

Kiting

AKA News



The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

VOLUME 11, NO. 1

JANUARY 1989

IN THIS ISSUE:

A WORD FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

The Miller administrative takes off.....



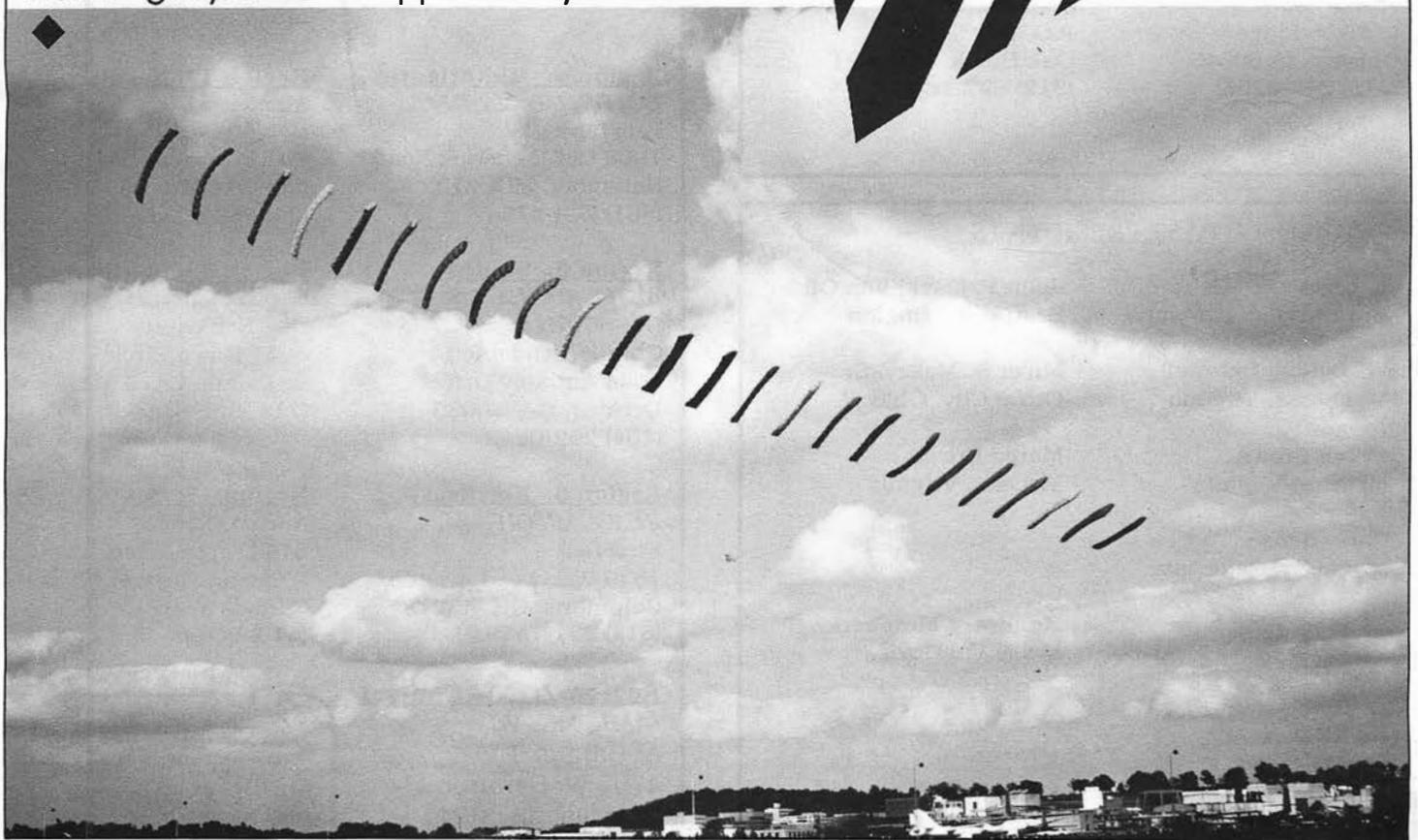
CONFESSIONS FROM A FLEXIFANATIC

Al Hargus gives up his secrets.....



HAVING A KITING EVENT?

How to get your event approved by the AKA.....



KEEP UP WITH KITING



AKA

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION



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Jim M. Miller
1723 N. Orleans
Chicago, IL 60614
(312) 624-8692

Corresponding Secretary

Write to the President

First Vice President

Eric Wolff
3530 N. Fremont
Chicago, IL 60657
(312) 327-6814

Recording Secretary

Pat Sotich
3851 W. 62nd Place
Chicago, IL 60629
(312) 735-1353

Second Vice President

Susan Mayer
4550 N. Beacon
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(312) 275-7242

Treasurer

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3851 W. 62nd Place
Chicago, IL 60629
(312) 735-1353

Third Vice President

Elmer Wharton
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Chicago, IL 60645
(312) 743-8225

Director at Large

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P.O. Box 3484
Oak Brook, IL 60521
(312) 627-7648

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315 N. Bayard Street
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(505) 538-9083

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AND ARCHIVES**

Robert Price
3839 Dustin Road
Burtonsville, MD 20866

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(617) 662-6999

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4705 W. Byron
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(312) 545-9572

COMMENTS?
WRITE OR CALL
TO YOUR
REGIONAL
DIRECTORS!

Kiting

IN THIS ISSUE



Volume 11, No. 1

DEPARTMENTS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER.....2
 TWO STRING WORLD6
 KITEMAKING - THE ART AND THE SCIENCE 7 & 8
 CALENDAR OF KITING EVENTS 10 & 11
 WHERE IT'S AT 12
 MEMBER MERCHANT LISTING 14 & 15
 VARIABLE WINDS ALOFT (Letters)..... 20 & 21

ARTICLES

OBTAINING 'AKA APPROVAL'3
 FLEXIFOILS "CHICAGO STYLE"4
 PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE KITE FLY & BAKE OFF.....5
 PROPOSED AKA STANDARDS.....9

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Patrice McFadden - Desktop Publishing

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Members of the Editorial Board provide articles, technical review and advice to the editor of *Kiting*. Fred Bell, Bill Bigge, Red Braswell, Bevan Brown, Margo Brown, Jon Burkhardt, Tom Casselman, Dr. Paul E. Garber, Pete Ianuzzi, Robert Ingraham, Hazel Ingraham, Nancy Keating, Arthur Kurle, Charlie Sotich, Jack Van Gilder, Corey Jensen, Cherie McFadden.

Submitting Articles and Photos

Submissions to *Kiting* from AKA members are welcome. Members are invited to submit articles about kitesflying, kitemaking and design, kiting programs and activities; announcements of upcoming events; kite plans; photographs and drawings, etc.

Please type and double-space articles for *Kiting*. Be sure to include sender's name and phone number.

Photos must be in sharp focus and may be either color or black and white. Color photos are especially welcome. AKA will extend membership six months to members whose photo(s) are used on the cover of *Kiting*. On a separate sheet of paper, please include photographer's name, date and location of event where photo was taken, name and designer of kite, and name(s) of individual(s) shown in photo(s).

Deadlines: 1st of month before the issue of publication for articles, photos and event information: 10th of the month before publication for camera-ready ads. Send to Patrice McFadden, 75 Holly Park Circle, San Francisco, CA 94110

Send membership forms, change of address, payments and renewals to the AKA office at 1559 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. Send membership querier and historical material for AKA Archives to Robert Price, 3839 Dustin Road, Burtonsville, MD 20866. Other AKA officers may be contacted directly at the addresses and phone numbers listed.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Jim Miller

A New Year ... A New President ... and lots of the same challenges!

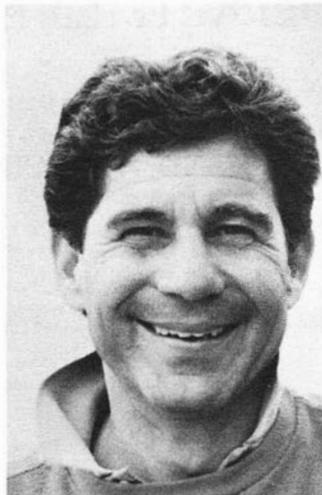
I'm excited about being your new President, and I truly hope, with your help, to accomplish much during this term of office. Running for this office did not necessitate kissing babies or making a lot of campaign promises, but we nevertheless had a platform, and some priorities:

We must increase the membership of the AKA. This is **Priority Number One**. Right now we are too small to afford a management company, yet big enough that we cannot expect to continue forever on 100% volunteer help. We are extremely fortunate to have Bob Price handling all of the membership details (renewals, check deposits, list updating, Kiting mailing labels, etc.) as well as the archives and much more. But, the plain fact is we must prepare for a time when we will need professional staff assistance. The economics of publishing the newsletter also require increased membership. We simply have to spread the fixed publishing costs over a greater number of copies to reduce the per unit cost.

Many other hobby/sports associations are substantially larger than the AKA — there is no reason why we cannot double in size, and in the coming months we will be investigating all avenues for increasing the membership. Two subjects under current discussion are the inclusion by kite manufacturers of a kite techniques and safety book

(with AKA membership information) packaged with each kite and possible advertisements in national magazines (an experiment that will be funded by the Ben Blinn fund). Your comments and suggestions on this subject will be welcome.

