



American Kitefliers Association

AKA NEWS

Vol. IV, No. 4

August 1982

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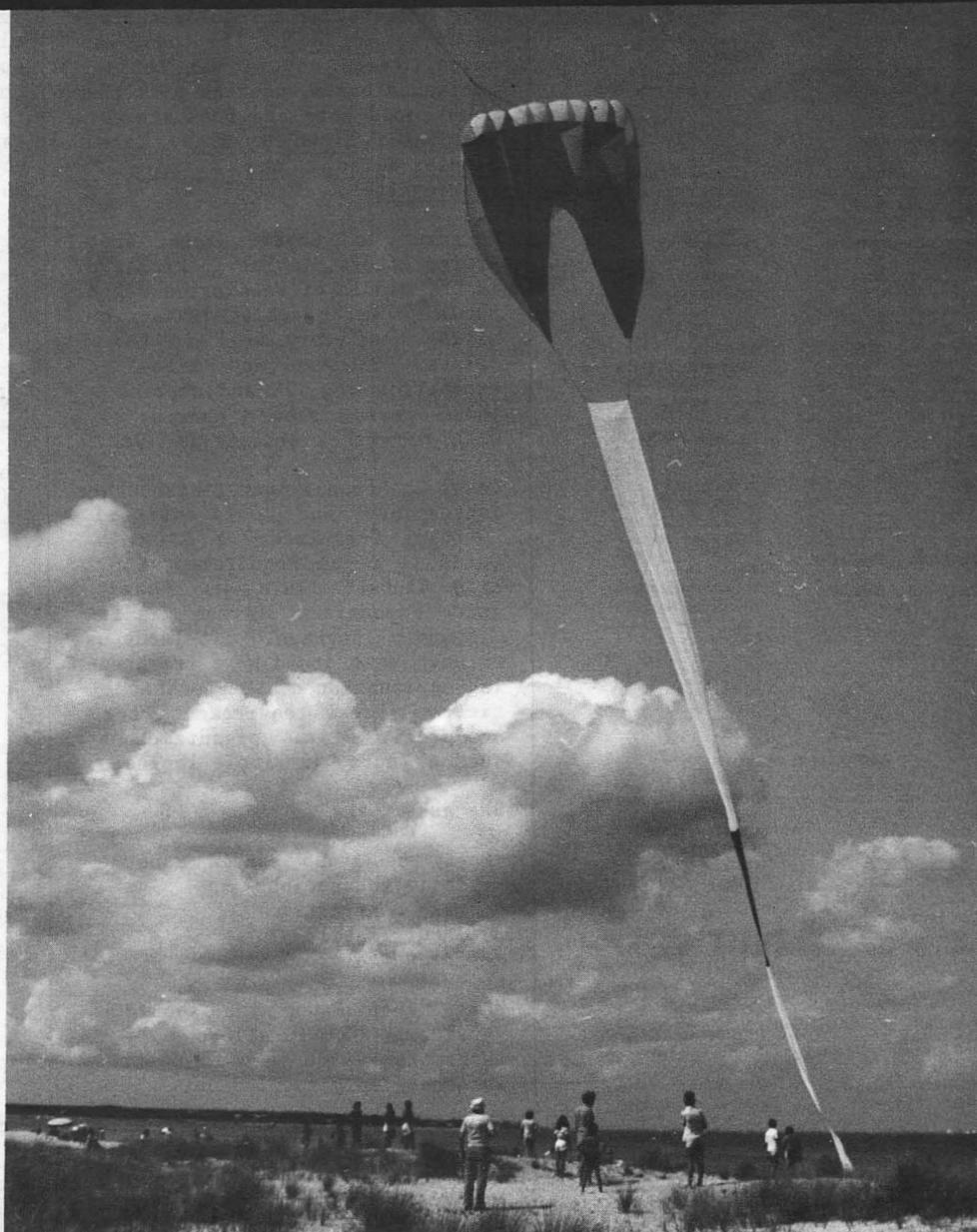
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NEW WORLD RECORD-THE LONGEST KITE

On August 1, 1982, at 6:22 p.m. DST, a new world record was established by Joe Valenti of the Mariah Kite Company. With the help of Come Fly A Kite of Martha's Vineyard, MA, and many residents of the area, the kite was launched successfully from South Beach on Martha's Vineyard, and flew for over an hour.

The kite was an 18' x 20' Sutton Flow Form, manufactured by Mariah, and the tail consisted of ripstop fabric, 3' wide by 2280' long. See related story on page three.



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(206) 938-0550

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(206) 284-5350

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Carl M. Brewer
5549 33rd Avenue, N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 525-1149

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John W. Dusenberry
216 N.W. 62nd Street
Seattle, WA 98107
(206) 784-4279

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Robert D. McCort
6706 162nd Place, S.W.
Lynnwood, WA 98036
(206) 743-7081

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206 Northside Road
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(206) 453-9698

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Carl Brewer
5549 33rd Avenue, N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105
(206) 525-1149

Kenneth L. Conrad
1518 1st Avenue, South
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 623-7095

John W. Dusenberry
216 N.W. 62nd Street
Seattle, WA 98107
(206) 784-4279

Robert D. McCort
6706 162nd Place, S.W.
Lynnwood, WA 98036
(206) 743-7081

Brooks G. Leffler
419 Hamilton Avenue
Silver Springs, MD 20901
(301) 565-0445

Milly Mullarky
206 Northside Road
Bellevue, WA 98004
(206) 453-9698

BOARD OF PAST PRESIDENTS

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(703) 893-3886

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Mississauga, Ontario
Canada, L5H 3V2

the president's corner

There are two authors we should take note of: Margaret Greger and Carol Shaner. You will notice a new column this month: the "Children's Corner", by Margaret Greger. This will be a feature meant for both children and leaders of children, be they parents or teachers.

We count ourselves fortunate to have Margaret as a regular contributor to AKA NEWS. For those who haven't seen any of her three published books, you can pick them up at good kite and book stores. They are: Blown Sky High, More Simple Kites, and Simple Fabric Kites.

Margaret and George Greger are active kilters, living in Richland, in the middle of Washington state. She also is an artist in fabric, having done very well in the "Flags, Banners and Kites" exposition of 1978 and sharing a three person show ("hanging"?) with two other artists in 1982.

Carol Shaner has just finished her masterpiece, and it is entitled "Getting Organized: A Laymen's Guide to Legal Requirements for Kite Clubs." This seven-page guide emphasizes "laymen" as in "laymen's language." It leads us through what could be a frightening explanation of the technicalities of legal requirements for non-profit status organizations such as ours, in simple language.

She asks:

- "Does the group handle money?"
- solicit donations?
- make contracts?
- incur liability?
- intend to grow?

Aha! then maybe you should consider INCORPORATION. To incorporate, you need to do thus and so--simply spelled out.

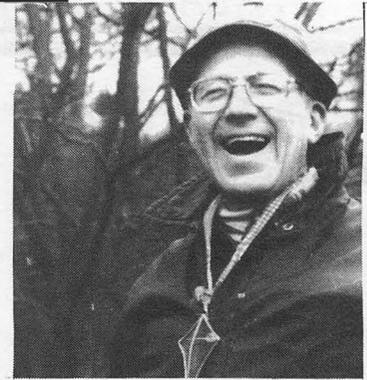


Photo by Dave Checkley, Jr.

She gives the advantages of incorporation: liability of members is generally limited; continuity; clear legal guidelines; the appearance of stature--and more. She then sets out the four steps required to incorporate, simply, taking the mystery out of them, so you and I can understand--and do--them.

--apply for an Employer Identification Number so your club can have an interest-bearing bank account;

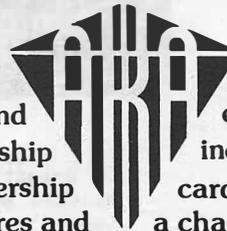
--apply for federal tax exemption so contributions to your club can be tax-deductible to the givers;

--apply for state sales tax exemption; no sales tax on your printing bills, etc;

--file Form 990. To keep these advantages an annual form must be submitted; she gives a simple explanation of this.

She concludes with a bibliography for further reference reading by the legal types.

The price? It's FREE!--to affiliated chapters. The four chapters mentioned in the last issue will be receiving a copy soon. Other clubs, get your affiliation application in now. Mislaidd yours? Write us.



Come Fly with Us! Join the American Kitefliers Association and enjoy kite friends around the world. Your membership includes a bimonthly newsletter, a membership card, a 10% discount at participating kite stores and a chance to attend the annual national meeting and kite festival -- all for \$10 a year. Write to:

AKA, 1104 Fidelity Building
210 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Md. 21201

2,280 Footer Sets Record

Valenti's Long Tale

by Debra Sparks
Vineyard Gazette
Copyright 1982

Martha's Vineyard, MA--Joe Valenti, cigarette dangling from the corner of his mouth and gin and tonic in hand, will be the first to tell you he is the model of perseverance. That and a healthy ability to laugh at life's obstacles all helped him to set a world record, flying the world's longest kite tail this weekend (July 31-Aug 1) at South Beach.

It took two days and five different attempts to get the tail aloft for its virgin flight. But he did it. Fighting the vagaries of the shifting wind, the tail more than once falling into the ocean, and the kite string breaking, Joe Valenti watched his kite finally tug the last of the 2,280-foot tail of rip-stop nylon into the Vineyard sky.

Its official time of becoming completely airborne was 6:22 Sunday evening, August 1, at Katama Bay.

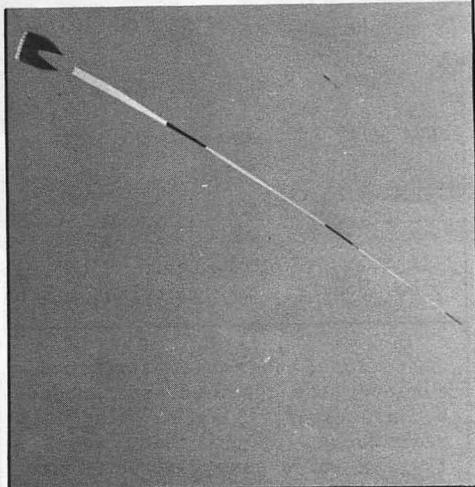
Truckloads of spectators marked the moment by enthusiastically beeping their horns and applauding. Joe was still knee-deep in the water, but that didn't stop him from jumping up and down and splashing water about as he cheered for the kite himself. It

had taken approximately an hour and a half on the final attempt of crisscrossing across the bay before the kite actually tugged the nearly half-mile-long tail up into the sky.

