



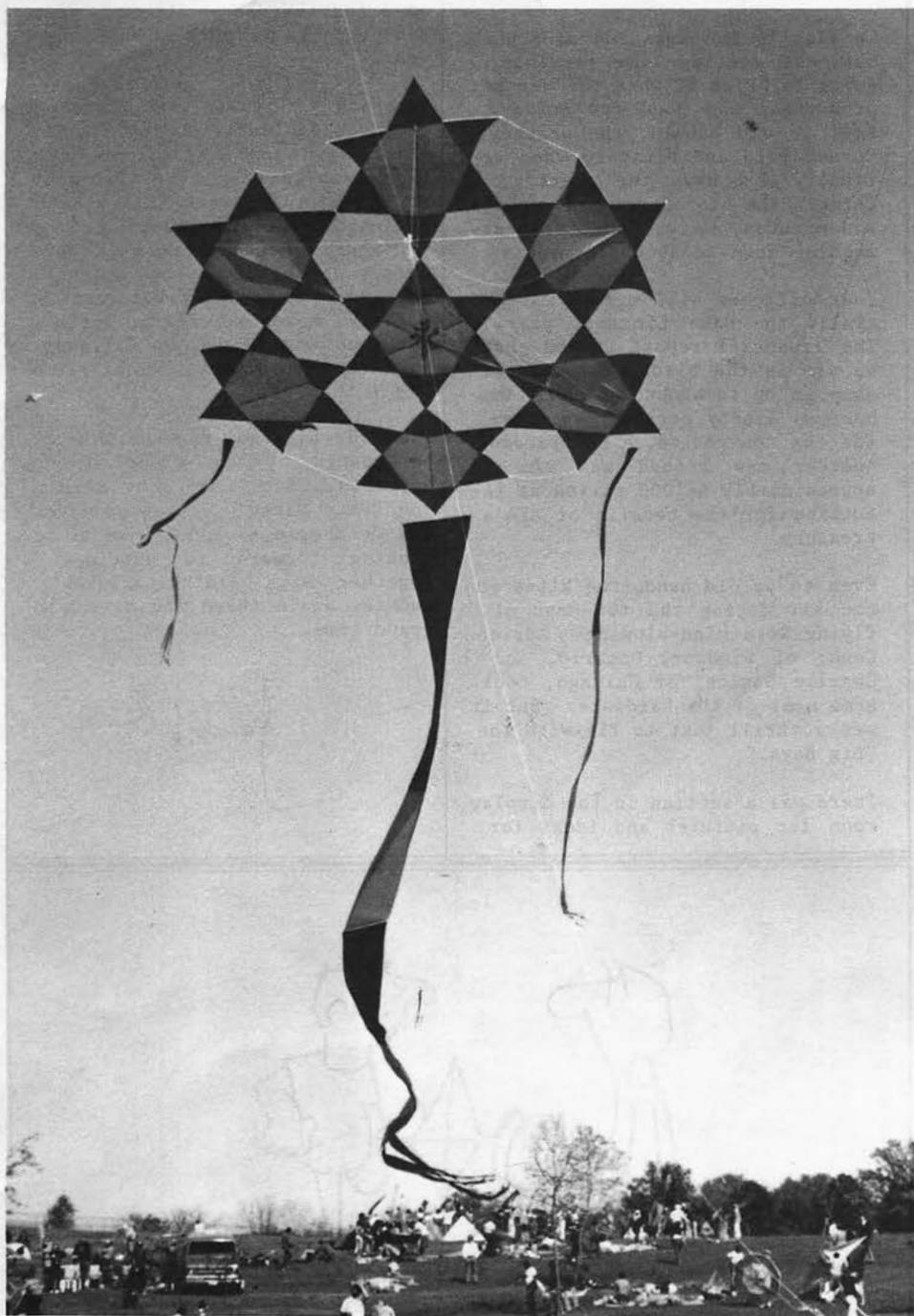
*American Kitefliers Association*

# AKA NEWS

Keep Up With Kiting

Vol. IV, No. 6

December 1982



"Eternity," the spectacular Seven Sisters kite designed by Jan Hosking of Mt. Pleasant, MI, and flown by her husband, Wayne, dominates the sky at AKA's Detroit Convention. This kite is touring the U.S. as part of an art museum exhibit created by Ms. Hosking.

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Flying Fighters  
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# the president's corner

Well, the Fifth Annual AKA Convention is now history--and was it EVER a good one! Hank and Nancy Szerlag really put it over, with lots of help from Pat Gilgallon and the other members of the 5/20 Club in Detroit.

We finally got wise and made the business meeting time flexible, going to "Plan B" when the weather prediction was good for Friday. And, lo and behold, the weather turned cold and blustery when we finally did have the meeting. Through the use of written reports and minutes, we got the business meeting down to about 18 minutes.

Your officers will remain essentially the same for next year. The financial report showed that we are in the black. Our membership is up to about 840 now. One hundred ninety persons registered for the convention, a new record. Another new record was the approximately \$6,000 raised at the auction for the benefit of AKA's treasury.

Even to an old hand, the kites in the air during the two days of flying were mind-blowing. Adrian Conn, of Windsor, Ontario, and Charlie Sotich, of Chicago, took home most of the hardware. But it was a thrill just to fly with the "Big Boys."

There was a section in the display room for pictures and ideas for



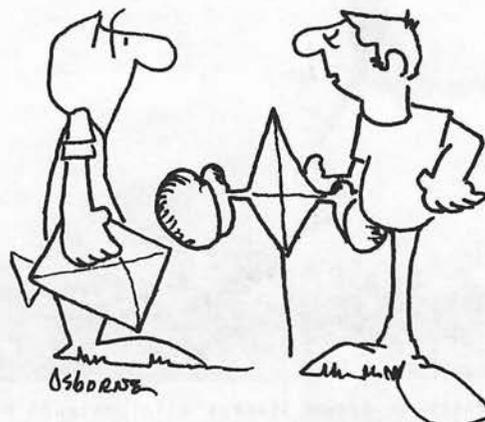
Photo by Dave Checkley, Jr.

club activities. This was a new idea for the convention this year and probably will be expanded next year.

Speaking of clubs, we have received applications for affiliation from the Chicagoland Sky Liners, headed by LeRoy Hoover; the Greater Delaware Valley Kite Society, better known as G\*D\*V\*K\*S, headquartered in New Jersey and headed by Len Conover; and the Rainbow Kitefliers Society, headquartered in Fenton, Michigan and headed by Carleton Crockett. This makes clubs #5, 6 and 7.

The 1983 national convention will be hosted by the group in Columbus, Ohio, headed by Miller and Betty Makey. Tentative dates are October 6, 7 and 8. We'll be looking forward to getting together with old kiteflying buddies again there and having a grand time.

*Jed V.B.*

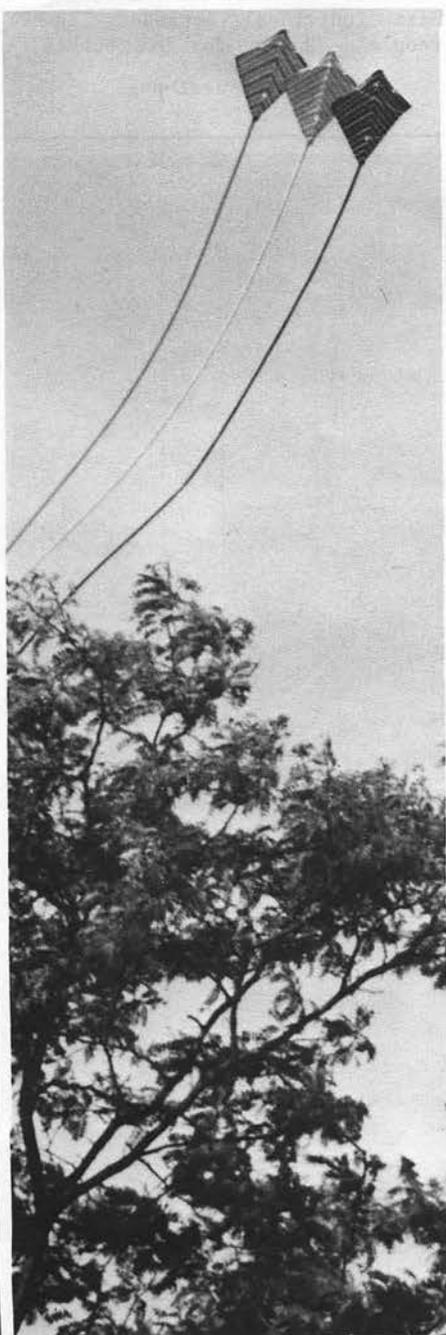


Mine's a Muhammad Ali Fighter.  
What's yours?

## Convention Wrap-up

# AKA Priorities Take To Wind

When it comes to conducting an annual business meeting and convention, the priorities of kitefliers have a major impact on the agenda. Just ask AKA 1982 National Convention co-chairmen, Hank and Nancy Szerlag.



Three TRLBY figure kites soar above the trees signaling the start of the Detroit convention.

At the 5th annual meeting, held in Detroit October 7-10, the important business meeting and election of officers was scheduled to be held Friday morning, followed by lunch and a short afternoon of kiteflying. Alas, the local weatherman forecast beautiful Friday skies and winds; this meant postponement #1 for the business meeting. "We'd rather fly than meet," went the battle cry.

So, at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, instead of addressing the issues, AKA members jumped into cars, trucks and vans and headed out for a full day of flying at the beautiful Evergreen Golf Course.

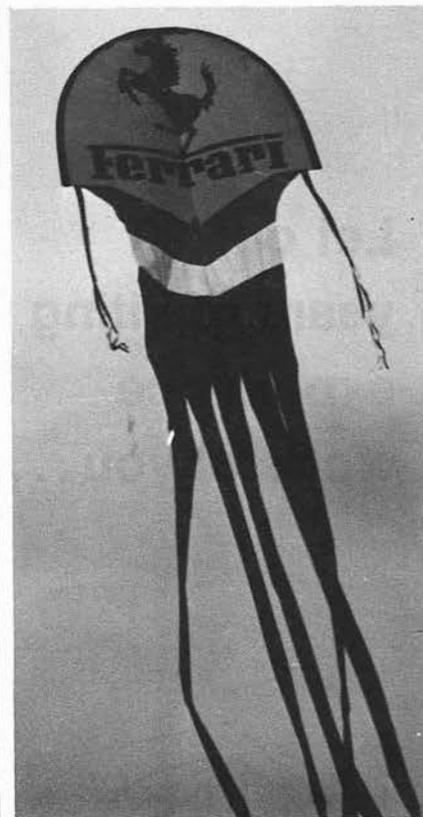
And what a kiteflying day it was as competitive events got underway. Finding flying room was sometimes a little difficult due to the presence of a record turnout and a large number of reporters and photographers positioning shots. ABC's Hughes Rudd was on hand for most of the day and even tried his hand at flying a large box kite.