Priority Number Two — we must make sure that the organization is structured to serve the needs



of all its members. Interest in dual line flying is growing rapidly and has placed a resultant emphasis on the structure of competitions. For this reason we appointed First Vice President Eric Wolff chairman of a newly formed dual line committee. Its task will be to thoroughly review the subjects of competition rules, qualification of judges, insurance requirements for major events, and other matters concerning this rapidly expanding facet of kiting. At the same time, we cannot neglect the needs of the single line fliers who sometimes feel they are

"pushed into a corner" at major kiting events (including the national convention). We think the 1988 convention achieved a better "balance", but we recognize that the AKA exists for all kitefliers, and we must be diligent in making sure single line kites have the attention paid to them that they deserve.

Priority Number Three — we must have a **timely** newsletter. We cannot allow a repeat of the past year. A newsletter exists to inform, and one of its main purposes is to notify the membership of upcoming kite events (local, regional, or national). The publishing of "upcoming" events three months after they have occurred is useless! We want and need your help in providing material for the newsletter. If your club has an interesting event, make sure someone is assigned the job of writing a short article for Kiting; include pictures if you can. The membership wants more kite building articles — please, those of you who can share unique kite plans or techniques, write them up and send them in! We want to put in the newsletter more of what you want to see.

The AKA has been plagued in the past with regionalism, factionalism and members feeling that their voices didn't count. We in Chicago want to structure the organization to further all aspects of kiting for all our members. We're going to try to do our best for you — the AKA. Your comments are always welcome — talk to your regional director or write directly to the president. Good winds,

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THAT THE 1990 CONVENTION HAS BEEN GRANTED TO
"THE ASSOCIATED OREGON KITEFLIERS" (AOK).
THE CONVENTION WILL BE HELD ON
COUMBUS DAY WEEKEND — SEASIDE, OREGON

OBTAINING "AKA APPROVAL"

by Cherie McFadden

There's a brand new year coming our way. It will be full of balmy breezes and skies colored with beautiful kites of every design!

Month by month, there will be Kite Festivals in communities around the nation. Children of all ages from 2 to 92 will celebrate the wind and sky. Join in wherever you can! There is beauty in belonging. Bring your kite, small or large, store bought or home-made. Join the fun and help wherever you can to keep these wondrous events happening.

If you are organizing a kiting event, please take the time to fill out this application for AKA approval. It will add \$1,000,000 in liability insurance coverage for every AKA member attending the event. Please use these pages to apply for approval.

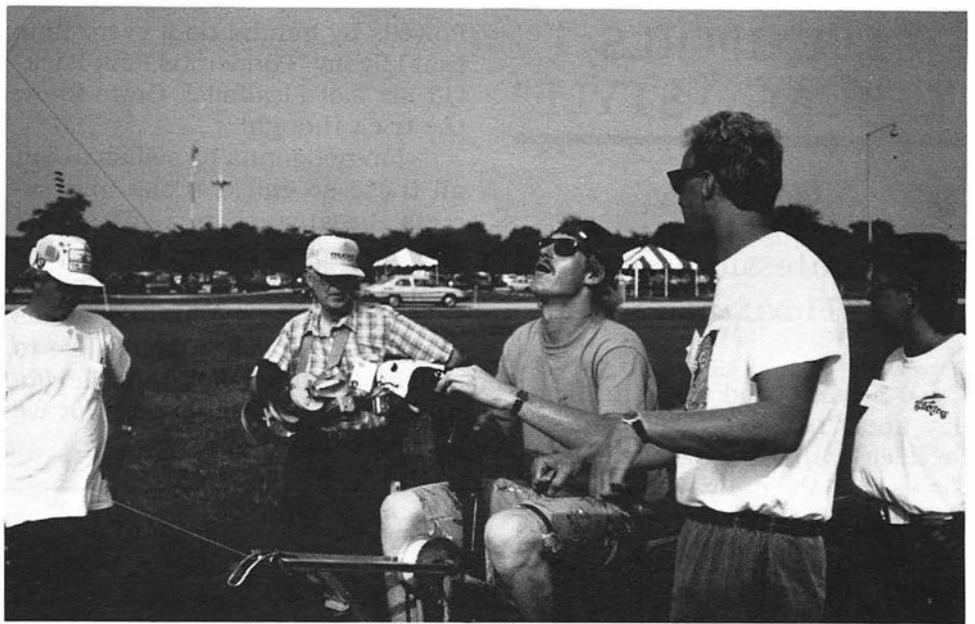
PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING "AKA APPROVAL" FOR A SPECIFIC KITE EVENT IN THE USA

"AKA Approval" means that AKA endorses and approves an event and that the event qualifies for AKA insurance coverage. It is to be noted, however, that the failure of a kite event to be approved for "AKA Approval" does not necessarily mean that it is disapproved by AKA. "AKA Approval" is awarded for a kite event of a specific date and time: "AKA Approval", therefore can not be carried over to another year or any other date or time.

The following requirements must be met in order for an event to be awarded "AKA Sanction":

I.

The event is sponsored by an AKA affiliate club and/or the Chair-person for the event is both an AKA member in good standing and an experienced kiteflier.



What are all these guys looking at up there?

II.

The Chair-person assures, in writing (as provided on the application form), that the plans for the event include:

a.

There will be at least one AKA member on duty at all times, during the event, who is designated "Safety Coordinator". The Safety Coordinator will notify kites during a tour of duty. This tour of duty can be for the duration of the entire event or be scheduled with other person's tour of duty, allowing these persons to have off duty times when they may fly their kite(s).

b.

The AKA member designated "Safety Coordinator" will be familiar with the duties and have agreed to serve in this capacity. The Safety Coordinator also agrees to file* a "Report of Kite Incident" within 48 hours after the event is completed-whether there was an incident or not.

c.

The space selected for the event is deemed by the Executive Board to be adequate and, as necessary or appropriate, marked off

to designated the areas for the events included in the program.

d.

Plans for any large kites (over 5 pounds and/or over 200 pounds pull) and figure (stunt) kites – one string or two strings, provide for adequate space, cleared of all other kites, for this performance.

e.

If cutting line is to be allowed (we prefer th at it is not), the entire flying areas will be given to the fighters – no other kites will be in the air at that time.

*To "file a report" means, here, to send a completed report to the AKA office so as to be postmarked within 48 hours of the close of the event for which he/she is serving as "Safety Coordinator".

III.

Assurance that no for profit organization will receive any of the process from the event.

(continued on page 13)

FLEXIFOILS "CHICAGO STYLE"

by Al Hargus

Confessions of a Flexifanatic

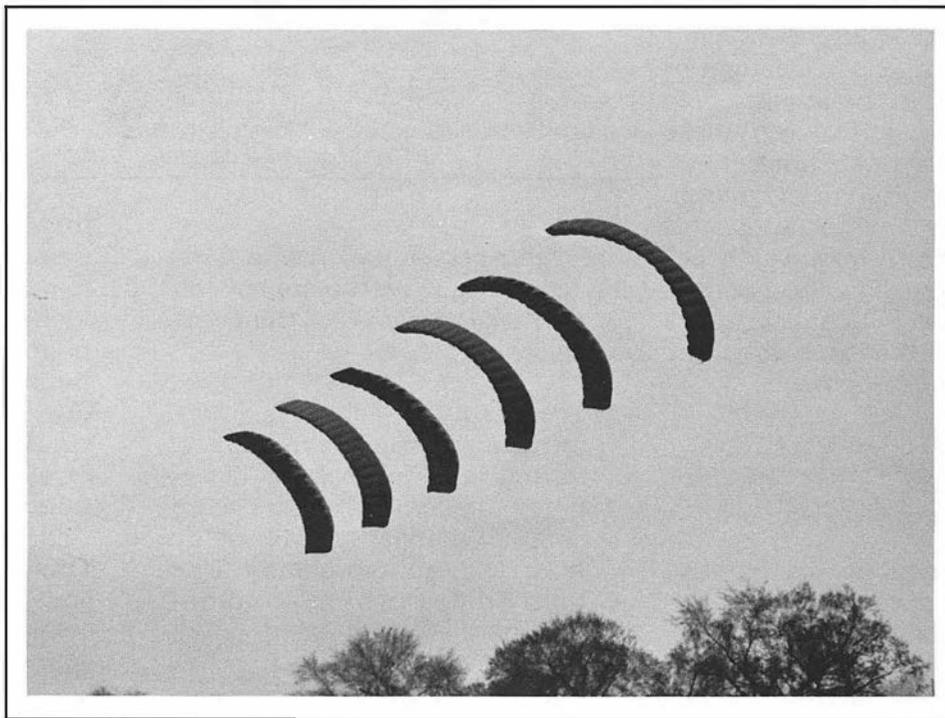
Pick any good weekend flying day and Chicago's lake front will be filled with *Flexifoils* in the air. Sometimes as many as twenty or thirty at once.

Most kites think that Flexifoils are easy, a no fuss stunt kite. Attach the lines and fly, that's it! No bridal adjustments, no train line measuring, and that is probably true, but there are tricks to flying these super stunters. Numbers don't lie, Flexifoils have the best lift to weight ratio of any stunt kite now on the market. Bar none!