The 39-year-old kite manufacturer of Mariah kites (the name was taken from the song "They Call the Wind Mariah", in Paint Your Wagon) had his father, a retired tailor, make him his first kite three years ago. That was the beginning of a business which has taken off with the wind. Before he knew it, Mr. Valenti, who loves anything to do with the sun, water and wind had transformed an office building into a kite factory where large nylon kites are now manufactured and sold across the country.

Joe and his girlfriend and business partner Carole Johnston, both of Jarretown, Pennsylvania, chose the Vineyard to be the scene of their world record attempt because of the kite festival held here Saturday.

Standing beneath the patchwork colored sky of kites, Joe seemed content in the Saturday sunshine wearing dark sunglasses, a T-shirt and rainbow-colored shorts with a paunch that hung slightly over them. "That is my job," he said with the smug satisfaction of someone playing hooky from school. "It was a tough adjustment," the



former mechanic and office supplier said with a smile. "The thing is no one gets mad at you for flying a kite. You get to meet a lot of girls, too."

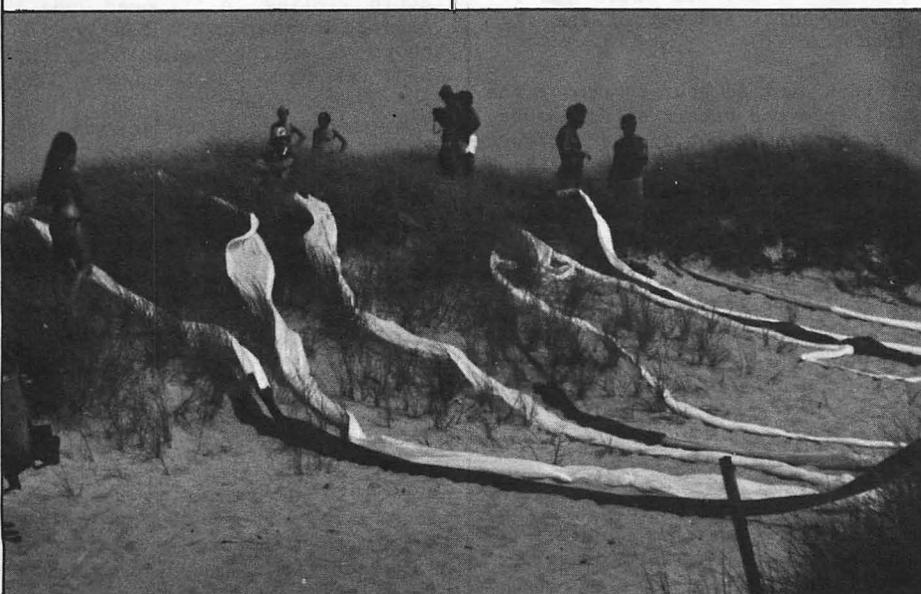
It seemed one inherent part of manufacturing kites is meeting people and making friends. "We meet nice people wherever we go, and that certainly means more than any value money has," said Carole.

Both Joe and Carole have the knack of making friends easily, which comes in handy when you're out to break a world's record. No fewer than 50 Vineyarders volunteered their services on Saturday's and Sunday's attempts on the beach.

As volunteers unwound the tail for the first time Saturday on the grassy stretch of State Beach, it rolled out of sight into the distance. Joe stood at the beginning and wondered whether the tail had been completely unfurled or not. "We were going to bring walkie-talkies," he said, "but we left them at home." It was with that type of nonchalance that the entire event was conducted.

"Look, here comes some one now," said Dick Tolsdorf who solved a potential disaster when he produced electrical tape for a rip found in the kite. He pointed to a young man running toward them. "Like a messenger from Greece," he said.

"As he falls flat on his face, gasping for breath, he'll say, 'It's ready.'" Joe predicted. Both were correct, although the man did not fall. The word was out; all systems were go.



Volunteers help unfurl the multi-colored 2,280 foot-long tail across the dunes in preparation for a launch attempt. Valenti plans to attempt a mile-long kite while others are planning a try at his new record.



It takes plenty of muscle to unroll the tail which weighs over 90 lbs. Joe (right) supervises his hardworking crew.

Joe scanned the nylon stretched out over the dunes and surrounded by helpers of all ages. "The only real danger is the thing won't fly, in which case I'll be embarrassed as hell," he said.

Joe sent the multicolored kite into the air, only to find that the rope was attached to a signpost several hundred feet behind him.

"Oh my God, it's anchored," he yelled wildly as he realized he could not let up more string. "Untie it," he yelled, as people ran toward the post to loosen it. The kite swooped and then dived toward the beach.

"We heard someone yelling and looked up and saw this thing which seemed to go on forever," said sunbathers Diane Johnson and Linda Mazzotta of Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs, who were complacently basking on their towel when the tail flew over them onto the beach. "We absolutely can't believe it. Where did all the people come from?" Linda said as the kite team grew each minute. "No wonder there's so few people on the beach today. They're all flying the kite."

But it was off the beach for the tail and on land again for the second attempt. This time the tail landed in the water.

With near-maniacal devotion, volunteers ran into the ocean with their clothes on to rescue the tail once again. Even people swimming in the water and floating on rafts stopped for a few minutes to help drag the soggy tail from the water. Joe was at the lead, barking instructions as he waded up to his chest with the multicolored tail in his hands above his head. "Look, I never said it would be easy to break a world record," he told a friend.

As fate would have it, the kite just wouldn't fly Saturday afternoon. The day's hardest and saddest part was rolling up the 90-pound nylon stretched a half a mile down the beach, a back-breaking job. A second attempt was planned for the next day.

Joe was encouraged by the enthusiasm of strangers who came up to him later in the afternoon, saying they had seen him at the kite festival and inquiring about the record attempt. People said they spotted the kite from Vineyard Haven, and one claimed to have seen it from as far away as Falmouth.

Sunday afternoon at Katama, it seemed once again as if the kite would finally succeed. It grappled with the snake-like tail, whipping it up into the air, but then like a nightmare, just as most of the tail was in the air, part of it hit the water and it was downhill and out of the sky from there.

It took over an hour to remove the tail from the waters of Katama Bay and stretch it out on the surrounding sand. As Joe directed the tedious chore of setting the tail straight again, a truck drove by and Len Belisle of Edgartown yelled out: "Do you need an old paratrooper to give you some help?"

"Oh God, do we," said Joe standing in the roadway. Len and his wife Doris then began to help by using their truck as the moving force for unravelling the tail.

"We just happened to come by," Len said yelling over his shoulder to the person assigned to dragging the tail from the back of the truck. "Don't know if it was the right or wrong time," he said, laughing. The ex-pilot who flew in the 101st Airborne Division in

World War II would later comment, after an afternoon of grueling work: "I've seen everything happen in Edgartown. I've witnessed a couple of hurricanes out here, I even remember when there were no houses out here. But I've never in my life flown a kite like this."

Dick Peterson, a summer resident of Oak Bluffs, was also taken by the day's events, and deserved the title of communications director as he drove his jeep between the beach and the bay passing messages. Also on hand were his son Scott and wife Patti, who both pitched in as well.

It was the second attempt. Under the pressures of the oncoming evening and a policeman who was less than pleased with the tail in the car path, the kite was let go and began its struggle into the sky.

Swerving wildly, the kite took on a personality of its own as it swayed to and fro, forcing the team from one edge of the bay to the other and swimming out in between, always trying to keep the tail out of the water.

"Go with it, go with it," Joe yelled as the kite in the air duelled with the tail on the land. The battle took 90 minutes.

A helper appeared on the far bank and yelled: "Joe, cut it." Joe shouted back: "What, are you crazy? We're almost there."

But the tail had already well passed the magic number of 1,800 feet--the previous record. With the taste and sound of the world record reeling in his head, Joe consented, and Scott had the honors of making the ceremonial snip. About 15 minutes later, the end of the nylon tail took off from the water's surface and jerked into the air.

The struggle of man and kite was over for now, and the joyous and tired Joe emerged as winner. What was he going to do to top this one? "Fly a kite with a mile-long tail, of course."

Used with permission of the VINEYARD GAZETTE.

Editor's Note: The folks at Mariah have donated to the AKA Auction to be held at the Convention a kite such as the one used to loft the record-breaking tail. As an additional incentive, they have also given the tail to the auction. Here's your chance to own a real one-of-a-kind!

Japanese Delegation Coming

AKA Convention Line



The Japan Kite Association will be sending a delegation to the 1982 AKA Convention to be held this October in Detroit. Among the delegates will be Japan's Pied Piper of kiting, Takeshi Nishibayashi. Better known to Americans as "Nishi," this beloved Tako Kichi (kite nut) has travelled the world over spreading his love of kiting. He is a master at building high efficiency light wind kites, and loves nothing more than to share his knowledge with interested kitefliers. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn the techniques and tips of a living legend.

Also attending will be Mr. and Mrs. Masaaki Modegi. Mr. Modegi is the head of the Japan Kite Association and owner of the famed Taimeiken Restaurant of Tokyo, which houses the Tokyo Kite Museum (see *Kite Lines*, Spring 1979). It is indeed an honor to extend a warm welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Modegi on the occasion of their first visit to an AKA Convention.

Along with the Japanese contingent, this convention will have representatives from Canada, Europe, Australia, and all points of the USA. Plan to be a part of this memorable experience.

Jalbert Proposes "Barn Door"

Domina Jalbert, father of the Parafoil, and one of kiting's major contributors, has offered to sponsor an additional category in the upcoming AKA Convention competition. (AKA sanctioning pending AKA Board approval)

It is Jalbert's feeling, "It is not important to have conquered every competitor, but to have competed well amongst friends."