Photographers had plenty of opportunity to shoot exciting pictures of beautiful and unique kites. Creating a lot of interest was Adrian Conn's (Windsor, Ontario) multi-design dragon fly, which later captured the best individual award in the People's Choice competition. Constructed by Conn in 50 hours over a three-week period, the spectacular multi-colored kite included a balloon type lantern tail, Hewitt flex wings and 4 parafoil coils over the front of the body for lift.

Alan Wheeler's (Bethesda, MD) Sanyo Rokkako good luck kite caused a stir. Built of Tyvek, this 400-year old Japanese design included a salute to the Maryland Kite Society.

Jack Van Gilder launched a train of 83 deltas and Japanese visitor Modegi managed a train of 210.

Marjorie and Hugh Harrison of Vancouver greeted persons entering the flying area with their "Sea to Sea" display of flags. Using six-foot deltas in train to hoist the flags, they flew the flags of Canada, the United States, and



Unique logo designs by Bill Tyrrell on cobra kites are ideal for advertisers.

Canada's ten provinces and two territories.

Nancy Szerlag set the mood with the music of "Skybird" floating over the field.

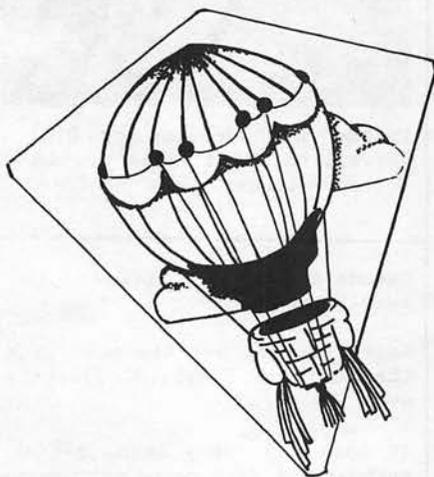
At each and every turn, kiting enthusiasts discovered yet another treasure. In a 300-yard walk across the field, for instance, one found Al Hargus (Chicagoland Sky Liners) and his bird-stenciled "kitchen wall" sled, Dave DeBolt's (Winchester, IN) stamp kite, featuring 6,913 individual postage stamps worth \$608.35½, Bernice and Olan Turner's (Yardley, PA) violets on a hexagon, John Rausch's (Cincinnati, OH) modified Waldof box, and Red Braswell's (Manassas, VA) "Big Red Star."

Stunt kites (figure kites) danced and weaved their way across the sky. Rick Bell and Randy Tom of Hyperkites were the first to get their stunts up, but they were followed quickly by Steve Edeiken of Rainbow Kites Company and Bob Mileti of Trlby.

Later in the day, however, the winds subsided and the only thing flying was a "teru teru bozu," a Japanese good luck charm placed in the eaves of houses by children to attract the wind. After a few valiant attempts, the kiting on

(Continued on next page)

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day one closed out about 4:00 p.m. and AKA members returned to the hotel to ready themselves for a super buffet and exciting auction. Discussions were held calling for the postponed annual meeting to take place the following morning.

Alas, once more, weather predictions called for a clear morning with deteriorating conditions in the afternoon, so the decision was made to change the schedule again. Kiteflying would go on in the morning at Bonnie Brook Country Club and the meeting would take place during luncheon that day.

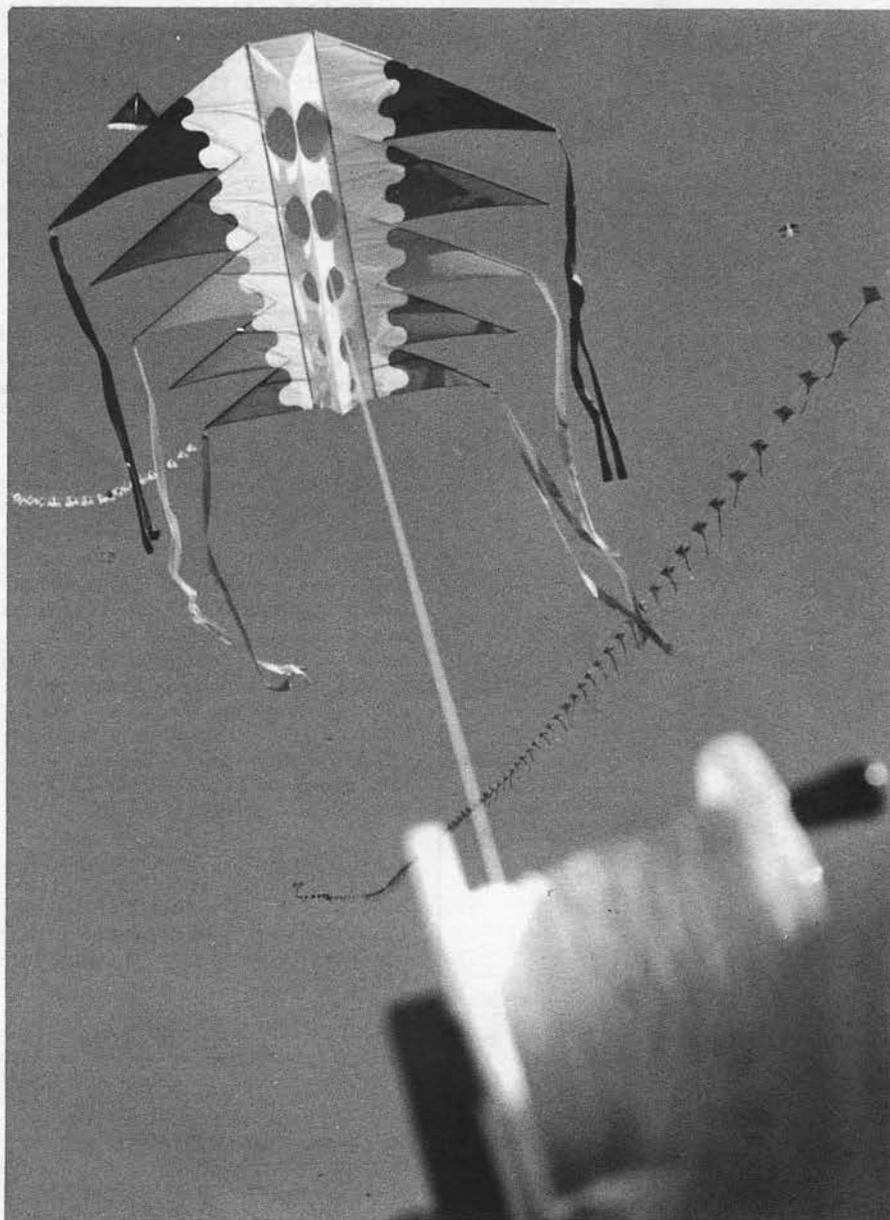
Weathermen are not always right, however, and the Saturday kiteflying lasted all day until finally at 4 p.m. it took a push

1982

by several AKA board members to demand that the annual meeting be held. And so it was. Jack Van Gilder was re-elected president and the other business of the association was handled in record time.

Later that evening AKA returned to the lovely Bonnie Brook facilities to enjoy the awards banquet. Adrian Conn and Charles Sotich of Chicago cleaned the house of awards. Conn received four honors including the Best Individual Kite in People's Choice, first place in Delta/Delta derivative, first place in Air Inflated and third place in Compound Kite. Sotich received five awards including Best Individual Accessory in People's Choice for his bubble

(Continued next page)



Oscar Bailey of Florida took 28 hours over a two-week period to make his 10-point delta. The fine hand sewing of wings and 15 keel holes accounted for the most time.

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wind vane, first place in Cellular, first place in Compound Kite, first place in Barn Door Basic, and second place in Sled.

Other winners were:

Delta/Delta Derivative

- 2nd Don Tabor
- 3rd Oscar Bailey

Sled

- 1st Craig McNeill
- 3rd Steve Lamb

Cellular

- 2nd Robert Price
- 3rd W. D. Braswell

Air Inflated

- 2nd Leland Toy
- 3rd Doug Hagaman

Compound

- 2nd William Isenhart

Flat

- 1st Scott Spencer
- 2nd Jan Hosking
- 3rd Garry Woodcock

Bowed

- 1st William Pace
- 2nd Garry Woodcock
- 3rd Jon Burkhardt

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- Gary Williams

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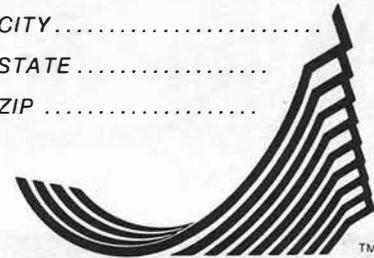
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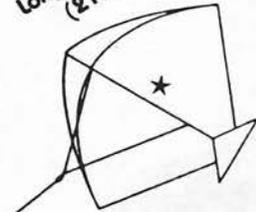
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AKA Past President Red Braswell of Manassas, VA, strolls to a launch site with his new six-point star, inside a six-point star, inside a six-point star kite.