Flexifoils fly in less wind than any other stunter. Try flying Trlbys or Hyperkites in five mile per hour winds. I've flown six and nine (yes, nine foot—measure them gang!) foot Flexifoils in that low of a wind. You have to know the secret. Try launching a Skynasaur by yourself — I regularly launch all my Flexi's by myself and in trains unassisted, *but you gotta know the trick!* Try flying one or three or five Trlbys, or change the sequence of your Hyperkite train out on the field; or add your buddies Hawaiian and his friends to yours and fly them in a train. You can do it in a flash with Flexifoils— if you know how! Try and fly 135 sq. ft. of Peter

Powells by hand, I do it every time that I fly my "Ponderous Pink Pack" (11 six foot Flexifoils). Gotta know the trick though!

I'm not gonna be selfish about all these so called tricks and secrets, because there really aren't any. Just common sense, and the fact that we fly Flexifoils so much that time and trial and error has given us the nack. I would like to also add at this point, that *Flexifanatics* may be a bit crazy, but we are generous!



Light Wind Flexi Flying: Because the Flexifoil has such a large lift surface in comparison to its weight (12 sq. ft. to 12 oz.), it will normally fly in pretty light winds anyway. To get them up in light winds be very conscious of the line you use. 300# Skybond is fairly large diameter line and offers a lot of wind resistance in light winds. I have flown nine foot Flexifoils in 8 mph or less on 50# Kevlar. Also concerning lines, longer lines of say, 200 to 400 ft. lengths help get the foil up into better winds.

A Flexifoil flies because of airflow across the sail, but if the fiberglass rod doesn't flex it won't fly. Try changing the rod to lighter fiberglass tapered rods. Fishing stores have a large selection of ultralight graphite and boron rods that are amazingly light, yet very flexible. Experiment and find a good replacement, ultralow wind substitute. Caution with those graphite rods though, they are flexible, but very brittle, they bend, but one fast crash and they shatter.

S e l f
Launch for
Flexifoils:
If you have a good breeze and flat surfaces, Flexifoils are hard to keep down. High grass or uneven ground prevents the airflow from entering the cells, and the kite won't launch. Try putting a wooden

dowel rod in front of each side of the kite. File a small notch in the end of each. To self launch, place the three or four foot rods about four feet in front of the kite, lay each flying line onto the notch of each rod, walk back to the handles and slowly, carefully, pull the kite up to the top of the rods. Patience and a little breeze and the cells will inflate. In moderate breezes the kite will lift right off the rods. To launch a stack of Flexifoils, use the same procedure,

(continued on page 16)

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE KITE FLY AND BAKE OFF

by Bernice Turner

The Fifth Annual International Open

Seaside Heights, New Jersey
Sunday, December 4, 1988
High winds and c-c-cold!!!
(four dog weather)

Thirty-one people braved the cold to attend this super professional event (especially because the goodies are always of a gastronomical delight!). Long Johns, ear flaps, layered clothing, insulated whatever and good-natured wisecracking kept the participants sufficiently warm to enjoy a jolly good time - Old Man Sun helped too!!

Great expectations were realized when the attention of those gathered shifted somewhat (!!) from eating goodies to viewing the handiwork of the Peanut Butter Cookie (whatever) Kite Creators as entries were shown (not flown) due to extremely high winds which would have destroyed the kites. The judges, **Frank Hoke, Scott Spencer and Olan Turner**, studied, discussed, restudied, rediscussed, etc., etc. and finally to the expectant (yes, there was a real 'expectant' Mother-to-be, Cindy Lentz) spectators and participants announced the following:

First Place: Nancy and Ed Spencer with their polyester train of five appliqued deltas, each depicting a step in the making of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Second Place: Charlie Sotich with his Mr. Peanut three foot sled, the long tail imprinted with the name of the event, and at the end - what else (?) Peanuts (plastic of course). This very kite had arrived

one day late last year for entry and has been patiently, we are told, waiting its unveiling. It was made of plastic with his usual fine workmanship.

Third Place: Len Conover (Father of Theodore Edward O'Bear) with his train of seven Dutch kites. These were made of colored construction type paper imprinted with, what else (?) pictures of peanut butter jars, and on the extended cross spars was a peanut (real!) on either end. This entry had long plastic tails which were determined to fly!

Runners up with great entries: **Joan Town and Sue Wick**. Joan had made a sled using a side of a peanut butter cookie box and tail ending with a peanut or two, and Sue used brown craft paper to make a barn door kite with a very large face and a peanut butter cookie in its mouth - yummy! - and a tail, etc.

What difficult decisions for these true and tested judges to make. And....the last two contestants so pretty too!! Tough judging! Now....on to the bakers of the variety of peanut butter delectables!! Chief judge and maker of all the trophies (which we must say drew "oohs" and 'aahs' from the crowd) **Olan Turner**, being a chicken (nice kind) never gives place award but reward each of these participants with a suitable - all alike - hanging pendant.

The creation this year was a Mr. Peanut figure. A drawing was then held with the winner receiving a special trophy depicting peanut butter cookies, etc. and real peanut figures flying kites. This was won by **Tracy Peak** and son **Chris**. Other bakers were awarded prizes sent in by **Charles Lind O'Bear**, of Chicago and **Pat Daly**, alias **Dirty Gertie**.

The event ended in the annual group singing of the kites version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas:

Kiters Version "On the First Day of Christmas"

On the first day of Christmas
our kites we wanted to fly
so we took them to Bri...gan...tine!
on the second day of Christmas
we took our kites to fly

Two Trlby's twirling
and we flew them at Bri...gan...tine!

On the third day.....
three Flexies flipping

Fourth day.....
four Deltas diving

Fifth day.....
five Parafoils puffing

Sixth day.....
six Rainbows racing

Seventh day.....
seven Sleds a sailing

Eight day.....
eight Spinners spinning

Ninth day.....
nine Cody's climbing

Tenth day.....
ten gulls cavorting

Eleventh day.....
eleven diamonds dancing

Twelfth day.....
twelve people peering

◆ composed by G.D.V.K.S. ◆

TWO STRING WORLD

by Corey Jensen

Being primarily by, for, about, and directed to... stunter flyers wherever and in whatever numbers they occur naturally, or by whatever means one cares to deal with them in whichever of the unnatural methods are available. Greetings!

Congratulations to **Sue Taft** for winning the Open/Individual competition at the AKA Nationals, and all the other winners from last season. No doubt the endorsement contracts are rolling in by the bushel. As we anxiously await next season and the kick-off Hawaii Challenge, the directions we are growing in should excite even the most skeptical flyers among us.

Prize money sure perks up the interest, doesn't it? Let's hope we can share it out a bit more..no-one wants

this to be elitist. And let's remind the organizers how important the novice classes are. As a side-light to this...**Richard VanMecklin** and **John Perusse** offered the idea that competitions that charge an entry fee should have one registration fee and then charge a la carte for every event the flyer wants to enter. The way things are now, after paying a set fee, the flyer sits around all day for 5 or 6 minutes on the comp field, so they enter every event. Maybe this new way will help reduce the backlog of flyers waiting to compete. And the undue burden on the judges.

Once again, the idea that the flyers should take on more of the jobs of fielding a competitive event, has obvious merits. The flyers are the most knowledgeable group and many have years of experience.

Organize. Communicate. Enjoy

Wouldn't it be great if this coming year, the AKA and the KTA got together and published a book about how to understand and fly stunters? And the team flying concepts and commands? Something written without trying to sell kites so it could be distributed industry-wide. What a great intro to the AKA. ♦

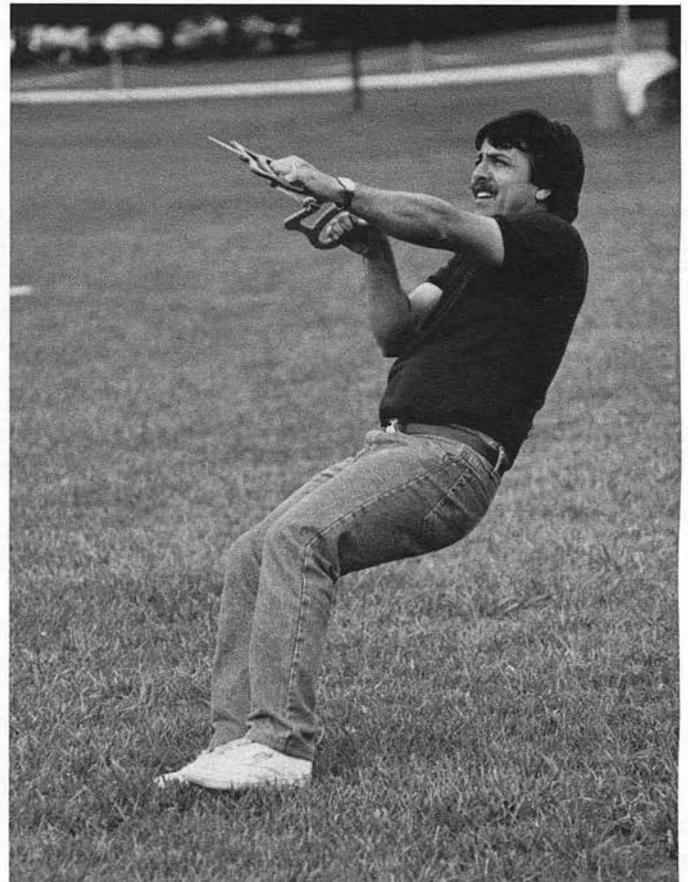


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Ray Merry— 1988 Convention (photo by Uncle Wilbert)