Dom believes that the AKA must address itself to all levels of

kitefliers and builders. Not everyone who loves kites is in a position to, or has the desire to, spend many hours designing and putting together the exotic aerial devices that have been displayed at past conventions. "Though these glorious kites are, in themselves, worth attendance at the convention, they cover only one facet of kiting." Simple kites, of simple construction, made of paper, string and wood, that fly well, have been the basis from which kiting began, and continue to introduce many to the sport today.

In order to foster the art of kiting on every level, Dom Jalbert hopes that the American Kitefliers

Association will sanction this novice event. To further promote his beliefs, Dom has donated prizes to the following contest, "The Barn Door Basic."

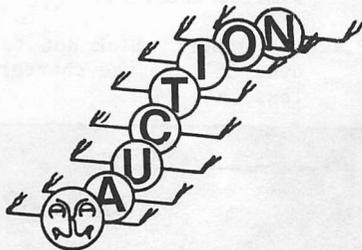
1. The kite to be a "Barn Door" (also known as an American three stick) design. No other models will be accepted.
2. Kite to be made of paper (newspaper, kraft paper, shopping bags, etc.) Plastic coverings are not acceptable. Spars to be of wood and tails to be made of bed sheeting or similar material.
3. The longer stick not to be over 36" and the shorter not less than 24".



Detroit, host city of this year's AKA convention is big kite country! This trio, launching Hank Szerlag's 33 ft. delta, includes (l-r) John Hegg, builder of a 50 ft. delta, Szerlag, and Tom Pisa, builder of a 30 ft. delta. All are scheduled to be flown during the '82 convention.

4. Flying line not to exceed 300 ft.
5. Kites must remain airborne not less than 30 minutes (schedule and weather permitting).
6. No one who has previously won a kite contest in the home built category may compete.
7. Awards to be based on flight performance, regardless of workmanship.

- 1st Place- J75 Parafoil,
line, tail and
reel
- 2nd Place- J5 Nylon Parafoil,
line, tail
and reel
- 3rd Place- J5-T Parafoil,
line, tail
and reel



The 1982 AKA Auction is shaping up to be a spectacular evening of entertainment. Our list of items going up for bids will be a real treasure trove for kites. We are pleased and proud to announce that our head auctioneer will be Mel Govig, ably assisted by Rick Kinnaird. This dynamic duo will keep the pace quick and provide laughs aplenty.

This year we will incorporate "The Many Penny Lottery" (50¢ a shot) and a "Quickie Board," which will add to the excitement, and give everyone a chance to compete for a real bargain. Don't forget your donations to the auction. They're tax deductible! We need lots of stuff and no item is too small. Here is an opportunity for all of us to support the AKA. Though we will take donations up to auction time, we would like to have goodies shipped early, if possible, so we can provide a complete list for conventioners when they register. Send your donations to:

John Hegg
c/o Service Staple Company
206 W. 6th Street
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Donor	-	Contributor
Patron	-	Min. \$75.00
Silver Patron	-	Min. \$200.00
Gold Patron	-	Min. \$500.00
Platinum Patron-		Min. \$1000.00



Brooks Leffler's "Vader's Father" perching on his Toyota for a parade--the first time we know of that kites have been used in a parade through city streets. This kite, which won Member's Choice--Best Homemade Kite at last year's AKA Convention, will be sold at auction at this year's convention in Detroit. It is a 12' x 20' Delta-Conyne, black with red and yellow trim.

PATRON BONUS - Collector's license plate to be given to all donors contributing item or items valued at \$75.00 or more, compliments of Pat Gilgallon/Unique Place World of Kites.

Recent auction contributions include:

Brooks Leffler/Kites Away- Custom-made, prize winning Rip-Stop Nylon delta-Conyne pictured in this issue. (Silver Patron)

Bill Tyrrell/The Fabric Lady- Two packages of Rip-Stop Nylon (50 yards each) (Silver Patron)

Go Fly A Kite- Two Rip-Stop Nylon Cody War Kites (Silver Patron)

Pat Gilgallon/Unique Place World of Kites- Original Japanese Lantern by Kite Master Ichihiro Suzuki of Japan, a real collector's item. (Silver Patron)

Domina Jalbert/Unique Place World of Kites- Ten (10) New Model J5 Rip-Stop Nylon Parafoils (Silver Patron)

The Cloud Connection- A Hauler Reel and a "wardrobe of Rip-Stop

Nylon kite tails" of various lengths (Patron)

Lois A. Clark/Hurrikites- One Limited Edition Flags Design Hurrikite, 35" x 37", and one Irish Design Hurrikite, 35" x 37". (Patron)

A complete list of donors to the 1982 AKA Auction will be given in the December issue of the AKA NEWS.

Exhibitors Sought

Don't miss your opportunity to merchandise at the 5th Annual AKA Convention. Anyone interested in exhibiting at the Convention Trade Show should contact Trade Show Chairman Pat Gilgallon, c/o The Unique Place/World of Kites, 525 S. Washington, Royal Oak, MI 48067 (313) 398-5900. Pat will send you out a trade packet with all the necessary information.

Elections

At the 5th Annual Meeting in October, 1982, we will be electing a President and members of the Board of Directors from Regions 10 through 13, in accordance with the AKA By-Laws.

The President is elected annually, and may be nominated by any member.

The elected Board Members will serve for 3 years (1983, 1984 and 1985). A Director must reside in the region he or she represents.

Please indicate your vote for a candidate for President. If you live in Regions 10, 11, 12 or 13, vote for a candidate for Director of that Region. The blank spaces are for write-in votes.

In the case of family members, each registered member of the family is entitled to a single vote for President and a single vote for Director of the Region in

which the family resides. The number following your membership type (S, FA, R etc.) in the bottom right hand corner of the mailing label is the number of registered family members. The number of votes should be indicated beside the name of the desired candidate.

All ballots must be signed and the requested information provided. Send completed ballots to:

AKA Headquarters
1104 Fidelity Building
Baltimore, MD 21201

Candidates

Jack Van Gilder is a life insurance man by profession and a kiter by devotion. A charter member of the WKA, Jack spends untold hours each year putting on demonstrations and teaching others the joy of kiting. His special passion is kite trains but his knowledge in all areas of kiting is displayed in his AKA NEWS column "How Come My Kite Won't Fly?".

Carl Krafft, a retired Boeing financial analyst, is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington Kitefliers Association.

Leland Toy is known to many as the publisher of Kite Flyer. He is also active in organizing regular flies at Marina Green in the San Francisco area. He has taken Dave Checkley's Kite Tour of Japan and is currently touring the US by motorcycle.

Gloria Lugo is proprietor of Let's Fly a Kite in Marina del Rey. She is active in festival organizing in the LA area.

Garry Woodcock of Ontario, Canada, is well known as a kite photographer. His excellent photos have been featured in AKA NEWS and have won honors in the Cerf Volant contest. He also publishes the Toronto Kitefliers Journal.

Official Ballot on page eight.

By-Laws

In addition, two changes in the By-Laws proposed in Houston will be acted upon at the Annual Meeting in Detroit. The following is the full text of the proposed changes.

Article IV, Section 6:

Add the following sentence: "The terms of office shall commence on January 1 following the Annual Meeting and continue through the following December 31." This amendment clarifies the terms of the Directors At Large.

Article X, Section 1:

Change the first sentence to read: "the seal of the Association shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Association, the year of incorporation, and the words 'Corporate Seal, Maryland.'" This amendment recognizes the fact that the AKA is incorporated in Maryland instead of Virginia.

Kite Clubs

Hey all you Kite Clubbers. Don't forget to take advantage of the Kite Club display boards, which will cover one Convention room wall. Send us pix of your activities, kites, etc. Also include information as to location, size of club, etc. Don't forget membership applications or contact person.

Convention at a Glance

WED., OCTOBER 6	9:00 a.m.	TRADE REGISTRATION BEGINS	Holiday Inn
	12:00 p.m.	OPEN LUNCH	
	2:00 p.m.	TRADE DISPLAY SET-UP	Holiday Inn
	4:00 p.m.	LATE ARRIVAL TRADE REGISTRATION	Holiday Inn
	6:00 p.m.	OPEN DINNER	
	7:30 p.m.	TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING	Holiday Inn
THURS., OCTOBER 7	9:00 a.m.	MEMBER REGISTRATION BEGINS	Holiday Inn
	10:00 a.m.	FIELD TEST/FUN FLY	American
	12:00 p.m.	OPEN LUNCH	
	2:00 p.m.	SEMINARS (Schedule A)	Holiday Inn
	3:30 p.m.	SEMINARS (Schedule B)	Holiday Inn
	6:00 p.m.	OPEN DINNER	
FRI., OCTOBER 8	9:00 a.m.	AKA BUSINESS MEETING	Holiday Inn
	12:00 p.m.	OPEN LUNCH	
	1:00 p.m.	FIELD EVENTS (Schedule A)	American
	6:00 p.m.	PEOPLES' CHOICE PHOTO SESSIONS	Holiday Inn
	7:30 p.m.	CASH BAR AND BUFFET DINNER	Holiday Inn
		AKA AUCTION	Holiday Inn
SAT., OCTOBER 9	8:00 a.m.	SLEEP LATE	
	10:00 a.m.	FIELD EVENTS (Schedule B)	Bonnie Brook
	12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	Bonnie Brook
		PEOPLES' CHOICE BALLOTING	
	1:30 p.m.	FIELD EVENTS CONT'D. (Schedule B)	Bonnie Brook
	6:00 p.m.	FIELD EVENTS CONCLUDE	
8:00 p.m.	AKA BANQUET & AWARDS PRESENTATION	Bonnie Brook	
SUN, OCTOBER 10	8:00 a.m.	SLEEP LATE	
	10:00 a.m.	COFFEE/DONUTS FUN FLY ON THE GREEN	American
		OPTIONAL FORD MUSEUM/GREENFIELD VILLAGE TOUR	
	12:00 p.m.	OPEN LUNCH	
	2:00 p.m.	EARLY DEPARTURES	
		FUN FLY	American
	4:00 p.m.	CONVENTION REVIEW	Holiday Inn
	6:00 p.m.	FOND FAREWELLS	Holiday Inn

Schedule subject to adjustment due to weather.

Meals not listed as "Open" are included in the Convention Registration Fee.