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(Continued from previous page)

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Tim Preston  
Wind Speed Indicator

Dual Line Control

1st Randy Tom  
2nd Rick Bell  
3rd Don Tabor

Finally a super AKA salute to the entire convention committee for making the 1982 event the best ever. Our thanks to:

Hank and Nancy Szerlag  
Co-Chairmen

Pat Gilgallon  
Trade Committee

Liz Hegg  
Bruce Jarvie  
Tom Pisa  
Linda Metheny  
Jim Bowsher  
John Hegg  
Julia Hegg  
Nancy Lang  
Margo Brown

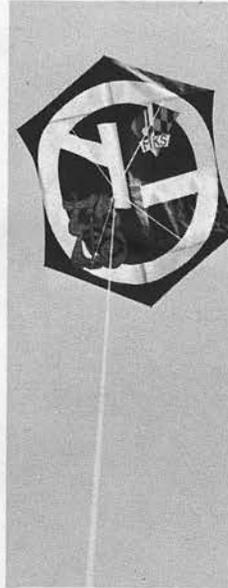
# Convention '82 At A Glance



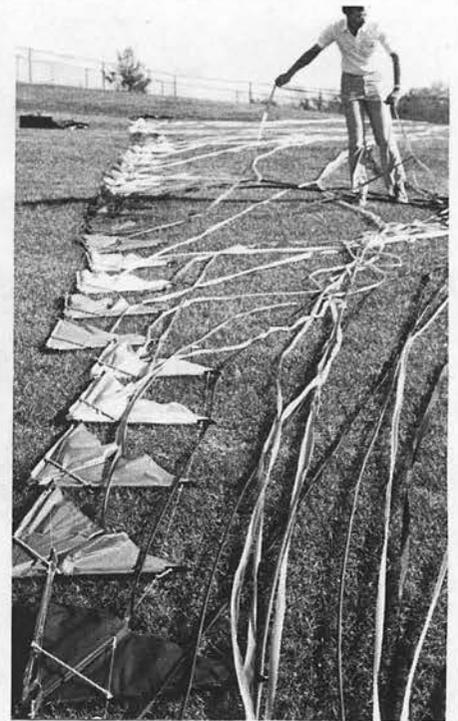
Judging one of Adrian Conn's colorful deltas with lantern tail.



Bill Tyrrell's 1,150 sq. ft. box kite being assembled for flight.



Alan Wheeler's Sanyo Rokkaku



Rick Bell untangles 50 Hyperkite tails.



Adrian Conn checks out his multi-design "Dragonfly," which won the "People's Choice" award.



Kites become the universal language as Masaaki Modegi, Eileen Kinnaird, Margo Brown, Takeshi Nishibayashi, and Sachiko Modegi meet in Detroit.



Japan's traditional wind charm, a teru teru bozu, was the only thing flying when the winds died late on the first day.



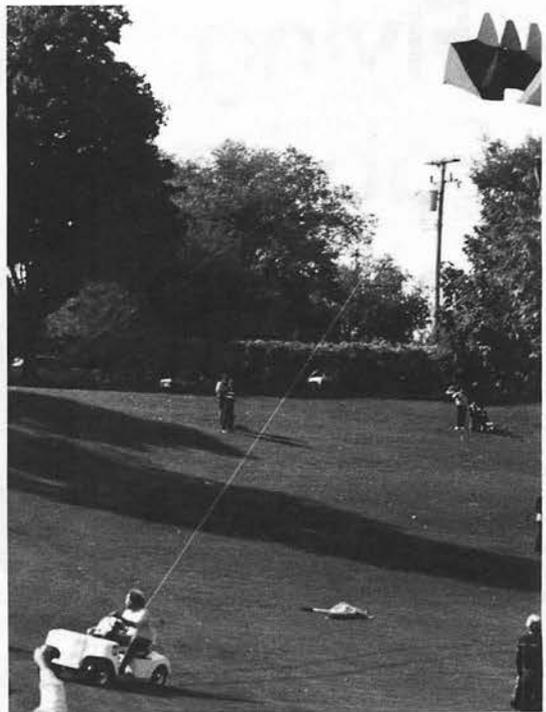
Dom Jalbert



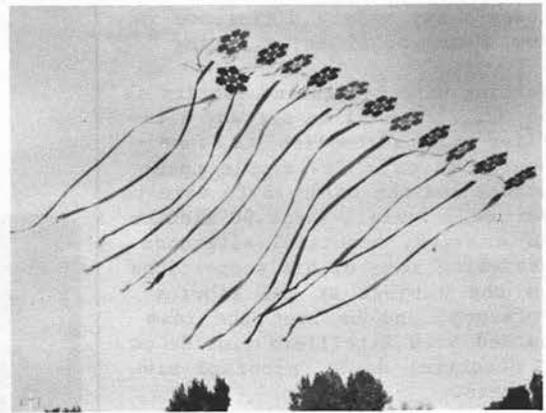
Robert Katkowsky of Detroit almost lost his hat as Vic Heredia of Vic's Fighter Kites took aim.



Scott Spencer's U.S. Flag.



Cory Jensen tries a golf cart to fly his parafoil.



"84 Sisters"--Jan and Wayne Hosking's 12 Seven Sisters kites soar.



ABC-TV newsman Hughes Rudd came to cover the convention, but couldn't resist flying.



Gaby Alonso and her colorful Spectra Star jacket.

# Flying Fabrics Take to The Air

Kiting continues to become more and more exciting, and one of the primary reasons for this phenomenon has been the expansion and creative utilization of fabrics in kitemaking.

Bill Tyrrell, owner of the Fabric Lady in Doylestown, PA, summed it up best, during his featured fabrics workshop presentation at the Detroit convention, "Beautiful variations of colorful rip-stop in today's sky make a difference in how much you'll enjoy kiting."

Working with colors and fabrics is an art, but it's an art any kiteflier can accomplish to some degree given a few simple techniques and the boldness to dare to be new. Tyrrell spent 90 minutes on a brisk, beautiful afternoon reviewing some of his suggestions on the subject at the fabrics workshop, and he kept the room packed with kitefliers (inside on a beautiful day?), proof of his success.

Then again, Tyrrell is a natural showman who captures attention wherever he sets his kiteline. His spectacular kite creations are "show stoppers" at festivals from British Columbia to Ocean City, MD, where he launched his 1,136 sq. ft. box kite on 5,000 lb. test line (See AKA NEWS, October, 1982.)

An eight-foot delta was the first kite Tyrrell used in his workshop to demonstrate fabric technique. Using only three colors of fabric, Tyrrell's kite had a large bird design centered along the keel with its wing span arched around the tail, reaching to the delta's points. The bird was in a vibrant color, outlined with a softer pastel. Filling the areas of the delta outside the bird was sky blue rip-stop. What makes the kite clever was that when aloft, the blue fades into the sky, giving the illusion of a bird in flight. To enhance this effect, use a light coating of Vaseline on

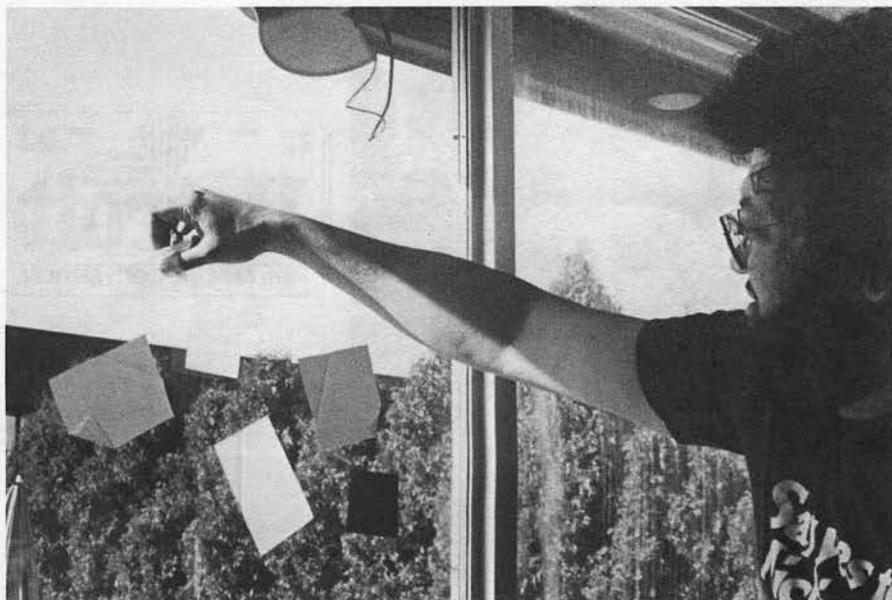
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Bill Tyrrell explains how red bird on blue background will appear in the sky during the fabric workshop.



Bright colored fabrics in Egyptian design cobra produce spectacular results when aloft.



Aaron Harris of Detroit demonstrates how to affix fabric samples to a window to test color combinations.

(Continued from previous page)

the light blue fabric; it becomes practically invisible.

Next came a cellular box kite to emphasize how to make colors work--remember, colors are to work in the sky. Tyrrell suggests the back cells be constructed of a lighter color (white, pale blue, pale yellow) and that the front panels be darker. This allows light to pass through the back panels and illuminate the front.

Mixing fabric weights is another way to create spectacular kites, according to Tyrrell. When doing so, however, designers must keep their weights symmetrical for balance.

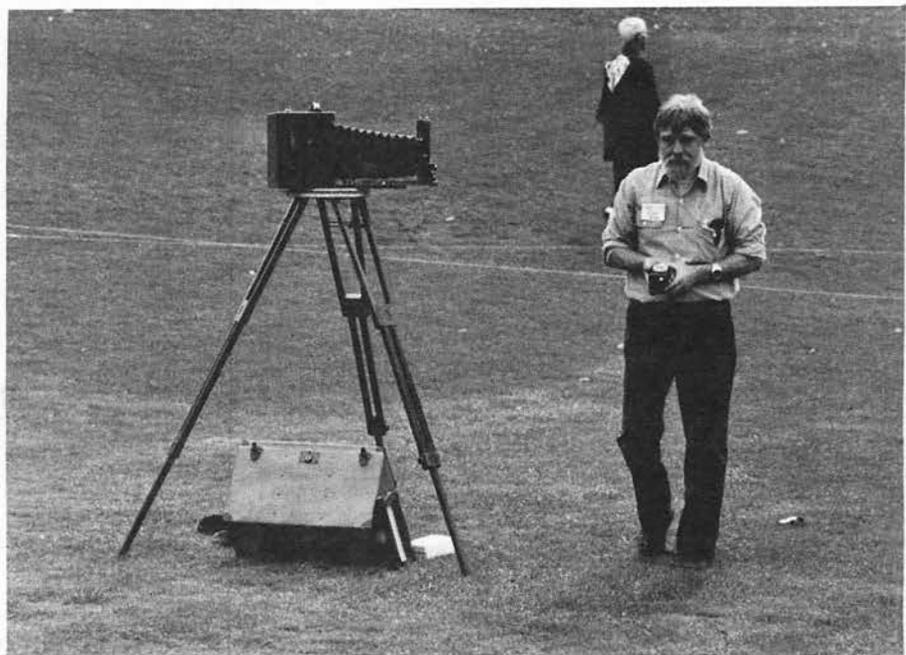
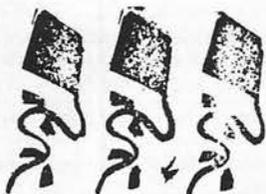
"Monochromatic or high contrast, it's not always easy to judge what a kite will look like in the sky, as compared to how it looks on the work bench," said one workshop attendee.