KITEMAKING

THE ART AND THE SCIENCE

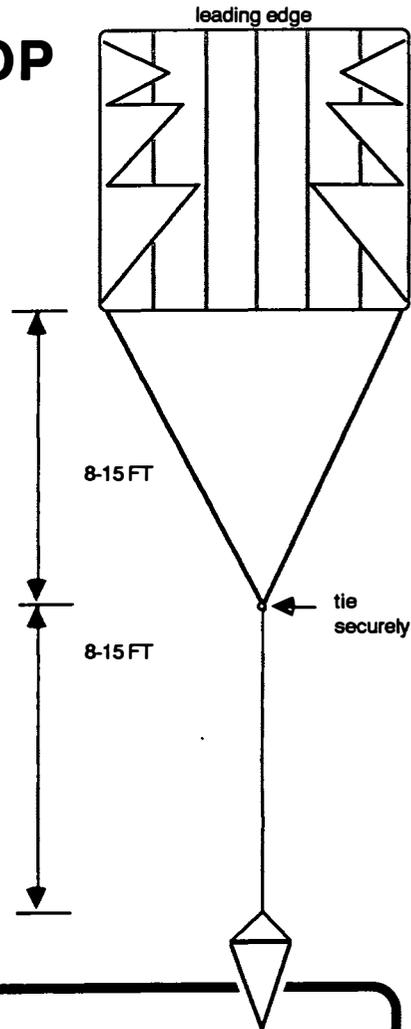
by Brooks Leffler

TUNING THE STRATOSCOOP

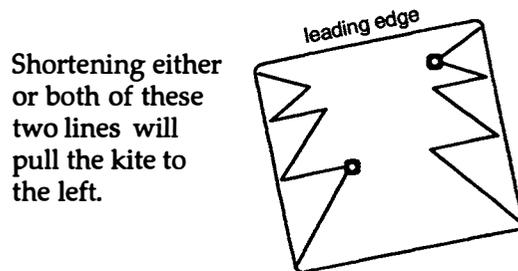
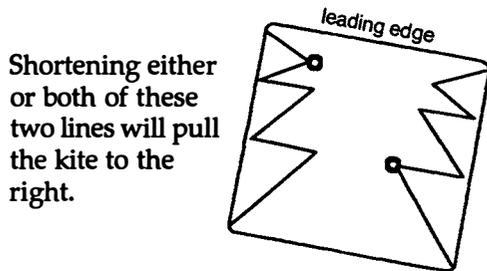
The Greens Stratoscoop is a powerful kite that will fly in a wide wind range. While it is easy to fly, it is a complex design which may require a modest amount of tuning to achieve optimum performance.

If it works, don't fix it. But if you have symptoms such as excessive movement, low flight angle, or lopsided flight attitude, these tuning tips should improve performance.

1. On kites larger than the Stratoscoop 1 and V Scoop, the drogue tail should be attached as illustrated.  The bigger the kite, the longer the lines. On the smaller kites, there is only a central tow point. But in any case, the drogue is more efficient with a long lead line, and should never be attached directly to the kite.
2. Adjust the angle of attack. See over.
3. Check that the shroud lines are symmetrical from side to side; e.g., the left rear outside line is the same length as the right rear outside line.



If all else fails, as a last resort, fine adjustments can be made to individual lines.



If you have questions, contact your dealer or Eurokites, Ltd., 10 Calle de Los Amigos, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 (408) 647-8363

KITEMAKING

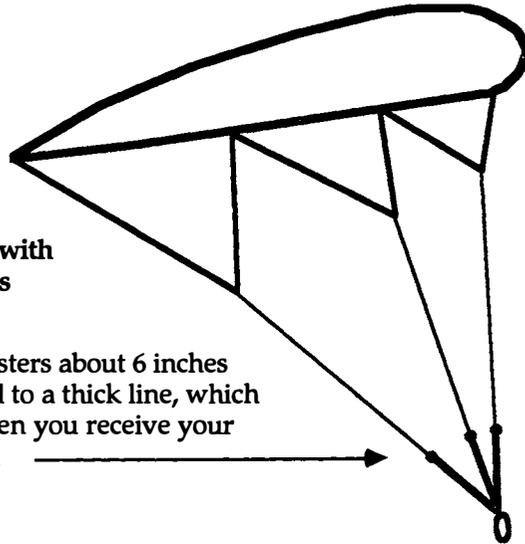
Tuning the Stratoscoop (continued)

2.

For best performance, it may be necessary to tune the lines on your Stratoscoop. The first (and probably only) adjustment to be made is to the angle of attack, or tilt, of the kite.

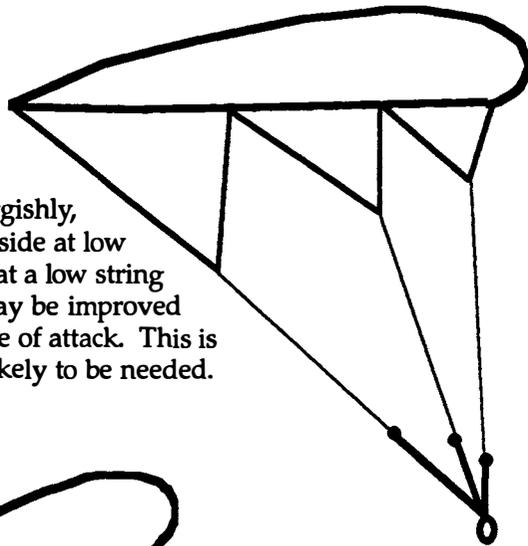
Before making any adjustments, test fly the kite with drogue connected as shown on other side of this page!

Note that all shroud lines come together into clusters about 6 inches above the bridle point. Each cluster is connected to a thick line, which joins the other thick lines at the bridle loop. When you receive your kite, the thick lines are all about the same length.

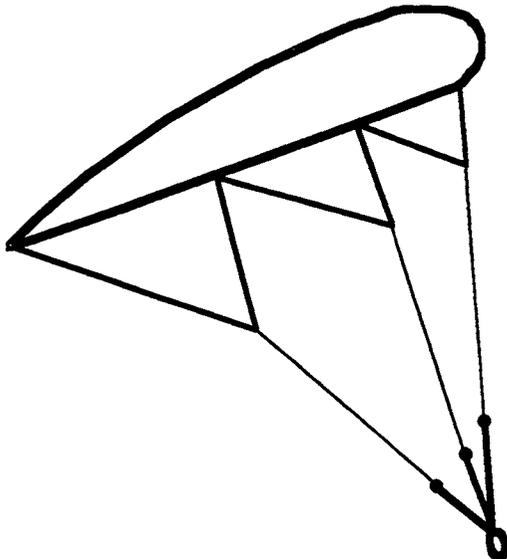


If your kite climbs sluggishly, sweeps slowly side to side at low altitudes, and/or flies at a low string angle, performance may be improved by decreasing the angle of attack. This is the adjustment most likely to be needed.

Untie the main bridle loop knot and adjust the length of the thick lines so the front cluster is shorter and the rear longer. This will spill more air from the rear of the kite, decrease the pull, and allow the kite to fly more overhead.



Increasing the angle of attack by making the opposite adjustment will slow down erratic quick side-to-side movements, increase the pull on the line, and decrease the flight angle.



Try this if your kite yaws rapidly back and forth at flying altitudes, even when the air is moderate and steady and the drogue is properly attached as shown on other side of this page.

PROPOSED AKA STANDARDS

by Robert S. Price

Number of Kites in Air at One time

Discussion: Since it is virtually impossible to determine the number of kites in the air at one time by simple counting, a more sophisticated approach must be used. The difficulties with counting are that kites may land or take off during the counting process, which is not instantaneous, the same kite may be counted more than once, and a kite may not be counted at all. The approach suggested here as a standard method of documenting the number of kites in the air is photographic. Actually it documents the number of kites in the field of view of a camera station. Since the field of view is a function of the aim of the camera, the focal length of the lens and the size of the film, proper choice of the camera will affect the result. The method suggested, using stereoscopic photography, will eliminate confusion of dust spots with kites and could permit coverage of more than one field of view by use of more than one stereo pair.

Method: A set of stereo photographs will be obtained including in the field of vision all the kites whose presence is to be documented. The following guidelines should help in selecting and using cameras:

1. The film size should be as large as available. If the lenses are good, a larger film size permits resolution of images of smaller or more distant kites.

2. The lenses should be of good quality.
3. The focal length of the lenses may be short or the cameras will have to be set back farther to include all the kites to be counted in the field of view.
4. The shutters should be triggered within a fraction of a second of one another because the kites can be expected to be moving. This also implies that the shutter speed should be fast to reduce blurring of kite images.
5. The camera spacing should be such that exaggerated depth perception is achieved. Lens to lens spacing of .5 to 3 feet seems advisable; determination of a standard spacing will depend on experimentation yet to be done. A rack for holding the cameras at a known distance apart and pointing in the same direction seems desirable.
6. More than one camera spacing may be used in order to extend the region in which the stereo effect is useful. This implies the use of more than two cameras. All cameras must be triggered as nearly at the same time as practicable.

