRY & TRADE SHOW: Judy Neuger & Lynn O'Connor, 701 Shrader St., San Francisco, CA 94117
ANNUAL MEETING: Olan Turner
ARCHIVES & RECORDS DOCUMENTATION: Robert S. Price, 3839 Dustin Rd., Burtonsville, MD 20730.

(continued from page 2)

sold thousands more of these metalized kites. And in the past 20 years others have made many thousands of small metalized kites. None of the aforementioned kites have caused any electrical problems to the best of my knowledge, or yours as stated in your memorandum. That is why I do not think the problem is serious enough to require a recall or repurchase of these small kites. The evidence does indicate that the long tailed dragon kites and similar long metalized kites did present a serious problem, but it appears that no more are being made.

I recommend your Regulatory Alternative 3, that the Commission decide not to propose any government regulatory action now. I suggest that you work with the American Kitefliers Association (AKA) toward self regulation. This action would be similar to that in Hang Gliding, a much more hazardous sport than small kite flying. For several years hang gliding (even powered hang gliding) has been self regulated by the United States hang Gliding Association. If non-government regulation of this popular form of human flight is even remotely possible, I would think it would be logical for small kites on a string. Incidentally, I fly hang gliders more often than I fly string kites.

I feel sure that the AKA and its members will cooperate in trying to make kite flying safe. In fact kitefliers are generally the victims rather than the criminals of any conflict between kites and electric wires. Kites are non-electrical devices that cannot by themselves shock anyone. It is the electric wires that are the culprits in encounters with kites, metal ladders, TV antennae and many other things that in themselves are harmless, but when accidentally contacting electric wires cause injuries and deaths and property damage. Exposed electric wires are not permitted where I

live. All wiring is underground, as it was at the Langley Research Center where I worked for 35 years. In nearby areas that retain overhead wiring, such wiring is unsightly, unsafe, and unreliable for many reasons including short circuits due to dust and moisture and salt spray, and breakage resulting from ice storms and high wind. Eliminating overhead wiring as much as possible would be a good goal for all of us.

It is my personal opinion that kites should not carry electrically conducting surfaces or wires unless these conducting elements are necessary for some useful function. For example, several years ago I was requested by a Naval officer to design a kite for carrying radar corner reflectors. This effort led to the Rogallo Corner Kite which was subsequently patented through the NASA (pat. No. 3296617), with royalty free rights for government use. Such kites, which would of course require electrically conductive surfaces, could have many uses including emergency locations for people in distress in remote areas of land or sea. Also, instruments carrying kites have sometimes been flown on small wires that allowed monitoring or recording of information at the ground end of the line. I have participated in such experiments. And of course kites have been used to support radio antenna wire ever since the early experiments by Marconi. Such serious uses of kites should not be banned simply because kites are sometimes flown by children.

Sincerely,
Francis M. Rogallo

A BIG THANK-YOU TO THOSE WHO ADDED TO OUR "kite string" BY SENDING YOUR AKA GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS!!!

For return mail, help us by filling in your return address on these three mailing labels:

TO: _____
Zip: _____

TO: _____
Zip: _____

TO: _____
Zip: _____

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address) _____ Zip _____ I give permission to AKA to reveal my name to other persons or to the public at large. YES NO

Check category of membership desired:	DUES
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP.....	\$5.00
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (defined as living in the same household)....	5.00
Other family members \$1.00 each. List each name:	
_____	1.00
_____	1.00
_____	1.00
_____	1.00

For Canada or Mexico, add \$1.00; other foreign add \$2.00. Total Remittance.....

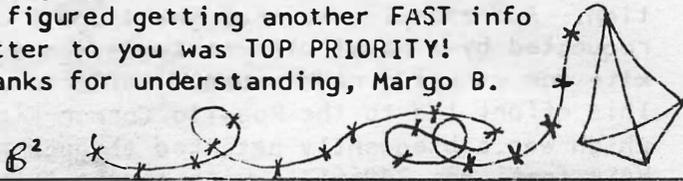
Mail this application with check or money order to: Welca D. (Red) Braswell, President, AKA, 10,000 Lomond Drive, Manassas, VA 22110, USA



Ted Manekin, Rick Kinnaird and Red Braswell met with Paul Garber, Director Emeratus of the National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institute, and made a video-tape recording of the new kite exhibit on display at NASM. Mr. Garber, the grand old man of kite-flying, talked about the kites which have been gathered at many times and from many places. The tape is available in 1/2 inch VHS format on loan to AKA members for mailing costs. Contact Red Braswell.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Frank Mots of Milwaukee, Wisconsin last May. Mr. Mots was a well known and loved kite figure, having shared his kites all over this country and Canada. In 1971 he took a second place at the Smithsonian Kite Festival in Washington, D.C. dressed in his tuxedo. His most famous kites included; Frankenstein's Monster, the Egyptian Torso Dancer, the Mexican Sun God, and the widely viewed Circus Wagon Wheel. In September 1978, a Kite Festival was held in Milwaukee in his honor. From this event the KITE SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN was organized. Mrs. Mots (ELMA), who is membership chairlady, reports a membership of forty. The American Kite Society honors Frank Mots and salutes Mrs. Mots and the KITE SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN.

 PLEASE excuse the "knots" in my tail (typographical errors) in this issue. We figured getting another FAST info letter to you was TOP PRIORITY! Thanks for understanding, Margo B.



Theodore L. Manekin



PAUL GARBER speaks about the KITE EXHIBIT at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. (see article about video-tape of Paul and the exhibit)

Theodore L. Manekin



FRANCIS ROGALLO makes recommendations to the Consumer Product Safety Commission on kites. (see text of Rogallo's letter inside)

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
 Welca D. (Red) Braswell, President
 10,000 Lomond Drive
 Manassas, Virginia 22110, USA

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