"Not so," countered Tyrrell, "it's easy. Use a pencil and a window." Tyrrell demonstrated--take fabric samples and rub them with a lead pencil in one direction until enough static electricity is generated to attach samples to a well-lighted window. Then step back and study color combinations. Often the perfect color is created by using multi-layers of different-colored fabrics which blend as light passes through.

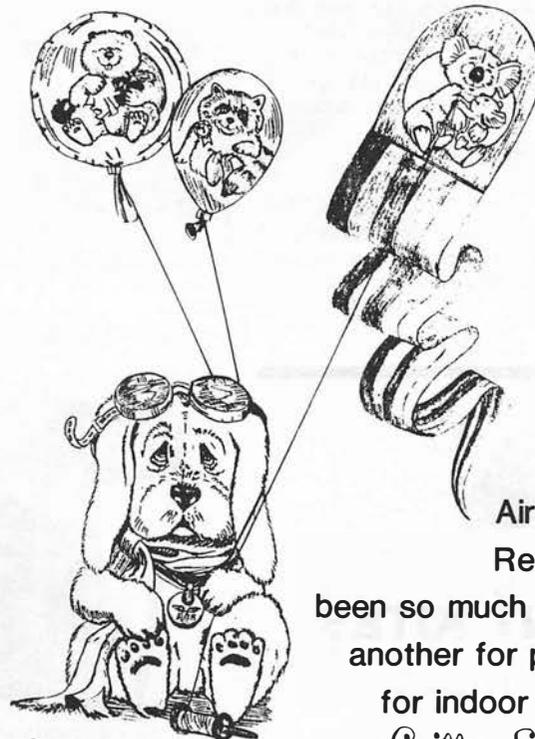
Getting design ideas is easy, too, according to Tyrrell. He suggests using a pattern book for stained glass designs, a technique he calls "steal-a-graphics." Simply take photos of the patterns you want, using color slide film. Project the slides on the wall the approximate size you want your kite to be. Hold the fabrics to the wall, and cut out your pattern.

When sewing, Tyrrell suggests that kitemakers use a double-edge tape between the foldovers of the fabric and a zigzag stitch.

Tyrrell's workshop samples were beautiful in the classroom, but when lifted by the wind on the flying fields of Detroit, they were magnificent!



One of the highlights of AKA's 1982 convention was a surprise to all of us. Oscar Bailey of Florida brought his antique panoramic camera and took a picture of all the kitefliers and their kites on the flying field. Technical limitations make it impossible for us to reproduce here even a portion of the picture, though Val Govig will feature it half-size in an upcoming issue of KITE LINES. Jack Van Gilder describes the shot as a real "mind blower." AKA has purchased one copy of the print and will pass it around among affiliated clubs and show it at the 1983 Convention. However, in case you want your very own copy, prints may be ordered by sending your check in the amount of \$48.00 (which Oscar assures us covers only his cost) to AKA Headquarters. Be sure to mark your order "Panoramic Print."



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# kitevents

December 18, 1982. BOSTON TEA PARTY KITE FLY. 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.. Fort McHenry, Baltimore, MD. Wear your tea-shirt; jump in the harbor. CONTACT: George Fohs, (301) 483-4776.

December 19, 1982. CHRISTMAS KITE FLY. Marina Green, San Francisco, CA.

December 26, 1983. INFORMAL FLY AT CRICKET HILL, Chicagoland Sky Liners, restricted to hardy souls who have no need to recuperate following the Christmas weekend. CONTACT: Anita Hoover (312) 478-3475.

January 1, 1983. WINDANCE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY LIFTOFF, Centennial Park, Nashville, TN., 1:00 p.m. CONTACT: J. Winghead Harris, P. O. Box 120504, Nashville, TN, 37212. (615) 298-2510.



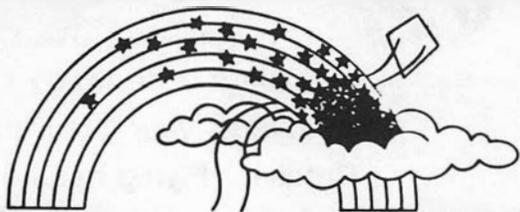
January 1, 1983. WKA'S TENTH ANNUAL PROTEST THE BOWLS KITE FLY, Golden Gardens Park, Seattle, WA. CONTACT: Tom Sisson, (206) 725-3615.

January 2, 1983. IF YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES COME OUT AND FLY. Marina Green, San Francisco, CA.

January 15, 1983. CABIN FEVER MINI-RETREAT, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., in the auditorium of Strawbridge & Clothier, second floor, Echlon Mall, between Route 561 and Burnt Mill Road, Voorhees, NJ. Many mini-workshops including "skins," "bones," and "lines," as well as "Tools of the Trade" and a slide show. Guaranteed you will go home with a new kite. CONTACT: Doris Fithian (609) 696-1100.

January 15-16, 1983. SINGAPORE KITE FESTIVAL.

January 30, 1983. MARYLAND KITE SOCIETY WINTER MEETING. 12:00 Noon, Rash Field, Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD. Membership meeting at 5:00 p.m. in rec room at 8-10 Charles Plaza. Bring something for the buffet. CONTACT: John Burkhardt (301) 652-2414.



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February 13, 1983. HEART KITE DAY. Marina Green, San Francisco, CA.

February 13, 1983. OPEN HOUSE-KITES AWEIGH, Annapolis, MD. 12:00 Noon - 5:00 p.m. Free Mylar, chewy carbohydrates, bubbly beverages and dandy door prizes. CONTACT: Brooks Leffler, (301) 652-2414.

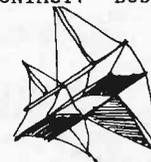
February 18-21, 1983. MKS KITE RETREAT, Hilltop House, Harpers Ferry, WV. Four days, three nights and nine meals. . .all for \$120.00 per person, double. Accommodations limited. Send \$50.00 deposit to Mel Govig, 7106 Campfield Road, Baltimore, MD 21207. (301) 484-6287.

February 27, 1983. SECOND ANNUAL FREEZE-EM-IFYOU-GOT-EM KITE FLY. 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m., Wiggins Waterfront Park, Mickle Blvd. at the Delaware River, Camden, NJ. Dinner at Scott Spencer's. RSVP (609) 786-2038.

March 5, 1983. KITE WORKSHOP. Christina Cultural Arts Center, Wilmington, DE. CONTACT: Felix Cartegena, (302) 737-4689.

March 12, 1983. KITE WORKSHOP. Christina Cultural Arts Center, Wilmington, DE. CONTACT: Felix Cartegena (302) 737-4689.

March 12-13, 1983. 10th ANNUAL KITEFAIR, Pacific Science Center, Seattle, WA. Featuring an exhibit of kites from around the world. CONTACT: Bob McCort, (206) 743-7081.



March 19, 1983. KITE DAY IN ROCKFORD PARK, Wilmington, DE.

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

March 30-April 3, 1983. AKA BERMUDA TOUR. Contact: AKA, (301) 752-3320.

April 1, 1983. DELAWARE KITE FESTIVAL, Cape Henlopen State Park. Lewes, DE.

April 4, 1983. EUROPEAN KITE EXTRAVAGANZA, Blackheath, London.

April 9, 1983. Broadmeadows School, Middletown, DE.



## how to be UP on kites

How to know a drogue from a dihedral? a fighter from a Flexifoil? a Waldof from a salad? Only one way: read *Kite Lines*, the international quarterly journal of kiting. Each colorful issue brings you news, designs, profiles, reviews, in-depth feature articles—and unusual advertisements, too. Kiting's standard of reference since 1977 and noted as well for its role in founding AKA, *Kite Lines* shares the same purposes: "To promote kiting, its joys and its values, in all nations." We wrote that. We live it. Join the family in *Kite Lines*.

I wonder if there is another single human-made object quite so special as the kite. *Kite Lines* brings us the hum, the music of the line. It's our magazine.—Tal Streeter, American sculptor and kite authority

\$2.50/copy; \$9.00/year US; \$10.00 Canada/Mexico; \$11.50 elsewhere. Charges to VISA and MasterCard accepted. Send for subscription today to *Kite Lines*, 7106 Campfield Road, Baltimore, MD 21207, USA.

# kitevents

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

April 24, 1983. Cooper River Park, Pennsauken, NJ.

April 26, 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 28-29, 1983. ANNUAL JAPAN KITE ASSOCIATION kite festival at the foot of Mt. Fuji, west 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 1, 1983. 2ND ANNUAL MENDOCINO KITE FESTIVAL. On the headlands overlooking the ocean, Mendocino, CA. CONTACT: Bob Rosenfeld, Sky's No Limit, Box 470, Mendocino, CA 95460. (707) 937-4633.

May 1, 1983. OLD WARDEN, Bedfordshire, England.

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 22, 1983. THE SECOND ANNUAL LEHIGH VALLEY KITE FESTIVAL, 12:00 noon. Northampton County Community College, Bethlehem, PA. Rain Date: June 5. CONTACT: Marilyn Krasnov, The Rainbow Store, Allentown, 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.

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

June 24-August 7, 1983. KITE EXHIBITION, Port Of History Museum at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA. An exhibit of 100 kites featuring rare kites on loan from Smithsonian.

October 6-8, 1983. AKA CONVENTION AND NATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL. Columbus, OH. CONTACT: Miller Makey, (614) 871-0727.

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 and on the 4th Sunday of the month at Cricket Hill at Montrose Beach on the lake.

CENTRAL OHIO KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION invites all of you to fly with COKA, any Saturday that is an even number date on the calendar, at Columbus, OH, Sharon Woods Metropolitan Park, just two blocks north of the outer belt #270 on Cleveland Avenue. CONTACT: Betty Makey (614) 871-0727.