Records of the camera types, focal lengths, shutter speeds, film type, camera arrangement, location, event information, date, time, and official witnesses should be made and signed by the witnesses. The original negatives should be preserved carefully and measurements made on prints. Similar prints should be held at least a year in case of a challenge which might require recounting.

Only kites clearly observable in the stereo pair should be counted and marked off on both images as they are counted. This will aid extension of the field of view if overlapping views are used.

This is a proposed standard; comments and accounts of experience in making actual counts are invited.



*How Many Kites in the Sky?
Long Beach '88 (Photo by Brian Kim)*

CALENDAR OF KITE EVENTS

January

- 14 **Kites Over New England Monthly Fly** at Framingham Industrial Park at Framingham Industrial Park
Contact: Laura Cornell (508)655-7338
- 14 **Informal Fly at Cricket Hill**
Montrose Ave., (4400 N) & the lakefront
Contact: SkyLiners Kite Club
(312) 627-7648
- 15 **Northampton Kite Fliers Association Monthly Fly** at the U-Mass Stadium
1 - 4 pm Contact: Dorothea Szabo
(413) 586-6141
- 15 **Newport Kite Group Monthly Fly** at Brenton Point State Park
Contact: David Trudeau (401)737-5906
- 22 **Spin Off Workshop & Cookie Contest**
Horner Park Field House
2741 W. Montrose Ave. (4400 N)
Conducted by Randy Schmidt
Cost \$55.00 - Bring your own sewing kit and your best batch of cookies!
Contact: John Karel (312) 627-7648
- 22 **Connectikitters Monthly Kite Fly**
Call for location. Contact: Bert & Carol Harnois (203) 387-7658
- 28 **Monthly Fly at Maudslay State Park**
12 - 4 pm. Hiking, picnicking
Contact: Richard Boisvert evenings
(508) 388-3412

February

- 1 **Deadline for Kiting — March Issue**
- 4 **Newport Kite Group Monthly Kite Fly** at Brenton Point State Park
Contact: David Trudeau (401) 737-5906
- 5 **Monthly Boston Kite Games**
Noon. Call for location
Contact: Don McCasland (617) 742-1455
- 10- **4th Annual Fun in the Snow & Ice Fly - Presque Isle Bay Erie, Pennsylvania**
Use your kite to zip across the ice
Contact: Lee Sedgwick (814) 864-3261 or Sue Taft (814) 864-3261
- 10- **Hearts and Flowers Fly Cricket Hill**
11 Contact: SkyLiners Kite Club
(312) 627-7648
- 11 **Kites Over New England Monthly Fly** at Framingham Industrial park
VALENTINES FLY
Contact: Laura Cornell (508) 655-7338
- 12 **Connectikitters Monthly Kite Fly**
Call for location. Contact: Bert & Carol Harnois (203) 387-7658
- 19 **Northampton Kite Fliers Association Monthly Kite Fly** at the U-Mass
1 - 4 p.m Contact: Dorothea Szabo
(413) 586-6141
- 19 **Newport Kite Group Monthly Kite Fly** at Brenton Point State Park
Contact: David Trudeau (401) 737-5906
- 25 **Monthly Fly at Maudslay State Park**
- 26 **Connectikitters Monthly Kite Fly**
Call for location (203) 387-7658
- 26 **Facet Kite Workshop Horner Park**
10 am - 4 pm
Contact: SkyLiners Kite Club
(312) 627-7648

Send articles, calendar listings, etc. to:
Patrice McFadden
75 Holly Park Circle
San Francisco, CA 94110
HURRY!! Due by the 1st.

CALENDAR OF KITE EVENTS

March

Hawaii Challenge Stunt Kite Competition Honolulu, Hawaii

Contact: Robert Loera
Kite Fantasy (808) 992-KITE

10- **Kite Retreat**

12 Loredo Taft Field Campus of
Northern Illinois University Oregon, Ill.
Cost: \$45.00 Reservations must be
made by Feb. 1 - Send to Charlie
Sotich, 3851 W. 62nd Place
Chicago, IL 60629 (312) 735-1353

18- **2nd Annual Reno International**

19 **Kite Festival Reno, Nevada**
Rokkaku Corporate Kite Flight
Giant Newspaper Competition, Team
Ballet Competition \$1000. Prize
Contact: (702) 827-7636

18 **St. Patricks Day Cook Out & Kite Fly**
Sponsored by Something In the Air Kites
Contact: Dan Loughlin (603) 926-4085

24 **The Great Delaware Kite Festival**
Cape Henlopen State Park 10 am - 4 pm
Novce & kite club category.
Contact: Lewis Chamber (302) 645-8073

25 **Hit the Beach Kite Fly**
Breakfast 9 am, Fun fly and Exhibition
10 am -4 pm. At the Beach at Rehoboth
Ave. Contact Barb at The Kite Shop
(302) 227-1616

May

21 **Chicago Park District Fly**
Arvey Field, Grant Field
Chicago, Illinois

East Coast Stunt Kite Championships
Memorial Day Weekend
Contact: Fran Gramkowski
(609) 429-6260

April

1 **Deadline for Kiting—May Issue**

8- **Third Annual Texas Gulf Coast**
9 **Stunt Kite Challenge**

Hosted by Surfside Flyers Club
Junior, Novice & Open Class Events
Contact: Terry or Linda Crumpler
P.O. Box 515
Clute, Texas 77531
(409) 265-0868

29- **Kitefest**

30 Kalamazoo County's River Oaks Park
Contact: Kalamazoo County Parks
(616) 383-8778
**Dual Competition, Godzilla's Revenge,
Fighter Tag, Blind Man Fly, Children's
Kitemaking Workshop and more!**

June

1 **Deadline for Kiting—July Issue**

10 **Chicago SkyLiners Sky Circus**
Arvey Field, Grant Park
Chicago, Illinois
Contact the SkyLiners (312) 627-7648

18 **17th Annual Fathers Day Kite Festival — Sponsored by The Monterey Vineyard San Francisco, California**
Contact: The Kitemakers
Kite Caravan (415) 652-4003

23- **High Hopes Festival**

25 Milford, New Hampshire
Sponsored by High Hopes Foundation
who help terminall ill children.
Volunteers needed to demonstrate kite
flying and help with workshop.
Contact: Richard Boisvert
(508) 388-3412

AKA Approval

(continued from page 3)

The procedure for obtaining "AKA Approval" is:

- A. Submit a request in writing. Send it to the Regional Director of the region in which the planned event is to take place. (See AKA Newsletter for a listing of directors, inside cover page). It is preferred that requests be made by use of the form provided by AKA. The form is available from any Regional Director or from the AKA office.

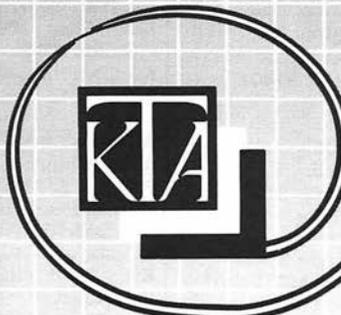
- B. The Regional Director who receives the request will forward it along with a cover letter to the AKA President to be presented to the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting, for the Board's action. The Regional Director will include in the cover letter, comments and recommendations to assist the Board in their deliberations.
- C. The action taken by the Board will be duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- D. If the request is approved, the Corresponding Secretary will notify the requesting party by letter.
- E. If the request is disapproved or is deferred to a later meeting so that more information can be obtained, the President, or one he designates, will notify the requesting party.

NOTE: AKA APPROVAL is automatically nullified by an illegal action of the Sponsor or Chair-person in respect to the specific event sanctioned. See pages 17, 18 and 19 for the forms.♦

FLY WITH US!

For information of KTA, write:

Kite Trade Association
50 First Street, Suite 310
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 764-4908



Kite Trade Association

JOIN NOW! Here's What KTA can do for your business

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- Work Shops •
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- Industry Surveys •
- Supplier Updates •
- New Product Releases •
- Data Base Information •
- Retail and Wholesale Directory •

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION MEMBER MERCHANTS

Alphabetical by State - Merchants have agreed to give members a 10 percent discount

Fun Stuf

2468 E. 15th Place
Yuma, AZ 85365
602/782-7575

Action Kites

6284 Via Regia
San Diego, CA 92122
619/453-8795

Seaport Kite Shop

839-D W. Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101
619/232-2268

The Kitemakers of San Francisco

Pier 39, Space B-12
San Francisco, CA 94133
415/956-7999 -
800/328-KITE

838 Grant Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94108
415/362-3760

Powell Street Plaza
5739 Christie Avenue
Emeryville, CA 94608
415/652-1661

Play/Kites & Delights

2801 Leavenworth Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
415/775-5483

Rome Enterprises

129 Samoa Court
San Ramon, CA 94583
415/866-8173

The Crossing

25373 Steelhead Blvd.
P.O. Box 248
Duncan Mills, CA 95430
707/865-2928

Carey's Kite Winder

7671 North Avenue
Lemon Grove, CA 92045
619/697-2405

Harbor Kites

1415 Highway 1
Bodega Bay, CA 94923
707/875-3777

Kites 'N' Things

5500 Grossmont Center Dr.
La Mesa, CA 94042
619/698-6358

Wandering Wind Things

4052 Kenwood Drive
Spring Valley, CA 92077
619/469-4805

Let's Fly a Kite

13755 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
213/822-2561

Balloon Factory & Kites

891 Ashiya Road
Montebello, CA 906402563
213/722-5206

Colors of the Wind

2900 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405
213/399-8044

Tim's Toys

9647 Stockton Boulevard
Elk Grove, CA 95624
916/686-6616

Windborne Kites

585 Cannery Row
Monterey, CA 93940
408/373-7422

Top of the Line Kites

4966 Santa Monica Avenue
San Diego, CA 92107
619/224-8505

Victoria Kite Store

105-560 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3C6
604/381-5377

Touch the Sky, Inc.