Official Ballot

CANDIDATE _____ VOTES _____

PRESIDENT--1 yr. term
Jack Van Gilder _____

REGIONAL DIRECTORS (3 year term)

REGION 10--AK, HI, OR, WA
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Sites to See

All you conventioners will want to be sure and bring lots of colored film. Not only will there be loads of unusual kites entered in the competition, but many are planning to bring their big beauties just to dazzle your eyes. Bill Tyrrell promises to wow the crowds with a kite sporting a 1/2 mile tail. Hank and Nancy Szerlag will send up their award winning "Navaho" compound hexagon. John Hegg will fill a good part of the sky with his 50' Delta, and Adrian Conn will prove for once and for all that his 16' flexifoil will not fly him. (We hope!!)



AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION 1982 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Dates: October 7, 8, 9, 10 - 1982

Send registration form to: Hank Szerlag
1961 Hunt Club Drive
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Registration fee per person: \$50 until August 15th
\$55 after August 15th

This fee includes dinner on Friday, lunch and dinner on Saturday.

NAME _____

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Enclose check or money order for total below, note price break for early registration. Make check payable to: AKA/DETROIT

No. registrations ____ at \$ ____ Total enclosed _____

Date: _____

Please add my name and send "Roomie List". _____

My phone number () _____

RETURN TO: Holiday Inn of Southfield
26555 Telegraph
Southfield, MI 48034



Group Reservation

GROUP NAME: **AMERICAN KITE FLIERS ASSOCIATION**

CHECK-IN DATE: _____ CHECK-OUT: _____ (CHECK-OUT TIME IS 12 NOON)

NO. ROOMS: _____ ROOM TYPE: _____
1 BED 1 PERSON 1 BED 2 PERSONS 2 BEDS 2 PERSONS

ROOM RATES:	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
	\$36.00	\$40.00	\$43.00	\$45.00

ROLLAWAY BED: _____ YES NO CRIB: NO CHARGE YES NO

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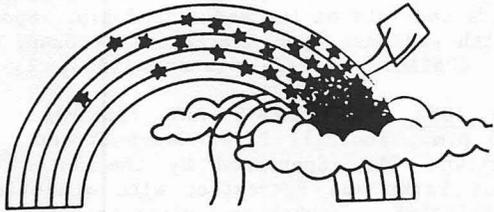
SHARING WITH: _____



GUARANTEED RESERVATION

All reservations must be accompanied by one night's stay.

Cash deposit \$ _____ (Include this card in envelope with remittance)



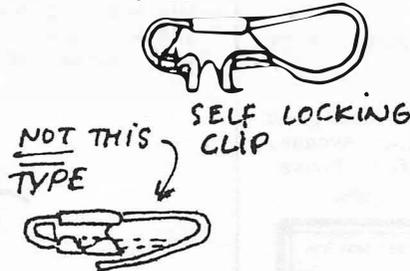
Super Tuning Your Rainbows

The following article is courtesy of Leland Toy and Kite Flyer, the San Francisco Bay Area Kite Flying News. To receive this interesting info regularly, send \$5.00 to 1883 Grand View Drive, Oakland, CA 94618.

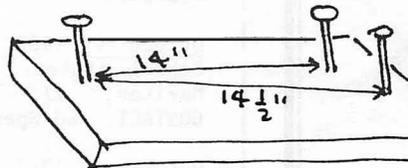
Are your Rainbow Stunt Kites running a little ragged, is the trailing kite flying with a mind of its own, are your hands tired of the same old grips? Well, perhaps its time for a TUNE UP on your kites with some tips from the 1982 Marina Green Stunt Kite champions. Mix McGraw, Jeff Paris and John Pecora have been flying for quite some time and have a few tips on maximizing your kites' performance, if not yours.

1. Shorten the train lines when flying 3 or more kites in train. The stock train lines are approximately 30" and all equal. We recommend that the outside lines measure 14 1/2" and the middle line at the bottom of the kite measure 14". These lengths are good for up to 12 kites in a train. The clips used to connect

the kites should be replaced with a #3 fishing clip-swivel assembly with the swivel removed. You only want the clip and it should be the self-locking type.



2. When making the train lines you can save yourself some time by making a simple jig with three nails and a piece of wood.



3. If the lead kite is sagging you may want to increase the length of the spreader by about

1/4". Use a length of leading edge spar and cut it to length.

4. Kevlar flying lines. These lines will not stretch. The problem is with knot strength. The Kevlar should be "sleeved" in a casing of Nylon or Dacron. This can be done by removing the core of a larger diameter line and then string a small wire thru to fish the Kevlar thru. The line can then be tied with a cushion for the Kevlar.

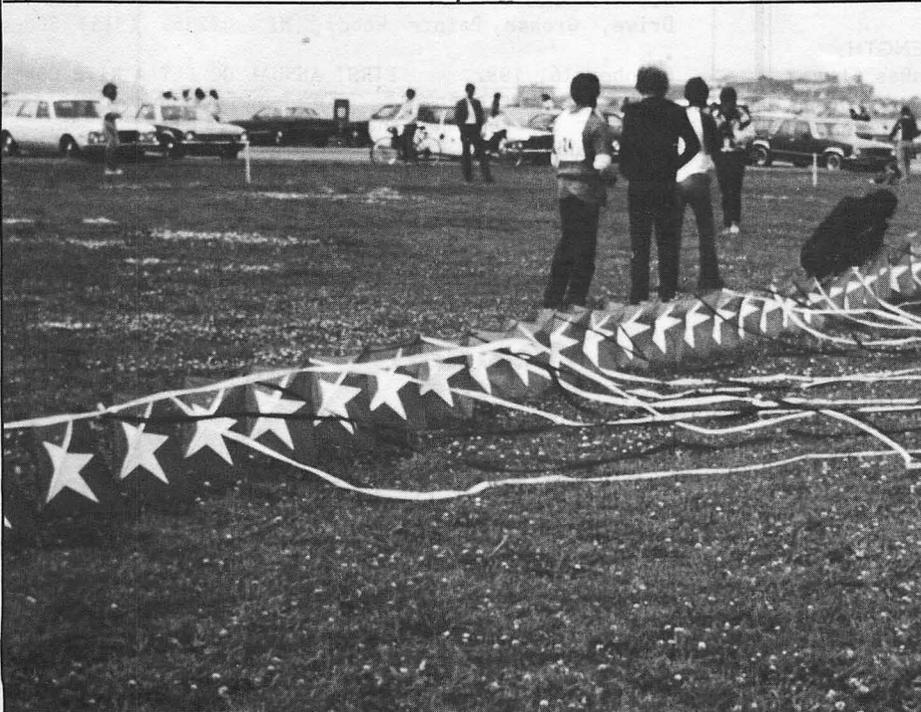
5. Put some foam bicycle grips on your stock handles. The grips must be cut in half and then slipped on either side of where the flying line is attached. You may have to use a little soap and water to get the grips on.

6. If the back or trailing kite cover seems loose you can tighten the cover tension by spreading the nose cone a bit. This can be done by removing the "kite skin" and then using a leading edge spar to gently increase the angle on the nose cone. You should work close into the nose cone to avoid breaking the wire. Both sides of the cone should have equal tension. You should have an extra nose cone if you have not done this before as there is a good possibility of damaging one or two before you get the hang of it.

7. Use electrical tape to secure the front kite's nose cone from separating from the leading edge spars. This is to prevent the lead kite from "failing" while under flight. It will also prevent the loss of a nose cone if you crash land.

Peter Pan Flies a Rainbow

Perhaps some of you caught a recent Peter Pan peanut butter commercial which featured 12 Rainbow Stunt Kites. The commercial aired during a number of the afternoon soaps on all three networks as well as during several prime time programs. Sounds like a good idea--peanut butter and kites for the child in all of us!



Mix McGraw, Steve Edeiken and John Pecora set up 51 rainbows at the Marina Green Father's Day Festival, June 20, in San Francisco, CA. Set-up complete, Mix, winner of the Festival's stunt kite competition, broke a record for most stunt kites flown by a single person.

kitevents

September 4-6, 1982. LOUISIANA SHRIMP AND PETROLEUM FESTIVAL. Featuring the kite flying of the Atchafalaya Breeze Teasers. Morgan City, LA. CONTACT: Andrea Burke, P. O. Box 1260, Paterson, LA 70392.

September 11, 1982. THE SKY IS THE LIMIT FESTIVAL. Sponsored by the South Orange Parks and Recreation Department. South Orange, NJ. Kite clinic and judging. CONTACT: Holly Petersen, (201) 762-0359

September 11, 1982. MARYLAND KITE SOCIETY FALL FLY AND MEETING. 9:00 a.m. Burtonsville Recreation Center, Route 198, Burtonsville, MD. CONTACT: Bob and Jewell Price, (301) 421-9620.

September 18-19, 1982. DIEPPE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL, France. Another Biggie.

September 19, 1982. BRIGANTINE AGAIN. 12:00 Noon, on the beach near 45th Street and Brigantine Avenue, Brigantine, NJ. Dinner later at Tull's Seafood House. CONTACT: Sue Wick, (609) 266-3391.

September 19, 1982. FOURTH ANNUAL CANNON BEACH KITE EVENT. Awards and lots of fun and friendship. Sponsored by D. K. Smith and Once Upon A Breeze Kite Shop, Cannon Beach, OR. CONTACT: Larrie Easterly (503) 235-5149.

September 25, 1982. CHILDREN'S ART FESTIVAL. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Fonthill Park, Court Street and Rt. 313, Doylestown, PA. Sponsored by the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation with a little help from the G*D*V*K*S. Workshops, demonstrations and a peaceful shady picnic area (bring your own lunch). CONTACT: Jill Unger (215) 757-0571 or Olan Turner (215) 493-2153.

September 25, 1982. OCEAN CITY KITE AND SEAFOOD FESTIVAL. Flying, contests and FREE seafood buffet. On the beach at 2nd Street, Ocean City, MD. Co-sponsored by The Kite Loft and the Sunfest Committee. CONTACT: Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, (301) 289-8559.