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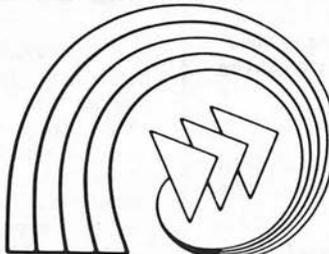
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# Safety Council

When the National Safety Council began publication of its recent Safety Bulletin No. 70 on kiting, its first source of information was AKA. The Association office played a major role in providing helpful information and in sharing other potential sources, such as Kite Lines. We also directed them to our own Ted Manekin, who donated three of the photos used in the publication.

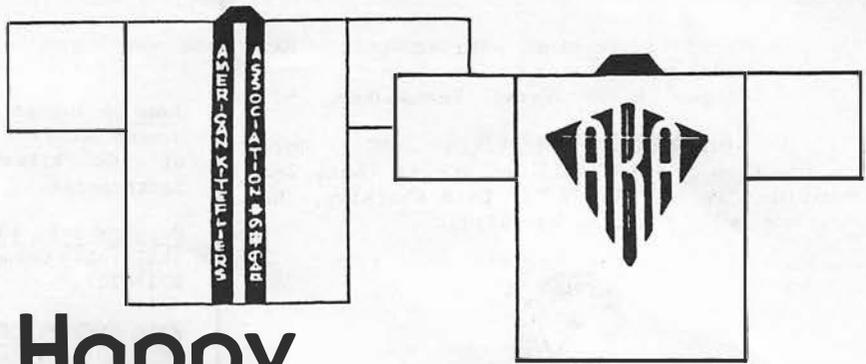
The Bulletin is excellent, and we recommend it for use when conducting kite classes or speaking to children's groups. It could also be made available at kite festivals. For information on securing copies, write the National Safety Council, 444 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611, or call (312) 527-4800.

Here's a sample of the publication as it relates to constructing a kite with safety in mind:

- If you plan to start from scratch draw a sketch of the kite, include its shape and size, the lengths of sticks, cover, bridle, and decorations. Planning for a well-balanced, high-flying kite will keep you and your kite out of trouble.
- Build a strong kite. Test it for strength by wiggling the parts, then brace as needed.
- Keep safety in mind as you use scissors, hammers and nails, small saws, pliers, light drills, planes, sandpaper and clamps. Be careful to cut away from your body when whittling sticks; close or otherwise guard the knife blade when you are not using it.
- Never use metal framework, such as umbrella stays, in place of wood or plastic. Also avoid aluminized polyester film kites; they are capable of transmitting electricity if they come in contact with electric lines.
- Use a safe cord. It should be considerably stronger than the kite's estimated pull.



**National  
Safety  
Council**



## Happy Coats & Hachi-Maki

The first order of close to 100 AKA Hapi Coats and Hachi-Maki (headbands) has been sold out, and if there is sufficient demand, we will order more from Japan for delivery next March or April. They must be ordered by January 1 to allow time for dyeing, sewing and sea shipment.

For those who haven't seen them, the Hapi Coats are bright red with a blue and white AKA logo on the back, and the words American Kitefliers Association in English and Japanese in white on the black lapels--all pure cotton. The Hachi-Maki are a stylized American flag design with the AKA logo in red, white and blue--great identification on the flying field.

The cost will be \$35.00 each for the coats and \$2.50 each for the headbands, UPS shipping and COD fee included. Chances are they will be all one size, same as last year's Medium, which fits practically everyone. If you prefer extra-large let us know--if there are enough orders, we will get some extra-large coats. Otherwise we will ship the medium size unless instructed not to do so. Send your order with name, address, number of Hapi Coats (Medium, or Extra Large), and number of Hachi-Maki, to Dave Checkley, c/o The Kite Factory, 678 W. Prospect, Seattle, WA 98119. DO NOT SEND MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER.

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## Leadership Bulletin

It has been our observation that most AKA members are not as interested in the business side of running the association as they are in learning more about kites and kiting around the country. For this reason, we have limited the space in AKA NEWS devoted to association business. For those of you who want to know more about what's going on, we offer LEADERSHIP BULLETIN, a occasional update on board actions, finance, etc. To receive LEADERSHIP BULLETIN, simply write and request it.

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## Cabin Fever Retreat

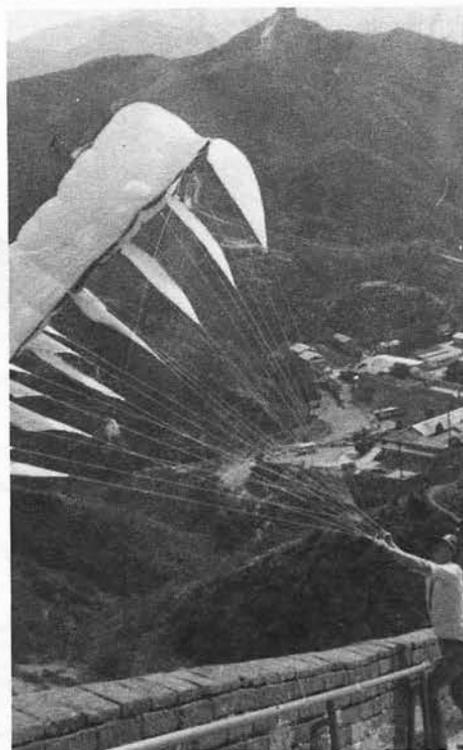
The G\*D\*V\*K\*S is planning an exciting "Cabin Fever Mini Retreat" on Saturday, January 15, 1983, from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Strawbridge & Clothier Store, Echelon Mall, Voorhees, NJ. Plans include four one-hour seminars: "Skins for Kites," "Bones for Kites," "Lines for Kites," and "Tools of the Trade." Also planned is a kitemaking clinic featuring a tissue paper Bermuda, stapled hornbeam, and trash bag eddy. One of the best things about such events is the opportunity to meet and swap with other kitefliers. Len Conover of G\*D\*V\*K\*S promises free Tyvek, free advice and door prizes every hour! The fee is \$10.00 for members of the G\*D\*V\*K\*S and \$16.00 for non-members (includes one-year's membership). Mail registration to G\*D\*V\*K\*S, P.O. Box 426, Newfield, NJ 08344.

# Kitefliers China Tour

Dave Checkley will be taking his 10th Annual Kitefliers Tour to Japan and China, leaving Seattle April 27 and returning May 16, 1983. Highlights include a dinner meeting with the Japan Kite Association at Restaurant Taimeiken in Tokyo, home of Modegi's Taimeiken Kite Museum, the annual JKA Kite Festival at the foot of Mt. Fuji, the world-famous Hamamatsu Kite Festival, and meetings with opportunities for collectors to purchase kites from kitemakers in the Hamamatsu and Tokyo areas.

Following the 10 days in Japan, the group will fly to Shanghai for a look at the world's largest city (3 1/2 days), then fly to Beijing (Peking) and Tianjin (Tientsin) to meet Chinese kitefliers at the Beijing Kite Institute at the National Art Gallery, fly kites with our Chinese hosts from the Great Wall, and visit kite factories in Tianjin for more kiteflying and the chance to buy Chinese kites--total of nine days in China.

Unlike most Japan and China tours, this is a real people-to-people experience, meeting and exchanging kite lore with your counterparts, with emphasis on kiteflying and kitemaking rather than traditional sightseeing. To make it easier to get around and so as not to overwhelm our hosts, the group will be limited to 16, half of whom are already committed. For a complete itinerary and information on costs, contact Dave Checkley, 678 West Prospect, Seattle, WA 98119, (206) 284-5350.



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## Singapore Anyone?

Shakib Gunn, the energetic first president of the newly-incorporated Singapore Kite Association, has put out a call for North American representation at their second annual Singapore Kite Festival, January 15-16, 1983. The first Singapore event in February of 1982 (see April 1982 AKA NEWS and 1st Quarter 1982 KITE LINES) drew a crowd of about 20,000, with prizes totalling US \$13,714. Kitefliers from Japan, Taiwan, India, Malaysia and Singapore participated, and this year a contingent from Hong Kong is also expected.

Dave Checkley is organizing a group from the U.S. and Canada, to leave from Seattle on January 10. They will make a rest stop in Bangkok enroute, and another stopover in Bangkok on the way back for a preview of traditional Thailand kite fighting and to meet with Thai kitemakers and kitefliers. Thai Airways International has a special low-cost airfare of \$1,244 round-trip from Seattle. Land costs in Singapore and Bangkok are not included. There is no minimum stay on this fare, so those who are short of time can come right back. Those who have more time can stop over in Japan after visiting Bangkok for a modest stopover charge. Anyone interested may contact Dave Checkley, 678 West Prospect, Seattle, WA 98119, (206) 284-5350.

## Port of History Kites Wanted

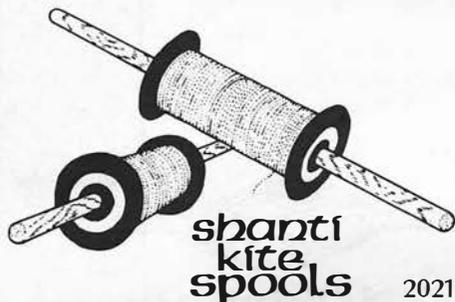
Discussions are in progress between the Port of History Museum in Philadelphia and the G\*D\*V\*K\*S concerning an exhibit of kites to be held in mid-summer 1983. Those interested in contributing kites for exhibit should contact AKA Region #3 Director Frank Hoke, 616 Countess Drive, Yardley, PA 19067.

## In Memory Frank Watlington

We are saddened to report that Frank Watlington, featured in the October issue of AKA NEWS, passed away in November. Prior to his death, Mr. Watlington had given us permission to print his plan for the classic Bermuda kite, featured along with others in his book Bermuda Kites, How to Make and Fly Them. Mr. Watlington was a true gentlemen, a fascinating man with multiple interests and a veteran kitemaker. His book is available through the Ben Franklin Kite Shoppe, One Half Pearl Street, Mystic, CT 06355, while supplies last.



The Quality goes in  
before the line goes out.