836 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4W 2H1
416/964-0434

Gothic Designs

Boreal Kites
RR #4
St. Thomas, ON N5P 3S8
519/775-2527

Hi Fly Kites

London Square
12101C East Iliff
Aurora, CO 80014
303/75506105

Into the Wind

1409 Pear Street
Boulder, CO 80302
303/449-5356

The Kite Store

1201-16th Street
Denver, CO 80202
303/595-8800

Rocky Mountain Kite Co.

P.O. Box 3286
Littleton, CO 80161
303/798-9091

Wind Chime Kite Shop

RR1, Box 350
Junior Avenue
Dantelson, CT 06239
203/779-1102

Krazy Kites

(Frame and Save)
2274 Black Rock Tpk.
Fairfield, CT
203/371-8444

Air Traffic

Atlantic Avenue
P.O. Box 533
Bethany Beach, DE 19930
302/539-4511

The Kite Shop

Village by the Sea
Rehoboth Avenue
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

The Kite Site

3101 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20007
202/965-4230

Harper's Bizzare

328 N. Federal Highway
Boca Raton, FL 33432
305/392-9297

Seafair Mall

101-14 North Beach Rd.
Dania, FL 33004
305/392-9297

Cloud 9 Kites

Mayfair Court
1122 East Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444
561/272-5224

Kitesville USA

405 Gulf Boulevard
Indiana Rocks Bch, FL
33534
813/596-3431

Kiteriggers

3105 Spring Park Road
Jacksonville, FL 32207
904/399-KITE

Largo Cargo

103101 Overseas Highway
Key Largo, FL 33037
305/451-4242

Blowin' in the Wind

5770 Spacecoast Parkway
Kissimmee, FL 32741
305/396-6511

Uncle Sam's Flag & Kite Shop

9842 S. U.S. Highway 1
The Village Green
Port St. Lucie, FL 33452
305/335-1776

Toys Ahoy

28 Pertwinkle Place
Sanibel Island, FL 33957
813/472-4800

Head in the Cloud Kites

318 Mallory Street
St. Simmonds Island, GA
31522
912/638-KITE

Kite Fantasy

2863 Kalakaua Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815
808/732-5483 (KITE)
Lahaina Cannery
Lahaina Maui, HI 96761
808/661-4766

High Performance Kites

1019 University Ave. #3A
Honolulu, HI 96826
808/942-8799
711 Kecaumoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96814
Ala Moana Shopping Ctr.
1450 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96814

Stanton Hobby Shop

4734 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630
312/283-6446

Kite Loft of New Orleans

1 Poydras, No. 90
Riverwalk
New Orleans, LA 70130
504/529-3247

Whippoorwill Crafts

126 S. Market Building
Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Boston, MA 02109
617/523-5149

Kites of Boston

6 North Market Building
Faneuil Hall Marketplace
Boston, MA 02109
617/742-1455

Dyna-Kite Corporation

P.O. Box 402
17 Peter Street
Chicopec, MA 01021
413/592-3615

Wind & Whimsy

17 Market Square
Newburyport, MA 01850
617/465-9647

Wind Workshop

c/o Keith Vada
23 Fremont Street
Plymouth, MA 02360
617/746-2426

Fly By Night Kite Co.

18 Middle Street
Plymouth, MA 02360
617/826-0555

Kites Aweigh

6 Fleet Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
301/268-6065

The Kite Loft

511 Boardwalk
Ocean City, MD 21842
301/289-7855

Harborplace

301 S. Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
301/528-0888

The Sky's the Limit

333 Main Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
207/784-8922

**Unique Place/
World of Kites**

925 S. Washington
Royal Oak, MI 48067
313/398-5900

Soar-N-Dipity

Water Street Pavilion
One Water Street
Flint, MI 48502
313/234-8320

Kite Kraft

School Haus Square
245 S. Main Street
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
517/652-2961

Toys Ahoy

249 Culver Street
Saugatuck, MI 49453
517/857-2621

JT's Kites

12333 Sandy Bottom
South Lyon, MI 48178
313/437-8843

Mackinaw Kite Co.

Chinook Pier
301 N. Harbor
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616/846-7501

105 N. Huron Street
Mackinaw City, MI
49701
616/846-7501

Just Paper Backs, Inc.

4500 Dixie Highway
Drayton Plains, MI 48020
313/673-1859

The Stuff Here is Terrific

1306 W. County Road F.
Arden Hills, MN 44112
612/633-7472

Kite Site

12081 Flintwood St. NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
612/757-0061

Kite Kingdom

Sea Holly Square
Beach Road (Mile 9)
P.O. Box 1036
Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
919/441-6235

Kites Unlimited

Atlantic Stn. Shopping Cntr.
P.O. Box 2278
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512
919/247-7011

Kitty Hawk Kites

P.O. Box 340
Nags Head, NC 27959
919/441-4124

Kite Heights

401 Broadway Street
P.O. Box 338
Medora, ND 58645

AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION MEMBER MERCHANTS

(continued)

Something in the Air

353 Ocean Boulevard
Hampton Beach, NH
03842
603/926-4085

GGMVR Kites, Great Gorge's Mountain Resort
P.O. Box 637 Rt. 517
McAfee, NJ 07428
201/827-6000

Sky High Kites
50 Piltman Avenue
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756
201/774-0511

Air Circus Kite Shop
1108 Boardwalk
Ocean City, NJ 08226
609/399-3654

Colors of the Wind
321 W. San Francisco
Santa Fe, NM 87501
505/982-8235

Kites & Etc.
6400 S. Eastern #25
Las Vegas, NV 89119
702/798-4844

Go Fly a Kite
1201 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10028
212/472-2623

U.S. Kites
32 Hartwood Road
Rochester, NY 14623
716/334-3268

Once Upon a Time Toys
153 The Arcade
401 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
216/696-TOYS

Heads Up Kites
325 Forest Street
Columbus, OH 43206
614/443-6631

The Kite Kompany
33 West Orange
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022
216/247-4223

On the Wind
Heritage Square
24098 Front Street
Grand Rapids, OH 43522
419/832-KITE

North Coast Kites
8417 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060
216/974-1414

Flights of Fantasy
22 S. High Street
Dublin, OH 43017
614/764-8697

Catch the Wind

Kite Shops
266 S.E. Highway 101
Lincoln City, OR 97367
800/227-7878

Abbey Street Pier
Newport, OR 97365
503/265-9500
304 SE Highway 101
Depoe Bay, OR 97341
503/765-2900
Agate Beach, Hwy. 101
Newport, OR 97365
503/265-6928
636 Hwy. 101 South
Rockaway Beach, OR
97136

1250 SW Bay
Florence, OR 97439
503/997-9500
1803 South Holladay
Seaside, OR 97138
503/738-0309

Cal's Kites
Cal Skate & Sport Shop
213 NW Couch Street
Portland, OR 97209
503/223-0409

The Kitemakers of Seaside
300 Broadway Street
Seaside, OR 97138
503/738-3078

Kites & Other Delights
296 E. Fifth Street
Fifth Street Market NBU 813
Eugene, OR 97401
503/344-KITE

Gale Gallery & Glashasu Pottery
P.O. Box 528
Waldport, OR 97394
503/563-3620

Cloudminders Kite Shoppe
516 Washington Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652
814/643-5121

Let's Get High Kite Co.
302 1/2 Market Street
Apartment 5
Clearfield, PA 16830
814/765-2301

Grandmaster Kites
222-3rd Street
Mifflinville, PA 16830
717/959-3162

Klassy Kites
King of Prussia Plaza
King of Prussia, PA 19406
215/736-8253

The Meadow Mouse Shop
520 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Morrisville, PA 19067
215/736-8253

Klig's Kites
9th Avenue North
Myrtle Beach Pavilion
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
803/626-9250
Galleria Center
9600 N. Kings Highway
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Kites Fly 'N High

297 East Bay Street
Charleston, SC 29401
803/588-2397

Wind Water Kite Shop
139 N. Brazosport
P.O. Box 515
Clute, TX 77531
409/265-0868

Kites Over Texas
West End Market Place
603 Munger, Suite 204
Dallas, TX 77531

Kites Etc.
202 Valley View Center
Dallas, TX 75240
214/392-1300

Kite Koop
P.O. Box 242
Landmark Plaza
Chincoteague, VA 23336
804/336-5554

Kites Aloft, Inc.
6th Street Marketplace
550 E. Grace St. A-208
Richmond, VA 23219

Krazy Kites
On the Pier
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
804/428-0753

Cloud Nine Kite Shop
P.O. Box 515
Ocean Shores, WA 98569

Suspended Elevations

1915 North 34th
Seattle, WA 98103
206/633-4780

Great Winds Kite Shop
402 Occidental Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98104
206/624-6886

Kites Aloft
8834 Colgate Drive West
Tacoma, WA 98466
206/564-5593

The Porthole
600 South Pacific
Long Beach, WA 98631
206/642-4937

Fish Creek Kite Company
3853 Highway 42
P.O. Box 331
Fish Creek, WI 54212
414/868-3769

Four Winds Kite Company
N70 W6340 Bridge Road
Cedarburg, WI 53012
414/375-1226

D&J Kite Company
702 N. Fair Oaks
Madison, WI 53714
608/249-0588

Vom Winde Verweht
(Gone With The Wind)
Eisenacher Strasse 81
1000 Berlin 62, Germany
030/795-4700



Vermin Drachen at the 1988 Convention (photo by Uncle Wilbert)

Flexifoils "Chicago Style"

(continued from page 4)

but angle the rods slightly away from the kites. As you pull each succeeding kite over and past the rods they catch the wind and the final kite (which actually will launch the entire stack) will pull the rest into the air. Not a snap, but with practice you will get any amount of Flexifoils into the air by yourself.