September 26, 1982. IF-AT-FIRST-YOU-DON'T-SUCCEED. 12:00 noon, Historic Towne of Smithville, Rte. 9 and Moss Mill Rd., Smithville, NJ. CONTACT: Ray Williams (609) 652-1435.

October 2, 1982. HARVEST MOON KITE FLY. 7:00 p.m., Evans School Athletic Field, Route 73, below Marlton Circle, Marlton, NJ. Bring your glow-in-the-dark kites. CONTACT: Ed Spencer (609) 983-7656.

October 3, 1982. FAMILY DAY KITE FESTIVAL. Marina Green, San Francisco, CA. CONTACT: Leland Toy, 1883 Grand View Drive, Oakland, CA 94618.

October 7-10, 1982. AKA NATIONAL CONVENTION, Detroit, MI. CONTACT: Hank or Nancy Szerlag, 1961 Hunt Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. (313) 886-6009

October 16, 1982. FIRST ANNUAL GO FLY A KITE CONTEST. Rain date October 17. To benefit the Memphis Area Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation. 1:00 p.m., Mud Island Fields. Can lift, stunt kite contest, and more. Trophies and prizes. CONTACT: Beverly S. Halpern, (901) 458-6727.

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*Plus \$2.00 UPS in the U.S.A. (Airmailed Overseas & Canada for \$3.60)

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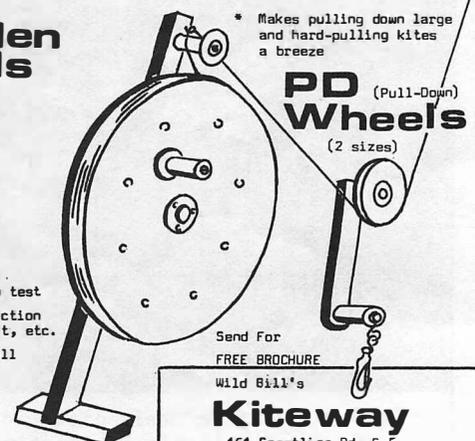
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Newark, OH 43055
or call: 1 - 614 - 323-2611

March 19, 1983. 16th ANNUAL OAHU KITE FLYING CONTEST. The Hawaii Chapter AKA welcomes all members to join them in this annual kite contest. CONTACT: Benny Escobido, Parks and Recreation, 650 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96813 (808) 841-0437



March 19, 1983. Rockford Park, Wilmington, DE.

March 26, 1983. SMITHSONIAN KITE FESTIVAL. Washington, D.C.

April 1, 1983. Cape Henlopen State Park. Lewes, DE.

April 16, 1983. Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA.

April 23, 1983. Cooper River Park, Pennsauken, NJ.

April 27, 1983. 10th ANNUAL KITEFLIERS TOUR. Once again, Dave Checkley's group will be off to China and Japan. Returning May 16. CONTACT: Dave Checkley, The Kite Factory, Box 9081, Seattle, WA 98109.

April 29-30, 1983. ANNUAL JAPAN KITE ASSOCIATION kite festival at Mt. Fuji Asagiri, southwest of Tokyo. CONTACT: Dave Checkley, The Kite Factory, Box 9081, Seattle, WA 98109

April 30, 1983. MARYLAND KITE FESTIVAL. Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, MD.

May 1, 1983. BUCKS COUNTY KITE FLY. Core Creek Park, off Route 413, between Langhorne and Newton, PA.

May 3-5, 1983. HAMAMATSU KITE FESTIVAL. Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan. World's largest kite event with over 2 million visitors in 1982. CONTACT: Dave Checkley, The Kite Factory, Box 9081, Seattle, WA 98109.

May 8, 1983. Savich Field, Marlton, NJ.

May 15, 1983. Rosetree Park, Media, PA.

May 1983. THIRD ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY FLY FOR PEACE, Noon-4:00 p.m., Gasworks Park, Seattle, WA. Join with members of the WKA to loft flags borrowed from local consulates and fly flag-kite trains. CONTACT: Great Winds (206) 624-6886 or City Kites (206) 622-5349.



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kitevents

June 5, 1983. Washington Crossing, Titusville, NJ.

KITE SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE has scheduled flies at the lakefront immediately south of the McKinley Marina on the following dates: July 18, August 8, August 29, and September 12. Rain dates the following week. We urge you to join them if you're in town.

CHICAGOLAND SKYLINERS will have regular flies on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Schiller Woods on the northwest corner of Cumberland Avenue and Irving Park Road, Groves #13 and 14 and on the 4th Saturday of the month on Cricket Hill at Montrose Beach on the lake.

REGULAR NO-NOTICE KITE FLYING, every even calendar numbered Saturday, at Highbanks Metro Park, Columbus, Ohio. Kite tourists, bide a while in Columbus and socialize on the field.

GONE WITH THE WIND KITE CLUB of Atlanta flies every 3rd Sunday of month. Various sites. CONTACT: Ron Witt (404) 352-3368.

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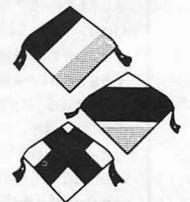
36" x 28" w \$42.00US

Add \$3.00 Shipping

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Kohei MORIMOTO's world renowned
Nagasaki HATA.

28" high \$24.00US + \$4.50 Handling



Other traditional Japanese kites available. Certified check only accepted.

HOW COME MY KITE WON'T FLY?



I like a fringe, rippling in waves in the breeze.

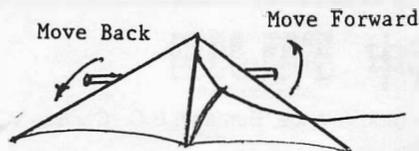
In April, we dealt with problems of bridling, as it would affect two-point bridles: Eddy kites, box kites of all types, Cobra-kites, Cambodian snake kites, delta-Conynes, etc.

In June, we brought information on Eddy kites ("two-stickers")--the balancing tricks, taught by an Old Master, Harold Writer.

This issue, let's discuss the delta. Deltas are a very forgiving kite but if the wings are uneven, maybe one a bit more taut than the other, they, too, will fly off to the side. Here are some ways to cope:

1. Remember the motto: "UP on the DOWN-side."

The downside would be the wing on the side closest to the earth. Nishi, from Japan, says to move your spreader-bar on the down side UP, closer to the nose. And, do you know? It works! But make your adjustments in small, 1/2 inch increments; if you go too far, you defeat your purpose and get the opposite effect.



Now, the question of an adjustable spreader-bar connector comes up. In the Winter-Spring issue of Kite Lines magazine, the Govigs wrote an epic treatise on deltas, including eighteen (18!) different spreader-bar attachment designs. One of the best is the simple rubber band, the easiest, cheapest fastest-assembled and most flexibly adjustable. A Lark'shead knot is made around the leading edge spar and the protruding loop is wound several times around the spreader-bar tip. It's easy to de-mount, also.

Naturally, you should use a good, heavy rubber band, one not too long.



2. Treat the keel of the delta like a ship's rudder.

Separate the last few inches of the keel, at the trailing end, from the wing covering and tie it off-center like a rudder:



Again, remember that a little adjustment goes a long way. This idea was picked up from Al Hartig, the Nantucket Kiteman.

3. For general, overall stability, beauty and added lift, it's hard to beat a fringe on the trailing edge.

This can take the form of a true fringe:



---or a series of slots:



Aerodynamically, the slots probably have the advantage; when the breeze is low, they stay relatively closed and add to lift, like an airplane wing flap. In a stiffer wind, they open up somewhat and create more drag, therefore more stability. Bob Ingraham developed these slots.

But if you're out in the field with a little trash-bag delta, you're in a hurry, you've tried the "UP on the DOWN-side" trick and it doesn't work and you don't want to lose your hero image with that youngster whose kite you're trying to fix, try making slots only on one side of the trailing edge:

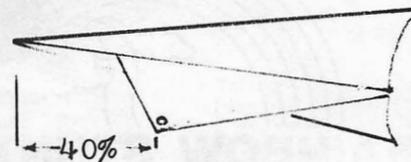


--the edge that you want to pull back--the UP-side.

4. Placement of the tether-point on the keel has something to do with stability.

In a heavier breeze, the attachment point should be a bit toward the nose, to keep the nose down. But NOT TOO MUCH! Too far forward and it becomes unstable again, in addition to making the nose dip, causing nosedives.

Some fanatics claim that you can tether a delta HALF-WAY between nose and trailing edge. I don't believe it. The tow (tether) point should be about 40% down the spine from the nose.



5. One thing not to try: weighting one wingtip doesn't seem to do much good.

A delta should be reasonably well-balanced, but it seems as though a breeze-induced adjustment is better than a weight adjustment on the wing-tip.

See diagram page 13.

Caen France Wind Festival

by Bruce and Cyndy Wulfsberg

This is a brief report on the 'wind' festival in Caen France, in May. Several kite clubs participated.

The kite clubs took turns flying kites at scheduled times. Other activities included sky divers, windmill displays, wind vane displays, giant inflatable toys, and static kite exhibits and workshops. There was also a big carnival associated with it.

All the kite fliers were very professional, with fancy reels. One very large parafoil flew day and night with night time illumination attached about every 20 meters on the line. It was the most spectacular kite; there were six plastic tubes, each about 2 ft. by 100 ft., flown as inflated streamers from the line.

We had a lot of trouble with the language, as none of the people spoke English, and they could not understand our English, Spanish, German or French.

The most innovative idea in the festival was the static kite display and workshop, which took place in a large inflated dome. The display was mainly oriental kites. The clubs handed out literature and posters, including an instruction sheet, with stencils, for maybe 15 different kinds of kites. They had a full-sized template for making a full-sized kite, and provided paper, paint, sticks and helpers.

The festival ran for three days, 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., with fireworks one evening. Organizers took advantage of an existing holiday, May Day, to throw a great big wind festival. At any one time, all day long, there must have been 35 large, impressive kites in the air.

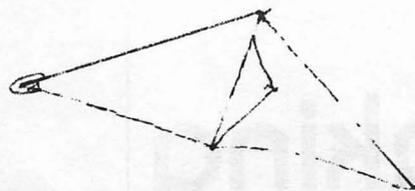
We were invited to a dinner in town for all participants, but because of mail delays did not receive our invitations until we got home from the trip.