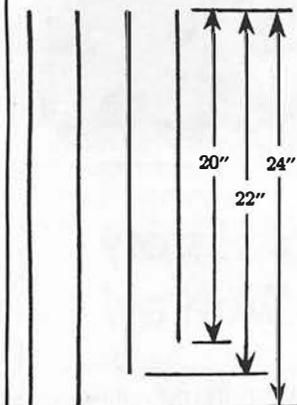
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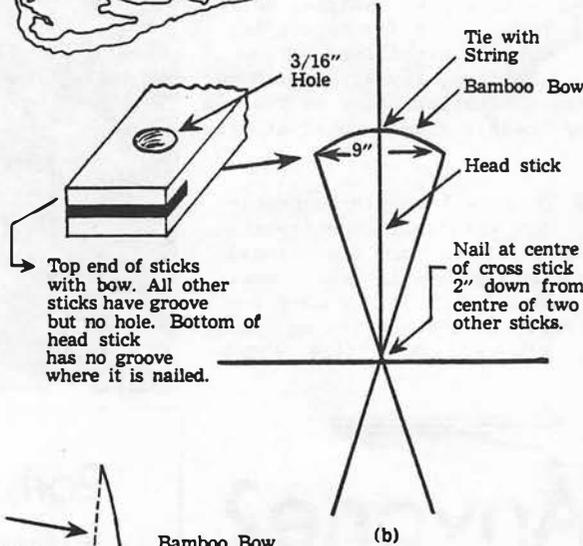
# Bermuda

For 1983, AKA has planned a first-class charter trip to Bermuda to participate in the traditional Good Friday kite fly. Already a number of members have signed up to join with thousands of Bermudians in celebrating this public holiday. Many more have expressed an interest. The trip is planned for March 30-April 3, 1983. For more information, contact the AKA office and request a brochure. Reservation deadline is February 15, 1983.

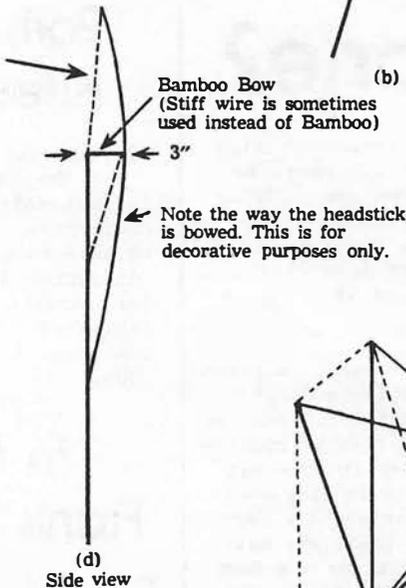
Meantime, to get you in the mood, we present Frank Watlington's plan for the Bermuda Head Stick Kite. An indigenous design, the classic Bermuda is made of bamboo, tissue paper, and string and features a long tail and "hummers."



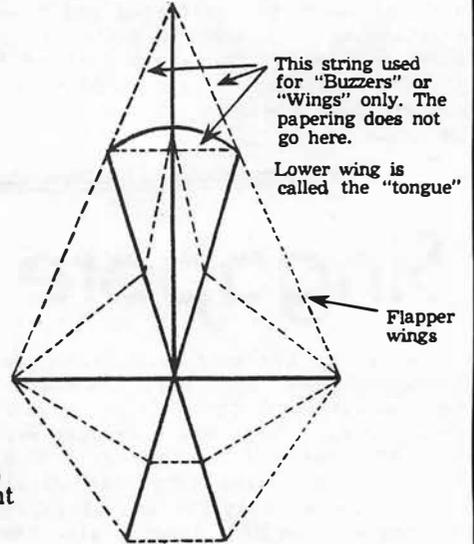
(a) Four sticks needed as above. The 22" stick is tapered toward the top (grooved end). This is the head stick.



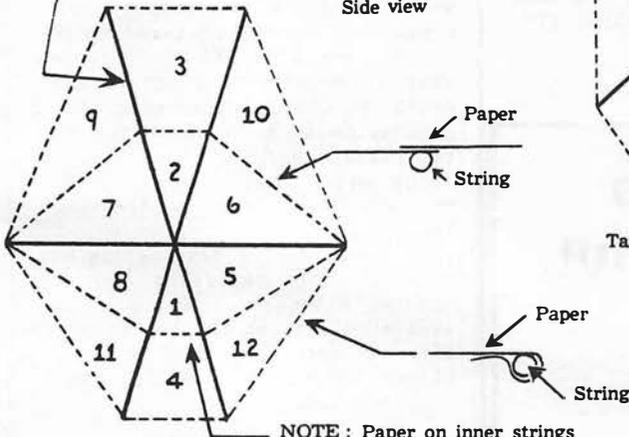
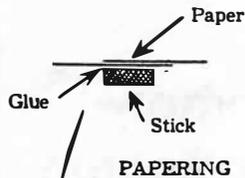
Top end of sticks with bow. All other sticks have groove but no hole. Bottom of head stick has no groove where it is nailed.



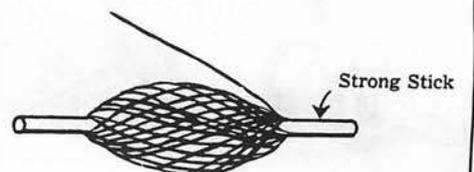
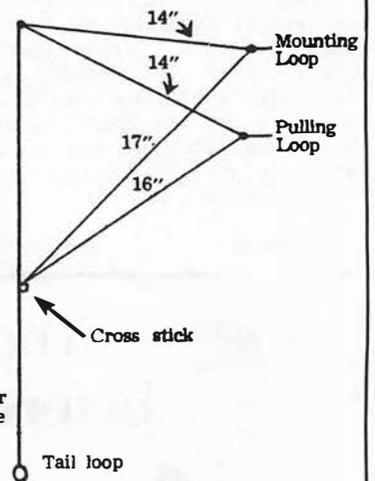
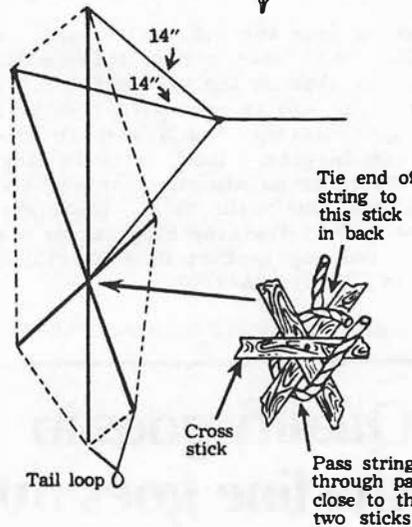
(d) Side view



(c) This is one way of putting on the string.



NOTE: Paper on inner strings does not get turned under and glued back on itself



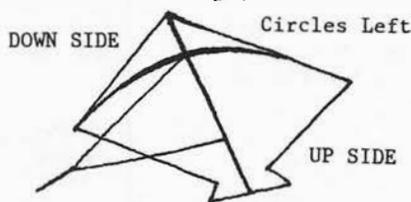
Install panels in numerical sequence for neatness. First cut out paper, then apply glue to stick and string. Turn over edges last.

# HOW COME MY KITE WON'T FLY?



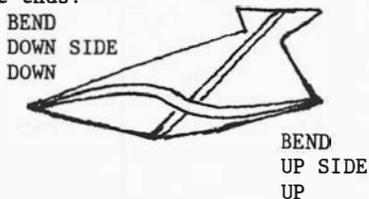
Fighter kites are skittish enough without the frustration of having them continually circle to one side. To straighten them out, so that they will circle in either direction, here are a few things to try:

1. If you have a made-in-India fighter kite with bamboo spars:



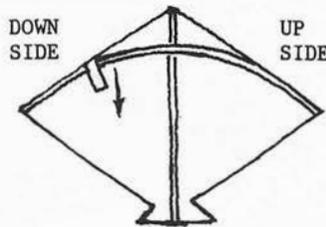
(Viewed from below.)

stiffen the DOWN-side and loosen the UP-side by grasping the cross-spar bow firmly and twisting it thus.



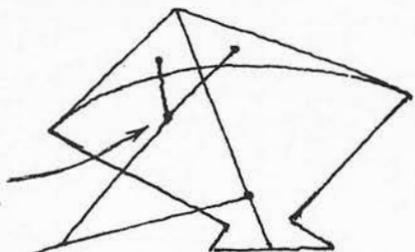
2. Apply a bandage of tape to the cross-spar on the DOWN-side,

pulling the spar back on that side about an eighth of an inch:



This does three things. It makes the wing surface more taut, lengthens that side of the cross-spar and makes the spar on that side less flexible--all at the same time. Therefore, a very little adjustment will go a long way.

3. Takeshi Nishibayashi, "Nishi" to his friends, likes a three-legged bridle to correct off-center pull:

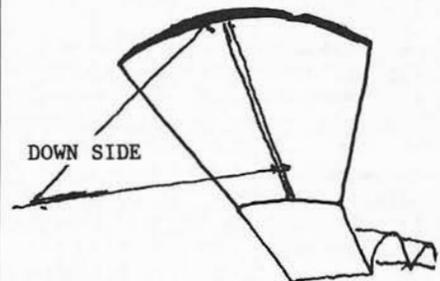


SLIDE KNOT TO ONE SIDE SLIGHTLY

For a complete treatise on fighter kites, see Mel Govig's article in *KITELINES*, 1st quarter, 1982. These details are about the only ones he failed to mention.

4. Another method that's been tried on oriental kites, especially "cobra" or "dragon" kites, is the re-tying of the forward leg of the two-legged bridle to one side of the spine spar, along the cross-spar:

TIE OFF-CENTER



This one is veeerrry tricky, however. You might be surprised to find that you need to re-tie the bridle to the side you don't expect. It has something to do with stiffening the spar on the DOWN-side. It goes against all logic, but seems to work.

Next Issue: Handling Bamboo.



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## AKA News Needs You

AKA NEWS is looking for a few good contributors. We need kitefliers to share information, plans, report on kite flies, suggest ideas, ask questions, submit photographs and much more. Let us hear from you. We'd love to consider your submissions for publication. A handsome Contributor's Patch awaits you. Write **AKA NEWS**, 113 W. Franklin Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

# Kids Kite Making Builds Winners

Copyright, Margaret Greger, 1982.

How do I feel about Charlie Brown and his kite? About his chronic, predestined failure to fly a kite? I don't like it, that's how. Kites should not be a symbol of failure but of soaring, spirit-freeing success.