Stacking Flexifoils: I think one of the best parts of owning Flexifoils is that they encourage group flying. Six of the gang arrive at the flying field, each with one Flexifoil (with some notable exceptions most can't afford more than one or two \$100 Flexifoils). Wanna fly a six pack? No sweat, stack them all and take turns. Unlike other stunters each Flexifoil in any stack will have the same force on its connecting point as any other. (Example: The lead kite of the 154+ stack the SkyLiners launched in September '84, had a stock spar, none were damaged in the flight.)

Some Flexiflyers have train lines prepared to hook theirs to other kites. A simple length of lines with loops tied into the ends will work for 2 to 6-six foot Flexifoils. Be sure that each train line passes through the ring on the end of the bag. Be sure that the line lengths are equal. Contrary to popular belief, any length from 1 ft to 20 ft will work. Experiment! I find that Ray Merry and Andy Jones recommended 1 meter (approx. 3 ft) it works and looks best. (At this point, I've really let out a secret about Flexiflying, much to the chagrin of the Chicago gang.)

Flexifoils can generate a theoretical 50# pull per six foot kite. In strong winds and a power dive, they seldom pull that much but to be safe you should calculate your train lines to that 50# figure, 1 six

footer 50# test, 2-100# test, 3-150# test and so on.

The big problem at this point, is that each loop knot you tie reduces the line strength of that line, according to the type of knot you've tied. In experiments with the '84 Kite Hook and Ladder Train, if you use individual pieces of train lines for each kite, at about 10-15 kites, you get line breakage at the knots no matter what size and strength train lines you use. The solution is the one we finally used — make two train lines the length of the entire train.

For example, the Pink pack has 11 kites three foot apart, the train lines are approx. 33 ft. long each. Mark the line at three foot increments. At these marks you tie a loop of say 100# test line using a knot rock climbers call a Prusik knot. Basically, it's a lark-head type of knot that goes around the train line instead of a ring. Double loop this knot and secure it with an overhand knot. This loop then goes through the metal loop on each Flexifoil and around the rod. You now have a secure knot that won't slip on the main, uninterrupted train line (a spot of glue will secure the entire knot if you don't see it will be secure. Careful with Superglue, as it destroys line strength).

Now, remember, the 50# pull per kite? I have 11 six foot Flexifoils at 50# pull each = 550 # pull, I use 1000# test sleeved Kevlar train lines. That allows me to put another 9 or 10 six footers after my stack on their own train lines.

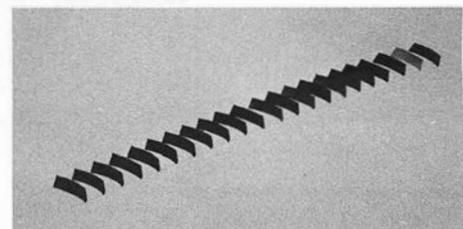
How to Fly Big Stacks of Flexifoils: Eleven-six foot Flexifoils can pull six people across a field in a good wind, common sense and a trick keeps you in one place. Most stunt kites come equipped with 150 ft. flying lines. Try flying a stack of Flexifoils on 100 ft. or even 50 ft. stunt lines. The shorter lines tend to reduce the amount of

pull and also the amount of time that the stack is in the pulling and power area of flight.

At this point, I had better give that mandatory safety warning. Getting pulled by Flexifoils is fun, we're hooked on it here in Chicago. Check out the field ahead of you before you rocket down the field. Glass, rocks and people hurt when you hit them. **CAUTION IS FIRST AND FOREMOST.** Don't ever turn over your big stack to anyone that isn't experienced. The power can hurt. The kites won't fly long if your being uncontrollably dragged, 5 seconds on your nose is forever. Start with one until you get to as many as you feel safe with.

Finally, when the winds are really screaming as they sometimes do here in the Windy City, keep your kites in their bags and break out the beer! That is safer and almost as much fun.

I would like to close with one comment. Hypers are great, I have nine, Rainbows are neat, I have a six-pack, Peter Powells are beautiful with those long graceful trains. Hawaiians are precise fliers, I have four. Each of these kites have their advantages and disadvantages, their own beauty and in skilled hands can do all the things I have mentioned are possible with Flexifoils. Don't need to start a battle between Flexifanatics and all the rest of the dual line fliers. Battling the winds are enough for me. And among other Flexifanatics across the country, there are lots of ways to do all the things I have mentioned, I'm just passing one fanatics method, it isn't the only way just my way. **I might be a Flexifanatic, but I'm no Flexifoil!?!? ♦**



THE AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
REQUEST FOR "AKA APPROVAL" OF A KITE EVENT
(PAGE 1 OF 3)

Please use a separate form for each event you wish to be sanctioned except, for "regular files", which need to be approved only once each year, if they continue to be scheduled for the same time and place.

Please use the back of this form, if more space is needed:

SPONSOR

AKA Affiliate Club or AKA Members _____

Name of Event _____

Time and Place _____

Chair-person (AKA member) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____

Description of the event, to include details of program. List all kite activities:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)

Will there be a charge for participation? _____ If "Yes", the proceeds go to:

Distance to: nearest above ground electric lines? _____
 nearest motor traffic? _____
 nearest airport? _____
 nearest air traffic lane? _____

THE AMERICAN KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION
REQUEST FOR "AKA APPROVAL" OF A KITE EVENT
(PAGE 3 OF 3)

REPORT OF KITE INCIDENT

Date of Report: _____

Date of Kite Incident: _____

Location where incident occurred _____

city

county

_____ state

Describe the incident (use diagram if helpful). Name persons injured, if any, and be as specific as possible as to any personal injury and/or property damage.

If this incident was reported to, or investigated by, any law enforcement officer or agency, give full details of names and addresses.

Can a copy of the report be obtained? How?

SIGNATURE of Safety Coordinator or person reporting:

Date _____

VARIABLE WINDS ALOFT

Letter to the AKA

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 11th Annual AKA Convention in Chicago. The opportunity to visit with fellow kitemakers, and flyers is something I look forward to each time I attend any kite happenings. The organization of all events provided by the Chicago SkyLiners was commendable. I did, however, witness and hear about things which occurred that disturbed me greatly.

I was astounded at the lack of public participation in witnessing an event that brings together the most talented builders and flyers of kites in the country, indeed in

the whole world. This event put on by an organization whose sole goal should be to promote kiting and yet it discourages the public from witnessing this major kiting event?

I was informed that when the press attended the event on the first day they were discouraged from filming. A busload of school children in attendance by their teachers were made to feel so unwelcome that they left. I personally witnessed a mother and her child being asked to leave because they had not paid the \$100 to attend. The AKA did not make many converts that week. Indeed, I would surmise they turned many people off. Can you image the America's Cup competition or the National Car Races or SuperBowl limiting the attendance solely to the competitors?

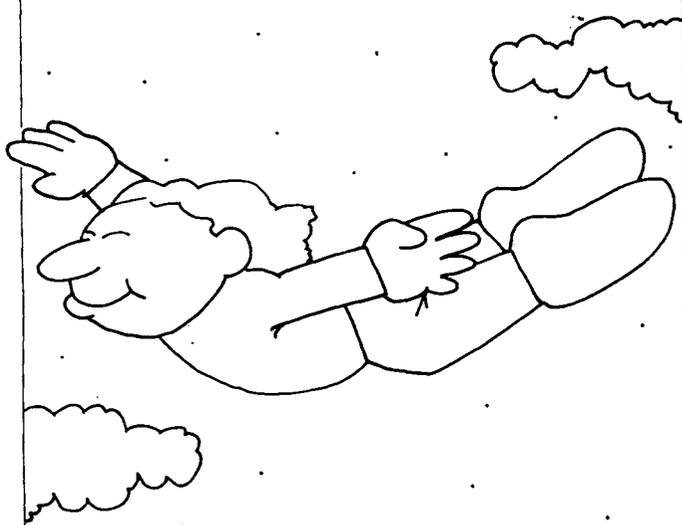
event by the people of Chicago, due I suppose to possible traffic problems. I replied, "Where is it written that the AKA did not want the public at its convention? I received a letter from Jim quoting an Article that is apparently a part of the bylaws of the AKA. I quote:

The annual convention is for AKA members and invited guests. Access to the convention flying field shall be limited to registered attendees of the convention. It is understood, however, that spectators may inadvertently be attracted. Since attendance by spectators usually results in good publicity and public relations for AKA, careful consideration must be given to providing for the safety and convenience of all. Any plans for promotion or invitation of non-AKA members to attend a convention must be approved by the executive board.