There was a lot of wind, which apparently is typical of Normandy at that time of year.

I think that kite people are missing the boat by not including a lot of other things in their festivals. This one included a great variety of things, and everyone took home a great many kite souvenirs from the festival.

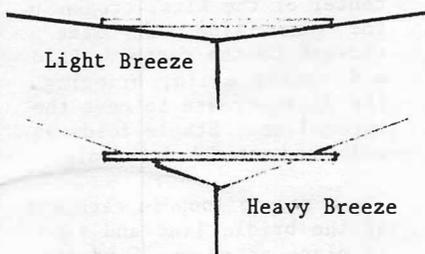
It was very spectacular, very well attended. There were always at least 700 people there. People came and went all day long. Wine by the bottle and other refreshments were available. I forgot to mention the big flag display. Big ripstop flags on giant flagpoles. Occasional bands. It was quite a gala affair.

We were sorry we could not speak French well enough to get to know the people better. Many of them wore AKA patches, so maybe they can read in the AKA newsletter about how nice we thought their event was.



6. Another general statement concerning stability in a delta kite would be that a porous wing covering material and a deep "V" hull shape will add stability in a heavier wind.

This is one reason I like rubber-band spreader-bar attachments--you can slide the spreader-bar through the rubber band another inch on each side in a heavy wind.



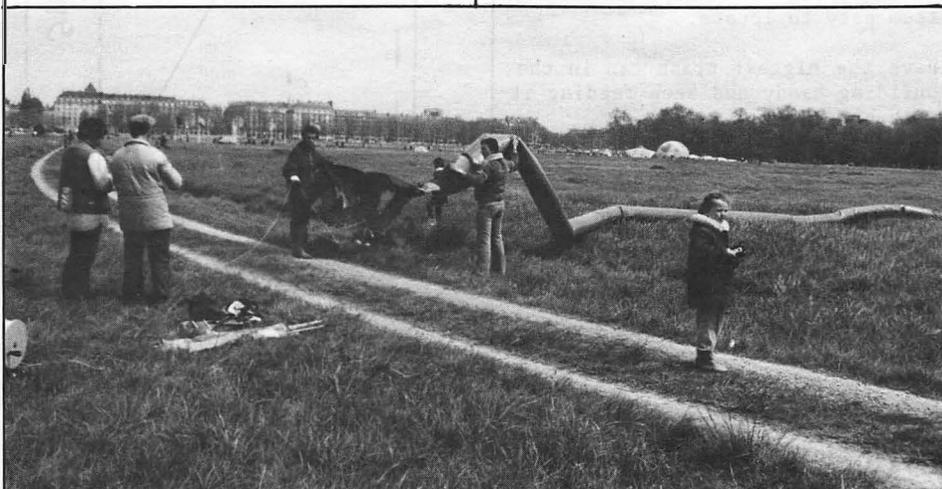
7. If all else fails and you don't mind advertising your defeat to the whole viewing world, you can always use the brute-force method: tie a streamer or a fringe on one side only!

NEXT ISSUE: Box Kites

ENDANGERED SPECIES by Neil Thorburn

Their tinted raiment decked the
summer sky:
Six tailless tethered beauties like
a show
Of dancers improvising in a row
Against an azure backdrop on a
high
Platform whereon the low sun's
golden glow
Accents their paper pastels, as
they fly
Controlled in free inverted
puppetry
By swarthy masters fettered far
below.

This antique artistry from tropic
isle
Of paper sculpture on a bamboo
frame,
Enriched our culture for a
fleeting while;
But now in abdication sits the
same
Old craftsman, while his grandsons
walk a mile
To buy a plastic pretense in his
name.



One of the six large plastic tubes lifted by the parafoil that flew throughout the festival. The parafoil was lovely, 10' x 12', steady as a rock and flew in very heavy winds, all day and all night.

Children's Corner

Drop in Kitemaking

Margaret Greger
Copyright 1982

Operating a kitemaking corner at Richland's International Family Festival is one of my annual kitemaking commitments. It is what I call drop-in kitemaking. Many small children come, and while people welcome the opportunity to build kites with their kids, instruction is often one-by-one.

This year, I used the Stapled Sled. I began with a demonstration for the first six kitemakers, and by the time their kites were completed, they were already helping others. From then on, it ran itself and--true test of success--all the kites flew well.

Careful materials preparation is essential. I used a roll of lightweight kraft paper and began by tearing off a number of sheets, so that people could observe how to lay a straight edge across the width of the paper and tear against it. The ball of crochet thread for bridles and flying line was on a spindle next to a tape marked for the correct bridle length. A finished kite was taped to the wall for ready examination. Extra staples were in a large box next to the string. A coffee can held marking pens, pencils, scissors and staplers, keeping the tools organized and visible. Long ribbons are tied to all tools, establishing ownership and making them easy to locate.

Have the biggest trash can in the building handy and keep feeding it with scraps.

This particular sled is Guy Aydlett's Hornbeam scaled to 24", a size which flies well and which fits on a crosscut of 36" paper. We use crochet thread, that inexpensive, readily available, easy-to-handle line. People wrap their own on a 6" x 8" corrugated cardboard "reel".

The Stapled Sled is quick and inexpensive for comparisons of various sled configurations in class or in camp. Slash any pattern on the spar line and spread for the folded paper spars--2" for an 18" kite, 3" for 24", 4" for 36"

Colored butcher paper such as schools have is a perfect material. If someday you plan to put an entire school in the

air--say 600 kites between lunch and recess--do invite me. I may come.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STAPLED SLED

Materials: Tough, lightweight paper
Strapping tape
String 6x height of kite

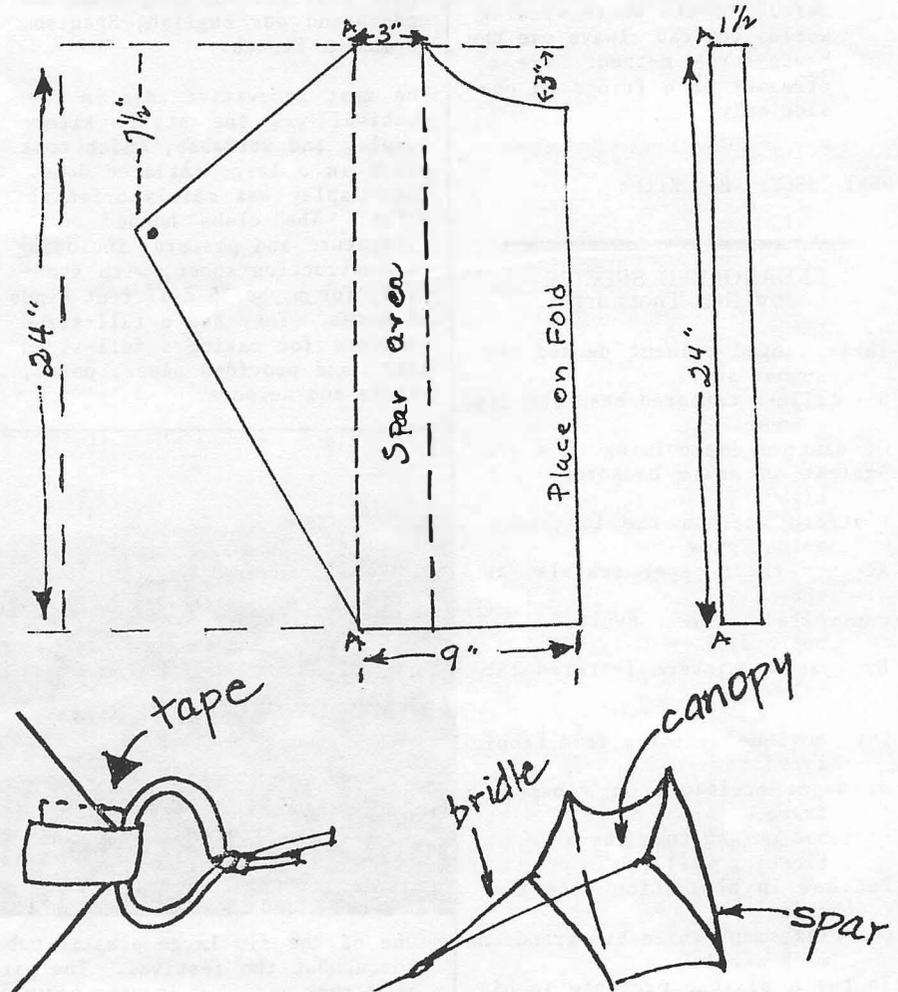
Tools: Scissors, yardstick, pencil, stapler

The strip is one-half of the width of the spar area--1 1/2" if the spar extension is 3".

1. Lay kite pattern on folded paper, trace around and cut out. Open kite.
2. Working on the wrong side of the kite, lay strip on both

wings, in turn, matching A-A, and using strip as a rule to draw two fold lines on kite.

3. Folding the wing towards the center of the kite, crease on the inner line, the line closest to the center. Fold and crease again, bringing the first crease to meet the outer line. Staple folds at ends and at 2" intervals.
4. Tie a secure loop in each end of the bridle line and tape in place as shown. Find the center of the bridle and tie a loop. Flying line ties through this loop.



Tour for Kids

by Lily Havey

Dave Checkley's kite tour of China and Japan is for kids, too! I went this year, taking along my ten-year old son (Michael) and Dave had his granddaughter, Tina, in tow. The first night, jet-lag dinner with the Japan Kite Association kept the two awake by a vigorous raffling of kites and accessories. All of us won something (or two). (Was it "fixed"?) Michael and Tina were showered with extras by generous members.

The next two days, spent with the JKA at Cape Futsu, afforded Michael a new experience. Cape Futsu is reached by an excursion ferry. Salt Lake City, landlocked, has no ferry, and he and I both relished the rolling motion of the ferry, and the views of the skyline. Tina rode along with the assurance of a veteran.

The kite fly was relaxed and great fun because no one was competing with anyone, and all the fliers had something different: kite trains, a dragon, insect kites, Korean fighter kites, parafoils, flexifoils--you name it, it was there. A glorious wonder was Mr.