I've overseen the making of a few thousand kites in my "career" as a teacher of kitemaking. There was one kite, a Siamese snake not that carefully made, which I could not get to fly--and that on a day when 80 third-graders were flying 80 snakes. But that wasn't failure. I said, "Let's take care of this. We'll frame another face, put this tail on it, and come back out and fly," and that is what we did.

In my classrooms I don't want to teach children what many adults are already sure of--that kites are hard to make and really don't fly very well. I go to make winners and I do it with a variety of kites. Consider the Vietnamese kite. Easy, inexpensive, it will even fly upside down. This summer at our local Sidewalk Show, where I was selling kites and books, a nine-year-old boy from Cannon Beach, whose mother was selling photographs, spent much of the show's first day flying one of the

Little Plastic Deltas which I had laid out as "test kites."

Early the next morning he asked hesitantly if I would consider trading a kite for a photograph--trades among artists being one of the pleasurable benefits of participating in a crafts show. Kevin was fearful I would say no but I told him I would be by to close a deal as soon as I could. I traded two books and some matchstick bamboo reed for a fine photograph of the Arizona desert and Kevin stopped flying my kite and disappeared. Soon he was back to see if I had a ruler. No ruler, but a paper cutter to trim his newspaper to 12" x 12". Then he came to borrow glue. Then crepe streamers for tails. I was demonstrating the Vietnamese kite and had invited him to watch, but he just smiled and kept borrowing. Finally, he brought his own Vietnamese kite around for help with the bridle--and string to fly it. It was an occasion of total pride for Kevin, his mother and me.

As classroom work goes and as crafts go, kites are different. When it flies, it's a winner, and nothing matches that experience.

Lee Wilbur, who teaches first grade in Kennewick, Washington, uses the Dutch kite in his



classroom. When he called to invite me to come see what he was doing, I remonstrated with him, "Lee, the Dutch kite is hard! There are so many skills involved, folding, cutting, gluing, knots. I don't make that kite in first grade unless I have a helper for every three students."

"Well," he said, "we have a 15-minute activity period every day. The first day we fold, the second day we glue, and by the end of the week, we are ready to go out to the football field and fly." They had been making Dutch kites for two weeks when I went to see them. They could make kites on their lunch hour, they could repair kites, they understood bridling a two-stick kite. They absolutely glowed with competence.

As teachers of kitemaking we should set up our classroom situations to insure success. Sufficient time and good work space are important. Now I want to talk about the importance of eliminating such phrases as "you did that wrong" or "you made a mistake" from the instructor's vocabulary.

Remember that almost anything can be made to fly and there are not many kites with only one "right" way. Because I don't want to spend an hour working out multiple bridling systems for 30 ill-made kites, I stress precision and care--and work with tolerant kite designs.

Nowadays most of my kite evangelism is done in teacher workshops and in talks to groups of teachers and librarians. Here, I spread the word that I have patterns, bibliographies and scarce materials (matchstick bamboo reed in these parts) available free or at my cost. And my real goal in all this is not more kites or even better kites, but competent kids, people who know that the work of their hands will fly.



Look MOM  
I MADE IT  
MYSELF

# letters

...Our research department is very enthusiastic about hi-density poly as a kite material. It is inexpensive (read: free), offers great dimensional stability, light weight and high strength. Indeed, if one were to design the perfect no-sew kite covering, it would resemble this remarkable new "crinkly plastic."

Does anyone have a source for virgin hi-density poly? By the time we cut open the shopping bags and work around the store logo imprint, we end up with some rather strange shapes. On the other hand, we do not yet have the need for the full 50,000 feet/roll from the factory. It would be ideal if we could acquire "roll ends" or similar small quantities.

Jerry Harris  
Nashville, TN 37212

Having recently joined the AKA as a brand new member, I very much enjoy the newsletter which gives me a lot of information on what goes on in the kiteflying world.

I have just one request, would you please let me know how to obtain an AKA crest or badge and also let me know the cost in Canadian currency.

Art Ross  
Vancouver, B.C.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

AKA patches are available for \$3.50, including postage and handling. Also available, are Seattle and Manassas convention patches, each \$3.50 U.S. You can get a package of any three patches for \$10.00.

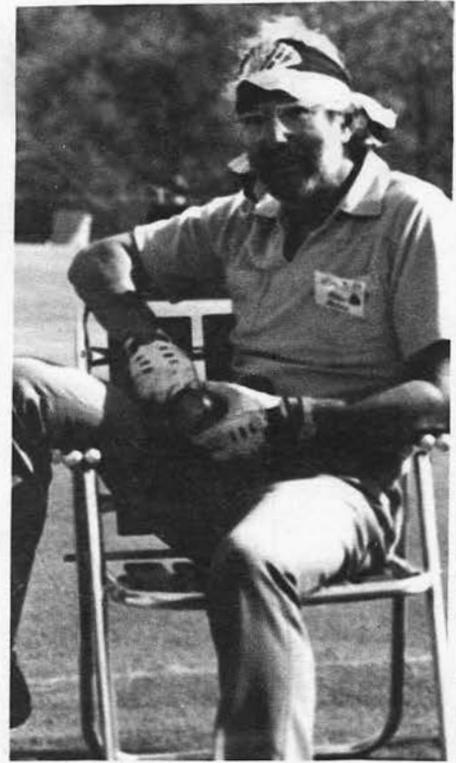
A new item is a car window decal, just \$1.00, including postage and handling.

Canadian members--The exchange rate changes daily and there is no way we can quote a price in Canadian currency. The best thing you can do is to go to your bank and get a money order in U.S. funds. If you absolutely can't do that, then estimate that the Canadian dollar is worth something around 80% of the U.S. dollar and send the appropriate amount in a Canadian check.

Following the tremendous success of AKA's 1982 Convention in Detroit, MI, Miller Makey, 1983 Convention Chairman is already hard at work planning the 1983 annual meeting. Tentative dates are October 6-9, 1983, and the site is Stouffer's Dublin Hotel, located at the northwest corner of Columbus, OH. A favorable room rate has been negotiated at this above-average facility and free transportation from the Port Columbus International Airport is available.

Preliminary program plans include a night flight, featuring lighted kites; banner competition (don't get working yet--specifications will be published); informal flying; show and tell; demonstrations; competitions with novice, competitor and professional classes; the ever-popular auction and more.

For those who wish to extend their stay in the Columbus area and take in the sites, nearby attractions include the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, the Neil Armstrong Space Museum, and historic villages and shops in Dublin, German Village, Put-in-Bay, and the Ohio Historical Society's Ohio Village.



Miller Makey.  
AKA 1983 Convention Chairman

Look for details in upcoming issues of AKA NEWS.



What's been going up besides a variety of original sleds made at a recent workshop has been announced by a spokeswoman for Louisiana's only kite club. The Atchafalaya Breeze Teasers recently awarded two beautiful kites to some lucky Tri-City area residents. Joy Wagoner of Morgan City was the recipient of a multi-colored dragon while Wayne Nix of Patterson claimed an imposing Eagle, when raffle results were announced.

The Breeze Teasers have also elected a new slate of officers for the 1982-83 year. New president is Andrea Burke. Co-treasurer responsibilities are shared by Rita Wells and Polly Todd. Public relations officer

will be Linda Clark who is also now spearheading the kiter's fund-raising endeavors. Secretarial duties will be assumed by Cameron Todd. Taking on committee assignments are Patricia Nix, Dace Daigle, Jodie Wells, Will Nix, Ruth Nix, Will Todd and Jane Todd.

The Atchafalaya Breeze Teasers were formed two years ago and meet regularly at the Patterson Branch Library in Patterson, Louisiana. For information, call Linda Clark, 384-6959, or Andrea Burke, 395-9536.

I am very interested in the hobby (kiteflying) and it has become, to me, an "addictive past-time." It isn't a good day without a consistent 10 mph wind. Maybe you should change your name to "American Kitefliers Anonymous."

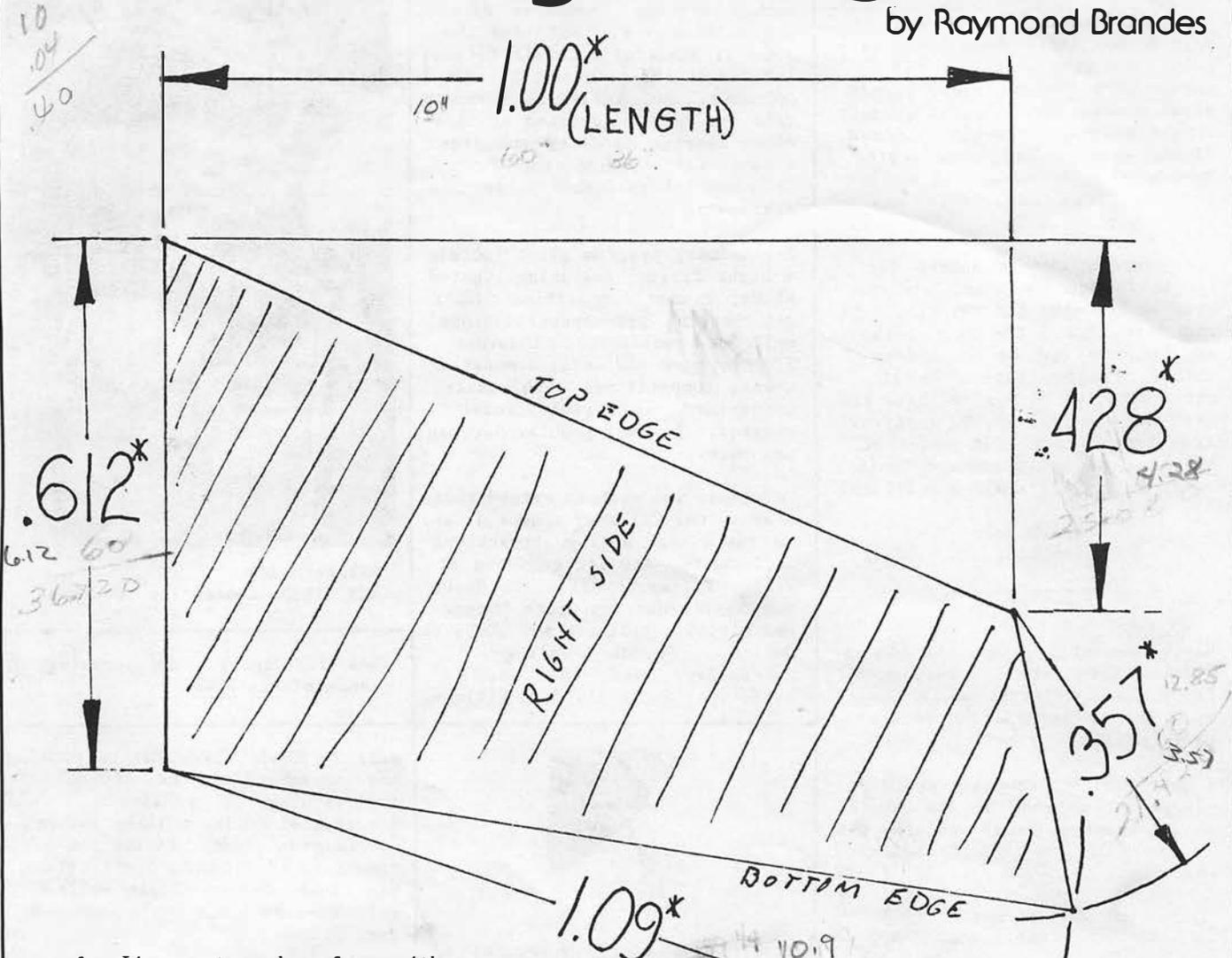
James Shade  
Mechanicsburg, PA

## MY KITE by Bernice Turner

I tossed my kite into the sky  
It fluttered happily and seemed to sigh.  
I tugged it gently - let out some string  
And moments later - I heard it sing!