I understand that for the convention proper, i.e., banquets, award ceremonies, workshops, etc., attendance must be limited to paying members. The actual flying competitions re entirely a different matter. An Article such as the one above in an organization supposedly devoted to kiting is - I won't profane the pages of this magazine with the word, but here in Texas we sometimes have the occasion to step in it.

Study the memorandum, and you see key phrases that indicate the possibilities this convention provides. We should not "inadvertently" be attracting spectators and goodwill. Every possible effort should be made to publicize and attract these same crowds. The Washington State Long Beach Festival has grown from 500 attendees in 1982 to an estimated 200,000 in 1988. How many people would want to join AKA after witnessing the fabulous collections of

Transcendent.



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I asked the newly elected president Jim Miller why the public was discouraged from attending the kite fly. He replied that it has been the policy of the club to discourage attendance of the convention by the general public. Also, there were complications of manpower necessary to police such crowds, insurance problems and in their particular case a possible injunction against the

(continued on next page)

Variable Winds Aloft
(continued)

sky art present at every convention. The possibilities for the growth of AKA and kiting are limited only by our imaginations.

In the specific case of the Chicago convention it is understandable why the public was discouraged due to the possible injunction against the event. I heard other objections to inviting the general public, i.e., cost of the undertaking, crowd control problems, possible insurance liabilities to name the main ones. In discussing these with many people I have come to the conclusion that these are not problems, but details that simply need to be worked out.

Let me address these one at a time:

1. **HIGH COST OF PUTTING ON AN EVENT OF THIS SIZE**
Martin Lester recently put on a festival in Bristol, England attended by over 40,000 people. His out-of-pocket cost was around \$2200. Some suggestions for defraying cost:
 - a. Charge admission — possibly raffle tickets for kites, t-shirts, pins, etc.
 - b. Lease food, drink, kite booth concessions.
 - c. Locate co-sponsors, i.e., beer, food, airlines, whatever.
 - d. Raise dues.
 - e. Provide booth to sign up new members.
 - f. Let would be advertisers fly company kites for registration fees.
 - g. Hold separate auction with items donated specifically for raising cost of public attendance. Do this at festival and to general public.
2. **PROVIDING FOR CROWD CONTROL**
We are talking about a kite fly

here, not a Grateful Dead concert. Kite flies by their very nature are peaceful. In previous festivals I have attended, crowd control has been no problem. The Smithsonian Kite Festival is a good example. Clearly delineated flying areas and spectator areas in conjunction with effective PA system solves 99% of the problem. A security force equipped with 2 way radios completes the picture. These security people could be volunteers from the organization, National Guard, ROTC, whatever. Pay them if you must. Provide all registered AKA members with arm bands or badges designating them with official capacities or crowd management.

3. INSURANCE PROBLEMS

I have asked several people involved in putting on large kite festivals what they did about insurance problems. I was surprised to hear from Tom Casselman that the AKA already has insurance for its sanctioned events. This amounts to \$500,000 surety and \$1,000,000 liability coverage. Surely this is adequate. Jim and Kay Buesing say the City of Long

Beach accepts liability for accidents that may occur at their festival. Perhaps site selection of future AKA conventions should be limited to those cities who will accept insurance liabilities and welcome associated income provided by large crowd attendance. Organizations holding events in public parks are usually not liable for accidents occurring on the grounds proper, only in the areas where the specific event occurs. Properly marking flying areas and perhaps making all contestants sign a disclaimer prior to being allowed to compete should alleviate most insurance risks.

I have written this letter because I would like to see kite flying become part of the American culture as it is in many other countries. It is the obligation of the AKA to help see this happen. If the current AKA bylaws prevent this from happening perhaps it is time to wipe the slate clean and start over.

◆
Sincerely,
Joel K. Scholz
Your response is welcome—Editor

The DEADLINES for Kiting are:

- Articles - 1st of the month before the month of issue.
- Calendar Listings: 10th of the month before the month of issue.
- Advertising: 5th of the month before the month of issue.
- The deadline for the next issue — March — is February 1st.
- Please send any articles, pictures, calendar listings, kite plans, or anything you feel would be of interest to the AKA and Kiting.
- If I spelled your name wrong, or there is any kind of correction, I want to know. THANKS!

Patrice McFadden
75 Holly Park Circle
San Francisco, CA 94110

**JAPAN KITE ASSOCIATION
11TH ANNUAL KITE FESTIVAL**

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(14-day Tour)

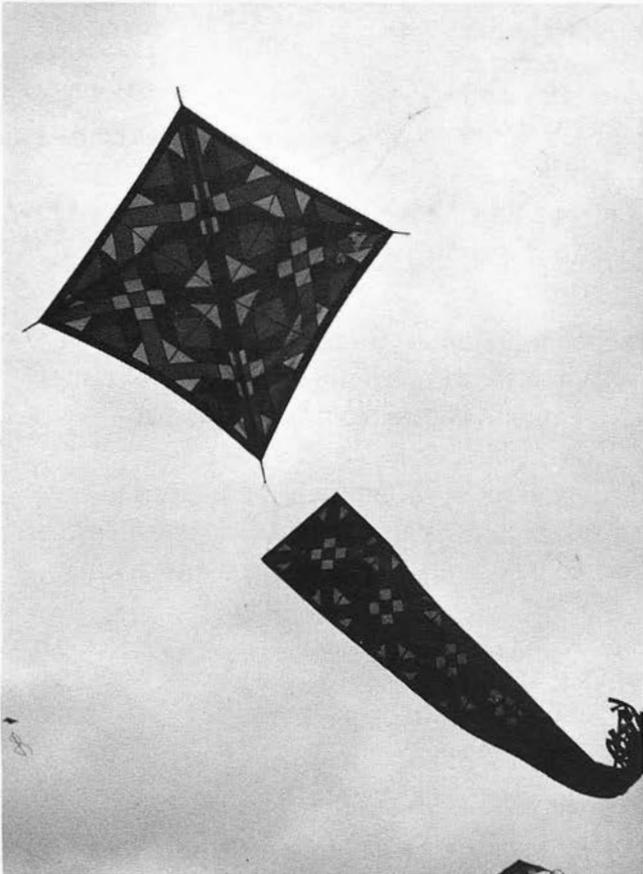
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Bill Lockhart's Quilted Diamond (photo by Uncle Wilbert)



Don Jaspers "The Complete Flyer" (photo by C. Jensen)

My Most Memorable Kite Experience

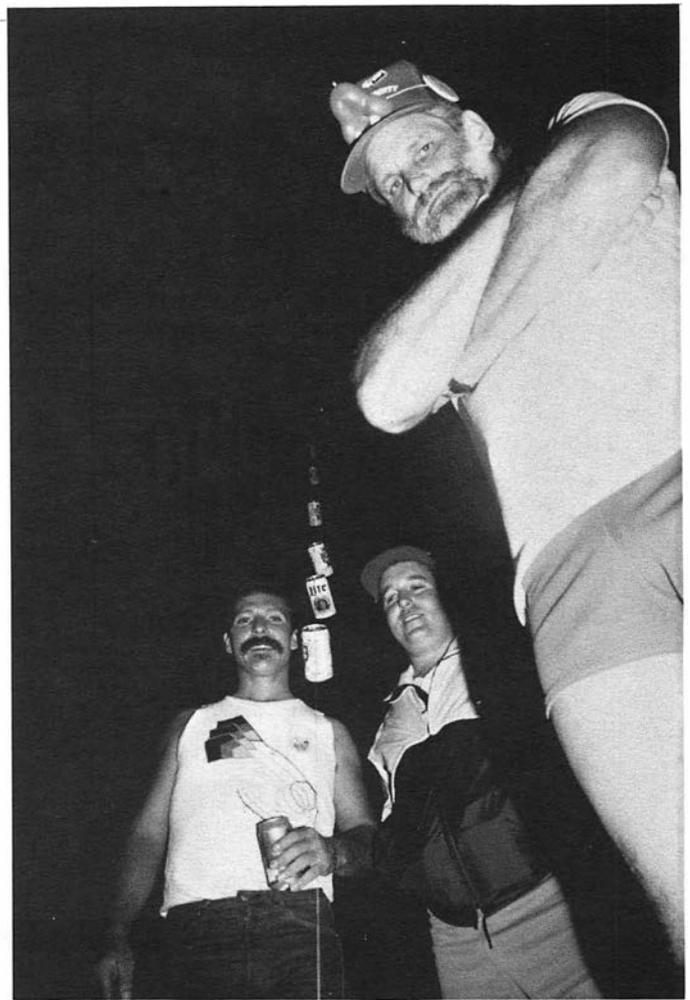
(By you!)

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR DETAILS.

Send to: Kiting, c/o Patrice McFadden, 75 Holly Park Circle, San Francisco, CA 94110



Bob Price for those of you who don't know him.



Serious Nite Fly at the Convention (all photos by U. Wilbert)

Kiting, the bi-monthly newsletter/magazine of the American Kitefliers Association, accepts advertising from makers and sellers of kites and kite products, promoters of kiting events, and others. Black & white ads are accepted at the rates below:

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If you do not want to be listed in the AKA membership directory (*member use only*) check here.



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