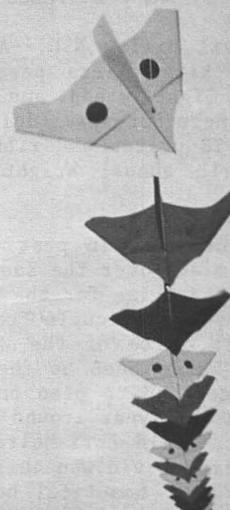
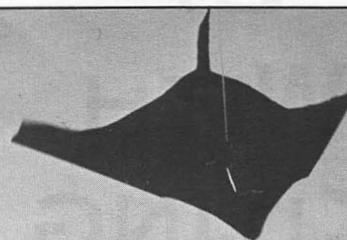
Yoshida, a special Checkley friend, with a stereo wrapped around his waist, flying a flexifoil to a soaring melody. Eiji Ohashi and his son unleashed an accordion kite of huge proportions. Its rainbow hues made us all cheer.

The Hamamatsu Kite Festival offered a completely different dimension to kite flying: dedication of a giant kite to a baby, and then battling to cut these down! Later Michael and I hitched a ride into town for a view of the Children's Parade which features all the children of Hamamatsu chanting and gesturing exactly like their older counterparts.

In China, both Tina and Michael were very special because very few Americans tour with children, especially during the school season. Both revelled in the VIP treatment. Flying kites off the Great Wall of China proved an exhilarating experience. The wind was wild. Tina flew one of Dave's Sports Kites, and Michael successfully raised a Pocket Kite, but the Chinese kite fliers battled and lost. Their kites were used to calmer, steadier winds. With

teamwork, Rick Kinnaird's red, white and blue train flew for some minutes--almost like "Old Glory" itself.

The entire trip was glorious. Try it--and take a kid along!



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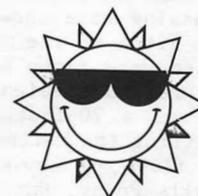
Saturday, September 25, 1982 (Raindate September 26, 1982)

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WHAT'S UP WITH KITING

WRIGHT KITE FESTIVAL
by Mary E. Ames

Kill Devil Hills, N.C.--An avid band of kite fliers persisted against light winds and rain showers here Saturday (July 17) to capture 18 prizes and ribbons in the fourth annual Wright Kite Festival.

Contestants, as in past years, came from all over the East Coast. Winning the prize for the farthest distance, was a couple from Knoxville, TN, site of the World's Fair. "We've been to the fair, but we decided to plan our real vacation this year around the kite festival," said Lori Melroy. She and husband David won third place in the "most beautiful homemade kite" category and also managed to get a 120-foot dragon kite airborne in eight m.p.h. winds.

Kites designed to perform in very light winds took most honors: first place in the "most beautiful" category going to a low-wind flair kite made by Brad Bangel of Norfolk, VA. Alex Dunton of Richmond, VA, won first place in both the "best aerodynamic design" category and the "one-minute climb" contest. Dunton's kite is a Conyne-delta, a design which will rise on little wind and remain aloft in strong wind. Dunton was awarded a Rogallo corner kite, signed by its inventor Francis Rogallo of Kitty Hawk, NC.

A highlight of the festival was the flight of several large kites launched on a breeze kicked up by a passing rain shower. Two large soft kites of the Sutton parafoil design were flown by their manufacturer, Joe Valenti of Horsham, PA, and a 70-foot dragon kite, depicting the Hatteras lighthouse, was flown by Kevin Fairley of Powells Point, NC. That kite had won a first place ribbon at the Smithsonian Institution kite festival this year and was shipped

from Palmyra, NJ, by its maker, Scott Spencer, to be flown here even though he could not attend.

Lack of wind in the late afternoon cut short the dual control stunt kite competition, normally the most hotly contested event of the festival. Only two finished the stunt maneuvers: Paul Schmidt of Kill Devil Hills, taking first place, and Cabe White of Virginia Beach, VA, second.

Other winners were Tony Otis of Norfolk, largest homemade kite, second place-one minute climb, and third place, most beautiful; and Charles Dunton of Richmond, second place, most beautiful.

In the novice class, one-minute climb, the winners were Margaret Mason of Charleston, WV, first, Sonny Denison of Chattanooga, TN, second and Gus Fricker of Dresher, PA, third. Senior flyer was Alex Dunton and junior flyer was seven-year-old Teddy Fricker.

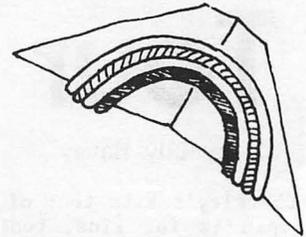
The event was sponsored by Kite Kingdom of Nags Head and Kill Devil Hills, an AKA member retail shop.

Safety

In a recent issue of Kite Fliers Occasional Newsletter, the publication of the Kite Fliers Association of South Australia, Bill Slater reminded us of some very important safety tips. We cannot remind you often enough that even the gentle sport of kiteflying can be dangerous if you ignore reasonable precautions. Bill reminds us:

Keep other people out of the way when launching and retrieving, particularly if it is a new kite that is likely to be unstable. They have a habit of looping and spinning into people.

Be aware of your surroundings, particularly when concentrating on



a dual control or newly developed kite. People have been known to back into ditches, over cliffs and onto roads. Even just backing into sprinklers or goal posts can hurt, or make you let go of the string.

If you get your kite stuck in a tree and try the (wrong) "heave-ho" technique you may cop a face full of swivel. Nylon can stretch up to 40% before breaking resulting in a savage flick back.

Retrieve all tangled or abandoned line, particularly synthetics. They don't rot and will stay around for a long time trapping birds, animals, joggers, etc.

Don't fly near roads. A kite crashing onto or in front of a car could cause a violent chain collision.

Finally, though you've heard it often, don't fly near power lines. An arc can jump several feet from a high voltage line to a kite.

As well as personal danger to the flier, flying near power lines may result in tangling a kite in a pylon or overhead wire which can create a short circuit resulting in fire.

If your kite should become tangled, don't try to retrieve it. Report it to the power company. Even if you don't want the kite, someone else may attempt to retrieve it and be hurt or start a fire.

Sincere thanks to Bill Slater and the KFA Newsletter for these important reminders.

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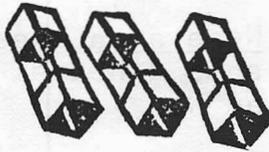
letters

I would like to request the help of readers familiar with the areas of India where fighter kites are made.

In January 1983 and again in Spring 1984 I will visit the Ahmadabad-Surat area and the Rampur-Bareilly-Lucknow area to learn something about the craftsmanship of these wonderful kites and the ways the traditions of their production are transmitted.

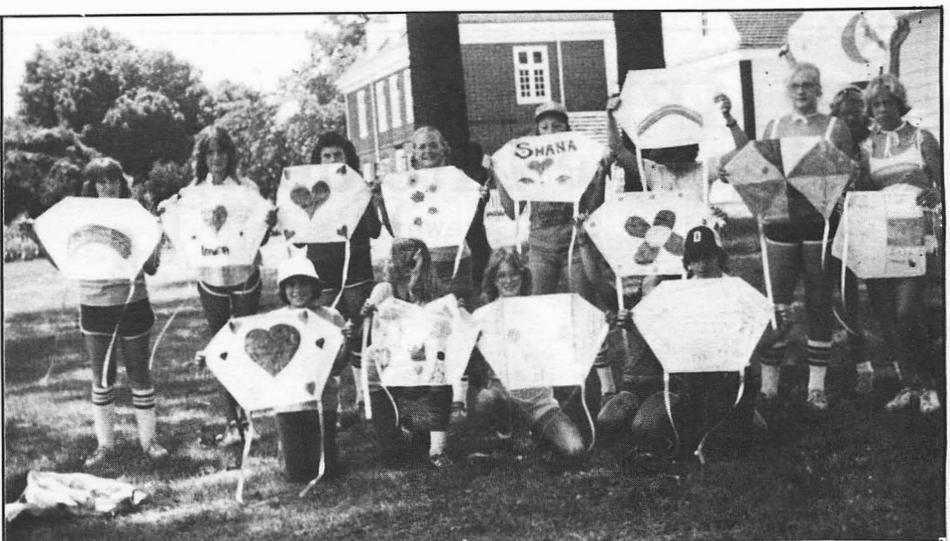
Any advice, suggestions or information you can give me about the patang karnee wallas and their regions would be very much appreciated.

Dr. Judith Johnston
Dept. of Anthropology
Adelphi University
Garden City, NY 11530



This was a "happening" when our Greater Delaware Valley Kite Society participated in a Kite Fly on Sunday, May 9, 1982, in Trexler-town, an area near Allentown, PA.

The day brought high winds and Bill Tyrrell of Doylestown, PA, put up his tremendous parafoil with the help of many "crew" persons, already gathered as spectators. Then, after securing it to a very stout tree nearby,



Our Pennsylvania (Yardley) members keep very busy bringing kiting to the public. We recently received a sincere thank you from a first grade child who said it was so nice to see our pretty kites and he hopes we will come next year. He ended with a new word in his vocabulary which put us in stitches of laughter. . . "I hope you do not extinct."

Enclosed is a snapshot of sled kites made in our workshop class and designed by Girl Scouts. Behind them is Pensbury Manor--William Penn's home on the

his volunteer crew again helped as he attached a huge American Flag to the flying line to be hoisted high above the heads of all on the field. This beautiful American Flag was made by Bill and Mel Govig and is the size of a basketball court--45' by 75'. The flag rose majestically into the sky as the awed crowd watched the red, the white and the blue.

Nearby, standing on a huge boulder were three young children of about



Delaware River which now will observe the 300th celebration of its founding.

Olan, on the flying field, usually finds new kite fliers in trouble because the wind conditions require a tail--not indicated by the manufacturer, not true of our better AKA kite makers.

The camaraderie of our Greater Delaware Valley Kite Society is terrific! How lucky we are.