# Rotating Drogue

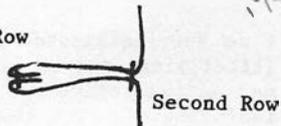
by Raymond Brandes



1. Line up top edge of one with bottom edge of next, wrong sides together. Stitch close to edge. Use alternating, contrasting colors.

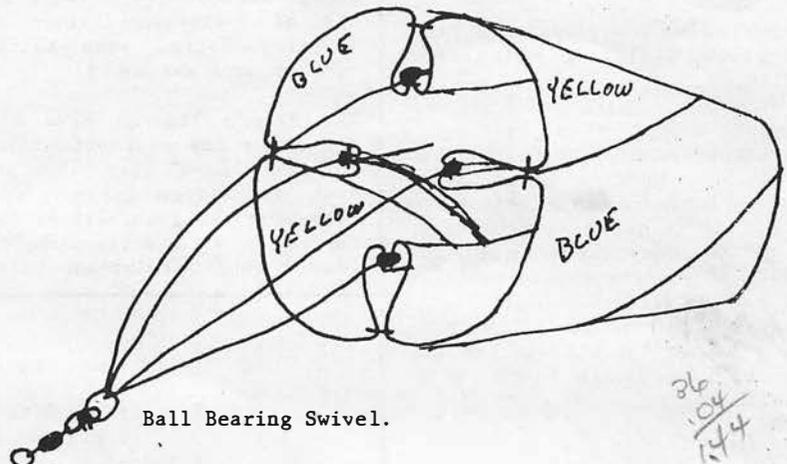
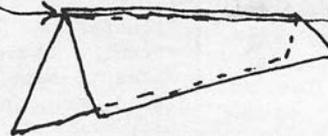
2. Now fold right sides together and place a row of stitches .04X from the first.

First Row



3. Bridle length is 2.00X. Attach to points as shown.

STITCH CLOSE TO EDGE



NOTE: X = Desired Length. Multiply dimensions by X for pattern sizes.



# Member Merchants

The following merchants have agreed to allow a 10% discount to AKA members. This is a costly and serious step by these merchants. They deserve the support and patronage of AKA members. The AKA membership card is valuable.

- High As A Kite  
34 Princess St.  
Sausalito, CA 94965  
415-332-8944
- Carey's Kite Winder  
7671 North Avenue  
Lemon Grove, CA 92045
- Rainbow Kite Company  
26 Park Avenue  
Venice, CA 90291  
213-396-8096
- Seaport Kite Shop  
867 W. Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101  
714-232-2268
- Kites, Kites, Kites  
55 Alice Street  
Oakland, CA 94607
- Kite & Gift, Inc.  
333 Jefferson Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133  
415-885-5785
- Hyperkites  
280 Surf View Court  
Del Mar, CA 92014  
(714) 231-4977
- Colors of the Wind  
2900 Main Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(213) 399-8044
- Kite Dreams  
741 Maple Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
(213) 614-8911
- Kitemakers of San Francisco  
159 28th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94131  
(415) 641-1226
- Fighting Kite Co.  
3116 Arlotte Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
(213) 598-5306
- Victoria Kite Store  
166-560 Johnson St.  
B.C., Canada V8I 3C6
- Sky Scrapers  
2563 15th Street  
Denver, CO 80211  
(303) 433-9518
- Into The Wind/Kites  
1738 Pearl Street  
Boulder, CO 80302  
303-449-5356
- The Kite Store  
1415 Larimer Square  
Denver, CO 80202  
303-623-2353
- Ben Franklin Kite Shoppe  
One-Half Pearl Street  
Mystic, CT 06355  
(203) 536-7004
- The Kite Site  
3101 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
202-965-4230
- The Kite Shop  
49 Rehobeth Avenue  
Rehobeth Beach, DE 19971  
(302) 227-1616
- Heavenly Body Kites  
409 Greene Street  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-296-2535
- Stanton Hobby Shop, Inc.  
4734 North Milwaukee Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60630  
312-283-6446
- Flying High  
8 Dock Square  
Rockport, MA 01966  
(617) 546-6819
- Kites Aveigh  
6 Fleet Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
301-268-6065
- Rocking Horse Toy Co.  
125 E. Bay Street  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740  
(616) 526-7236
- Soar-n-Dipity  
1102 Flushing Road  
Flint, MI 48504  
(313) 234-8320
- Kite Kraft  
245 S. Main  
Frankenmuth, MI 48734  
(517) 781-3029
- Sky Line Kite Shop  
743 Beaubien  
Detroit, MI 48226  
(313) 962-6876
- Ride the Wind Kite Shop  
524 S. Main St.  
St. Charles, MO 63301
- High Fly Kite Co.  
33 Evergreen Lane  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
(609) 429-5735
- Village Sporting Goods  
Historic Towne of Smithville  
Smithville, NJ 08201  
(609) 652-1435
- Gone With The Wind  
Old Cobblestone Village  
Vernon, NJ 07462  
(201) 827-8754
- Go Fly A Kite, Inc.  
153 East 53rd  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 308-1666
- Outta Sight Kites  
12-77 Country Village  
Kingston, NY 12401  
(914) 331-9085
- Go Fly A Kite  
1201 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10028  
(212) 472-2623
- Ken's Kustom Kites  
24 Wickham Drive  
Warwick, NY 10990  
(914) 986-4963
- The Kite Kompany/What's Up  
4500 Chagrin River Road  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022  
(216) 247-4222
- Kites & Other Delights  
99 West 10th Street  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(503) 345-4856
- Kites & Other Delights  
Fifth Street Market  
Eugene, OR 97401  
(503) 344-KITE
- The Rainbow Store  
Market Place  
Bethlehem, PA 18018  
215-865-9424
- Mariah Kite Company  
490 Easton Road  
Horsham, PA 19044  
800-523-2572
- The Rainbow Store  
952 Hamilton Mall  
Allentown, PA 18102  
215-770-1080
- Klassy Kites  
Sheraton Valley Forge Hotel  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
(215) 337-2000
- Krazy Kites  
Virginia Beach Fishing Pier  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
(804) 422-5483
- Great Winds Kite Shop  
166 S. Jackson Street  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 623-7095
- Fish Creek Kite Company  
R.R. 1 Box 205  
Fish Creek, WI 54212  
414-868-3769

# membership application

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 We occasionally share our mailing list for uses we consider beneficial to the membership. If you do not wish to have your name made available to others, please indicate below.  
 Please don't include my name.  
 Indicate category of membership desired:  
 SINGLE MEMBERSHIP, \$10.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (ORI) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP, \$10.00 for first member, \$1.00 for each additional member in the same household. (first member) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (\$1.00 x no.) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names of other family members: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 For USA 1st class mail add \$4.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 For Canada or Mexico add \$4.00, other foreign address \$5.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail this application with check or money order, payable to AKA, to:  
 American Kitefliers Association  
 1104 Fidelity Building  
 210 N. Charles Street  
 Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
 TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SHARE ...  
 ... YOUR INTEREST in Kites with the American Kitefliers Association. Your membership includes:  
 • 8i-monthly newsletter  
 • 10% member discount\*  
 • Membership card  
 • Latest listing of kite events  
 • Chance to meet thousands of kitefliers  
 Plus a chance to attend the Annual Convention, and to compete in the National Kite Festival!

\* at participating stores



# Your Ad Here?

Get the most from your advertising dollars and support AKA too! AKA has new sizes and new rates. Ad sizes include 1/3 and 1/6 page ads in three different shapes each. Rates are:

	NO. OF ISSUES		
	1	3	6
1/3	\$60.00	150.00	250.00
1/6	\$35.00	90.00	150.00

For more details, write:  
 AKA  
 1104 Fidelity Building  
 Baltimore, MD 21201

or call (301) 752-3320.



## the Discount Kites by Mail Co.

"OUR NAME ALMOST SAYS IT ALL"

### 15% to 25% OFF LIST PRICE

KITES, ACCESSORIES & KITEMAKING SUPPLIES FROM ALL WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURERS

## CATALOGUE 81

Box 3626 Cherry Hill, NJ 08034



**LEAPIN' RAINBOWS**--Steve Edeiken of Rainbow Kite Company is changing the meaning of stunt kites. Recently at the Lincoln City (Oregon) Kite Festival, Steve did a few stunts of his own. When a brisk breeze caught his train of 40 Rainbows, its pull lifted Steve more than ten feet off the ground and carried him some 40 feet down the beach. Said the normally sure-footed Edeiken (the man who flies the kites in the Peter Pan peanut butter commercial), "The first lift-off was a little surprising and at times I was nearly 20 feet in the air, but as the blood started pumping, it was exciting and fun." Who knows, maybe a whole new "stunt flying" event will be created. Good news for stunt fliers--this is probably an event which Red Braswell won't win!!!!

# AKA NEWS

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by

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