Bernice Turner
Yardley, PA

eight years old. They were so overwhelmed by the sight of the flag of their country in such a splendid size flying from the kite, high above their heads that one of them called out "The United States of America! I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag of. . ." Immediately three young voices were in unison, followed instantly by all those around them, young and old. The small voice took the lead as the Pledge was solemnly and reverently spoken with hands over heart--then, a song was begun, "Oh, Say Can you See. . ." Again, the crowd nearby joined in, and still yet once more, the small voice sang "Oh Beautiful for Spacious Skies, For Amber Waves of Gain. . ." Yes, the crowd sang that one too and when the moments were over, few of us had dry eyes.

It was a never to be forgotten experience, all inspired by one man's dream, a man who delights in sharing the beauty of kites and the love of country with all. And a little child was touched so much he had to share it aloud!

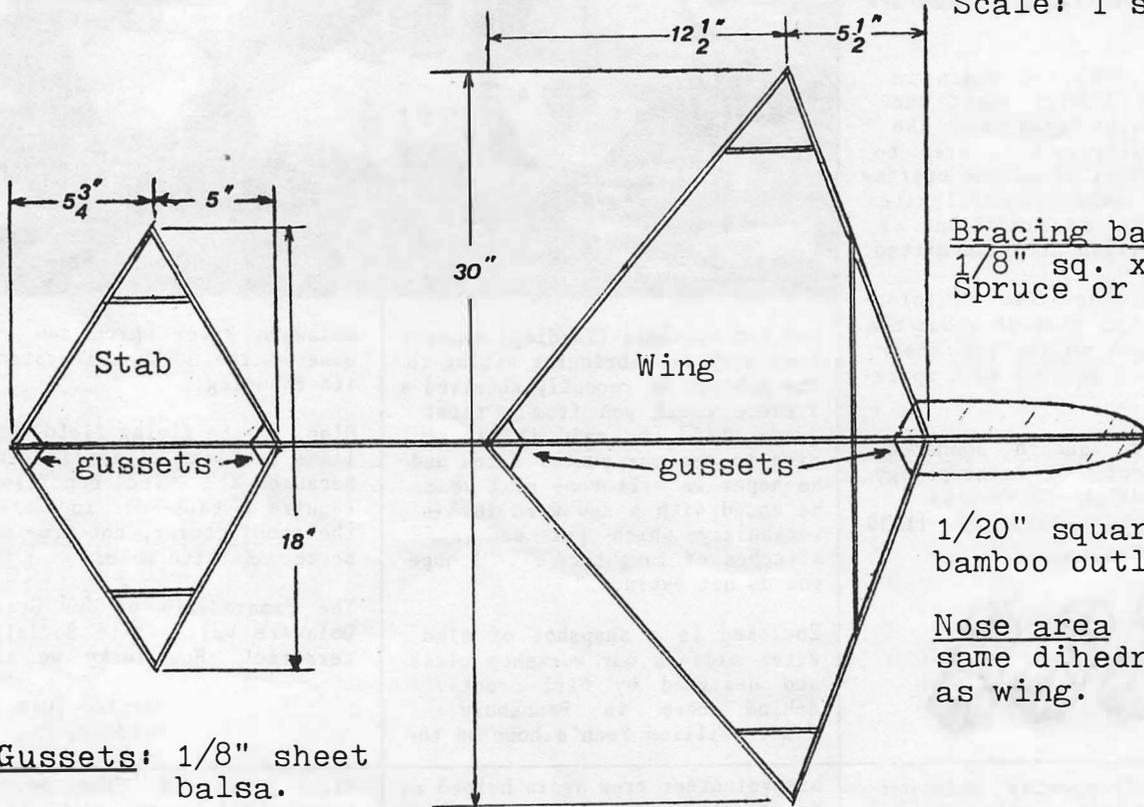
Bernice and Olan Turner.

Cartoon: Robert Wikstrom
Seattle, WA

"SIMPLEX" airplane kite design

Designed by Carl Brewer.

Scale: 1 sq. = 2".



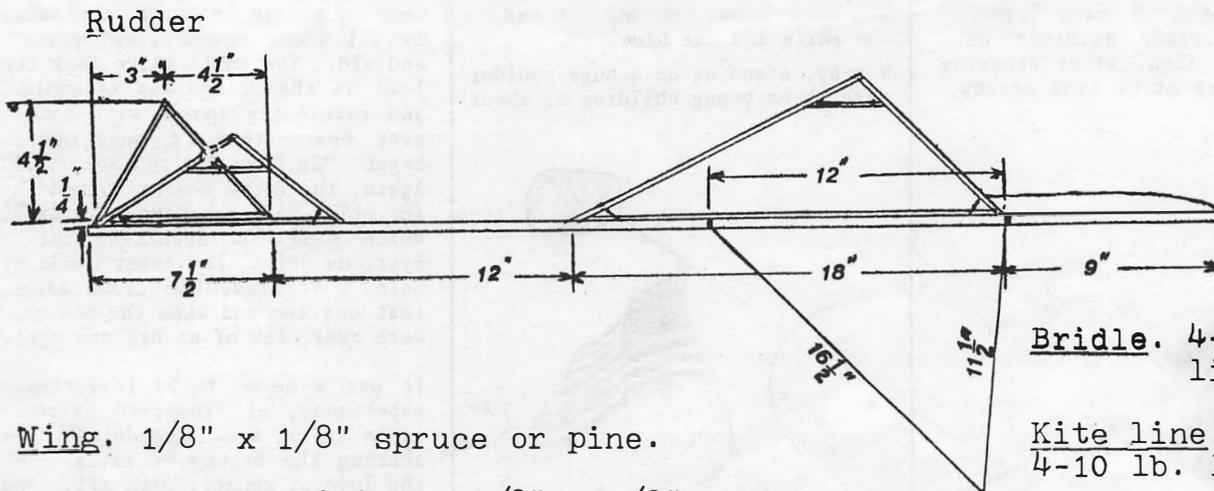
Bracing bar:
1/8" sq. x 16".
Spruce or pine.

1/20" square
bamboo outline.

Nose area has
same dihedral
as wing.

Gussets: 1/8" sheet
balsa.

Wind range.
0.5 - 12 mph.



Bridle. 4-10 lb.
line.

Kite line.
4-10 lb. line.

Wing. 1/8" x 1/8" spruce or pine.

Rudder and Stabilizer. 1/8" x 1/8" hard balsa.

Fuselage. 1/4" x 3/16" spruce or pine.

Dihedral. Wing: 4", each tip.
Stabilizer: 2 3/8", each tip.

Covering. Japanese tissue (pre-shrunk) or mylar.
Cover on upper surfaces only.

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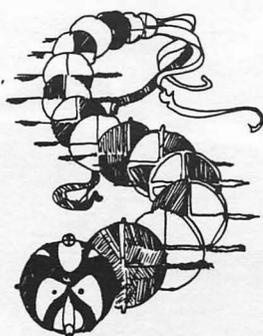
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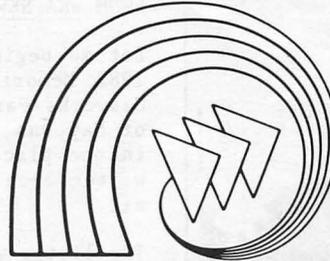
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Gasworks Park

by Norm Smith

FROM WKA NEWS

Let me begin by stating that the 1982 Memorial Day Kite Fly at Gasworks Park on Monday the 31st of May was a huge success. Never in one place at one time has this writer seen so many kites in the air.

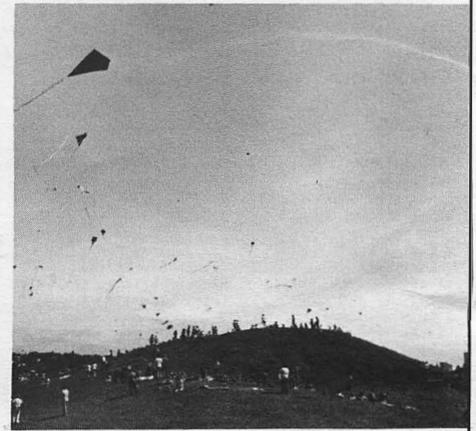
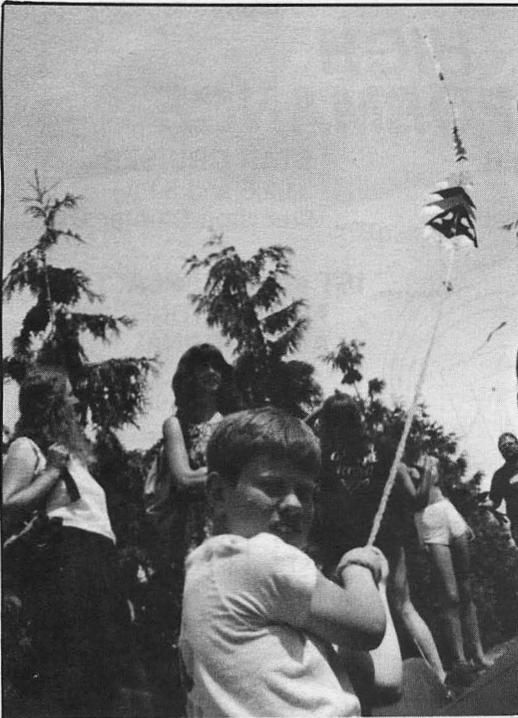
The little yellow Flutter Bag Kite looked marvelous among all of the other kites. Thank you Suzanne Sadow for that clever design.

The kite hospital was easily the busiest place in the park with the possible exception of the snack bar building. I never took the time to wander down that way and

should have because it was a beehive of activity for kite building and repair.

Why is it that when it comes to lines getting tangled, the most prominent or spectacular usually include members of the WKA? One of the several this writer became involved in, was a five-kite affair which involved Kevin Sanders, Julian Wolfe, and Les Smith, my son. Another mess of tangled lines included myself and three other members of WKA, most embarrassing.

Jack Van Gilder was there with his ever present train of 100 plus kites and his "Mother Eagle" (an Alaskan Indian design kite). A most beautiful creation, Jack.



Sights at WKA's Memorial Day Kite Fly included Leslie Smith flying Jack Van Gilder's 110 delta kite train (upper left), Suzanne Sadow and Ken Conrad, of Great Winds Kite Shop, manning the kite hospital (lower left), Van Gilder's "Mother Eagle" (center), and a crowded sky over a crowded hill (right).

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